

# DISTRICT NEWS

**September 2024**



## God's Gospel: Salvation Power

The apostle Paul, in Romans 1:16, makes the fearlessly daring claim that the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus Christ, is the “power of God unto salvation.”

Imagine! Words about the Word made flesh, Jesus, are able to drive the rich and famous to their knees in humble faith. They are able to raise up the lowly so that they stand with heads held high, with a new identity as children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Of course, the ability to believe is not something that comes from within our sinful selves. We did not decide to believe. It's God's power. Luther, in the Explanation to the Third Article of the Creed, wrote:

I cannot, by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

St. Paul, similarly, emphasizes that faith is “the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (EPHESIANS 2:8-9).



**Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer**  
District President

I chose Romans 1:16-17 as the theme verses of the next district convention, which is scheduled for Feb. 16-18, 2025, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. I chose those verses and the “God’s Gospel: Salvation Power” theme because the 105 congregations of the LCMS South Dakota District exist solely because of the power of the Gospel. You belong to one of these 105 congregations by Spirit-given faith, planted and nurtured by the Gospel.

And it’s the power of the Good News of God’s love for you in Christ Jesus that spurs you and your congregation to do deeds of love and speak words of witness. This is another reason I chose Romans 1:16-17 and the “God’s Gospel: Salvation Power” theme as the focus of our convention and of our work together in the next triennium (2025-2028).

I do want to remind our district’s pastors and the leaders of our congregations that they have one assignment that’s due before the convention: to choose the voting pastoral delegate and the voting lay delegate and alternate lay delegate to represent your parish. This is done by way of a voters meeting. You also have the privilege of nominating one pastor to serve as president of the district and one pastor to serve as a vice-president.

An optional “assignment” is for your congregation to submit an overture — a proposed item of business — for the delegates to consider at the convention.

A convention mailing to all congregations, with much more informa-

See **MESSAGE**, page 8

## Welcome, Greenmyers!



From left, (front) Revs. Mark Mischnick and Joseph Greenmyer; (center) Vicar Benjamin Wessel, Revs. Daniel Grimmer, Kevin Koester, Brian Lemcke, Nathan Neugebauer; (back) Ryan Loeslie, Scott Spiehs, Ken Soyk and Paul Winckler.

Rev. Joseph Greenmyer was ordained and installed as pastor of Faith, Parkston, and St. Peter, Clayton (rural Emery), on June 30 at Faith. Rev. Ryan Loeslie, Mitchell Circuit visitor and pastor of Immanuel, Dimock, was the officiant. Rev. Daniel Grimmer, pastor of Zion, Mitchell, and Joseph's vicarage supervisor, was the preacher. Rev. Ken Soyk, emeritus and former Faith and St. Peter pastor, was the liturgist.

Joseph graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, last spring. He and his wife, Faith, are graduates of Concordia University, Nebraska. We welcome the Greenmyers to the beloved South Dakota District!



## A toast to 70 years

On June 23, Alex and Arlene Jordan celebrated 70 years of marriage with family and friends at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Watertown.

Alex (93) and Arlene (90) raised their family on a farm near Waubay. Along with the many joys and blessings they have shared over seven decades, they also have the same birthday – Nov. 24.

The Mount Olive congregation rejoices with them and their love and commitment to one another!



## CALL INFORMATION

**Rev. Toby Heller**, Concordia, Beulah, N.D., is prayerfully considering a call to Zion, Canistota, and St. John, Montrose, July 7.

**Rev. Greg Hinners**, St. John, Norris; St. Peter, Midland; and Our Redeemer, Phillip, is prayerfully considering a call to Zion, Power, and St. John, Fairfield, Mont., July 12.

**Rev. Doug Slavens**, associate pastor, Memorial, Sioux Falls, is prayerfully considering a call to St. Matthew, Walled Lake, Mich., July 15; Trinity, New York Mills, Minn., July 28; Holy Cross, Prior Lake, Minn., July 28; and Cross of Christ, Bloomfield, Mich., July 28.

