



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 18, Issue 2

Happy Valentines Day to all our friends in the Minnesota North District!

When was the first time you heard someone say “I love you”? It is the best feeling in the world! The word “love” can mean a bunch of different things, depending on the context. For instance, I love my wife, Nadine; I love fishing; I love my dog; I love serving in the Minnesota North District and I love steak. In each of these instances love has a different meaning. We’re used to translating the meaning of love by considering the context.

God loves you. He loves me. You can begin to understand the nature of God’s love for you in John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

The love God has for you is specific and purposeful. It doesn’t matter who you are, or what you have done. God loves you because he cares for you. He understands your struggle with sin and its terrible effect on your life. In spite of all this sin, God loves you so much that He sent His son to take your place, to pay for all of your sins and give you eternal life. God loves you that much. It never ends and it is never conditional.

If you are like me, recent events have us on the edge. We are looking for a little hope, maybe some peace and perhaps a little love for a change. Know this - YOU ARE LOVED. You not alone in this world. God is interested in you. He washes away your sin and makes you new again. God wants the best for you, even when life isn’t turning out the way you want. He will never leave nor forsake you, even when life gets difficult.

What an amazing, awesome gift we have - right now! You... are... loved!

In Christ,

Rev Monte Meyer



In this issue...

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DISTRICT NEWS

24th Convention of the Minnesota North District—LCMS

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

A Word of Hope

This issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us to bring the eternal message of the certainty of the Gospel to those around us, especially during these uncertain times.

This issue also highlights how parish nurses can serve in congregations and work in team ministry with the pastor.

[Read February 2021 newsletter >>](#)

Webinar Schedule

“Parish Nursing in Rural and Small Towns” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, Feb. 18](#). Presenter: Deaconess Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry.

“The Mission Field Outside Your Door” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, March 4](#). Presenters: Rev. Max Phillips, CEO, and Wanda Pritzel, director of development, of Perry Lutheran Homes.

“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.

[View webinar schedule, archives >>](#)



Dates: ~~April 12-14, 2021~~ **MAY 9-11, 2022**

Location: **Madden's on Gull Lake, Brainerd, MN**

Theme: **Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go... Making Disciples for Life**
Based on John 16:33 and Hymn 920 (LSB)

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

Esther 4:14 National Grant Program

The Lord has established and equipped His church to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). As people worldwide face isolation, career displacement and their own mortality, the Gospel alone brings real relief and help. New technologies and communication techniques have enabled us to proclaim the Lord's timeless truth in new and exciting ways. The LCMS Office of National Mission has launched a new national grant program to encourage congregations to purchase equipment to meet the challenges of the day. Grants will be awarded based on need, innovative character and willingness to share discoveries with other LCMS congregations and organizations. [LEARN MORE >>](#)





BRING IT HOME

Life of Christ

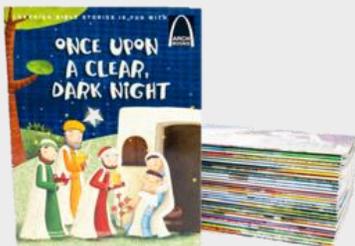
Bring it Home - The Life of Christ is a 30 day Devotional that follows the life of Jesus Christ from Bethlehem to the resurrection.

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 Congregation. 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!



CPS Educators talk retirement for Church Workers

You love the work you're doing in His name – but at the same time, you look forward to the day when you'll retire. Volunteering in your community, spending time with family, learning a new hobby – your time will be your own. But planning and preparing for retirement? That's a little scary.

That's where our Financial Educators come in!

Join us for this two-part webinar where our financial educators will help explain the retirement process, how to determine where you are now and how to plan your next steps.

Virtual Pre-Retirement Workshop Thursday, February 25th

Our retirement webinar will be two parts, each about 90-minutes long, and includes time for questions. They'll cover several important aspects of retirement including:

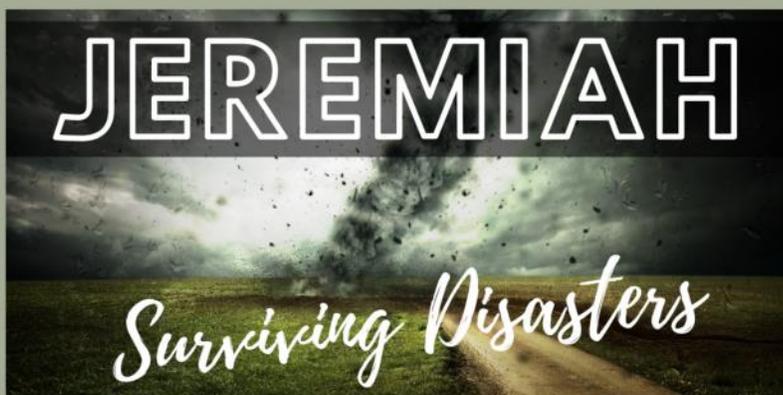
- Personal and emotional impact of retirement.
- Financial considerations.
- Health care and your coverage options.
- Social Security benefits.
- Concordia Retirement Plan pension benefits.
- Personal savings and the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan 403(b).

