



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 18, Issue 4

Dear Friends in Christ,

My mom passed away on Mother's Day in 2020 and my mind has been thinking about her and the influence she has had on my life as Mother's Day 2021 approaches. My mom was a woman of great faith. It was my mom who saw to it that the whole family worshipped on Sunday mornings. As a child, I remember her setting up the ironing board in the room just off our living room, the TV was on and there was a Billy Graham Crusade being broadcast that evening. She was ironing away, listening, even though we were complaining that we were missing our favorite programs. Sunday's, we had the Lutheran Hour tuned in around lunch time. My mom would wash the dishes and my brother, and I would dry, some topic of faith, of God would be discussed. At bedtime, she sat in the hallway, outside our bedrooms and read "*Little Visits With God*" as a devotional and we discussed the story with the questions included and the Bible was read.

In 1978, my mother was widowed when my father took his own life. She still had 2 kids at home and worked in a grocery store bakery to support her family. At my mom's funeral, the pastor mentioned the difficulties that she faced, and he imagined that she questioned "WHY?" As I thought about that – she never verbalized it. One Bible Verse that kind of sums up my mom's faith, would be, "I can do all things in Him that strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13**

I am thankful for the gift of a faithful mom who taught me about God's Grace and who nurtured that faith in my life. She was a real woman with real struggles, and she was a sinner. But she knew her Savior and she wanted her family to know the Savior.

The last time I had the opportunity to visit my mom was on the Wednesday before Mother's Day. She was in hospice. Her health had been failing during the previous 2 years as she was in and out of the hospital and her strength was waning. My wife and I sat near her bed watching her sleep. She laid there peacefully, with her hands folded on her chest, eyes closed. Outside it was partly sunny and each time the clouds cleared, and rays of sunshine would enter the room, her eyes would open, and she would look around. I think she was a little disappointed to discover that she was still in this world. She had told the nurses that she had one more move in her and she would be with her Savior.

For a brief few minutes, my mom was able to wake up for a little conversation. We shared God's Word, had a prayer. She said that she was not afraid, she was just waiting for Jesus to take her home. Then she told us that we should go. She was fine.

Fine she was. I pray that you have been blessed with such a faithful Godly person in your life. I pray that God would grant to me that strength of faith to share with others. Happy Mother's Day mom and Thank You Jesus for providing her to us.

In His Service,

Rev Jeffrey A Lee

In this issue...

- 1- Message from Rev. Jeff Lee, MaCO Facilitator and LCEF VP
- 2- District News, CROSS Appeal
- 3- Bring it Home, Take Heart Retreats
- 4- LCEF, Seminary Call Services
- 5- Message from Rev. Jason Wolter, District Life Coordinator
- 6- Lutheran Island Camp, Youth Gathering District Coordinators
- 7- Congregational Statistical Reports, RSTM, Steward Cast
- 8- Mission Minutes
- 9- DOXOLOGY Classic Program in MN, Calendar of Events, District Resources
- 10- Call Update, Wellness Resources
- 11- In Our Prayers
- 12- Prayer Calendar, Contact Information

DISTRICT NEWS

Tune In...



Rev. Paul Dare, Senior Pastor at Zion, Alexandria, has recently been a guest on the syndicated radio talk show and podcast *Issues, Etc.*

Pastor Dare and host, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod [Pastor Todd Wilken](#), discuss Cultural Marxism.

LISTEN >>

[Part 1: An Introduction](#)

[Part 2: Socialism and Christianity](#)

[Part 3: The Ephesians 6 Struggle](#)

[Part 4: Confessing in a Woke World](#)

[Part 5: Confessing... continued](#)



Rev. Brady Finner, Pastor at Messiah in Sartell hosts *Thy Strong Word* on KFUO radio. Tune in every weekday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Thy Strong Word reveals the light of our salvation in Christ through study of God's Word, breaking our darkness with His redeeming light. Each weekday, two pastors fix our eyes on Jesus by considering Holy Scripture, verse by verse, in order to be strengthened in the Word and be equipped to faithfully serve in our daily vocations.

[LISTEN ONLINE>>](#)

Rev. Timothy Lamkin was installed at Zion Lutheran Church (Crown). St. Francis, MN on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Pictured are (back row): Rev. Chris Lieske, Monticello; Rev. Terry Grzybowski, Elk River; Rev. Tim Renstrom, Braham; Rev. Matthew Johnson, Corcoran; and (front row): Rev. Marty Mably, Elk River; Rev. Don Polege, Lindstrom; Rev. Timothy Lamkin; Rev. Don Fondow, District President; Rev. Jake Gillard, Cambridge.

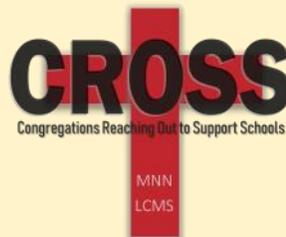


Rev. Bill Knaack was installed at Gethsemane, Snellman and St. John, Height of Land on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

Pictured are: Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Walker; Rev. Bruce Noennig, Detroit Lakes; Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe, Perham; Rev. Joel Newton, Park Rapids; Rev. Jared Nies, Perham; Rev. Tom Batchelder, Evergreen; Rev. Don Fondow, District President;

Rev. David Walsh, Menahga; Rev. Bill Knaack; Rev. Larry Harvala, Osage; Rev. Gary Rehborg, Osage; Rev. Jim Neubauer, Park Rapids; Rev. Guy Roberts, Detroit Lakes; Rev. Del Stohs, Perham; Rev. Mark Buchhop, Detroit Lakes.

