

New England District Debuts New Logo

Last fall the New England District Board of Directors decided to have a professional graphic designer prepare a logo for our district. Previously we had used the LCMS logo and the New England District seal (which will remain in use for those occasions that necessitate a seal). After interviewing several artists, Marina Kirsch of New Hampshire was selected to design a new logo. Marina submitted over a dozen initial drafts, all of which were beautiful. Marina said about the design process *“The opportunity to design a logo for the New England District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been a unique privilege. Two elements were obviously essential to include: 1. Most importantly the cross, and 2. something to indicate New England... The final logo was the result of considerable thought by New England District leaders and may prove to be the best choice. It is simple enough to work well at any size, large or small. The cross predominates front and center to boldly declare the message of salvation. And the shapes of the New England states—so delightfully distinctive—leave no doubt that they were formed by a Master Craftsman!”*

The New England District staff and Board of Directors whittled the field down and put the final designs out to the workers of the district. The final design selected is below.



In addition to a new logo design that will be featured on upcoming NED News and other New England District publications, you can expect the NED News to modernize in other ways. Future editions may look a little different and we will be publishing the issues electronically with smaller print quantities available to each church office. We hope that church offices will forward along electronic newsletters to all members via email.

NED NEWS is published
for members and friends
of the LCMS churches
throughout New England.

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**THE MISSION OF NED
is to encourage and
assist its congregations
in their ministry of**

**Word and
Sacrament to build up
the body of Christ and
to make disciples of all
peoples.**

Oromo Lutherans

***Yonas from Ethiopia and Jonah from Massachusetts become friends... and you can
become their friends too.***

by Pastor Eric Sahlberg

Yonas grew up 160 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in a region called Oromia. His father is a coffee bean farmer and part of the Ethiopian Coffee Union cooperative. Yonas's older brother is long-distance runner with the hope to eventually run the Boston Marathon just like Kenenisa Bekele, Haile Gebrselassie, and Tirunesh Dibaba. As a child, Yonas and his family worshipped for 8 hours on Sundays at his village's Mekane Yesus (Lutheran Church). As a college student, Yonas was an outspoken political science major. He was passionate for democracy and justice for humanitarian needs in his country. At 22 years old, Yonas was too outspoken. He spoke out against human injustices and it resulted in his imprisonment four times. After his fourth time in prison Harvard University brought Yonas to Cambridge as part of their Scholar Refugees. In Cambridge he worships with fellow Oromo Lutherans who have similar stories.

An American named Jonah befriended his Oromo brothers and sisters in Christ. Over a year and a half he would spend time with them at their worship service, helping them with small acts of compassion, buy diapers for newborn babies, eat spicy Ethiopian food, celebrate birthdays and wedding engagements, and rejoice in baptisms. Jonah learned new words in Oromo and he taught his Oromo friends some English too. Many of his Oromo friends are learning how to drive, so Jonah would teach his friends what road signs mean and how to be careful operating a car. He would help them move furniture from one apartment to another apartment. Over the year and a half, Yonas and his friends learned more about Jonah and his Lutheran church. The American and the Oromo soon discovered that they believe in the same things.

Jonah's network of Lutheran churches has a big heart for helping people and start new Lutheran churches in New England. And Yonas's church needs help to call a pastor, grow and share the Gospel in Boston. Yonas's church hopes to have two Oromo Lutheran churches in Boston in ten years with each church worshipping one hundred people on Sunday afternoons.

Over time, some of Jonah's Lutheran friends at other Lutheran churches started to set aside \$100 a month to help start new churches. Fourteen Lutheran churches even voted to set aside one-percent of their budget to help start new Lutheran churches in New England because they want to see more people experience the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Ten years pass. Two Oromo Lutheran churches are thriving and they are hoping to start a third Oromo church in Somerville in the next couple years. Jonah and Yonas are both a little older and wiser. Yonas ended up marrying an Oromo woman named Debi at First Lutheran in Boston on Saturday, April 23, 2012. Of course Jonah was Yonas's best-man. The newlyweds look forward to having children, baptizing them and teaching them about Jesus. They even said that Jonah will be the sponsor at their first child's baptism.

On Saturday, June 16, 2018 you will meet Yonas and Jonah at the New England District Convention. You'll learn how you can become friends with Yonas and his Lutheran Oromo friends. You'll learn how you can make an impact in the Kingdom of God.



Cheshire Lutheran's New Pastor

On Sunday afternoon, February 25, 2018, the Rev. Dr. David Rowold was installed as the new pastor of Cheshire Lutheran Church in Cheshire, Connecticut. The church had been without a pastor since the retirement of Rev. Charles Gustafson in May of 2017. New England District President, Rev. Timothy Yeadon, officiated at the installment.

Bethany Lutheran Nursery School

Wednesday Morning Chapel time at Bethany Lutheran Nursery School, West Hartford, CT. Led by Linda Howey, AKA: "Miss Lily". The Bible lesson for this chapel service was about the New Year and God's Creation of the world.



