



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 18, Issue 3

“Thomas answered Him (Jesus), ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

It has been said many times over during this year of the pandemic that *“the one thing that is certain, is uncertainty!”* It used to be that everyone liked a sure thing. But today it appears that doubt is becoming respectable or at least acceptable. As more and more people are growing more and more distrustful many today view doubt as a virtue, on par with prudence or common sense. H. L. Mencken even went so far as to claim that *“Men become civilized...in proportion to their readiness to doubt.”*

The Lord Jesus doesn't show such high regard for doubt,

however. Though He readily accepts Thomas's penitent confession of faith, Jesus also chides His disciple for his earlier unbelief. He asks Thomas, **“Do you believe because you have seen Me?”**

Thomas wanted a sure thing. He would accept nothing less. He wanted to see with his own eyes and touch with his own hands the living, breathing person of his risen Lord. Without that certain assurance Thomas doubted that Jesus was alive, even though Jesus had said that He would rise from the dead.

Jesus answers Thomas's demands, but not out of respect for Thomas's skepticism. Not cautious doubt but confident faith is what the Lord commends to His disciples. **“Blessed are those,”** says Jesus, **“who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

The Savior appeared to Thomas not merely out of concern for one disciple who wanted to see Him but out of concern for countless other

disciples who would never have that opportunity. The Lord wasn't only thinking about Thomas's faith; He was thinking about ours too.

Thomas wasn't satisfied with being informed of the resurrected Lord. He wanted to see proof. He demanded a sure thing, and he got one. There is not one shred of doubt left in Thomas's ringing confession, **“My Lord and my God!”**

“The resurrection of Jesus is real. Jesus lives! He who was crucified for us and for our transgressions has overcome death...for us. Jesus lives! Our salvation is assured.”

That is true for one reason only. The resurrection of Jesus is real. Jesus lives! He who was crucified for us and for our transgressions has overcome death...for us. Jesus lives! Our salvation is assured. How blessed it is to be able to be that certain of something we are asked to believe. How blest we are to be able to live our lives and serve our Savior in such certainty in a world filled with uncertainty.

Surely the Apostle Peter was speaking of us too when he wrote: **“Though you have not seen Him (Jesus), you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls”** (1 Peter 1:8-9).

The Lord's blessings as you continue the Lenten journey, enter Holy Week, and celebrate Easter!

President Don Fondow

In this issue...

- 1- Message from Rev. Don Fondow, District President
- 2- District News, Convention Update
- 3- Bring it Home, CSP, Making Disciples for Life
- 4- Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Clergy Taxes, District Student Aid
- 5- Message from Rev. Jason Wolter, District Life Coordinator
- 6- National 21, NYG, Travel to Israel Opportunity, Mission Training Center
- 7- LCEF, Congregational Statistical Reports
- 8- Mission Minutes
- 9- Calendar of Events, District Resources
- 10- Call Update, Wellness Resources
- 11- In Our Prayers
- 12- Prayer Calendar, Contact Information

DISTRICT NEWS

Tune In...



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

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

LISTEN >>

[Part 1: An Introduction](#)

[Part 2: Continued](#)



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

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

[LISTEN ONLINE>>](#)

24th Convention of the Minnesota North District—LCMS



...Making Disciples for Life

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**



Rev. James Kollie, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia is pictured here with President Fondow and Pastor Dennis McManus (em. New Germany). Pastor Kollie is in the U.S. attending courses at CTSFW and visiting supporters.

Youth of St. Matthews, Esko build snowmen around the neighborhood to spread some joy this winter. Each snowman was adorned with a scarf, carrot nose, coal for eyes and buttons, a special "Spread Joy" knit cap for them to keep, along with a plate of goodies and a snowman poem. What fun!! Families were nominated by members of the congregation as well as the youth themselves.



JEREMIAH

Surviving Disasters

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

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.



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!





CONCORDIA SEMINARY

2021 Prof Insights faculty-led workshops to be held online, in person.

32 workshops offered May through August

From archeology to worship, from the Anabaptists to Martin Luther, from beauty to pop culture, from adult faith formation to child rearing, from the Old Testament to Revelation. Those are just a few of the topics that will be covered as part of the [2021 Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop Series](#).

This year's series features 32 workshops by [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) faculty and other scholars. Designed for pastors, church workers and laypeople, the annual series offers in-depth study on contemporary topics that influence the practice of ministry and worship. Some workshops will be offered in person while others will be offered online.

