



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL



Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth; to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. **REV. 14:6**



Rev. Arie Bertsch
District President

September marked the 500th anniversary of one of Martin Luther’s most important achievements: his completion of the German translation of the New Testament, popularly known as his “Septembertestament.” Published in 1522, the work paved the way for other translations of the Bible into the vernacular (the language of the people), making it accessible for people at church and in their homes.

Luther completed this project while hiding in the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany. He was condemned in May 1521 by Emperor Charles V as a heretic for making his stand on God’s Word alone, rejecting the councils of men who contradicted the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now in October, we celebrate the Reformation. When Luther faith-

fully proclaimed the pure Gospel — that sinners were justified and saved through faith alone in Christ and not on account of their deeds or merits, but solely on Jesus’ obedience and suffering — he was labeled a dangerous heretic. He was told to recant (that is, take back or deny) his teachings. He refused. He was put under the ban by the emperor, which meant that anyone could kill him. He had no rights anyone needed to respect.

The Reformation was no accident. God watches over His church (you are His church). It may appear at times as if He neither knows nor cares what’s going on in and to His church, but she is the apple of His eye and always will be. The church is the bride of Christ and Jesus loves you, His bride.

The everlasting Gospel will keep the church the church. Because it is about Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

You see, the Gospel is very specific. It is the Gospel of Christ and Him alone. The church is born and relies on the Good News of Christ — who He is, what He has done, what He is still doing for us. Only Jesus has destroyed sin and death and opened for us the door to everlasting life. The Gospel is about Jesus, or it is not good news at all.

The Gospel is also very specific concerning what benefits it promises. It is not good news for any bad situation. The Gospel doesn’t promise a good job,

See **MESSAGE**, Page 2

Tri parish welcomes Pastor Neuendorf

Rev. Christopher Neuendorf was installed as pastor of St. Paul's, Rugby; Immanuel, Willow City; and Our Savior, Bottineau, on Aug. 6. The service was held at Our Savior, Bottineau.

From left, Revs. Brandon Woodruff, Scott Ramey, Arie Bertsch, Christopher Neuendorf, Mark Chepulis, Jon Bonine, and Dr. Matthew Richard.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

worldly success or good health. The Gospel is not a how-to method of making friends and influencing people. The reason people — us included — prefer such pseudo-gospels is because they don't face the reality of their own sin. They are easily influenced by their own thoughts. They refuse to bow before the revealed Word and will of God.

They — us included — define idolatry away and bow down to gods of their own imagination. They think selfishness is virtuous and praiseworthy. They lust and commit adultery (even if just in the heart and mind). They covet and steal. They hate and murder. They deny they do anything wrong because their lust, covetousness and hatred remain bottled up inside themselves. Filled with wicked desires and thoughts, they point the finger at others and want a gospel of empowerment instead of the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins.

The Gospel is the Good News of God's full and free forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ's most holy obedience and suffering. It tells you that your gracious God laid your sins on Jesus. It tells you that God is reconciled to you for Christ's sake. It announces peace on earth and goodwill toward men. The Gospel promises you that heaven is your home. The Gospel tells you that you are

free from the guilt of sin, free from the judgment of God's Law, free from fear of death and hell, free to be God's children. It is all because of Christ's obedience.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 COR. 5:21

All of this is yours through faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Without the proclamation of the Gospel you would not have what the Gospel gives. Indeed, without the proclamation of the Gospel there would be no holy Christian church on this earth, and we would all remain blind in sin, wandering through life not knowing where we were going and ending up in hell. The church is the ark of salvation on account of the everlasting Gospel that is proclaimed to her and through her to the whole world — every nation, tribe, tongue and people.

Luther showed from the Bible that if our salvation depends to any degree on our own merit and works then we cannot be confident of making it to heaven. We cannot know that we are in a state of grace. We must always doubt and never know where we stand with God.

Therefore, firmly hold on to the truth revealed in the everlasting Gospel, taught by St. Paul and proclaimed by Martin Luther, that the righteousness of God is from faith in Jesus Christ alone. It is not a righteousness that you do. It is not a

righteousness of faith in yourself. It is a righteousness that was won by Jesus.

We pray that God will always provide us with faithful messengers who will proclaim the saving truth of the everlasting Gospel! That is, the Good News that is yours today because you have the forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus Christ. And where there is the forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation. This eternal Gospel will keep you and the church safe from all harm.



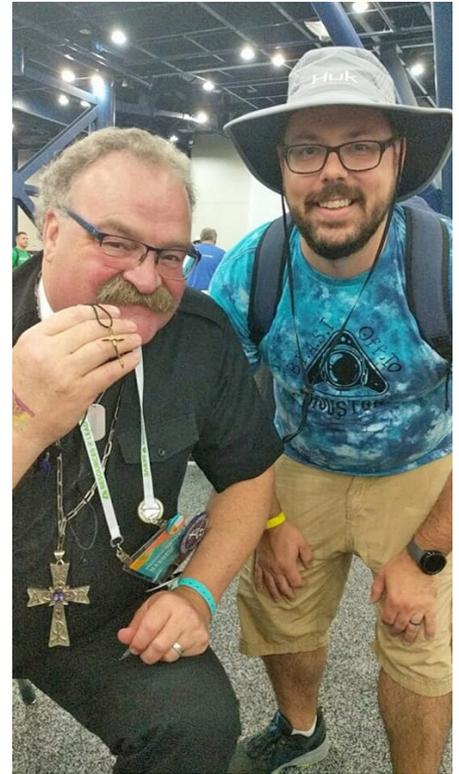
The North Dakota District is looking for an office manager. This person will coordinate office administration and procedures to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency. The position is located in Fargo and is 20-25 hours per week.

