



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

It's summer time!

(Don't forget to feed yourself spiritually)

Alleluia that Christ is risen, and that summer seems to have finally arrived!



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

I, and I'm sure many of you, are anxious for all of the summer activities that we enjoy here in North Dakota, along with summer vacation. For me, it's hard to fit all that I want to do in summer into my schedule. Although we continue with the basics of life, such as sleeping, eating and working, we must also continue with the basics for our spiritual life. I call it soul food. Like we feed and exercise our bodies so that they do not starve and become lethargic; so also we need to feed and exercise our souls so that they too do not starve and become lethargic.

This we do through the Means of Grace. When I say Means of Grace, think of "means" as a "way" and grace as a "gift." Thus the Means of Grace are "the way that God gives the gift of faith." The Word of God and the Sacraments are the Means of Grace.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
— Rom. 10:17

"He saved us ... by the washing of



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. — Titus 3:5

The Means of Grace are the only way of being brought to faith, kept in faith and strengthened in faith. This is truly and rightly the proper understanding from Scripture (the only truth we have) of how we have the Holy Spirit given to us, living in us and giving us faith. I emphasize it is the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith. Faith is nothing that you have done; as Jesus says in John 15:16:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you."

You see, faith is a miracle and a gift of God. It is a miracle that we have faith in God to know of our sins and to know that Jesus has died for them. Without faith, we cannot find or ask for a Savior; we only remain dead in our sins and enemies of God.

Without the use of God's Word and without the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we would not have and will lose faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit doesn't just come down out of the sky like a dove so that you can swallow His feathers for some kind of inner tickle. God has always provided an outward means for faith to come, to be kept and to be strengthened. He has always given something that can be seen and heard so that no one has to question where their faith came from. When a Christian has faith, they simply give thanks for it.

Therefore, I really hope you have a great summer, but I also hope that you do not go on vacation from God, who is never on vacation. He is present with Word and Sacrament, to feed and strengthen you through everything that comes along in life; even when it is summer time, activity time, vacation time and whatever time.

You can make your pastor's job so much easier when you are coming for the Means of Grace. Let's just suppose you were to die today suddenly and you have not been feeding and strengthening your faith with Word and Sacrament. It would be difficult for your pastor to give comfort to your loved ones of your faith, which is unseen in you. But by your outward actions of being in church, hearing God's Word and receiving the Sacraments, your pastor can joyfully say the promise of God's Word from Is. 55:10-11:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, mak-

See MESSAGE, Page 3

Scripture, fellowship — and coffee!



Women who attended the retreat got to put together bags of vanilla latte mix to take home.



From left, Paula Martin and Barb Silkey (Redeemer LWML president), present the skit "Time for Latte?"



Paulette Huber provides guitar for songs of worship.

The Women's Coffee Retreat held on April 21 at Redeemer, Dickinson, was a great success with almost 35 in attendance! The "coffee party," under the theme "Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply," focused on God's Word and author Deb Burma's devotional materials.

Attendees enjoyed food, fun and fellowship and six women went home with a door prize, a beautiful coffee mug designed by Kari Morast, owner of Mama Bear Creations and Redeemer member. Everyone received a purple keychain created by Megan Fair, LWML Young Woman Representative and owner of Meg-nif-o-cent Creations.

Everyone also had the opportunity to take home a vanilla latte mix with a special attached label, "Sending You a Latte Love," and Bible verse.



Pastor Moline is one of '20 UNDER 40'

The Rev. Adam Moline was selected as one of "20 Under 40" in the Southern Red River Valley. The Daily News Media and News-Monitor Media of Wahpeton selected 20 people from more than 80 nominees, who are recognized as "20 of the best and brightest young professionals in the area under the age of 40." Moline serves as pastor of Immanuel, Hankinson, and St. John's, Belford Township. Presenting the plaque is Diana Hermes, News-Monitor multi-media sales supervisor.



Travelers get realistic tour of Noah's ark

The third annual bus trip by Immanuel, Fargo, to see the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky included 48 people. The bus departed from Bismarck and picked up people in Jamestown and Fargo.

The weather was spring-like in North Dakota, but we experienced snow from Fergus Falls all the way to Chicago. The accumulated snow was heaviest from Alexandria through Madison, Wis. Our driver did a super job to get us to our destination!

Watch for future trips! People are interested in going to see a Minnesota Twins baseball game, perhaps in late August or September. There are also lots of requests to see Christmas in Branson in 2019. Those two trips will fill a tour bus very quickly. Dates will be announced upon finalization of costs.

