



/ APRIL 2022

DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH DAKOTA

'Come, meet Jesus'



Rev. Scott Sailer
District President

"You need to go to church!"

Well, yes. But that's not the language of the New Testament.

"Come, meet Jesus!" is. And that's important to remember as Holy Week and Easter draw near, and we desire that loved ones and neighbors might join us in worship.

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5-30, 39-42) has memorable "Come, meet Jesus" language. After Jesus revealed much about the woman's life and what He, the Living Water, could provide for her, what does she do? She, transformed by Christ's love, could hold her head high and would boldly invite everyone she met:

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" **JOHN 4:29**

"Come, meet Jesus," in effect, was the invitation.

Those words of invitation strike me as the way to extend an

invitation to folks we know who could use a good dose of the "living water" — God's grace — from our dear Savior. "Come with me to my church." "Come, meet Jesus there with me."

But meet Jesus? Do we really do that as we gather at our churches for worship or study?

Yes! At our churches we do meet the living Lord! We meet Him in God's living Word. The Gospel, spoken and received in Holy Baptism and at the Lord's Supper, is the "power of God for salvation" (Rom. 1:16).

When we hear the Good News of what Jesus did and said, we hear words of love and acceptance. We hear the Lord's forgiveness. And where there is forgiveness, Luther says, there is life and salvation.

"You need to go to church," while true, is law-based. The implication is: You do this, then you're good. If you don't go to church, then you're not so good.

"Come, meet Jesus" has a completely different ring to it. It speaks in human terms, in relationship terms.

Surveys have shown that a lot of people might be numbered among those who would worship on Sunday except for one thing: they were never invited. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it doesn't take an evangelism program (as

See **INVITATION**, page 3

New dual parish has new pastor

Rev. Ray Anderson was ordained and installed as assistant pastor of St. Paul's, Aberdeen, and St. Paul's, Leola, on Jan. 23 at St. Paul's, Leola.

The congregations became a dual parish that same day as Rev. Samuel Bobby was installed as senior pastor. Pastor Bobby had already been serving the Aberdeen congregation since 2015.

While Pastor Anderson's chief responsibility will be to serve as the Leola congregation's pastor, he will do so bi-vocationally and remain in the family farming operation with his parents, Howard and Paige Anderson.

Pastor Anderson recently completed the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which responds to various ministry needs throughout the LCMS, including the reality of having small congregations in more remote locations. Leola is 40 miles northwest of Aberdeen, near the North Dakota border.

The SMP program is largely distance-learning, allowing students to remain in their current vocations and take seminary classes remotely. The SMP student is mentored by a veteran LCMS pastor, in this case, Pastor Anderson by Pastor Bobby.



▲ Clergy attending were, from left (front row) Revs. Ray Pomplum (emeritus and former pastor of St. Paul's, Leola), Jacob Smith (assistant pastor, St. Paul's, Aberdeen), Ray Anderson, Samuel Bobby, Colin Ford (Immanuel, Wecota and Concordia, Cresbard); (back row) Bret Bierman (Trinity, Mansfield; St. John's, rural Aberdeen; St. Paul's, Stratford), David Otten (Emmanuel, Gettysburg and Christ, Lebanon), Scott Sailer (district president) and Jordon Andreasen (Our Savior, Aberdeen and St. John, Columbia).



◀ Pastor Anderson is pictured with his wife, Emily, and their sons, Jasper and Paul.

Call Information

ACCEPTED

Rev. Sam Handschke, associate pastor, Faith, Pierre, accepted a call as senior pastor from Faith, Feb. 7.

Rev. Tim Koch, pastor, Emanuel/Milbank, accepted a call as pastor from Zion, Linn, Kan., March 5.

Rev. Jeremy Yeadon, pastor, St. Peter, Brownstown, Ind., accepted a call as pastor from St. John, Groton and Zion, Andover,

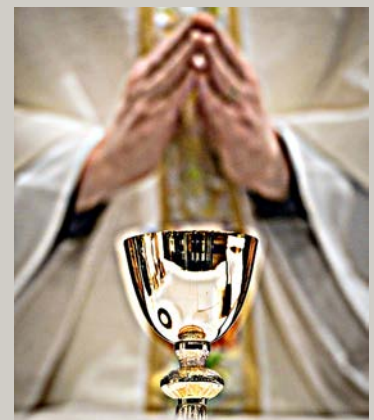
March 1.

