



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA

### ‘Let us not neglect our meeting together’



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford



**Rev. Arie Bertsch**  
District President

“ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ”

— Heb. 10:23-25

**Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Over the years, I have often heard it suggested or asked why that in this day and age of technology, we can't or shouldn't have virtual or satellite church services for small congregations or those that cannot afford a full-time pastor. Now with this coronavirus threat, we have not been able to gather together in church services, but have had what I call "Couch Church." I am hearing many saying "I am so done with this stay-at-home church," "I need to get out and be with

people," and "I need to go to church with other Christians."

Understandably, for this short time, this "Couch Church" was a blessing and a good way to remain in the Word. Think how blessed we are in this day and age to have been able to do this, whereas this wasn't a possibility not that many years ago.

For myself, "Couch Church" in my home makes for too many distractions, like the squirrel (who became known as the Sunday-morning squirrel), that for three consecutive Sundays would jump from tree to tree outside of the living room window. This was a great distraction for me because I call them "tree rats" for reasons I won't get into now. This was a distraction from the devil to lure me away from God's Word.

Many years ago there was a TV show called *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*, which would show the different animals of the world. I always remembered the herds of animals congregated together, with lions and tigers roaming around the perimeter of those herds. Those predators were waiting for one of the herd to wander from the herd's protection to catch and devour them. Sometimes some of the herd would come to the rescue to save the one who had wandered.

All of this reminds me of God's Word and warning in 1 Peter 5:8-11:

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone

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# 'Christ the Lamb of God...'

**W**e would like to say thank you! Please check out the update video at [shretreat.org](http://shretreat.org) and learn more about the resources available to you at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads.

One of our big updates is the new logo!

At the center of our new logo is the ancient symbol of the Triumphant Lamb. Christ the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), has been victorious over your sin and your death so that you have the promise of eternal life. The Lamb who has once been slain now lives and reigns (Rev 5:6, 7:10). He carries on His shoulder the standard or banner holder (Col. 2:15, 1 Peter 3:18-19, Song of Songs 2:4), topped with the cross, the tree by which He has overcome.

Behind the Lamb stands green hills. This certainly calls to mind our camp name. The green of the hills reminds us of the



## SHEPHERD'S HILL AT THE CROSSROADS

ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

green of life and growth that comes from Jesus Christ. The hill below the cross also reminds us of Golgotha, the mountain on which Christ died for our sins.

The blue border that wraps around the logo reminds us of the waters of baptism and the washing away of our sins (Titus 3:8, Rev 7:17). The oval shape to the image reminds us of the world, the creation. The incomplete line to the oval reminds us that there is room for more — the work of the church is ongoing.

The focus on the logo and Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads is on Jesus Christ, the Lamb

of God. We remain Christ-centered in our programming for your faith and life enrichment.

**Rev. Jon Bonine, Executive Director**

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## MESSAGE

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to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Now, back to the wild kingdom. As the animals graze, they make sure they are "assembled" or "congregated" together for protection from the lions and tigers. In a similar way this happens with Christians. The apostle Peter was well aware of how the devil works when he used the image of the lion: "Be watchful ... the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

In His Word, God warns you that the devil is always prowling around not far from you, waiting for the time when you will stray from the congregation of believers. For this reason, your loving Father desires that you remain together

in a Christian congregation that assembles regularly. In the assembly, you will receive God's protection with His life-giving Word and Sacraments, and the tight congregating of other members who will watch if you wander from the body of Christ in sin and the luring of false theology.

You see, when you congregate regularly together with other worshipers, you will experience their love and concern for you in the same way that you show your love and concern for them. Although God desires that you love all people, He wants you to show special love to fellow members of a congregation. As we hear from Gal. 6:10:

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

And from Rom. 15:2:

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

And from 1 Cor. 14:26:

When you assemble, let all things be done for edification.

And from Eph. 4:12, "... to the building up of the body of Christ."

Again, as we congregate together with others in the Body of Christ, the church, we protect each other.

In Jude 22-23, we read how Christians are urged to uphold the doubting and bring back to faith — into the body, the congregation — those who are straying. The protection from the devil, which God provides through His congregation, is one of the most important things for you. Let us not neglect to meet together!

