



Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod North Dakota District

Cultivating Life in Christ
Strength for Today...Hope Forever

The official newsletter of the LCMS North Dakota District JUNE 2021

EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

- Dakota Hope Luncheon for Pastors - June 9th at St. Mark's, Minot
- Summer camps - June 13-August 15 at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads
- Dedication of Stained Glass Windows - June 13, 2021, at 3 pm at Messiah, Mandan
- Higher Things Conference - "Forgiven" - June 29-July 2, 2021 - NDSU, Fargo
- "National" Youth Worker Conference - July 11-14, 2021 - Houston, TX
- LWML Fall Retreat - September 17-18, 2021 - Concordia, Jamestown
- District Convention - January 23-26, 2022



LUNCHEON - JUNE 9TH

Free Pro-Life pastor's luncheon with speaker, Mike Spencer. This will be held on June 9, 2021, in Minot.

For more information about the speaker, visit projectlifevoice.com/about-mike
Please feel free to contact our office at (701)852-4675 or email Nicole, reception@dakotahope.org, if you have any questions.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MEMBERS BUILD STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Members of Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan have recently completed eight stained glass windows that will be framed and illuminated in the walls of the church.

A dedication service will be held on June 13, 2021, at 3 pm.

For more information, contact Messiah Lutheran at 701-663-8545, messiahmandan.org, or find us on Facebook. All are welcome to attend. Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 1020 Boundary Road, Mandan



Desiring that all might be saved, our mission is to encourage the making and nurturing of disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament ministry.

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THE TORN CURTAIN

Greetings to you in the name of our Risen and ascended Savior Jesus Christ.

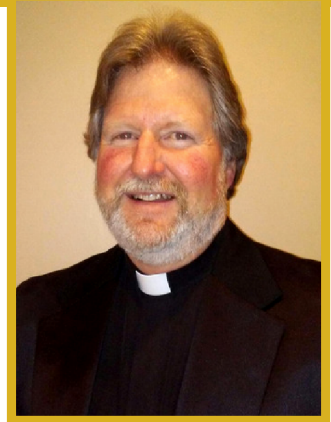
I know that as you read this it is June and Easter Day, April 4, 2021, seems like a long time back, but we actually do celebrate Easter every Sunday along with every day. To explain this I am going to bring to your attention a significant event that happened when Christ Jesus was crucified for our sins. In the Gospels of Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38 and Luke 23:45b, we read that “The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

To understand “What does this mean?” we have to go back to the Old Testament (Exodus 30, 1 Samuel 2, and other places). When God had His people build a temple, there was in that structure The Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place. It was partitioned off from the rest of the temple with a curtain that no one was allowed to go behind; except the high priest would go behind it once a year (on the Day of Atonement) to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice first for his sins and then for the sins of God’s people on the altar. You see, we cannot approach God in our sin. To approach God in our sin would be very uncomfortable. That is why we have confession of our sins in the beginning of Divine Worship and hear from God through the pastor that our sins are forgiven. Then the pastor approaches the altar with prayer and distributing holy food from the altar.

The Old Testament sacrificial system was always to point forward to the Promised One of Genesis 3:15, where Adam and Eve heard God say to Satan, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.” That was the first promise of a Savior to save human kind from death that had come into the world by Satan’s temptation and Adam and Eve’s fall into that temptation and then sin against the Word of God that had said not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the center of the Garden of Eden. The first sacrifice that was made to cover sin was made by God when He took one of the animals that Adam had named and that Adam and Eve knew and sacrificed it (shed its blood) to cover their sin. From that point on God’s people understood that the only commodity that God would except for the payment of sin was innocent blood for the forgiveness of sins and where there is the forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation.

