



SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

DISTRICT NEWS

June/July 2024

Working for you

A hard-working group of 14 lay-people, pastors and commissioned ministers is at work on your behalf in our LCMS South Dakota District. I'm referring to the Mission and Ministry Council.



Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer
District President

The formation of this council was approved during the 2021 district convention. Their chief task is to identify needs and opportunities in our congregations and communities, and to help provide resources to address those needs and opportunities.

Think of this group as a think-tank for our district. They study and bounce ideas off one another. They invite experts to their meetings to help with ministry areas like missions and youth ministry. Flowing from this think-tank activity, the council works to sponsor events to provide resources and Bible-based inspiration. Sometimes they appoint a group to plan and implement an event.

An example of a mission and ministry sponsored event was last year's P.A.S.S. It On workshop, held in Black Hawk and Sioux Falls. It provided a "toolbox" of resources for outreach, youth ministry, education, elders and the business side of congregations.

This November, the P.A.S.S. It On events will take on a more apologetic/

current-event emphasis. Participants will learn about carrying their witness into our culture and responding to and caring for those affected by the LGBTQ+ lifestyle. Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., will be the keynote speaker. Like last year's workshop, this will be a two-site event: Saturday, Nov. 2, in Rapid City, and Sunday, Nov. 3, in Sioux Falls.

Another resource growing out of this work of the council are events for men. Last December, a men's retreat was held in Brookings, attracting nearly 100 participants. A second men's retreat will be held Aug. 15-18 at the Campfire Cabins in the Black Hills (see Page 8).

Visit sddlcms.org for information on the events sponsored by the council.

Members of the Mission and Ministry Council for the current triennium are listed at right. We thank them for their dedicated service to all of us in the South Dakota District!



Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz will be the keynote speaker for P.A.S.S. It On in November.



CIRCUIT 1

- Dave Peterson, Trinity, Mansfield

CIRCUIT 2

- Geoff Street, Emanuel, Milbank

CIRCUIT 3

- Tom Deadrick, Faith, Pierre

CIRCUIT 4

- Erik Aker, Peace, Rapid City
- DCE Lorien Petersen, Zion, Rapid City

CIRCUIT 5

- Adam Schultz, Zion, Mitchell

CIRCUIT 6

- Alan Van Ruler, St. John's, Montrose

CIRCUIT 7

- Krista Erickson, Faith, Sioux Falls

CIRCUIT 8

- Tara Kinsley, St. John's, Yankton
- Rev. Matthew Bless, Concordia, Vermillion

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, president
- Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, first vice-president
- Rev. Paul Winckler, assistant to the president
- Dave Geidel, education executive

Youth flex their biblical knowledge

Ten teams from five congregations, along with a Pierre Circuit team, gathered on March 23 at Faith, Pierre, for the district Bible Bowl. In all, 31 youth (grades 6-12) participated. Topics covered Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Psalm 118, and the Creed from Luther's Small Catechism.

Teams from Our Savior, Aberdeen; Concordia, Cresbard; Faith, Sioux Falls; and Mount Calvary, Brookings, competed in the A division. In the championship game, team "Someth'n Catchy," from Our Savior, Aberdeen, narrowly defeated the three-time defending champion "Comets" from Concordia, Cresbard. "Mahalalel 2.0" from Faith, Sioux Falls, placed third.

In the B division, teams from the Pierre Circuit; Our Savior, Aberdeen; and Faith, Pierre, competed. The Pierre Circuit team, "Few and Far Between," placed first, while the "fire breathing little tiny dino dudes" from Our Savior placed second. "Us" from Our Savior placed third.

There were two perfect scores in the 100-question, multiple-choice individual exam. Luke Rausch (Concordia, Cresbard) and Rhylan Tschappat (Our Savior, Aberdeen) each scored a remarkable 99.97 on the exam, and Rausch then won the tie-breaker to finish first. Anika Bjordahl (Faith, Sioux Falls), who scored 94, finished third.

Congratulations to all the participants, and thank you to all the coaches and parents for mentoring our youth. Special thanks to the Faith, Pierre, congregation for hosting the event, and to Rev. Marcus Ring, pastor of St. John's, Gregory, for serving once again as the Bible Bowl coordinator.



Individual winners were, from left, Anika Bjordahl (third), Luke Rausch (first) and Rhylan Tschappat (second).



