



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 17, Issue 12

Dear friends in Christ:

“By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifest in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory”*

(1 Timothy 3:16).

How would you describe this year, 2020? One social media platform decided to ask its constituents to put a name on it: *“2020 in one word.”* Within a short amount of time, they had 211,300 responses. Here are a few that I thought were interesting:

supercalifragilisticexpialidonewiththisyear; DELETE; Skip; whyyyyyyyyyyy?; unprecedented; sour. Here’s a description that I read in an article: *annus horribilis (horrible year).* Let me add one more: *separated.*

In July of 1969, the Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin left a plaque on the moon that says: *“Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon, July 1969 A. D. We came in peace for all mankind.”*

There is a rendition of the Christmas song, *“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”* that says:

*“I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men.*

*And the bells are ringing (peace on earth)
Like a choir they’re singing (peace one earth)
In my heart I hear them (peace on earth)
Peace on earth, good will to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”*

Our world is tragically, miserably divided. Nation against nation; our country is separated; political party against political party; racial and gender divisions; ideological divisions; divisions in the church, at work, and within homes. There is bickering, quarreling, fighting, rioting, rebelling, revolting, destroying!

Alienation from others is simply an extension of mankind’s alienation from God. Antagonism toward others is a reflection of our antagonism toward God. By nature, people live with the haunting, upsetting suspicion that the Someone up there doesn’t like us.

From time immemorial people have been trying to find a solution to this problem. We have fought wars for the sake of peace. We have tried uniting the nations with little success. We have even sent people to the moon in quest of it. But in spite of all the amazing forward progress we have made, we have not found a way to inch us closer to one another. We separate in a myriad of ways.

God has a **Word** for us about all this division, dissension, and separation in our world. He deals with the problem by getting at its cause. He made Himself manifest in the flesh. He wants to drive out of our minds the notion that He doesn’t love us because that notion is driving us out of our minds. Bethlehem’s Child is the demonstration and the proof of His love. In the person of Jesus, He takes us into Himself and at the same time He gives Himself to us. Jesus became man to save us. He came on earth to reconcile God and man. He was forsaken, separated from the Father so that we would never be.

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DISTRICT NEWS



Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, Elk River, in the midst of COVID-19 concerns and restrictions, held its second annual Breakfast in Bethlehem community outreach event on Saturday, December 5th, this year as a drive-thru experience. Unsure as to the community's response, the volunteers were thrilled with the near 120 people who attended. Each person received a Bethlehem Treasure Bag, which contained family devotions and crafts, a water bottle and more, and also a Breakfast in Bethlehem Brown Bag Breakfast for the families to enjoy. Many Bibles were also distributed to attendees as a majority of those who



attended were not members of any local congregation.

Attendees were welcomed and donated toys and financial gifts which were used to benefit a local toy drive and several community organizations. Then, they were serenaded by the Live Nativity singing Christmas hymns, and then received their Treasure Bags and Brown Bag Breakfasts. On Lord of Glory's Facebook page, people can still enjoy a virtual Nativity Gallery, including photos and also stories of member's personal nativity sets.

While on a much small scale of last year's first Breakfast in Bethlehem, the church was excited to offer a positive event and experience to community members in a time when many churches and organizations are having to restrict or cancel events. Besides the great opportunity for volunteers to serve Christ and their community, the volunteers enjoyed spending time enjoying fellowship with one another.

Our Redeemer, Cloquet held their annual Thanks-For-Giving Breakfast for local health care workers even in the midst of a pandemic.

Pastor Kohl shares: *"It wasn't the same as serving hot pancakes, but we love serving our amazing medical community. This year we gave 190 care packages to members from our local hospital and clinics. We are so glad that this small token of appreciation means so much to so many people. Thank you so much for all that you do for us medical workers!"*

Nearby Community Memorial Hospital employees express their thanks: *"A heartfelt thank you to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cloquet for the Thanks-for-Giving breakfast they provided to healthcare workers this morning. This is the 11th year they have generously offered breakfast to those who work in the healthcare field as a way to show their appreciation. In past years, individuals have been able to sit around beautifully decorated tables in the church and enjoy the meal, but this year due to the pandemic, breakfast bags filled with treats were delivered as vehicles drove up to the church entry. Thank you to our wonderful neighbors!"*



Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville (Millerville), welcomed new members on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

Rev. Roger Lange feels blessed that this church continues to grow in the midst of a pandemic. In fact, they may even need to add extra services in order to maintain social distancing!