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



'IN ALL THINGS'

Three buses traveled from North Dakota to the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering, held July 9-13 in Houston. The district had 157 youth and adults from 11 congregations participate in daily Bible study, interest sessions, service projects, interactive activities, daily Mass Events and the closing worship service. Thank you to the district travel coordinators, Ali Arndt and Jon Smelser of Grace, Fargo; Kristin and Fred Nistler of Zion, Bismarck; and Pat Sebastian of Bethel, Bismarck. Thank you to Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the T-shirts! The group (above) was easy to pick out of the crowd of 20,000 people at the July 10 Mass Event.



Jon Smelser (right) a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, presented LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison with a guitar-string cross handmade by Rev. David Suelzle, Grace, Fargo, pastor.

Teens leading teens

Five youth from the North Dakota District recently attended YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) training, sponsored by LCMS Youth Ministry. Pictured are, from left, Jessica Schuh, Caylee Nelson, Aidan Quirk, Joseph Agnew and Samuel Tschaekofske, all members of Bethel, Bismarck. They gathered near St. Louis to focus on "Vocation: Right Here, Right Now."

They will facilitate four sessions at the North Dakota District Lutheran Youth Fellowship Retreat, March 3-4, 2023. Topics will include: "My Unique Vocation," "Perspective, Not Plans," "Step Boldly" and "Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Lead Now and Later." Rev. Adam Harvala, district YouthLead pastoral advisor, will lead Bible study.

More information and the registration form can be found at nodaklcms.org/youth.



Archivist seeks info

I found this picture of a meeting of the German-Norwegian conference held in Fargo in January 1908. I placed an asterick by the names of those who were LCMS pastors in North Dakota. The photo had a notation stating there is 12 Norwegian and nine German attendees. However on my list of Lutheran pastors from 1874-1910, I don't see any of the other names. This picture is in excellent shape and I hope to send it to Concordia Historical Institute. Your thoughts on this picture are welcome. Email me at fargoofficendlcms@gmail.com.



Front: Burmester*, Hendrickson, Erdahl, Rossholt, Hinck*
Middle: Ross, Grabarkewitz, Feiertag*, Malkow*, Meisel, Foss, Quammen, Boyd
Back: Heine*, Raase*, Vaaler, Larsen, Jacobson, Zucker*, Ovri, Wisnaes

COMING EVENTS

The district **Middle School Gathering** (for grades 6 and up) will be held **Oct. 20-22** at Ramada Inn, Bismarck. The event includes four Bible studies, interest sessions, worship, a variety show, music, servant events to help Mercy Meals and Operation Christmas Child, and much more.

The event is held in conjunction with the **Love Abounds Family Convocation** (**Oct. 21-22** at Bethel Lutheran Church and Ramada Inn, Bismarck).

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ for this encouraging and inspiring conference. Events on Oct. 21 include an opening worship service with Rev. Max Phillips, executive director of Lutheran Family Service (LFS) of Iowa, preaching and a service project with youth.

Saturday events include presentations by Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry; Pastor Phillips; and Toni Larson, LFS director of Church Worker Wellness. Youth will spend time with Comfort Dog Gideon and attend a session with Larson on coping with trauma and stress.

Refreshments and lunch will also be served on Saturday. Child care is available upon request for younger children.

Visit nodaklcms.org/blog/love-abounds for more information and to register.

The event is free.

Accommodation options include LaQuinta Inn and Suites (701-751-3313, room block available until Oct. 7 — CODE: ND District Lutheran Church), or Ramada Inn (701-258-7000).

Messiah, Mandan, will hold a **Philippians Workshop** on **Oct. 13**, led by Rev Heath Curtis, LCMS Stewardship Ministry coordinator. Pastor Curtis will show how — using St. Paul's words in his letter to the Philippians — clergy and laity work together in the congregation in the realm of stewardship.

The session begins at 3 p.m. with the pastors. The laity will join at 5:30, beginning with supper. The workshop ends at 9 p.m.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for the night of Oct. 13 at Baymont Inn & Suites (2611 Old Red Trail NW, 701-663-7401, \$100 per room) and Comfort Inns & Suites (1516 27th St. NW, 701-204-6712, \$88/\$93). When calling, mention the Philippians Workshop (or Messiah Lutheran Church).

A registration fee of \$10 per congregation may be paid at the door, but we need you to register ahead of time to determine how much food to prepare: 701-663-8545 or messiahsecretary@midconetwork.com.

For more information, contact Rev. Dennis Voss at 701-751-2319 or rev.af.col@gmail.com.

St. John's, Oakes, is hosting an **Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio** (prayer, meditation, struggle/temptation) theological study group for pastors and laity **Oct. 24, Nov. 28** and **Dec. 26**, beginning with Matins at 9 a.m. Contact Rev. Chris Brademeyer at cbrademeyer@gmail.com for more information.

A Christian conference, **"Today's Issues: Christ and You,"** will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, **Oct. 22**, at Jamestown Civic Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The conference will feature speakers talking about contemporary issues, such as abortion and race, from the perspective of God's Word. Admission is free; lunch is on your own.

Concordia, Jamestown, is a conference sponsor.

Beautiful Savior, Fargo, will celebrate its **40th anniversary** on **Oct. 16**. The celebration will include recognition of the charter members and a timeline display highlighting important events in their 40 years.

Worship will be held at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Refreshments will be served in between the services. All are welcome to attend.