



# INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 17, Issue 6

What next? Perhaps you have asked yourself that question lately. First a pandemic that has taken lives, shut down our nation, caused a setback to our economy, and then comes a senseless murder that sparks protests, riots, destruction of property, mayhem, looting, violence, injuries, and death. To say that our world is hurting right now is an understatement. So, what next?

In light of the uncertainties of life we would do well to hear and heed the words of Psalm 121:

- 1 lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*
- 5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.*
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*
- 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

This Psalm is a Psalm of comfort in which the Psalmist comforts us by his example, so that we may remain strong in faith and wait for God's help and protection. Psalm 121 is part of a group of Psalms called the *Psalms of Ascents* (Psalm 120-134) that were probably sung by Israelites as they "went up" to Jerusalem for worship. Perhaps looking to the hills around Jerusalem, the Psalmist, inspired by the Spirit of God, knows the answer to his question, "**where does my help come from?**"..."**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**" No matter what comes next, God is always present. He never slumbers nor sleeps. Wherever we go, day or night, God is there with us. Our lives are held securely in His hands, now and forever.

Recently, I received the following letter from a young lady that I had confirmed several years ago:

*That morning, Julie and I went to Julie's mom's. On highway 10 by Little Rock Road, we were hit. The accident happened at about 7:00 a.m. I had no recall of what happened in the accident. All I remember is waking up in the hospital saying: "Where am I?"*

*Some injuries sustained in the accident were a fractured neck, fractured and broken ribs and a lot of blood loss. I had a feeding tube in my nose. They had to perform CPR because my heart stopped 3 times. When they removed my stomach surgical staples, there were 33. I was nearly paralyzed and had a 20% chance of survival.*

*I was in the ICU Unit for about 10 days. Then I was moved to a regular hospital room. A few days later I was moved into rehab. I continued my occupational and physical therapy. I was transferred to a nursing home on February 19, 2018. I continued my therapies. When I got there I could not walk and I was in a wheel chair. As therapy progressed, I was able to use a walker, the last few days I was able to practice walking with no aids. On May 3, 2018, I was discharged from the nursing home. I went to corner medical to pick up my walker. We ended up going back to get papers. I went out of the store and fell on uneven cement and had 2 stitches put in my head at the ER.*

*continued on pg. 5*

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**ATTENTION: PASTORS  
AND CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANTS**

MN North District Congregations are encouraged to look for and respond to the recent requests from the LCMS Office of Rosters and Statistics. See the notice from the Secretary of the LCMS, Rev. John Sias, below:

*LCMS Research, together with IC staff and with very helpful input from a panel of District Presidents, has assembled an all-congregation survey to help us assess the impact of COVID-19 on the Synod. It is designed to be completed by one congregational leader and attempts to assess the impact of the disease, of mitigation measures, and the congregation's response and posture at the present time. It is being conducted now with the realization that we are all experiencing this episode in different ways, but that if we wait until we are all completely done with it to assess its impact, the response we get may be both too late to have any useful impact and too weary of it all to preserve much detail. We hope the data that will be gathered will help us assess the impact and guide Synod and District responses that will be helpful. We hope also to gauge the preparedness of congregations for a potential recurrence and identify specific ways in which that preparedness might be improved upon.*

*For congregations that have not yet submitted their statistical reports, the e-mail will also remind and invite them to do so. We earnestly hope to have a solid base of SY2019 data so that we can accurately gauge the impact on SY2020. At present we have about 62% of congregations responding—understandable in present circumstances, but we hope to do better. We have again extended the closure date on annual statistical reports to the end of this month (June).*

*Congregations will need to check their roster contact email inboxes (including "clutter" or spam folders) for a message from LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services.*