Lutheran Schools Week



During the week of January 22nd – January 26th, First Lutheran Christian School in Holyoke, MA celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. Many special events were held throughout the week including Sports Day, Class Color Challenge Day, School Spirit Day. Pictured left is Mad Science Day. Pastor Bessette led a special Chapel service focused on thankfulness and featuring a game show venue with 3 middle school students as the contestants. God has truly blessed First Lutheran with a school that honors the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the salvation that God has provided through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus.

New England District Circuit and Regional Breakdown

REGION I

REV. JAMES BUTLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 1

○ *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH*
 Pastor Steven Bartell and Associate Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH
 Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH
 Pastor George Ruwisch and Associate Pastor Michael Meyer, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH
 Pastor William Ringer, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH
 Pastor Ken Johnson, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH
 Pastor William Ringer, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH
 Served by Pastor Paul Nielsen, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME
 Pastor Timothy Sandeno, Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME
 Pastor Paul Nielsen, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME
 Pastor Calvin Kemp, Williamstown Lutheran Church, Williamstown, VT
 Served by Pastor Paul Wagner (Good Shepherd, Glens Falls, NY), Messiah Lutheran, Rutland, VT
 Pastor Matthew Rasmussen, Community Lutheran, S. Burlington, VT

CIRCUIT NO. 2

● *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Eric Sahlberg, ConnectingPoint Lutheran Mission, Marlboro, MA*
 Pastor Timothy Knapp, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Acton, MA
 Pastor Mark Kleckner, Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA
 Pastor Paul Gramit, Trinity Lutheran, Clinton, MA
 Pastor David Jacoby, Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA
 Pastor Jeremy Pekari, Messiah Lutheran, Lynnfield, MA
 also serving Messiah Lutheran is Specific Ministry Pastor Dave Brezina
 Served by Deacon Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA
 Pastor Jeffrey Jensen, Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield, MA
 Pastor Peter Gregory, Our Savior, Westminster, MA

CIRCUIT NO. 3

● *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. Bob Schipul, Emeritus, Cohasset, MA*
 Pastor Ingo Dutzmann, First Lutheran, Boston, MA
 Pastor Thomas Dorman, St. James Lutheran, Canton, MA
 Pastor James Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran, Dedham, MA
 Pastor Paul Lantz, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, MA
 Pastor Steve Law, Lutheran Church of Wollaston, Quincy, MA
 Pastor James Hopkins, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA
 VACANT, Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA
 Pastor Leon Schultz, St. Paul Lutheran, Providence, RI
 Pastor Matthew Richardt, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Smithfield, RI

REGION II

REV. SCOTT SCHUETT, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 4

□ *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Michael Coons, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Enfield, CT*
 Pastor Jim Rice, Trinity Lutheran, Easthampton, MA
 Pastor Randall Bessette, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA
 Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, MA
 Pastor David D. Riley, St. John's, Westfield, MA
 Pastor Jonathan Manor and Specific Ministry Pastor Kevin Mongeau, St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT
 Pastor Randall Pekari and Associate Pastor John Rasmussen, Our Savior, South Windsor, CT
 Served by Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Deaf, W. Hartford, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 5

■ *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Volker Heide, Lutheran Church of Madison, Madison, CT*
 Pastor James Wiese, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI
 Served by Pastor Bob Mikulastik, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT
 VACANT, Faith Lutheran, Groton, CT
 Pastor Phillip Booe, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT
 Pastor Scott Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Manchester, CT
 Pastor Mark Valigorsky, St. Matthew's, New Britain, CT
 Served by EIIIT Pastor Gem Gabriel, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New London, CT
 Pastor Paul Scheyder, Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT
 Pastor Joe Nollet, Hope Lutheran, Storrs, CT
 Served by Pastor Mark Clow, Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

REGION III

REV. ROBERT BEINKE, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 6

△ *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Joel Kotila, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Terryville, CT*
 Pastor Kevin Karner, Immanuel Lutheran, Bristol, CT
 Pastor Scott MacDonald, St. John's Lutheran, Meriden, CT
 Pastor Mark Clow, Grace Lutheran, Middletown, CT
 Served by Pastor Kevin Mongeau, Shepherd of the Hills, Morris, CT
 VACANT, St. Paul Lutheran, Naugatuck, CT
 Pastor Christian Bunzel, Trinity Lutheran, New Milford, CT
 Pastor Robert Hass, Zion Lutheran, Wallingford, CT
 Pastor Martin Kiesel, St. John's, Waterbury, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 7

▲ *CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Eric Wismar, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT*
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT
 VACANT, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT
 Pastor Walter Harper and Pastor Christopher Chandler, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT
 Pastor Justin Smith, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT
 VACANT, First Lutheran, Greenwich, CT
 Pastor Rob Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, CT
 Pastor Robert Beinke, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT
 Pastor Timothy Boerger, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

