



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

The blessing of public baptism



“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

— Rom. 6:3-5

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Here is a question I have received:

Why do we have baptisms during church service and why is the baptismal font front and center?

Whenever possible, baptisms should take place during the regular worship service of the congregation. The child is being baptized into the family of Christ, to which the congregation belongs, and it only makes sense to have as many of the family members present as possible to witness this special event. Through baptism the child is now a member of the congregation, and the congregation's care, prayers and support are a valuable resource for the future of this member remaining a member.

When private baptisms become a norm in a church, the congregation is robbed of the privilege of celebrating the event and the child is robbed of the prayers, concern and promise of a committed church.

A congregation, along with the sponsors and parents, are making a pledge and promise



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

to see to it that this child is brought to church to know, trust and believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, of which this child is baptized into (Rom. 6:3-5). Usually, this bringing to the church first falls on the responsibility of the parents, then the sponsors and finally on the congregation.

Baptism is not magic. It is a gift from God. In baptism God gives the Holy Spirit, which plants the seed of faith. God then assigns the parents, sponsors and congregation the task of being good gardeners. They are to nurture and water the seed of faith.

To every congregation God is saying: “Take care of this precious gift. Do everything in your power to see that he or she grows up to know My love!” The congregation, which is made up of individuals, is especially making a promise to the best of its ability to furnish training through the continuing of the church

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LCMS, Erik M. Lunsford

Rev. Paul Krohn • 1924-2018



The Rev. Paul Krohn, who was pastor of Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, died on Feb. 11 at the age of 94.

Rev. Krohn was called to be a missionary-at-large in the south Bismarck area in 1977. With the blessings of the Holy Spirit, the congregation of Shepherd of the Valley was formed that fall.

Krohn was called to be the first pastor of Shepherd of the Valley and he remained there until his formal retirement in

August 1990.

He was born in Herman, Neb., on Aug. 3, 1924. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in June 1949. His first ministry was conducting trailer mission in Maplewood, La. In 1950, he accepted a call to St. Paul's, Decatur, Ala., and was there for 11 years before accepting a call to Trinity, Lincoln, Neb., where he served for 15 years before arriving in Bismarck.

Rev. Krohn and his wife, Betty Telle, whom he married in 1949, had two daughters, Lour and Judy (Tom) Ben-trup. He is preceded in death by Betty (Dec. 9, 1985) and Judy (Nov. 25, 2008).

He served as chairman of the North Dakota Evangelism Board, as a member of the North Dakota District Board of Directors, and as a trustee on the North Dakota Lutheran Social Services Board.

Rev. Krohn moved to Minnesota in 1985 and his final church home was Messiah, Lakeville, Minn.



Save the Date October 27

9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
7151 15th St. S., Fargo



**Don't miss this opportunity
to meet
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison,
President, Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod**

Also featuring Rob Stadler, author of "The Scientific Approach to Evolution: What They Didn't Teach You in Biology."

"Mercy is part of the DNA of the church. It was part of Jesus' life. He cared for people in need. He spoke the word of forgiveness and cared. To be intentional about mercy in your congregation is very significant, because there are a lot of hurting people in the world."

—Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

Go to DakotaRanch.org/mercy for updates on the conference schedule, speakers, and registration.

MESSAGE

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for worship service, Sunday school, confirmation and Bible studies. This is a commitment of individual people as a whole to support the church financially and in service for the furthering of God's kingdom.

Concerning the second part of the question, the furnishings of a church state the theology of the church. The theology of a church is what it believes, teaches and confesses. Baptism is a very central part of God's grace on us. It is a gift and God's work on us. The saving Gospel is never what we do but what God has done for us. In baptism God has given us faith and connected us with Jesus' death and resurrection. That means that we cannot die and we will be raised from the grave. What is more central than this for your salvation? Nothing!

My hope and prayer for you is that you continue to grow in the faith of Jesus Christ, in whom you have been baptized, and that it is ever front and center in your lives.

Women: sign up for retreat!



The women of the LWML North Dakota District will host their annual retreat **Sept. 14-16** at the Chieftain Motel and Conference Center in Carrington.

The theme of the retreat is "V. B. S. 'vocation Bible School.'" The presenter for the retreat is Deaconess Amy Rast, who serves as the associate director of Deaconess Studies



Rast

at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Amy will address "our shared vocations as women, Christians, Lutherans and servants in our various vocations (mother, teacher, accountant, church worker, etc.)."

Events begin on Friday evening with social time, snacks, coffee and a devotion. Saturday events include presentations by Rast, Bible study and a servant event — packing Mercy Meals. A financial ingathering will be received to be given to Mercy Meals. Events conclude on Sunday morning with breakfast and a closing worship service.

Registration information is available from your LWML president and at ndlwml.org/events/retreat.

You are encouraged to register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Bring a friend or two. You won't want to miss this exciting weekend!

Conference for Lutheran laity

Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in St. Louis is bringing its Fall 2018 "Making the Case" conference to Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9-10.

Speakers include Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, Dr. Beverly Yahnke, Dr. Anthony Esolen, Dr. Mark Kalthoff,

Dr. Ryan Anderson and the Rev. Chris Rosebrough.

Registration is \$120 and includes meals Friday night and Saturday afternoon and evening. Child care is free for children ages 1-12. For more information, visit issuesetc.org/2018conference or call 618-223-8385.

SHEPHERD'S HILL
at the
CROSSROADS

**21ST ANNUAL
QUILT, CRAFT AND
CULINARY ARTS
AUCTION**

SEPTEMBER 8

Pie Social beginning at
12:30 p.m.
Auction at 1 pm
Light supper to follow
auction

Help support camp and all those who experience it throughout the year by participating in the auction. People from all around the state have donated quilts, craft items and delectable baked goods to be auctioned.

Many great items will be available, and you won't want to miss it! Shop for that special wedding coming up — or that new grandchild — or buy some goodies to share with the neighbors!

**COME AND SEE THE
CHANGES AND UPDATES
AROUND CAMP THROUGH
OUR THEME:
A NEW CREATION 2018!**

Do you have an item for donate for the auction? Give Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads a call and let staff know what you are bringing to help prepare the auction books.

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads

Rev. Jon Bonine, executive director

- ▶ 502 Shepherd's Hill Drive
Saint John, ND 58369
- ▶ 701-244-5225
- ▶ director@shretreat.org
- ▶ Shretreat.org
- ▶ [Facebook.com/shretreat](https://www.facebook.com/shretreat)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
2 COR. 5:17

INSTALLATIONS



The Rev. Lyle Kath was installed as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton on Sunday, Aug. 5. From left, Rev. Darrell Howanitz, Trinity, Eden, Texas, and Grace, Menard, Texas, and former classmate of Kath; Rev. Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president; Rev. Matthew Tooman, pastor, Immanuel; Kath; Rev. Bernie Worrall, Immanuel, Fargo; and Rev. Brandon Woodruff, Peace, Garrison, and St. Matthew, Max.



Deaconess Nayva Mulder was installed at Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, on July 15. From left, Rev. Tom Eckstein, pastor, Concordia; Mulder and Rev. Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president.



Deaconess Kelly Jacob was installed as Spiritual Life coordinator of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch on Aug. 9. From left, Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president; Jacob and Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch chaplain.



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Marie Johnson • news@nodaklcms.org