

Spring-Fall Review 2023

MONTANA REFLECTIONS

“The Lord Will Take Me In”

There was a day when my mother remembered all the grandkids’ birthdays and had an uncanny ability to bend the United States Postal Service to her will, such that birthday cards arrived on the appropriate day. Now, she sometimes struggles to remember who I am. Mom ran the accounting department for a multi-million-dollar laboratory. Now, I do all her finances because numbers have become a mystery to her. The entire family loved to go to Mom’s house for Thanksgiving. She was able to coordinate massive feasts on time, and delectable. Now, she worries about making it to dinner on time at her nursing home complex.

It appears that I am rapidly approaching that day when I will be an orphan, Dad having died 11 years ago. It is disconcerting to imagine the day when I, by ancestral standards, am all alone. We all know this. Some of you have already gone through it. Some of you are a bit more distant to the time than I. But we all know this is the way of life...and death. Our parents will at some point leave us.

The transient nature of human life is rarely so poignant, so abrasive, so indefatigable as when your parents leave you behind. It is not so much that I am now, being the oldest son, the next in line to stand at death’s door, as it is a profound sense of aloneness. How do you cope when you are alone?

By the pen of King David our Lord provides an answer. *“For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.”* Psalm 27:10. David’s bold confession of faith begins in verse one by declaring that God is his light and salvation, so he has nothing to fear. By verse ten he is ready to acknowledge that though father and mother are gifts of God, there will come a day when they leave. They cannot take care of us forever.

Our heavenly Father can! You are never alone. He takes you into His family through a blessed adoption process. When still in our sin we would not call God our Father. He seemed remote and angry. Nevertheless, He paid the adoption price to take us in so that we would never be alone. In our earthly experience adoption is a legal process. In God’s economy it is much more relational. The blood of Jesus, being the adoption price washes us from our sin so that through the gift of faith we now know God to be the loving Father of our salvation.

When the Lord takes us in, our family expands immensely without excluding our earthly family, (given that they are Christians). The Church of all ages rejoices together, saints on earth and saints in heaven are one family. If you look closely at the Church in glory, there you will see the mother and father who have gone before you. Someday, according to His rich mercy in Christ Jesus, and according to His good timing, you too will give thanks in eternal glory with all the saints. So, we are never alone.

Pastor Terry Forke
Montana District President



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| District Calendar..... | 2 |
| District News..... | 2, 4, 6 |
| Around the District..... | 3-8 |
| Missionary News..... | 10-11 |
| District Giving Summary | |
| Announcements | 12 |

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- LWML Mission Goals, pg. 7
- Indian Ministry Article, pg. 10
- Lutherans for Life Contest Winners, pg. 12

DISTRICT NEWS— CALLS

- Pastor Merz has received and returned the Call from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Buffalo, Wyoming.
- Pastor Kyle Winter received and returned the Call from St John (Lowell, MI) and Good Shepherd (Ionia, MI) Lutheran Churches. He has received and returned a Call from Pilgram Lutheran Church (Salem, OR)
- Pastor Willis McCall received and returned the Call from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ogallala, NE. He is now considering the all to Our Savior Lutheran Church (Chadron, NE).
- Pastor Greg Lucido has received and returned a Call from Centennial (Superior, NE) and St. John's (Chester, NE) Lutheran Churches. He has also received and returned the Call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Annandale, MN. He is now considering a Call from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Frazee, MN.
- Pastor Kyle Whaley has received and returned Calls from Concordia and Immanuel Lutheran Church (Cresbard, SD) and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church & Immanuel Lutheran Church in Blackduck, MN. He now has received an considering a Call from Trinity and St. John Lutheran Church (Medicine Lodge, KS).

(Continued on bottom of page 4)

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR

From April to October 2023, President Forke made the following visits:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| • Congregational visits | 10 |
| • Cong. Member visits | 1 |
| • Preaching visits | 1 |
| • Family Camp | 1 |
| • Pastor visits | 11 |
| • Comm. Minister visits | 2 |
| • Local Pastor's mtg | 3 |
| • Circuit meetings | |
| • Circuit Visitor mtg | 1 |
| • District Conferences | 1 |
| • Synodical Conference | 1 |
| • Other District level mtg | 4 |
| • Vice-Pres meeting | 1 |
| • Council of Presidents | 2 |

