



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 17, Issue 11

Much of the talk around the Minnesota North District office is centering around church attendance. One of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic is a decrease in “in person” worship attendance. There are estimates that up to 30% of church members are going to choose stay at home and not to not go back to in person worship after the pandemic is over.

Why? Because six weeks makes a habit, that’s why. People are getting used to staying home, and are comfortable flipping on the computer and worshipping in their jammies.

I can give you all sorts of biblical/theological reasons why this is a bad idea. But let’s use this opportunity to re-focus the mission of our church and give our pajama-worshippers another reason to come back!

Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Continue to use online worship even after the pandemic has past. Use your online worship as the on-ramp to in person worship at your church. Speak to them personally and give them a chance to ask questions or give feedback. Engage your online worshippers.
- 2) Give them more reasons to want to come back to church. Now is the time to shift your church from “scarcity and survival mode” (merely keeping the church doors open) to finding opportunities to carry out the mission of the church in your community. Your people want to make a difference in their community with the Gospel. Give them this opportunity.
- 3) Start this process by visiting the leaders in your community. Go to the School Principals, the School Social Worker, the Mayor, Fire Chief, the head of the VFW, the hospital, etc. Ask this question “How can our church help the community?” Listen to their answers. Write them down.
- 4) Bring your church leaders and others together and start dreaming how you might be able to plug into the needs of your community. If you struggle with figuring this out, give me a call at 218-829-1781. We can help.
- 5) Fill a need in your community. It doesn’t have to be a large or overwhelming. Have a start date and an end date. When you’ve completed the task, celebrate with your church a job well done! Remind them of the opportunities God is giving us to share the hope we have in Jesus!
- 6) Be prepared to give an answer to why you are doing this. 1 Peter 3:15 - *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

Yes, the world is changing before our eyes, but it doesn’t have to mean doom and gloom for the local church. There remains a universal need - people need hope! We have this hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who washed away our sins and gave us new life! The pandemic is giving us the opportunity to live out this hope in our community by loving our neighbor in concrete ways. Let them hear and see Jesus through us!

In the Strong name of Jesus!

Rev. Monte Meyer

Parish Life Facilitator for the MN North District

In this issue...

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DISTRICT NEWS

Farmers to Families Food Box Distribution

Faith Community Lutheran Church in Zimmerman recently participated in a food distribution ministry in their community. Vacancy Pastor Jake Gillard shares: *"It was marvelous. We were blessed with 35+ volunteers at our peak. We started early (9AM) and had a steady stream of cars until the last box was distributed at 2 PM on the dot! The steady stream was ideal because at no time was there a wait, a rush, or a backup -- this made it much easier on our volunteers. It was fun to see how the word spread. You could tell that many people really needed the food. We received many heartfelt expressions of thanks. Our volunteers had a blast and were really positive and upbeat despite the white stuff. They are excited to share on Sunday some stories about God's goodness and what this service opportunity meant to them. You can see some photos and a video on the [Faith FB page](#). I'm so grateful for the wide range of people in the community who pitched in to make it happen. Thank you!"*



MN North District Fall Pastors Conference



MN North District Pastors gathered in September around the theme *Cast Thy Burdens Upon the Lord* at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham. Gathering in pandemic times is a challenge, but the one day conference with lunch served outdoors by a food truck was a blessing to many. Pastors enjoyed presentations on Worker Wellness by Jim Otremba of the Center for Family Counseling, St. Cloud (pictured below) and on Compassion Fatigue by Dr. Rick Marrs of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. They closed the conference with a time of worship.



"God bless our native land, firm may she ever stand through storm and night. when the wild tempest rave, ruler of wind and wave, do Thou our country save by Thy great might." As our students at Our Savior's Lutheran School in Crookston practice this hymn for a Veterans' Day recording, we reflect on the past 9 months since the beginning of the pandemic with thankfulness. We may have felt like COVID-19 swept in like a wild tempest in March and turned all of our usual routines on their heads, but God was with us - and continues to be with us - through each and every day.

The students and staff were excited to be back in class full-time and face-to-face this fall and have continued to thrive. While a lot of our procedures have temporarily changed, our firm basis of the Word of God remains strong in all that we do. Our students continue to share their love of Christ with people in the congregation through cards and prayers. They have also been busy working with our LWML on mission projects for our local homeless shelter and group homes. They are also currently preparing for Advent presentations.