Now back to the curtain of the temple. When the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom it meant that God had torn it from top to bottom by the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the payment of humankind’s sins. God made the first and the last sacrifice for our salvation. As Hebrews 9:11-12 states: “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”

You see, Jesus is now our High Priest; we no longer need a high priest to make sacrifice for his sins and then for our sins. We can now approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, our High Priest. As Hebrews 10:19-22 reads:



[Continued on Page 9]

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Grace Lutheran School's newly called teacher, Carly Stramer, has experienced a death in the family. Her mother was called home to be with Jesus in late May after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Please keep the Jean Stramer family in your prayers in the upcoming weeks.
- Rain is needed in our critical drought areas. We pray for seasonable weather and the fruitfulness of the earth.
- Rev. Dr. James Baneck, past district president, as he is home recovering from covid. (We rejoice that Jim is no longer hospitalized.)
- Rev. Bernie Worrall is recovering from hip surgery.
- Rev. Bernie Seter, his wife Faye and the four congregations he serves (St. John, Crystal, Trinity, Drayton, Zion English, Grafton, and the Life Skills and Transition Center) as he continues to deal with health issues.
- Rev. Al Eppen as he continues to deal with health issues.

Do you have a prayer request you would like to see added to this list? Send it to news@nodaklcms.org for inclusion in the next edition of the eNews.

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DISTRICT FINANCIALS - APRIL 2021

Income available for District Missions/Expenses:	\$49,805.29
Net Expenses	\$55,935.43
NET OPERATING Loss for April	\$6,130.14
Funds Given in the Past used for Current Expenses	\$0
YTD NET INCOME	\$23,732.70

April was an average month for giving in the District and at first glance it looks like a loss, but we did pay out over \$9K to our International missions. And we are still in the black! Praise be to God! In our digital age, online giving options make a lot of sense. If your congregation does not take part in an online giving program and would like to, please consider LCEF's Joyful Response which is provided at no cost to your congregation.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our international missions are sent on at the end of each fiscal quarter. Those amounts are not included in income or expense totals. YTD designated gifts for international missions as of April 30, 2021:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$2,180.00
Chile Partnership	\$1,420.00

Please contact Tami Ulland at lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com or call 701-293-9001 if you have more questions.

You can now give to the District via on-line through Joyful Response. Click on the GivePlus+ button on nodaklcms.org.



When you don't know what to say, simply pray, Lord, have mercy!

CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT

Calls Returned

Rev. Matthew Tooman has returned the call to First Lutheran Church in El Cajon, CA in the English District.

Calls Accepted

Mrs. Susan Jahnke has accepted the call for Principal at Grace Lutheran School, Fargo.

Vacancies

Redeemer, Lisbon (served by Rev. Aaron Filipek)

Trinity, LaMoure (served by Rev. Brademeyer)

Trinity, Adrian (served by Rev. Eckstein)

St. Peter, Belfield (served by Rev. Ahrendt)

Redeemer, Grassy Butte (served by Rev. Wolters)



MAIN STREET LIVING MEDIA MINISTRY

mainstreetliving.com

MAIN STREET LIVING announces Jay Schaefer as the new Executive Director starting June 1st. Jay has served as a music teacher, youth director, and most recently as Chaplin for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch treatment facility in Fargo. He has been recording and editing episodes for the Main Street Living "North" market since it began 5 years ago. Jay is currently editing all episodes for the Main Street Living network, which include 6 episodes per week on 10 television stations in a 6-state area. He is looking forward to continuing and growing the reach of this ministry starting this summer. Jay and his wife ReNae and two children live in Moorhead, MN. Their youngest son Adam will be a 7th grader at Park Christian School. Jacob, their oldest, recently graduated from Park Christian and will be studying Electrical Technology at M State in Moorhead in the fall. Jay is taking over (and grateful) for Dutch TeSlaa and the team in Sioux Falls, SD, who began this ministry 20 years ago.

-Ken Koehler, Volunteer Coordinator

"Main Street Living North" Programs for June 2021:

June 6: Rev. Ross Fritz, Grace Lutheran Church, Breckenridge, MN, presents the message "So, What Do You Call a Crazy, Crooked, Kleptomaniac?" based on Mark 3:20-35. "This Is The Life" episode: "Some People Need Help" - 1975: A crusty amputee from a Veteran's hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him.

June 13: Rev. Clark Jahnke, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: "While in the Body...", based on 2 Corinthians 5:1-17. "This Is The Life" episode: "Jeremy" - Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.

June 20: Rev. Joel Newton, St. John's Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN, presents the message: "Peace, for You," based on Mark 4:35-41. "This Is The Life" episode: Flight Plan-A man has to deal with the death of a young boy with a terminal illness. Will it strengthen his faith or destroy it?

