



/ AUGUST 2026

# DISTRICT NEWS

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### 69<sup>th</sup> LCMS Convention Highlights

By Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, President, SD District

Dear Saints,

Ground yourselves in these words, “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ” 1st Corinthians 15:20-23.

That was the theme of the LCMS convention last month in Phoenix. What a joy it was to be there and to be centered every day with this life changing reality “Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!”

One of the highlights of the convention was seeing how God is working to ground His Church in the truth of His Word. Two new church bodies were brought into fellowship with the LCMS. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia and Lutheran Mission-Australia both acknowledged the unity of confession we have from God’s Word. Our gracious Father continues to grow His Church!

On matters closer to home, Rev. Mark Schroeder, president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), brought his greetings to the convention. Rev. Schroeder reminded the body that the synods have a shared history. The WELS was started by German Lutherans from Prussia in 1850. Early on, WELS was highly influenced by C.F.W. Walther. “We are confessional Lutherans today because of you,” Schroeder said.

Since 2012 the WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) have been meeting with the LCMS. The three synods have a lot in common and continue to work on the few things that separate us from formal fellowship. Please continue to pray that God’s Word will bring unity.

The topic of Pastoral Formation played a prominent role in this convention. For a few years now there has been much discussion concerning routes to ordination. These discussions challenged the LCMS to consider alternate ways to ordination including an online Master of Divinity program (M-Div) or developing a process to accept men with M-Divs from other religious institutions. The discussions were and are good for us. They challenge us to be clear on why pastoral formation looks the way it does. The discussions caused the pastoral formation committee to reexamine the effectiveness of the current system. After much debate on all the pastoral formation resolutions, it became clear that residential Seminary formation will remain the path to ordination.



**Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher,**

President,  
SD District

There were a few resolutions dealing with the Specific Ministry Pastor program (SMP). After much debate the Convention “affirmed and supported” the current parameters of the SMP program. These resolutions passed by over 80%.

The other SMP-related Resolution (6-07) included encouragement for SMP pastors to continue their education by gaining a General Pastor Certification (GPC). SMP pastors do not receive training in the Biblical languages and in general receive 39% of the course work of a residential M-Div graduate. The GPC program includes New Testament Greek and other course work that brings the SMP education up to the same level as the Residential Alternative Route program.

Much of the discussion about pastoral formation leading up to the Convention focused on the current shortage of pastors and a need to make changes in the formation process quickly. What the floor debate on these resolutions revealed was a deep trust that God will provide pastors for His redeemed

sheep and that the formation process currently in place provides faithful, well-equipped under-shepherds.

We also give thanks to God that a few South Dakota District Saints were elected to serve at the National level. Rev. Nabil Nour was re-elected to serve as Vice President of the Great Plains region. Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm was elected to the LCEF Board of Directors. Rev. Dr. Jacob Bobby was elected to the Concordia University Board of directors. Tia Esser was elected to the Concordia University, St. Paul, Board of Regents. Sarah Rausch was elected to serve on the Board for National Mission. Thanks be to God that He gave each of these people gifts that will guide and direct the work of His Church.

Dear Saints, it was a joy to represent you at the 69th Convention of the LCMS. Thank you to all our delegates who gave of their time and talents to serve the Church in this way. If you would like to see the convention speakers and preachers or would like to know more about the convention, you can find the information here:

<https://www.lcms.org/convention/national>

God’s richest blessings in the assurance that “Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!”



South Dakota delegates attended the 69<sup>th</sup> LCMS Convention in Phoenix in July

# DISTRICT NEWS

## WANTED: YOUR VBS PICTURES!

It's VBS season! As congregations across the South Dakota District share the love of Christ with children through Vacation Bible School, we'd love to celebrate the ministry taking place in your congregation. Click below to submit a few of your favorite VBS photos and help us showcase the joy of children growing in Christ through His Word.

Send VBS pictures to Kate Meadows, SD District Communications Coordinator, at [communications@sddlcms.org](mailto:communications@sddlcms.org).



