



/ SEPTEMBER 2026

DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH DAKOTA

We Are Satan's Enemies

By Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, President, SD District

Dear Saints,

As September begins, so do all the activities of fall. Our kids are back in school. Our college kids are out of the house and settling into their dorms. Fall sports have been in full swing for a few weeks already.

The activities and opportunities in churches pick up, as well. Choir and handbells are starting. Sunday School and Confirmation classes resume. Bible Study opportunities grow.

As the busyness of fall activities increases the balance of one event being sacrificed for another also grows. Something must give to allow something else to take place. Many times, time in God's Word and in the Divine Service is pushed aside to make room for other activities. Satan is ever so subtle when he whispers, "You don't have to be in His Word every day, do you?" Or, "Missing one Sunday here or there won't hurt you."

I was listening to Rev. Will Weedon's podcast, "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," the other day and he said something that was very striking: "We are Satan's enemies!"

We usually think about that the other way around.

Satan is *our* enemy! And he is, **but as his enemy**, he seeks to kill and steal and destroy (John 10:10) all who would destroy him. That is you, dear child of God. The evil one hates everything God loves. God loves creation, so Satan corrupts it. God loves His Son, so Satan kills Him, believing he could kill God. God loves you with an eternal, unchangeable love, so Satan takes every opportunity to destroy you and separate you from the faith God has gifted you with in your Baptism.

As all the school and extra-curricular activities of fall start up again, Satan steps up his game, as well. He tempts us to believe that the club sports, the traveling team and all the other weekend school or recreational activities are more important than being in God's House and in His Word.

Being in God's Word and in the Divine Service is very important. **We, the baptized forgiven children of God, are Satan's enemies.** In order to be protected from his lies and temptations and strengthened in God's unchanging promises, we must be clothed in holy armor and centered in His unchanging truth. St. Paul writes, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:10-12).



Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher,

President,
SD District

We are Satan's enemies. To withstand the battle, we need to be strong in the tools and gifts God equips us with. Daily, be reminded of His promises to you. Daily, thank God that you are forgiven. Daily be strengthened and daily teach these same truths to your families.

Every decision we make, every time we sacrifice one event for another, we are teaching what is really important.

Dr. Luther starts each of the six chief parts of the Catechism by pointing us to our responsibilities as parents and what is really important. "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household".

As parents and grandparents, we teach the most important things. We teach the importance of faith, being in God's Word and in the Divine Service. Be strong in the Lord, in His Word and in the Divine Service so you can teach and equip, through God's Word and promises, those in your care!

In Proverbs we hear, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:5). "Train up" could also be "dedicate" or be dedicated in the way he should go. The teaching, equipping, and strengthening of faith is a daily event.

The Psalmist reinforces our teaching faith responsibilities: "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done" (Psalm 78:2-4).

Psalm 119 also presses the importance of being in the Word and learning what God is teaching. **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.** With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; **teach me your statutes!** ... I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your Word" (Psalm 119:9-12, 15-16).

Dear Saints, as the busyness of fall activities increases the balance of one event being sacrificed for another also grows. Please model and teach your loved ones the importance of something must give to allow something else to take place. That's the Cross. Jesus' sinless life being sacrificed for your sin. Jesus' death so you can live in forgiveness and the sure and certain hope that nothing can separate you from the Love of God through Jesus Christ your Lord. (See Romans 8.)

The Word of God taught and caught daily and being in the Divine Service is the best defense we have against the traps and lies of the devil.

Praying for all of you who are trying to balance life!

President Sturzenbecher

DISTRICT NEWS



On Sunday, Aug. 2, the congregations of St. John, Wagner and Trinity, Fairfax celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. Morgan Phillips as their pastor. Morgan is a son of the Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, congregation. He graduated from Concordia University,

Seward, Nebraska in 2022 and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana in May of this year. Morgan and his wife, Amelia, have two children, Kelsey and Felicity. Joining in the celebration were:

Back row L-R

Seminarian and Crucifer Samuel Jensen, Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk; Rev. Jens Jensen, Redeemer, Armour; Rev. Ricky Jacob, Winnebago, NE; Missionary, Rev. Gary (Jake) Jacobs, Emeritus; Rev. Paul Winkler, Zion, Sioux Falls; Rev. Dean Schroeder, St. John-Martinus, Tyndall-Utica; Rev. Dennis Mercer, Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk; Rev. Wade Haar, Christ-Zion-Trinity, Winner-Hammel-

Reliance; Rev. David Otten Emmanuel-Christ, Gettysburg-Lebanon.

