



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

THE TORN CURTAIN

Greetings to you in the name of our risen and ascended Savior Jesus Christ.

As you read this, it is June and Easter (April 4) seems like a long time back, but we actually do celebrate Easter every Sunday — and every day. To explain this I am going to bring to your attention a significant event that happened when Christ Jesus was crucified for our sins. In the Gospels of Matthew (27:51), Mark (15:38) and Luke (23:45b), we read that “The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

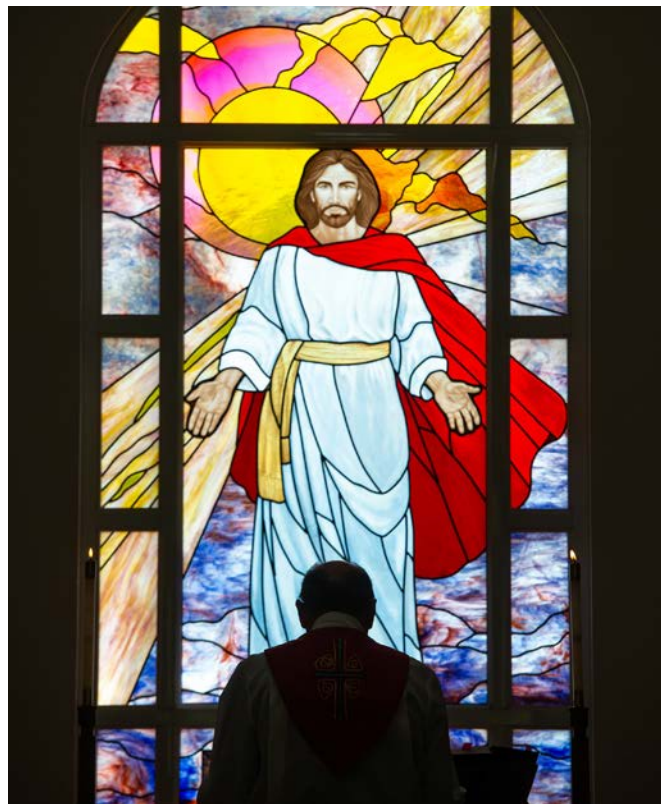
To understand “What does this mean?”, we have to go back to the Old Testament (Exodus 30 and 1 Samuel 2). When God had His people build a temple, the structure included the Holy of Holies, or the Most Holy Place. It was partitioned off from the rest of the temple with a curtain that no one was allowed to go behind, except the high priest once a year — on the Day of Atonement — to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the altar, first for his sins and then for the sins of God’s people.

You see, we cannot approach God in our sin. To approach God in our sin would be very uncomfortable. That is why we have confession of our sins at the beginning of Divine Worship, and we hear from God through the pastor that our sins are forgiven. Then the pastor approaches the altar with prayer and distributes holy food from the altar.

The Old Testament sacrificial system was always to point forward to the Promised One of Gen. 3:15, when Adam and Eve heard God say to Satan:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heal.”

That was the first promise of a Savior to save humankind from death, which had come into the world by Adam and Eve’s fall to Satan’s temptation, when they sinned against the Word of God



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

that had said not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the center of the Garden of Eden. The first sacrifice that was made to cover sin was made by God when He took one of the animals that Adam had named, and that Adam and Eve knew and sacrificed (shed its blood) to cover their sin. From that point on God’s people understood that the only commodity that He would accept for the payment of sin was innocent blood for the forgiveness of sins, and where there is the forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation.

See **MESSAGE**, Page 2



Congratulations!

This year's Lutherans For Life Essay contest concluded with Audrey Weidner winning the first-place prize. Audrey is a sixth-grader at Grace Lutheran School, Fargo. She and her family attend St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo. Pictured is Ken Koehler handing Audrey a letter of congratulations and a first-place prize of \$100.

CSL workshop to be held in West Fargo

The Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop Series from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), is coming to the North Dakota District. "Confessing Christ and Living His Mission: Pre-Constantinian Theology and Practice for Our Post-Constantinian World" will be held June 15-17 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo.

The workshop will be taught by Rev. Dr. Benjamin Haupt, CSL associate professor of Practical Theology.

Many would argue that we live in a post-church, post-Christian culture marked by increasing hostility to Christian theology, waning protection of political freedoms of the Christian church, increasing biblical illiteracy and the list goes on. How should Christ's church conduct itself in such a climate? This workshop will address how we got to this place and then look at where we go from here. The workshop will explore various frameworks to understand the interaction of Christianity and culture. Participants will then explore how the early Christian church engaged a culture similar to our own.

The workshop is open to pastors, church workers and laypeople. The cost is \$100, which includes continuing education credits for pastors.

