



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

CONNECTED to the CHURCH



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

order to be connected to Christ. They believe that Jesus is satisfied with a casual or even a distant relationship.

Having a casual relationship with Jesus may sound OK. When I am working in my strawberry patch removing runners, as soon as I cut a runner it dies. A runner is like a vine that extends from the main plant and then it roots down to start a new plant. Likewise, hoping to get strength and encouragement through a casual relationship or connection with Jesus may sound appealing; but Jesus wants you to always be rooted in Him.

Of course you are connected to Christ in your Baptism; you are a living branch on the living Vine. When you are connected, Jesus truly lives in you. Therefore, you wouldn't want to be ripped or separated from the Vine.

We are warned in Heb. 10:25 that we can separate ourselves from God by separating ourselves from the church:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Now someone might say, "I can have a relationship or be connected without the church." Well, Christ established the church because we are by nature not connected to the Vine, nor can we remain connected on our own. For:

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one



“I am the vine; you are the branches.”

JOHN 15:5

This verse gives us a wonderful Gospel picture in our mind of being connected to the “Vine” (Jesus), who gives life to us who are the “branches.”

Although, many would not be happy to hear the next verse:

“If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

Here in North Dakota, May is the start of summer with gardening, fishing, camping and vacations. A popular belief of many in North Dakota and around the world who claim to be Christians or followers of Christ is that they do not have to worship regularly in



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

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In Memoriam



Pastor Seter preaches during chapel service in Chiayi City, Taiwan, in 2019.

Rev. Bernhard Seter (1952-2022)

Rev. Bernhard M. Seter, 69, pastor of Zion English, Grafton; Trinity, Drayton; and St. John, Crystal, died on March 22 in Grafton.

Seter was born Nov. 12, 1952, in Bottineau to the late Marvin Calvin Seter and Myra Mae (Hahn) Seter. He attended Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.; Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), receiving his Master of Divinity from CSL in 1978.

Seter married Faye Freeman on Aug. 10, 1974. In 1978, he was called as pastor of Trinity, Drayton, and Zion English, Grafton. In 1987, he began serving as chaplain for the North Dakota Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton, an agency that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 1995, he also began serving as pastor of St. John, Crystal.

Seter served on the LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors from 1997 until 2001, when he was elected to the LCMS Board for Human Care, serving as chairman. In 2010, he was elected to the LCMS Board for International Mission and served as chairman. He was instrumental in the creation of Project 24, part of an LCMS child sponsorship program that provides schooling, residential care and the Word of God for children in Kenya. He made several trips to Kenya as part of his work on the program.

Seter served the church in a variety of ways, including through his work with LCEF and as a district counselor and reconciler. He served as LWML district counselor from 1998 to 2002 and authored an LWML prayer service. For many years, he wrote the widely read blog “Northern Crossings, a Lutheran Mercy Blog From North Dakota and Northern Minnesota” (northerncrossingsmercy.org).

LCMS Chief Mission Officer Rev. Kevin D. Robson said, “Beyond his obvious love of Christ and compassion for God’s people, Pastor Seter had an extraordinary gift of preaching the Gospel and boldly talking about the church’s mission ... in a manner that opened hearts to genuine hope, provided supreme comfort and inspired others to action.”

“I recall traveling to Kenya with him almost 20 years ago,” LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said. “After a visit to the great Kibera slums, he delivered a profound devotion on our Savior’s cross, suffering and Christian mercy. I’ll never forget it. He never ceased to amaze as he proclaimed Jesus with passion, loved those in his path, rarely talked about himself, discoursed on every manner of humorous observations and topics, read everything he put his hands on and delighted in life. Our love to Faye and to his congregations, who loved him dearly.”

The April 5 funeral can be watched at tollefsonfuneralhome.com, where an online guest book is also available.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 COR. 10:12-13

And then continuing in verse 27:

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

In the church, Christ is the Vine through which His life-giving Word and Sacraments flow to His followers, the branches. From the Vine you have life because Christ lives in you. As a branch, don’t rip yourself away from the Vine by giving up meeting together. Rather, go to church joyfully, where Christ’s life-sustaining power flows to and through you by Word and Sacrament — as sap flows from a vine into the branches — so that you are confident in anticipating the Last Day for eternal life.

When connected to the Vine, do not be overly frustrated as you struggle with temptations and sin. Rather, be assured of His forgiveness proclaimed in church. Luther taught it this way in the Large Catechism, Part II:

Now we remain only halfway pure and holy. The Holy Spirit must always work in us through the Word, granting us daily forgiveness until we attain to that life where there will be no more forgiveness. In that life there will be only perfectly pure and holy people, full of integrity and righteousness, completely freed from sin, death, and all misfortune, living in new, immortal, and glorified bodies.

We are in the growing season in North Dakota. May you also remain in the salvation won for you by Jesus, who went to the cross so that you would have life and salvation because of the payment of your sins by Him, the Vine.

Call to Convention

LWML to gather in Fargo

Members of the LWML North Dakota District ... this is your official Call to Convention, which will be held June 24-26 at the Delta Hotel in Fargo. The theme is "Cross-Eyed... Focused on Jesus," based on Luke 9:23:



And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

We have been called to share our God's greatness, especially in the person of our Savior Jesus Christ. You are invited and encouraged to attend as we rejoice with our sisters and brothers in Christ and celebrate the awesomeness of our God. You will be inspired and uplifted by worship, Bible study, special speakers and so much more!