## *TGIF Mixes Fun and Fellowship at Bethlehem, Rapid City*

Bethlehem, Rapid City, hosts a monthly event called TGIF, which stands for, "The Goal Is Fellowship." Parishioners meet for a different activity each month, such as a game night, bowling, fish fry, bingo, disc golf, talent show, bonfire gathering, going to a restaurant and themed potlucks.

During a recent TGIF, Pastor Josh Jones invited parishioners to a TGIF picnic and car show in the church's youth house parking lot/yard. The turnout was good and all had fun.



▲  
Noah Jones won the Best Bicycle award for showing 1964 Western Cosmic Flyer

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STURGIS RALLY MEALS



INTERESTED IN A GREAT **MISSION PROJECT?**

LOVE **SHARING YOUR FAITH** WITH OTHERS?

Consider volunteering at Blessed Emmanuel during the 2026 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally! Volunteers are needed **between Aug 8 and 15** to help serve breakfast or dinner. Sign up for as many days/slots as you would like. Even one slot on one day helps, and many choose this option!

For breakfast help signup, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2026RallyBreakfast>

For dinner help signup, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2026RallySupper>

Call Blessed Emmanuel at 605-423-5870 with questions.



## Groundbreaking Marks a Joyful Milestone for Mt. Calvary, Brookings

By Kate Meadows

After decades of prayer, planning and perseverance, Mt. Calvary, Brookings, celebrated a long awaited milestone on May 4 with a special groundbreaking ceremony for its ministry expansion project. The event drew an estimated 75 people, including congregation members and neighbors, who gathered for fellowship, a meal and the shared joy of seeing long held hopes finally begin to take shape.

For Annette Streich, Mt. Calvary's communications coordinator for the project, the day carried deep meaning. Streich began working at the church in 2006, when early conversations about expanding the facility were already underway. For years, those conversations remained only that. As the congregation's vision grew clearer, campaign organizers sought architectural partners to help bring that vision to life. Several promising plans fell through, including one firm that ultimately declared bankruptcy.

"It was a long wait," Streich reflected. "It drove us to our knees. We asked God to provide."

Organizers finally connected with a construction company able to stay the course.

"After years of hoping, praying, planning, we finally have construction happening," Streich said.

### A Vision That Grew and Changed

Mt. Calvary's initial dream was modest: a fellowship hall where members could share meals, youth could gather, and children could play. Over time, however, the congregation discerned a broader need. The project expanded to include a new sanctuary – one designed to better support worship, accessibility and future growth.



Rev. Matthew Wurm, Mt. Calvary's senior pastor, puts the shovel in the ground for the May 4 groundbreaking

The current sanctuary requires worshipers to climb steps to reach the communion rail. The new sanctuary will eliminate those steps entirely, ensuring full accessibility. It will also feature a larger balcony to accommodate choir and handbells, as well as a private chapel intended for prayer, confession and personal devotion.

Mt. Calvary worships about 200 people each weekend, and leaders hope the expanded space will support continued growth in membership and ministry.

### Looking Toward a Historic Celebration

Mt. Calvary was established and joined the LCMS on December 31, 1928. Construction is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2027, but the congregation hopes to celebrate both the project's completion and its 100th anniversary together in the fall of 2028, Streich said. The timeline will also allow for the installation and full operational readiness of the church's pipe organ.

## SPIRIT OF OKOBOJI WINNERS!

Each year at Minneboji, the "Spirit of Okoboji" award is given to the campers who showed that they are cooperative, caring, supportive leaders that exemplify Christian attitudes in their relationships during the camp week. The winners are selected by the counselors. This is a very special award!

Congratulations to this year's "Spirit of Okoboji" winners (pictured here with Pastors Greg Lehr & Tom Mueller): Jonah Basche, Pipestone, MN; Kadence Kathman, Bethesda, Hot Springs; Miles Nelson, Zion, Sioux Falls (not in photo); Josiah Newell, Lord of Life, Sioux Falls; Clare Swanson, Faith, Pierre.