The Pierre Circuit team (from left), Sumara Paul, Charissa Ring and Marlys Otten, was the winner of the B division.



◀ The Our Savior, Aberdeen, team (from left), Rhyan Johnson, Tristan Tschappat and Rhylan Tschappat, was the winner of the A division.

▼ Rev. Marcus Ring, event coordinator (center), is pictured with team coaches, from left, Lorie Cuperus (Mount Calvary, Brookings), Logan Rausch (Our Savior, Aberdeen), Leroy Kropuenske (Faith, Pierre), Eric Johnson (Our Savior, Aberdeen), Sam Heckmann (Faith, Sioux Falls) and Bob Rausch (Concordia, Cresbard).



All the competitors are pictured with Pastor Ring.

SFLS powerlifters break state records

Elyse Prouty and Anesha Bright, freshmen at Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS), broke records at the South Dakota High School State Powerlifting Meet, held March 16 at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls.

Prouty's deadlift of 285 pounds was 20 pounds more than the previous record. Bright's squat of 190 pounds was also 20 pounds more than the previous record.

Prouty placed first and Bright placed second in their weight classes.

"Anesha and Elyse showed the effort and persistence that they have shown all season long, and it paid off when it mattered," said Coach Bryce Ludwig, who is in his first season coaching powerlifting at SFLS. "They showcased the strength of our school and proved witness to the gifts they are blessed with by the Lord."

Prouty lifted a total of 595 pounds (205 squat, 105 bench, and 285 deadlift).

Bright lifted a total of 465 pounds (190 squat, 80 bench, and 195 deadlift).

Upgraded facility

SFLS was on track to finish construction of a new campus fitness center this spring. Financial help was received from the Fit 4 Him Fitness Center Challenge, which invited individuals, couples, families and church groups to financially contribute to the completion of the fitness center and for state-of-the-art lifting and athletic-training equipment.



Top, Anesha Bright's squat of 190 pounds is a new state record. Below, Elyse Prouty (second from left) stands at the podium having won in her weight class.



Hosanna!

LeRoy and Carolyn Kropuenske have been teaching Sunday school at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, since 1978. They have also been leading children, ages preschool through fourth grade, in a ritual of waving palm branches every Palm Sunday.

Children also wear palm crosses and sing during the service, under the direction of Lurene Denke (pictured), Faith music teacher.

"It is so heartwarming and never gets old," LeRoy says.



PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Thank you

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1-2)

All of you know these verses very well, since verse 2 is our LWML motto.

We are blessed to have so many opportunities to serve the Lord, sing His praises and come into His presence. One of those opportunities is the 63rd LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 7-8 in Aberdeen. It is with great joy that we can come together as sisters and brothers in Christ to hear the Word and to love our neighbor with servant events and the ingathering of gifts, and to support mission grants for the 2024-2026 biennium.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

This is my final *HiLites* article as LWML South Dakota District president. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and my Lord in this office. God blesses each of us with many gifts to serve Him, and I am grateful that I could use mine for His glory. It was a blessing for me to meet and work with so many ladies from our district and the national LWML, whether at conventions, workshops, prayer services, board meetings, national assemblies or group meetings.

I especially thank the women and the pastoral counselors who served on the district board during the last four years. We started out together unable to meet in person, with meetings held online. I chaired my first board meeting from my car outside the Britton Public Library so I could use the library's internet service! Our first large in-person gathering during my time as president was at the 2021 Christian Life Retreat in Pierre. What a wonderful time it was, celebrating the love we have for Jesus and for each other under the theme, "God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms."

Over the last four years, we "Walked in Love" (based on Ephesians 4:32-5:2), and sang "With One Voice" (based on Romans 15:5-7), and will celebrate "Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior" (based on 1 Peter 1:8-9).

My prayer is that each of you continue in His Word and that the Holy Spirit will guide you to proclaim Jesus' love. Continue to pray that all may come to the knowledge that Jesus loved each and every one of us by dying on the cross and rising from the grave, so that all who believe in Him have eternal life with Him.

To God be the glory forever!



Puppets galore!

The LWML of Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, had a wonderful time creating about 100 puppets made from colorful gloves. These puppets will be given to children who attend the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair, to be held Aug. 28-Sept. 2 in Huron. We pray that God would use these puppets according to His will and for His kingdom. Pictured are, from left, (seated) Loretta Rohrbeck, Joyce Bowley, Janell McKinstry; (standing) Leota Quam and Diane Falin.