- Oct 15: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Oct 18: BOD: First Lutheran, Helena
- Oct 18-20: All Workers Conference: First Lutheran Church, Helena
- Oct 29: Reformation Service at Grace Lutheran Church, Hamilton
- Nov 5: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Nov 12-16: COP meetings, Irvine, CA
- Nov 19: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Nov 23: Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec 3: Installation of Pastor James Weist as Pastor of Circle of Life Lutheran Church
- Dec 10: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Dec 24: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/ St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Dec 25: Merry Christmas

DISTRICT

Installations

- Pastor Matthew Christensen was installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell on May 28, 2023
- Pastor Daniel Keinath was installed as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, on August 6, 2023

Transfers

- Mrs. Anna Reihmann, Trinity Lutheran School, Kalispell, transferred to the Pacific Southwest District, having accepted a Call to Faith Community Lutheran Church & School
- Mr. Nicolas Harding, Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Billings, transferred to the Indiana District, having accepted a Call to Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Crown Point, IN
- Mrs. Susan Eberhard, First Lutheran School, Missoula, transferred to the Indiana District, having accepted a Call to Woodburn Lutheran School, Woodburn, IN

Retirement

- Pastor Blake Marshall, Mt. Calvary, Colstrip/Concordia, Forsyth/Trinity, Hysham, retired from active service as of July 1, 2023
- Pastor Howard Schreibeis, Trinity Lutheran Church, Miles City, retired from active service as of August 1, 2023. He will continue to serve as vacancy pastor until a new pastor is called
- Pastor Vernon Sandersfeld, Grace Lutheran Church, Hamilton, retired from active service as of October 31, 2023.

Roster Changes

- Mrs. Rachel Doucette and Mrs. Julie Lane (Commissioned Ministers) have voluntarily resigned from the roster of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Mrs. JeAnne Scott (Commission Minister), Trinity Lutheran School, Kalispell, was retroactively granted Candidate status, as of January 1, 2022
- Mr. Timothy Rehbein (Commissioned Minister), Trinity Lutheran School, Kalispell, has applied for Candidate status
- Rev. John Hoos, Rockport, TX, has requested reinstatement to the Roster of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He previously served St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown and at various congregations in the Rocky Mountain District.

(continue on page 6)

NEW FURNISHINGS

On February 5, 2023 Faith Lutheran in Boulder, MT dedicated their new church furnishings they received from the Mission in Big Timber. Among the items dedicated were a Baptismal Font, Paschal Candle, Hymn Board, Communion Ware, Bible Study cushioned chairs, Bible Study Podium and Copier Machine. Many thanks to Emmaus Lutheran Big Timber for these wonderful gift. We pray that they will be used to the Praise and Glory of Almighty God for many years. To Him be the Glory in all we do and Thanksgiving for His Divine Serve to us.



All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28: 18-20

CALLED TO GLORY

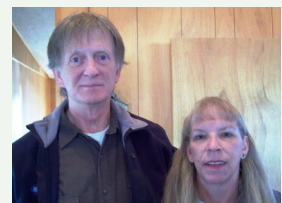
Marjory (Stengrimson) Fischer, wife of the late Pastor Arnold Fischer passed away on October 1st at Sherman Home Hospice of the Valley in Scottsdale, AZ. Her service was held on October 27 at 11am at Trinity Lutheran in Great Falls, MT

The family suggest that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions in her memory may be made to The Lutheran Hour at www.give.lhm.org.

Arrangements are being handled by Schnider Funeral Home of Great Falls, MT. Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

NEW MEMBERS FAITH-BOULDER

Faith Lutheran Church in Boulder, MT has received 8 new members by profession of faith and transfer from sister congregations. Faith welcomes Gloria Elwess, Blake, Bree and Cashlynn Stulc, Dwain and Lisa Hillier, Jonah Kirchner, and Luke Walker into communicant membership. God has truly blessed Faith and we pray Faith is a blessing to these new members as we know they will be to Faith.





LUNCH WITH LEWIS: REDEEMER-ANACONDA

Many of us are thinking of ways for our congregations to become more involved in their communities. Redeemer Lutheran Church in Anaconda is no different. I entertained ideas about how to reach out to young people in Anaconda and then came up with 'Lunch with Lewis.' I lead Lunch with Lewis which is a reading group open to the public and hosted (and advertised) by the Hearst Free Library in town. I am reading the

Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis at noon every Friday. Hence the name of the group. Our first reading went better than I expected. We had nine people in attendance, mostly young children, and teens. Our hope and prayer are to get to know the parents (and of course their children) and, in time, invite them to church. Please pray that our labor in Anaconda is blessed by God.