## Engaged in Mission Conference

The Engaged in Mission Congregation and Community Conference will take place at St. Paul, Carroll, Iowa, Sept 18-19.

This conference is open to all pastoral and laity workers and provides an opportunity to learn about, consider and discuss how to be effectively engaged in God's mission wherever they are.

Cost is \$30.00. The registration deadline is Aug. 21, and the hotel reservation deadline is Sept. 1.

To register, click on the QR code.



## Moments with Mary Jo

### THE HIGHLIGHT OF SUMMER



**Mary Jo Stier**  
LWML District  
President

We are well into the dog days of summer. A new school year is right around the corner and with it all the excitement of children anticipating another year.

Where did summer go? Did your family take a vacation together, possibly a day at the river?

The highlight of my summer was attending the LWML South Dakota District Convention in Rapid City the first part of June. What a wonderful event filled with Bible Study from Pastor Newell, presentations from Mission Grant

recipients and beautiful music! But most of all I relished spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ who gathered to share their Confidence in His Grace.

One of the most exciting parts of the weekend for me was the bus trip to the lighting of Mt. Rushmore. Each night

during the summer, a program is held on the stage at Mt. Rushmore, giving people a short history lesson about the four presidents carved into the mountain. I was surprised to learn a few things about each of the presidents – details I had either forgotten about or never learned.

The program also included a tribute to those who have served or are currently serving our country. What an honor it was to see our very own past District President, Elaine, stand on that stage as everyone in attendance gave those veterans and active-duty members a standing round of applause!

Then came the lighting of the faces. What a glorious site it was.

The convention began with the processional of banners made especially for the convention. How beautiful they all were! Carrying the banners were members of the board of directors (mostly zone presidents) and processing behind the banner were the rest of the board of directors, as well of our National President, Eden Keefe. The procession is awesome.

Another part of the convention that I enjoy is the gathering for worship. We were blessed to gather at Zion Lutheran Church. District President Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher was our proclaimer.

Thank you to all who helped in any capacity with the convention, and thank you to all who attended.

## SD LWML Biennial Convention Highlights

The 64th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) South Dakota District welcomed 142 attendees from across the state on June 5-6 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Rapid City. Attendees met under the theme, "Confidence in His Grace," based on the Bible verse, Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

The Rev. Albert Sutton, Missionary to the Pine Ridge Reservation, was the keynote speaker. Greetings from LWML were given by national LWML President Eden Keefe. Bible studies were led by the Rev. Dr. Billy Newell from Lord of Life in Sioux Falls.

Convention offerings 2026-2028 Mission Grant Goal was \$3,343. The Grant Goal for the Pine Ridge Ministry was \$2,920. In addition, the Quilt for Mites raised \$310 and Jewelry for Mites raised \$1,016.

Attendees participated in the following servant events: preparing 104 bags for the Pine Ridge Reformation Carnival,

making 700 mission bead bracelets, making necklaces for Forged by Fire, and completing 434 mitten puppets for The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

A multitude of gifts were brought for food banks in the Black Hills area and the Cornerstone Mission for our Gifts from the Heart ministry.

Delegates selected 14 mission grants totaling \$65,000, to be funded during the 2026-2028 biennium:

1. Orphan Grain Train, RSO: Milbank Collection Center Upgrade, \$5,000
2. Main Street Living: Anniversary Devotional Book, \$5,000
3. Lutheran Family Service, RSO: Lunch and Learns plus statewide crisis pregnancy support, \$5,000
4. Divine Shepherd: Classical Lutheran Academy, \$5,000
5. (TIE) Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, RSO: physical and mental wellness, \$4,000
6. (TIE) Higher Things, RSO: Making Jesus Known, \$5,000
7. (TIE) Zion, White: The Gathering Place, \$5,000
8. (TIE) Lutherans For Life, RSO: "For