We are so very grateful for the support of our local congregation, but also for the support of congregations and organizations throughout the Minnesota North District! The extra financial boosts provided through the CROSS appeal have helped us acquire much-needed resources for our students. Thank you so much for supporting our Minnesota North Lutheran Schools!



24th Convention of the Minnesota North District—LCMS



...Making Disciples for Life

Dates: April 12-14, 2021

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

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

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

As of my writing this, the presidential election is still hanging in the balance. Who knows? It's possible that by the time you read this, it might STILL be undecided! For most of us who are Pro-Life, this is a frustrating and scary time. President Trump has done more to defend our Life-affirming positions than any president in recent history- if not all of history. Whatever his other faults may be, he is/was a strong government advocate for those most at risk: the unborn, the elderly and those with various physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. So, if the Pro-Life movement should lose the support of the White House, it would be a blow to our legal efforts: to protect the lives of those whom our society has deemed to be "throw-aways" (lives that are easily discarded).

Notice that I said, "a blow to our legal efforts"; that was intentional. That's because this battle will never truly be won by politicians. It can't be. The battle is a spiritual one. Therefore, it must be won: one heart at a time. Obviously, we want to

take every opportunity that our system of government affords us to protect the lives of our neighbors. To that end, it's a good thing when legislators work with us to do that. But the goal of affirming the inherent beauty and worth of every human being cannot be legislated or enforced by government force. That is a battle that we must continue to wage every day: by how we love our neighbors with our words and our deeds.

So, here we are... back where we started before the election: called by God to love our neighbors (even the ones we might consider our enemies) and pray for them (even if they hate us). Love requires an object to direct itself towards; otherwise it is just a feeling. God is love; but He didn't just "feel" love. He directed it at us... and demonstrated it with His words and His deeds. Clearly we didn't do anything to deserve it. In fact we were, by our sinful natures, His enemies- and objects of His deserved wrath. But, for the sake of His Son, He has forgiven all our sins and judged

us to be innocent (and, therefore, worthy of His love). Now He calls on us to share that undeserved, unconditional love with our neighbors.

These days, it seems like most of the world only loves those who are easy (or convenient) to love. But when we (as Christians) love everyone- especially those whom it's hard to love- it shows the world an alternative way of seeing people. It shows them that it's possible to see the infinite worth and value of others... and to know that those things aren't dependent on anything else, other than the inherent humanity that each person possesses. We know that this infinite value comes from the image of God which we all bear. The rest of the world may not acknowledge that Biblical reality. But we know it. And, by loving our neighbor, we can- hopefully- show them that there is something worth loving in everyone. And then, by God's grace... eventually... maybe... they'll begin to see that in others too.



A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

Reaching Rural America for Christ

This issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, highlights the technological innovations and transitions many congregations have made amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This issue explains how congregations can evaluate which of these technologies to continue using in the future. It is important to plan now to determine how you can best use the resources God has given you in order to share the Gospel.

[Read October 2020 newsletter >>](#)

"Congregational Partnership Training" — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, Nov. 19.](#)

Presenter: Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director of LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission.

"Deaconesses and the Rural and Small-Town Congregation: Partnership and Ministry Models" — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, Dec. 10.](#) Presenter: Deaconess Faith Swenson of Fairbank, Iowa.

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

Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Concordia University in St. Paul

The 2021 competition covers the books of Romans and James. Start studying!

For more information visit the [website](#) or contact the MN North District Coordinator, Rev. Steve Breitbarth at (218) 929-1110.

A Celebration of Grace 2020



Grace Lutheran School invites you to join us online starting November 15th at noon for our Virtual Celebration of Grace.

Registration is free.

The Celebration culminates on Friday, November 20th with a virtual program celebrating God's blessing on our school through our generous donor's time, talent, and treasure. Mark your calendars to tune in!

All events can be accessed from our website.
gracelutheranschoolfargo.com



StewardCAST



In the midst of this very difficult time, great stories of stewardship have arisen. Individuals and congregations have stepped up in supporting their neighbors — not to get on the evening news but because the Lord has placed them in the community to serve.

They have provided grab and go meals in the place of community dinners. They have organized systems of delivery and support for those who are in the most vulnerable demographics during the pandemic. Neighbors and business owners have made internet access available to families that are struggling to meet the challenge of virtual learning.

