



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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# NED NEWS

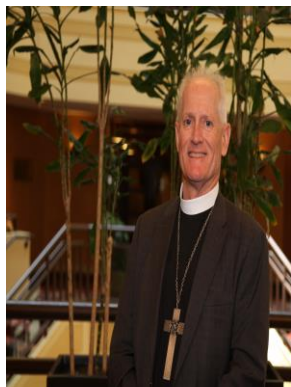
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Volume 26, Issue 1

Fall 2023

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## President's Message



This fall we again consider the Reformation, Luther's break with Rome and the beginning of the Lutheran Church. What was the Reformation all about? Luther, when asked why previous efforts at reforming the Church (under John Wycliffe and Jon Huss, about 100 years before Luther) had not succeeded, responded:

"Wycliffe and Huss fought merely against the life of the Pope. That is why they did not attain their purpose, for they were sinners just as the papists were. But I attacked the doctrine. With this weapon I defeated them. For this matter does not concern life; it concerns doctrine."

To many today, doctrine, a word that means, "teaching," is considered a bad word. What do most people look for in a church? Is it true doctrine? No, usually the focus is more on whether the people are friendly and the worship uplifting, or whether there are programs that fit their needs – all of which are, of course, good things. But, for a church to say that it is concerned about pure doctrine sounds rather arrogant and judgmental.

Thanks be to God that we in the LCMS are concerned about purity of doctrine, concerned that what we preach and teach is not only from the Bible but accurately conveys what the Bible proclaims! We should all seek to learn the Bible correctly, and help to ensure that the Bible's teachings are correctly taught in our church. We should do so for several reasons.

First, the Word of God is our life. As Peter confessed to Jesus, and as we sing in our liturgy: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) If God did not reveal Himself to us we would never know Him, and so could not believe in Him and have the hope of eternal life. The Bible, rightly taught, leads us to know and believe in Jesus as our Savior. Just as food that is properly prepared and kept free from impurities preserves the life and health of our physical bodies, so God's Word, purely taught, gives and preserves spiritual life.

Secondly, proclaiming God's Word purely honors God; it is an act of worship. As a matter of fact, we could not even begin to worship God if it were not for the pure Word of God. David says in Ps. 43:

"Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God."

**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.**

Please keep all articles under 250 words. All submissions are considered available for use by the New England District for any district communication piece including digital and print.

**The next deadline is  
January 15**

Email submissions to  
[NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org](mailto:NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org)

Digital photos need to be high resolution and unedited (no reformatting or cropping) NED Staff and Editors reserve the right to edit articles and submissions for clarity and space.

If a member of your family were to let untrue things be said about you, would that please you? Wouldn't you be upset instead? Even so, when we do our best to understand clearly what God says and allow no false teachings to be proclaimed in His Church, we honor Him. This He receives as true worship. Jesus emphasized this when He said to the woman from Samaria: "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

Finally, pure doctrine is vital because it brings forth purity of life. Why is it that so many people no longer seem to know right from wrong, good behavior from bad? Well, how would you know if it were not taught to you? "I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore, I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." So, says Psalm 119:104-105.

These days, not only in society but also in many churches, are filled with the denial of truth and so confusion and uncertainty. This is, then, an opportune time for us as Missouri Synod Lutherans! It is easy to think, "*What do we have to offer? Our worship attendance is small. Look how many empty pews there are in church! Our building is aging – and so are our members. We're not very exciting. What do we have to offer?*"

Stop focusing upon yourselves, and upon what we don't have! Trust in God! We have God's true Word, which testifies to Him. And so, we have Christ, truly present among us in this Word and in His Sacraments, raising us to life with Him. We have, then, not only the hope of eternal life after we die, but the presence of Christ and His eternal life now. Rejoice in this!

And then, think of the other things we have. We are a liturgical church, and this is not a negative. Living in a heavily Catholic and Episcopal area as we do, we have a liturgy and worship that is familiar, even if it is not always clearly understood. We are a Sacramental Church, emphasizing that Christ is truly among us. We are a teaching Church, offering many opportunities to help people to understand the Scriptures. Above all, we are a Church in which the forgiveness of sins in Christ predominates.