- Life" ministry development, \$5,000
9. Black Hills Pregnancy Center: Earn While You Learn, \$5,000
10. MOST Ministries, RSO: servant leadership training for missions, \$5,000
11. (TIE) India Bible Study: Malayalam Translation, \$5,000
12. (TIE) Trinity HOPE: nourishing the bodies and souls of children, \$5,000
13. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, RSO: Bible Books Madagascar, \$5,000
14. Concordia Center for the Family, RSO: facilitating lifelong Christian family disciples, \$1,000 (partial)

Officers elected to four-year terms were:

- Gena Keller, Hot Springs — Vice President of Communication
- Mary Dunlap, Sioux Falls — Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- Jacqueline Sly, Rapid City — Secretary
- Luann Zuercher, Pierre — Financial Secretary
- Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe, Risen Savior, Tea — Pastoral Counselor

Nominating Committee members elected were:

- Sandy Brandt, Avon — Nominating Committee
- Denise Schmidt, Sioux Falls — Nominating Committee
- The Executive Committee will appoint a third member to this committee.

## Grace and Peace to You!

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Dear sisters: grace to you and peace!

Hey, have you ever just sat and pondered those words – *grace* and *peace*? I doubt it's the first time you've heard them used like that. You find them in the first few verses in most of the books of the New Testament, and almost all the epistles. For some reason, when the Holy Spirit set out to inspire the Apostles to write Scripture, it's usually one of the very first things He wants to share:

"Ok, Paul, I want you to write a letter to the church in Rome. Tell them, 'Grace and peace.'"

"Now it's time to write to the Ephesians. Be sure to tell them, 'Grace and peace.'"

"Alright, Peter, time to write to the whole Church. Start with a blessing of grace and peace."

Is the Holy Spirit just saying, "Hi," or do you think there might be more to it than that?

I choose to greet you now with these words because I believe there is more to these words than a simple, "Hi." Specifically, I think the words "grace" and "peace" are meant to call our minds back to the foundation of our faith and all things – the Gospel.

Notice how it's always grace first, then peace – never the opposite. Before we have peace, we must have grace.

I remember when I was a Baptist, I struggled to find peace. I knew a lot about God and the Bible. I was always at church. And I worked in His name wherever I went.



**Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe**

LWML District  
Junior Counselor

That didn't help me.

I was insecure all the time. I put up a front so others would think I was more put together than I actually was. And despite all my good works, I was secretly scared that I wasn't at peace with God.

But then I got my hands on a copy of the Small Catechism and I found God's grace! I finally could see that Baptism isn't a work we do to please God – it's something God does to us that works forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation to all who believe. I could finally see that the Lord's Supper wasn't about us rehearsing an act of remembrance – it's an act of God that brings us

Christ's body and blood for forgiveness, life and salvation.

In short, I learned to see God's grace instead of my own works, and that was what finally brought me peace. All of a sudden, I knew I didn't have to rely upon my own striving (as if I even could!); I knew I could rely upon His.

Dear sisters, this is true for all of us. Apart from Christ, we are all of us lost in sin, death, and despair, and there's nothing we could ever do about it. But when Christ came, when in His grace He gave up his life for us, *that's* what gives us peace with God, a peace that surpasses understanding.

In His grace, I now have the wonderful privilege of serving as your Junior Pastoral Counselor. It is my prayer that as your servant in this capacity, I am able to share with you the peace that He has given me, a peace He promises to all who believe in Him.

I have much more to share with you, but for now ... grace to you and peace! Amen.

## 2027 Mission Grant Proposals and 2026 State Fair Worker Schedule

by Cathy VandeBraak, VP of Gospel Outreach

Mission Grant Proposals for the 2027 Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Convention must be submitted online via the [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) website by **September 1, 2026, at midnight Central Time Zone**. Any LWML member, group, zone, district, or an Office of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) may submit a grant proposal for consideration by the Mission Grants Selection Committee. The organizations and recipients being considered for an LWML Mission Grant must be sponsored by one of the above-listed people who will act as the official submitter of the mission grant proposal.