Good Shepherd Lutheran High School in Elk River is set to begin it's first school year on September 7, 2021! They are currently enrolling students and look forward to serving both the MN North and MN South Districts with a brand new high school model. Learn more at their brand new website: www.gslhighschool.org!



At St. John Lutheran School in Thief River Falls, we are still basking in the Easter glow of the Resurrection, but our eyes are looking to the busy weeks ahead. We race to finish all the academic tasks we set out to do, plus add things like Standardized Achievement Tests, the spring musical, end-of-the-year field trips, track meets, and warm weather.

Our hearts are full of gratitude as we think back on the blessings of this school year. Our school has been able to stay open and, except for a short time of distance learning in one classroom, students have been here at the school. We have been able to continue teaching the love of God, the forgiveness that is ours through the cross, and the certain hope of heaven. We are thankful for friends who have not wavered in their support of the school even during these times when activities, fundraisers, and events have changed or been eliminated by COVID 19. The help received through the CROSS APPEAL funds from Minnesota North have helped us meet our maintenance needs. Renovating our storage facility, making needed repairs to the roof, the purchase of a furnace and bathroom fixtures are all possible through these funds. We say a very grateful "thank you" to Minnesota North for its help to our Lutheran schools!



Pastors gather outdoors for fellowship during a DOXOLOGY “Take Heart” retreat in Plymouth, Ind., in October 2020. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

By Cheryl Magness

“Take Heart,” a series of retreats designed to help pastors and the souls in their care find Gospel rest during COVID-19, has added additional dates for 2021.

The retreats, which are a joint effort of the LCMS Office of National Mission and DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, aim to:

- Sustain the work of pastors;
- Help pastors diagnose ministry challenges;
- Provide strategies and assistance for responding to those challenges; and
- Equip pastors with spiritual care and psychological resources.

Thanks to a grant of \$247,500 from the Soldiers of the Cross—Amplified fund, at least 11 additional “Take Heart” retreats will be offered in 2021. Registration is first come, first served, with all costs covered for participants except travel to and from the retreat. Four retreats have already been held in 2021, with four more currently scheduled and additional dates to be added throughout the year.

In a video posted to the DOXOLOGY website, the Rev. David Fleming, DOXOLOGY’s executive director for Spiritual Care, says that DOXOLOGY is “working diligently to spread [the retreats] across the country.

“Thanks be to God for your faithful care of the Lord’s flock,” Fleming continues.

“Thanks be to God for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which made it a priority to care for her pastors and church workers during this pandemic. Thanks be to God for the Office of National Mission’s bold generosity in making a ‘Take Heart’ retreat available to ... every Missouri Synod pastor free of charge. ...

“We at DOXOLOGY ... thank God for you and keep you in our prayers. The Almighty God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — bless you, that you may be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Registration for the “Take Heart” retreats has been brisk, and spots are filling quickly. Currently scheduled events are:

- April 19–21 Green Lake, Wis.
- April 26–28 Plymouth, Ind.
- May 24–26 Bel Aire, Kan.
- June 7–9 Aurora, Neb. (for Nebraska and Iowa District West circuit visitors only)
- June 21–23 Boise, Idaho
- Sept. 13–15 Marvin, S.D.
- Oct. 5–7 Columbia, Ill.

Visit doxology.us for more information.

Posted April 12, 2021 in the [Reporter](#)



Bring it Home - The Life of Christ is a 30 day Devotional that follows the life of Jesus Christ from Bethlehem to the resurrection. All you need is your Bible and the new Devotional.

If you have young children who are learning to read, there is even an “Arch Book” option. The set of 30 Arch books perfectly complement the daily devotions and can be ordered directly from [CPH](#).

To learn more, download the Devotional and purchase the Life of Christ—Arch Book Set visit bringithome.church today!

Retired Pastors—are you ready to spend your winter in sunny Rio Grande Valley, Mission, Texas. A Pastor is needed to continue the Ministry to Winter Texans in 3 R.V. Parks. This ministry began in 1986 and Pastor Edgar Rehwaldt began regular worship services for West Mission Lutheran Fellowship in 1992. Housing and a stipend are provided. If you are interested or for more information call -text Loren Kruse 320-220-0097 or E-mail him at lodikruse@charter.net

The Florida-Georgia District is receiving applications until May 1 for the position of Education and Youth Executive. Candidates should be a Commissioned Minister rostered in LCMS with a minimum of 10 years’ ministry experience. Interested individuals may request an application and a job description from President Walton at pw Walton@flgadistrict.org. An interview committee will evaluate applications and select appropriate candidates for interviews sometime after May 1.