*All the best, in Christ Jesus,  
John Sias  
Secretary, LCMS*

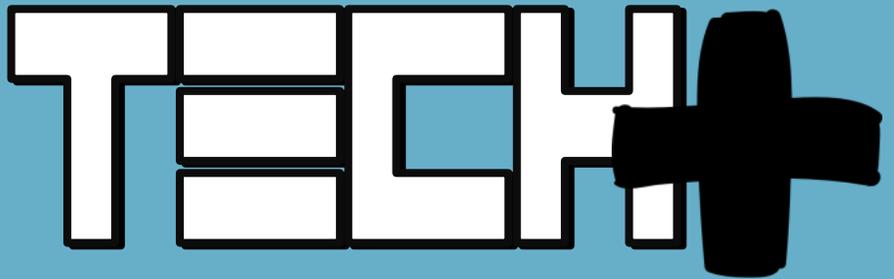
**29TH ANNUAL LIC  
QUILT AUCTION**

*Quilt and Silent Auction  
Donations*

LIC is accepting donations for the quilt auction now through June 30. Please call camp to arrange for a parking lot pick up (583-2905).

You can print off the information sheets that explain details for each donation by going to the camp's website ( [www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org) )and look for the quilt auction under Events.

Watch for details on how the auction is changing due to COVID 19. As always, may God bless your support of Lutheran Island Camp.



**2nd Annual MN North District Technology Workshop... PLUS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd 9am - 3pm**

Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church, Rice, MN

**REGISTER HERE**

- ◇ CHURCH WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ◇ WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY
- ◇ CHURCH MANAGEMENT TOOLS
- ◇ ONLINE GIVING
- ◇ PLUS... BUILDING SECURITY, TREASURER WORKSHOP, AND MORE!

**\$10 Registration Fee | Lunch will be served**

Hearts for Pastors provides grants and other resources to help reduce the emotional toll of financial burdens on pastors and their families. Our goal is to eliminate over \$1,000,000 of student loan debt and moving expenses within the next 5 years. We cannot achieve this without God's blessings and your help. <https://heartsforpastors.org/>



"Small Church Conference" with Karl Vaters, a Southern California pastor and author of "Small Church

Essentials" and "The Grasshopper Myth." Karl was the keynote speaker at last November's N.A.M.E. Conference. This free live-stream conference will take place on Saturday, June 27th, 10:00 - 3:00 Pacific Time. Participants are asked to complete a simple registration form. A video interview introducing Karl and the conference topics is included on the webpage.

Link for conference information and registration: <https://www.psd-lcms.org/psd-events>



Construction is underway at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. This building will house the High School (Grades 10-12) whose enrollment is growing! Good Shepherd has been chosen by the African Examination Council to host exam administration in August. \$1800 for zinc, nails and roof fares is needed to get the building ready. Donations should be earmarked "Cotton Tree Roof" and sent to the District Office.



### Registration now open for Aug. 8 Lay Bible Institute

*Online workshop to focus on Gospel of Mark*

ST. LOUIS, June 3, 2020—"Christian Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark" is the focus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' Aug. 8 online Lay Bible Institute, the final installment in the 2019-20 series. Dr. David Lewis, assistant professor of Exegetical Theology, will explore what the Gospel of Mark teaches about Christian discipleship and what that means for Christian lives today.

"The Gospel of Mark teaches a high view of the Christian calling to discipleship. The disciples of Jesus are called to participate in His mission, are identified as His true family and are given insight to the mysteries of God's reign," Lewis said. "Yet they also are called to suffer for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel and to serve one another, a calling that can be fulfilled because of Jesus' suffering and service on our behalf.

Open to lay people, students, pastors and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel, the one-day online workshop will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (CDT) online. Registration is open. The registration deadline is July 18. Cost is \$20 per person.

Concordia Seminary's Lay Bible Institute features three presentations per year hosted by faculty members. The institute offers an ongoing study of the Bible and how it relates to today's life and events.

Register online or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or at [ce@csli.edu](mailto:ce@csli.edu).