Middle row L-R

Rev. Jeremy Richert, Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes; Rev. Zachary Wessel, Trinity, Hartford; Rev. Dan Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell; Rev. Joseph Greenmyer, Faith-St. Peter, Parkston-Emerly rural; Rev. David Ellis, Emeritus; Steve Weispfenning, St. John, Yankton; Rev. Samuel Wirgau, Bethlehem, Ossian, Indiana; Rev. Don Erickson, Peace, Alcester.

Front row L-R

Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, South Dakota District President; Rev. Morgan Phillips, St. John-Trinity, Wagner-Fairfax.

Welcome to the Beloved South Dakota District, Rev. Phillips and family!

Men's Retreat Talks Male Leadership

The Mission and Ministry Men's Retreat took place at The Ranch Ministries (<https://www.theranchministries.com/>), located just outside of Pierre, in July. More than a dozen attendees participated in discussions led by various lay leaders and district pastors on modeling our faith through leadership. The format was presentation based with some large group discussions.

Paul Poppe, a lay leader at Faith, Pierre, led a discussion on why it is important to lead your family.

Pastor Kumm, who is serving as the vacancy pastor at Faith, led a discussion on why it is important to lead your church and community.

President Sturzenbecher led a presentation on how to be a Godly man.



Coordinator Dennis Ryckman said, "While our numbers were not what I had hoped for, I think our host, Ken Korkow said it best: 'Jesus changed the world with a dozen knuckleheads.'"

District President Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher said the food was great as were the conversations. There were also plenty of opportunities for shooting sports. A bonfire started with a shotgun blast and closing the event with Sunday Divine Service at Faith Pierre.



Pictured L-R: Joshua Ryckman, Pierre; Terrence Maeschen, Harrisburg; Larry Ringgenberg, Brookings; Alan Van Ruler, Montrose; Rev. Michael Kumm, Pierre Vacancy; Michael Vasilie, Pierre; Tyler Bartels, Pierre; Dion Johnson, Hartford; Paul Banauat, Pierre; Randy Hartman, Pierre; John Barber, Pierre; Paul Poppe, Pierre; David DeJabet, Pierre; Justin Bell, Pierre; Dennis Ryckman, Pierre; District President Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher (not pictured)

CUNE Signing Day

By Pastor Steve Weispennig

St. John's, Yankton, celebrated a church worker signing day on Aug. 16. Adeline Bobby and Addyson Ostermeyer signed Church Worker Letters of Intent to Concordia University-Nebraska. Adeline is planning to prepare to be a Director of Parish Music. Addyson is planning to prepare to be a Lutheran school teacher.



Addyson and her parents, Johnnie & Robyn Ostermeyer; Adeline and her parents: Rev. Jacob & Sara Bobby



LWML South Dakota District Executive Committee 2026-2028

Back Row L to R: Vonda Sturzenbecher, Treasurer; Gena Keller, VP of Communication; Rev. Dr. Brian Mosemann, Sr. Counselor; Rev. Tanner Sutcliffe, Jr. Counselor; Kristi Ring, VP of Christian Life.

Front Row L to R: Jacqueline Sly, Secretary; Cathy VandeBraak, VP of Gospel Outreach; Mary Jo Stier, President; Luann Zuercher, Financial Secretary; Mary Dunlap, VP of Special Focus Ministries.

Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis, serves record number of goers during 86th annual Sturgis Rally

Every year, the congregation of Blessed Emmanuel in Sturgis provides breakfast and dinner to rallygoers during Sturgis Rally week. The meal ministry offers a wonderful and unique opportunity for witness and fellowship, while helping to cover the church's yearly budget and support other churches in the Black Hills circuit.

This year set attendance records the first and second day of serving breakfast – 324 on day 1 and 368 on day 2.

To learn more about this yearly meal ministry and the history behind it, check out the article our district communications director Kate Meadows wrote about it for the Wyoming news outlet, Cowboy State Daily, at:



LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION!

By Anna Irwin, LHF

Do you have immigrants living in your area or attending your church or school who need books about Jesus in their heart languages? Contact the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) for FREE books about Jesus available in over 180 languages.

LHF just received a huge new shipment with books in languages like Japanese and Haitian Creole (Luther's Small Catechism), Farsi (Iran) and Korean (A Child's Garden of Bible Stories), Spanish (prayer books), Arabic and Urdu (Pakistan) (devotion booklets).