June 27: Rev. Matthew Tooman, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, ND, presents the message "Stewardship," based on 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. "This Is The Life" episode: "Amazing Grace" - A man who has come from a poor beginning to a rich and full life must learn not to forsake his Christian faith.

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the LCMS serving Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (usually "This Is The Life," along with occasional church-season specials). MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com/North.



CONGRATULATIONS AUDREY!

This year's Lutherans For Life Essay contest concluded with Audrey Weidner winning the first-place prize. Audrey is a sixth-grader at Grace Lutheran School, Fargo. She and her family attend St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo. Pictured is Ken Koehler handing Audrey a letter of congratulations and a first-place prize of \$100.

WE REJOICE WITH ZION, ELLENDALE!

March 7, 2021 was a special day for the congregation of Zion Lutheran in Ellendale. Seven adults were confirmed in the faith. We also celebrated all the new members that have joined our congregation in the last twelve months with a welcome dinner. Praise God!

On Maundy Thursday two more adults were confirmed in the faith. God has truly blessed our congregation.

THIRTY YEARS SERVING THE CHURCH

On June 9th, Rev. Kevin Zellers marks the 30th anniversary of his ordination which took place at Beach ND. On June 13, at the morning Divine Service at Messiah Mandan, we will mark this passage of time.



Rev. Tom Eckstein, Concordia, Jamestown, has written a booklet in the Biblical Response series available at CPH.

Description from CPH: Whatever your reason for reading this, there is something you must know. God loves you! Whether you are a Christian or a non-Christian, gay or straight, married or single, whatever your desires or behaviors—know that God loves you. God's grace is a gift; we do not earn it. God's Son willingly suffered God's wrath when He suffered and died on the cross for all of our sins—including our sexual sins.

Find this booklet and more from the series by visiting: <https://www.cph.org/c-3318-a-biblical-response.aspx>





SHEPHERD'S HILL AT THE CROSSROADS

ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

SUMMER IS HERE!!

This year at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, the theme for the summer is "Be Strong in the Lord."

Online registrations have been rolling in. If you haven't registered yet, consider doing so today! **Register online at shretreat.org** or send in a paper registration from the brochure or the downloads page on the website.

Looking for summer employment? We have a few positions open yet and welcome your application!

Rev. Jon Bonine, Executive Director | shretreat.org
director@shretreat.org | 701-244-5225

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HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE

June 29-July 2, 2021 / NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY!!

"IF YOU FORGIVE ANYONE HIS SINS, THEY ARE FORGIVEN." (JOHN 20:23) "I forgive you." The three most powerful words in the universe. They don't just change the universe for someone. They change someone's eternity.

They change your eternity!

To learn more: higherthings.org/2021-forgiven

Dare to be Lutheran!



Forgiven

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NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

The National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference (#NATIONAL21) is a standalone youth ministry practitioner conference held every three years. This event organized by the Synod LCMS Youth Ministry office, Saint Louis, MO also provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. The conference will be held July 11-14, 2021, at the Hyatt Regency Houston.

Pat Sebastian, National Youth Gathering District Coordinator, encourages volunteer adult leaders and high school students from North Dakota to attend this conference for the valuable training and networking experiences. If you have questions about this conference, would like to share hotel rooms, travel together, etc. contact Pat Sebastian ((701) 471-3289 | patsebbis@aol.com)

For additional ways to connect to LCMS Youth Ministry, please visit www.lcms.org/youth.



GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL UPDATE

God has answered our prayers in His good timing, and it is with great excitement that we announce Mrs. Susan Jahnke has accepted the call as Principal of Grace Lutheran School. We are so thankful for Mrs. Jahnke's leadership and her dedication to serving our school.

We thank all of our family and friends who joined us for Pasta With a Purpose Spaghetti Dinner. We served approximately 500 people.

On Tuesday, May 25th, graduation ceremonies were held for five 8th graders and 20 kindergarten students. Please pray for these five young men and women as they move to new high schools this fall that they might be strong in their faith and a light to others.

