



FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:1, 3-5

Suffering ... Endurance ... Character ... Hope.

As we begin our journey through Lent, these verses from Paul remind us that Lent focuses not only on the suffering of Jesus, but the struggles of life, and the struggles and challenges to faith.

Many Christians practice fasting or some other denial of the body during Lent. We much prefer a life of ease and a contented stomach. Life does not always provide either.

The 40 days of Lent remind us of times in the desert. If we can't avoid those times, we hope to at least shorten them—we hope for and look for the quick fix. Lent reminds us that anything that is important and meaningful involves challenge, struggle, and sacrifice.

Jesus predicts His death. Satan tempts Jesus with quick fixes and short-cuts to avoid the hard work of salvation in the suffering and death of the cross. The peace we have with God in Christ does not mean everything we experience in following Him is easy and without cost. But in our sufferings, we see the benefits as God grows us, challenging both individuals, families, and families of faith.

We often want to avoid those struggles. We often try to protect our children and loved ones from challenges, but children and adults need challenges. It is not always fun, but God uses it to strengthen us and our faith.

God is at work. In His grace given, He supplies faith. Faith is His gift, with no work or goodness or conviction provided by us. It is the work of God's Spirit bestowed through the suffering and death of Jesus.

Then He goes to work in strengthening and exercising that faith.

Suffering → Perseverance → Character → Hope

Hope that doesn't disappoint.

Anything significant involves challenges, struggles, and sacrifice—be it friendship, marriage, parenting, school, high school sports, the Olympics, or our walk with Christ. He loves you just the way you are. You are fully accepted by Him and at peace with God through Him. And He challenges you in the exercise of faith.

He doesn't strengthen our faith just to give us more faith in our faith, but to give us greater security in His unconditional love.

We live in constant tension between the trials of life and the peace and rest of God. In this tension God gives us the right equipment of His Word and Sacraments and the fellowship of believers to strengthen our faith and bless others.

May this season of Lent bestow upon you His peace and strength.

Rev. Richard Snow, President, Nebraska District LCMS

Keep up with District news! Visit <https://ndlcms.org/stories/> to read our current mission and ministry stories, and to subscribe to receive the Reporter by email, to receive our Weekly Update email newsletter each Wednesday, or to receive obituaries of ordained and commissioned District church workers when available.

ABOUT US

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Contact us at
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or info@ndlcms.org

News items, congregational anniversaries, and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. Please submit items to Kim Myers at reporter@ndlcms.org or by mail. Visit our website at ndlcms.org for more information or to subscribe to the Reporter by email.

Lutheran resources for congregations and families



Embark on a global mission experience and unpack how LCMS International Mission works without ever having to dig out your suitcase. Learn, sing, eat, and pray with missionaries and local church members in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dive in solo or gather a group to learn together. Whichever route you choose, watch for supplemental resources to help solidify your grasp of how the church is spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy on a global scale.

While there are live events scheduled, you can always work your way through the archived videos and materials. Missions Unpacked is available for adults and for kids, with another edition planned for teens this summer. Learn more at <https://international.lcms.org/>.

CONCORDIA TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS BLOG OFFERS INSTRUCTION TO HELP YOU LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR CHURCH

"Technology should not transform ministry, but rather do the things that people don't have to do so they can do what they do best."

Concordia Technology Solutions blog articles cover topics on communication and technology in church such as social media, managing your website, use of technology in your office and sanctuary, online giving, and more.

These articles are written by members of the LCMS who serve the congregations, districts, and the universities and seminaries of our Synod. Visit the blog category page to look for articles by topic to help you grow in your use of technology as a tool to help you with your congregation's day-to-day tasks. <https://www.concordiatechnology.org/blog/all>

LCMS LIFE LIBRARY

Visit Synod's website to explore the Life Library. With articles on a variety of topics such as death, abortion, adoption, marriage, and family, the Life Library has something to help everyone grow in their faith and understanding. <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry/library>

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS LAUNCH "LIVING WATER"



Living Water is brought to you by industry-recognized artists to engage listeners in a word-for-word rendition of the ESV New Testament.

Grow in your faith with an immersive, accessible experience to capture the drama and emotion of the Bible.

Experience Scripture. Start listening now at LBT.org/LivingWater

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE OFFERS FREE EVERYDAY FAITH CALENDARS FOR FAMILIES AND ARTICLES FOR FAITH GROWTH

Visit the Concordia Publishing House blog for free articles on topics about faith, family, and vocation. Families can also download a free Everyday Faith calendar each month, featuring daily activities that families can do together to build lifelong faith habits. <https://blog.cph.org/> Topics include:

Worship: The Christian life begins and ends as we gather together to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in weekly worship. Whether you're a service planner, worship leader, or hymn lover, you'll sing for joy at these music posts.