"We have something for everyone," said Director of Continuing Education Erika Bennett. "This year's series will be offered with a mix of both online and in-person workshops, and we have added some

Concordia University System professors to the speaker lineup in addition to many of the Seminary's esteemed professors. I believe our participants will truly be enriched by this year's workshop offerings."

The cost for each workshop is \$100 unless otherwise noted, which includes Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits for pastors. Registration and payment should be made no later than 14 days before the beginning of each workshop.

Find the list of workshops, presenters and registration information at csl.edu/workshop-series. Please contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu with questions.

Prospective students invited to online Green & Gold Day April 10

Registration for visitation event is now open

ST. LOUIS, March 12, 2021— Prospective students who are interested in studying at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) can now register for the free online [Green & Gold](#)

[Day](#) visitation event scheduled for 2-4 p.m. (CDT) April 10. This event is typically held in person but has been moved online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

During the two-hour event, participants will learn about financial aid, on-campus housing and the admissions process. They also will participate in a panel discussion with current students who will share their own experiences.

"We look forward to the time when we can welcome guests to campus to explore, question and learn about our community and ministerial formation in person," said Director of Ministerial Admissions Rev. Bill Wrede. "This online event offers the same opportunity from the comfort of home."

After participants register, a link to join the event will be sent. To reserve a spot, register by April 5 at csl.edu/green-gold-days.

For the full schedule of visitation events, visit csl.edu/visit. For more information, or to schedule an individual visit, contact Recruitment and Admissions at admit@csl.edu or 800-822-9545.

TAX GUIDANCE FOR CLERGY

The LCMS has updated its informational tax brochure designed for ordained or commissioned ministers.

[Click here for the direct link to the publication](#)

PLEASE NOTE: This brochure is for information only and is not a substitute for obtaining professional tax, legal, or financial advice. The services of a professional person are recommended if advice is required concerning the topics discussed.

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

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

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

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES

Church work can bring struggles. Add a pandemic and whoa! Your workers are wanting to serve now more than ever, but at what cost? Maybe they're nearing a breaking point or simply looking to tackle stressors so they don't burn out. Whatever the case, your workers have two options to get the health assistance they're needing-- free and accessible from anywhere:

Telehealth (found on member portal Benefits tab)

[Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

In a recent sermon, I referred to the liturgical seasons of Epiphany, Lent and Easter as a “Light-Sandwich”. The seasons on either side of Lent are seasons of Light: as Christ’s glory is manifested in His incarnation (Epiphany)... and in His resurrection (Easter). Between the “bread” of those two seasons is the dark filling of Lent: a time for somber contrition, confession and repentance.

Clearly, that “Light-Sandwich” was reflected in Jesus’ final earthly days. At His Transfiguration, He shined as brightly as the sun. Then He came down from that mountain-top experience and began His final approach to the Cross. Throughout those last days, the shadow of His Cross grew longer and darker. And then- *right at the end*- came the darkest darkness of all: death. Good Friday was the culmination of that somber journey, which is often commemorated in our churches with Tenebrae services (“Tenebrae” means “darkness”). But that was the end of the darkness: because, after that, the light of Christ’s glory burst forth once more when He rose on Sunday morning.

Have you ever considered that our lives, also, follow a similar path? We start out bathed in the light of God’s love at Baptism. At that time, He clothes us with His own righteousness and declares us to be His own, beloved children. After that- *and for the rest of our days*- we have to trudge through the dark and difficult roads of life in this world. Thankfully, the light of Christ is not hidden from us. It is continually interrupting- *and overcoming*- the darkness that we experience along the way: each and every Sunday.

That’s why we have Sundays *IN* Lent... and not Sundays *OF* Lent: because our gatherings on Sunday mornings are a *respite* for us - *a bright and blessed sanctuary*- where we receive all that we need to continue so-

journing through this world. Sundays in the season of Lent have nothing to do- *theologically speaking*- with this current season of confession and repentance. The focus of our Sundays continues to be on the *resurrection* of Christ: which gives us hope, comfort, peace and strength- *and lights our way* - until the day of our own, glorious resurrections.

The light of God’s promises is a beacon of grace that gives hope and comfort to all who travel through the dark valleys of this world. His Cross is a light-house of sorts,

These are, indeed, dark times. But we know how this story ends. The light of that victory certainly is visible, although- at times- it might seem far away... located at the far end of this life’s tunnel. But it’s also with us, right here and right now...

pointing the way to the safe harbors of God’s gracious love. In the midst of whatever storms may come our way, God’s Word continues to light the way for us, reminding us of His promise: that- in the end- life wins. We take heart in that Word of hope, because we know that He has already won every spiritual battle that we’ll ever face. In Him, the light of life is revealed and received.

