



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA



What I hear so much of from national and local media and individuals should not surprise me, but it still does and it also concerns me. What I am talking about is what I hear about Christmas. Such as, “We weren’t able to have Christmas last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic”; and now, “No Christmas this year because we can’t get many items for gifts or decorations, or even meat and vegetables.” Another message is if you want to celebrate Christmas, you better buy early because there will be shortages.

The reason for the panic includes the backup of barges at sea due to a lack of workers to unload them. And if the barges are unloaded, there’s a shortage of truck drivers to deliver the merchandise. And on those barges are Christmas trees and other decorations. Many of the toys in demand for Christmas gifts are on these barges and thus there will be no toys for the children for Christmas.

Also, the grocery store shelves have very limited supply of many food items, especially in meat and produce. Gas prices are up so much that we will probably not travel to be with family this Christmas. The cost of living is up and much will have to be cut back on this year. And I am sure there are many other things that I have not heard or thought of.



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

These things are truly a concern for me too. I too enjoy giving and receiving gifts. I too enjoy a festive meal with all the trimmings on holidays, and especially on Christmas.

A few days ago someone made a comment to me that had me thinking deeper on this topic: “Maybe if people cannot buy as many gifts and decorations they will focus on the real meaning and celebration of Christmas.” I pray that this would be so. Sometimes it takes times like these to bring us back to the true meaning of a season, of this life and especially of eternal life.

And the reason for the season, and our celebration and joy, is the angels’ message of the greatest of all gifts, given to us freely:

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:11-14

The important words for us are: “unto you is born ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” This is the long promised Savior who would save us from our sins, for which we deserve condemnation. This is the Savior who keeps us from total separation from God.

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Brothers in ministry, here and abroad



Rev. David Preus, left, serves as LCMS missionary to the Dominican Republic. He is pictured with his brother, Rev. Paul Preus, at Zion, Ellendale, where Paul serves as pastor.

Attendees at the special service at Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale, on the evening of April 28 got a look into the ministry and family life of Rev. David Preus, brother of Rev Paul Preus, who serves as Zion pastor. For the past few years, David and his wife and eight children have built their priorities around missions in the Dominican Republic, where they now live. David is a professor at a Spanish-speaking LCMS seminary — Seminario Concordia el Reformador — that has students from an array of Latin American countries, and he also serves as a parish pastor in his city.

David's presentation, which was followed by a delightful short musical presentation by his entire family, was highly educational. Vast cultural and economic differences and low literacy levels, David

explained, present many challenges in the island nation. He and his fellow workers, however, are meeting those challenges in the same spirit as C.F.W. Walther, whose name is well known among LCMS Lutherans. Walther is a 19th-century minister and theologian who worked to faithfully translate the traditional theology and liturgy from German into the unique North American context. A similar transfer, said David, is taking place in Latin America.

David's missionary work is very much in line with the Preus family tradition of sending out ministers. Paul and David are part of a long line of Preus preachers and teachers that include many siblings and more cousins and various relations than would be easy to name.

This article first appeared in Dickey County Leader on May 13, 2021

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This Savior, Christ the Lord, endured that separation in our stead when from the cross He said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" You have been connected to that death in your Baptism so that you will not die from that death of separation, and in your Baptism you have also been connected

to His resurrection so that you will live for eternity (Rom. 6:1-11).

Truly, we have much to celebrate this Christmas and every day of our lives no matter if there are gifts or the finest of foods. For we have a Savior for this life and into eternity, from any of these so called shortages and mostly personal wants. For, "unto you is born ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas!

AMERICA'S IDOLS and the REAL GOD

A Higher Things Retreat March 25-26, St. Paul's, Minot

When we hear the word "idolatry," it's easy to imagine primitive people bowing down to gods made of carved stone. But we'd be naive to think that idolatry only happened with primitive people long ago.

What are the idols of America? What are your idols? Ask yourself, "What do I find security in, and what do I boast about and defend the most?" The answers — money, sports, fame, even ourselves — are your idols.

Maybe you think that idols aren't that big of a deal. Rev. Justin Woodside, associate pastor of Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, will explain why idols cannot love us, pursue us or bleed for us. They cannot protect us from the grave. Only Christ can — and that's a big deal.

Registration opens on Nov. 15. Spots are limited. Visit higherthings.org/retreats#Minot.



SHEPHERD'S HILL AT THE CROSSROADS

ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

Plans are coming together for the **marriage retreat** to be held Feb. 4-5. More information is coming soon!

North Dakota District **CONVENTION**

Jan. 23-26
Ramada Hotel • Fargo

Highlights include Opening Divine Service at Immanuel, Fargo; ministry updates; Synod and district updates; Bible study with Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS president; hymnody essays, rejoicing in witness, mercy and in the Lord; daily Matins and Vespers; resolutions; elections and installation of officers.