### Faith and Writing Workshop to be offered online July 21-23

ST. LOUIS, June 1, 2020—Registration is now open for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' annual Faith and Writing Workshop July 21-23, now being offered as an online event because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Participants will explore the various forms of creative writing including starting a blog, creating a sermon or devotion, story, nonfiction, drama and poetry. The workshop will emphasize social media and new forms of expression. There will be ample time for creative exercises. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to share their own work, as well as favorite works by others.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Travis Scholl, managing editor of the Concordia Journal, and Peter Mead, a Christian editor, publisher and writer.

"Whether you're just starting out or already published, writing is something that can be taught, and in the workshop, we learn from each other," Scholl said. "Words are at the heart and soul of faith, so we might as well learn how to use them well."

The workshop fee is \$150 per person (\$50 for Seminary students). The registration deadline is June 30, and the number of spaces are limited to 25. Interested participants can sign up here.

For more information about the Faith and Writing Workshop, contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or [ce@csli.edu](mailto:ce@csli.edu).

#### 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 [csli.edu](http://csli.edu).



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... and everything that was in them. Then He created man. Shortly after that, He created a woman: because it was not good for man to be alone. Then God established marriage: so that men and women could be united as one and raise their children in a stable and healthy environment. And, if everything had gone according to God's plan, those stable- *and healthy*- families would come together to be the building blocks for stable- *and healthy*- communities.

That's how I started my Trinity Sunday sermon. The goal of my message that day was to remind God's people that, despite the fact that the God-head consisted of the Three Persons of the Trinity, God is still a God of fellowship and unity. And since we were created in His image, we were created to live in fellowship and unity as well: both with Him and with one another.

Little did I know... that those obvious truths would be considered heresy by the dark forces of this world that (*knowingly or not*) do the bidding of the Father of Lies. Yet, in this crazy-beyond-words summer of 2020... here we are. We have a popular, respected (by many) organization saying that it's their goal to: "*disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.*"

Let me translate that for you: "*We reject the idea of the traditional family; and, instead, believe that the "culture" (especially government-run schools) are the best suited to teach values and virtues to children.*" I know that that's what is being said, because I've been studying "their" language for almost 20 years.

When I was a Lutheran teacher, I taught a Senior-level class on Apologetics. Apologetics is the work of "defending" (and explaining) the truths of the Bible. My goal was to help students understand the "language of the enemy", so that they would be "**prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...**" (1 Pet. 3:15).

To prepare for teaching that class, I read the Three Humanist Manifestos and studied Modernism, Post-Modernism and Secular Humanism. These various teachings and philosophies have but one purpose: to undermine God's Word. That's because "they" know that- *if they can destroy that foundation*- then all of their other lies will be much more easily accepted as "truth". **For the purpose of the rest of this article, "they" will refer to all of those people who have believed- and now are spreading- Satan's lies.**

What follows is, in a nutshell, two of "their" five, basic beliefs. Their first point is called **Freedom from Tyranny**, which means that no one (including

parents or pastors) should be allowed to impose their beliefs / morality on anyone else. Their fourth point supports their first one: **Moral Education**... "should be taught by schools, not by parents or religious leaders."

What we are seeing all around us is not a random event. Nor is it unexpected. It is the calculated work of the Evil One, who has been deceiving people- even Christians- into believing that God's Word no longer applies to our lives today. The ego-driven individualism that "they" have been trying to instill in mankind... is finally starting to bear its wicked fruit.

There are all kinds of ways that we, as Bible-believing Christians, can respond to "their" lies. But today I want to focus on just this one: reminding God's people that the "traditional" family is still God's plan for us... and, through it, He bestows the gifts that He intends for us to have. A "traditional" family (*in the sense that it was God's expressed desire for us*) is one that begins with the marriage of one, virgin man to one, virgin woman. After that, they stay married ('til death do they part) and raise children in a Christ-centered environment. They attend church regularly, encourage achievements in curricular and extra-curricular pursuits and demonstrate godly love for their neighbors.

In our sin-stained world, this ideal is often hard to achieve. But the point of this article is *not* that we have failed to live up to God's standards. It's to make you aware that our culture is trying to convince us that these shouldn't even be our goals! Instead, each person should pursue whatever makes them happy. And since parenting is inherently difficult (and requires self-sacrifice), "they" are encouraging parents to let "others" do it (like the schools... or just the electronic devices that keep kids out of their parents' hair).