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Jesus came in peace for all mankind. He doesn't offer it as just a future possibility. He makes it a present reality for you and me. He who was in the beginning with God is now with us and lives in our hearts by faith in Him. That brings peace and should be enough to make our Christmas merry and bright even in 2020. *"For God is not dead, nor does He sleep."*

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,2, 14).

**No Christ...No Peace / Know Christ...
Know Peace!**

*"Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us"* (390 v.4 LSB).

*A blessed Christmas and a joy-
-full New Year to you and
yours!*

President Fondow

24th Convention of the Minnesota North District—LCMS



...Making Disciples for Life

Dates: April 12-14, 2021

Location: Madden's on Gull Lake, Minn.

Theme: Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go: Making Disciples for Life
Based on John 1:1-14 and Hymn 920 (LSB)

Host Circuit: Brainerd Circuit, Rev. David Becker (Aitkin), Circuit Visitor

Convention materials were sent to congregations on October 5, 2020 and are also available at the MN North District website.

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~ John 16:33

DOXOLOGY

In the midst of uncertain days we can be confident that Jesus is Lord and pastors have a noble task of carrying out the work entrusted to them.

DOXOLOGY seeks to equip pastors and refresh them in their calling all while training in the diagnosis of soul care needs and the application of Law and Gospel in our congregations and communities.

Please consider joining us next year for one

of our Classic programs—[in Minnesota July 19-22, 2021](#)—so we can continue to assist pastors to be the best pastors they can be.

The [Classic program](#) is comprised of three retreats: the **Gathering**, the **Encore**, and the **Grand Reunion**. Pastors attend the Gathering for the foundation. At the Encore they are joined by some of their congregation's lay leaders. Finally, at the Grand Reunion, pastors and their wives enjoy opportunities for advanced learning, engaging conversations, and spiritual refreshment.

DOXOLOGY has also partnered with the LCMS Office of National Mission to provide at least 15 **Take Heart respite retreats** in 2021. The linked [four minute video](#) gives a quick overview of **Take Heart! Strength and Confidence for Demanding Days**.

Even better news is that you can attend the event FREE of charge thanks to a grant from the LCMS. To make a reservation to attend, go to doxology.us/respite-retreats-for-pastors-take-heart/ There you will find more information and links to register for a specific **Take Heart! retreat**.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Dec. 28th is the date (in the Western hemisphere of Christianity) on which the Feast of the Innocents is celebrated. It is a commemoration of the “Slaughter of the Innocents” (*as it is sometimes called*), when Herod ordered the murder of all the young boys in and around Bethlehem. This event is touched on in our 3-year lectionary (the list of appointed readings for each Sunday); but the reading for that day stops before the actual killing of all the little boys. And no wonder! Who would want to be reminded of that terrible aspect of the Christmas story?

But, if our eyes are open, we are reminded of it: each and every day. There are “innocents” who are constantly being “slaughtered”- all with the approval of our government... and about half of the country. If you’re reading this, you have probably already connected some of the dots: that preborn children are killed every day. But let us not forget WHY they are killed.

In most cases, the thought process for supporting abortion is no different than what Herod was doing. He thought that the birth of another “king” (the true King of the Jews) was a threat to his power. That made the infant Child “inconvenient” to Herod... and put his “happiness” at risk. Simply put: Herod didn’t want that baby to be born. And that’s the most commonly cited reason why abortions are performed: because the child is inconvenient... and will put their parents’ happiness at risk. In other words, they see their child as a “threat”.