For more information and to register, visit csl.edu, go to the "Resources" tab and select "Workshop Series" from the drop-down menu and scroll down to the link.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Now back to the curtain of the temple. When the temple curtain was torn, it meant that God had torn it from top to bottom by the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the payment of humankind's sins. God made the first and the last sacrifice for our salvation. As Heb. 9:11-12 states:

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

You see, Jesus is now our High Priest. We no longer need a high priest to make sacrifice for his sins and then for our sins. We can now approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ. As Heb. 10:19-22 states:

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

How important is this for you today? As in the Old Testament worship with God in the temple, where God used five

elements to feed the people (flesh, blood, unleavened bread, wine and water), our Christian worship is obvious and similar. Christians, like the Old Testament people, gather around exactly these five elements. In Christian worship there is Christ's flesh and blood under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. We have the washing with water in Baptism, when we are connected to Christ's death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5) and given the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) to have faith and be called the children of God (1 John 3:1).

Therefore, we celebrate Easter every day and especially on Sunday, or when public worship services are offered, so that we can be fed from God's altar for the forgiveness of sins; and have the life and salvation He serves us with this final sacrifice of Himself. Oh what a joy — Happy Easter, Alleluia and Amen.

HELP WANTED

I found a nice photo in the vault of the district Board members in 1960. I also have the names of the board members but have no idea who some of them are? Can any of our readers help identify people? It is possible I have a couple of names wrong.

Contact me at fargoofficendlms@gmail.com or call 701-293-9001 from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Thanks for your help!

Vicki Peihl
District Office Manager



Here's what we have so far:

From left, (front row): unknown, L. Gottschalk, L.K. Meyer, H. Fry, unknown

Middle row: unknown, Wm Friedrich, A.E. Thiem, Felix Rubbert

Top row: unknown, unknown, Erich Albrecht, R.A. Teuscher

Board members not listed are G. Asmus, Walter Buck, R. Klingebiel, Leon Kruse, L. E. Ristow, Herbert Weiss, Ed Bauer, Harold Meyer and N.F. Spomer (a few aren't pictured).

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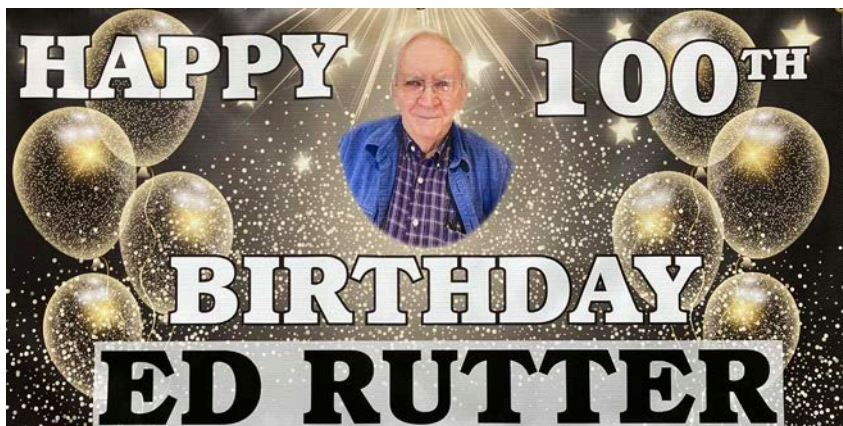
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Rev. Edward J. Rutter celebrated his 100th birthday on April 19, including with his family on the weekend following the milestone day. The North Dakota District is near and dear to Pastor Rutter's heart as he spent his entire active ministry in North Dakota, from 1954 until his retirement in 1991.

Pastor Rutter continues to reside at Fairway View Neighborhoods in Ortonville, Minn. Please join his family in prayers of thanksgiving for his 100 years.

In photo, Pastor Rutter performs a baptism in Lidgerwood.



SUMMER IS HERE!

There are still spaces available to register for summer camps at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads. Register online at shretreat.org.

Are you looking for your camping getaway and RV spot? Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads has full service RV sites, as well as electric only and primitive sites. If you want to spend time in tents, we have plenty of space for your camping adventure!

Rev. Jon Bonine, Executive Director
director@shretreat.org • 701-244-5225

GivePlus+

Visit nodaklcms.org/giveplus for a new way to support the work of the LCMS North Dakota District. Submit a one-time donation or set up an automatic recurring donation.

Check out this new feature today! There is also a mobile app. More information can be found on the website.

Register for Higher Things conference

"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven." — **John 20:23**

"I forgive you" are the three most powerful words in the universe. They don't just change the universe for someone. They change someone's eternity. They change your eternity!



"Forgiven" is the theme for the Higher Things youth conference to be held **June 29-July 2 at North Dakota State University in Fargo.**

To learn more and register, visit higherthings.org/2021-forgiven.

Youth workers conference scheduled for July

The National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference is a standalone youth ministry practitioner conference held every three years.

This event, organized by LCMS Youth Ministry, also provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. The conference will be held July 11-14 at the Hyatt Regency Houston.

Pat Sebastian, National Youth Gathering district coordinator, encourages volunteer adult leaders and high school students from North Dakota to attend this conference for the



valuable training and networking experiences. For more information, and if you would like to share hotel rooms and travel together, contact Pat Sebastian at 701-471-3289 or patsebbis@aol.com.

To connect with LCMS Youth Ministry, visit lcms.org/youth.