LWML unveils new Mite Box design

The new design includes a graphic of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4) and the updated LWML logo. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites"



— offerings above and beyond support given to congregations and the LCMS.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Inexpressible joy

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **1 PETER 1:8-9**

Many of you are getting ready to attend the LWML South Dakota District Convention. I look forward to seeing you there! And what a wonderful theme (1 Peter 1:8-9) to gather around.

I've always loved the sound of Peter's "inexpressible" expression of joy. He knows that it's beyond wonderful that our lives are filled with hope from our risen Lord — he just doesn't quite know how to say it. It's too wonderful for words. And that's probably the way it should be! God the Holy Spirit communicates this wonderful joy to your heart and mine by Peter's very inability to express it himself.



Rev. Aaron Asmus

This phrase from 1 Peter is often read in our worship services early in the Easter season. This "beyond wonderful joyful assurance of our life with the Lord" springs from the resurrection of Jesus Himself. There is no other way this assurance comes our way. Our Savior is matchless! Only He rises from the dead and guarantees that you and I will rise also. And, as Peter tells us in verse 8, you can believe it!

Ultimately, sharing this inexpressible joy and the news of our matchless Savior is the end goal of the LWML — and all of us who are in Christ. It's our prayer that many will be confident in this "end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls" through our ministry and witness together.

My brief role as interim district pastoral counselor will come to a close at the end of this month's convention. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have worked together with so many quality leaders and to continue relationships built over the years..

Blessings in Jesus!

Lutheran Women in Mission MUST-HAVES FOR SUMMER!



It is time to shop!

Lutheran Women in Mission has upgraded the shopping experience in the SHOP. Visit the SHOP at lwml.cph.org to check out new products and resources, all in one convenient place.

Kick off your summer with great new Lutheran Women in Mission products — a purple bistro mug, luggage tags, a rose gold executive pen, and a fun purple pen with purple ink. Stock up on purple sticky notes and note cards.

Looking for a unique gift for a cook or techie in your life? Check out the new purple jar openers and purple charging cables.

New multi-session Bible studies and devotions, including *Oh, Lord I'm Puzzled*, are available for purchase. Free downloadable Bible studies, including *Experience the Joy — Then Share It!*, can also be found in the SHOP.

Farewell

It has been my great privilege to serve as vice-president of Gospel Outreach for the past four years. When I started this position, I felt overwhelmed by the responsibility and doubted my ability to complete the task. But God reassured me that He would be with me throughout the process. He has been more than faithful to that promise.

What a joy and privilege to be on the ground level of what the LWML is all about! Being the person who has the direct contact with our mission grant people has been so humbling. Meeting some of them at the convention was certainly a highlight of my work. Working with Pastor (Andrew) Utecht at the Puppet Place was a delight. It has been fun working with the Utecht family as they continue this wonderful work at the South Dakota State Fair.

Although I am no longer serving as vice-president of Gospel Outreach, I will continue to help in smaller ways at each level of our district LWML.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Jesus in such a unique way over the past four years. God's blessings to each of you, no matter how you serve the Lord with gladness!

Jan Larson
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

It's a WRAP...



Providing 'wrap-around' care for foster families

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt of Rev. Ryan Drevlow's interview with Jenn Eekhoff, WRAP director of South Dakota Kids Belong, a nonprofit organization that aims to create awareness of and better outcomes for children in foster care. This is the second of a two-part article.

Pastor Ryan: I visit a lot of folks. I see houses with extra bedrooms and I think what a difference they could make in our state or our country if they were willing to give of themselves, but I think a lot of people are scared of foster care.

Jenn: I think some of the media has played a role in our idea of what a foster parent is or what the foster kids are like. WRAP is a great on-ramp for people to meet foster families who are doing the hard work. And WRAP can help people see how they could do foster care, too.

Pastor Ryan: Was that intentional at WRAP to create places where people meet and see foster kids and families to encourage more people to become foster parents?

Jenn: I don't know if it was an (intentional) idea, but it was definitely a result. We have some stories about fam-

ilies in Spearfish, where one family in the church was fostering. The family had a team of four or five families around them. Now, three out of those five families are fostering themselves.

If foster families talk about our experiences — not just the hard stuff, but the good, rewarding things that happen with this sort of ministry — we can spark interest in other people. We can also encourage them to take that step. WRAP is great because through it people are exposed to foster care. WRAP communities get to see the kids and families and all the potential in it.