There have been people who have become even more generous toward their local congregation, the district mission or the work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod simply because they are aware of the great need to be a light for the Gospel in this time of lingering darkness and despair.

[Read newsletter >>](#)

Resources:

Visit lcms.org/stewardship to find and download stewardship resources.

StewardCAST is a monthly stewardship resource provided by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Office of National Mission and Stewardship Ministry.

Infinite Transformation

by Linda Gari, Lutheran Bible Translators

The rains have returned to Botswana! The life-giving water broke the drought that plagued this southern African country last year. **Water physically transforms this semi-arid country.** Rain means crops will grow and wildlife can flourish.

That's not the only transformation happening in Botswana.

Rev. Tim and Lisa Beckendorf serve with the Khwe language project in northern Botswana. **As they began translation, they discovered there was confusion regarding God's Word and the church.** "For most of the participants in the checking sessions that we've had, this is really their first contact with the Bible," Tim and Lisa reported. "For the most

part, they are all active in the local churches, however, after one session a participant commented to me, **'We want to know what the church is. There are so many different churches in our villages and all they do is sing and pray, they don't teach us the Bible.'** Even our translators are in unfamiliar territory as we work through Genesis. They really have never heard the stories before."

Today, even those in remote villages have access to Scripture through audio recordings. Interest in literacy is growing. People attend church knowing they will hear God's Word in their own language. Though the translation team is unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, work continues on translation and the development of literacy materials.

When it rains in Botswana, the transfor-

mation of the land happens fairly quickly. But as dry season approaches the lush landscape returns to its barren state. **Though it offers life, rain is often unpredictable and inconsistent,** providing transitory fulfillment for ongoing needs.

As the Khwe community is discovering, **God's Word is constant and reliable,** offering nourishment for the soul under any and all circumstances. It provides unending and unlimited opportunities for spiritual transformation—transformation that impacts lives for eternity. **As Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever."**

Thank you for bringing God's transforming Word to those in need of mother tongue Bible translation. Visit us on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates and news.



Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1

Friends and supporters are invited to help [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) to prepare pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and other church leaders for bringing Christ to the world by making a gift on [Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1](#). Gifts donated during the Seminary's #GivingTuesday campaign will be used where needed most to meet the needs of the Seminary and its students.

The goal for the campaign is to raise \$60,000. Thanks to a generous donor, gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to the first \$30,000 raised.

"It is our unique privilege as Christians to give joyfully of what God has first given us," said Vicki Biggs, senior vice president for Seminary Advancement. "Being part of the Giving Tuesday movement gives our friends a way to make a direct impact on the Seminary's vital mission to prepare our church's future leaders. And thanks to our matching gift donor, all gifts up to the first \$30,000 received will go twice as far. What a wonderful opportunity to make a difference for the sake of the Gospel!"

Donors are encouraged to share their experience using the hashtags #PrepareAPastor, #PrepareADeaconess and #GivingTuesday on social media to spread the word about the campaign.

Questions? Please contact Seminary Advancement at 800-822-5287 or advancement@csl.edu. To learn more about the Seminary's annual giving days, visit csl.edu/giving-days.

Lay Bible Institute set for Feb. 6

One-day seminar explores Galatians

Paul's message to the Galatians is the focus of Concordia Seminary's Feb. 6 Lay Bible Institute, "Galatians: Hearing Paul's Gospel Afresh," led by Dr. Mark Seifrid, professor of Exegetical Theology.

Seifrid will help participants explore the relationship between "justification by faith" and Christian ethics — revealing how Paul's message to the first century Galatians applies to Christians today.

"Paul's message to the Galatians is that their lives — Gentile lives — matter. As Christians, we should find our identity in Jesus Christ and His saving work for us," Seifrid said. "The answer to the question, 'Who am I?' is found in Jesus. In finding ourselves in Jesus, we find one another, too. True Christian fellowship does not lie in what we do, but in Jesus Christ, Who has taken down all barriers and made us one."

Open to lay people, students, pastors and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel, the one-day workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 6 in Werner Hall on campus, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. The registration deadline is Jan. 24, 2021. Cost is \$20 per person.

The Lay Bible Institute, offered three times a year by Concordia Seminary faculty members, is an ongoing study of the Bible and how it relates to today's life and events.

For more information or to register, visit csl.edu/lbi or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu.