The MN North District LWML is looking to buy an inexpensive 6X12 ft. enclosed trailer for storing and transporting convention items. If you know of one for sale, please contact LWML President Kathy Brandt at kathyrae56510@yahoo.com or at 218-766-1135. Must be in good condition and ready to use.



CONCORDIA SEMINARY



CALL DAY 2021



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Ahlersmeyer, (260) 452-3151, rebecca.ahlersmeyer@ctsfw.edu

Assignment and Call Services Stream Live at 7 p.m. on April 26 & 27

FORT WAYNE, April 9, 2021— There is growing excitement on the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) campus as the Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment Service and Candidate Call Service draw near. Director of Certification and Placement Dr. Jeffrey Pulse notes the poignancy of this long-awaited time. "The vast majority of the students being placed this year finished their vicarages in the midst of the pandemic. Now they have the opportunity to go forth, serve, and guide the LORD's Church as it emerges faithful from the darkness of disease. Not unlike a 'resurrection!'"

The Assignment Service will take place April 26 at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Christopher Esget preaching. The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe will preach at the Call Service on April 27 at 7:00 p.m. In order to ensure adequate in-person space for students and their loved ones, we are inviting our broader community to attend our services virtually. Join the livestream at callday.ctsfw.edu or facebook.com/ctsfw

Be a part of the excitement of Call Day! Watch at csi.edu/callday April 28

Join us online as second-year students receive their vicarage or internship assignments at 3 p.m. (CDT) and concluding students receive their pastoral and diaconal calls at 7 p.m. (CDT) in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

Due to capacity restrictions, in-person seating is limited to participating students and their guests, staff and faculty. All others are invited to watch the services at csi.edu/callday. Everyone is encouraged to share their celebratory comments and photos with the hashtags #CallDay2021 and #CallDayWatchParty on social media.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry



JOYFUL RESPONSE®



Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers e-tithing and e-tuition payments through the Joyful Response program.



Joyful Response is a free stewardship service for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, schools and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Joyful Response allows your members to give one-time gifts or recurring tithe:

- On your church website
- By a mobile phone app

JEFF LEE

LCEF District Vice President | Minnesota North
218-829-1781 | Jeff.Lee@lcef.org

GET STARTED TODAY.

**VISIT LCEF.ORG/JOYFUL-RESPONSE
OR CALL 800-843-5233.**

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

What's Easter really all about? There are many possible (*and theologically correct*) ways to answer that question. But, ultimately: isn't it about the new and everlasting life that was guaranteed to us by our Savior's own resurrection? And what kind of resurrection did He achieve? Was it *only* spiritual... or was it also a *physical* resurrection? Jesus answered that question on multiple occasions, proving that He had a physical body: by eating with His disciples and inviting them to touch His body and see that it was real.

This is the resurrection that we all look forward to: the resurrection of the body that will take place on the Last Day. After we die, we are made alive once more... and dwell in God's presence with all the other saints who are awaiting their physical restorations. But God created us to have physical bodies. So, when He brings all things to their final consummation, we will have physical bodies once more.

Clearly our bodies are important to God. He designed them, created them, redeemed them (*with His own Son's Body*) and will-someday- restore them to their perfected state. This doctrinal truth has all kinds of implications for Christians, as we try to make sense of the rapidly changing (*and declining*) culture all around us.

One issue that's causing all kinds of trouble right now is the issue of transgenderism. Everyone has a body' but some are now claiming that their physical body doesn't mean anything (especially with regards to their gender). "**Male and female He created them.**" (Gen. 1:27). That seems like it should be pretty straightforward, doesn't it?

There are many people who can articulate (better than I) a Biblical defense against this Satanic manifestation of gender dysphoria. I just want to take this moment to lay the foundation for such a defense. God is the one who made us. He knew what He was doing; and His workmanship is important to Him. It's a sad and sinful thing when anyone rejects His handiwork... or belittles the importance of the bodies He made.

The other cultural issues that are profoundly impacted (*by the fact that God created our bodies*) have to do with the

destruction of the body: either at its *beginning...* or later, when it has become inconvenient to *continue* living. When God designed our bodies, they had a beginning: conception. Although our bodies are smaller at the beginning stages of our development: they're still the bodies that God created for us. Satan tries to bring in all kinds of other considerations, like: "*What is that body capable of doing?*" Or, "*Could it live on its own, independent of its mother?*"

None of those questions matter... to those who take God's Word seriously and look forward to the Resurrection of the Body. If we acknowledge (*and appreciate*) God's will for our bodies, then we can't pick and choose which things we want (*a new and perfect body at the Last Day*) and which things we reject (*that preborn children have God-created, God-redeemed bodies, too*). Either our bodies matter... or they don't.

Well, we know that they matter to God! His Son took on the flesh of our human bodies: so that He could redeem our bodies... and make it possible to join our immortal souls with new, perfect, imperishable flesh on the day of His return.

And if our bodies *are* God's workmanship, they cannot cease to be precious to Him (*or to us*) simply because they're not the perfect bodies He intended us to have. Since the Fall into sin, NONE of our bodies work as God intended for them to work. Some of us have impaired eyesight... or imperfect hearing. Some of us have unhealthy organs... or unreliable minds. Our joints hurt. We forget things. We can't do the things we used to be able to do. Some of us can't do what other people can. Every human body has been affected- and corrupted- by the sin of our first parents.