DECLINED

Terry Makelin, pastor, St. Paul, Freeman, declined a call as pastor from Our Savior, Bottineau; St. Paul, Rugby; and Immanuel, Willow City, N.D., Feb. 20.

VACANCIES

- ▶ Alcester/Peace (*sole pastor*)
- ▶ Mitchell/Zion (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Pierre/Faith (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Plankinton/White Lake, St. Paul/Trinity, (*sole pastor*)



Congratulations, Leanne!



Leanne Holdorf is now a rostered LCMS church worker. She is pictured with Rev. Scott Sailer (left) and Rev. Aaron Asmus.



Pictured is Redeemer's original location in Egan.

100 years of Redeemer

Redeemer, Flandreau, celebrated 100 years of God's grace with a service on Aug. 1. Rev. Doug Chinberg, former pastor who was joined by his wife, Kathy, gave the sermon. Other former pastors in attendance included Rev. Gene Bauman and Rev. Charles Boeder (accompanied by his wife, Donna Belle). Current Redeemer pastors are Revs. Tim Rynearson and Samuel Thole.

Members and guests enjoyed a catered meal after the service and were invited to share memories.

Redeemer was established in nearby Egan in 1921 with no church building. Egan's Methodist congregation was growing and needed a larger church, so Redeemer purchased the Methodists' original building. Forty years later, as the Redeemer congregation continued to grow and Flandreau began to flourish, the members decided to move to Flandreau. They purchased an old body shop and transformed it into their church. Additions and remodels followed.

We rejoice with Leanne Holdorf, high school math teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS), upon her successful completion of the colloquy program in December. Leanne was commissioned as an LCMS minister of religion and installed as a called teacher to SFLS during the school's opening chapel service of National Lutheran Schools Week on Monday, Jan. 24.

Rev. Aaron Asmus, pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church,

Sioux Falls, who served as Leanne's mentor throughout the program, led the chapel service. Rev. Scott Sailer, South Dakota District president, conducted the Rite of Commissioning and Installation.

Tia Esser, SFLS administrator noted in an email: "This was no small effort — Leanne spent significant time attending eight one-month classes, writing a 10-page personal confession of faith, and taking part in an in-person interview held at Concordia University Nebraska."

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Send submissions to Kate Meadows:

- kate@katemeadows.com
- 420 E. Liberty Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the combined June-July issue is April 15.

INVITATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

helpful as that might be), and you don't need to spend a lot of time memorizing a lot of Bible verses (as useful as that is). You need to understand that Christ loves you unconditionally, that He has transformed your life, given you the gift of eternal life and that He can use you as His ambassador to introduce someone else to Him and the life He gives.

The services of Holy Week and Easter Sunday are of course wonderful opportunities for you to invite someone

to meet Jesus in worship. Who do you know who could use the refreshment of Jesus' total love and acceptance? Who do you know who could benefit from a friendly, caring word from folks in your congregation?

Pray about this opportunity. And invite. It just might be the start of an eternity of joy for your friend, neighbor, co-worker or loved one. It just might be a renewal of that joy for a church member who has wandered away from the flock.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Scott Sailer
"Not ashamed of the Gospel"
Rom. 1:16; 16:25-27

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



'As Christ loved us'

"Walk in Love" is the theme for the 2022 LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton. The theme is based on Eph. 4:32-5:2:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us.

How are you doing in being kind and forgiving? It is certainly not easy because we are sinners. But we know that Jesus tells us to love Him with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 JOHN 4:16

John 3:16 gives us the ultimate example of love:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Each day we have the opportunity to show God's love to the world. It starts by loving our family. And this may be the hardest of all because we are with them so often and may see actions or hear words we don't like. How about the person who walks by your house each day or the young man who takes your order at the restaurant? How can you show love to these people?

