

The latest news for you from the South Dakota District - LCMS

1 message

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Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 8:00 AM

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.

E-Newsletter: April 15, 2024**FROM THE PRESIDENT...****Adoption Proclaims and Performs the Gospel**

Last week, I attended the Lutheran Adoption Conference, in Houston, sponsored by Lutherans for Life and Lutheran Family Service. Jill Johnsen, LFL president for South Dakota, was there too, along with about 40 others.

There's always been a need for the adoption of children, but that need has grown in the years since abortion was legalized by the Roe v. Wade decision 50 years ago. Now that Roe has been overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, the decision about what to do about abortion has been returned to the states. South Dakota is staunchly against abortion, but many states still allow it with few or no exceptions. Plus, there is the sad reality of the prevalence of medical abortions.

The killing of unborn boys and girls is still easily done, tragically so. Only 1% of surprise pregnancies result in adoptions. There are about 100,000 adoptions a year, a number far lower than the number of abortions.

And so we met at the Conference to discuss ensuring the future of Christian adoption. It is hoped that a national strategy for adoption will be developed.

For this we know:

1. Adoption fits beautifully with our theology. Adopting is grace. It is a metaphor for salvation. Listen! "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4,5). Adoption is Christian witness. Orphans are our neighbors. Listen again: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27).
2. The motivation for adoption, said Rev. Michael Salemink, president of LFL, is:
 - For those who do the adopting, there is delight (delight in growing families).
 - More important – to relieve and provide for vulnerable neighbors.
 - To confess, reflect, embody, and enact the Gospel (or, as the title of this article says, adoption proclaims and performs the Gospel).

Adoption needs to be a bigger deal among us. What can we do to make it a bigger deal?

1. Speak well of the adoption option, even for those who are not infertile couples.
2. Stand alongside those seeking to adopt. Assure them of your prayers. Create a fund at your church to assist with the cost of adoptions (which is in the realm of \$40,000-50,000).
3. Create a sense of community in your congregation. Be concerned about one another in all ways. Ask how your fellow members are doing. Greet all people warmly, not just your friends. Young church members with a surprise pregnancy are more likely to seek counsel and help from such congregations.
4. Lean into the resources available from LCMS Life Ministry, Lutherans for Life, and Lutheran Family Service. LFS has a pregnancy and adoption counselor right here in the Sioux Falls office (Cathy Vande Braak; cvandebrak@lutheranfamilyservice.org).

There's much more to say. Let the conversation continue...and the number of adoptions grow among us!

--Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer,
President

Call and Vacancy Information

Click the picture below



Visit our Website



We lift up in prayer.....

This month's congregations: Trinity, Blunt; St. Paul, Draper; Emmanuel, Gettysburg; Immanuel, Harrold; Christ, Lebanon; St. Peter, Midland; Messiah, Murdo; St. John, Norris; Holy Cross, Onida **Schools:** St. John Pre-School, Groton; Trinity Early Childhood Center, Hartford.

MAIN STREET LIVING Programming Information



April

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LUTHERAN WITNESS INSERT

Click the button below.



April



Our South Dakota District summer camp "Camp Minneboji" is coming up June 16th – 22nd. This year's theme is "Blessed" as we look at the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12. Camp Minneboji is for youth completing 4th grade – 8th grade. Cost is \$450 before April 1 and \$500 afterwards. There is also a special "Honors Camp" for those completing 9th grade which has special activities and focuses on leadership development and personal study of God's Word. Honors camp is \$480 before April 1 and \$530 afterwards. For more information, check us out on the South Dakota District website at minneboji.com or our facebook page. If you have any questions, please email: minneboji@gmail.com. All registrations are due by May 1.



The 63rd LWML SD District Convention is on June 7-8 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen. The theme of the convention is "Inexpressible Joy Matchless Savior" based on 1 Peter 1:8-9. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be [servant events](#), mission grant speakers, keynote address from former LWML President Kay Kreklau, Bible study led by Donna Snow, and LWML information from LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources Arlene Naasz. On Friday evening the Mite Walk will be at Wiley Park. We have an opening communion service at 1:00 on Friday and a closing service on Saturday afternoon. Please see the sdlwml.org website for more information. The registration form is [here](#) for you to use. Church workers do not pay the registration fee

APRIL

National Parkinson's Awareness Month

- Parkinson's Disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and parts of the body controlled by nerves. No two people have the exact same symptoms
- **Nearly one million people in the U.S. are living with Parkinson's Disease**
- The cause is unknown and there is no cure, yet there are many treatment options for people to lead healthy productive lives

For more information and local support visit with your parish nurse or check out

<https://www.southdakotaparkinson.org/>



Rachel Aamold BSN, RN
SD Parish Nurse District Rep
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NOUR TOUR.....Beloved in the Lord Jesus, you are invited to join me (on my 26th tour of the Holy Land Nour Tour.) A native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land for an experience of a lifetime to visit Israel for a spiritual NOUR-ishment. More information [HERE](#).