Pastor James Pierce

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)

DISTRICT NEWS—CALLS

- Pastor David Mommens (St. Paul Lutheran Church, Melrose, MN) and Pastor Joseph McCalley (Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, MO) have returned the Call to Mt. Calvary, Colstrip, Concordia, Forsyth, Trinity, Hysham, Lutheran Churches. The congregations are still in the call process.
- Pastor Garen Pay (Hope Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, ID) has returned the Call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Miles City. Trinity has now called Rev. Eric Black (St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kalkaska, MI & St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Macelona, MI).
- Faith Lutheran Church, Boulder, has called Pastor Gideon Pullmann (Zion-Tobias, NE and Immanuel-Daykin, Lutheran Church). Pastor Pullmann accepted the Call and was installed on 10/1/23.

PASTOR HOWARD SCHREIBEIS RETIRES

On August 1st, 2023 Pastor Howard Schreiberis retired as pastor from Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles City after 18 years of service.

He is now serving as their vacancy pastor, is the Headmaster of Trinity Lutheran Classical School, M.C. and is the 5-8th grade AM Teacher.

On September 1st, Pastor & Jo Schreiberis celebrated 50 years of marriage. In honor of this special anniversary, the congregation honored them with a cake reception on September 3rd. Most of their family was in attendance for the celebration. God bless and keep them in His loving care.





Yellowstone Valley Lutherans for Life hosted Rev. Michael Salemink on August 25th-26th

SPOTLIGHT ON LIFE: “ISSUES AS WE AGE” CONFERENCE

Yellowstone Valley Lutherans For Life (YVLFL) held the Spotlight on Life: “Issues As We Age” Conference on August 25-26, 2023 at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church in Billings. Over 40 people attended over the two days to hear Rev. Michael Salemink speak from a Christian perspective on end of life issues such as advance directives, funeral preparations, hospice care, and organ donation. He encouraged listeners to courageously and compassionately affirm the sanctity of life even in situations of pain, impairment, and advancing age. Rev. Salemink also preached on Saturday and Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings, along with presenting during their Bible study.

Get involved! Yellowstone Valley Lutherans for Life meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm, rotating the location. If you are interested or have questions about YVLFL contact Angie Ebel: yvlfl331@gmail.com

The next meeting is November 28 - at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Life Chapters and groups are also located around the state. Please contact the District Office: 406-259-2908 if you'd like more information.

Lutherans for Life's mission is: *Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.* This is not only about new life, their mission encompasses all stages of life, creation to death. For more information on this organization, please visit their website: <https://lutheransforlife.org/>

FIRST COMMUNION OUR SAVIOR- STEVENSVILLE



First Communion on May 28 for Layla and Addie and Elli Jo, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, with Pastor Andrew Eckert

BAPTISM



The Baptism of Oaklynn Jane Mushrush on 15 January 2023 at Emmaus Livingston. Daughter of Haden and Miranda Mushrush (great-granddaughter of +Pastor Mark Nicolaus+)

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139: 13-14 (ESV)

DISTRICT NEWS— ROSTER CHANGES

- Pastor Matthew Christensen has resigned as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell, and been granted Candidate status.
- Susan Taylor (Helen) and Nichole Burns (Kalispell) has successfully completed the colloquy program. Congratulations! Blessings on your service to your congregations.

WELCOMING CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHALLIS, ID

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Challis, ID, was officially welcomed in membership of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on August 20, 2023. The establishment of this congregation has been an ongoing mission of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon, ID, for almost 20 years. Pastor Michael Musegades, who serves both Shepherd of the Valley and Christ Our Savior, first held service in Challis on Easter Sunday, 2021. Through the faithfulness and dedication of members, who had previously travelled to Salmon for service, a congregation began meeting every other week in Challis, and began the formal process of membership in the Fall of 2022. Praise be to God for His work in the hearts and lives of His people and for the establishment of this congregation!