1 Cor. 13:4 tells us that "Love is patient, love is kind."

May each of you take the time to be in prayer each day and ask God, your Father, to bless you with kindness, forgiveness and the ability to "Walk in Love."

I hope to see you at the district convention in Yankton, where you will hear and study the Word of God and share His love with your neighbor.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Convention candidates

We, the Nominating Committee, are pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2022 LWML South Dakota District Convention. We thank these ladies (and gentlemen) for their prayerful consideration and willingness to serve the Lord with gladness. I also thank committee members Nancy Bogenhagen and Pat Reichert. — Ann Cruse, *Nominating Committee Chair*

Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries

► Dianne Hemminger

Vice-President of Communication

► Heather Miller

Secretary

► Janelle Lafrentz

► Luann Zuercher

Financial Secretary

► Nona Muckle

► Paula Warren

Nominating committee:

► Patti Greenseth

► Nyla Jurrens

► Lurene Mogler Denke

► Susan Swanson

Pastoral Counselor

► Rev. Bret Bierman

► Rev. Brian Mosemann



Grant proposals

It is with great excitement and anticipation that the LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors announces the upcoming convention mission grant proposals. We will soon vote on which of these grants we will fund in the coming biennium. God has given us so many wonderful grants to help fund. More details about each one will be available closer to the convention date.

The 2022-24 mission grants proposals are:

1. Jesus Door 2 Door, \$1,000
2. Spanish Braille Bibles for Central and South America, \$5,000
3. Feeding Haitian Children Physically and Spiritually, \$5,000
4. Trinity Learning Center Playground Upgrade, \$5,000
5. Faith Lutheran Daycare and Preschool Area Update, \$5,000
6. Luther's Small Catechism for African Missions, \$5,000
7. Teachers to the World—MOST Ministries, \$5,000
8. Black Hills Pregnancy Center Earn While You Learn program, \$5,000
9. Faith Lutheran Health and Wellness Ministry, \$5,000
10. Phil's Friends Blankets, \$5,000
11. International Students: Making Jesus Known to the World, \$5,000
12. Mozambique Dorcas Sewing Project (LCMS International Mission project), \$5,000
13. Soldiers of the Cross, \$5,000
14. Nurturing Spiritual Care (LCMS National Mission), \$3,500
15. Serving in Love—Volunteer Engagement (LCMS National Mission), \$3,500

See **GRANTS**, page 8

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

NOT AFRAID

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter!

And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MARK 16:8

You can't just tell yourself to stop being afraid. That's not how fear works, is it? In fact, the more you think about your fear, the more afraid you will feel.

The only thing that will remove fear from our hearts is a greater fear. You would be afraid to jump off a ship into the ocean. But I bet if someone was charging at you with a knife, the fear of the open water would vanish. Young men are afraid to talk to pretty girls,



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor



but the fear of not having a date for the prom is far greater. You may be afraid of traffic at a busy intersection, but you'd dive in front of a car to pull your young child to safety.

The women in the Gospel are afraid after hearing that Jesus is risen. But their fear is no longer of the Jews or the Romans.

Trembling and astonishment had seized them. They are afraid, but it's the kind of fear that accompanies awe and wonder — fear and wonder that Jesus has

truly been raised drives out from them the fear of man. And what about the other disciples, the 11 men who would soon be called apostles? The news of the resurrection fills them with fear too. It fills them with wonder and amazement, but it casts out their fear of persecution and death. They become so bold as to preach to the Sanhedrin and Roman authorities.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ has truly risen from the dead, promising that sin and death are no more. His resurrection means that you will be raised from the dead. And that fills us with fearful wonder and awe.

Are you afraid of the future? Are you afraid of the hatred of the unbelieving world? Are you afraid of sickness and death?

So were the disciples. So was Mary and Salome and the other women. Remember this: Jesus has conquered death for you. Be filled with the fear of the Lord, and with awe and amazement and faith in His Word. For because Jesus has risen from the dead, you can say with all confidence:

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me? PS. 118:6

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome!