**Rev. Allan Wierschke**, Zion, Rushville, and St. Paul, Hay Springs, Neb., declined a call as pastor to Concordia, Cresbard, and Immanuel, Wecota, July 17.

**Rev. Samuel Thole**, assistant pastor, Peace, Brookings, declined a call as pastor to Our Savior, Aberdeen, and St. John, Columbia, July 23.

**Rev. Ray Greenseth**, Messiah, Murdo; St. Paul, Draper; and Zion, Presho, is prayerfully considering a call to Immanuel, Eagle Bend, Minn. and St. Matthew Clarissa, Minn., July 24.

**Rev. Toby Heller**, Concordia, Beulah, N.D., is prayerfully considering a call to Zion, Canistota, and St. John, Montrose, July 7.

**Rev. Greg Hinners**, St. John, Norris; St. Peter, Midland; and Our Redeemer, Phillip, is prayerfully considering a call to Zion, Power, Mont., and St. John, Fairfield, Mont., July 12.

**Rev. Nathan Neugebauer**, St. John, Revillo, and Bethlehem, Milbank, is prayerfully considering a call to Concordia, Red Wing, Minn., July 25.

**Deaconess Andra Gates**, Yankton, accepted a call to Redeemer, Mountain Home, Ark., July 8.



# Campus visit becomes multi-generational trip

In early June, a group of youth and adults from several South Dakota District congregations headed east to give youth a tour of Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). Following the campus visits, the group traveled to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky.

According to Jessie Kuechenmeister, administrative assistant at Mount Calvary, Brookings, the trip was initially planned specifically as a youth trip, but organizers opted to open up the trip to adults as well. “In hindsight, although it required more planning, it was so

neat to have youth and adults together, and the trip worked out wonderfully,” Kuechenmeister said.

In all, 37 travelers — 19 youth and 18 adults — from Brookings, Freeman, Sioux Falls and Wentworth made the trip.

Rev. Matthew Wurm, senior pastor of Mount Calvary, provided daily morning and evening devotions in a variety of settings, including the shores of Lake Michigan; the small chapel at CTSFW; the cafeteria and patio at Potter’s Ranch (a private retreat in Union, Ky.); and on the charter bus. The group also attended chapel services at both seminaries.

In addition to the campus tours, admissions representatives met with the group

to share information and answer questions. The group stayed overnight in the dorms at each campus.

While in Kentucky, the group stayed at Potter’s Ranch for two nights. In addition to enjoying meals and fellowship, participants were able to go ziplining, kayaking and hiking, and play a variety of games.

“Potter’s Ranch was perfect, as it allowed for activities and fellowship with each other,” Kuechenmeister said. “In fact, almost all trip attendees said they wished we had more time at Potter’s Ranch.”

Mount Calvary, Brookings, hopes to offer this faith-strengthening, educational and joyous adventure to youth and adults every three years.

## LCEF seeks district VP

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is seeking an individual to serve as vice-president for the North Dakota and South Dakota districts.

This person would be responsible for working with congregations and ministry partners in the assigned districts, identifying opportunities where LCEF can support and serve. These opportunities include acting as a consultant, identifying needs and proposing solutions provided

by district (staff) and LCEF resources (loans, investments, ministry solutions and real estate solutions). This position also includes a great deal of travel.

For more information, or if interested in applying, please visit [lcef.org/careers](http://lcef.org/careers). To support the search, LCEF will award a \$1,500 referral grant to the congregation that helps us in finding the right candidate for the position.

## Share your news with us!

We love to feature a wide variety of news occurring in our district congregations. If you have announcements, special events or human interest stories, please share with your brothers and sisters in Christ of the South Dakota District. Send submissions to Kate Meadows: [kate@katemeadows.com](mailto:kate@katemeadows.com), or 420 E. Liberty Street Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the November issue is Sept. 15.