These are, indeed, dark times. But we know how this story ends. The light of that victory certainly is visible, although- at times- it might seem far away... located at the far end of this life’s tunnel. But it’s also with us, right here and right now, affirming the inherent, infinite value of every human life, at every stage of life: regardless of any kinds of superficial differences... or any differences in physical or mental abilities. It seems like an uphill battle, at times. The path of righteousness usually does. But it’s the right path. And it’s one that God has called us to walk: for the good of *all* our neighbors, both born and those still in the womb.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world: who has given life to all creation... and eternal life to all who believe in Him. As bearers of His light, through the dark valleys of this world, let us not grow weary or despair. Instead, let us continue to make His glory known by lighting up the world with words and deeds that reflect God’s love for all people. Let us make it known to all people: that they are worthy of that love, not because of anything that they have done... but because of what God has done for them, through His Son.

At a recent Bible study, I pointed out how- *in less than 300 years*- the Christian Church went: from being a small group of persecuted believers... to the official religion of the Roman Empire. How did they do it? As it says in [Rom. 12:21](#), they did not try to overcome evil with *more* evil. Instead, they overcame evil with good. So it will be with us, who strive to protect life by promoting love for all people. Legislators and judges cannot do... what Christ’s love can do... when His light shines into the hearts of those still trapped in darkness.

Therefore, let us continue to pray... and proclaim (*with our words and our deeds*) Christ crucified: the Light who shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot understand it... or overcome it. May His light give hope and life to all who wait to be delivered from the dark seasons of their lives! **“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”** (2 Cor. 4:6)



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 >>](#)

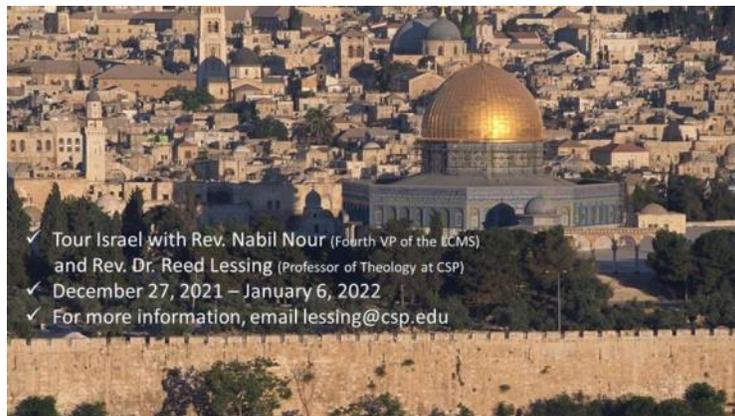
We appreciate feedback and insight you provide LCMS Youth Ministry. Information you provide is very helpful to our prayer life, resourcing, and communication. We plan to provide at least four brief surveys this calendar year to help us plan for the LCMS Youth Gathering and ministry resources. The goal of each survey is to receive current information on congregational worship and youth ministry practices. We also ask questions about plans for this summer and preparation for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. The March 2021 survey can be accessed by clicking here. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete and is open until March 22. We ask that only one survey per congregation be completed and feel free to share this link with practitioners at other congregations. Thanks for your feedback!

[TAKE THE YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY >>](#)

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 >>](#)



You are invited to join Dr. Reed Lessing, Professor of Theology & Ministry at Concordia University St. Paul, and Rev. Nabil Nour, a native of Israel, born in Nazareth, for the experience of a lifetime as these scholars lead you on a tour of the Holy Land from December 27, 2021 to January 7, 2022. Visit www.csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies for pricing, itinerary, and reservation information or email Dr. Lessing at lessing@csp.edu or Rev. Nour at preachermanfoot-washer@gmail.com.



MISSION
TRAINING
CENTER

Is your congregation in need of well-trained leaders such as *Small Group Leaders, Bible Study Leaders, Elders, or Lay Deacons?* Or perhaps are you

looking for training for your own personal growth? Mission Training Center provides the foundation needed for *God's Mission* through training that is centered in the Bible and taught through the lens of God's Mission. MTC is a partner of the Northwest, California-Nevada-Hawaii Districts of the LCMS and Concordia University-Irvine.