On Feb. 13, Patty Peters, LWML district president, presented a certificate recognizing Eve Group of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, as an official LWML group. Members enjoyed a nacho bar and many desserts, and worked service projects including tie blankets, quilt squares and sugar scrubs.

The Eve Group has many service projects planned for 2022 with organizations such as Children's Inn, The Furniture Mission and the Ronald McDonald House.

The group looks forward to serving the Lord with gladness!



Eve Group members are, from left, Emily Lafrentz, Suze Frentz, Lori Brunick, Jody Huebert, Jill Powell, Cathy VandeBraak, Sara Francis, Pam Kludt, Renee Lehr, Kim Fitterer, Mary Ann Zinner and Nancy Bott.



62nd LWML South Dakota District Convention

June 3 & 4, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD

Registration Form

Deadline for registration and meals—April 30, 2022



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church & City _____

Zone _____

Emergency contact name & Phone number _____

Registration Status

(check one)

____ Voting member of Board of Directors

____ Delegate

____ Past LWML District President

____ Non-voting member of the BOD

____ LWML Member

____ Pastor

____ Deaconess

____ DCE

____ Guest

____ Exhibitor

Please check all that apply:

☐ First time attending a District Convention

☐ Young Woman Representative

☐ Heart to Heart Sister

☐ Choir Member (please include your email to receive information and music)

Housing Information—You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Ask for the LWML rates. Rooms are blocked at:

• **Holiday Inn Express: \$140** plus taxes
605-665-3177 *deadline May 2*

• **Kelly Inn: \$129.99** plus taxes (King bed)
\$139.99 plus taxes (2 Queen beds)
605-665-2906 *deadline May 5*

• **Days Inn: \$70** plus taxes
605-665-8717 *deadline May 18*

• **Comfort Inn & Suites: \$85** plus taxes
605-689-3400 *deadline May 30*

Registration Fee

	Quantity	Cost	Fee Total
Registration	_____	\$43.00	\$ _____
Pastor gratis	_____	\$00.00	\$ _____
Friday Lunch	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
Friday Supper	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

I need my meals Gluten-Free ☐

***Pastors please choose gratis meals.**

Puppet Place Gray T-shirt

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ \$19 \$ _____

____ XXL ____ XXXL \$20 \$ _____

Puppet Place White T-shirt

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ \$19 \$ _____

____ XXL ____ XXXL \$20 \$ _____

Puppet Place Gray Polo

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ \$28 \$ _____

____ XXL ____ XXXL \$30 \$ _____

Puppet Place White Polo

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ \$28 \$ _____

____ XXL ____ XXXL \$30 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: **LWML SD District Convention**

Mail check and registration to:

Janice Stone

PO Box 147

Irene, SD 57037

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

A ministry of presence

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your ministry in our South Dakota District! People are blessed because of the way you share Christ in this broken world!

I was blessed by the efforts of the folks at Mount Calvary, Brookings, as they offered their workshop, “Caring for the Caregiver,” in January. (If you missed it, you can find video at mountcalvary1.org/caregiver.) The event



Toni Larson

featured Toni Larson, a clinical social worker with Lutheran Family Service, who taught us how, in the midst of the many burdens caregivers face, to also care for ourselves and hinder burnout.

I am pastor to many caregivers. It is one of the most challenging areas of ministry I have. Our members and friends who choose to care for an aging parent or a disabled child spend more time, energy and money than they themselves have. The church is called to assist and bless, but often it is unsure how to follow through in practical ways. In the congregations I have served, we have hosted fundraisers, food drives and rent assistance programs. Many people thank us for that help, but the

biggest outpouring of gratitude comes when one of our members offers the gift of presence.

Physically showing up and sharing another’s burden is a priceless gift. Enabling connections and building networks of relationships takes the church to the next level of caring for the caregiver, and it does not take an act of congress (or the church council) to make it happen. Don’t overthink this — just show up. Invite others, especially family members, to go with you.

I am reminded of Dorothy, who had dementia. She was one of my shut-in members in my first years of ministry. Her daughter, Shirley, took her in so she would not have to live at the nursing home. Shirley had lost her husband and lived alone (save for her pet birds) in a small mobile home. When Dorothy moved into that small space with Shirley, her dog came, too.