And you're encouraged to include your spouse, too – or others who will be helping with your retirement plans! Register here:

[Retirement Readiness at 10 a.m. →](#)

[Retirement Income at 1 p.m. →](#)

Want to learn more about retirement? Check out our planning resources that help explain every step of the retirement process. [Retirement Resources →](#)



March 20, 2021 | 9am - 3pm | \$10 | online or in person
Dr. Reed Lessing | Concordia University, St. Paul
Register at csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies

SEEKING PRESCHOOL TEACHER

The School Board for Preschool at Trinity, Fergus Falls is seeking two teachers and a preschool director for the 2021-22 school year. If you are aware of any teachers in who would be open to a part-time preschool teaching position, we would welcome them to call Trinity, Fergus Falls for an application form and further information. We hope to fill these positions as soon as possible.

Contact Trinity Lutheran Church: (218) 736-4869

ITEMS LOOKING FOR NEW HOMES:

St. John's in Madison, MN also has the following items available:

- One paper carton full of "SATB" and "SAB" year-round choir music available for anyone that can use it. We would be willing to ship it to you or meet somewhere.
- 6-7 copies of "The Children's Hymnal" printed 1955. Variety of Hymns, The Christian Creeds, Psalms and Scripture Selections, The Catechism, and Prayers are in this green book.
- 16 copies of The Lutheran Hymnal RED BOOK
- We have a large 12-foot artificial Christmas tree that is in three segments.

Kathleen Kunde, Church Secretary at 320-598-7550 or stjohnslutheran@farmerstel.net



CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Contemplate visitation event set for March 12

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 25, 2021—College-age and older men and women are invited to Contemplate, an online visitation event that gives prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor or deaconess. This free event will be held March 12.

During Contemplate, participants will engage in sessions that focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as learn about the academic program, field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid and housing. They also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and meet with the admissions team.

“Contemplate will give prospective students the opportunity to virtually ‘travel’ to St. Louis to experience Seminary life,” said Rev. Micah Glenn, director of Recruitment. “It’s our hope that this one-day online event will help participants further discern whether Concordia Seminary – and a call to ministry – is part of their future.”

The deadline to register is March 5. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at [csl.edu/contemplate](#).

A link to join the event will be provided to registrants before the event.

Contemplate is one of many [visitation events](#) for prospective students that provide a preview of the Seminary’s ministerial formation experience. Individual visits also can be scheduled. To learn more, contact Recruitment and Admissions at 800-822-9545 or [admit@csl.edu](#), or visit [csl.edu/visit](#).

About Concordia Seminary

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis provides Gospel-centered graduate-level theological education for pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars and other leaders in the name of [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(LCMS\)](#). To learn more, visit [csl.edu](#).



Making Disciples



VALUING LIFE

Virtual LCMS Life Conference
March 19–20, 2021

ATTEND THE LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE – FROM ANYWHERE!

Though gathering is difficult these days, LCMS Life Ministry believes that proclaiming the truth of life’s value from conception to natural death is as important as ever.

The first-ever virtual LCMS Life Conference will be held March 19–20.

This virtual conference will enable anyone to join in — students, missionaries, church workers and congregation members from across the country and the world. It will feature livestreamed and on-demand videos, as well as interactive question-and-answer opportunities.

Learn about a distinctly Lutheran understanding of the sanctity of life from speakers, including:

- **Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**, LCMS president;
- **Timothy Goeglein**, Focus on the Family vice president of External and Government Relations; and
- **Deaconess Tiffany Manor**, director of LCMS Life Ministry.



Registration is open NOW!

To register or learn more, visit [lcms-life.org](#).

Making Disciples for Life





A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness... Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:2-3; 12)

2020: yikes, what a year! In the midst of a very divisive election year, we also got smacked around by the Coronavirus. People lost their jobs... students were forced to be educated by their computer screens... kids had their recreational activities taken from them... families were forcibly cut-off from their loved ones... and many people suffered in isolation and anxiety. As if that pandemic, itself, wasn't bad enough... violent protests broke out across our nation. Racial tensions and divisions were inflamed. Finding someone to hate seemed to become the new national pastime.