Advent/Christmas Sermon Series

A new Advent/Christmas Sermon Series, "Await God's Future: An Advent–Christmas Sermon Series Based on Isaiah," published by Concordia Seminary Press of [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#), is now available for [download](#).

Written by [Dr. Paul R. Raabe](#), professor emeritus of Exegetical Theology, the series is designed to encourage people to hear the future-tense announcements of the ancient prophet Isaiah, which instill in the hearts and minds of the listeners repentance, faith and hope in the coming of Yahweh.

"In a year like no other, Paul Raabe reminds us that the prophet Isaiah points us to a future that is always beyond our expectations, because it is God's future," said Dr. Travis Scholl, managing editor of Seminary Publications. "Likewise, the series is flexible enough that pastors and congregations can use it for whatever shape their Advent season will take this year."

"Await God's Future: An Advent–Christmas Sermon Series Based on Isaiah," includes preliminary notes on the biblical texts, sermons for the four weeks of Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and suggested hymns. The series can be used for either midweek or Sunday worship.

This sermon series is available for \$14.95 in the Seminary's [online store](#). A sample can be viewed [here](#).

2021 Pre-Lenten Workshop

God's mercy has bestowed on His people enormous treasures — true love, true meaning and an everlasting inheritance. This topic is the focus of [Concordia Seminary's 2021 Pre-Lenten Workshop](#), "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High': God's Enormous Mercy," set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, in the Presidents Room on the Seminary's campus.

[Registration](#) is \$50, and includes lunch and complimentary access to Egger's Lenten sermon series. The registration deadline is Jan. 8.

For more information, visit csl.edu/pre-lenten-workshop or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.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 csl.edu.



CONNECTED BY CHRIST

A lender who shares your
Lutheran beliefs

Since 1978, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has been the financial partner for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). During that time, we've specialized in loans for church workers, congregations and Recognized Service Organizations.

This means we love our borrowers and understand LCMS ministries like no other lender can. That's why when the pandemic hit, we developed numerous unique resources to address our borrowers' specific needs.

DISCOVER HOW LCEF CAN HELP YOU.
**CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT
OR VISIT [LCEF.ORG/REMEDY](https://lcef.org/remedy) TODAY.**

Rev. Jeff Lee

LCEF District Vice President | Minnesota North
218-829-1781 | 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. 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. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 800-843-5233. lcef.org. 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/.

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 school is bursting at the seams (see photo of students completing exams) and has several urgent needs: **Teachers have not been paid in months. Teachers at the school earn between \$95-185/month. \$3300 in contributions would bring them up-to-date. Also, they rely solely on gas powered generators for power. They are currently without a serviceable generator. Contributions of \$2500 would allow them to purchase a new generator.** Congregations and individuals are encouraged to pray about how they might be able to help the ministry in Cotton Tree. Pastor Kollie is pursuing a Doctorate Degree at CTS, Fort Wayne, IN, with hopes of then teaching pastors in Liberia. Jamesetta Kollie, a 2019 CSP grad is working towards a Master's Degree. Gifty Kollie (deaconess student at CUC) and Diane (in high school at Concordia Academy, Roseville, MN) are also studying in the US with plans to return to Liberia to use their education. 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 (specifically designate on the memo line) can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401.

PROJECT 24 & CHRIST'S CARE FOR CHILDREN - KENYA The Project 24 sites continue to be places of refuge during this pandemic season, bringing hope to many. Not only are they caring for the children, but the communities. There has been a new life in families. This is due to the devotions which take place during the food distributions. This month the ministry of education has given the notice to re-open the schools starting with Class 4 (4th grade), Class 8 (8th grade), and Form 4 (high school seniors) students. Project 24 staff is working to prepare the sites by following the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines to welcome the students back. Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 107. **Project 24 & CCC Kenya have launched a Facebook page!! Keep up with what is happening with these ministries on a day-to-day basis [HERE](#).** Find the P24 Newsletter [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#). District support for Project 24 to date is \$112,034. Support for CCC: Kenya to date is \$17,366.



DAN & JOAN JASTRAM Pastor Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator: Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Asia. He shares: "To carry out this work we continue to rely in faith on your supporting contributions and prayers. They rise up in the presence of God as fragrant offerings of incense. Thank you for working together with us and praying according to our Reformation Day Collect for worship that God would continue to "Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth" Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).