## Moments with Mary Jo

# READY TO serve

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••



Greetings on this beautiful day the Lord has made.

My first article had to be completed quickly after I was elected as district president, so I didn't have much time to really think about how I wanted to title my monthly articles. Those who know me well will say I am not very creative, and it takes me a little time to come up with ideas. As I pondered writing my second article, a title for my column came to me: "Moments with Mary Jo."



**Mary Jo Stier**  
LWML South Dakota District President

In this space for September, I am excited to share with you information about LWML Sunday. Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, but it can be celebrated any time. Numerous resources are available at [lwml.org/lwml-sunday](http://lwml.org/lwml-sunday) to help with planning your group's LWML Sunday. I encourage you to take a look at these resources.

This year's LWML Sunday theme is, "Ready to Serve," based on Luke 1:38:

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."  
And the angel departed from her.

As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord. Her copper coins, her mites, were "everything she had, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:43).

May our mite offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom!

## Attend a Christian Life Workshop

**M**y name is Kristy Ring and I am the new vice-president of Christian Life. I am the wife of Rev. Marcus Ring, who serves as pastor of St. John, Gregory. I am mother of Charissa (14), Robby (12) and Christian (10). I teach middle- and high-school computers for the Gregory School District. A deaconess studies background from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, has truly prepared me for this vocation with LWML.

I am eager to meet you all and spend time together in fellowship, worship, learning and service. The 2024 Fall Christian Life Workshops gives us an opportunity for these rich gifts in Christ.

### Saturday, Sept. 7

"God Gives Good Gifts in B.A.G.S. (Baptism, Absolution, Gospel, Supper)"

Divine Shepard, Black Hawk (7308 Wedgewood Drive)

Presenter: Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

### Saturday, Oct. 12

"Understanding Mass Media from a Christian Perspective"

St. John's, Yankton (1009 Jackson Street)

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Jacob Bobby

### Workshop schedule:

- 9:30–10 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 10–10:15 a.m. Opening devotions
- 10:15–10:30 a.m. Greetings, announcements and introductions
- 10:30–11 a.m. Speaker
- 11–11:15 a.m. Break/singing
- 11:15 a.m.–noon Speaker
- Noon–1 p.m. Lunch/shopping
- 1–1:45 p.m. Speaker
- 1:45–2 p.m. Break/singing
- 2–2:45 p.m. Speaker
- 2:45– 3 p.m. Closing

*Please join us and bring a friend for these enriching workshops as we grow together in God's Word with our blessed pastors!*

## Hello from the new VP of Gospel Outreach

Greetings Sisters in Christ.

My name is Cathy VandeBraak and I am excited to serve the Lutheran Women in Mission South Dakota District as the new vice-president of Gospel Outreach. I am a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. I am co-president of the Zion Eve Group and vice-president of the Sioux Falls Zone.

My husband, Mark, and I both work for Lutheran Family Service. We have two children, Rebecca (Jake) and Seth, and one beautiful granddaughter, Gwendolyn. She was the youngest first-timer at the district convention in Aberdeen.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



# Who am I?



Rev. Christopher McCarthy

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **1 Peter 2:9**

I suppose I should begin by introducing myself. I am Rev. Christopher McCarthy, pastor of First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton, since 2017, having been called as a candidate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, upon graduation. My wife, Carrie, and I were married in September 2021, and we are blessed with one son, Micah. Carrie is a Lutheran teacher from Baltimore.

At the 2024 district convention, you elected me to be your junior pastoral counselor. I am excited and honored to serve you in this role.

It is an exciting time of year, isn't it? Carrie, Micah and I have been working hard on our garden all year and are looking forward to the harvest from our labors. After harvesting comes canning, storing and jelly-making.

I am sure this is an exciting time of year for you, too! You are looking forward to your own harvest. Perhaps

you are anticipating a new school year or upcoming holidays. You will encounter new initiatives at work, another year on the church calendar, another winter.