*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and
for everyone else, just as ours does for you.
1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NIV)*

2023-2025 DISTRICT STANDING COMMITTEE

Missions/ Evangelism Committee

Chairman: Jakob Berger
Member: Tom Kosche

Indian Committee

Chairman: Daniel Jacobs
Member: Jerry Roseliep

Education/Campus Committee

Chairman: Gregg Hein
Member: Sarah Elliot

Stewardship/Human Care Committee

Chair: Lorraine Roach
Member: Chris Moen

Youth Committee

Chairman: Cameron Heiliger
Member: Alicyn Chapman

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT

The Montana District has five planning committees that serve our district in the areas of Mission and Evangelism, Indian Ministry, Education and Campus, Stewardship and Human Care, and Youth. According to Montana District's policy, on Standing Committees Responsibilities,

"The work of a Synod is not to do the work God has given congregations to do. The primary work of a Synod is to do that which congregations cannot do as individual congregations. This concept provides direction to LCMS Districts and committees thereof.

Standing committees are accountable to the Board of Directors which appoints the committee. Committees must submit plans to the Board of Directors before implementation. Committees are expected to submit quarterly reports to the Board of Directors detailing accomplishments as well as needs."

In the past, the committees have coordinated Vacation Bible schools, published a booklet for youth, entitled, "Abide With Me," supported Lutherans for Life through the 40 days of Prayers, legislative work and marches, supported Crow Lutheran Ministries and Circle of Life Lutheran, and worked with Lutherans in the Bakken area, Big Timber, and Livingston to start churches for those communities.

The committees meet altogether twice a year, in the Fall and Spring, to review budgets, goals and progress, and as individual committees throughout the year.

MONTANA DISTRICT LWML

The Montana District LWML has extended their Mission Grant Application deadline and are now due November 30. Applications can be found on their website at mtdistrictlwml.org.

The 2022-2024 Mission Grants include:

1. Clothing God's Daughters with Strength and Dignity
2. Old Testament Translations, South Gumuz Language
3. Daily Walk with the Lord: Spanish Devotions
4. Spanish Braille Bibles, Central and South America
5. Live-Stream Montana
6. Crossing Cambodia
7. CTSFW Food & Clothing Co-op
8. Learning Center Kitchen Remodel, Grace, Hamilton
9. Work Wellness for Chaplain Families



MONTANA DISTRICT INSTALLATIONS



Pastor Daniel Keinath was installed as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, on August 6th 2023. He has serviced as Trinity's Associate Pastor since 2015, and was installed as Senior Pastor after the retirement of Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht in February 2023.

Pastor Gideon Pullmann was installed as Sole Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Boulder on October 1st 2023. Pastor Pullmann follows Pastor Bruce Linderman, who has faithfully served the congregation, even in retirement for the past 8 years. Pastor Pullmann is the son of Pastor Arlo & Nanette Pullmann of St. John Lutheran Church, Laurel.



Top, L-R: Pastor Lehmann, Pastor Brandt, Pastor Miller, Pastor Merz, Pastor Pierce, Pastor Wendt, Pastor Linderman

Bottom, L-R: Pastor James Knapp, Pastor Tabbert, Pastor Gideon Pullmann, Pastor Arlo Pullmann, Pastor Christopher Wareham

HALLOWEEN FUN

Our Savior Lutheran Church participated in Glendive's Trick or Treat Trail on Halloween. OSLC was the only church to participate in Glendive.

Mary Scarpholt, Pastor Lucido and Lesa Schock braved the cold and handed out candy to our Trick or Treaters!

Lars Scarpholt brought a small fire pit, we could warm up to. We had a total of 44 children who showed up. Thank you to all of you who donated candy for the Trail; the left over candy will be handed out in the Light Parade.



BABY GRAND PIANO

A very generous church member has offered to donate a Yamaha Baby Grand Piano. She writes,

"This piano holds a special place in my heart as it belonged to my late husband, he deeply appreciated the artistry and beauty of music. It would mean a lot to me to find a new home for this instrument where it will be cherished and properly cared for."