But there are also other, more specific reasons why a child might not be wanted by their parents. Sometimes it’s because the child has been diagnosed with some kind of special need. Those parents try to pretend that they are sparing *the child* from suffering; but, really, they’re only trying to spare *themselves* from having to endure the effort required to care for such a special gift

from God. I’ve yet to meet someone with Down Syndrome, who wasn’t the most joyful person in the room. Yet that diagnosis causes most of those children to be aborted. Between 85%-95% of children who, while still in the womb, are diagnosed with Down Syndrome... are aborted. In Iceland, the elimination of those children is mandatory.

I suppose it’s possible that someone... somewhere... might try to defend that evil practice. But who can defend the killing of unborn girls... simply because they are girls? I don’t think anyone would even try. But that doesn’t change the fact that this is a factor in some people’s decision to abort their child. Of course, no one has to *explain* their reasoning... because no questions are ever asked. In many places in America, children are allowed to be killed before birth- *at any stage of development... and for any reason*.

But it’s not just the preborn who are being threatened (and killed). Think about what it must be like to be an adult with special needs... and know that many of the people around you wish that you didn’t exist. And don’t forget the elderly! With the so-called “right-to-die” comes the unambiguous “obligation-to-die”. Currently, the MN House of Representatives has been trying- for years- to pass a Physician Assisted Suicide Bill (PAS). In fact, they HAVE passed it... but the MN Senate will not go along with it (thankfully!).

For those who don’t know the history of these kinds of bills, there are three outcomes that are certain to follow, if PAS becomes a law. **1)** The elderly will be made to feel guilty about continuing to live; **2)** The government will, at some point, give itself the power to decide who lives and who dies; and, **3)** People of all ages will use this “right” to commit suicide- even if they are young and healthy. In other places where this has been implemented, people have

chosen PAS for themselves- *and been granted it!*- simply for feeling depressed at that moment in time. We spend a lot of resources telling young people that suicide is not the answer; but then “we” try to pass laws that say it is! What are young people supposed to think? What conclusions do you think they will make: that suicide is a terrible thing... or that it is the solution to all their problems?

The truth of the matter is: there are times in life when things get messy... and painful; times when we think our happiness is being restricted... or ended altogether. But death is not the answer. It is NEVER the answer: no matter what- or who- the “problem” is! We can say that... and we know it- with 100% certainty: because we have a Heavenly Father, who has revealed Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. And what He has revealed... is that He is willing to get “dirty”, in order to clean up our “messes”. He knows our wounded hearts and broken bodies; and He binds us up and make us whole once more. He takes every terrible tragedy and makes good come out of it for those who love Him. He turns ugly sinners... into beautiful saints.

That’s why we turn to HIM when it feels like our dark times- and devastating situations- are going to overwhelm us. They won’t: because God is with us. We know that. But now we need to help other people to see that, too. There will never be a problem that anyone will ever face... where death is the answer. Christ is the answer! May His grace, love, wisdom and patience be evident in our lives so that He can give those things to others, through us.

“Immanuel” isn’t just a name for Christ; it is the source of all our hope, peace and strength. Therefore, let us go forth with boldness and joy... because “God is with us”: always... and at every stage of life!

TREASURES OLD AND NEW (AGAIN):

A Virtual Conference on Adult Faith Formation

JANUARY 12 – 14, 2021

Registration and more information about this free conference can be found at [FormingLutherans.org](https://www.forminglutherans.org)

We plan to repeat this conference online on January 12-14, 2021. The schedule can be found at our website: <https://www.forminglutherans.org/event/treasures-old-and-new/>.

We envision a twofold goal for this conference. First, it will demonstrate how ancient-future practices for making disciples can transform a congregation into a place of hospitality. Second, those who participate in the conference will learn from pastors and congregations who use these practices how this kind of formation can create and support a sense of congregational identity that embraces a habitus of hospitality and is mission-focused around the formation of new disciples.



BRING IT HOME

Life of Christ

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 which you can either download and print on your own, or get a hard copy from your Minnesota North District Church. Churches should contact Rev. Monte Meyer (monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org) to request their free hard copies.