But who can say that one body's deficiencies are worse than another: such that one of those lives is no longer worth living? Who decided that arthritis was something we can live with... but Downs Syndrome is not? Who decided that it's OK to need glasses, hearing aids or walkers... but not another *human being* to help us? ***None of us lives to ourselves alone and none of us dies to ourselves alone; whether we live or whether we die: we belong to Christ (Rom. 14:8).***

Our bodies are *God's* creation... and *His* Temple. Having created us in His image, God gives each and every body: infinite value, worth and glory. "**When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth!**" (*Ps. 8*)

As recipients of our Lord's resurrection, who look forward to the restoration of the perfect bodies that God intended us to have: let us not lose sight of the fact that these bodies- *the ones we're living in right now- are* sacred to God. They may be riddled with the effects of sin... and only temporary tents (compared to the permanent homes that Christ has prepared for us). But they *are* God's handiwork. Our bodies are His *gifts* to us. May we not insult Him: by rejecting His gifts... or viewing them through the Satanic lenses of this world. Let us cherish each body as the holy reservoir of God's works of creation, redemption and sanctification: both for ourselves and for our **neighbors**.

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT STUDENT AID GRANTS - APPLY BY MAY 15TH

Aid is available to students preparing for full-time church work at any of our Synodical schools. Applications must be received by **May 15 EACH YEAR**. Application forms may be obtained from your Financial Aid Office or downloaded at the [CUS Website](#).

After the form is completed, it must be returned to your Financial Aid Officer. They will submit the completed form to the District.



2022 LCMS Youth Gathering

Are you interested in the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering in

Houston TX? Whether you're new to the Gathering or a veteran of multiple Youth Gatherings, your District Coordinators DCE Jonathon Bailey and DCE Chris Brown would love to connect with you.

Coming soon in April, Jonathon and Chris will be holding Interest Meetings in 6 locations across MN North and also will hold a Zoom Meeting for those either not ready or unable to make an in-person meeting. Join us and learn about the history and purpose of the Gathering as well as some information about the city of Houston. Connect with other leaders and ask questions that you may have about this amazing opportunity for our young people!

Meeting Locations and Dates:

- April 17th 9AM - Our Saviors Lutheran, Crookston
- April 17th 2:30PM - Peace in Christ Lutheran, Hermantown
- April 18th 2:30PM - Love of Christ Lutheran, St. Cloud
- April 19th 7:00PM - ZOOM (online Meeting)

To sign up for one of these meetings go to <http://bit.ly/3se6Nia>

MN North District Coordinators



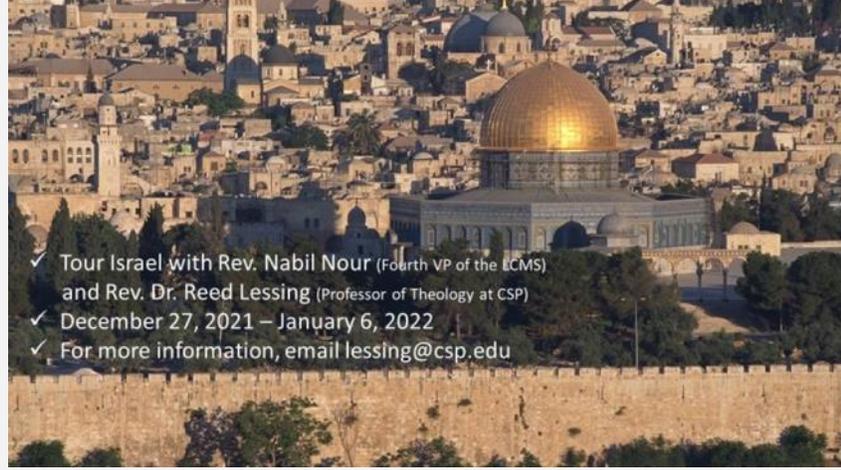
Jonathon Bailey



Chris Brown

You are invited to join Dr. Reed Lessing, Professor of Theology & Ministry at Concordia University St. Paul, and Rev. Nabil Nour, a native of Israel, born in Nazareth, for the experience of a

lifetime as these scholars lead you on a tour of the Holy Land from December 27, 2021 to January 7, 2022. Visit www.csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies for pricing, itinerary, and reservation information or email Dr. Lessing at lessing@csp.edu or Rev. Nour at preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com.



- ✓ Tour Israel with Rev. Nabil Nour (Fourth VP of the LCMS) and Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing (Professor of Theology at CSP)
- ✓ December 27, 2021 – January 6, 2022
- ✓ For more information, email lessing@csp.edu

Men of Christ Retreat - At Lutheran Island Camp

AN OUT OF BALANCE LIFE

- The Way of Jesus

Come alongside other men of Christ for a weekend of growth. Our guest presenter is The Rev. Guy Roberts (Senior Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church - Detroit Lakes, MN.). Registration is Friday evening followed by an evening presentation. There will also be a service project opportunity Friday afternoon (for those who would like to arrive early). Saturday's schedule will include: morning presentations followed by afternoon activities (fishing, disc golf, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and more). Pastor Roberts will lead the closing worship service on Sunday morning.



