



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 17, Issue 10

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

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INSTALLATIONS AND DISTRICT NEWS



Rev. Sam Pitsch was Installed at Our Redeemer, Moorhead, MN on Sunday, September 20, 2020.

Pictured are: (back row) Rev. Clark Jahnke, West Fargo, ND; Rev. Adam Harvala, West Fargo, ND; , Rev. Gary Rehborg, Osage, MN; Rev. Bernie Worrall, Fargo, ND; Rev. Steve Schultz, Fargo, ND; Rev. Brett Hartwig, Sabin, MN; Rev. Roger Lange, Fergus Falls, MN; Rev. Brian Shane, Fargo, ND; and Rev. Ross Fritz, Breckenridge, MN; (front row) Rev. George Krueger, Fargo, ND; Rev. Jay Weideman, Fergus Falls, MN; Rev. John Christensen, Fergus Falls, MN; Rev. Sam Pitsch, Rev. Don Fondow, MN North District President; Rev. Craig Palach, Fergus Falls, MN; and Rev. Craig Fenske, Grand Forks, ND.



Chaplain John Thomson was awarded the Bronze St. Martin of Tours Award on Monday, September 21, 2020.

The Office of International Missions of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has authorized its Ministry to the Armed Forces Committee to give special recognition to pastors who have

provided exceptional ministry to military personnel. The bronze St. Martin of Tours Medal is presented to chaplains who have given extensive pastoral service to military personnel, normally twenty or more years either on active duty, in the Reserve components, or in the Civil Air Patrol.

An award in the name of St. Martin of Tours is particularly appropriate for Lutheran chaplains. As a young man, Martin of Tours, who was born in 315 AD, served as an officer in the Roman Army. According to tradition, one day he encountered a poor beggar shivering from the cold. Martin drew his sword, cut his military cape in two and covered the beggar with one half. That night, according to the tradition, Christ appeared to Martin in a dream, wearing the half of the cape he had given to the beggar. The vision led to Martin's conversion and baptism.

Martin eventually became a cleric, founded a monastery and, over the years, his piety and devotion to Christ became so well known that he was installed as the Bishop of Tours, France, by popular demand. Following his death, the remaining half of Martin's cape became an object of veneration. French kings had the cape carried



into battle and prepared a tent-like portable shrine for it. In Latin, the shrine was called a "capella." The priest who was given responsibility for the "capa" and the "capella" was called the "capellanus." It is through the derivation of these terms that we now have the English words for "chapel" and "chaplain." Consequently, since Medieval days, Martin of Tours has been identified with those who serve as military chaplains.

For Lutheran chaplains, however, Martin of Tours has an additional, significant connection. On November 10, 1483, Hans and Margarethe Luther, of Eisleben, Germany, welcomed the birth of a new baby boy. Following the custom of the times, they had their infant baptized the following day. Since November 11 was the date the Christian Church traditionally remembered and honored St. Martin of Tours, the baby was named Martin Luther.

It is most appropriate, therefore, to give tribute to Lutheran pastors who have given so many years of dedicated service to military personnel with an award whose name recalls these two historic defenders of the Christian faith.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

Dear Friends in Christ;

A Mighty Fortress has been called the Battle Hymn of the Reformation. Martin Luther, inspired by the words of Psalm 46 penned the words of this hymn.

¹ *God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.*

² *Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,*

*And though the mountains be carried into the
midst of the sea;*

³ *Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its
swelling....*

**Living in this “devil filled world”
Martin Luther struggled with
depression all of his life. He
found great comfort in the
words from Psalm 46.**

For over 300 years, Europe had dealt with the recurrences of the bubonic plague. In the 14th century, it is believed to have taken the lives of 60% of the European population. In the summer of 1527, this plague came to Wittenberg. Most of the professors of the University fled with their families to escape this horrible plague. Martin Luther remained in Wittenberg because he felt that God had called him to such a time and place to minister to those who were suffering from the plague. Two of Luther's brothers died in the pandemic. Even though Martin Luther's wife was pregnant, he turned their home into a hospital to care for the sick and the dying. Luther, writing to others said, “If you truly love your neighbor, you would self-quarantine to stop the spread of the disease.”

Living in this “devil filled world” Martin Luther struggled with depression all of his life. He found great comfort in these words from Psalm 46. He had learned that he could not

lift himself out of this pit of despair. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...”