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



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

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



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

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

BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA, Trinity/Grace/Trinity - Called Rev. Jared Korb, Worland, WY. He declined the Call.

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

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

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

ELY/BABBITT, First/Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ray Hendrickson) - Called Rev. Keith Buelmann, Buffalo, IL. He declined the Call.

GRAND RAPIDS, First (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Steve Breitbarth) - Called Rev. Luke Anderson, Grafton, WI. He declined the Call.

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

HINCKLEY (KROSCHER), St. John—Called Rev. Timothy Schiller, Alexandria, MN.

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

RED LAKE FALLS/PLUMMER, St. John/Redeemer

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Senior Pastor) - Called Rev. Daniel Welch, Glencoe, MN.

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

SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND, Gethsemane/St. John

SUPERIOR, Christ

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

- Rev. Tysen Bibb received a Call to Trinity, Norborne, MO. He accepted the Call.
- Rev. Steve Benson received a Call to St. John's, Elgin, IL. He declined the Call.
- Rev. Kirk Douglas received a Call to Williamstown, Graniteville, VT. He declined the Call.
- Rev. Kevin Richter received a Call to St. John's & Immanuel, Reinbeck & Cedar Falls, IA. He accepted the Call.
- Rev. Chris Lieske received Calls to St. Paul's & Grace, Strasburg, IL; St. Paul, Independence, MO; and St. Paul, Lexington, IL.
- Rev. Timothy Schiller received a Call to Lamb of God, Slidell, LA.
- Rev. Philip Hoppe received a Call to Faith, Sullivan, IL.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

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

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

December 6-7, 2020	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
December 12, 2020	District Nominating Committee 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
March 13, 2021	Floor Committee Meetings at the District Office
April 11, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, Madden's
April 12-14, 2021	MN North District Convention—Madden's, Brainerd
April 17, 2021	MN State Bible Bowl, Concordia University, St. Paul
April 20, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
June 7, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
July 13, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



A representative from Concordia Plans recently hosted a Zoom meeting for churches in our District. 2021 Enrollment Deadlines are already upon us. If you'd like some help navigating the changes and options, you can find the recording at: <https://www.mnnlcms.org/church-treasurers>



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



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

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Walther (St. Matthews, Esko), who was taken to heaven on October 25, 2020.

Rev. Matthew Canion (Redeemer, Willmar), and family at the passing of his mother.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Norm Hanan (em. Annandale), dealing with health issues.

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

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

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

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

George Miller, dealing with severe back pain.

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 Arm, North Carolina

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

Lt. Aaron Bell, son-in-law of Pastor Tom and Mary Brinkley (St.

Matthews, Esko), Active Duty Chaplain, US Navy Camp

Pendleton

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

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

MSG Jonathan Fondow, son of Pres. Don & Connie Fondow, Park

Rapids—US Army

1st Lt Michaela Biegner-Wentz, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em.

Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Virginia Beach, VA

Ensign Emily Geddes, granddaughter of Virginia Ansorge—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.

DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 St. Peter, Swanville - Rev. Kevin Zellers	2 St. John, Thief River Falls - Rev. Thomas Puffe	3 Trinity, Twin Valley - Rev. Robert Behling	4 Shepherd of the Lake, Two Harbors - Rev. John Bonk	5
6	7 St. John, Vergas - Rev. Jacob Wagner	8 St. Paul, Loon Lake - Rev. Del Stohs	9 Immanuel, Verndale - Rev. Robin Fish, Sr.	10 St. John, Villard - Rev. Timothy Magill	11 Trinity, Grove Lake - Rev. Timothy Magill	12
13	14 Trinity, Virginia - Rev. Brad Felix	15 Gloria Dei, Virginia - Rev. Don Stauty	16 St. John, Wadena - Rev. Steve Meltzer	17 Immanuel, Walker - Rev. Matthew Vrudny	18 Immanuel, Warren - Rev. Chris Rosebrough, VP	19
20	21 Zion, Warren - Rev. Thomas Puffe	22 Bethlehem, Warroad - Rev. William Moeller, Jr.	23 Immanuel, Monson - Rev. Michael Breach	24	25	26
27	28 St. John Wheaton - Rev. Michael Breach	29 Redeemer, Willmar - Rev. Matthew Canion	30 Christ, Wolf Lake - Rev. David Walsh	31		

District Office Closed

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