Devotional Life and Theological Study: When you're at home, work, and in the world you grow in your faith by reading the Bible, devotions, and books. Deeply studying God's Word connects you with your Heavenly Father, your family of faith on earth, and even with those who have gone before you in the faith—expanding your understanding of the Christian life.

Teaching the Faith: Gain confidence to teach the faith to the next generation. These posts will equip you to better understand Scripture and best pedagogical practices.

Vocation: Everyone has vocations at home, church, work, school, and the world. As you move and live in these spaces, these posts give you tangible ways to serve your neighbor.

CALL ACTIVITY IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Chad Boggs (StL'10) Immanuel, Tilden, to St. Matthew, Meadow Grove (new dual parish)

Rev. Quintin Cundiff (StL'11) Trinity, Amherst, to missionary, Office of International Mission, St. Louis

Rev. John Gierke (StL'96) candidate, Mid-South District, to St. Paul, West Point

Rev. James Peterson (FtW'19) First, Phillipsburg, KS, to St. John, Curtis

Rev. Barry Williams (StL'03) St. John, Madison, to St. Paul, Tilden (new dual parish)

Calls Declined

Rev. Nathan Abel (StL'17) St. John, Wilcox, to Trinity, Fort Morgan, CO

Rev. Michael Bagnall (FtW'02) St. John, Staten Island, NY, to Lamb of God, Papillion

Rev. Timothy Brisbois (FtW'90) candidate, Nebraska District, to St. John, Deer Lodge, MT; and St. Peter, Elma, IA

Rev. Jason Duley (StL'12) associate, St. Paul's, Arlington, to Zion, Hastings

Rev. Michael Meyer (StL-Delto'06) The Rock, Seward, to Peace, Okeechobee, FL

Status Changes

Rev. Timothy Brisbois (FtW'90) candidate, Nebraska District, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. Brian Bucklew (FtW'11) Zion, Plainview, to candidate, Nebraska District

Installations & Ordinations

Rev. Chad Boggs (StL'10) as pastor, St. Matthew, Meadow Grove, February 27

Rev. Barry Williams (StL'03) as pastor, St. Paul, Tilden (Buffalo Creek), February 27

CALLED TO GLORY

Richard Ulmer, commissioned minister—teacher emeritus, departed this life on January 27, 2022. He served at St. Paul, Omaha, retiring in June of 1993. During retirement, Richard and his wife, Marian, traveled the U.S. with Laborers for Christ to assist with building churches.

The Reverend James Wilkens, pastor emeritus, departed this life on Saturday, January 29, 2022. He served at Trinity, Amherst, Nebraska (1971-1982); as chaplain at the Lutheran Home, Omaha, Nebraska (1983-1999); assistant/visitation pastor at St. Mark, Omaha, Nebraska (2001-2014); and as vacancy pastor at Hope, Omaha, Nebraska (2001-2018). He also served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1967-1988.

<https://ndlcms.org/obituaries/>

COMMISSIONED

Calls Declined

Anthony Splittgerber (S'00) principal, Zion, Kearney, to principal, Immanuel, Columbus

Lisa Splittgerber (S'00) teacher, Zion, Kearney, to teacher, Immanuel, Columbus

Other Transactions

Kari Maser (S'18) candidate, Missouri District, to candidate, Nebraska District

Rebekah Ptacnik (S'03) candidate, Rocky Mountain District, to candidate, Nebraska District

Richard Ulmer (RF'53) emeritus, called to glory, January 27, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14-15, Spring Pastors' Conference, Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

April 21-22, Spring Administrators' Conference, Carol Joy Holling, Ashland

June 24-25, Nebraska District Convention, Younes Conference Center, Kearney

July 9-13, LCMS Youth Gathering, Houston, Texas

July 22-23, LWML Nebraska District North Convention, Ramada Inn, Columbus

September 16-17, LWML Nebraska District South Convention, Younes Conference Center, Kearney

Learn about upcoming events on our website at:
<https://ndlcms.org/upcoming-events/>

UPCOMING CONVENTION DEADLINES



April 22, 2022, Congregational Assessments

May 16, 2022, Convention Registration

Convention questions may be directed to Candi Menze, convention coordinator, at candim@ndlcms.org, or contact the District Office at 402-643-2961. Details available at <https://ndlcms.org/convention-home/>

2022 KALEIDOSCOPE FUND

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is proud to announce the 2022 Kaleidoscope Fund grant process will open January 15 with a proposal submission deadline of June 1.

For 2022 grants, eligibility is limited to LCMS K-8 elementary schools. Schools that are RSOs are not eligible.

Visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope to learn more and to submit your proposal.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

800-843-5233 | lcef.org