MEN'S RETREAT

FULL WEEKEND
\$125.00

COMMUTER
\$90.00

MAY 14-16, 2021

"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

— Matthew 11:28

Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

Register online at www.islandcamp.org



LCMS Information Support
Network for Congregations

 Enter Numeric Congregation ID..

 Password...

LOGIN

All congregations must submit their 2020 Statistics & Lay Leader Report by April 30, 2021, at lc.lcms.org.

Many thanks to the MN North District congregations who have already submitted their end-of-year statistics on the LCMS Information Support Network (LISN) for congregations. We are able to maintain current data with electronic submission. When you file your statistical report, please also update your lay leaders and their email addresses. These will be important to your congregation receiving timely reminders to participate in Synod governance throughout the convention cycle.

[Click here if your congregation did not receive the original email with details for submitting your report.](#) Many

congregations have reported that the original email (sent January 20, 2021) ended up in their junk / spam folder.

We are eager to achieve unanimous participation:

- because it is useful, especially now. We want to know how our congregations are doing and how best to work for their benefit and on their behalf.
- because we need to be able to contact leadership via up-to-date emails to facilitate their governance of their Synod. This was of key importance in the recent congregational referendum and will be increasingly so as we move toward Convention.
- because the Bylaws expect it (1.3.4.3) and require the Secretary (3.3.3.2[e]), District Presidents (4.4.8), and Circuit Visitors (5.2.3[h]) to urge it, consistent with an objective of the original 1847 Constitution of the Synod (ch. IV 13).

This report is essential as Synod plans future ministry efforts and determines proper voting representation at Conventions, among other things. Each congregation is able to enter its statistics directly into the LISN database, which is designed to provide better service and greater access.

For help logging into the online system, email rosters.stats@lcms.org or call 888-843-5267. Remember, the submission deadline is April 30, 2021. Thank you!

Church Unity and Engagement

This issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us of the opportunities God gives us to work together in unity to benefit the communities around us through the love of Christ.

This issue also highlights an elder care home in Haiti that can transform the way we look at engaging members to bring the Gospel to elderly people.

[READ NEWSLETTER >>](#)

Webinars

“Compassion Fatigue and Burnout” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, April 15](#). Presenter: Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs, director of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Residential Alternate Route (RAR) programs and associate professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

“Leadership Through Conflict” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, May 13](#). Presenter: Rev. Mike Moreno (PMHP/ PMSW), mental health and marriage counselor.

StewardCAST A Quiet but Clear Stewardship Lesson

The lesson of quiet stewardship. God has given each person a trust. This trust includes life in this world. It also includes ability and time.

The Lord does not ask us to all be stars or starters. He just asks us to faithfully use what He has entrusted to us to the best of our ability, for His glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

It is quite easy for the individual steward in the congregation to think that their effort is not noticed or needed. There are very few people who are in the position to give what fundraisers call “major gifts.” While those are appreciated, what the Lord calls us to is a pattern of faithful stewardship. [Read newsletter >>](#)



MISSIONARY MINUTES

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH AND SCHOOL, COTTON

TREE LIBERIA The MN North District continues to partner with Good Shepherd in sharing the Gospel with the people of Liberia. Pastor Kollie is in the US continuing his studies and has had the opportunity to visit with many of you. He thanks you for your continued support of his education and the ministry of the church and school in Liberia. This photos above include a school chapel service with student leadership installation and Pastor Kollie's visit to the MN North District Office (pictured here with President Fondow and Pastor Dennis McManus). The school continues to need funds for teacher salaries and generator replacement. Pastor Kollie is pursuing a Doctorate Degree at CTS, Fort Wayne, IN, with hopes of then teaching pastors in Liberia. Jamesetta Kollie, a 2019 CSP grad is working towards a Master's Degree. Gifty Kollie (deaconess student at CUC) and Diane (in high school at Concordia Academy, Roseville, MN) are also studying in the US with plans to return to Liberia to use their education. Donations (specifically designate on the memo line) can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401.



LCMS AGRICULTURAL MISSION CONSULTANTS

are using their gifts to share the

message of the Gospel in East Africa. You are invited to connect with these missionaries online on Saturday, April 17th at 9:00 a.m. Hear stories of the training shared about agriculture, God's creation and Biblical principles of life and marriage. Email kris-ta.young@lcms.org to sign up and receive the zoom invite.



PROJECT 24 & CHRIST'S CARE FOR CHILDREN - KENYA

Project 24 Kenya started between the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. It provides boarding facilities so vulnerable children have the opportunity to successfully complete primary or secondary school. The Project 24 Management Team is pictured here with missionary Brit

Odemba who shares: "This year the annual State of P24 Forum was held at the P24 Tumaini site in Kisumu. It was a time for each site manager to share their annual reports and finances for the past year as well as their goals for the upcoming year. Now that the Kenyan government has officially opened the schools, the sites are well under way for a great year. Many of the goals of the site managers include income generating projects that will help with the sites' sustainability." Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 107. Find Project 24 on Facebook [HERE](#). Find the P24 Newsletter [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#).



PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico continues to share the Gospel with the people of Mayaguez and Ponce. During the season of Lent, Principe de Paz used the opportunity for Lenten services as a way to bring in those they have met through various activities (ESL and art). Every Wednesday before services, they offered a craft or short activity that connected to the Lenten theme. This became a great opportunity for people to start to feel comfortable being in church and being apart of regular church activities while also giving them the opportunity to hear God's Word proclaimed. They ended Holy Week with a bonfire and a joyous Easter celebration with

a meal afterwards. We thank God for these opportunities and ask for your prayers for those who are starting to call Principe de Paz their home. Contribute to the [FORO](#). Support [Stephanie Wilde](#) (Deaconess intern from Parkers Prairie, MN) [HERE](#). Follow the teams on Facebook [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) or visit their websites: [Prince of Peace](#) and [Fountain of Life](#).



REV. DR. DAN & DR. JOAN JASTRAM

Pastor Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator: Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Asia. He shares: "Our project of translating Walther's Law and Gospel (1929) into Japanese continues to be a "go!" and I can report with great pleasure that we have reached 33% of the way toward completion." Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).



Support for any of these missionaries can be sent to: Minnesota North District—LCMS, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401 —earmarked for the [specific](#) mission or missionary.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, Emmanuel, Backus
April 25-27, 2021	District PALS Retreat, Brainerd
May 2-3, 2021	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
July 13, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
August 11-12, 2021	New Worker Orientation, District Office
August 30-31, 2021	Circuit Visitors Conference, District Office
September 19-20, 2021	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
September 25, 2021	Lutheran Layman's League Annual Conference Featuring Rev. Fred Hinz
September 26-28, 2021	MN North District Fall Pastors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
December 5-6, 2021	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
May 9-11, 2022	MN North District Convention, Brainerd

After a year of surprises, you can look forward to this.

As a pastor there is always more to know and there is always a need to refresh. Perhaps even more after being put through the wringer this past year with all of the pandemic curve balls. Now, as ever since 2008, DOXOLOGY wants to help.

The DOXOLOGY Classic program provides pastors with **advanced training for the care of souls**. The Classic program is a comprehensive experience of applied learning through a series of three conference retreats in peaceful settings spread over 12 to 18 months.

The Classic program combines lecture, discussion, mentoring, case study analysis, and individual consultation – all wrapped in rich corporate worship under the leadership of a pastor in residence. One of the retreat weekends includes lay leader training and the capstone retreat weekend involves the pastor's wife.

Access a three minute overview of the entire program [here](#).

We would love it if you could fill one of the remaining seats at our [Classic program starting July 19-22 this summer in Buffalo, Minnesota](#).

Generous grants allow us to subsidize the substantial cost of this training experience making it available to you or less than half the regular price. Installment payments of up to two years are available; special financial plans may be arranged upon inquiry.

Contact us if you have any questions about the program or funding. We want to make this happen for you.

For additional information and to register, visit doxology.us.

In Christ,

[Rev. David C. Fleming](#)

DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Spiritual Care

[Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke](#)

DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Christian Counsel



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MN North District Convention has been rescheduled to May 11-13, 2022 at Madden's in Brainerd. We look forward to gathering together around God's Word to support each other in the ministry of the Gospel. Information regarding the continued nomination and registration process will be available this fall.



Concordia Retirement Savings Plan 403(b) Special Enrollment takes place April 12-30. Personal savings will make up a big part of your workers' retirement incomes. By encouraging them to save or increase their savings rate, we'll be helping them prepare for retirement. When they reach that level – they'll be ready!

CRSP 403(b) Special Enrollment is sure to pack a punch and motivate workers to save for retirement while there's time – before it's "game over!"

[LEARN MORE>>](#)



Main Street Living continues to reach out with televised worship services in the Twin Cities, Fargo and Sioux Falls markets. Visit mainstreetliving.com



MSL Northland is reaching out to a large audience in the Duluth Market every week. Visit mslnorthland.com



What do we do when the government promotes lifestyles contrary to the Word of God? How does we respond when the government intrudes into the realm of the Church? Find more on the blog [HERE](#).



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

GRAND RAPIDS, First - Rev. Patrick Lovejoy, Port Angeles, WA accepted the Call. Installation 5/9/21.

LAKE GEORGE, Trinity - Rev. Philip Houser, Papillion, NE accepted the Call.

MCGREGOR/WRIGHT, Our Saviors/St. John - Rev. John Thomson accepted the Call. Installation 5/2/21.

ZIMMERMAN, Faith Community - Rev. Jacob Gillard, Cambridge, MN accepted the Call. Installation 5/23/21.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

ALBANY, Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Steege)

ALEXANDRIA, Zion (Associate) - Calling Seminary Candidate

BARNESVILLE, St. John's (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg)

BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA, Trinity/Grace/Trinity - Calling Seminary Candidate

CLOQUET (Munger), Hope (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Walter Lehenbauer) - Calling Seminary Candidate

EDEN VALLEY, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jack Baumgarn)

ELY/BABBITT, First/Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ray Hendrickson) Calling Seminary Candidate

ESKO, St. Matthews (Associate) - Calling Seminary Candidate

GARRISON, Shepherd of the Lake - Calling Seminary Candidate

HENNING, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ron Jobe) Called Rev. Mark Moldenhauer, Brenham, TX.