I don't know how it is for you, but the end of the summer season always leaves me with a sense of ... *regret* is not the right word ... but *unfulfillment*, perhaps. I think to myself, "We could have done more this summer. We could have done more with the longer hours of the day. We could have done more before winter sets in."

Can you relate? We are limited by the seasons. By work. By school. By routine. The same old, same old sets in and we start to wonder, "What is all this for?" "What am I doing with my life?" "How will I be remembered by my community, or will I be remembered at all?"

I think about these questions often. They all center around this question: "Who am I?"

And that is where the Holy Spirit comforts us. First Peter answers the question for us: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession..." (2:9). Suddenly, those questions melt away, not because the routine is different, not because the seasons are different or your schedule is different, but because *you* are different. For He has called you by the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus has purchased and won you by His blood. Your sin — what you did that you shouldn't have, or what you didn't do that you should have — is covered by His blood. Death is not the end for you, just as it was not the end of Him. Instead, He is the end of death.

Satan cannot claim you. Why? Because you — you! — have been called out of his darkness and into Christ's marvelous light.

Yes, even as the days get shorter. Even as routine sets in. Even as the seasons change. Yes, even in these things, proclaim His excellencies, for you are a people for His own possession, bought by the blood of Jesus.

YANKTON ZONE UPDATE

The Yankton Zone held its Spring Christian Life Workshop April 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall in Menno. Thirty-seven people attended the event, co-hosted by LWML groups from Immanuel, Menno; and St. Paul, Scotland.

Rev. Brian Mosemann, senior pastoral counselor, presented on "How to Handle

a Sword," based on 2 Timothy 2:15, and explained how Law and Gospel are hard to define separately and may sometimes overlap.

For the ingathering, the zone collected individually packaged boxes/bags of raisins, microwave popcorn, puff corn, snack crackers, Rice Krispie treats and small cans of soft drinks. These items were then divided and delivered by the host ladies to the Menno-Olivet Care

Center, a food pantry in Scotland, and the Scotland Good Samaritan Center.

The Fall Christian Life Workshop will be held in Yankton on Saturday, Oct. 12. The Yankton Zone is tentatively planning to incorporate a short business meeting that day to conduct our election of officers.

**Sandy Brandt**  
Yankton Zone President

## Pray for the Alpha Center



**Editor's note:** Rev. Ryan Drevlow recently sat down with Erica Miller and Jenna Spellerberg of the **Alpha Center** in Sioux Falls to learn more about its work and mission. The following is the second of a two-part excerpt from that interview. Erica serves as Alpha Center executive director and Jenna is nurse manager.

### Rev. Drevlow: How can Lutherans in South Dakota support the Alpha Center?

**Erica Miller:** The Alpha Center is a non-profit organization. We are completely supporter funded. We don't have any government grants. We are only able to offer our services to clients because of generous supporters giving us their time, talents and treasures. We don't rely strictly on finances — supporters choosing to pray for us is also a tremendous help. Donate time. Donate baby items. There are a variety of ways that people can get involved at the Alpha Center.

**Jenna Spellerberg:** Yes! Please pray for us! Anybody. Anywhere. Please pray. We see God work here at the Alpha Center every single day. He is changing hearts and lives. No matter the outcome of a pregnancy, no matter what happens in our life, God can use it for good. We see this at the Alpha Center.

We need prayer warriors for our staff, our volunteers, and the women and men that we get to see every day. The best part of my job is getting to meet with the women who we serve. They are incredible. They have hard stories. But they are some of the most amazing people that I've ever met. It's such a gift to know them.

One thing that I would like to be on the forefront of people's minds as they pray is that we have a mobile medical unit now called Legacy. Our goal with our mobile medical unit is to reach even more with our services: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STD testing, options and counseling. This unit is on the road so that we can go to women in need. We also go to college campuses and rural areas.

