



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA



### Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am often asked the question: “What are you doing these days?”

I may answer from the perspective of fun things or hobbies or work. If I answer on fun things, I would respond about fishing. But for now I won’t go there (you might think they are fish stories; but they would be true fish stories).

What I have been up to, pertaining to being district president, is a project of looking at songs used in our district congregations that do not come from the hymnal. As I make visits to congregations around the district and they use songs not in the LCMS hymnals, I ask for the lyrics and study them. I hope to



**Rev. Arie Bertsch**  
District President

do a presentation on the results of this study in about a year.

As I collect these song lyrics, I am looking at how and why our hymns are selected for placement in our hymnals and how we should evaluate songs from other sources. As the ecclesiastical supervisor, it is now my job to oversee that proper hymnals, catechisms and literature are being used by the congregations

and pastors.

Let me begin with 1 Cor:14:26:

“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”

When looking at a hymn, it naturally will have its own emphases and strengths. Nevertheless, it still should have the main focus of Christian faith: Jesus and His saving work for us. While a hymn cannot say everything, it is important for it to say something about God and the Christian faith. A problem with some hymns may be that they have false teaching, things that are contrary to the Word of God. “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (Gal. 5:9). Another problem with some hymns is that they don’t say much of anything about Christianity. It does nothing “for the strengthening of the Church.”

Here are a few questions to ask yourself about a hymn to see if it does or does not proclaim the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ “for the strengthening of the Church”:

- ▶ Does the hymn present Jesus as the Savior who died for sinners? Or is the picture of Jesus merely that of a companion, friend or model?
- ▶ Does the hymn proclaim that we are justified before God only for Christ’s sake? Or is the main focus — Jesus and His saving work for us — absent or somehow made irrelevant or unclear?
- ▶ Is the Gospel presented in concrete imagery, drawing on the biblical witness? Or is the Gospel presented in abstract terms like “love,” “joy” or “peace,” without any concrete connection to the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ?
- ▶ Does the hymn present good works as a response to the Gospel? Or are our works seen as ends in themselves, with

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# Camp season is underway

Did you forget to register? No problem — many of the camps can still accept more registrations. You can register at [shretreat.org](http://shretreat.org). This summer, our theme is “A Great Cloud of Witnesses” from Heb. 12:1-2.

### Anniversary celebration

You are invited to join us on Saturday, June 29, beginning at 1 p.m., to help us celebrate three special anniversaries at Shepherd’s Hill at the Crossroads. The Crossroads location was opened 45 years ago, and the Chapel complex dedication was 40 years ago. Shepherd’s Hill Retreats, Inc. began 25 years ago.

We are bringing the three celebrations together to praise God for all the work He has done through the ministry of Shepherd’s Hill at the Crossroads. Our celebration will

include an open house, fellowship, tours, games, adventure course, campfire songs, guest speakers, historical displays, a meal and a chapel service.

If you would like to receive email newsletters, please send an email to [news@shretreat.org](mailto:news@shretreat.org).

### Golf outing

Join us for our annual golf charitable event on Aug. 3.

We will gather at Rolla Country Club (4673 102nd St. NE in Rolla) and enjoy a day on the links. We kick off this best-ball scramble with a prayer at 1 pm. Your \$65 registration fee covers golf fees, cart and steak dinner.

**Rev. Jon Bonine**, executive director  
[director@shretreat.org](mailto:director@shretreat.org)  
[shretreat.org](http://shretreat.org)

# Floral tradition at St. Andrew, West Fargo

Stephanie Hall and Dan and An-nalise Hammer constructed a floral cross for celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord at St. Andrew, West Fargo. Each year since 2015, St. Andrew members have helped construct the cross with a variety of flowers. Nathan Jahnke and Stephanie started the tradition.



## HYMNS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the impression given that by them we merit and are worthy of salvation?

Also, the hymns for a service should have a balance. For example, there are hymns not only of “praise and adoration” but also of “cross and comfort.”

Here are a few questions to ask yourself about the balance of hymns used in a service:

- ▶ Is the Gospel clearly and richly evident in the hymns each week? Or is the focus unduly on the Christian’s response?
- ▶ Is there a balance of hymns in a church service that both teach and proclaim the contents of faith as well as give the people words of thanksgiving and praise? Or is the congregation’s hymns mostly limited to emotions, entertainment and performance?

The ideas, thoughts and directions for this article are from an LCMS Commission on Worship article in the February 2004 of issue *Reporter*. There is a book available from Concordia Publishing



House called *Text, Music, Context: A Resource for Reviewing Worship Materials*. It costs is \$6 (call 1-800-325-3040 or go to [cph.org](http://cph.org) and type the title in the search bar).

I pray and hope this will help you when looking at hymns that are sung in other churches and in other hymnals. Let it be known: Just because a hymn is not in our hymnal does not mean that it may not be doctrinally sound and that it could be used in our worship. Also, it takes time for me to ask these very same questions

and more about every hymn that hasn’t been looked at by our church.

### Ps. 95:1-7:

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock  
of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with  
thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with  
songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his  
also.

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow  
down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our  
Maker!