If you are interested, please contact the District Office for more information.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord

Ephesians 5: 19

VBS: OUR SAVIOR GLENDIVE

Hosting VBS is a tremendous team effort, and we couldn't have been so successful without the following volunteers:

Co-Directors: Marilyn Dufner, Charity Schreibeis, Mary Scarpholt, Lesa Schock, & Casi Houck

Set Up and Take Down: Pastor Lucido, Marilyn Dufner, Lesa Schock, Charity Schreibeis, & Casi Houck

Photographer & "Organizer of All Things Paper": Mary Scarpholt

Lexi Pettersen & Carol Kittler

Groceries & Snacks: Alicia Brown, Marilyn Kutzler, Peggy Hanson, & Peggy Haase

Opening & Closing Music & Message: Lesa & Marina Schock

Preschool Crafts: Shain Hanson, Harper Thorson, & Tasha Gallup

Preschool Stories: Tim and Tricia Nichols

Elementary Crafts: Peggy Iba, Torren Nelleremoe, & Jada Sportsman

Elementary Stories: Charity Schreibeis

Games: Adalie Rosalez, Charlie Schreibeis, Kynlee Houck, Caleb Nichols, & Hadley Burman

Bus Driver: Paul Smelser

Rotation Leaders for Preschool-5th Grade: Jessie Periman (CCM), Tara Linch (CCM), Sophia, Maggie, & Marina Schock, Tirany Gallup, Katie Baisch, Murphy McPherson, Grace Thorson, Tiawna Kinn, Kaitlin Brown, Sage Sportsman, Keely Undem, & Lexi Pettersen

Provided Snacks for Volunteer Staff: Mary Lee & Carol Kittler

AROUND THE DISTRICT TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL-KALISPELL

In early August, Trinity Lutheran School in Kalispell hosted their 2nd annual car show FUNdraiser to support their 8th grade class trip to Washington DC. Thanks to the wisdom and car club connections of Trinity church member Ken Sampson and the organization of 8th grade teacher Sarah Elliott, our students raised over \$2400 and highlighted 40 classic and custom cars. Proceeds will offset the cost of their trip. Car entrants included some Trinity church members and many community members, making it a great connection point! Keep Trinity-Kalispell's 8th graders in prayer as they prepare to travel to DC in March 2024 to learn more about the Christian heritage of our nation and the faith of our founding fathers.



8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School-Kalispell; backrow: teacher Sarah Elliot



VBS: OUR SAVIOR GLENDIVE

Jesus leads the way! He led 59 children to our Rainforest Explorers Vacation Bible School from August 1-3. It was a fulfilling and wonderful few days of beautiful praises, God's word, and captivating crafts and games. The children learned that Jesus leads the way to the treasure of eternal life with Him! The volunteers focused on the following messages: He gave Moses direction to love Him and others through His commandments; Jesus called His disciples to follow Him; He is always with them and us too; and The journey can be dangerous, but Jesus is filled with healing; He healed the 10 lepers, and He heals us.

This year's mission partnered with Concordia Gospel Outreach to support the country of Papua New Guinea children. The offerings will provide books to families that teach about the amazing love of Jesus. Our children gave just over \$60 toward this mission.

Thank you, everyone, for your contributions in hosting another triumphant VBS. You shared God's message and love while showering children with kindness. You are truly appreciated!

Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled!

Luke 14:23

LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 68th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held July 29th -August 3rd in Milwaukee, WI. Delegates from our 35 districts, along with partner churches from around the world, gathered under the theme: “We Preach Christ Crucified,” based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Over the six days of convention, 12 floor committees presented over 70 resolutions, undertaking issues ranging from our nation and international witness to supporting and encouraging our schools, family, youth and young adults. Through five resolutions, delegates voted to recognize fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan (ELCSS/S), the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF), the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU), and the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) in Sri Lanka. Sadly, the Church also recognized the need to break fellowship with the Japan Lutheran Church, as the church body has chosen to change its confession of faith by removing the need to be male as a prerequisite for the Office of the Holy Ministry (at their 2021 convention) and continuing the teaching and practice of open communion.

Election Results

- Synodical President
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
- First Vice-President
Rev. Peter Lange
- Second Vice-President
Rev. Benjamin T. Ball (Central)
- Third Vice-President
Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray (West-Southwest)
- Fourth Vice-President
Rev. Nabil S. Nour (Great Plains)
- Fifth Vice-President
Rev. Christopher S. Esget (East-Southeast)
- Sixth Vice-President
Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe Jr. (Great Lakes)
- Secretary of Synod
Rev. Dr. John Sias

“Knowing the truth of Christ as Savior, and consequently, the truth of His Word (the inerrant Scriptures), frees our conscience from guilt, and frees us for confession and action.” Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

Resolutions of mercy, including the need to increase awareness of human trafficking and to be proactive in responding to those in this dangerous situation, and to address mental health and mental illness among church workers and to destigmatize those who seek help for mental health concerns, were adopted. Floor committee 11, Church and Culture, addressed the difficult questions of how we as a Church respond and interact with issues affecting our culture today. President Forke was the chairman of this committee and opened his presentation of the resolutions by saying, “In the love of Christ let us join our hearts and voices to say to each other and to the world, ‘Within the incomprehensible variety of gifts given to mankind; gifts of color and culture and courage; God has created one humanity. He loves us all and sent His Son for all.’” In six resolutions, they addressed social media, racism, abortion, mandatory registration of women into the Draft, and the relationship between the Church and State in an increasingly hostile environment.