We have been dealing with COVID-19 now for several months in the United States. Recently, the president of the United States was hospitalized for COVID-19. In an address to the public after his release from the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, he told the American public to not be afraid. He had found confidence in the treatment of the virus and his recovery. But families have been devastated at the loss of life from this virus too. People with co-morbidities are fearful of getting this virus.

Our hope is not in this world, but in the One who created heaven and earth. God is our refuge and strength. He tells us – do not be afraid. Even though everything around us seems to be falling apart. As Martin Luther wrote –

*“Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower us.
This worlds prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.*

That little word, is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, the Son of God. Fear Not! God is our refuge and strength.

In His Service,

Rev Jeffrey A Lee

Mission and Ministry Facilitator
Missions and Congregational Outreach
LCEF District Vice President

INTERESTED IN INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY?

Intentional Interim Ministry Training

Pastors are being offered training as transitional pastors for Intentional Interim Ministry beginning in October with 12, live, online, weekly sessions and considerable independent and small group work in connection with those sessions. *Deo volente*, they will meet face-to-face for a week-long, second half of the training at one of the following:

April 12--16, 2021, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO

April 19--23, 2021, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Stow, Ohio

April 26--30, 2021, Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota

May 10--14, 2021, PSD Office, Irvine, California

See details at LuTMA.ORG

Available IIP's:

Need an interim pastor for a limited season for intentional goals? Check out the new and improved LCMS Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse is the place on the IMC-LCMS website where trained intentional pastors indicate their availability and mobility. [LINK TO CLEARINGHOUSE](#)

All DP's and Admin Assistants and requesting staff members were given accounts on the Clearinghouse at one time. If you need a new account or password, please let me know. Logon is at the bottom of page with your email as username.

Concordia Plan Services for Interims

You may know that Concordia Plans has provided a special group within the plans for Intentional Interims who change employers frequently. For follow up on this program click [HERE](#). This should be of encouragement to those who want to serve in transitional ministry but are worried about gaps in coverage.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Back when I was in college, our school (Concordia, St. Paul) elected “Scott” to be the president of our student body. Scott was good-looking... and well-liked. He was also my roommate and friend. But Scott wasn’t very smart... and he certainly wasn’t interested in doing any kind of public service work. So, within a month of being elected, Scott quit. The vice-president had to take over. Everybody (including me) loved Scott. That’s why so many people voted for him. Unfortunately, he just wasn’t able- or willing- to do the work that he had been elected to do. His election had more to do with his popularity... than his ability to do the kinds of things that would’ve benefitted his fellow students.

we consider our options for the upcoming elections. As we look at our choices, let us ask ourselves: which candidates will be the most helpful for our neighbor? In other words, rather than voting for the candidates that are the most “personally popular”... maybe we should ask ourselves, “Which candidates are most likely to enact the kinds of policies that will best protect the lives and liberties of my neighbors?”

That question has to do with the Lutheran doctrine of Vocation; and we make decisions based on that kind of thinking all the time. For example, what matters most to you when choosing a doctor: one that can cure your illness... or one that is good-looking? Or, similarly, what’s the most

calls for both a good and prudent ruler. However, if both qualifications cannot be had: a wise ruler- who is not personally good- is better ... because one who is only personally good rules nothing; but is, himself, only ruled- and only by the worst of people. Even though a wise- but personally bad- ruler may harm good people, he nevertheless rules the evil ones at the same time, and this is more necessary and proper, for the world is nothing but a mass of evil people.”

In other words: if you can’t have a candidate that is both “good” (personally) AND who has (wise) policies that will be good for our neighbors (community / state / country)... and you HAD to choose between a someone who was good vs. someone who did good: the better option would be to choose the one who does good, because that’s what will best serve our neighbor (community / state / country).

As pro-life Christians, we should look for leaders who will support legislation that not only protects the unborn, but also the elderly and those with special needs. We should also want leaders who will guard our religious freedoms, defend the rights of parents to make decisions about their children, promote economic prosperity (which leads more people to be more generous towards those who are not as blessed), and strengthens the safety and security of our neighborhoods. Although there may be other, important issues that could- and should- be part of our decision-making process, these are the ones that are most directly supported by Scripture.

