



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA

### DISTRICT CONVENTION

# A time to rejoice!



Delegates work with their electronic voting machines during 67th Regular Convention of the LCMS in 2019 in Tampa. The 68th LCMS convention will be held July 29-Aug. 3 in Milwaukee. The next North Dakota District convention will be held Jan. 23-26 in Fargo.

January is here! Therefore I wish and pray that you have a Happy New Year! It is always nice to have new beginnings.

Sometimes we connect new beginnings with a new year. I pray that you connect your daily new beginning to your Baptism and the forgiveness of sins purchased by the blood of Christ on the cross and His resurrection, which brings life and salvation to you.

And in this New Year is our postponed district convention. Of course it was scheduled for last year but was postponed because of COVID-19. Many districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



**Rev. Arie Bertsch**  
District President

postponed their district convention to this year. District conventions happen every three years, but this triennium is a 4-year term. Which means the Synod convention was also postponed a year (from 2022 to 2023). And about now you are saying or thinking, “What does this mean?”

Allow me to explain the best that I can: We in North Dakota are a district within the LCMS, of which there are 35 districts. “Synod” means “walking together.” In North Dakota we have 80 congregations out of the 6,000 in the Synod, which also has a baptized membership of about 2.1 million walking together in what we believe, teach and confess.

As part of our walking together in what the Scriptures say (and as outlined in the *Book of Concord*), we meet in convention every three years. A district convention consists of a balance of clergy and laity, with one pastoral delegate and one layperson delegate from every congregation. When it comes to a Synod convention, each circuit has a layperson and pastoral vote. A circuit consists of at least seven and not more than 20 congregations, with a total communicant membership of 1,500 to 10,000 people. North Dakota has six circuits.

At our upcoming district convention — to be held Jan. 23-26 in Fargo — the district president, first and second

See **MESSAGE**, Page 2

# Pastors wanted for radio devotions

*Christ the Way* is a 15-minute radio program that airs on KSJB 600 AM in Jamestown from 7:30 to 7:45 a.m. every Sunday. There is music at the beginning and end of each program, along with a message from district pastors. If you are a district pastor willing to participate, please contact me at [pastoreck@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreck@gmail.com).

I'm thankful for the district pastors who have participated in the past, but it would be wonderful for our people to hear God's Word from more of our pastors (you won't have to listen to me as often!).

In Christ • Rev. Tom Eckstein



Rev. Eckstein (right) was installed as pastor of Trinity, Adrian, on Nov. 28. He is pictured with Rev. Arie Bertsch, North Dakota District president.

# LCEF has scholarship available



Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) wants to help you pay for school! High school seniors and college students (with at least a year of school left) who are members of LCMS North Dakota District congregations may apply for a chance to win an LCEF \$1,000 scholarship.

**The deadline to apply is Jan. 31.** The winner will be announced on March 15.

Apply today at [thelc.ms/LCEF-ND-scholarship](http://thelc.ms/LCEF-ND-scholarship).

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

### Remember Clementsville?

I found an interesting story in a *Lutheran Witness* newsletter about the 1923 Christmas program at the LCMS church in Clementsville. There were 12 Sunday school children and another 10 willing children from Wimbleton participating.

A wonderful program of duets and songs pleased a large audience. Afterward, a nice lunch was served by the Clementsville ladies. It turned out to be very much appreciated by the Wimbleton people as the bus which brought them took five

hours to cover the 12 miles due to the heavy fog and poor road conditions. They arrived home at 4:30 a.m.!

I am not sure if this took place on Christmas Eve, but imagine how tired the kids were! Where was Clementsville? It was about seven miles north of Spiritwood. There was a church there from 1922 to 1929 and again from 1939 to 1950, when they shared a pastor with Zion, Courtenay. I never found a formal name for this church or know when it closed.

Wishing you all a Merry and blessed Christmas and may the roads you travel over the holiday be smooth!

Vicki Peihl • District Office Manager

# MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

vice-presidents, district secretary and all other district officers will be elected. Notice that our church works from the bottom up. The individuals who work in this body called the North Dakota District "walk together" in what we believe, teach and confess; work together in mission outreach; and support each other.

The theme and focus for this coming district convention is "Rejoice in the Lord always! Rejoice!" based on Phil. 4:4-9. Therefore, we will focus on the rejoicing we have in the salvation won for us by Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior by His work on the cross. We often rejoice with singing. The focus of this convention will be rejoicing with hymnody.