The shadow of sin and death are creeping across our land. And, sadly, things are only going to get darker. Laws regarding “hate speech” and “equality” are soon going to be weaponized against conservative Christians (*those who believe, teach and confess that the Bible is God's inspired Word- and then seek to put it into practice in their churches and lives*). And we have already seen the beginning of the end of the First Amendment (the one guaranteeing free speech and the right to practice our faith). Laws protecting the lives of our neighbors are being wiped away with the stroke of a president's pen.

What can I say about all that... except: **what an exciting opportunity for the Church!** For 300 years, the Church in America hasn't had much to do. There was always work for the

Church to do... when it came to providing food, clothing and shelter to those in need (*not to mention the Word and Sacrament ministry that she has faithfully carried out*). But when it came to the Great Commission (*Matt. 28:19*), there weren't many disciples to “make”, since- pretty much everyone we knew- was Christian. They may not have put much thought or effort into it, but we figured that they knew the basics of the Bible... so we could consider them to be “Christians”.

My how things have changed! Now, **less than 2/3 of the country** considers themselves to be Christians. That's **down 12%** in the last 10 years. Meanwhile, those who consider themselves to be “unbelievers” has **grown by 17%**. They now make up **26%** of the total US population! It's expected that, in the next 18 months, **1 out of 5** churches will close its doors forever. How will that change, when **less than 50%** of those 40 years old or younger call themselves “Christian”? Or when **only 46% of all Christians** in America attend church more than 3 times a year?

The Church is being attacked from within (*by false doctrines and apathetic members*) and from without (*by government laws and cultural impositions*). She is shrinking in numbers. But: she is **NOT** dying! In fact: **now** is the time... when the light of Christ is going to shine more brightly than ever before! In the past, we've been able to

“relax”... and be comfortable in our Christian beliefs and practices. But now we have to be **intentional** about teaching the faith to our kids... and genuinely committed to living it out in our daily lives. And that's what we're going to do!

My dear friends in Christ, we have an exciting opportunity to glorify God in a way that very few in America have ever had before! We get to be missionaries to our neighbors! And let me tell you how we're going to do it: **together**. As individuals, we can certainly impact our communities in a variety of positive ways. But if we truly want to make sure that **God** gets the glory, so that our love is clearly seen as **Christ's** love in action: we need to do it **together**.

As we come together (*in our various church families*) to identify the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our neighbors- **and then work together to meet them**- Christ's love and light **will** be seen in us. And it should be: because we are Christ's lights in a dark world. We are Christ's love in a hurting world. And we are the ones with the blessed privilege of declaring how precious each and every person is (*from fertilization... to forever*)!

May God grant us zeal, perseverance, patience, wisdom and- **most of all- joy**: as this time of testing produces steadfast faithfulness and obedience... and leads to God being glorified in us!

StewardCAST

As the page turns on another year, [insert your own thanks to God that 2020 is in the rear-view mirror here], there are always the obligatory New Year's resolutions. Millions will resolve to drop some unwanted pounds and shed a few inches. Many will resolve to eat healthier, spend more time with their families, take trips, read more, relax more, quit smoking and the like. Still others will use this time for spiritual renewal. They will start a new devotional regimen or plan to be more regular in Bible study, worship and reception of the Lord's Supper. While the beginning of the new year brings with it such high hopes, we are soon reminded that while the spirit is willing, the flesh is often weak.

[Read newsletter >>](#)





The National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference (#NATIONAL21) is a standalone Youth Ministry practitioner conference, but also provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering.

- ◆ Are you planning to take a group to Houston in 2022 and want to familiarize yourself with area hotels, facilities, and restaurants?
- ◆ Are you a first-time adult leader and desire to connect with other new and seasoned adult leaders?
- ◆ Are you looking for training and networks which support your service as a youth ministry practitioner?
- ◆ Are young (high school) leaders in your congregation looking for an opportunity to sharpen their skills and meet other LCMS young leaders?

The conference will be held July 11-14, 2021, at the Hyatt Regency Houston and we hope to see you there!

[**LEARN MORE & REGISTER >>**](#)



Volunteer at the National Youth Gathering:

In All Things, the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering will bring over 1000 loving, energetic, flexible, and faithful volunteers to Houston, TX. The Volunteer team is composed of folks from all over the USA, of all ages, gifts and abilities. We would love for YOU to serve a few hours or the entirety of the Gathering as a Young Adult Volunteer (ages 19-25) or an Adult Volunteer (25 and older).