— Submitted by Ed Bean, trip coordinator

‘Let us make a joyful noise...’

For many years, the services at St. John’s Lutheran Church, McClusky, were faithfully accompanied by member organist Shirley Jorgensen. Following her passing, the congregation was left without an organist to take her place.

Deb Sparrow graciously stepped forward to provide piano music for the congregation, but the organ music was missed. Thoughts on purchasing an electronic piano, which would allow for switching between piano and organ music for church services, began to emerge.

A committee was formed to research electronic-keyboard brands, features, versatility and connectivity to the sound system already in the church. In February, the congregation voted to purchase a CP 405 Yamaha Clavinova, using money from the church memorial fund.

Several congregation members dismantled and moved the large Baldwin organ in preparation for the Clavinova delivery and installation.

Ps. 95:1 says:

“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!”

The ability to layer “voices” (additional instruments) to the piano or organ feature adds beauty to the service, which would not be available in a small, rural congregation such as St. John’s. The voice of a trumpet and a clarinet was added to LSB hymn #457, “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,” for Easter service.

As the members gather for Sunday services, along with the saints who have gone before them, they are thankful to those families who donated funds in memory of their loved ones for the enhancement of their worship service.



Members of St. John’s McClusky, left, prepare the space for the congregation’s new electric piano and install it.



From left, Rachel Link, treasurer; Laurie Brackett, LYF advisor; and Deb Sparrow, organist, are thrilled their congregation will continue to make beautiful music.

Weekend is fun for Lutheran youth

The Southeast Circuit hosted its second annual **Higher Things Retreat** April 20-21 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hankinson. The theme was “The Christian Conscience,” which was taught by the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, pastor of Hope, Aurora, Colo. There were about 80 attendees from 12 congregations, and they attended four services and four sessions and enjoyed games, a movie and snacks. Check out a video at youtu.be/BLdlc_4pVNO.

Register for camp!

Staff are on site and in training, and we are all excited for this summer! If you haven’t registered, hurry to shretreat.org to register or call 701 244-5225. Help the camp get to 1,000 likes on Facebook to kick off summer! “Like” the camp at [facebook.com/SHRetreat](https://www.facebook.com/SHRetreat) and invite your friends to do likewise.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ing it bring forth and sprout ... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

So I pray that you have a blessed, happy, enjoyable summer and a continued strengthening and keeping of your faith in Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin, death, the devil and the power of the grave for you.

Welcome to the district!

CALL DAY was held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on April 24 and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., on April 25. Concluding students received their pastoral and diaconal calls, and second-year students received their vicarage and internship assignments.

On this page, we introduce those who were called to the North Dakota District and pray the Lord would bless them in their work while they are here.



Justin Woodside • Vicar

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Called to Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck

“I have been married to my beautiful wife Victoria for 20 years this next June. Presently we live in Fort Wayne, where we home school our five children. They are Luke (16), Isaac (14), Eutimia (11), Ezra (9) and Rose (18 months).

“I was formerly a high school history and philosophy teacher in Jurupa Valley, Calif, and taught for 18 years in public schools. I also have a bachelor’s degree in history with a minor in philosophy from the University of California, Riverside, as well as a master’s degree in teaching from National University.



“My oldest son loves playing basketball, while my two younger sons play baseball. Eutimia loves dance and acting. I cannot wait to get started at Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley! We look forward to moving up to Bismarck this summer!”

Brian Shane • Vicar

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Called to Beautiful Savior, Fargo

Brian Shane, an alternate route student, will begin his vicarage at Beautiful Savior some time this summer. After his vicarage, Brian most likely will be called as an associate pastor at Beautiful Savior.

Brian was born in Red Wing, Minn. He is a former junior high and senior high math teacher. He is married to Dahlia and has two sons, Andrew (23) and Grant (21).



Brock Schmeling • Vicar

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Called to Zion, Bismarck

Brock Schmeling is a native of Mandan and a member of Messiah. He is a graduate of North Dakota State Univer-

sity, where he studied history and philosophy. Last year he participated in an exchange program with Concordia Theological Seminary’s sister seminary, Westfield House, in Cambridge England, where he enjoyed opportunities to explore the United Kingdom and see the beautiful country-

side churches, cathedrals and chapels.

He is excited to come back to North Dakota and serve the people of Zion as their vicar, and he looks forward to getting involved with the church and all its ministries within the community.