Also in this convention, we will have resolutions to support our mission outreach within and outside of the district, such as Wittenberg Chapel on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. And there are resolutions to continue our support of Christ's Care for Children: Kenya and the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile, of which we share fellowship. We have successfully supported these and other missions by the continued offerings of each of you; who are the body of Christ, the church. I thank you and rejoice because of you; that we have and may continue to support these missions for another three years.

I also rejoice that you and I have a room in the mansion of heaven! What we do now in convention will help keep and strengthen our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on.

Thank you for supporting and sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for this eternal rejoicing that is now ours!

# Thank You

**By Rev. Leo Deitemeyer**

Pastor, First American Lutheran Church, Mayville

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded by the apostle Paul to be “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20). Looking back, one sees the hand of God and is thankful.

It was on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 29, 1971, at my home church, Trinity, Elmore, Ohio, that I was ordained and consecrated to the Office of the Holy Ministry. Through the next 50 years, the Lord led and strengthened me to serve a number of congregations as the called pastor and several congregations as the vacancy pastor. Looking back, there’s so much of the Lord’s doing that comes to remembrance. The sharing by so many guests at the ordination anniversary celebration on Oct. 10 was overwhelming. There were many cards, letters, emails, gifts, kind words of ap-

preciation and encouragement. For all of this, I am grateful.

Yet I am humbled to think that God could use a flawed earthen vessel to proclaim His Word — a most wonderful message of love and eternal salvation through the suffering, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Be sure of this — the power is not in the preacher. It is in God’s own powerful Word:

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

**Rom. 1:16**

Now as my time of service moves toward evening, I wish to encourage young men to consider preparing for the Holy Ministry. Jesus directs us:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

**Luke 10:2**

Join me in prayer, asking the Lord for that next generation of pastors who will labor in the Lord’s harvest fields.

Eunice and I both fondly remember you folks. We borrow the words of Paul to express our appreciation for knowing you and sharing with your partnership in the Gospel:

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until

now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all because I hold you in my heart, for you are all part-takers with me of grace. **Phil. 1:3-7**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.

## Mercy in Minot

About four years ago, the Board of Elders of Our Savior, Minot, took over the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund intending to build a monetary fund that would be used to help church members in crisis.

Based on the amount that was in the account at the time it was given to the Elders, they knew they had to do something to generate funds. One Sunday a month was deemed “Mercy Care Sunday,” giving the congregation an opportunity to support this ministry. Within weeks, the Elders started to provide assistance for needs such as rent, gas, groceries, travel to a medical appointment and more.

This ministry has not been limited to just church members. It has also helped people as recommended by our members. These outside cases have resulted in people attending services and even joining the church in a few instances.

This ministry continues to grow and at this time, the Elders are working with a community program to help students with cold-weather clothing and stocking the school backpack program.

### \$1,000 NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OUTREACH GRANT

Apply for the opportunity to partner with Lutheran Church Extension Fund and receive \$1,000 to support your outreach ministry. The purpose of the funds is to share the Gospel of Jesus and grow His kingdom.

**Together serving an awesome God!**



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

> where investments build ministry

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT TAMI ULLAND**

North Dakota | District Vice President | 701-360-1469 | Tami.Ulland@lcef.org

## 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 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](http://higherthings.org/retreats#Minot).

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](mailto:corey.isaak@gracefargo.org) or 701-281-0240

## GLS helps students in Kenya



Dear Faith,

I am a student just like you at Grace Lutheran School in Fargo, North Dakota, United States.



I hope this card makes you smile.  
Jesus loves you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Your Friend,  
Caleb

Grace Lutheran School (GLS), Fargo, students made special cards for Project 24 students in Kenya during a special "Feast Day," held Nov. 19 at school (a card is shown above). Special activities and a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and cranberry sauce were enjoyed.

Project 24 is a partnership of the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK). It provides boarding for Kenyan children while they attend primary school.

Last year, GLS students raised money through chapel offerings and other special events to sponsor two Project 24 students. The GLS students enjoy reading letters from the sponsored students in Kenya, who are located at the Lenkishon site.

Send submissions  
for the district  
supplement to  
Marie Johnson at  
[news@nodaklcms.org](mailto:news@nodaklcms.org)

