



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA



they were brought to the Church when they were infants or toddlers and were Baptized. At that Baptism, God promised that they were now His children, connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:3-5).

Then I would explain how their parents, sponsors and the congregation made a promise to God that they would see to it that these children — who are now God’s children — were entrusted to parents, sponsors and the congregation to be raised in the faith and to know God’s promise given in Holy Baptism. I would explain to the youth that when they refuse to come to confirmation or not do the work assigned, they were asking their parents, sponsors and congregation to not keep their promise to God. (Yes, that is Law.)

Also, I would point out that at their Baptism parents, sponsors and the congregation had answered for them — because they had not yet been instructed in the faith — these questions:

- ▶ “Do you renounce the devil?”
- ▶ “Do renounce all his works?”
- ▶ “Do you renounce all his ways?”
- ▶ “Do you believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (as recited in the Apostles’ Creed)?”

Now, then, on Confirmation Day, the children will be asked the same questions. Therefore, when Confirmation Day comes, parents, sponsors and the congregation are in great joy — for the children had kept their promise and are now making their own confession of faith in God’s promise to them at their Baptism.

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Confirmation Day *(it’s not a graduation)*

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

May can be a very busy month in our lives. Especially with many graduations being held in our communities — eighth-grade, high school, college, and even graduations from our seminaries and schools for commissioned workers in the Synod. On top of those many



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

activities, there is Confirmation Day in many of our churches. Notice that I did not call this a graduation. I will get back to that later.

When I was starting a new year of confirmation classes, I would ask the youth if they knew why they were here. Very often they only knew that it was their parents who were making them go because this is what the church has always done with youth and will continue with them also. It made for a great teaching moment. I would explain that for many of them,

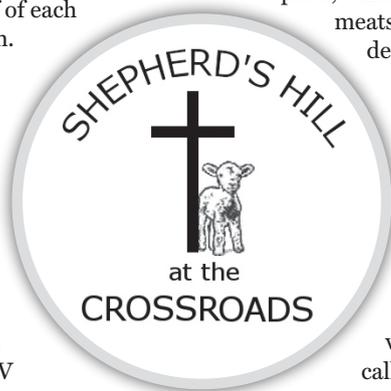
Summer is coming! Register for camp!

By Rev. Jon Bonine

Executive Director,
Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads

Before we know it, summer will be here! Online registration is now available on our website (shretreat.org). Register before May 4 and use coupon code "EARLY25" to receive \$25 off each camp registration. After May 4 but before May 15, use coupon code "EARLY15" to receive \$15 off of each camp registration.

Do you want a great place to stay, with golf courses, fishing and recreation opportunities around every corner? We are offering a limited number of free RV



hookups in exchange for help here at camp. Your 15 to 20 hours per week in an area of your choosing and expertise is in exchange for a free full RV hookup (\$180 per week value). Spots are limited, so please contact us at 701 244-5225 or director@shretreat.org right away.

New!— On Friday nights during the summer, we will host a Chuck Wagon Feed. The meal features smoked meats and great side dishes cooked in cast iron over a real fire from the tailgate of our chuck wagon. The cost is \$15 per plate, which includes two meats, side dishes and dessert. Plates will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. starting on June 22. A package deal of two meals and a trail ride for two people will be only \$50. This is by reservation only. Please call to save your plate.

WANTED: Quilts and kits

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota teams with Midwest Motor Express each spring to collect and deliver quilts and kits at distribution points across the state for the Lutheran World Relief Drive. Please notice that Lutheran Social Services does only the spring drive and Midwest Motor Express does the fall drive. If you have any questions, please contact Cari Logan at 701-235-7341.

For the most current quilt and kit guidelines, visit lwr.org/kits, call 800-597-5972 or email lwr@lwr.org.

- ▶ May 7-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Lutheran Social Services 3911 20th Ave. S., Fargo
- ▶ May 7-8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Midwest Motor Express 77 9th Ave. E., Dickinson
- ▶ May 8-9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
First Lutheran Church, 916 Main St., Williston
- ▶ May 9-10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Midwest Motor Express, 5015 Main Ave E., Bismarck
- ▶ May 9-10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Midwest Motor Express, 1900 22nd Ave. SE, Minot
- ▶ May 10-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Midwest Motor Express, 2215 N. Washington, Grand Forks

Please be prepared to load quilts onto trucks. No assistance will be available at LSS or Midwest sites.