DOXOLOGY.....Registration is still open for the next DOXOLOGY Classic program starting June 10-13 in Donaldson, Indiana. This program is designed to nurture the spiritual health and ministry effectiveness of pastors like you. The DOXOLOGY Classic is an excellent way to

evaluate ministry priorities and further equip yourself for faithful service to our Great Shepherd, Jesus. [More information here.](#)



Take Heart Scholarship



WIN A \$3,000 Scholarship



ENTER HERE
lcef.org/scholarship



HURRY ENTER!
By May 1, 2024

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Y.I. Club World Changers, who are high school seniors and will soon advance to your next level of higher education. As you begin your new journey, LCEF's Young Investors Club wants to assist your transition by offering financial support through the Take Heart Scholarship with up to three awards \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500. **Visit lcef.org/scholarship to learn more.**



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry



Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

The "Cross Walk" is a monthly e-Newsletter published by Lutheran Family Service. Click the picture (logo) to view the April 2024 edition.



CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Prayerfully Consider Visit is a triannual event designed to give future pastors and deaconesses a firsthand look at the programs and community of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). During this free event, you will attend classes, talk with current students, meet the faculty, spend time with your Admission counselor, and worship in Kramer Chapel. You will also hear from CTSFW

staff who are on hand to make your transition to seminary life easier, including representatives from financial aid, housing, and the Food and Clothing Co-op. **[More information here.](#)**



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explore God's direction for you

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS....Discerning the tug to ministry and making the decision to attend seminary can be challenging. **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** aims to help prospective students contemplate these important decisions with a visitation event set for this summer: **[Vocatio: High School.](#)**



Concordia Seminary
ST. LOUIS

The 2024 **Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop Series** covers topics ranging from books of the Bible, the loneliness pandemic, the early church, Law and Gospel, and faith formation, among many others. The workshops are being offered in 13 cities nationwide.

Who's invited: Pastors, church workers and laypeople

When: April through August 2024

Cost: \$150 for each three-day workshop, includes Continuing Education Unit credits for pastors

Registration deadline: 14 days before the beginning of each workshop.

More information can be found [here](#).



OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH! Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Brookings invites youth from throughout South Dakota to join their youth June 2-7, 2024, for a very special trip. They will be traveling to the Ark Encounter....Join us June 2-7, 2024 for a Youth Trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky (staying 2 nights at nearby Potter's Ranch), with additional overnight stops at Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary St. Louis. The trip is intended for youth who will have completed 7th grade through those who have completed 12th grade in 2024 & their chaperones. The cost is

\$850 per person (everything included except 5 meals). The trip will leave/return from Sioux Falls. More information can be found online at <https://www.mountcalvary1.org/kentuckytrip>.

NEWS FROM THE ANDREASENS'

Click the image for more information,



NEWS FROM THE BOBBYS'

Click the image for more information.

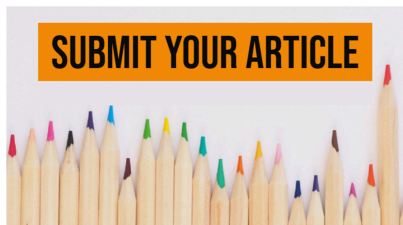


NEWS FROM THE JASTRAMS'

Click the image for more information.



Click the image below for information and resources!



Please share your congregation's or school's unique ministries with the rest of the District. Send pictures and stories for consideration to jpikemidco.net by Monday, April 29th at 12:00 Noon for the May 1st edition. We want to see how **YOUR** congregation or school is showing the love of God to those in your community and around the world

PASS IT ON! We have been asked if the recipients of this email newsletter may forward it to others. **YES!** Please share it with whomever you wish, including your church's group email list. Simply click on the button below for sharing!



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