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 for \$45 shipped (regularly \$90) using the promo code "ARCHSET".

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



Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) We have brothers and sisters in Haiti who we might consider 'least of these' because of their poverty- not of faith, but of material goods. Since this seems to be the time of year when many people are looking for places to give their money, might I suggest giving it to the Lutheran Mission Association? All gifts go directly to the churches in the Northern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and are tax deductible. LMA has no overhead expenses.

This has been such a difficult year for so many because of Covid-19, and it has struck Haiti, an already extremely poor country, in equally destructive ways. Pastors and teachers have not received wages, though churches and schools are open now with the same precautions we exercise in the States. Very few families have computers, much less internet, so it is impossible to have online classes. School is possible only with students attending in person.

Gifts may be sent to:

Karen Lueth, Financial Secretary
33879 Co. Rd. 4
Park Rapids, MN 56470
Website: lmamnn.org

For additional information call Lori at 218-261-0937



CHANGE MANAGEMENT IN THE CHURCH

CSL + CUW ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Available April 5

Learn about leading change and managing conflict through a Continuing Education course offered in partnership with Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon! The six-week course is fully online: the opening and closing sessions will be held live online and will be recorded for later viewing; all other sessions will be fully asynchronous with video lectures, optional readings, recommended assignments and peer discussion activities.

Led by instructors **Dr. David Peter**, **Dr. Erik Hollander** and **Rev. Randy Raasch**, the course covers the following topics:

- Emotional intelligence
- Overcoming fear of change
- Teams, collaboration and evaluation
- Dealing with conflict in the church

Registration is \$99, which includes six Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits for pastors. The deadline is March 31. Reserve your spot today!

On the registration form, under the question "I am interested in _____," choose "CUW/CSL Pastor Professional Development" from the dropdown menu.

Questions? Contact us at ce@csi.edu or 314-505-7286. Learn more about the course [here](#).

REGISTER

Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Concordia University in St. Paul

The 2021 competition covers the books of Romans and James. Start studying! For more information visit the [website](#) or contact the MNN District Coordinator, Rev. Steve Breitbarth at (218) 929-1110.



ST. PAUL, Minn., December 10, 2020 - Concordia University, St. Paul announced a new church work tuition guarantee that ensures eligible students enrolled in church work programs will pay no more than \$6,000 in tuition each academic year. This move further supports Concordia St. Paul's commitment to prepare more workers for the church as the most affordable church work option in the Concordia University System of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Beginning fall 2021, full-time students enrolled in a church work program will receive a minimum of \$17,900 in combined institutional financial aid each year. Scholarships and grants from a student's home congregation, LCMS District and local community may be stacked on top of this guarantee to further reduce the cost of tuition and living expenses. [LEARN MORE >](#)

The new church work tuition model is available for all incoming and current full-time church work students enrolled in the following programs:

- Director of Christian Education
- Director of Christian Outreach
- Director of Parish Music
- Lutheran Classroom Teacher
- Pre-Deaconess
- Pre-Pastoral

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It's reassuring knowing your child is God's child. Now your child's savings can help others experience God's love through the sharing of the Gospel.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you are supporting Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries — without forfeiting competitive rates. This Christmas, give the gift of a Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount.



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. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

Exciting News!

The 2021 applications are NOW AVAILABLE! Click [HERE](#) to download the Loan Repayment Assistance Program Grant Application.

MinistryFocus awarded 2020 loan repayment assistance grants to 41 church workers of the LCMS and plans to award at least as many in 2021.

MinistryFocus is a volunteer, non-profit Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS that believes the realities of educational debt negatively and irreparably harm ministries and congregations. Through LRAPs, MinistryFocus aims to help these ministries thrive, so that the faith of believers is strengthened and that more people might come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

"The prayer of the church is that the Lord send out laborers into His harvest. It is best for Christ's flock that His under-shepherds be instructed well in the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and faithful practice. This training is not without significant financial and personal cost to those aspiring to the office of pastor. As one now called to be pastor, the burden of student loans incurred while at Seminary are a perennial distraction from my duties to Christ's sheep. The grant I received from MinistryFocus will be crucial in my ability to reduce this debt. I encourage the church at large to support this organization with your gifts and so benefit the shepherds of Christ's flock."