Whenever I visited, I would ring the doorbell and the shaggy little dog would throw itself at the door mercilessly. It took Shirley a few minutes to get the door because she suffered from various complications of diabetes. By the time she arrived at the door and got the dog by the collar, it was hoarse from its barking fit. Still, it managed to growl.

In the background, the birds screeched

in reply to the dog’s outburst. As I walked toward Dorothy, the same rhythm of interaction occurred every time. Shirley would shout, “Mom, the pastor is here to visit you!” Her mom would say, “Who?” Shirley repeated, “The pastor!” Dorothy would insist she didn’t know me. Then, I would hold up my communion kit and hymnal to which Dorothy would respond loud and clear, “Strengthens and preserves you unto life everlasting!”

I would find a seat and Shirley would fall into her chair. She would say, “Pastor, I don’t know how much longer I can do this.” Shirley could let her guard down while I visited with Dorothy. I think she sometimes even took a power nap in those moments. Often she would relax enough so that the dog would escape her grip, bound over to me and tear at my pant leg while I was giving Dorothy communion. (I wonder if my friend Bill Paepke remembers our visits like that on vicarage, to Buzz, I believe.)

In addition to the Word and Sacrament ministry, I was able to offer friendship to Dorothy and Shirley. Eventually, I was also able to communicate Shirley’s needs to her sister in a way that bound them together more closely I wouldn’t have known to do that without taking the time to visit and simply be present with these women.

Of course, it’s the Lord who shows us what to do. He says, “Go. ... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Someone is near you who needs your help in the name of Jesus. Have you been blessed to know the difference Jesus has made using your work and witness in His name? I’d enjoy hearing that life story. A fellow worker may need to hear it. Contact me at pcnavurskis@gmail.com or 605-352-7121.

Pastor Navurskis serves as pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron, and is life coordinator of the South Dakota District.





LCEF HAS GRANTS for K-8 schools

On Jan. 15, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) announced the opening of the 2022 grant process for its long-standing Kaleidoscope Fund. This year, eligibility will be limited to LCMS K-8 elementary schools. Those who are interested and eligible for the grant should submit a grant application by June 1.

“The Kaleidoscope Fund is an additional avenue for LCEF to support the work of the church,” said the Rev. Bart Day, LCEF president and CEO. “When we have a good year, we can pass on those blessings to strengthen Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod [LCMS] ministries in the form of this grant.”

This year’s grants will focus on four categories:

- ▶ **Faculty wellness** (e.g., continuing education, retreats or sabbaticals for staff);
- ▶ **Curriculum development** (e.g., engaging specialists in content areas or working with other schools to develop shared programs);
- ▶ **Technology** (e.g., improving existing programs/tools or adding new ones); and



▶ **Student engagement/outreach** (e.g., connecting with the homeschool community, providing after-school tutoring or reaching out to the community).

Funds will be granted in amounts between \$10,000 and \$40,000.

“Because the face of Christianity is changing,” Day said, “our schools have become outposts for the proclamation of Christ. We rejoice in Lutheran educators who teach the core academic subjects and the faith in our schools. We share a fervent passion for supporting and empowering their work in any way we can — like the Kaleidoscope Fund.”

The application proposal deadline is June 1. To find out more or start the grant process, visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope.

GRANTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

16. Faith and Hope Center—Siberia (LCMS International Mission), \$5,000

17. Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op, \$5,000

Please keep these mission grant proposals in your prayers as we prepare to vote on them in Yankton. I am looking forward to seeing you there as we together “serve the Lord with gladness.”

Jan Larson

Vice-President of Gospel Outreach



**“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT HAS
RISEN. REMEMBER HOW HE
TOLD YOU, WHILE HE WAS
STILL IN GALILEE, THAT
THE SON OF MAN MUST BE
DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS
OF SINFUL MEN AND BE
CRUCIFIED AND ON THE
THIRD DAY RISE.”**

Luke 24:6-7