### The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair 2026 Zone Worker Schedule — [Worker Guidelines](#)

Wednesday, September 2 — Mitchell Zone

Thursday, September 3 — Pierre Zone

Friday, September 4 — Sioux Falls Zone

Saturday, September 5 — Yankton Zone

Sunday, September 6 — Aberdeen Zone

Monday, September 7 — Black Hills Zone

Set Up (Wess Spr) and Clean Up — Huron Zone

Contact Jan Larson of the Gospel Outreach Committee for more information.

605-280-0862; email [larson920@hotmail.com](mailto:larson920@hotmail.com)

# LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES/SD DISTRICT NEWS

## *Koinonia Groups Kicking Off to Support Pastors' Wives*

Lutheran Family Services is pleased to offer free support groups for women of all ages whose husbands serve as pastors of LCMS congregations. The groups are designed to provide a safe and supportive place for pastors' wives to share joys and challenges of ministry and life.

Participation continues to grow in the program, called Koinonia. New online group sessions are starting now. Whether you've been part of Koinonia in the past or are joining for the first time, we invite you to find a group that's right for you and sign up today.

Learn more and sign up using the QR code.



## SIOUX FALLS ZONE UPDATE

**By Mary Dunlap, Sioux Falls Zone President**

The Sioux Falls Zone has been keeping busy. Zion's Eve Group and friends prepared 250 lunches at Lunch is Served. The Alpha Center was the happy recipient of loads of diapers collected from various groups during our diaper drive held from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Memorial and Faith groups are busy collecting items for their Back-to-School Clothes Giveaway and Picnic. Zion's guild has found a way to use up all those plastic bags: They are turning them into sleeping mats using a loom.

We started the year with a prayer service at Zion, Sioux Falls. June found lots of ladies from Sioux Falls spending time building faith and friendships at the

convention in Rapid City. This fall we are looking forward to our Fall Rally at Trinity, Hartford.

We also are excited to welcome a new Group to the Sioux Falls Zone – Sisters of Faith of Risen Savior (Tea).

Praise God for all of these faithful LWML members!



**Lunch is Served:** Left to right: Cathy VandeBraak, Jody Huebert, Lori Bierwagen, Mark VandeBraak, Lori Brunick, LeNora Giles, Jill Powell, Laura Hall, Sara Francis, Kay Herring, Paul Hoffman, Kim Hoffman, and Pete Hoffman.

## CALL INFORMATION

### PENDING CALLS

The following are prayerfully considering calls:

**Rev. Daniel Grimmer**, Zion, Mitchell, to Our Redeemer, Eau Claire, Wisc., June 1.

**Rev. Kurt Laskowski**, First English/Centerville and Zion/Hurley, is prayerfully considering two calls: one to Emanuel/Sisseton and Zion/Waubay (June 22) and another to St. Johns/Rush City, Minn., and St. Stephens/Braham, Minn (June 28).

### ACCEPTED

**Rev. Caleb Schewe**, St. John's, Monticello, Iowa, to Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, June 29.

### DECLINED

**Rev. Chris Davis**, Emanuel, Milbank, to Redeemer, Fairhope, AL, June 20.

**Rev. Kurt Laskowski**, First English/Centerville and Zion/Hurley, to three Montana congregations: Faith/Glasgow, Trinity/Plentywood and Trinity/Wolf Point, June 26.