— grant recipient who serves as a full-time pastor

Applications for 2021 loan repayment assistance grants are due to ken@ministryfocus.org by December 31, 2020.



Pastor Guy Roberts (Zion, Detroit Lakes) waves at parishioners attending parking lot service from his brand new heated preaching station!

COVID-19 CREATIVITY



Trinity, Carlos has a small sanctuary, so they've moved to the parking lot for Sunday Morning Worship. Pastor Mark Schwarz can now stay warm in this shelter mounted on a wagon.

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. Progress continues on the sanctuary (see photos). The school is bursting at the seams and has several urgent needs: **Teachers have not been paid in months. Teachers at the school earn between \$95-185/month. \$3300 in contributions would bring them up-to-date. Also, they rely solely on gas powered generators for power. They are currently without a serviceable generator. Contributions of**



\$2500 would allow them to purchase a new generator. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to pray about how they might be able to help the ministry in Cotton Tree. 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.



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. This month the ministry of education has given the notice to re-open the schools starting with Class 4 (4th grade), Class 8 (8th grade), and Form 4 (high school seniors) students. Project 24 staff is working to prepare the sites by following the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines to welcome the students back. Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 107. **Project 24 & CCC Kenya have launched a Facebook page!! Keep up with what is happening with these ministries on a day-to-day basis [HERE](#).** Find the P24 Newsletter [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#). District support for Project 24 to date is \$112,034. Support for CCC: Kenya to date is \$17,366.



DAN & 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 for translating another theological resource for availability in Asia is making major headway: *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel* by Walther. Our prayer is that this translation project of essential Lutheran theology will continue from its current start-up stage to a smooth, steady operation on its ultimate course to completion—"run that you may attain it." " Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).

PUERTO RICO FORO On All Saints Sunday our Church in Ponce, Fuente de Vida, was able to have their first worship service back in their own building after being in temporary locations since January. We are looking for a team that will help renovate and repair worship and outreach facilities. Some tasks that your team might work on include: demolition, debris removal, exterior painting, cleaning, plumbing, kitchen cabinetry, wood refinishing, tiling and landscaping. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Puerto Rico and the United States and are working with the Office of International Mission to safely send teams once again. Learn more about these opportunities [HERE](#). Contributions to LCMS Disaster Response (Puerto Rico) will aid some of the short term costs. Learn more [HERE](#). Contributions to the [FORO](#) will help with longer term efforts. Prince of Peace, Mayguez facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ilpdp/>. Follow James and Cristel Neuendorf [HERE](#).



An update on the Agricultural Consultancy in East Africa: The volunteer coordinator in Kenya, Africa informed us last week that because of the COVID-19 virus the LCMS is not sending any volunteers to East Africa in early 2021. We assure our supporters that contributions for the Ag Consultancy in East Africa project remain in that LCMS account and can be used by the ag volunteers when they are able to serve. Our ag team has been meeting via Zoom and continues to discuss training topics and ways to communicate with participants in East Africa. Please pray for people of Africa during this time of sickness and hardship.

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.



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

HINCKLEY (KROSCHER), St. John—Rev. Timothy Schiller accepted the Call.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

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

BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA, Trinity/Grace/Trinity

CLOQUET (Munger), Hope (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Walter Lehenbauer)

CROWN, Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jake Gillard)

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

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

GRAND RAPIDS, First (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Steve Breitbarth)

HENNING, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ron Jobe)

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

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

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Senior Pastor) - Called Rev. Daniel Welch, Glencoe, MN. He declined the Call. Called Rev. Mark Gilson, Muskegon, MI.