The keynote speaker is Jan Struck, a Christian humorist who has served as humorous interrupter at many LWML conventions and events.

The mission speaker will be Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, former director of LCMS World Mission. He is now board chairman for Apple of His Eye Ministries, which is proclaiming the Gospel to Jews in Israel.

The songleader will be Wendysue Fluegge, a role which she served at the national LWML convention in Albuquerque in 2017.

Rev. Dave Suelzle, district senior pastoral counselor and pastor of Grace, Fargo, will lead Bible study.

Delegates to the convention will have voice and vote and will make decisions on mission grants and new officers for the 2022-24 biennium.

You will be energized as Lutheran Women in Mission. Please join me and the women and men of the Eastern Zone who will welcome you to Fargo.

LaurieAnn Totenhagen
LWML North Dakota District President



**SHEPHERD'S HILL
AT THE
CROSSROADS**

ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

Calling all congregations: Help wanted for WORK WEEKEND

The congregation of St. Paul's, Minot, is issuing a challenge to members of other congregations to volunteer for Work Weekend, to be held June 2-5.

Last year, St. Paul's, Minot, took about 50 volunteers to Shepherd's Hill to tackle many projects. Using Thrivent dollars and special funds from St. Paul's, along with manual labor from the volunteers, we shingled a cabin, trimmed trees and painted. We estimate that it was a \$25,000 equity improvement to the camp with all the labor and supplies in just three days.

This year we are planning to do the same thing, but would love to have more congregations involved. We have a special page on our website for project details and ways for you to get people registered. Visit anchoredminot.com/work-weekend.

Finally, do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Our goal is for this not to be a huge burden to the camp, but for us to come in, work hard, make improvements and then clean up.

Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Richard
Pastor, St. Paul's, Minot
pastormatrichard@gmail.com

 shretreat.org

TURTLE MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR ARCHERY SHOOT

May 14, 2022

Shoot begins at 10:00 am
Range opens at 8:30 am

A fundraising event Sponsored by Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND



**SHEPHERD'S HILL
AT THE
CROSSROADS**
ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA



From the archivist

A PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY



Rev. Harold Huber



Rev. John Fritz



Rev. Alwin Reimnitz

Let's continue with our North Dakota District history of presidents.

In 1961, Rev. Harold V. Huber, who had been serving as first vice-president, became president when Rev. Lothar Karl Meyer accepted a call from a New York church.

President Huber began serving in Saskatchewan and then was called to Oakes in 1953. Under his direction, the Train Two program was initiated to get more people into Bible studies. Huber saw many pastors leave North Dakota for other congregations. He was also instrumental in getting funds collected to build the chapel on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks.

Huber resigned in 1965 due to health issues. Rev. John D. Fritz, who was pastor of Immanuel, Grand Forks, and district first vice-president, assumed the office. Under his leadership, the Ebenezer thank offering for mission and educational expansion in the district was started. President Fritz resigned in 1967 to accept a professorship at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill. Rev. Alwin M. Reimnitz, pastor of Zion, Bismarck, and district first vice-president assumed the presidency.

Discussion at the 1968 convention included a request for a study on the need for district president to serve full-time. More on our district presidents will be continued in an upcoming issue.

Vicki Peihl • District Office Manager

Send submissions for the district supplement to Marie Johnson at news@nodaklcms.org



The North Dakota District is seeking candidates for office manager. This person will coordinate office administration and procedures to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency. The office manager is an energetic professional who doesn't mind wearing multiple hats, and is experienced in handling a wide range of administrative and executive support-related tasks and able to work independently with little or no supervision.

The applicant should be well organized, flexible and enjoy the administrative challenges of supporting multiple programs. Essential job duties include customer service, relationship building, accounts receivable, accounts payable, writing, publishing and file management. The position is located in Fargo and is 20-25 hours per week.

Contact Tami Ulland at lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com or 701-360-1469 for more information.

Mayfest is May 7

Mayfest '22 will be held from 4 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the Bavendick Stateroom of Bismarck State College. All proceeds benefit Martin Luther School (MLS).

Mayfest includes dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Have an enjoyable evening in support of classical education at MLS! This is the biggest fundraiser for MLS, and it's even more significant this year as MLS will bring back sixth grade for the 2022-23 school year.

If you are interested in seeing the ever-growing list of auction items or would like to purchase tickets, go to bit.ly/Mayfest2022.

Tour Israel with Pastor Nour

You are invited to join me, Rev. Nabil Nour, a native of Israel, born in Nazareth, on a "Journey to the Holy Land-Israel" for an experience of a lifetime. Departure is from Chicago on Aug. 15, and attendees will return on Aug. 27.

Walk where Jesus walked, where every page of the Bible is seen in its original context alive. Cruise the Sea of Galilee. Climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem. The price is about \$4,000 per person, which includes air fare, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy), tips, entry fees and all meals.

For more information, contact Pastor Nour at 605-526-3571 or preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com.