Final slate of candidates

(numbers in parenthesis are nominations received)

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

- Rev. Arie Bertsch (27)
- Rev. Dr. James Banek (5)
- Rev. Thomas Marcis (4)
- Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek (1)
- Rev. Kirk Peters (1)

EAST VICE PRESIDENT

- Rev. Steve Schulz (22)
- Rev. Thomas Eckstein (2)

WEST VICE PRESIDENT

- Rev. Kirk Peters (14)
- Rev. Lester Wolfgram (2)

CIRCUIT VISITORS

- Northwest Circuit – Rev. Brandon Woodruff
- Northeast Circuit – Rev. Michael Suelzle
- Central Circuit – Rev. Paul Preus
- East Circuit – Rev. Christopher Waldvogel
- Southwest Circuit – Rev. Jonathan Walla
- Southeast Circuit – Rev. Matthew Tooman

SECRETARY

- Rev. Daniel Voth (9)
- Rev. Scott Ramey (7)
- Rev. Thomas Marcis (2)

TREASURER

- Kay Kreklau (2)
- Curtis Brownlee (1)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—ORDAINED (2 positions)

- Rev. Daniel Voth (12)

- Rev. Thomas Eckstein (3)
- Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek (3)
- Rev. Christopher Brademeyer (2)
- Rev. Lester Wolfgram (2)
- Rev. Clark Jahnke (1)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—LAY (5 positions)

- Marty Visto (9)
- Kay Kreklau (4)
- Thomas Langer (3)
- Tana McKenna (2)
- Jim Hall (2)
- Eric Poppinga (2)
- Nickolas Dreyer (1)
- Scott Pfenning (1)
- Del Ruff (1)
- Mitch Semanko (1)

DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE— ORDAINED (2 positions)

- Rev. Philip Beyersdorf (9)
- Rev. Clark Jahnke (3)
- Rev. Brain Shane (2)
- Rev. Lester Wolfgram (2)

DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE— LAY (4 positions)

- Robert Wurl (4)
- Susan Corwin (3)
- Jonathan Buchhop (2)
- Greg Nelson (2)
- Eric Poppinga (2)
- Nickolas Dreyer (1)
- Michael Erdman (1)



TRINITY, LAMOURE holds final service

What a great fall we had. The leaves changed color slowly and stayed on trees through most of October. There was also sad news as another district churches closed its doors for the last time. The final service at Trinity Lutheran Church, LaMoure, was held on Oct. 3.

Trinity, LaMoure, began as a mission church in 1941. In 1945, the members purchased the Zion building from the city of Grand Rapids for \$450. By 1948, the congregation had outgrown the building and a new church was constructed and finished in 1950. With the congregation still growing, the building was expanded in 1973.

But like so many other churches, membership has declined and Trinity realized it was time to close. The records have been brought to the district office to be preserved. Pray for the former members, that their faith remains strong as they seek new church homes.

SEND SUBMISSIONS
for the **DISTRICT**
SUPPLEMENT

to: **Marie Johnson** at
news@nodaklcms.org



Mercy for the blind

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) began in 1943 in response to a shortage of Braille Bibles for blind pastors in Germany. Helene Loewe Koehler felt God calling her to first learn Braille and begin the process of transcribing the Bible into German Braille, one dot at a time.

Seventy-five years later, LBW is the world's largest non-profit producer of Braille, specialized large print and audio Christian materials, and has shipped over 14 million volumes and millions of other pamphlets, calendars and other materials in almost 40 languages to 164 countries. Millions

of people have been reached with the Gospel message through this ministry.

Thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors, all the material has been distributed free of charge.

LBW produces about 150,000 volumes a year and are available free of charge through the dedication of thousands of volunteers in over 115 Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States. Two of those centers are located in North Dakota, at Our Savior, Bottineau, and St. Matthew, Hazen.



Volunteers work on putting together Braille Bibles at Our Savior, Bottineau.

32nd Annual ND District
MEN'S RETREAT
 January 14-15, 2022
 Shepherd's Hill
 at the
 Crossroads

CHRISTIAN *Hope*

One doesn't have to look far to see the effects of sin on our fallen world - just turn on the nightly news. Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour® and author of *Christian Hope Among Rivals*, will encourage men to find hope in a hopeless world.



Begins with meal Friday at 6:00 PM, ends 2:00 PM Saturday
 \$100 | RSVP to Corey Isaak
 corey.isaak@gracefargo.org or 701-281-0240



Pastor invites you to German trip

Next summer, Rev. Jason Wolter, pastor of St. Mark's, Benson, Minn., will host a theologically themed trip to Germany. The itinerary includes trips to Luther's monastery in Erfurt, and Eisenach, Wittenberg and Wartburg Castle.

There will also be a visit to the Buchenwald concentration camp and a day in Munich. The "Oberammergau Passion Play" (which has been presented once every 10 years since 1634) is also included.

The cost (before any discounts) is \$4,350. For more information, contact Pastor Wolter at jwolter78@hotmail.com visit purposefuljourneys.org/journeys/in-the-footsteps-of-luther