Thank you for your commitment and assistance to make the Lutheran World Relief Drive a success!

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This is how many consider this a day of graduation, which is so wrong! For then the added questions are asked of those to be confirmed (and it is good for the rest of us to remember our answers also):

- ▶ "Do you hold the Prophetic (Old Testament) and the apostolic (New Testament) Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?"
- ▶ "Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know them from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?"
- ▶ "Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?"
- ▶ "Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?"

- ▶ "Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?"

The answer to all of these is: "I do, by the grace of God."

There is your help — "By the grace of God." For you to fulfill these promises, it can only be done by continuing in the Means of Grace, which are Word and Sacrament (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). These are God's way of giving, strengthening and keeping you in the true faith.

You see, in the hearing of the Word of God, the focus is taken off of yourself (in what you do, in what you have or haven't done) and refocuses you on what Christ has done for your sins and your salvation. Such as God becoming man to fulfill God's Law for

you and to save you from your sins where you have fallen. This of course was done by His Son, Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior, who shed His holy, precious, innocent blood for the payment for your sins and He then rose from the grave, defeating death. Oh, what a joy it is to know and be refreshed in this truth, often in the hearing of God's Word and the receiving of Jesus' very body and blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

You see, Confirmation Day is not the end of a task like graduation. It is the beginning of continuing and growing in the faith for this life and the eternal life that is yours through Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you in the risen Christ!
Alleluia!

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Arie D. Bertsch



BLT Day is May 12



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch will hold its 13th Annual BLT Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 12.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is located at 6301 19th Ave. N.W., Minot.

A BLT lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and a program begins at noon.

The spring plant sale includes:

- ▶ Vegetables
- ▶ Herbs
- ▶ Ornamental Grasses
- ▶ Flowers
- ▶ Succulents

- ▶ Fairy gardens
- ▶ A potting station

Plants are raised by Ranch residents and staff. Bring your own pots — buy plants and they will potted for you!

The event also includes a birdhouse planter sale (built by Ranch residents and staff) and a Dakota Cruisers car show.

Proceeds benefit the Verendrye Electric Greenhouse Technology Program at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Minot campus.

For more information, call 701-839-7888 or visit DakotaRanch.org.



MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



We have TV outreach ... help spread the word!

“Main Street Living” is a locally produced television program that includes a 30-minute worship service, led by participating pastors of the LCMS North Dakota and Minnesota North districts, along with a 30-minute children’s program called “Kid’s Crossing.”

Programs are broadcast at 9 a.m. Central time on the following FOX stations:

- ▶ KVRP Fargo-Moorhead, Channel 15.1
- ▶ KBRR Thief River Falls-Grand Forks, Channel 10.1
- ▶ KJRR Jamestown Channel, 7.1
- ▶ KNRR Pembina Channel, 12.1

The program is also available on cable and satellite systems carrying these stations, and they are archived for viewing at mainstreetlivingnorth.com.

To give much-needed financial support, checks may be sent to “Main Street Living North,” 821 5th Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or PayPal at mainstreetlivingnorth.com. Thank you and God’s blessings in Christ!

Douglas Schmitz has been introduced as the new vice-president of the Main Street Living North Board of Directors. He has been a financial advisor for the previous 30 years. Douglas and his wife, Rebekah, have four adult children (two teachers, a DCE and a chemical engineer) and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. They have spent more than 30 years as active members of Our Redeemer, Moorhead, Minn.

May program schedule

May 6: Rev. Tim Schiller, Good Shepherd, Alexandria, Minn., presents “God Will Wipe Away Every Tear” based on Rev. 21:4.

Hymns: “O Bless the Lord My Soul,” “King of Love My Shepherd Is” and “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”

May 13: Rev. Adam Moline, Immanuel, Hankinson, and St. John’s, Belford, presents “Exaudi” based on John 15:26-16:4.

Hymns: “Christ Be My Leader” and “The Day of Resurrection”

May 20: Rev. John M. Christensen, Trinity, Fergus Falls, Minn., presents “A Lasting Pentecost Miracle” based on Gen. 11:1-9.