Volunteers are a highly valued and deeply needed element of the Gathering experience and its overall success. Whether you are able to serve for a few hours on Team Flex or for the full Gathering in one of the many other volunteer roles we would love for you to be a part of the Orange Nation or Blue Crew!

We hope you will consider serving at the 2022 Youth Gathering as we seek to help all Gathering participants experience the joy of Jesus IN ALL THINGS!

[**LEARN MORE & APPLY >>**](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP MEN'S RETREAT | MAY 14-16, 2021

The date for the next Men's Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp has been changed to the **weekend of May 14-16, 2021.**

Spring will offer nicer weather in order to take advantage of outdoor activities that the camp has available both on the Island and at Christ Serve Ranch.

The Rev. Guy Roberts (Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes) will be our presenter. His theme will be, **"Living a Balanced Christian Life"**

Watch for more information and registration material.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

SPRING 2021 LLL VIRTUAL EVENT



WHEN & WHERE

MARCH 13, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
300 Lake St.
Alexandria, MN 56308-1531

and
St. Mark Lutheran Church
414 15th Street N
Benson, MN 56215

Doors open at 10:00 a.m.
with a brunch to begin the day

At 11:00 a.m. the virtual event will start and will conclude at 2:00 p.m.

Due to circumstances created by COVID-19, all registered participants will receive a link to attend the conference via Livestream from their own homes. Options for attending from home or in-person at the venue are available when registering.

AGENDA



DEVOTION
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Speaker of The Lutheran Hour®



MINISTRY MESSAGE
Kurt Buchholz
LHM President & CEO



SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME TRAINING AND RESOURCES
Rev. Dr. Jason Broge
LHM Director, Design & Development and



Deaconess Ashley Bayless
Curriculum Development Manager, LHM Global Ministries



HOST AND MC
Jennifer Prophete
Director, Community Programming, LHM Global Ministries

Register at LHM.ORG/LLL2021

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please register online by March 9.

For more information contact: Minnesota North LLL District President, Delano Meyer by phone: 320-677-2668 or cell: 320-287-0531 or by email: meyerdel@yahoo.com

YOUR CHURCH HAS A FUTURE

It has potential for growth and an opportunity to reach deep into your community with the Gospel. What better feeling to know that your ministry is playing a part in God's redemptive work—a dream you've always nurtured.

But there's just one problem—your church is in desperate need of repair or upgrade.

Now may be the time to explore a Church Improvement Loan through Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

INTEREST RATES ARE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW.

Church improvement loans are limited to LCMS congregations and include:

- Maximum 10-year term
- Up to \$150,000
- 24 months at Cost of Funds (COF) adjusted annually
- LCEF COF plus up to 2.5% adjusted annually for remaining term
- Payments fully amortized over term

The Church Improvement Loan is designed to help churches fund critical church repairs and upgrades.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry

Visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.



For personalized service, contact your Minnesota North District Vice President **Rev. Jeff Lee** at 218-829-1781 or Jeff.Lee@lcef.org.

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. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (NMLS# 3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to lcef.org/state-disclosures/. The National Office is located at: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 1220L001

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. The sanctuary has seen much progress in recent months, pews from Shepherd of the Lake in Chisago City, new brick work and a beautiful new pulpit can be seen in the pictures here. The school had 54 graduates in January! Their Baccalaureate Service is pictured here. 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.



DR. JIM AND SUSAN KAISER

are excited to extend the partnership

between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). Jim consults with six different translation projects and Susan provides care to other missionaries. Susan is a former member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Willmar. Learn more [HERE](#).



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. Brit Odemba shares: *"In spite of the difficulties associated with Covid-19, it was wonderful to hear from the Archbishop of the ELCK that this project has helped restore their church and has assisted in their reconciliation process. What a wonderful compliment and affirmation that this program has been a catalyst for spiritual restoration. We look forward to continuing the work of helping vulnerable children here in Kenya and reaching out to them with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."* 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. Every month Missionary Ruth Maita and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf host a craft morning - one Saturday in Ponce and one in Mayaguez. They invite those that they visit as well as those who have been attending weekly Facebook art classes. The art ministry helps provide opportunities to minister to individual's social and emotional health by providing a time of fellowship. It's been a great blessing to gather together around crafts and the Word of God. The missionaries also started a third round of ESL adult conversation classes in the middle of January with the help of LCMS volunteers, with about 21 students in attendance. The kid's English program also started up again at the same time. For the children's English ministry, they host 4 different classes a week with kids separated by ages with a total



of 12 kids. They have begun to make visits to the students and their families while continuing to share the Gospel of Jesus with them through the English classes. 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: "By far, the highlight of this past month was the official notification of approval AND disbursement of the initial grant portion for our translation project of Walther's Law and Gospel." 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.