Visit LHFmissions.org to request your free books today!



Moments with Mary Jo

GET READY FOR LWML SUNDAY



Mary Jo Stier
LWML District
President

Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time, but it is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October.

For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2026, we focus on Supporting Missions. This theme is based on the texts: Ecclesiastes 3:9–15, Galatians 2:1–10, and Mark 10:35–45.

This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement: *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

Christ Jesus our Lord asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. There were many mission efforts taking place. As believers today, we also are eager to

follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord allows us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts.

The author of the LWML Sunday service is Rev. Mark Maas, who serves at King of Glory in Cheyenne, Wyo., and is the LWML Senior Counselor. He also directs "Project: Pastoral Education West Africa."

Materials for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday will be available soon. But why wait? Start making plans now!

Some ideas to get you started are: asking all LWML members to wear purple to church that day; ask your members to bring their Mite Box; incorporate Mite Box giving into the service; plan a Mite Bingo game so all members of the church can be included.

Whatever you do, remember the mission of the LWML – *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

Young Woman Representative Report

I had the opportunity to serve as a Young Woman Representative (YWR) for the South Dakota District at the 2025 LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The convention brought together thousands of women from across the country who are committed to serving Christ through missions, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

As a YWR, I joined a group of young women from every district — each of us eager to grow in our faith and better understand LWML's mission. One of the most impactful moments was the announcement of the new mission goal: over \$2.6 million to fund 33 mission grants. Seeing how mite offerings from around the country are used to support ministry and outreach was a clear reminder of the reach and purpose of this organization.

Worshiping with over 3,500 people and 122 pastors during the opening service was something I won't forget. Hearing Scripture read and voices raised together in praise on that scale was powerful. I also appreciated the sessions where past and present YWRs shared their

experiences and answered questions. Their honesty and encouragement made a big difference as I considered how to stay involved beyond the convention.

It also meant a lot to spend time with LWML President, Eden. She was approachable, kind and incredibly down-to-earth. It was encouraging to see someone in her position take time to connect with us personally.

Another highlight was the evening Bible study with Donna Snow. Her teaching on the book of Joshua was practical, grounded in Scripture and easy to connect with. Being surrounded by so many women studying God's Word together created a strong sense of unity.

Throughout the week, I had the chance to get to know other YWRs — sharing stories, praying together and building new friendships. We talked about what it looks like to serve as young women in the church and how we can continue supporting LWML's work in our own districts.

I came home thankful for the experience and more motivated to stay involved. Representing South Dakota was a

privilege, and I'm excited to keep encouraging other young women to find their place in LWML.

Through this experience, I was reminded again and again that God is at work — in the LWML, in our churches and in each of us. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve, to grow and to walk alongside other women who are striving to live out their faith boldly. My prayer is that we continue to trust where He leads, serve where He calls, and encourage one another as we share the love of Christ in all we do.

To Him be the glory!

In Christ,

Danaca Schettler (pictured, left, with Katie Utecht)



Favor in the Lord's Eyes

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

With joy, we look forward to the Lutheran Women in Mission/LWML Sunday, October 4, and the Christian Life Workshops on September 26 and October 3. Until these events arrive, we'll spend a little time with Noah.

Noah is often held up as the first truly admirable character in the Bible, worthy of emulation. Yet Scripture paints a darker picture of humanity before the flood. "Every intention of the thoughts of [the human] heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Look at all the superlatives: every intention, only evil, continually! Such strong language leaves no exceptions — not even for Noah.

God, grieved by the wickedness He saw, declared, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land" (v. 7). So how do we move from this verdict of judgment to the surprising statement, "Noah was a righteous man" (v. 9)? The answer is found in the glory of verse 8: "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

Many imagine God searching the earth desperately for even one righteous person, finally spotting Noah and sighing in



Rev. Dr. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

relief. But that's not what it says. The word favor, in this verse, is the same word often translated as grace. It was not that Noah found God, but that God's grace found Noah.

Noah's righteousness was not the condition for receiving God's favor. It was the result of having already received it. Grace came first, which moved Noah from the ranks of the unrighteous to the ranks of the redeemed. God's initiating, preemptive love, demonstrated on the cross, changed everything.

This is the heart of the gospel. God does not meet sinners halfway. He gives favor to those who deserve nothing. Like Noah, we are not saved because we were better than others or because

we found God. We are saved because God's grace found us while we were still lost in sin.