Being a Christian means that we have the duty of being good citizens. In America, that duty is also a privilege: because- not only do we obey our leaders- we also get to choose who they will be. But no matter who is elected, let us remember that Christ is still- and will always be- our King. Thanks be to God! Amen.

“BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS THAT WE HAVE THE DUTY OF BEING GOOD CITIZENS. IN AMERICA, THAT DUTY IS ALSO A PRIVILEGE: BECAUSE— NOT ONLY DO WE OBEY OUR LEADERS— WE ALSO GET TO CHOOSE WHO THEY WILL BE.”

I think that our state and national elections have become similar contests: based on the personal popularity of a candidate, rather than on what they will actually do when they are elected. Now, does God tell us whom we should vote for? Of course not. But God is clearly “pro-life”; so that should be one of the issues that Bible-believing Christian voters consider. I know that there are also other issues that are important to people. My goal is not to tell you which issues should be more important to you than others. In fact, I don’t want to “tell” you anything. Instead, I want you to remember the Parable of the Good Samaritan... and ask yourself (as Jesus did): Which of these... was a neighbor to the man who needed help? It was the hated Samaritan.

I think that that parable can be helpful as

important quality you want to see in your pastor: that they get along with everyone... or that they are faithful to God’s Word? A doctor’s job is to heal (not to make friends)... and a pastor’s job is to preach, teach and administer the Sacraments (not be popular). Ideally, doctors would be friendly... and pastors would be likable. But that’s not what’s most important. Likewise, an elected leader’s job is to enact policies that will best help our neighbors: be it at the local, state or national level.

Luther addressed this issue in the 16th century. At that time, they actually did have a kind of election... so this question did matter- even then. Here’s what Luther wrote, “the reasonable question has been asked: whether it is better to have a good (but foolish) ruler... or a wise one who was- personally- bad? Moses, here, certainly

OPERATION BARNABAS

Operation Barnabas is the LCMS' network of care to our nation's military members, families and veterans. We reach out to all branches of the military with a special emphasis on our Reserve members and their families.

"Adopt-a Chap" is an opportunity for congregations to directly connect with or "adopt" our Synod's Armed Forces chaplains, active and reserve. It is a program that links congregations with chaplains to promote mutual support and growth. It is a means through which we learn and support each other in military ministry. After a congregation is "matched" with a chaplain by the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) staff, the congregation and chaplain establish a relationship through regular communication with one another. Congregations will regularly keep the chaplain and his family in prayer and learn about his specialized ministry in the military context. Since he is effectively bringing the Gospel to young adult "millennials," the congregation might also benefit from the wisdom of his experience. The process begins by a congregation contacting the MAF office (314-996-1337; Alicia.Hinton@lcms.org) and indicating a desire to "adopt-a-chap." One member of the staff will select/match a chaplain with the congregation, providing contact information. There may be many other opportunities to support and learn from each other in creative ways. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. This is the Church working together, encouraging and supporting one another in mission to our men and women in our nation's Armed Forces.

HEARTS PASTORS

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. You can help: <https://heartsforpastors.org/>

Living in Bubbles

By Dr. Mike Rodewald

I was visiting with an older lady in the remote town in which I was first assigned as a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators. She had heard a 'rumor'. Did I have a toilet inside the house? "Yes," I told her. She was not impressed. How could we live in the smell?

Everyone has their own perspective based upon their experience. For this lady who did not know about water seal technology, it was inconceivable to have a toilet inside the house.

I am often amazed at the limits of our perceptions, sometimes defined as worldview. The limits of our worldview bubbles are the sum total of all we have lived and learned. I have lived in multiple nations and cultures. When I hear the opinions of today's politicians, activists and commentators I sometimes think, "They haven't lived where I have lived or they wouldn't talk that way!" It is easy to judge from within the limits of my own worldview bubble. My bubble is not big.

The words of Isaiah encourage me, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD" (Is 55:8). That is a relief. God doesn't think or act like I do. Rather he offers a bigger purpose through the message of Scripture. From his infinite knowledge-base he sends Jesus as Savior into our limited world, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). God's story of salvation in Scripture is moving throughout the world through the world's many languages. He calls everyone into His story through Jesus.

