

**ND District LCMS Message in a Pew****February 2024**

Deadlines for two awesome youth events in the North Dakota District are coming soon. Check out one or both! More information on both of these retreats can be found at [nodaklcms.org](http://nodaklcms.org).

The LYF Retreat, Making Saints of Us All: God's Work Through Spiritual Practices, is on March 8-9 at the Chieftan Conference Center in Carrington. Participate in devotions, Bible study, large/small group discussion, closing Divine Service, and more! Contact Pat Sebastian at 701-471-3289 or [patsebbis@aol.com](mailto:patsebbis@aol.com).

The Higher Things Retreat, Endure: Suffering Through Fiery Trials, will be held at St. Paul's, Minot, on April 5-6. This theme will be explored through several sessions. Contact Rev. Matt Richard at 701-389-0418, [stpaulsrev@srt.com](mailto:stpaulsrev@srt.com); Diane Pierson at [dipierson1989@gmail.com](mailto:dipierson1989@gmail.com); or Tana McKenna at 888-482-6630 ext. 4, [retreats@higherthings.org](mailto:retreats@higherthings.org).

**Congregations' Status**                      **Pres. Arie Bertsch**

St. Peter-Belfield: vacancy (Rev. Anthony Ahrendt).

Redeemer-Grassy Butte: vacancy (Rev. Mike Wolters).

Crosspointe-Fargo: Rev. Douglas Slavens, Memorial-Sioux Falls has returned the call. Applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).

Peace-Garrison; St. Matthew-Max: vacancy (Rev. Nathan Schieber).

Grace-Fargo: Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer-Elmhurst, IL returned the call (Rev. Bernie Worral).

Immanuel-Fargo: Rev. Dan Suelzle, UND Wittenberg Chapel-Grand Forks has returned the call.

Grace-Carrington: applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Tom Eckstein).

Zion-Binford; Grace-Cooperstown: applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Bob Hill).

Bethlehem/St. John-Upham; Zion-Kramer; Faith-Towner: vacancy (Rev. Carlyle Roth and Rev. Rick Jones).

Zion-Bismarck: applying for a seminary candidate as associate pastor.

**Pastors & DCE's**

Rev. Zelwyn Heide, St. Peter-Hannover, Zion-New Salem has returned a call to Trinity-Logan, Trinity-Sugar Grove, OH.

Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. Andrew-Niagara returned a call to St. John-Austin, MN.

***NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS*****Financial Information****January 2024****INCOME:**

Congregational Mission Giving	\$142,017.90
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	<b>(\$49,706.61)</b>
<b>Net Congregational Mission Giving</b>	<b>\$92,311.29</b>
Other Unrestricted Gifts	21,598.46
1-1-1 Mission Giving	4,270.92
Current gifts/fees for missions	17,676.41
<b>Available Income</b>	<b>\$135,857.08</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Local Missions and Committee Activities: (Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	\$44,534.72
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses (Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	26,874.76
International/Local Missions	
Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000)	2,969.50
Chile Mission (\$20,000)	5,000.00
Chile Mission— Special Events	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	3,696.11
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	
<b>Current Expenses</b>	<b>\$83,075.09</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME FOR JANUARY</b>	<b>\$52,781.99</b>
Funds Given used for Current Expenses	<b>\$27,140.61</b>
<b>Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$91,947.26</b>

God has richly blessed the North Dakota District! January was average end of year giving and helped the bottom line finish strong for the fiscal year. Expenses include second semester student aid payments and the final installment in convention resolution missions.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our convention resolution missions are sent at the end of each fiscal quarter. YTD designated gifts/payments made to these missions as of January 31, 2024:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$4,951.68/\$15,469.50
Chile Partnership	\$3,391.00/\$28,666.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$7,915.83/\$13,373.96

Please contact Tami Ulland at [lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com) or call 701-360-1469 if you have more questions.