The same God who declared Noah righteous by grace is the God who looks upon you today. He offers the same unearned favor that transforms sinners into saints and breathes new life into dead hearts. You do not have to, nor can you, earn His love. It has already found you in Christ. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

2027 Mission Grant Proposals and 2026 State Fair Worker Schedule

by **Sandy Brandt, Yankton Zone President**

The Yankton Zone LWML Spring Christian Life Workshop was held at St. John's, Yankton, on March 7. Pastor Steve Weispfenning opened with devotions entitled, "For such a time as this."

The speaker was Jessica Blacker, a DCE from Luverne, Minn. Her presentation was entitled "Esther: The Girl Who Would Be Queen." Her program showed us how God continues to use unexpected people in profound ways.

Following her presentation the ladies of Yankton served a "feast" that included Jewish foods from Esther's time.

Three Yankton Zone ladies attended the SD District Convention held in Rapid City June 5-6. One of the highlights the ladies shared was attending the light show at Mt. Rushmore after the



worship service which held at Zion the night of June 5.

I, Sandy Brandt, was elected to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee for the coming term. I thank everyone for their vote of confidence and with God's help; I will do my best in this position.

Many groups have been active with projects since the convention. Some of the things the groups have done are: planning and doing a work day at Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE; putting together backpacks with school supplies to give to the Orphan Grain Train; and gathering school supplies to be donated to their local grade school children.

Yankton Zone ladies will work the Puppet Place at the state fair on Saturday, Sept. 5.

We praise and thank God for all our LWML ladies and all the ways they contribute to spreading the Gospel.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT 2026-2028 MISSION GRANTS

By Mary Dunlap, Sioux Falls Zone President

1. Orphan Grain Train, RSO - Milbank Collection Center Upgrade, \$5,000

Orphan Grain Train has requested a grant to upgrade and improve the Millbank Collection Center. Many updates are needed to the Mercy Meal packing area, including new sinks and a new water heater. The bathroom needs handicapped accessible fixtures, grab bars and a new door for privacy. These updates will provide a much safer environment for the many volunteers who serve at the Collection Center.

2. Main Street Living - Devotional Book, \$5,000

Main Street Living (MSL) has requested a grant to help cover production and distribution costs of a 365-day devotional book for viewers. The devotion book will help connect homebound and shut-in viewers to Christ throughout the week with daily devotions written by participating LCMS pastors. MSL is a ministry that works in conjunction with the South Dakota District LCMS. Programs are broadcast every Sunday morning in South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Listen anytime at <https://www.mainstreetliving.com/>.

3. Lutheran Family Service, RSO - Lunch and Learns plus Crisis Pregnancy Support, \$5,000

Lutheran Family Service has requested a grant to fund at least 12 Lunch and Learn workshops to educate obstetrician-gynecologists and family practice physicians in South Dakota about services available to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. The remaining funds will be used to provide those services directly to women in South Dakota.

4. Divine Shepherd - Classical Lutheran Academy, \$5,000

Divine Shepherd Classical Lutheran Academy (DSCLA), Black Hawk, has requested a \$5,000 grant to help purchase curriculum materials, electronic resources and gardening materials, and to fund Friday field trips and student recruitment. DSCLA is in its second year of operation.

5. (TIE) Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, RSO - Physical and Mental Wellness, \$4,000

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has requested a grant to construct a bike path on the Minot, ND, campus. Funds will also be used to purchase a bike storage shed to be constructed near the path for convenient, covered storage. The new bike path will give kids a safe place to ride, enjoy the benefits of physical activity, heal and become their best selves.

6. (TIE) Higher Things, RSO - Making Jesus Known, \$5,000

Higher Things has requested a grant to support its mission of making the Gifts of Jesus Christ known to youth and young adults. The funds will contribute to personnel and support staff, technology and media, and program costs.

7. (TIE) Zion, White - The Gathering Place, \$5,000

The Gathering Place has requested a grant to support ongoing community outreach meals. This meets a community need for a healthy meal and, even more importantly, for fellowship with other residents. The Gathering Place was formed in 2020 by Zion, White. The grant will be used for equipment improvements, paper

products, meal supplies and more.

7. (TIE) Lutherans For Life, RSO - "For Life" Ministry Development, \$5,000

Lutherans for Life (LFL) has requested a grant to develop new, essential Life Groups training curriculum. By establishing new and expanded training, LFL will reach more volunteers willing to serve in a Life Ministry Group focused on God's love for life.