PEQUOT LAKES, Gloria Dei (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Mark Johnson & Rev. Monte Meyer)

RED LAKE FALLS/PLUMMER, St. John/Redeemer (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dan Domke)

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Strohschein) Called Rev. Zachary Hoffman, Gainesville, GA.

SEBEKA/NIMROD/N. GERMANY TWP, Grace/Nimrod/Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala) - Calling Seminary Candidate

SUPERIOR, Christ (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gerald Bernecker)

VILLARD/GROVE LAKE, St. John/Trinity (Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Craig Palach) -Calling Seminary Candidate

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Chris Lieske received a Call to Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Minoqua, WI. He declined the Call.

Rev. Marty Mably received a Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danville, IL. He declined the Call.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

ALEXANDRIA, MN - Zion Lutheran School Called Andrew Strickland, Green Bay, WI to serve as principal. He declined the Call.

ST. FRANCIS, MN - Crown Christian School is Calling a Commissioned teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS RESOURCES

In Our District:

CHURCH WORKER CARE

COORDINATOR: Rev. Paul Cloeter is available to provide a listening ear, sound advice and professional referrals. He can be reached at (320) 333-6319 or paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org

HEALTHY CHURCH WORKERS: HealthyChurchWorkers.com exists to help ministers and their spouses to live the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10.

From the Synod:

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS

ONLINE: Whether you are a church worker or spouse — or someone who loves those who are called to serve — the LCMS prays that these resources are helpful. Learn more [HERE](#).

Recognized Service Organizations:

DOXOLOGY: DOXOLOGY offers an innovative program of advanced study retreats to strengthen pastors for the task of faithfully shepherding the souls entrusted to their care. Doxology.us

GRACE PLACE WELLNESS: Grace Place Wellness is a preventive wellness ministry that seeks to positively impact the ministry of Christian congregations. www.graceplacewellness.org

SHEPHERD'S CANYON

RETREAT: Shepherd's Canyon Retreat offers seven carefully designed days of individual, couple and group Christian counseling for church professionals and their spouses. There are openings in both the July and August retreats. shepherds canyonretreat.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Jeff and Rebecca Ross (St. John, Garfield), celebrating the birth of a baby girl, Anastasia Eden, on April 13th.

Mrs. Barb Angland, wife of Rev. Dennis Angland (Zion, Parkers Prairie), recovering after a recent hospitalization.

Rev. Roger Krebs (em. Parkers Prairie), recovering after surgery.

Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), recovering after a fall.

Rev. Marvin Blaske (em. Milaca), dealing with shingles.

George Miller, recovering after cataract surgery and dealing with severe back pain.

Jamesetta Kollie, daughter of Rev. James Kollie (Good Shepherd, Cotton Tree, Liberia), dealing with serious health issues.

Rev. Bob Brueske (em. Alexandria), recovering after surgery.

Katie Hannasch, daughter of Rev. Steve Meltzer (St. John, Wadena), undergoing cancer treatment.

Rev. Robin Collins (Trinity, Staples), recovering after a stroke.

Mrs. Joan Buchhop, wife of Rev. Dr. Mark Buchhop (em. Detroit Lakes), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Michael Breach (St. John, Wheaton), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Jack Baumgarn (em. New London), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Roy Hasbargen (em. St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Fred Kutter (em. Albany), recovering after surgery.

Rev. Larry Cain (em. Cromwell) dealing with health issues.

John Kutter, Brother of Rev. Fred Kutter (em., Albany), continuing to deal with health issues.

Mrs. Mary Weber, wife of Rev. Dr. Karl Weber (St. John, Ottertail & St. Paul, Richville), diagnosed with cancer.

Rev. Dean Stolz (Zion, Crosby & Immanuel, Iron Hub) dealing with health issues.

Rev. Jim and Mrs. Bev Meyer (Thief River Falls), dealing with health issues.

Jenny Schoessow, wife of Rev. David Schoessow (Christ, Superior, WI), who is dealing with health issues.

Rev. David Milz (St. John, Kimball), dealing with heart issues.

Rev. Victor Dorn, (em., St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Paul Dare's (Zion, Alexandria) father, diagnosed with cancer.

The mother of Rev. Dennis McManus (em. New Germany), facing a number of health issues.

Mrs. Martha Buchholz (wife of sainted pastor Rev. Henry Buchholz), Richville, who is having health issues.

Mary Langemo Hughes, daughter of Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), who is suffering from hyperacusis.

Mrs. Melissa Martini-Tischer, wife of Rev. Steven Tischer (Zion, Princeton), diagnosed with sarcoidosis.

Rev. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Volkert (em., Hamburg NY), both dealing with health issues.

David Rickbeil, brother of Rev. Blake Rickbeil (St. Paul, Bertha), who has been missing for several months.