**Miller:** The Alpha Center provides care after birth, as well. In fact, our educational programs serve a timeframe from when a mom finds out she's pregnant up until her baby is two. This means that, through a woman's entire pregnancy and the baby's first two years of life, we can meet with the mother on a weekly basis for education programs and offer support.

We also want to offer community referrals for things that we don't provide and for ongoing care beyond that two-year mark. The Alpha Center provides ongoing support when the rubber meets the road.

**Drevlow:** Two ladies from my previous congregation in Sioux Falls were mentor mothers in those classes. The parents take tests and work through the classes. As they do, they earn points toward diapers, baby supplies and more. I imagine there must be a lot of joy in giving supplies to mothers.

**Miller:** There absolutely is. And like you said, they do earn those points when they come in for the education lessons. They're not only learning important parenting skills, but they're also earning points they can redeem for items for their baby. They're getting items at no cost, but there's some investment on their part.

We have all of those items that are donated from churches, individuals and organizations that parents can shop for with their points in our baby boutique and take home. We're able to do that because of generous supporters who are willing to supply those items.

**Drevlow:** Fantastic. I am honored by you and the work that you do. God bless you.



**Donations of baby items are also needed.**



**Dear Heavenly Father,** we thank you for your many blessings, especially the blessing of life. You give us children to create a legacy, to honor us, to give us joy, to give us love. It's such a blessing to have children. Lord, we ask that you bless the ministry of the Alpha Center as they seek to protect life at all stages. Help the Alpha Center give mothers and fathers teaching and the necessities they need to be good parents. Bless this ministry, all aspects of it, especially the Legacy Traveling Mobile Unit, the Abortion Pill Rescue and all the other work that they're doing. Give them your peace, your comfort and your strength. We pray all this in Christ's name. Amen.

## LCMS South Dakota District Congregational Year-to-Date Report of Mission Receipts for the six months ending July 14, 2024, compared to the six months ending July 14, 2023