Upcoming Courses:

MTC003 The Christian Faith: Doctrine

Apr 5-May 24 — Mondays, 6-8 PM (Pacific)
Rev. Jon Muhly — 16 Hours/8 Weeks (\$300)

MTC005 Interpreting Scripture

May 1-Jun 26 — Saturdays, 8-10 AM (Pacific) (No class May 29)
Rev. Dr. Robin Dugall — 16 Hours/8 Weeks (\$300)

MTC006 Missional Church and Outreach

Jun 3-24 — Thursdays, 6-8 PM (Pacific)
Rev. Dr. Paul Mueller — 8 Hours/4 Weeks (\$150)

MTC015 Defining and Engaging Your Community

Jun 7-28 — Mondays, 6-8 PM (Pacific)
Instructor TBA — 8 Hours/4 Weeks (\$150)

Register:

To register online go to www.MissionTrainingCenter.com. Be watching for our newly updated website! For more information contact us at MTC@MissionTrainingCenter.com.



All congregations must submit their 2020 Statistics & Lay Leader Report by March 31, 2021, at lc.lcms.org.

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

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

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

We are eager to achieve unanimous participation:

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

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

For help logging into the online system, email rosters.stats@lcms.org or call 888-843-5267. Remember, the submission deadline is March 31, 2021. Thank you!

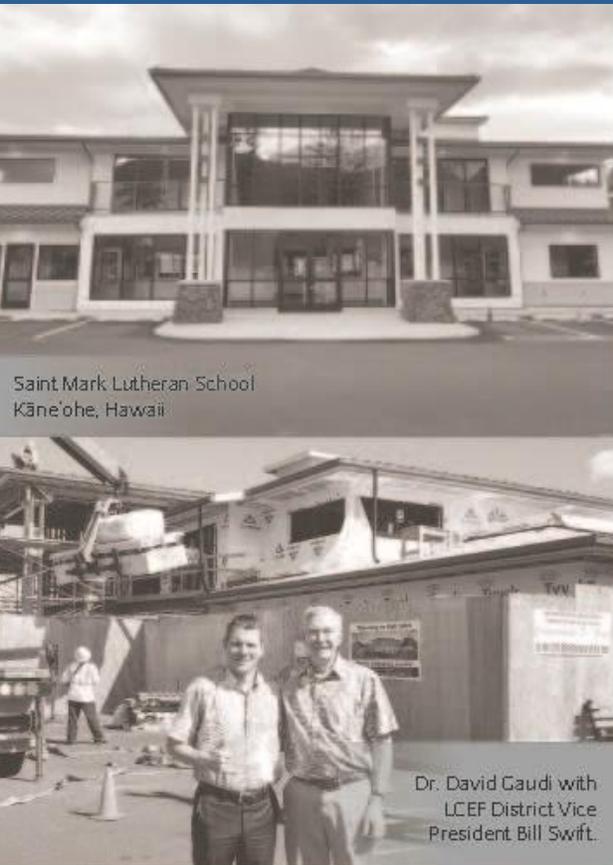


A LENDER WHO SHARES Your Lutheran Beliefs

"I trusted Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) because they're associated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, competent and professional, and I was really impressed with everyone I talked to at every level ... they treated us fairly and supported our mission in ways that a local bank couldn't do."

Dr. David Gaudi
Saint Mark Lutheran School, Kāne'ohe, Hawaii

JEFF LEE || LCEF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT || MINNESOTA NORTH
CALL 218-829-1781 EXT 104 OR VISIT LCEF.ORG/LOANS TODAY!



Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kāne'ohe, Hawaii

Dr. David Gaudi with
LCEF District Vice
President Bill Swift.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (NMLS# 3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans are 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. Phone number: 800-843-5233. Website: lcef.org.

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

PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico continues to share the Gospel with the people of Mayaquez and Ponce. Fuente de Vida started a confirmation mid February in their new education room. They have three students taking a 15 week course before services on Sunday and one student who is taking courses online as they live close to San Juan. Please keep these students in your prayers as they continue through the classes as well as for the members who are taking the classes alongside them and assimilating them into the congregation. Missionaries [Ashley Lehr](#) and [Ruth Maita](#) have both accepted the call to become career missionaries. Praise the Lord! They have been serving as GEO missionaries, focusing on the English class outreach and supporting the mission work on the island. They are starting to raise support this year and are in need of places to visit and people to meet. Both Ashley and Ruth are available to connect online with your church today. Please contact them by email Ashley.Lehr@lcms.org and Ruth.Maita@lcms.org. 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: "One of the great joys I have as Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator is its scope, which extends beyond my own translation projects in Japan, to countries throughout Asia by fellow LCMS missionary team members." Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Men of Christ Retreat - At Lutheran Island Camp

AN OUT OF BALANCE LIFE - The Way of Jesus

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



FULL WEEKEND
\$125.00

MEN'S RETREAT

COMMUTER
\$90.00

MAY 14-16, 2021

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

— Matthew 11:28

Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

Register online at www.islandcamp.org



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



CONCORDIA PLANS

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



One Voice for Public Policy MINNESOTA DISTRICTS

As you well know, the LCMS has for many years spoken out publicly about life issues in general. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed, and sent to the Senate, a piece of legislation known as the H.R.5 Equality Act. This is a bill that should deeply disturb us all—and move us to action. Find more on the blog [HERE](#).