**Rev. Gregory Truwe**, Trinity, Cole Camp, MO, to Mount Calvary, Huron, July 5.

**Rev. Justin Woodside**, Shepherd of the Valley and Bethel, Bismarck, ND, to Peace, Rapid City, July 5.

### VACANCIES

- South Dakota District Office, Assistant to the President
- Trinity, Blunt/Immanuel, Harrold, Holy Cross, Onida

- Mt. Calvary, Brookings (associate pastor)
- St. Peter, Wentworth
- St. Paul, Plankinton/Trinity, White Lake
- Mt. Calvary, Huron
- Peace, Rapid City
- Emanuel, Sisseton/Zion, Waubay
- Emmaus, Tripp/Zion, Delmont
- Mt. Olive, Watertown
- Trinity, Corona/Our Savior, Wilmont
- St. John, Revillo/Bethlehem, Milbank
- First, Wall/Emmanuel, Creighton
- Concordia, Cresbard/Immanuel, Wecota
- Faith, Pierre

## Concordia Deaconess Conference Invites Rest

Deaconess Wilhelm Loehe famously said, "What is my want? I want to serve."

But even deaconesses need time to rest.

Rest is one offering the annual Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC) provides.

This year's CDC, June 15-18, was graciously hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church in Dublin, OH, near Columbus. This annual conference allows sister deaconesses to gather for community worship and fellowship, confession and absolution, celebration, conversation and collective rest.

Nearly 100 deaconess sisters from all over the world gathered to study the book of Psalms together with Dr. Reed Lessing and received Word and Sacrament ministry by CDC Spiritual Counselor, Pastor Adam Steinbrenner.

Oftentimes, it can be difficult for caregivers to slow down and become the recipients of such selfless care. Yet people at this year's CDC cared for the deaconesses (and their guests) in many and various ways: via meals, childcare and providing spaces for worship and learning.



Ultimately, this year's conference site was perfectly equipped to nurture these women so they do not conform to the ways of the world. Attendees were continuously transformed by the renewal of their minds.

This year's conference theme leaned on Romans 12:1-2, which talks about being transformed by the renewing of your mind. There were plenty of opportunities to worship, including for Evening Prayer, Matins & Deaconess Litany, a Hymn Sing, chapel and the Divine Service.

The Deaconess Litany by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Korby encouraged the women to give thanks to God for the opportunity to unite their hearts to praise God's name and meet in-person.

To learn more about Deaconess Ministry and the Concordia Deaconess Conference, please visit <https://concordiadeaconessconference.org/>

In Christ  
Deaconess Amanda Mumm

## Single Young Adults: Attend the August Singles Retreat in Iowa!

A Lutheran singles retreat will take place at Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa Aug. 21-23. Interested singles between ages 21 and 41 are invited. The retreat provides an opportunity and ideal setting for young Lutheran men and women to meet one another.

Last year, Taylor and Matthew met at the singles retreat in Minnesota. They developed their long distance relationship over the past year and are engaged.



Learn more and register for the Singles Retreat at [faithwinterset.org](http://faithwinterset.org).

## Youth and Family Position Opening

Trinity Lutheran, Janesville, Minn., is looking for someone to fill a Youth and Family position. For more information, please call or email Pastor Jason Wolter: [pastorwolter@trinityjanesville.com](mailto:pastorwolter@trinityjanesville.com) or (402) 335-7518.



## Share your news with us!

**NOTE:** With the new part-time Communications Director position comes a new email address to share your news. Please email articles/photos to Kate Meadows at [communications@sddlcms.org](mailto:communications@sddlcms.org).

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Camp Minneboji's 2026 Summer Camp in the Books

Minneboji Lutheran Camp completed its annual week on June 21-27.

Minneboji is a 7-day/6-night Christian summer camp program for 4th-8th graders that has been enriching lives since 1949.

Led by pastoral and lay volunteers from the LCMS South Dakota District, Minneboji takes place at the beautiful lakeside facilities of Camp Okoboji – LCMS in Milford, Iowa. The structured week includes large group Bible study, small group cabin study, music, crafts, games and outdoor activities including swimming and boating as well as evening entertainment. Many lifelong friendships have been established at Minneboji throughout its years of ministry.