GLS's summer landscaping project is well underway. A volunteer work crew has prepared the yard for a new sign, new trees, and many new plants and flowers. A Work Day will take place on Saturday, June 19 at 9 AM to continue the work. All are invited to take part in this project with their time, talent, or treasure. Details on how you can help and items needed can be found at gracelutheranschoolfargo.com

Enrollment is open year-round at Grace Lutheran School, so there is still plenty of time to register for school this fall. We offer a robust scholarship program and some of our association churches have generous scholarships for their members. Grace is here to equip children, through daily immersion in God's Word, to navigate the fallen world where Satan tries to take root in every crack. There has never been a more urgent need for the establishment of a strong Christian foundation in every child.

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Prepare for the Unexpected Family Emergency StewardAccount®

Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Family Emergency StewardAccount®

allows you to set aside funds to financially prepare for moments you did not plan for. Plus, your investment supports LCMS church workers and ministries with funds and resources to build and flourish. It's Lutherans helping Lutherans.

VISIT LCEF.ORG/STEWARDAccount OR CALL 800-843-5233 TODAY.



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TAMI ULLAND

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

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Call for Nominations for the 2022 District Convention

We are seeking candidates for the positions of:

*Vice-President of
Christian Life*

*Vice-President of
Servant Resources*

*Financial
Secretary*

*Recording
Secretary*

Nominating Committee
(Chosen at fall rallies)

Please prayerfully consider this privilege and challenge.

Should you wish to run for office, and haven't been contacted yet, please let someone from the Nominating Committee know or send an email to nominating@ndlwml.org.

Kathy Rubbert-NW, Kathie Hay-Central, Carol Luebke-SE, Corrine Reber-East, and Kim Kuhlmann-SW, Chairman

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THE DISTRICT?

Send submissions for the district eNews to news@nodaklcms.org by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

The North Dakota branch of Orphan Grain Train has had a very busy year and we thought this would be a great opportunity to recap with our supporters. Covid may have changed the way our organization runs, but not our impact. Over the past year, shipments were sent to: • Moldova - 1,774 items • Liberia - 2,160 items • Georgia - 1,173 items • Romania - 1,513 items • Latin American Lutheran Mission - three shipments totalling 11,282 items • OGT headquarters in Norfolk, NE - 974 boxes of unsorted clothing to be distributed further to those in need.

We can't forget to mention the countless local donations given around Jamestown through Social Services, the Safe Shelter and Human Services Center. Words cannot express our gratitude to all those that help to make this happen! Our organization couldn't do it without the generous support of our volunteers, giving their time and resources as well as our financial supporters.

This article first appeared in the ND OGT Spring 2021 newsletter.

*ND Branch Warehouse
103 4th Ave SE, Jamestown, ND 58401*

ndakota@ogt.org

www.ogt.org/nd

Like us on Facebook!

Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

[MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2]

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

How important is this for you today? As in the Old Testament worship with God in the temple, where God used five elements to feed the people: Flesh, blood, unleavened bread, wine and water the relation to our Christian worship is obvious and similar. Christians, like the Old Testament people, gather around exactly these five elements; in Christian worship there is Christ’s flesh and blood under the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper. Along with that we have the washing with water in Baptism where we are connected to Christ’s death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5) and given the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) to have faith and are called the children of God (1 John 3:1).

Therefore, we celebrate Easter every day and especially on Sunday, or when public worship services of God are offered, so that we can be fed from the altar of God the forgiveness of sins and life and salvation that God serves us with this final sacrifice of Himself for you. Oh what a joy, “Happy Easter”, “Alleluia” and “Amen.”

Rev. Arie Bertsch, LCMS North Dakota District President

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2021 LWML NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Fall Retreat

Friday, September 17 — Saturday, September 18, 2021

Concordia Lutheran Church • Jamestown, ND

God of All Comfort (2 Corinthians 3:7)

Come and join us for a 2-day retreat! Hear and study God’s Word with our LWML sisters of North Dakota District. We will take a collection for Mites and rejoice in the God of All Comfort! Prepare now and collect for Orphan Grain Train.

Retreat Schedule: Friday Evening:

Fun activities planned

Saturday Morning:

Bible study with Pastor Chris
Mercy Meals

Saturday Afternoon & Evening:

Bible study with Pastor Chris
Orphan Grain Train
YWR will speak about the Lexington Convention
Banquet at the Gladstone

Accommodations: Gladstone Inn & Suites • 111 2nd St NE Jamestown, ND 58401 • (701) 252-0700 www.gladstoneinn.com
Block of rooms reserved at the Gladstone – Use code: **LWML**
Gladstone Inn is offering a discount rate for making early reservations, before Sept.10.