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2024 Intention	6 months 2024	6 months 2023	Avg/Per 2024	Comm. 2023
<b>Circuit 1 – Aberdeen</b>						
Aberdeen, Our Savior	277	10,000	6,050	5,700	21.84	20.58
Aberdeen, St. John	80	10,500	5,766	7,744	72.08	96.80
Aberdeen, St. Paul	450	20,000	13,307	25,771	29.57	57.27
Andover, Zion	106	–	3,300	2,350	31.13	22.17
Britton, St. John	146	3,000	–	7,000	–	47.95
Columbia, St. John	95	7,500	3,875	3,875	40.79	40.79
Cresbard, Concordia	58	–	4,590	3,425	79.14	59.05
Doland, Redeemer	29	–	1,000	500	34.48	17.24
Ferney, St. Paul	92	5,000	2,500	4,000	27.17	43.48
Groton, St. John	305	7,000	3,990	5,651	13.08	18.53
Leola, St. Paul	53	500	–	–	–	–
Mansfield, Trinity	270	25,000	11,762	16,702	43.56	61.86
Redfield, Messiah	140	–	1,000	1,000	7.14	7.14
Stratford, St. Paul	38	–	2,000	4,000	52.63	105.26
Wecota, Immanuel	87	9,000	2,646	4,453	30.41	51.18
<b>Circuit 1 Totals</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>\$97,500</b>	<b>\$61,786</b>	<b>\$92,171</b>	<b>27.76</b>	<b>41.41</b>
<b>Circuit 2 – Watertown</b>						
Brookings, Mount Calvary	420	45,000	26,695	25,721	63.56	61.24
Brookings, Peace	295	–	3,000	3,000	10.17	10.17
Corona, Trinity	132	–	741	512	5.61	3.88
Flandreau, Redeemer	28	3,800	1,900	1,900	67.86	67.86
Milbank, Bethlehem	64	300	–	–	–	–
Milbank, Emanuel	576	24,000	8,000	10,000	13.89	17.36
Reville, St. John	119	2,000	1,170	2,110	9.83	17.73
Sisston, Emanuel	101	4,400	635	485	6.29	4.80
Watertown, Mount Olive	387	25,000	12,500	17,908	32.30	46.27
Waubay, Zion	126	1,000	3,673	1,740	29.15	13.81
White, Zion	61	5,000	3,820	1,250	62.62	20.49
Wilnot, Our Savior	161	2,500	944	2,235	5.86	13.88
<b>Circuit 2 Totals</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>\$113,000</b>	<b>\$63,078</b>	<b>\$66,861</b>	<b>25.54</b>	<b>27.07</b>
<b>Circuit 3 – Pierre</b>						
Blunt, Trinity	40	2,000	1,000	1,000	25.00	25.00
Chamberlain, Zion <sup>1</sup>	406	–	10,829	12,250	26.67	30.17
Draper, St. Paul	24	250	250	250	10.42	10.42
Gettysburg, Emmanuel	201	6,500	–	–	–	–
Gregory, St. John	249	5,000	–	–	–	–
Hamill, Zion	14	–	–	–	–	–
Harrold, Immanuel	20	–	–	–	–	–
Lebanon, Christ	23	300	–	–	–	–
Midland, St. Peter	46	–	1,800	1,780	39.13	38.70
Murdo, Messiah	71	3,000	–	1,250	–	17.61
Norris, St. John <sup>2</sup>	70	2,500	2,374	696	33.91	9.94
Onida, Holy Cross	108	1,600	–	–	–	–
Philip, Our Redeemer	50	–	–	–	–	–
Pierre, Faith	1,460	45,000	22,700	22,500	15.55	15.41
Presho, Zion	88	1,500	1,500	1,500	17.05	17.05
Reliance, Trinity	15	–	–	–	–	–
Rosebud, Rosebud Mission	–	–	1,061	906	–	–
Winner, Christ	25	2,000	1,000	1,000	40.00	40.00
<b>Circuit 3 Totals</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>\$69,650</b>	<b>\$42,514</b>	<b>\$43,132</b>	<b>14.61</b>	<b>14.82</b>
<b>Circuit 4 – Black Hills</b>						
Belle Fourche, Trinity	–	500	–	–	–	–
Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	430	16,320	11,730	7,840	27.28	18.23
Creighton, Emmanuel	54	–	–	–	–	–
Custer, Our Redeemer	198	4,000	1,717	800	8.67	4.04
Deadwood, Grace	79	3,000	3,000	1,750	37.97	22.15
Hill City, Our Savior	29	1,500	1,500	1,500	51.72	51.72
Hot Springs, Bethesda	143	7,000	3,500	3,500	24.48	24.48
Rapid City, Bethlehem	451	31,387	15,694	15,181	34.80	33.66
Rapid City, Our Redeemer	124	3,500	2,645	1,955	21.33	15.77
Rapid City, Peace	495	–	11,113	11,720	22.45	23.68
Rapid City, Zion	651	32,500	16,250	16,500	24.96	25.35
Spearfish, St. Paul	272	30,000	15,000	16,236	55.15	59.69
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel	22	600	2,235	–	101.59	–
Wall, First	229	2,100	–	–	–	–
<b>Circuit 4 Totals</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>\$132,407</b>	<b>\$84,384</b>	<b>\$76,982</b>	<b>26.56</b>	<b>24.23</b>