"They" spout these lies, despite the fact that all the actual, statistical data that we have proves that a "traditional" family is best- not only for our world (overall), but especially for children. PLEASE understand: this is not an indictment of any family that is not defined as "traditional"!!! Thanks be to God, that- when a situation is less than ideal- He provides amazing, committed, loving people to do everything in their power to fulfill God's vocation of "parenting". Again: the issue is not whether or not there are godly people trying to make the best of a less-than-ideal situation. It's to make people aware of the current efforts going on, trying to deceive people into thinking that God's plan for families wasn't what was best. The Father of Lies is capturing more and more minds by convincing "them" to rely on feelings, rather than facts. But, for those who are still willing to "**test the spirits to see if they are from God**" (1 John 4:1), here are some things to remember:

- Children raised in "traditional" families are

less likely to have behavioral issues (Sarah Schoppe, Journal of Family Psychology)

- Children raised in "traditional" families have better socialization / interpersonal skills (Jacqueline Sperling, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School)
- Children raised in "traditional" families are more likely to enjoy the security that comes from financial stability, which means being exposed to more enjoyable experiences and being three times less likely to suffer from mental health issues (University of South Hampton; University of Chicago). *By the way, these researchers make an assumption that a child is more likely to be read to, if they grow up in a "traditional" family.*
- Even the New York Times (before it lost all credibility) had an article about "traditional families". Here's a quote from the article, dated April 24, 2012, "If we were asked to design a system for making sure that children's basic needs were met, we would probably come up with something quite similar to the two-parent family ideal." That quote came from two sociologists, who studied family dynamics.
- Finally, an anecdote from my experience ministering in a state prison. By my estimates, about 90% of the men I knew came from "non-traditional" families. Various government estimates put the number at somewhere between 75% - 90%, so my experience doesn't seem to be too far off.

Dear friends in Christ, the bottom line is this: God created families for a reason- and His blueprint for them is the one that we should strive for (if possible, since- sometimes- it's out of our hands). Please do not let the tyrant of this age impose his lies on you or your loved ones. Continue to strive for sexual purity. Hold marriage sacred, that it might be a public example of Christ's love for His Bride, the Church. View children as gifts from God - and be good stewards of them; for He loves them and says that His Kingdom belongs to them. In all things, trust that God's Word is His will... and that His will is still what's best for us. Most of our "life" issues could be solved... if we could just remember to believe what God says in His Word- and then do it.

**"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." (Eph. 6:11-13)**



## Reaching Rural America for Christ

# We Are All Beggars

This issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ* highlights how the church must find her place in responding to the opioid epidemic that has affected many families in the United States.

The church has historically offered emergency aid for shelter, clothing and food, but offering holistic mercy with dignity requires a deeper and sustained commitment. It requires caring for those who have fallen into addiction and walking with them through the muck and mire.

[Read June 2020 newsletter >>](#)

[“Opioid Abuse in Rural and Small-Town Settings”](#) — 1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, June 18. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, director of LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission. [View webinar schedule, archives >>](#)

*continued from pg. 1*

*I went through outpatient therapies from June to the end of November 2018. I had to learn everything over again. I went to therapy until January 2019.*

*In May of 2019 I walked all the way around Lake George holding on to a friend’s arm. In the summer of 2019, I had 18 teeth pulled and once again I have a beautiful smile.*

*~ Teresa*

After I had received this letter, Teresa told me on the phone that she knew God was always with her. There may be times when things happen that we don’t have control of and we don’t know what to do or where to turn. We may find ourselves wondering, “Who will help me?” Whatever circumstances we face, the answer remains the same: **“My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”**

Like the Psalmist, we turn our eyes to the hills, or rather to one hill outside of Jerusalem, a place called Golgotha. It was on this mountain, the prophet Isaiah said, that God would **“swallow up death forever”** and **“wipe away tears from all faces”** (Isaiah 25:8). On that hill, and in an empty tomb nearby, we find the sure and certain answers to our questions: **“What next?”**, and **“From where does my help come?”** Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, sin and death were swallowed up forever. By God’s grace, through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins and the promise of eternal life. From where does our help come? Our help comes from the Lord! Day and night, going out and coming in, wherever we go, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, our Lord and Savior, Jesus, will keep us safe in His care, **“from this time forth and forevermore”** (Psalm 121:8b).