In-Gathering: Orphan Grain Train — baby kits, hygiene kits, school kits & cash gift cards.

Cost: \$70 - Friday and Saturday; \$65 for Saturday only. Includes banquet.

For any questions, call Kathy Rubbert — (701) 460-0747

CHRIST’S CARE FOR CHILDREN:KENYA/PROJECT 24

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.” Psalm 98:1,2

Praise God!

We thank and praise God for the activities that have occurred thus far this calendar year. The children returned to the sites and the students in class 4, 8 and form 4 (senior year in high school) completed their school year in March. We were happy to graduate our class 8 students and now wish them well in secondary school. We congratulate our top National Exam scorer from p24 Rongo for scoring 405/500 on the exam. Our students did a marvelous job! The remaining students have returned to school once again to complete their last school term. A new school year will begin in July. We also thank God for our students who continue with vocational training. One of our students, Evans, has completed his masonry training and hopes to later become a tutor at the same Vocational Training Institute that he graduated from. We again thank God for the support which grants these students success in their education and vocations.

This article first appeared in the P24 newsletter.

To add or remove your name to our Project Newsletter list, please contact: britt.odemba@lcms.org To sponsor a child at one of the Project 24 sites, please contact: jennifer.hummel@lcms.org



ARCHIVE NEWS

Vicki Peihl, District Office Manager

Thanks to everyone who helped identify the people in the picture last month. The only unnamed people are the first one in both the first and second row. If you have an idea who they might be please let me know at fargoofficendlcms@gmail.com.

Can someone also verify if the top person is Richard Ames?

The St. Louis historical Institute has asked the ND District for copies of old convention proceedings and workbooks. Our vault is missing several that they are looking for. If you know of someone that might have old convention workbooks or proceedings, please let me know. Needed for sure are copies from 1951, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1982 and 2006.

Also, thanks to the people who have brought in old records. In May someone brought in some items from the closed LCMS church in Monango, ND. Do you know where that town is? There are about 180 files of ND LCMS churches in our vault and some of our bigger churches still open have little in their history file. If in doubt call me at 293-9001 between 10-2 pm Monday–Thursday.Thanks!



DISTRICT VISION

Witness

Planting and Revitalizing

Congregations (Rev. Heath Trampe)

Lutheran Education (Rev. Thomas Clark)

Mercy

International Mercy Care (Rev. Rick Jones)

Local Mercy Care (Rev. Les Wolfgram)

Life Together

Ordained and Commissioned

Ministers (Rev. Clark Jahnke)

Youth /Young Adults

(Pat Sebastian and Rev. Jon Bonine)

Stewardship (vacant)

- Will you serve in this area?

Life Coordinator (Rev. Matthew Tooman)

- If your North Dakota District LCMS church is hosting a "LIFE" event, please let your District Life Coordinator know. We can help get the word out!
(www.immanuelwahp.com/district-life-coordinator.html)

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District Personnel:

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Blenda Dahlien, DP Administrative Assistant / Minot / LCMS.nd.aa@outlook.com / 701-509-2790

Tami Ulland, Business Manager and LCEF ND District Vice President / Fargo / LCMS.nd.busman@gmail.com
701-360-1469

Vicki Peihl, Fargo Office Manager / fargoofficendlcms@gmail.com / 701-293-9001

Marie Johnson, District Communications Manager / Hazen / news@nodaklcms.org / 701-220-6386

Board of Directors: Rev. Thomas Marcis Jr. (chairman), Mr. John Riley (vice-chairman), Rev. Kirk Peters (1st VP-West), Rev. Steve Schulz (2nd VP-East), Rev. Daniel Voth (secretary), Mr. Leon Bladow (treasurer), Mr. Paul Huber, Mrs. Kay Kreklau, Mr. Tom Langer, Rev. Les Wolfgram, Mr. Kirk Rosin, Mr. Jason Paradis

Circuit Visitors: Rev. Paul Preus (Central), Rev. Chris Waldvogel (Eastern), Rev. Scott Ramey (Northeast), Rev. Daryl Rothchild (Northwest), Rev. Matthew Tooman (Southeast), Rev. Jonathan Walla (Southwest)