With between 991-1023 voting delegates (and almost 1500 in attendance overall) our Synod came together affirming our confession of faith, keeping our eyes firmly affixed on Christ, and moving forward in His truth.

For more information and to read the proceedings, please visit:
www.lcms.org/convention/national

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

-1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (ESV)

Floor Committees

- #01 — National Witness**
Chair: Rev. Eric Johnson
- #02 — International Witness**
Chair: Rev. Robert (Lee) Hagan
- #03 — Mercy**
Chair: Rev. Brady Finner
- #04 — Life Together**
Chair: Rev. Christopher Esget
- #05 — Theology and Church Relations**
Chair: Rev. Brian Saunders
- #06 — Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries**
Chair: Rev. John Hill
- #07 — University Education**
Chair: Rev. Scott Murray
- #08 — Finances**
Chair: Rev. Roger Paavola
- #09 — Structure and Administration**
Chair: Rev. Timothy Scharr
- #10 — Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution**
Chair: John Willie
- #11 — Church and Culture**
Chair: Rev. Terry Forke
- #12 — Retention: Schools, Family, Youth and Young Adults**
Chair: Rev. Benjamin Ball

The Preus Family in Eurasia

*Sylvi Rose Preus
Born October 5, 2023
Baptized October 8, 2023
8lbs, 8oz
21.5 inches*



INDIAN MINISTRY COMMITTEE ARTICLE THE ONENESS OF MANKIND

Now days some people say our country has never been more divided. Tribalism seems to be splintering our society.

However, others say there is more that unites us than divides us. Though this statement is generally focused on social unity, it is even more true when viewed spiritually.

First of all, all of the cosmos, including we humans, were created by One. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," "who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them." (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 146:6) Concerning human beings, "God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.' And God created the man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27) Then many generations later, Yahweh reminded us of this fact through the prophet Isaiah when He declared, "It is I who created the earth and created mankind upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, and I set in order all their host." (Is. 45:12)

So it is that we all have one and the same source. "Then Yahweh God formed the man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life; and the man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7) Centuries later, Apostle Paul, a Jew, reminds the Greeks of Athens of this oneness. "He made form one every ethnic group of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined appointed times and boundaries of the habitation." (Acts 17:26) In Adam all of human genetics was created to enable the many characteristics of the groups and individuals who have inhabited the earth throughout time. Malachi reminds us that this fact ought to guide our interactions with one another. "Do we not all have one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the divine guaranteed promise given to our fathers?" (Ma. 2:10)

Our treachery is because we have all inherited the same problem of sin. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the cosmos, and through the sin the death, also likewise into all human beings the death spread upon which all sin (Romans 5:12) So we are all less than what God created us to be, "for all sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Therefore we all face death "because the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

Having the same problem, we all need the same solution. Fortunately, God has provided that by giving His only-begotten Son to live the holy life we were created for, to bear the suffering and death we all have earned, to rise on the Third Day to restore true life, and to ascend into heaven to breathe the Breathing of Life into us through Baptism so we would dwell in His forgiveness and peace. God our Savior "desires all humans to be saved and come to knowledge of Truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and mankind, a human Christ Jesus." (I Timothy 2:4-5)

Therefore Jesus declared, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) "Scriptures says, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same One is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him. For 'Whoever will call on the name of Yahweh will be saved'...So faith is from hearing, and hearing through Christ's utterance." (Romans 10:11-13, 17) In Christ Jesus is our hope and our oneness.