I remain trapped within my own perspective – anger, judgement, despair. But God's ways are not my ways. He offers salvation – life that continues even after life lived within one's own bubble is over. His bubble is really big.



Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL 2021

The 2021 MN State Bible Bowl will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at Concordia University in St. Paul.

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

For more information visit the website or contact the MN North District Coordinator:

Rev. Steve Breitbarth
Hibbing, MN
(218) 929-1110



TREASURES OLD AND NEW: A Virtual Conference on Adult Faith Formation OCTOBER 20 – 22, 2020

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

Pastors and congregational leaders in the Church face new missional challenges in our “post-Christian” context. This free conference* will introduce participants to a model of adult faith formation and discipleship with roots in the catechumenal practices of the early church. Through presentations and conversations with LCMS pastors who have developed successful adult faith formation, participants will explore new ways to form disciples through catechesis; to shape Christian identity through the biblical narrative and the sacramental life of the church; and to foster a habitus of hospitality in congregational life.

For more information about this conference, its leaders and program, and to register for this conference, go to <https://www.forminglutherans.org/>

*This program is made possible through a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.



GREEN&GOLD DAY

Green & Gold Days visitation event

If you know someone who’s considering a career in ministry, tell him or her about our Green & Gold Days visitation event, set for 2–4 p.m. (CST) Saturday, Nov. 14. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event will be held online.

Participants will learn about the application process, financial aid and housing. A panel discussion with current students and their spouses will help participants find answers to questions about Seminary life.

The registration deadline is Nov. 11. This event is free!

REGISTER HERE

For more information, contact Enrollment at admit@csl.edu or 800-822-9545.

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.

CSP CONCORDIA ST. PAUL



A One-Stop Workshop to Help You Prepare for Advent and Christmas

The Book of Micah:
Fierce Judgment, Final Grace
October 30, 2020
2:00–5:00 p.m.
Concordia St. Paul

The Old Testament prophet Micah produced some of the most well-known texts within Israel’s prophetic corpus—Zion’s elevation as the highest of all mountains (Micah 4:1–5), Bethlehem’s role in the Messiah’s birth (Micah 5:2), and the divine plan for all people to exhibit justice, kindness, and humility (Micah 6:8).

During this three-hour workshop, Dr. Reed Lessing will lead participants through Micah to help them prepare for Advent and Christmas preaching, teaching, and worship. Fully written and edited resources will be distributed to all in attendance. The cost for the workshop is \$15, and you can attend in-person or via Zoom. Space is limited! Register today for The Book of Micah: Fierce Judgment, Final Grace by [clicking here](#).



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.**

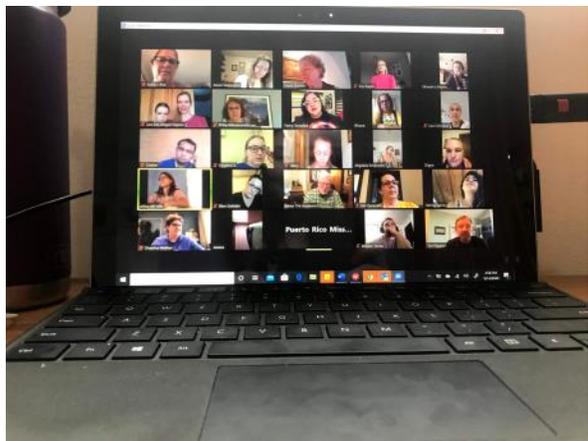
Rev. Jeff Lee

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

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. Students are starting to return to the P24 sites and most should be back by next month! In the meantime, the site managers decided that this month the LCMS and ELCK would use the regular monthly funds to purchase a food package for each family. During this time of uncertainty, having food for the next several weeks can relieve some of the daily burden and ensure that the family stays healthy. Learn more about P24 COVID response [HERE](#). 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](#).** District support for Project 24 to date is \$112,034. Support for CCC: Kenya to date is \$17,366.



In Puerto Rico, the English as a Second Language program has been more than just classes, it has been an opportunity to make connections, build relationships, and share the love of Christ with the students. Due to the success of our 5-week English conversation pilot program during May that paired a native English-speaking short-term team volunteer with a student in PR, another round has started this month with new and returning students and volunteers. Please pray with us that this program continues to produce fruit and continues to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors in Puerto Rico. Our online classes have reached many new people across the Island. 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, Mayquez facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ilpdp/>. Follow James and Cristel Neuendorf [HERE](#).