*President Don Fondon*

**“But now this is what the Lord says...Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine...I will be with you”** (Isaiah 43:1-2).



Planning moves ahead for the 2021 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade with the theme DREAM ACHIEVE BELIEVE...CELEBRATING EDUCATION and that includes planning by the Petal Pushers LHM Float Committee.

The title of their Seventy First entry in the Rose Parade is to be JESUS TEACHES...

As a Christian witness, using the float as the basis for a spiritual conversation, just think of the multitude of possibilities!

JESUS TEACHES...

- through His Word as recorded in Holy Scripture, using the Church, Christian preschools, elementary schools, high schools, universities and seminaries
- by way of households to teach, nurture and extend His household.

The list is virtually endless, with a most important thing being that faith in His sacrificial death for our forgiveness of sins brings life for now and eternity!

Television will provide the opportunity for the narration to describe the message of the only Christian float in the parade.

FROM... detailing scheduled to start the first Saturday in December, decorating week, the parade staging area and the post parade exhibit area thousands of Christian witness conversations are expected to occur.

All of this in the public square, made possible by the Grace and Mercy of God, along with the vision of laymen, who decades ago saw the Rose Parade as an opportunity for a Christian witness!

The float is a self-funded project of the Southern California District of The International Lutheran Laymen's League

<https://www.petalpushers.org/donate>

To God be the Glory!

We all feel the COVID 19 crunch right here in Minnesota. We wear masks, faithfully wash our hands, follow the guidelines of SELF distancing. Painfully, we refrain from attending worship, funerals and many other very important gatherings in the community. However we have not lost our hope that is placed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend.

Jesus tells Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and

whoever lives in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



This Word of hope is being spread world-wide by LHF because of the generous gifts that you are sending to support this mission work. Despite the difficulty of meeting and sharing personally, many have continued to support the work of translating, printing and dispersing the Word of God that lives forever. Thank you for your prayers, your generous support and your concern in getting the Gospel out to many places warm bodies cannot travel. May God keep you healthy and safe as we ponder Jesus' question to Martha during this time of anxiety, suffering and pain!

During these troublesome days a Shunamite Room was successfully completed in Yambio, South Sudan. Money was donated to help the hungry families of Lutheran Pastors and Vicars have food enough to fill their tummies.

The LHF offers thanks to God for the faithful here in Minnesota who continue to remember that the Word Never Fails. Indeed, Jesus, Never Fails! Thank you Minnesota Lutherans who join hearts and hands to continue this very important work.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, CEO  
Rev. Dr. B.& Dr E Lutz, IRPR

Dear Friends in MN North District, LCMS, Here in west-central Minnesota spring field work has gone very well this year. The favorable spring weather has helped compensate for the many concerns we all have pertaining to the covid-19 virus, the economy and other world events. Certainly we as Christians trust our Lord to guide us through all of this.

With new life budding all around us this spring, it is time to consider what we can do this coming year in preparing to sow the seeds of the Gospel. During our debriefing this March 2020 with Rev. Trump, Area Director for East Africa, he mentioned because another country has opened up to LCMS mission work, he would like to have two agricultural consultancy teams serve in East Africa this next fiscal year. That means two teams serving in East Africa between the dates of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. We are blessed to have several gifted, dedicated LCMS agricultural volunteers willing to serve in the years ahead.

The challenge for our funding is that we were advised by our LCMS mission leaders that the deadline for funding projects will shift in the future to help LCMS better plan and fund mission work. Funding for service in fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 needs to be sent to St. Louis by June 30, 2020.