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

## CALL DAY 2019

**CSL:** Concordia Seminary, St. Louis • **CTSFW:** Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Candidate **Brian Shane** (CSL), with his wife, Dahlia, served Beautiful Savior, Fargo, as vicar last year and has received the call as assistant pastor from Beautiful Savior. He will be installed on June 23.



Vicar-elect **Richard Dailey** (CTSFW) will serve at Bethel, Bismarck, and Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck. He is pictured with his wife, Sarah, and Matthew, Ruth and Samuel.



Vicar-elect **Christopher Durham** (CTSFW), pictured with his wife, Mary, will serve at Zion, Bismarck.



Candidate **Eli Voight** (CTSFW), who attended Bethel, Bismarck, has received a call to serve as associate pastor of Trinity, Bemidji, Minn., and as pastor of Redeemer, Bagley, Minn.



Candidate **Matthew Albright** (CSL), who served as vicar at Our Savior, Minot, has received a call as associate pastor of Messiah, Mounds View, Minn.



Candidate **Jeffery Kyler** (CTSFW), who served as vicar at Bethel, Bismarck, and Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, received a call as pastor of Mount Olive, Bovey, Minn., and Grace, Marble, Minn. He is pictured with his wife, Donna, and Abigail, Jacob and James.



Vicar-elect **Tanner Post** (CTSFW) attended Immanuel, Fargo, while attending North Dakota State University. He was placed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa. He is pictured with his wife, Madison, and Adeline.



Vicar-elect **Stafford Thompson** (CTSFW) attended Immanuel, Fargo, while attending North Dakota State University. He was placed at St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake, Minn.

## Celebrate 125 years with Zion

Join the members of **Zion Lutheran Church, rural Claire City, S.D.**, at 11 a.m. on June 16 for their 125th anniversary. Rev. Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president, will be the guest preacher.

A noon meal will follow the service. The church is located at 45697 101st Street.





The business manager is appointed by the district Board of Directors and approved by the president every third year, one year before the district convention. **Tami Ulland** is responsible for all financial matters, such as the budget, audit, payroll, student aid, daily operations and congregational financial issues.

Tami handles the compliance, insurance, public relations, contracts, negotiations, State of the District report, salary guidelines and human resources. She is also the Lutheran Church Extension Fund district vice-president and the education executive. She sits on all committees and oversees the mechanics of the district and Synod conventions.

The office manager assists the business manager in all duties, especially the daily operations, student-aid files and all correspondence. **Vicki Peihl** is responsible for recording funds mailed in and making bank deposits. Another responsibility is the upkeep of the district pastoral roster. She also handles the district archives, including historical files for each district church.

Tami and Vicki share office space at Beautiful Savior, Fargo.

## Having a **LIFE** event?

If your congregation is hosting a **LIFE** event, please inform Rev. Matthew Tooman, North Dakota District life coordinator, so he can help get the word out.

Go to [immanuelwahp.com/district-life-coordinator.html](http://immanuelwahp.com/district-life-coordinator.html) and type in the information.



## Rev. Stout receives promotion

Rev. Timothy Stout, left, is the only district pastor serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Army National Guard. In a small ceremony on May 6 at Camp Grafton Training Center, he was promoted to the rank of major. At right is Col. James Olson, who conducted the ceremony.

Stout is serving as vacancy pastor of St. Mark's, Minot, and St. Peter's, Sawyer.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**Fall Retreat:** Sept. 20-22  
Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads  
Guest Speaker is Donna Pyle  
More details to come

**District Convention:** June 26-28, 2020  
Delta Hotel in Fargo

**Theme:** "Great is the Lord" from  
Ps. 145:1-3

The keynote speaker is Jan Struck; mission speaker is Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner; songleader is Wendysue Fluegge, who will also provide Saturday-night entertainment

Please consider sharing names of pastors

in our district who you think would serve faithfully as junior pastoral counselor and would be willing to be on the ballot. Send names to [nominating@ndlwml.org](mailto:nominating@ndlwml.org). Rev. Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president, will approve the list of names. The LWML district Board of Directors will then vote in November to select two to be on the ballot.

### Now is time to start preparing a mission grant proposal.

The proposals for consideration at the 2020 convention need to be submitted by Sept. 30, 2019. The form is available at [ndlwml.org/missiongrants](http://ndlwml.org/missiongrants). Click the link in the second paragraph under the "Mission Grants" header.

## Helpful services available

Consider the following services from members of the North Dakota District. Do you provide a service that you would like to advertise in the eNews? Contact Marie at [news@nodaklcms.org](mailto:news@nodaklcms.org) today.

- ▶ Have a book which needs repairing? Want to have something printed and bound? Contact Rev. Zelwyn Heide at [facebook.com/heidebook](https://facebook.com/heidebook)

or send him an email at [zelwyn.heide@gmail.com](mailto:zelwyn.heide@gmail.com) for a quote.

- ▶ Need shirts for your youth group or special event? Coffee mugs for your church? Other special printing needs? Wholesale pricing is available for churches. Contact Alisha Schieber at [info@thehymnustree.com](mailto:info@thehymnustree.com) or visit [thehymnustree.com](http://thehymnustree.com).