DAN & JOAN JASTRAM Pastor Jastram shares: "During the past several months I have been shifting into a new direction and focus under my new title and responsibility: Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator. This came about in the process of careful consideration with our Asia regional director, when it became clear that, with a surge in interest for Lutheran resources, there was a necessity for overarching attention to providing resources of theology and worship so critically needed for continuing ministry in the mission parishes and for theological instruction in Asia. Learn more [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH AND SCHOOL, COTTON TREE LIBERIA Students are back at the school to finish the 2019/2020 school year and complete exams (see photo). The school's greatest need continues to be teacher salaries. Their teachers haven't been paid since March. Your support is greatly appreciated. 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.



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.

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

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

HENNING, St. Paul

HINCKLEY (KROSCHER), St. John

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

SUPERIOR, Christ

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

- Rev. Marty Porter received a Call to Tabor & Emmanuel Lutheran Churches, Mountain & Suring, WI. He declined the Call.
- Rev. Tysen Bibb received a Call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Norborne, MO.
- Rev. Steve Benson received a Call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL.
- Rev. Joshua Reinke received a Call to Peace & Christ Lutheran Churches, Great Falls, MT. He accepted the Call.
- Rev. Kirk Douglas received a Call to Williamstown Lutheran Church, Graniteville, VT.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS RESOURCES

In Our District:

CHURCH WORKER CARE

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

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

From the Synod:

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

Recognized Service Organizations:

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

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

SHEPHERD'S CANYON

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17, 2020	Organist Workshop, Emmanuel, Barnum
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 Wayne Hilchen, who was taken to heaven on October 10, 2020. Wayne served at Lutheran Island Camp.

The family of Rev. Lyle Kath (emeritus), who passed away on October 8, 2020. Pastor Kath previously served at St. John, Weber.

The family of Virginia Ansorge, wife of sainted pastor Rev. Karl Ansorge, who passed away on October 7, 2020. The Ansores were instrumental in starting Lutheran Island Camp.

The family of Norman Barge, who was taken to heaven on October 1st. Norman was the last living member of the first Minnesota North District Board of Directors.

Rev. Jeffrey Walther (St. Matthews, Esko), hospitalized with COVID-19. 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](#).

Rev. Jeff Lee (MN North District Office), recovering after knee replacement surgery.

Rev. Steve Breitbarth (em. Hibbing), recovering after surgery.

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

Lucas Bibb, son of Rev. Tysen Bibb (Holy Cross, St. Cloud), recovering after surgery.

Mrs. Sue Zeige, wife of Rev. Bill Zeige (em., Grand Rapids), recovering after foot surgery.

Mrs. Joanne Wilke, wife of Rev. Don Wilke (em., Alexandria), recovering after surgery.

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

Michael Thomas, Parkers Prairie, studying at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario

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.

NOVEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Trinity, Sandstone - Rev. Richard Langhorst	3 Messiah, Sartell - Rev. Brady Finnern	4 Zion, Sauk Centre - Rev. Marty Porter	5 St. John, Popple Creek - Rev. Tim Rehwaldt	6 Trinity, Sauk Rapids, -Rev. David Hinz	7
8	9 Good Shepherd, Sauk Rapids - Rev. Keith Weise	10 Grace, Sebeka - Rev. Larry Harvala, VP	11 Nimrod, Nimrod - Rev. Larry Harvala, VP	12 Zion, North Germany - Rev. Larry Harvala, VP	13 Faith, Silver Bay - Rev. Troy Peperkorn	14
15	16 Concordia, Fairhaven - Rev. David Buchs	17 Centennial, Squaw Lake - Rev. Jim Anthony	18 Faith, St. Cloud - Rev. Joshua Reber	19 Holy Cross, St. Cloud - Rev. Tysen Bibb	20 Love of Christ, St. Cloud - Rev. Steve Klemp	21
22	23 Redeemer, St. Cloud - Rev. Bruce Timm	24 Zion, Crown - Rev. Jacob Gillard, VP	25 Trinity, Staples - Rev. Robin Collins	Thanksgiving Break		28
29	30 Christ, Superior - Rev. David Schoessow					

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