9. Black Hills Pregnancy Center - Earn While You Learn, \$5,000

Black Hills Pregnancy Center (BHPC), Rapid City, has requested a grant for their "Hope Partner" efforts with area churches to deliver the Earn While You Learn program curriculum and Bright Course subscriptions, which would enable BHPC to provide new clients and participants with curriculum and lesson modules from their pregnancy tests up to a child's 4th birthday. The grant will help expand the program and deliver lessons without requiring more office space. The plan is to test this delivery over the next year with two partner churches before expanding further.

10. MOST Ministries, SRO- Training Servant Leaders for Mission, \$5,000

MOST Ministries has requested a grant to defray the cost of training two new team leaders during the next biennium. This will reduce the level of personal financial investment required to become a trained team leader. A trainee serves on two mission trips during their training and many more upon completing it. MOST Ministries strives to equip and send 25-30 teams on mission trips per year.

11. India Bible Study - Malayalam Translation, \$5,000

India Bible Study (IBS) has requested a grant to support the layout, editing, printing and distribution of The Lutheran Study Bible notes and commentary, copyrighted by Concordia Publishing House, 2009, together with the Bible text, copyrighted by the Bible Society of India, in Malayalam. IBS is committed to providing these resources in 15 major Indian languages. Currently, there are very few study Bibles in Indian languages, and none of them have been published from a Lutheran perspective. The first two Indian language translations, Telugu and Tamil, are projected for 2025 and 2026, respectively. The next goal is to complete the Hindi and Malayalam translations and publish them by 2028.

12. Trinity HOPE - Nourishing the Bodies and Souls of Children, \$5,000

Trinity HOPE has requested a grant to fund the feeding program at one Lutheran school in Haiti for the entire school year. The funds will cover the purchase of food from local vendors, oversight and visits from Trinity HOPE Feeding Program Directors, and program auditing and accountability.

13. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, RSO - Bible Books Madagascar, \$5,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation has requested a grant to cover the cost of printing materials for use in Madagascar. Anywhere from 1,250 to 10,000 copies of A Child's Garden Bible Stories, Luther's Small Catechism, or Jesus Never Fails will be printed. The goal is to build a Lutheran foundation in Madagascar through translations of the books of our faith. *(continued on next page)*

14. Concordia Center for the Family, RSO - Facilitating Lifelong Christian Family Disciples, \$1,000 (partial)

Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) has requested a grant to invest in trained Facilitators in the South Dakota District, enabling them to educate and recruit more South Dakota church leaders to become trained as CCF Family Discipleship Facilitators. Through the recruitment of church leaders, CCF will ensure that at least 10 new Family Discipleship Facilitators in the LWML South Dakota District are trained and ready to implement the program in their respective congregations and communities during the biennium. The primary goal of this project is to unite homes and congregations in the making of lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lutheran Women in Mission South Dakota District Ongoing Mission Grants

1. The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

2. Today's Light devotions to the women's prison in Pierre

This quarterly magazine is a daily Bible-reading guide that takes readers through the Bible in two years. At the May 2006 LWML SD District Board of Directors meeting, it was approved to order and distribute 25 subscriptions of Today's Light to the South Dakota State Prison for the women on a yearly basis. In September 2010, it was designated as an ongoing mission (project) grant.

3. Student Endowment Fund at the SD LCMS District for students going into church work

Each year since 1949, a deaconess scholarship has been granted. In 1974, this scholarship was named the "Jo Carman Deaconess Scholarship" in memory of our tenth district president. In circa 1994, this grant was joined with the LCMS South Dakota District's Student Endowment Fund to grant aid to those students who are communicant members in congregations of the LCMS South Dakota District and who are preparing to serve the church as pastors, teachers or other full-time servants to the Church at one of the schools operated by the Synod.

4. South Dakota District church worker student support

Praise God for all of these faithful LWML members!

2026 Christian Life Workshop Schedule

by Kristy Ring, VP of Christian Life

Saturday, September 26, 2026

9AM-3PM CDT

Hosted by:

Memorial Lutheran Church
5000 South Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Ruth: A Story of Love and Loyalty

Rev. Nabil Nour, a longtime pastor and Vice President of the LCMS, will take us on a guided study on the book of Ruth.