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

GRAND RAPIDS, First - Rev. Patrick Lovejoy, Port Angeles, WA accepted the Call.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

ALEXANDRIA, Zion (Associate) - Calling Seminary Candidate

BARNESVILLE, St. John's (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg) - Called Rev. Patrick Lovejoy, Port Angeles, WA. He declined the Call. Called Rev. David Mews, Dearborn, MI.

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

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

CROWN, Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jake Gillard) - Called Rev. Matthew Meyer, Callaway, MN. He declined the Call. Called Rev. Timothy Lamkin, Maple Grove, MN

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

ELY/BABBITT, First/Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ray Hendrickson) Called Rev. Christopher Biernacki, Florence, AL. He declined the Call. Calling Seminary Candidate

ESKO, St. Matthews (Senior)

GARRISON, Shepherd of the Lake - Calling Seminary Candidate

HENNING, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ron Jobe) - Called Rev. Shawn Ethridge, Fulda, MN. He declined the Call.

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. Mark Gilson, Muskegon, MI. He declined the Call.

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

SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND, Gethsemane/St. John - Called Rev. Bill Knaack, Park Rapids, MN.

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

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

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Matthew Kohl received a Call to St. John, La Porte, IN. He declined the Call.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

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

February 14-15, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
March 13, 2021	MN North LLL/LHM Spring Livestream Event, Zion, Alexandria
April 20, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
April 25-27, 2021	District PALS Retreat, Brainerd
May 2-3, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
September 26-28, 2021	MN North District Fall Pastors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
December 5-6, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
May 9-11, 2022	MN North District Convention (POSTPONED), Brainerd



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](#). As new dates are chosen and Convention updates become available, they will be posted on the District Website. 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 their websites. Click the links on our homepage: www.mnnlcms.org



As you well know, the LCMS has for many years spoken out publicly about life issues in general, and abortion in particular. In more recent years, our Synod's focus has expanded to include an active opposition to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia (PAS/E). Several years ago, that led our Minnesota North and South Districts to join with other like-minded organizations in forming a new coalition, the [Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare](#). Find more on the blog [HERE](#).

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Rev. Orville Aho (em. Baxter and formerly served First, Grand Rapids), who passed away on February 7, 2021.

The family of Rev. Ken Krause (em. Rockford, IL) who passed away on January 24, 2021.

The family of Rev. Hyle Anderson (em. Aberdeen, SD and formerly served Trinity, Bemidji), who passed away on January 23, 2021.

The family of Rev. Gary Bell (em. Benicia, CA and formerly served Faith, Maple, WI), who passed away on January 23, 2021.

The family of Mrs. Eva Koehler (Little Falls), wife of sainted pastor Rev. Robert Koehler) who passed away on January 21, 2021.

Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), who was hospitalized after a fall.

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](https://www.caringbridge.com).

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. 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, 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, 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.

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Rev. James Anthony - Redeemer, Deer River & Centennial, Squaw Lake	2 Rev. Bill Aufdenkamp - Zion, Hoffman & Christ, Elbow Lake	3 Rev. Tom Batchelder - St. Paul, Frazee (Evergreen)	4 Rev. John Beck - Trinity, Sauk Rapids	5 Rev. David Becker - St. John, Aitkin	6
7	8 Rev. Robert Behling - Trinity, Twin Valley	9 Rev. Steve Benson - Zion, Brainerd, MN	10 Rev. Carl Berner - Bethlehem, Herman	11 Rev. Craig Bertram - Lord of the Lakes, Forest Lake	12 Rev. Nathanael Biberdorf - Zion, Browns Valley	13
14	15 Rev. Micheal Bitz - St. John, Grey Eagle	16 Rev. Bruce Blocker - Immanuel, McIntosh	17 Rev. Steven Bohler - Our Savior's, Crookston & First English, Eldred	18 Rev. John Bonk - Shepherd of the Lake, Two Harbors	19 Rev. Ed Borchardt - Bethlehem, Frazee	20
21	22 Rev. Kent Borglum - St. John (Sparta) & Trinity (Havelock), Montevideo	23 Rev. Michael Breach - St. John & Immanuel, Wheaton	24 Rev. Thomas Brinkley - St. Matthews, Esko	25 Rev. Scott Brown - Ebenezer, Leaf Valley & St. James, South Effington	26 Rev. Keith Brustuen - St. Paul, Montevideo	27
28	29 Rev. David Buchs - Concordia, South Haven	30 Rev. Matthew Canion - Redeemer, Willmar	31 Rev. Daniel Carlson - St. Paul's, Milaca			

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