Hymns: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven,” “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” and “Go My Children with My Blessing”

May 27: Rev. Larry Harvala, Minnesota North District congregational care counselor, presents “God So Loved You” based on John 3:16.

Hymns: “Come Thou Almighty King,” “The Church’s One Foundation” and “Go My Children With My Blessing”

Go 'back in time' at MLS

Martin Luther School in Bismarck invites you to Mayfest 2018, "Back to the 80s," on Saturday, May 12.

Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased at the school office, or call 701-224-9070.

The evening begins with a social hour and silent auction at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and a live auction and dessert/paddle game at 6 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by Northern Lights Chorus.

You are welcome to wear 1980s attire, and awards will be given to the "best dressed."

Martin Luther School is located at 800 South Third St.

Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Marie Johnson
news@nodaklcms.org

Get your scholarship application in

The deadline for applications for a scholarship from the North Dakota District for the 2018-19 school year is June 1. The scholarship is for students enrolled in an LCMS college/university or seminary preparing for full-time church work. For an application, please contact your financial aid office.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Paul Bunkowske

1940-2018

Paul Arnold Bunkowske, 78, of Fargo, was called to his eternal home on Sunday, Feb. 25, at Sanford Health in Fargo. He was born on Feb. 23, 1940, in Faulkton, S.D. to Walter A. and Ottilie S. (Richter) Bunkowske.

He attended St. Paul Junior College and graduated in 1960. On Aug. 24, 1962, he married Ruth Kohl at Zion Lutheran Church, rural Claire City, S.D.

He was ordained as a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastor after graduating from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill. His first call was to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lisbon, where he served from 1964 to 1968. He then served at Mount Calvary, Huron, S.D. (1968-73); Zion, Edgeley (1973-89); Redeemer, Menahga, and Christ, Wolf Lake, Minn. (1989-96).

Paul retired in 1996 and moved with his wife to Fargo. He kept very busy in retirement, filling pulpit supply throughout the area. Paul has enjoyed golfing, working on puzzles and reading.

He thoroughly enjoyed watching all of his grandchildren grow up. Paul had the joy of baptizing and confirming all four of his children. He also performed the wedding for his daughter, Lorrie, and son-in-law, Kevin, as well as his son, Tim, and daughter-in-law, Tracy.

Paul also had the joy of baptizing seven of his 12 grandchildren. Among those 12 were two sets of twin girls.

Paul and Ruth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 24, 2012.

Rev. Charles Johnson • 1948-2018

On Tuesday, March 13, the gracious and merciful Lord Jesus Christ called home His faithful servant Rev. Charles Earl Johnson to be with Him in heaven. He was born on Jan. 22, 1948, in Watsika, Ill., the son of Earl and Evadell Johnson.

Charlie's early life was spent in nearby Buckley, Ill. He attended and graduated from Concordia High and Concordia College in Milwaukee, as well as from Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Ind. His seminary instruction was completed at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1974. Charlie's third year of work at the seminary was a vicarage at St. John's Lutheran Church, Woodstock, Ill. On June 30, 1974, at the age of 26, Charlie was ordained into the Holy Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at his home church in Buckley.

Charlie and the former Kathleen Krypaciak were united in marriage on August 12, 1972, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fairview Heights, Ill., where he did his field work while attending the seminary. They were blessed with four children, two boys and two girls, all of whom he

baptized and confirmed. Performing the marriage rite for his children was an extended blessing.

Throughout his 40-plus years in the ministry, Charlie accepted three calls serving 13 years at Trinity, Roanoke, Ill., and 10 years at Trinity, Bluffs, Ill., which became part of a dual parish with Immanuel, a church about 10 miles away. In addition to shepherding his own congregations, he was frequently called to serve vacancies in Illinois; for this he was given the title of "King of the Vacancies" by his peers. For 17 years, he was pastor of a triple parish in North Dakota — Grace, Cooperstown; Trinity, Hope; and Zion, Binford. After taking semi-retirement in 2014, Charlie continued serving both Grace and Zion. For each call, he proudly served as circuit counselor for the Bloomington, Jacksonville and New Rockford circuits. Serving as LWML counselor was another privilege bestowed upon his ministry.

After retiring in August 2016, Charlie and Kathy moved to Moorhead, Minn., where they became first-time home owners after always living in parsonages.