This is all because of God's holy Word; because of the mercy He shows us through it, and the mercy with which He fills us by it. Thanks be to God for His holy Word! May it always be purely proclaimed among us and by us!

In Christ Jesus, our Lord,  
Pastor Bob Beinke, DP

## District President Bible Study Offered

Join Pres. Beinke for a weekly Bible study of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday! This online study takes place on Thursday's from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Go-To-Meeting at the following link: <https://meet.goto.com/445850965>.

The study is of the readings from the 3-year series, year A, which most of the congregations of the District are following. The focus will be on the series B readings beginning with Advent (December 3). If Thursday is a national holiday the class will not meet.



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## Rev. James Hopkins Retires from the Navy as Chaplain



Rev. James Hopkins with District President Robert Beinke

Pastor Hopkin's retirement ceremony took place on the deck of the U.S.S. Constitution on August 27, 2023.

## Orphan Grain Train Sends Shipment to the Ukraine



On Oct. 14, Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct drove a 26-foot truck containing medical and other items to St. Andrews Ukrainian church in Maryland where they are loading a container for shipment to this war-torn country.

On this shipment were 20 hospital beds with mattresses and side rails, 181 walkers, crutches, canes, rollators, and wheelchairs, 102 boxes of diapers, 33 pieces of orthopedic supplies and cushions, 6 sewing machines, and many boxes of hygiene kits and supplies, school kits and supplies, medical supplies, toys, clothing and 16 bicycles and scooters. The church will load all the items into their container and ship it to a sister congregation In Ukraine where the items will be distributed.

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## Rev. Louis Nuechterlein celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination



Left to Right: Sitting Gloria and Rev. Louis Nuechterlein  
Standing, Rev. David Rowold PhD, Rev. Charles Gustafson and  
Rev. George Heider PhD

On October 15, 2023, the people of the Lutheran Church of Cheshire in Cheshire, CT celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination for Rev. Louis Nuechterlein. The event was held at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT and attended by approximately 100 members including Pastor Nuechterlein's family.



## NED Life Coordinator Update

### NED LWML Fall Rally

Requested and received space for offering new Life Materials at the Fall NED LWML Rally in Connecticut in November, 2023

### 40 Days for Life

The 2023 Fall 40 Days for Life campaign is ongoing in New England and around the world, until November 5th. Please let the District know if your congregation has participated this year!

### Pregnancy Resource Centers

Please prayerfully consider making a special donation this Thanksgiving or Christmas to a Pregnancy Resource Center near you. As always, please pray that Pregnancy Resource Centers remain open and staff and clients remain safe from violence and harm.

In Christ,  
Marla Zeneski, NED Life Coordinator

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## Rev. Philip Bartelt Installed at L/C of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT



Pastors attending L to R: Rob Morris, Greg Wismar, Bill Meyer, Eric Wismar, Philip Bartelt, District President Robert Beinke, Joel Kotila and Stefan Gramenz (Atlantic District).

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# DISCOVER A LIMITED-TIME INVESTMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU AND THE LCMS

The **NEW 5% 18-month fixed-rate term note** is perfect for anyone who loves The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and wants to see its ministries thrive.

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# 5%

## 18-MONTH FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE



**BRENDA BACON**

LCEF District Vice President | New England  
413-783-0131 | [Brenda.Bacon@lcef.org](mailto:Brenda.Bacon@lcef.org)

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of August 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](https://lcef.org) for details.

## LCEF an NED Host New England Teacher's Conference

The New England District Lutheran Church Extension Fund, along with the New England District LCMS office hosted a 2023 Teachers Conference. The conference was held on October 6, 2023 at First Lutheran School in Holyoke, MA. The guest speaker was Travis Grulke, Superintendent of Schools for the Michigan District.





## Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District

### Mission Work

The women of the LWML-NED continue to focus on and support mission work through our mite offerings. During the month of October, an LWML-NED member generously offered to match any mite donation up to \$5,000. We hope and pray that by the end of October, we will be able to see an additional \$10,000 added to our mite total, bringing us closer to reaching our goal of \$75,000 by March 31, 2024.

At the National LWML Convention in June, the delegates approved a mission goal of \$2,350,000 and selected 31 Mission Grants to be funded over the next two years. The LWML-NED helps to support these LWML Mission Grants by sending 25 percent of our mite offerings to National.