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2024 Intention	6 months 2024	6 months 2023	Avg/Per 2024	Comm. 2023
<b>Circuit 5 – Mitchell</b>						
Armour, Redeemer	199	8,000	4,000	3,000	20.10	15.08
Delmont, Zion	89	17,000	8,500	8,000	95.51	89.89
Dimock, Immanuel	127	15,000	3,400	10,228	26.77	80.54
Emery, St. Peter	56	3,000	2,675	3,513	47.77	62.73
Huron, Mount Calvary	781	70,000	24,618	29,193	31.52	37.38
Mitchell, Zion	507	30,850	15,491	15,426	30.55	30.43
Parkston, Faith	195	10,000	1,500	7,500	7.69	38.46
Plankinton, St. Paul	138	2,000	2,000	2,000	14.49	14.49
Tripp, Emmaus	42	–	1,250	1,250	29.76	29.76
White Lake, Trinity	115	8,000	4,300	5,600	37.39	48.70
Wessington Springs, Zion	75	–	–	–	–	–
Wolsey, St. John	233	3,400	6,314	6,524	27.10	28.00
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	11	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Circuit 5 Totals</b>	<b>2,568</b>	<b>\$167,250</b>	<b>\$74,048</b>	<b>\$92,234</b>	<b>28.83</b>	<b>35.92</b>
<b>Circuit 6 – Freeman</b>						
Alexandria, St. Martin	92	1,200	–	275	18.48	2.99
Canistota, Zion	226	–	1,069	2,344	4.73	10.37
Centerville, First English	63	2,000	2,185	1,130	34.68	17.94
Freeman, St. Paul	275	9,000	5,877	3,913	21.37	14.23
Hartford, Trinity	110	500	–	–	–	–
Howard, St. John	122	4,000	–	–	–	–
Hurley, Zion	24	2,750	–	–	–	–
Madison, Our Savior	188	1,000	2,100	1,800	11.17	9.57
Marion, Bethesda	46	2,500	–	–	–	–
Menno, Immanuel	60	3,000	3,830	3,760	63.83	62.67
Montrose, St. John	110	–	–	–	–	–
Parker, First English	28	2,000	–	–	–	–
Scotland, St. Paul	34	600	300	300	8.82	8.82
Spencer, Trinity	86	2,000	2,000	–	23.26	–
Tea, Risen Savior <sup>3</sup>	131	11,970	8,631	2,012	65.89	15.36
Wentworth, St. Peter	185	7,800	4,375	3,875	23.65	20.95
<b>Circuit 6 Totals</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>\$50,320</b>	<b>\$32,067</b>	<b>\$19,409</b>	<b>18.02</b>	<b>10.90</b>
<b>Circuit 7 – Sioux Falls</b>						
Brandon, Blessed Redeemer	269	15,000	7,500	7,500	27.88	27.88
Sioux Falls, Christ	122	2,000	536	1,000	4.39	8.20
Sioux Falls, Faith	592	43,500	25,791	21,750	43.57	36.74
Sioux Falls, Lord of Life	164	–	6,252	6,252	38.12	38.12
Sioux Falls, Memorial	770	62,150	28,872	29,075	37.50	37.76
Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer	314	25,200	25,200	12,600	80.25	40.13
Sioux Falls, Resurrection	245	10,000	5,000	5,000	20.41	20.41
Sioux Falls, Trinity of The Deaf	35	–	–	–	–	–
Sioux Falls, Zion	672	50,000	31,250	18,000	46.50	26.79
<b>Circuit 7 Totals</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>\$207,850</b>	<b>\$130,401</b>	<b>\$101,177</b>	<b>40.97</b>	<b>31.79</b>
<b>Circuit 8 – Yankton</b>						
Alcester, Peace	89	3,000	2,065	2,078	23.20	23.35
Avon, Zion	212	5,000	2,500	2,580	11.79	12.17
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross <sup>4</sup>	203	22,498	10,035	8,629	49.43	42.51
Fairfax, Trinity	77	5,000	–	–	–	–
Springfield, Our Savior	26	100	–	–	–	–
Tyndall, St. John	132	2,600	–	–	–	–
Utica, Martinus	68	2,000	500	1,000	7.35	14.71
Vermillion, Concordia	73	–	3,600	6,000	49.32	82.19
Wagner, St. John	182	9,000	4,500	4,500	24.73	24.73
Yankton, St. John <sup>5</sup>	1,039	62,500	19,817	27,917	19.07	26.87
<b>Circuit 8 Totals</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>\$111,698</b>	<b>\$43,017</b>	<b>\$52,704</b>	<b>20.47</b>	<b>25.09</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>20,415</b>	<b>\$949,675</b>	<b>\$531,295</b>	<b>\$544,670</b>	<b>26.02</b>	<b>26.68</b>