MN North District Seminary Students:

Jordan DeBoer, Crookston, studying at CTSFW

LeAnn Gregoire, Isle, Deaconess student at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, studying at CTSFW

Erik Saunders, Grand Marais, studying at CTSFW

Carl Seim, Elk River, SMP student at CSL

Berett Steffen, Spicer, studying at CTSFW

Stafford Thompson, Brainerd, studying at CTSFW

Stephanie Wilde, Parkers Prairie, Deaconess student on internship in Puerto Rico

Those serving in the military & chaplaincy and part of our District family:

LT Geoffrey Gronewold, Active Duty Chaplain, US Army, North Carolina

Captain Vincent Bain, Active Duty Chaplain, Fort Leonard Wood, St. Robert, MO

Lt. Aaron Bell, son-in-law of Pastor Tom and Mary Brinkley (St. Matthews, Esko), Active Duty Chaplain, US Navy Camp Pendleton

Rev. Steve Breitbarth (em., Hibbing), LCMS endorsed Emergency Response Chaplain and Disaster Response Chaplain

Joshua Bonk, son of Rev. John Bonk and Linda Bonk, US Army

MSG Jonathan Fondow, son of Pres. Don & Connie Fondow, US Army

1st Lt Michaela Biegner-Wentz, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em. Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Virginia Beach, VA

Dennis Gerold, husband of DCO Abby Dawkins Gerold, US Air Force

Timothy Milo, son of Rev. Frank & Sue Milo, MN National Guard

1st Lt. Micah Uhrinak, son of Rev. Les & Susan Uhrinak, Crosslake, Air Force

Staff Sgt Nathaniel Vrudny, son of Rev. Matthew & Bonnie Vrudny, Walker, with the Army Reserve Engineering unit at Ft. Snelling, MN.

Tanner Wagner, son of Rev. Don & Jolene Wagner, National Guard

Private Chris Peske, son of Rev. Mark and Sharon Peske, US Army, Ft. Benning, GA

Private Matt Peske, son of Rev. Mark and Sharon Peske, US Army, Ft. Benning, GA

Missionaries Rev. Dr. Daniel and Dr. Joan Jastram serving as career missionaries through the LCMS in northern Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. (son of sainted pastor—Rev. Robert Jastram and Mrs. Phyllis Jastram)

Missionaries Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser, serving with Lutheran Bible Translators in Ethiopia.

MAY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Rev. Noel Herr—St. John, Madison	4 Rev. Justin Hesterman—Immanuel, Eagle Bend & St. Matthew, Clarissa	5 Rev. Nathan Higgins—Emmanuel, Long Prairie	6 Rev. David Hinz—Trinity, Sauk Rapids	7 Rev. Ron Hobbie—Zion, Ada & St. John's, Green Meadow	8
9	10 Rev. Philip Hoppe—Peace, Finlayson & St. Paul, Bruno	11 Rev. David Johnson—Grace, Becker	12 Rev. Harvey Kietzman—St. John, Akeley	13 Rev. Donald Kirchner—Trinity, Lake George	14 Rev. Donald Klatt—Trinity, Holloway, Immanuel, Appleton & Immanuel, Holloway	15
16	17 Rev. Stephen Klemp—Love of Christ, St. Cloud	18 Rev. Glen Kleppe—Zion, Pine City	19 Rev. Bill Knaack—Gethsemane, Snellman & St. John, Height of Land	20 Rev. John Knierim—Faith, Maple, WI	21 Rev. Paul Koehler—St. John, Motley	22
23	24 Rev. Matthew Kohl—Our Redeemer, Cloquet	25 Rev. Jeffrey Kyler—Mt. Olive, Bovey & Grace, Marble	26 Rev. Richard Langhorst—Immanuel, Giese & Trinity, Sandstone	27 Rev. David Laue—First, East Grand Forks	28 Rev. Travis Lauterbach—Emmanuel, Backus	29
30	31 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED					

CONTACT US

Rev. Don Fondow, District President
Diana Ruopp, Admin. Ass't

don.fondow@mnnlcms.org
diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org

Lutheran Witness Editor

Rev. Philip Hoppe (320) 233-6138
the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org

Mission & Ministry Facilitators:

Rev. Jeffrey Lee [MaCO]
Rev. Monte Meyer [PLaN]

jeffrey.lee@mnnlcms.org
monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org

Gift Planning Counselor:

Mr. David Priebe
david.priebe@mnnlcms.org

Bookkeeper - Angie Ringstrom
LCEF VP - Rev. Jeff Lee

angie.ringstrom@mnnlcms.org
jeff.lee@lcef.org

District Secretary:

Rev. Marty Mably, Elk River
pastormarty@lordofglorylutheran.org

Church Worker Care Coordinator:

Rev. Paul Cloeter
paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org

District Treasurer:

Mr. Mike Uran
treasurer@mnnlcms.org

Congregational Care Counselor:

Rev. George Sagissor, III
congregationalcare@mnnlcms.org

District Archivist

Rev. John Beck
john6beck@gmail.com

Committee on Constitutions & District Memberships:

Rev. Ron Carnicom, Chairman (218/675-6532) constitution@mnnlcms.org



Minnesota North District
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Mail: PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401-0604

Phone: 218/829-1781 800/482-5022

e-mail: mnndist@mnnlcms.org

Fax: 218/829-0037

website: www.mnnlcms.org