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

SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND, Gethsemane/St. John

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

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

- Rev. Chris Lieske received Calls to St. Paul's & Grace, Strasburg, IL; St. Paul, Independence, MO; and St. Paul, Lexington, IL.. He declined all three Calls.
- Rev. Chris Lieske received a Call to Faith, Lincoln, IL..
- Rev. Timothy Schiller received a Call to Lamb of God, Slidell, LA. He declined the Call.
- Rev. Philip Hoppe received a Call to Faith, Sullivan, IL.. He Declined the Call.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

DCE Ruth Woltmann received a Call to Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake, MN. She accepted the Call.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25-26, 2021	Circuit Visitors Conference, Location TBD
February 14-15, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
March 13, 2021	Floor Committee Meetings at the District Office (Pending)
April 11, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, Madden's (Pending)
April 12-14, 2021	MN North District Convention—Madden's, Brainerd (Pending)
April 17, 2021	MN State Bible Bowl, Concordia University, St. Paul
April 20, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
June 7, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
July 13, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2020 Congregational Treasurers Manual has been sent to all the District Congregations. It can also be downloaded [HERE](#). District Salary Guidelines for 2021 are available [HERE](#). The MN North District website also connects you with District and Synod resources to answer your questions on a number of topics. Stop by our home page: www.mnnlcms.org



Travel and gathering restrictions continue to keep us from in person meetings and seminars, making a retirement workshop impossible in early 2021. In the meantime, you will find many resources for retirement planning on the Concordia Plans website: <https://www.concordiaplans.org/members/my-financial-benefits/getting-ready-to-retire>



Looking for schedules and broadcast times for Main Street Living and MSL Northland? Their news and schedules are posted on the District website. Click the links on our homepage: www.mnnlcms.org



Pastor Fred Hinz serves as Public Policy Advocate for both Minnesota North and South Districts of the LCMS. As such, he represents the LCMS in matters pertaining to life issues (abortion and doctor-assisted Suicide), issues related to marriage, family, and sexuality, and issues related to religious freedom, including parental choice in education. Learn more and get involved at:

<http://www.mnsdistrict.org/public-policy>

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Lorena Becker, mother of Rev. David Becker (St. John, Aitkin), who passed away on November 24, 2020.

Rev. Thomas and Hannah Batchelder at the birth of a baby girl.

Rev. Kevin & Dauli Richter at the birth of a baby girl on November 25, 2020.

Rev. Gregg Coop (Prince of Peace, Baxter), dealing with COVID.

Rev. David Cloeter (em. Ottertail, MN), recovering after a fall and surgery.

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. Follow Pastor Collin's recovery journey on [CaringBridge](#).

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

Mrs. Ann Frederickson, wife of Rev. Bruce Frederickson (em. Brooten), 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. Norm Hanan (em. Annandale), dealing with health issues.

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., Palisade), 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 Campbell, KY

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, Park Rapids, US Army

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

Ensign Emily Geddes, US Navy

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, Trinity, Deer Creek, National Guard

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.

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 District Office Closed	2
3	4 St. Luke, Wood Lake - Rev. David Tilney	5 St. John, Wright - Rev. John Thomson, VP	6 Faith Community, Zimmerman - Rev. Jacob Gillard, VP	7 Atlantic District - Rev. Derek Lecakes, DP	8 California/ Nevada/Hawaii District - Rev. Michael Lange, DP	9
10	11 Central Illinois District - Rev. Mark Miller, DP	12 Eastern District - Rev. Dr. Chris Wischer, DP	13 English District - Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, DP	14 Florida-Georgia District, Rev. Dr. Greg Walton, DP	15 Indiana District - Rev. Dr. Dan Brege, DP	16
17	18 Iowa District East - Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, DP	19 Iowa District West - Rev. Dr. Steven Turner,	20 Kansas District - Rev. Justin Panzer, DP	21 Michigan District - Rev. Dr. David Maier, DP	22 Mid-South District - Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, DP	23
24	25 MN South District - Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, DP	26 Missouri District - Rev. Dr. Robert Hagan, DP	27 Montana District - Rev. Terry Forke, DP	28 Nebraska District - Rev. Richard Snow, DP	29 New England District - Rev. Tim Yeadon, DP	30
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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

Committee on Constitutions & District Memberships:

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



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