Linda and I are hoping to serve again after January 15, 2021 --- Lord willing, and so we are asking for your

help to send us and other agricultural volunteers. The reason our request is coming to you early is because funds do need to be into Mission Central or LCMS by June 30th of this year.

Even though there are challenges ahead, we want to share some of the positive accomplishments our Lord has given us this last year as we served in Malawi and Kenya.

In mid- January through mid-February we

had the privilege of working with LCMS agricultural volunteer, plant pathologist Dr. Ralph von Qualen. Our team worked with Rev. Davis Wowa, Executive Chairman of the Confession Lutheran Church of Malawi (CLCM). After days of traveling to villages and teaching in rural settings, we were able to teach an intensive two-day course to pastors, evangelists and theological students in the major city of Blantyre, Malawi.



In Kenya volunteer Gwen Zagore joined us for 3 weeks. We were introduced to Bishop Bernard Kugeria and Rev. Amon Nduyo of Evangelical Lutheran Conference and Ministerium of Kenya and it has been a joy working with them and other church leaders.

We have been blessed to be able to serve in both Malawi and Kenya in early 2020. Our mission visits are made possible by the combined efforts of Krista Young, our LCMS Volunteer Coordinator; Rev. Shauen Trump, the LCMS Area Director for East and Southern Africa; and Shara Osiro who helps communicate and coordinate efforts in many ways. They have been a joy to serve with, and God has used each of them in positive ways.

Supporters who pray, encourage and give financially have always been so important as you have propelled this outreach throughout the years. Thank you very much for your good efforts! Always we give thanks to our Lord Jesus for advancing His kingdom using His people for His work in Africa.

Donations designated for Agricultural Consultancy in East Africa # EA0001-61007 may be sent to either:

**Mission Central, LCMS World Mission, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105**

**Or: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-9810**

To God be the Glory,

Delano & Linda Meyer

LCMS Volunteer Agricultural Consultants

# CONNECTING THE PIECES IT STARTS WITH YOU.

Your investment with **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** connects loans and ministry support services to the church. Supporting the bigger purpose, **The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod**.

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**Investments play an important role in your overall financial plan—but what if they could do more?**

When you invest with LCEF, you not only earn a competitive interest rate—but you also bless other LCMS workers and ministries, helping give them an opportunity to grow and connect more people in their communities to Jesus. This way your investment, which earns interest, works twice.

#CONNECTEDBYCHRIST



**HIRAM AND KAREN GRIMM**  
LCEF INVESTORS

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TO GET STARTED TODAY!**



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
› where investments build ministry

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. The State of Washington has adopted a regulatory position that currently prohibits residents of Washington State from opening a new investment unless they are already an LCEF investor and 18 years or older.

# MISSIONARY MINUTES

On May 2nd, 2020, a major 5.4 earthquake hit Puerto Rico near the city Ponce. Two hundred families lost their homes after the earthquake. About twenty families were moved to a hotel near the church. The hotel has been very inviting to us. Pastor James Neuendorf is offering pastoral care; conversation and prayer three times a week at the hotel. We pray we can continue serving the people in this area. We continue to bring the gospel to the people of Puerto Rico through many programs including online church services via Facebook, pastoral letters to church members, bi-weekly pastor Bible Study, online art classes, ESL conversations, “Encerrados con Jesus,” and Sunday school. Religious services are reopening. Churches can gather but must maintain 6-10 feet of distance, which means about 25% capacity. Our current plan is to open on Pentecost with an outdoor service and then return to online for following few weeks. 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, including support for our alliance missionaries and for a much-needed local administrative staff person. Prince of Peace, Mayguez facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ilpdp/>



**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH AND SCHOOL, COTTON TREE LIBERIA** Rev. James NS Kollie serves Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Pictured are new windows for the Good Shepherd church building. These windows were made possible by generous donations from individuals and congregations in the MN North District! 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. Funds collected and disbursed to date for the School: \$136,121; for Pastor Kollie’s education: \$51,695; for Jamesetta’s education: \$10,161; and for Gifty’s education: \$15,323. Donations can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401.