Our 2026 camp theme was “LIFTED UP,” in which we dove into the life of Joseph to see how God is always with us through the both the valleys and peaks of our lives. The theme comes to us from Genesis 50:20, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

Mark your calendars for next year as Minneboji 2027 will be June 20-26! Visit and follow us on social media for camp photos, videos, news, announcements & updates. Learn more at [www.minneboji.com](http://www.minneboji.com).

## 165 DEVOTIONS SUBMITTED FOR THE MAIN STREET LIVING DEVOTION BOOK PROJECT

by Rev. Scott Sailer, MSL Devotional Project coordinator

The devotion book project for Main Street Living marches on! As you may recall, this project will celebrate 25 years of MSL, 25 years of bringing God's precious, life-giving Word to our broadcast markets throughout the upper Great Plains.

We are grateful so many pastors, commissioned ministers and lay people have contributed 165 devotions so far. That leaves 200 to go, in order to reach our one-a-day goal (365).

We can do it! In order to do so, we are setting a new deadline to receive your submissions: August 31, 2026.

If you've already submitted devotions in the past, I invite you to submit some more.

If you've not, please try your hand (and mind) at doing so now.

There is no limit on the number of devotions you may write and submit for this project.

What topic might you write about? Just a few ideas are:

1. The Ten Commandments (one on each commandment, 10 total);
2. The introduction, the seven petitions, and conclusion of the Lord's Prayer (9 total);
3. Devotions for times of illness or loss; and
4. Marriage and its blessings

Submit your draft to content editor, Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, via email at [scottsailer@aol.com](mailto:scottsailer@aol.com).

I'm so impressed with devotions submitted by young writers and older writers, by professional church workers and nurses and financial advisors.

Please pray for the success of this devotion book project, contribute to its completion, and pass this email along to someone in your congregation or family you feel could provide edifying devotions for this Gospel project.

## MAIN STREET LIVING PROGRAMMING – AUGUST



“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life.” Both can be viewed on KDLT (NBC) & KEVN (FOX).

NBC airs “This is the Life” programs at 10 a.m. and “Main Street Living” programs at 10:30 a.m. Central Time.

KEVN (FOX) airs “This is the Life” programs at 8 a.m. and “Main Street Living” programs at 8:30 a.m. Central Time. The “Main Street Living” programs are interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com/](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/) to view current and past episodes.

### Aug. 2, 2026

8 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Return Trip”  
The modern-day story of a prodigal daughter.

8:30 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10:30 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Main Street Living”  
Rev. Ryan Drevlow, pastor at St Paul's, Aberdeen, presents a message titled, “1000 Year Thirst.” The sermon is based on Isaiah 55:1-2.

### Aug. 9, 2026

8 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Some People Need Help”  
An amputee from a Veteran's hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him.

8:30 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10:30 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Main Street Living”  
Rev. Chad Schopp, pastor at Our Savior & St. John's, Aberdeen and Columbia, presents a message titled, “A Little Goes a Long Way.” The

sermon is based on Matthew 14:22-33.

### Aug. 16, 2026

8 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Jeremy”  
Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.

8:30 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10:30 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Main Street Living”

Rev. Robert Moeller, Jr, pastor at St. John's and St. Paul's, Britton and Ferney, presents a message titled, “More Than Enough.” The sermon is based on Matthew 15:21-28.

### Aug. 23, 2026

8 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “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?

8:30 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10:30 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Main Street Living”

Rev. Tom Penrod, pastor at Concordia and Immanuel, Cresbard, presents a message titled, “The Question That Changes Everything.” The sermon is based on Matthew 16:13-16.

### Aug. 30, 2026

8 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Flight Plan”  
A man who has come from a poor beginning to a rich and full life must learn not to forsake his Christian faith.

8:30 a.m. (KEVN/FOX) and 10:30 a.m. (KDLT/NBC) – “Main Street Living”

Rev. David Otten, pastor at Emmanuel, Gettysburg, presents a message titled, “Things of God.” The sermon is based on Matthew 16:23.