Pastor Ryan: I know from personal experience that South Dakota adoptuskids.org will pull on your heartstrings in all of the right ways. What are the top three things that the average person sitting in the pew on Sunday morning could do to support foster care in South Dakota?

Jenn: The top thing to do is to pray. Pray about what God is calling you



Jenn Eekhoff

to do. Pray for specific actions in your own life. The Holy Spirit will encourage you in the direction that God wants you to go. So pray for personal direction.

Second, pray for the families doing the hard work.

And third, get involved in some way. Get to know a foster family in your community. Make yourself aware of what is going on in your community with foster care. Do something. Search out existing communities. In Sioux Falls, we have "The Foster Network." This would be a great place to get started. You can donate, serve or get involved by doing some type of more direct work with foster families. Find out what the local community needs because every community is different.

Rev. Ryan Drevlow serves as life coordinator of the South Dakota District and senior pastor of St. Paul's, Aberdeen, and St. Paul's, Leola.

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

City, Congregation	Comm. Members*	2024 Intention	3 months 2024	3 months 2023	Avg/Per Comm. 2024	Avg/Per Comm. 2023
Circuit 1 – Aberdeen						
Aberdeen, Our Savior	323	10,000	3,050	2,500	9.44	7.74
Aberdeen, St. John	80	10,500	3,023	3,396	37.79	42.45
Aberdeen, St. Paul	760	20,000	7,372	17,031	9.70	22.41
Andover, Zion	106	-	2,200	550	20.75	5.19
Britton, St. John	153	3,000	-	3,500	-	22.88
Columbia, St. John	101	7,500	3,875	1,938	38.37	19.19
Cresbard, Concordia	58	-	-	3,425	-	59.05
Doland, Redeemer	29	-	500	500	17.24	17.24
Ferney, St. Paul	165	5,000	-	-	-	-
Groton, St. John	305	7,000	2,925	1,076	9.59	3.53
Leola, St. Paul	53	500	-	-	-	-
Mansfield, Trinity	271	25,000	5,894	6,644	21.75	24.52
Redfield, Messiah	138	-	1,000	1,000	7.25	7.25
Stratford, St. Paul	38	-	2,000	4,000	52.63	105.26
Wecota, Immanuel	87	9,000	-	2,000	-	22.99
Circuit 1 Totals	2,667	\$97,500	\$31,839	\$47,560	11.94	17.83
Circuit 2 – Watertown						
Brookings, Mount Calvary	419	45,000	13,771	13,535	32.87	32.30
Brookings, Peace	302	-	1,500	1,500	4.97	4.97
Corona, Trinity	136	-	-	-	-	-
Flandreau, Redeemer	30	3,800	-	950	-	31.67
Milbank, Bethlehem	65	300	-	-	-	-
Milbank, Emanuel	578	24,000	4,000	4,000	6.92	6.92
Reville, St. John	126	2,000	1,170	-	9.29	-
Sisseton, Emanuel	145	4,400	-	-	-	-
Watertown, Mount Olive	377	25,000	6,250	7,675	16.58	20.36
Waubay, Zion	126	1,000	1,749	-	13.88	-
White, Zion	61	5,000	2,870	-	47.05	-
Wilmot, Our Savior	161	2,500	-	-	-	-
Circuit 2 Totals	2,526	\$113,000	\$31,310	\$27,660	12.40	10.95
Circuit 3 – Pierre						
Blunt, Trinity	40	2,000	500	500	12.50	12.50
Chamberlain, Zion ¹	406	-	4,580	7,060	11.28	17.39
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	21	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon, Christ	23	300	-	-	-	-
Midland, St. Peter	46	-	950	850	20.65	18.48
Murdo, Messiah	71	3,000	-	1,250	-	17.61
Norris, St. John ²	70	2,500	1,804	-	25.77	-
Onida, Holy Cross	109	1,600	-	-	-	-
Phillip, Our Redeemer	50	-	-	-	-	-
Pierre, Faith	1,460	45,000	11,450	11,250	7.84	7.71
Presho, Zion	88	1,500	1,500	1,500	17.05	17.05
Reliance, Trinity	15	-	-	-	-	-
Rosebud, Rosebud Mission	-	-	746	514	-	-
Winner, Christ	25	2,000	1,000	500	40.00	20.00
Circuit 3 Totals	2,912	\$69,650	\$22,780	\$23,674	7.82	8.13
Circuit 4 – Black Hills						
Belle Fourche, Trinity	-	500	-	-	-	-
Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	325	-	2,614	3,920	8.04	12.06
Creighton, Emmanuel	50	-	-	-	-	-
Custer, Our Redeemer	193	4,000	1,717	-	8.90	-
Deadwood, Grace	78	3,000	3,000	750	38.46	9.62
Hill City, Our Savior	26	1,500	1,500	1,500	57.69	57.69
Hot Springs, Bethesda	141	7,000	1,750	1,750	12.41	12.41
Rapid City, Bethlehem	449	31,387	7,847	7,590	17.48	16.90
Rapid City, Our Redeemer	124	3,500	1,170	1,060	9.44	8.55
Rapid City, Peace	495	-	5,386	4,513	10.88	9.12
Rapid City, Zion	651	32,500	8,125	8,250	12.48	12.67
Spearfish, St. Paul	264	30,000	7,500	16,236	28.41	61.50
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel	18	600	2,235	-	124.17	-
Wall, First	224	2,100	-	-	-	-
Circuit 4 Totals	3,038	\$116,087	\$42,844	\$45,569	14.10	15.00
Circuit 5 – Mitchell						
Armour, Redeemer	198	8,000	2,000	2,000	10.10	10.10
Delmont, Zion	90	17,000	-	4,000	-	44.44
Dimock, Immanuel	140	15,000	3,400	5,608	24.29	40.06
Emery, St. Peter	57	3,000	1,513	1,375	26.54	24.12
Huron, Mount Calvary	800	70,000	8,862	10,384	11.08	12.98
Mitchell, Zion	507	30,850	7,713	7,713	15.21	15.21
Parkston, Faith	195	10,000	1,500	5,000	7.69	25.64
Plankinton, St. Paul	139	2,000	2,000	2,000	14.39	14.39
Tripp, Emmaus	44	-	625	625	14.20	14.20
White Lake, Trinity	117	8,000	1,900	2,800	16.24	23.93
Wessington Springs, Zion	75	-	-	-	-	-
Wolsey, St. John	233	3,400	2,594	498	11.13	2.14
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	11	-	-	-	-	-
Circuit 5 Totals	2,606	\$167,250	\$32,107	\$42,003	12.32	16.12
Circuit 6 – Freeman						
Alexandria, St. Martin	92	1,200	-	275	-	2.99
Canistota, Zion	226	-	-	1,191	-	5.27
Centerville, First English	65	2,000	1,310	840	20.15	12.92
Freeman, St. Paul	251	9,000	-	3,914	-	15.59
Hartford, Trinity	110	500	-	-	-	-
Howard, St. John	122	4,000	-	-	-	-
Hurley, Zion	31	2,750	-	-	-	-
Madison, Our Savior	210	1,000	1,200	900	5.71	4.29
Marion, Bethesda	24	2,500	-	-	-	-
Menno, Immanuel	38	3,000	1,090	1,870	28.68	49.21
Montrose, St. John	110	-	-	-	-	-
Parker, First English	15	2,000	-	-	-	-
Scotland, St. Paul	35	600	200	200	5.71	5.71
Spencer, Trinity	86	2,000	-	-	-	-
Tea, Risen Savior ³	124	-	3,946	2,012	31.82	16.23
Wentworth, St. Peter	188	7,800	1,937	1,938	10.30	10.31
Circuit 6 Totals	1,727	\$38,350	\$9,683	\$13,140	5.61	7.61
Circuit 7 – Sioux Falls						
Brandon, Blessed Redeemer	260	15,000	2,500	3,750	9.62	14.42
Sioux Falls, Christ	122	2,000	536	1,000	4.39	8.20
Sioux Falls, Faith	631	43,500	14,500	14,500	22.98	22.98
Sioux Falls, Lord of Life	158	-	3,126	3,126	19.78	19.78
Sioux Falls, Memorial	756	62,150	9,030	14,650	11.94	19.38
Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer	324	25,200	-	8,400	-	25.93
Sioux Falls, Resurrection	238	10,000	2,500	3,333	10.50	14.00
Sioux Falls, Trinity of The Deaf	35	-	-	-	-	-
Sioux Falls, Zion	661	50,000	18,750	6,000	28.37	9.08
Circuit 7 Totals	3,185	\$207,850	\$50,942	\$54,759	15.99	17.19
Circuit 8 – Yankton						
Alcester, Peace	93	3,000	1,589	1,058	17.09	11.38
Avon, Zion	203	5,000	1,250	1,290	6.16	6.35
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross ⁴	186	-	6,791	5,195	36.51	27.93
Fairfax, Trinity	74	5,000	-	-	-	-
Springfield, Our Savior	24	100	-	-	-	-
Tyndall, St. John	132	2,600	-	-	-	-
Utica, Martinus	68	2,000	-	-	-	-
Vermillion, Concordia	90	-	1,800	3,000	20.00	33.33
Wagner, St. John	182	9,000	2,250	2,250	12.36	12.36
Yankton, St. John ⁵	1,039	62,500	19,817	13,817	19.07	13.30
Circuit 8 Totals	2,091	\$89,200	\$33,497	\$26,610	16.02	12.73
GRAND TOTALS	20,752	\$898,887	\$255,002	\$280,975	12.29	13.54