**DAN & JOAN JASTRAM** Pastor Jastram serves as a manager for theological education in Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. Pastor Jastram requests your prayers: for continued good health for us as we live and work in Japan and for the health and safety of our LCMS missionaries living in more challenging environments. He states: “We are thankful that God has continued to grant us good health to stay the course. And thank you for your wonderful, ongoing support that allows it to happen!” Learn more [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).



**PROJECT 24 & CHRIST’S CARE FOR CHILDREN - KENYA** Project 24 is an initiative of the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. The students of the Project 24 program continue to remain at home with their families and guardians.



The money typically used to help the children while at the boarding facilities is now being used to give food to their families. The food is received with thanks and gratitude. The families are indeed grateful for the mercy that is bestowed upon them. As the food is received, a prayer of blessing and words of encouragement are also shared with each family by a bishop, pastor, evangelist or deaconess. We are thankful to the ELCK for being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in their communities. Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 140. Find the latest Project 24 Newsletter [HERE](#). Find missionary Brit Odemba’s latest newsletter [HERE](#). District support for Project 24 to date is \$112,034. Support for CCC: Kenya to date is \$17,366.

Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser are excited to extend the partnership between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). In the early 1980’s, Susan helped establish a literacy program for the Loko people of Sierra Leone. Together with Jim they helped to translate the New Testament for the Kono people of Sierra Leone, and later the New Testament for the Chaldean people of Iraq. Jim now 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](#).



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

**BROWNS VALLEY/CLAIRE CITY**, Zion/Zion - Candidate Nathanael Biberdorf accepted the Call. Ordination and Installation July 5, 2020.

**FERGUS FALLS/FRIBERG**, Faith/Immanuel - Candidate Jay Weideman accepted the Call. Ordination and Installation August 9, 2020.

**LEAF VALLEY/S. EFFINGTON**, Ebenezer/St. James - Candidate Scott Brown accepted the Call. Ordination and Installation July 5, 2020.

**ST. CLOUD/CLEAR LAKE**, Faith/Trinity - Candidate Joshua Reber accepted the Call. Ordination and Installation September 6, 2020.

**VILLARD/GROVE LAKE**, St. John/Trinity - Candidate Timothy Magill accepted the Call. Ordination and Installation July 18, 2020.

**WOODLAKE**, St. Luke's - Rev. David Tilney accepted the Call. Installation postponed due to COVID-19.

## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

**BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA**, Trinity/Grace/Trinity

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

**ELY/BABBITT**, First/Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. John Grohs)

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

**HINCKLEY (KROSCHER)**, St. John (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Steege)

**MADISON**, St. John (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Noel Herr)

**MOORHEAD**, Our Redeemer (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. George Krueger & Rev. Adam Harvala)

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

**RED LAKE FALLS/PLUMMER**, St. John/Redeemer

**ST. CLOUD**, Holy Cross (Senior Pastor)

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

**SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND**, Gethsemane/St. John

## OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

## 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](mailto:paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org)

**HEALTHY CHURCH WORKERS:** [HealthyChurchWorkers.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://shepherds canyonretreat.org)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18, 2020	Ministerial Health Committee Meeting, District Office
July 14, 2020	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
August 19-20, 2020	New Workers Orientation, District Office
August 20, 2020	Retired Workers Luncheon, Brainerd
August 22, 2020	Organist Workshop, Emmanuel, Barnum
Aug 31– Sept 1, 2020	Circuit Visitors Conference, District Office
September 20-22, 2020	Fall Pastors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
September 27-28, 2020	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
October 3, 2020	Tech + Conference, Shepherd of the Pines, Rice
October 13, 2020	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
December 6-7, 2020	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
January 25-26, 2021	Circuit Visitors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
February 14-15, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
April 12-14, 2021	MN North District Convention—Madden’s on Gull Lake

## CHURCHES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

July 12, 2020	50 years	Church Building at Trinity, Staples
August 15-16, 2020	75 years	Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud
August 16, 2020	125 years	St. John Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls
October 11, 2020	100 years	Trinity Lutheran Church, Isle

Please contact the District Office if your congregation will be celebrating an Anniversary.

# IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Anthony and Jamie DiLiberto (Prince of Peace, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico), at the birth of a son, Joseph Tion, on May 15, 2020.

The family of Rachel Vrudny, former teacher at Family of Christ Lutheran School in Baxter and sister of Rev. Matthew Vrudny (Immanuel, Walker), who passed away on June 8, 2020.

The family of McKenzie Lynne Compton, granddaughter of Rev. Dane Compton (em. Garfield), who passed away on May 31, 2020.

The family of Irene Friedrich, wife of Rev. Robert Friedrich (em. Willmar), who passed away on May 24, 2020.

Rev. Gunard Heikkila (em., New York Mills), in hospice care.

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

Maria Hoppe, daughter of Rev. Philip and Jaimee Hoppe (Peace, Finlayson), recovering after an appendectomy.

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

Rev. Fred Kutter (Immanuel, 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 (Immanuel, Albany) continuing to deal with health issues.

Rev. Henry Koopman (em. Waite Park) recovering after heart surgery.

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.

George Miller, dealing with severe back pain.

Rev. Jim Meyer (cand. 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.

Mrs. Jolene Wagner (St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham), dealing with a blood disorder.

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

The mother of Rev. Dennis McManus, 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 & Carol Langemo, 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:

LeAnn Gregoire, Isle, Deaconess student at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, on vicarage in Capistrano Beach, CA

Carl Seim, Elk River, SMP student at CSL

Stafford Thompson, Brainerd, on vicarage in Howard Lake, MN

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

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

SGM Rev. Noah Rogness, serving a Special Assignment in Washington DC, US Army Reserve

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

Chaplain Captain Vincent Bain—Active Duty Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY

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

Chaplain LCDR John Thomson – Active Duty Chaplain—US Navy Guam

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

Ens. Michaela Biegner, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em. Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Pensacola, FL Flight School

Ensign Emily Geddes, granddaughter of Virginia Ansoerge—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.

# JULY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Trinity, Fergus Falls - Rev. John Christiansen	<b>2</b> Peace, Finlayson - Rev. Philip Hoppe	<b>3</b> <b>District Office Closed</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> St. Paul, Bruno - Rev. Philip Hoppe	<b>7</b> Trinity, Fisher - Rev. Douglas Thompson	<b>8</b> St. Paul, Foley - Rev. Dr. Timothy Rehwaldt	<b>9</b> Bethany, Foley - Vacant	<b>10</b> Lord of the Lakes, Forest Lake - Rev. Craig Bertram	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bethlehem, Frazee - Rev. Ed Borchardt	<b>14</b> St. John, Height of Land - Vacant	<b>15</b> St. Paul, Evergreen - Rev. Tom Batchelder	<b>16</b> St. John, Garfield - Rev. Jeffrey Ross	<b>17</b> Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison - Rev. Tom Peterson	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Immanuel, Giese - Rev. Richard Langhorst	<b>21</b> Life in Christ, Grand Marais - Rev. Jonathan Watt	<b>22</b> First, Grand Rapids - Rev. Bill Zeige	<b>23</b> St. Paul, Granite Falls - Rev. Jonathan Varns	<b>24</b> St. John, Grey Ea- gle - Rev. Micheal Bitz	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> St. Paul, Henning - Rev. Kevin Mann	<b>28</b> Bethlehem, Herman - Rev. Carl Berner	<b>29</b> Peace in Christ, Hermantown - Rev. Tim Ludwig & Rev. Kevin Richter	<b>30</b> Trinity, Hewitt - Vacancy Pastor Rev. Kirk Douglas	<b>31</b> Grace, Hibbing - Rev. Timothy Yearean	

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