Pastor Daniel Jacobs
Crow Lutheran Ministry
Chairman of Indian Ministries

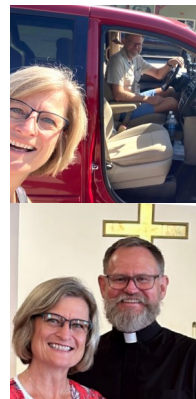
EXCERPT FROM: SERVING THE LORD IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS NEWS FROM GERALD AND HEIDI PAUL, JULY-NOVEMBER 2023

Post home-service zeal

Encouraged by all the positive feedback we received while on home-service, we arrived back on-island with renewed energy. Safe Harbour leadership met, and one decision was to brush up on the Divine Service – why we Lutherans do what we do in church. May it bear much fruit.

Reformation potluck and Slide show of home-service

After our Reformation Divine Service, we had a delicious potluck - pork and sauerkraut, German potato salad and other delicious sides, including Reformation cookies. See Christo and Soren with their cookies! We showed photos of our home-service travels, and all enjoyed “meeting” you all by “traveling” with us through the pictures.



- We ended up driving just under 9,000 miles and presented at 33 congregations!
- Some states the Pauls visited
 - Montana
 - North Dakota
 - Minnesota
 - Iowa
 - Wisconsin
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
- We returned to the USA in September for 10 more days of home service travels, this time in Texas.

*Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.
Psalm 8:1*

Gerald now a marriage officer in Cayman Islands

It only took 2 years! Uffda! Red tape takes a long time on the islands! But now, Gerald is officially permitted to officiate at weddings. So, if you know of anyone who'd like a Lutheran wedding on an island, let us know!

Regrouping

We met with our Education Committee to discuss next steps after the disappointment of the preschool purchase falling through. What now? We keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to doors or windows that God may want to open for us. He has something better, perhaps different, planned for us! Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Annual LAC Conference

For a few days in August, all LAC missionaries and their families gathered in the Dominican Republic under the theme “Confident in Christ – Confiados en Cristo”. Rev Will Weedon, former chaplain of the International Center in St Louis, was the main presenter. Deaconess Mary Moerbe was the presenter for the women in the afternoons and the teens in the mornings. Our buckets were filled with Matins and Evening Prayer every morning and evening, the uplifting music in every worship service, especially in the Spanish services!



Montana District,

The crowds welcome Jesus into Jerusalem with a jubilant “Hosanna”. They recite Psalm 118:25-26 with joyous expectation. This surely is the Son of David come to save them – but not the way they expected. Yes, “this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (v. 24), because Jesus is the fulfillment of THIS day – Holy Week, Good Friday. THIS day the Lord has made for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. THIS day he conquered death by His death on the cross and opened for us the gates of righteousness. Because the Lord made THIS day there is Easter and the joyous expectation of our bodily resurrection and life everlasting. Therefore, “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; and his steadfast love endures forever!” (v. 29)

We also give thanks to the Lord for you and your continued prayers and support. Your help makes it possible for us to proclaim this wonderful news of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world to the people of these islands.

May God richly bless you this Holy Week as we follow Christ to His cross and death, and glorious resurrection! Looking forward to seeing you all this summer!

LFL ESSAY CONTEST QUOTES

"Being Pro-Life is speaking for those who have no voice. As well as acting on behalf of those who are powerless. I desire to protect my brothers and sisters who cannot stand up for themselves. God teaches us that every life is a treasure."

"Protecting and caring for the helpless is not only our responsibility as Christians but also sends a message to the world. It sends a message of love."

—Elizabeth Wendt

"A person who is pro-life is unashamed of the truth. The truth is the enemy of the abortion industry, because it is built on one terrible lie—a fetus is a mass of tissue and not a baby. This excuse is simply false and contradicted by both science and, more importantly, by God"

—Jered Jares

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Yellowstone Valley Chapter of Lutherans for Life held an essay contest this past Fall for Southern Circuit Congregations' high school students. Their challenge was to write a 1000 word essay on what it means to be Pro-life. The prize? A trip to Washington, DC, to attend the March for Life this coming January. Students submitted well-thought essays, powerfully acknowledging the need for their generation to take a courageous stand against abortion.

The winners are Elizabeth Wendt of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Billings, and Jered Jares of St. John Lutheran Church in Laurel, both who declared in their essays, "I am Pro-Life because God is Pro-Life" Congratulations Elizabeth and Jered!

"If we fear and love God above all things, we will not disobey his commandment for our own gain, by taking the lives of His precious children. If we trust in God above all things, we will remember His grace and mercy, knowing that he has a plan for our lives that is better than our own."

—Jered Jares

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are humbly reminded that God's love is unending and His mercy endures forever.



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