A sneak peek, from Rev. Nour: *"Ruth is a blessed and beautiful story, a story that unfolds before our very own eyes on the canvas of human history. The characters are oblivious to what is going on, yet the reader is privy to it as he/she sees the story unfold. Within the story, we learn of the Jewish life, their traditions, their trust in Jehovah God and their truth that there is only One God who can help in every situation. There is much irony within this book. Many of the characters often use three different words, "Faith," "Blessings" and "Grace." And yet, as the reader travels into the book, it appears that there are no faith, blessings nor grace among those who say the words. In reality, God is providing all these things as the One who gives us more than we can even ask and imagine (cf. Eph3:19-20)."*

Pastor Nour teaches in a way that makes you feel like you are not just learning about Ruth but are right next to her.

Come and join us for a day of blessed fellowship and study in Christ Jesus.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

9AM-3PM MST

Hosted by:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church
7308 Wedgewood Drive
Blackhawk, SD 57718

Apologetics in Evangelism

1 Peter 3:15 *"but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always*

being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," ESV

Rev. Thomas Brown of St. Paul, Spearfish, will lead us in careful study with clear explanation through this bible passage. What does defense mean to us? How do we rightly make this defense? How will this defense affect all who we reach out to with the sweet words of the gospel?

With this study, Pastor Brown will bring some seminary education to our workshop, which will add to our Christian armor, teaching us apologetics and how we use them when sharing the gospel with others.

Please come and enjoy studying God's word through apologetics of this scripture.

Travel the beautiful state of South Dakota and join both workshops, complete with worship, lunch and lovely fellowship. The LWML store will be stocked and open!

Many thanks to all who visited the store at the convention in June. Your presence made the LWML store a sweet success! There will be more jewelry for mites brought to us by our Historian Lurene Denke and family.

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.

DISTRICT NEWS

Blessed Redeemer Church Brandon Carillon



Blessed Redeemer, Brandon, dedicated a new carillon during its annual "Church in the Yard" service Aug. 9. The carillon tower was added to church on July 25. The church had been saving for a carillon for more than 10 years.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord!" -Psalm 100:1

MESQUITE LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEKS ORGANIST



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RETIRING CHURCH ORGANISTS/PIANISTS –

Looking for a great place to retire or snow-bird and keep your musical talents in service to our Lord? Check out our "diamond in the desert," Mesquite, Nevada!

Mesquite Lutheran Church seeks a qualified Organist/

Pianist to provide music for worship services and support the congregation's music ministry.

The church is in a retirement resort town of about 25,000 (golf and outdoor activities, a Sun City community, other 55+ neighborhoods etc.) about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. We are reaching out to northern and midwestern LCMS districts, knowing that many churches in those regions have members who are snowbirds.

To learn more, call or email Mesquite Lutheran pastor David Constien at pastor@mesquitelutheran.org or 702-346-5811.

Position description can be accessed at: <https://www.mesquitelutheran.org/position-available.html>

CALL INFORMATION

PENDING CALLS

The following are prayerfully considering calls:

Rev. Daniel Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell, to Good Shepherd, Sherman, Ill., Aug. 1.

Rev. Jens Jenson, Redeemer, Armour, to Trinity, Bridgeton, MO, July 19.

Rev. Michael Kumm, Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes and Faith, Pierre (vacancy pastor), to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, Aug. 6.

Rev. Oliver LaMie, Saint Peters, Dorsey, Ill., to Bethlehem, Milbank/St. John, Revillo, Aug. 7.

Rev. Kyle Lewis, Saint Martin, Winona, MN, to Mt. Calvary, Brookings, Aug. 6.

Rev. Gordon Naumann, St. John, Hazleton, PA, to Trinity/Blunt, Holy Cross/Onida, Immanuel/Harrold, Aug. 12.

Rev. Jacob Smith, St. Paul's, Aberdeen, to St. John, Austin, MN, Aug. 4.

ACCEPTED

Rev. Kurt Laskowski, First English/Centerville and Zion/Hurley, to St. Paul/International Falls, Minn., and Fort Frances, Ontario, July 30.

DECLINED

Rev. Adam DeGroot, Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM to Peace, Rapid City, July 26.

Rev. Jon Ellingworth, Waverly, IA, to Mt. Calvary, Huron, Aug. 15.

Rev. Daniel Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell, to Our Redeemer, Eau Claire, WI, July 27.

Rev. Aaron Koch, Mount Zion, Greenfield, WI, to Peace, Rapid City, Aug. 16.

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