Comm. Members = Confirmed Membership as of August 2023 per LCMS congregational statistics report

¹\$2,299 of Zion, Chamberlain, is for 2023 missions
²\$1,804 of St. John, Norris, is for 2023 missions
³\$3,946 of Risen Savior, Tea, is for 2023 missions
⁴\$500 of Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, is for 2023 missions
⁵\$4,700 of St. John, Yankton, is for 2023 missions



'Man Up!'

South Dakota District Men's Ministry Retreat

- Aug. 15-18
- Campfire Cabins, Rapid City
- Featuring Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer, author of *Man Up!* and assistant to the LCMS president



Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer

The retreat is open to all men seeking fellowship, brotherhood and to be faithful followers of Christ for their family, church and community. It is recommended for men high school age and older.

The cost is \$50 per participant and includes food, book and materials. It does not include lodging. To make reservations at Campfire Cabins (first-come-first-serve), call 605-209-8574.

For the schedule and to register, visit sddlcms.org. Click the "News & Events" tab at the top of the page and find the link on the right.

Consider serving **short-term**

2023 was the biggest year yet for the LCMS Short-Term Mission Program, which sent more volunteers on mission trips and filled more field requests than ever before. LCMS short-term mission teams are usually made up of three to 15 people who serve alongside LCMS missionaries and Lutheran partners to proclaim Christ in a specific location for one to two weeks. Short-term mission trips take place all over the world, in all four LCMS mission regions: Latin America, Africa, Eurasia and Asia.

Some short-term mission trips are intended for congregations; others are intended to be educational or are geared especially to church workers or people interested in long-term mission work. Teams may be formed by congregations, families, friends or other groups.

Some of the ways that short-term mission teams have served have been providing English Bible Camps, property

construction or renovation, vacation Bible school or mission education. All of the short-term opportunities are designed to help support the strategic goals of the Synod's mission work in that field and region: to spread the Gospel, plant Lutheran churches and show mercy.

Short-term mission teams are generally responsible for all travel and coordination costs. In some cases, teams may be responsible for any project costs. The placement process involves an online application, placement consultation and pastoral recommendation.

Short-term mission trips offered by the program in 2024 are close to filling up, but there are still openings for teams to serve this fall. And it is not too early to start thinking about 2025.

For more information, or to browse opportunities to serve on a short-term mission team, visit lcms.org/short-term.

CALL INFORMATION

Rev. Christopher Ascher, senior pastor, Resurrection, Sioux Falls, declined a call to Our Redeemer, Marshall, Mo., April 24.

Michael Leapley, St. Paul, Aberdeen, accepted the call of DCE to Brookfield Lutheran, Brookfield, Wis., April 14.

Joshua Schmitt, St. John's, Yankton, declined the call of DCE to St. Paul, Caro, Mich., April 14.

VACANCIES

Senior pastor

- Our Redeemer, Sioux Falls
- Our Savior, Aberdeen/St. John, Columbia

Sole pastor

- Risen Savior, Tea
- Zion, Chamberlain
- St. Paul, Plankinton/Trinity, White Lake
- Concordia, Cresbard/Immanuel, Wecota
- Zion, Canistota/St. John, Montrose
- St. John, Britton/St. Paul, Ferney
- St. John, Howard/Our Savior, Madison

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
420 E. Liberty Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the September issue is July 15.