<sup>1</sup> \$2,299 of Zion, Chamberlain, is for 2023 missions

<sup>2</sup> \$1,804 of St John, Norris, is for 2023 missions

<sup>3</sup> \$3,946 of Risen Savior, Tea, is for 2023 missions

<sup>4</sup> \$500 of Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, is for 2023 missions

<sup>5</sup> \$4,700 of St John, Yankton, is for 2023 missions

Comm. Members: Communicant membership as of May 2024 per LCMS congregational statistics report

# Youth are **BLESSED** at Camp Minneboji



Minneboji camp in Sioux Falls has been a blessing to our South Dakota District since 1949. About 300 campers, counselors and camp staff gathered June 16–22 under the theme, “BLESSED,” in which the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) were examined. Despite the many rainy days, our camp year 2024 has been a blessing and joy for all participants.

Each year at Minneboji, the “Spirit of Okoboji” awards are given

to campers who demonstrate cooperation, care and support, and exemplify Christian attitudes in their relationships. The 2024 winners, chosen by the cabin counselors, are Kyleigh Gordon, Eagan Hudson, Amelia Larson, Ashton Loween, Mary Pelzel and Micah Stearn. Congratulations!

The 2025 Minneboji will be held June 15–21. For more information on camp and to see videos and photos, visit [minneboji.com](http://minneboji.com).

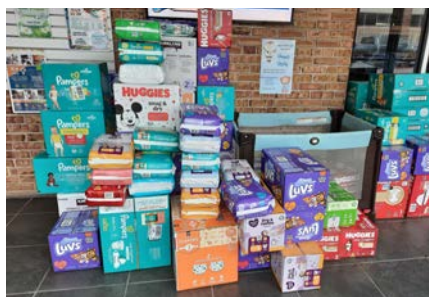
## Competition benefits expectant parents

South Dakota District congregations were invited to collect the most diapers for Lutherans For Life’s Diaper Derby. The friendly competition is one way Lutherans For Life celebrates life and honors fathers and mothers. Donations of diapers and baby wipes are collected by congregations and then donated to local pregnancy centers, women’s shelters and/or community centers.

Many congregations participate in this annual event, beyond what is reported here. The 2024 reported Diaper Derby results are:

- Mount Calvary, Brookings: 1,321 diapers; 6 packages of wipes; 18 clothing/miscellaneous baby items; \$84
- Peace, Brookings: 108 diapers; 5 packages of wipes; \$630
- Mount Calvary, Huron: 834 diapers
- Peace, Rapid City: 857 diapers, 2,021 wipes

- Memorial, Sioux Falls: 2,014 diapers; 2,736 wipes
  - Our Redeemer, Sioux Falls: 2,300 diapers; 9 packages of wipes
  - Zion, Sioux Falls: 6,879 diapers
  - St. John’s, Wolsey: 358 diapers; 1 package of wipes
  - Faith, Sioux Falls: 2,257 diapers; 1,474 wipes
  - Concordia, Cresbard: 3,303 diapers
- Zion, Mitchell, also participated.



## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tion, including the nominating ballots for district president and vice-president, will arrive soon.

**Your servant in Christ • Pastor Sailer**

“Not ashamed of the Gospel!”  
Rom. 1:16; 16:25–27

### Convention deadlines:

- Oct. 16 Delegate names to district office
- Oct. 16 Reports and Overtures to district office
- Dec. 16 District president and vice-president nominations to district secretary
- Dec. 16 Delegate registrations and fees due