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

CROWN, Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jake Gillard) - Rev. Timothy Lamkin, Maple Grove, MN accepted the Call.

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

MCGREGOR/WRIGHT, Our Saviors, St. John - Rev. John Thomson accepted the Call. Installation 4/18/21.

SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND, Gethsemane/St. John - Rev. Bill Knaack, Park Rapids, MN accepted the Call. Installation 3/14/21.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

ALEXANDRIA, Zion (Associate) - Calling Seminary Candidate

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

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

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

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

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

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

GARRISON, Shepherd of the Lake - Calling Seminary Candidate

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

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)

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

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

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

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

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

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

Judy King (teacher, Champlain, MN) transferred from Minnesota South and was installed at Prince of Peace Lutheran School, St. Cloud.

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

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

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS RESOURCES

In Our District:

CHURCH WORKER CARE

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

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

From the Synod:

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS

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

Recognized Service Organizations:

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

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

SHEPHERD'S CANYON

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Rev. Walter Brill (em. Staples), former MN North District Secretary, who passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021.

The family of Vern Tischer, father of Rev. Steve Tischer (Zion, Princeton), who passed away on March 1, 2021.

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

Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), recovering 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MN North District Seminary Students:

Jordan DeBoer, Crookston, studying at CTSFW

LeAnn Gregoire, Isle, Deaconess student at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, studying at CTSFW

Erik Saunders, Grand Marais, studying at CTSFW

Carl Seim, Elk River, SMP student at CSL

Berett Steffen, Spicer, studying at CTSFW

Stafford Thompson, Brainerd, studying at CTSFW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MSG Jonathan Fondow, son of Pres. Don & Connie Fondow, US Army
1st Lt Michaela Biegner-Wentz, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em.

Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Virginia Beach, VA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Rev. John Christensen - Trinity, Fergus Falls	2 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED	3
4	5 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED	6 Rev. Tony Cloose - Zion, Mora	7 Rev. Robin Collins - Trinity, Staples	8 Rev. Gregory Coop - Prince of Peace, Baxter	9 Rev. Joseph Crosswhite - St. Peter, Randall	10
11	12 Rev. Paul Dare - Zion, Alexandria	13 Rev. David Dauk - Living Word, New London	14 Rev. Chris Davis - First English, Dorset	15 Rev. Kirk Douglas - Trinity, New York Mills	16 Rev. Michael Eckert - Trinity, Hill City	17
18	19 Rev. David Edge - Shepherd of the Pines, Rice	20 Rev. Brad Felix - Trinity, Virginia & Grace, Chisholm	21 Rev. Brady Finner - Messiah, Sartell	22 Rev. Robin Fish, Sr. - Immanuel, Verndale	23 Rev. Robert Franck - Mount Olive, Duluth	24
25	26 Rev. Ross Fritz - Grace, Breckenridge	27 Rev. Terry Grzybowski - Emmanuel, Elk River	28 Rev. Dr. Richard Hans - Living Savior, Lake Shore	29 Rev. Brett Hartwig - Trinity, Sabin	30 Rev. Gary Hendrickson - Zion, Little Falls	

CONTACT US

Rev. Don Fondow, District President don.fondow@mnnlcms.org
Diana Ruopp, Admin. Ass't diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org

Mission & Ministry Facilitators:

Rev. Jeffrey Lee [MaCO] jeffrey.lee@mnnlcms.org
Rev. Monte Meyer [PLaN] monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org

Bookkeeper - Angie Ringstrom angie.ringstrom@mnnlcms.org
LCEF VP - Rev. Jeff Lee jeff.lee@lcef.org

Church Worker Care Coordinator: Rev. Paul Cloeter paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org

Congregational Care Counselor: Rev. George Sagissor, III congregationalcare@mnnlcms.org

Lutheran Witness Editor

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

Gift Planning Counselor:

Mr. David Priebe
david.priebe@mnnlcms.org

District Secretary:

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

District Treasurer:

Mr. Mike Uran
treasurer@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