**We pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, continually remind us that where two or three are gathered in Your name that you are present. Help us always to be aware of

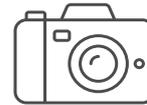
the spiritual food we receive from Your Word and Sacraments and the fellowship with others that encourages and looks out for us. Strengthen us to stay together with a congregation that is protected by You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**Your servant in Christ,  
Rev. Arie Bertsch**





## Blessings in Fort Dodge



Pictured are, from left (bottom row) Revs. Mark Eichler (St. Paul, Webster City, Iowa), Clark Jahnke, Jonathan Jahnke, Kendall Meyer, Jerry Raether (emeritus), Dr. Steve Turner; (top row) Chad Dietrich (Immanuel, Rockwell City, Iowa, and Trinity, Manson, Iowa), Nicolas Thackery (Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge, Iowa), David Gruenwald (Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Sunset Hills, Mo.) and Dr. Jeffery Gibbs.

Rev. Jonathan Jahnke, son of Rev. Clark and Susan Jahnke of St. Andrew, West Fargo, was ordained and installed as associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Fort Dodge, Iowa, on June 14. He is the fifth son of the St. Andrew congregation to be ordained, along with eight other commissioned workers.

Pastor Jonathan, who is serving his first call following graduation from Concor-

dia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), in May, was ordained and installed by Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, Iowa District West president. Rev. Dr. Jeffery Gibbs, CSL emeritus professor of Exegetical Theology, was the preacher and Rev. Kendall Meyer, St. Paul pastor, was the liturgist.

Jonathan and his wife, Danielle (Harstad), who are both Concordia University, Nebraska, graduates, were expecting in July.

## Our Savior has new associate pastor

Rev. Brian Doel was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, on June 14. This is Pastor Brian's first call following graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in May. Welcome to North Dakota, Pastor Brian and Deaconess Michele!

From left, (front row) Revs. Rick Jones, Dr. Heath Trampe, Brian Doel, Arie Bertsch, Brandon Woodruff; (back row) Kevin Zellers, Daryl Rothchild, Mark Teike, Philip Beyersdorf, Carlyle Roth, Mike Musegades and Joel Brandvold.



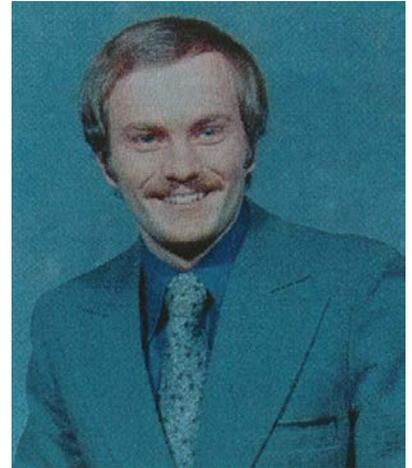


## The Word of God remains

Members of Beautiful Savior, Fargo, work behind the scenes to livestream Divine Service in April. Preaching at right is Rev. Chris Waldvogel, Beautiful Savior senior pastor.



## Happy 45!



Forty-five years ago on June 22, **DCE Ken Koehler** was installed at St. Andrew, West Fargo. St. Andrew was also his first and only call. Ken is now retired and works with Main Street Living North, serving as volunteer coordinator.

## ‘For such a time as this’

In the face of these difficult circumstances, **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)** wants to assure you that our commitment to our LCEF family remains steadfast and uncompromising.

The mission of LCEF continues to be to support the LCMS by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and in the future.

To learn more about available resources for your ministry, visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) and contact Tami Ulland, North Dakota District vice-president, at 701-360-1469 or [tami.ulland@lcef.org](mailto:tami.ulland@lcef.org).

To read more about the work of LCEF, check out the latest eNews: [mailchi.mp/lcef.com/enews2020-536842](http://mailchi.mp/lcef.com/enews2020-536842).



**The LCMS North Dakota District Convention** is scheduled for Jan. 24-27, 2021 in Fargo. It is time to start thinking of overtures and nominations for pastoral and lay delegates, district Board of Directors, president, vice-presidents and secretary.

The convention theme is from Phil. 4:4-7: "Rejoice in the Lord always! Rejoice!"

**Send submissions for the district supplement to:**

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