If you would like to support our mission work, donations can be sent to: Susan Lastowski, Treasurer, LWML-NED, P.O. Box 626, Holyoke, MA 01041.

### Convention

The LWML-NED will hold its biennial convention on April 26-27, 2024, at the Marriott Hotel in Trumbull, Connecticut, under the theme, "Songs in the Night." Our Keynote Speaker will be Katie Schuermann, an author, speaker, and musician. The Rev. Gregory Wismar, long time Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Newtown, CT, as well as a hymn writer, and author, will be leading a breakout session on our hymnody, and the Rev. Nathan Erb, Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Trumbull, CT, will be our Bible study leader.

Sharon Dever  
LWML-NED President  
[president@lwml-ned.org](mailto:president@lwml-ned.org)

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# New England District Circuit and Regional Breakdown

## REGION I

REV. PETER GREGORY, VICE-PRESIDENT

### CIRCUIT NO. 1

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. David Mueller, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH

Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH  
 Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH  
 Pastor Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH  
 Pastor George Ruwisch, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH, also serving Pastor Lesley Chen, Associate Pastor  
 Pastor Dagan Siefert, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH  
 Pastor David Mueller, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH  
 Pastor Ed Schneeflock, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH  
 Pastor Ben Akers, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME  
 Pastor Timothy Sandeno, Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME  
 Pastor Ben Akers, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME  
 Vacant, Williamstown Lutheran Church, Williamstown, VT  
 Pastor Matthew Rasmussen, Community Lutheran, S. Burlington, VT

### CIRCUIT NO. 2

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Paul Gramit, Trinity Lutheran, Clinton, MA  
 Pastor Eric Sahlberg, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Acton, MA

VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, 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  
 Pastor Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA  
 Pastor Joseph Nollet, Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield, MA  
 Pastor Peter Gregory, Our Savior, Westminster, MA

### CIRCUIT NO. 3

● CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor James Hopkins, First Lutheran, Boston, MA  
 also serving Rev. Miquel Barcelos, Associate Pastor

VACANT, 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 Jake Dickerhoff, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA  
 Pastor Leon Schultz, St. Paul Lutheran, Providence, RI  
 Pastor Aaron Stinnett, 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 Anthony Mandile, St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT also served by Specific Ministry Pastor Kevin Mongeau  
 Pastor Jim Rice, Trinity Lutheran, Easthampton, MA  
 Pastor Randall Bessette, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA  
 VACANT, Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, MA  
 Pastor D. David Riley, St. John's, Westfield, MA  
 Pastor Randall Pekari, Our Savior, South Windsor, CT  
 Pastor Adam Moore, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT  
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Deaf, W. Hartford, CT

### CIRCUIT NO. 5

■ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Volker Heide, Lutheran of Madison, Madison, CT

VACANT, Hope Lutheran, Storrs, CT  
 VACANT, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT  
 Pastor Christopher Chandler, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI  
 Served by Pastor Greg Dwyer, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT  
 Pastor Christopher Chandler, Faith Lutheran, Groton, CT  
 Pastor Scott Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT  
 Pastor Greg Dwyer, Zion Lutheran, Manchester, CT  
 Pastor Mark Valigorsky, St. Matthew's, New Britain, CT  
 VACANT, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New London, CT  
 Pastor Paul Scheyder, Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT  
 Pastor Jason Reitz, Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

## REGION III

REV. JOEL KOTILA, VICE-PRESIDENT

### CIRCUIT NO. 6

△ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Mark Clow, Grace Lutheran, Middletown, CT  
 Pastor Kevin Karner, Immanuel Lutheran, Bristol, CT

Pastor Scott MacDonald, St. John's Lutheran, Meriden, CT  
 Served by Pastor Kevin Mongeau, Shepherd of the Hills, Morris, CT  
 Served by Pastor Greg Wismar, St. Paul Lutheran, Naugatuck, CT  
 Pastor Christian Bunzel, Trinity Lutheran, New Milford, CT  
 Pastor Joel Kotila, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Terryville, CT  
 Pastor Robert Hass, Zion Lutheran, Wallingford, CT  
 Pastor Joel Kotila, St. John's, Waterbury, CT

### CIRCUIT NO. 7

▲ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Rob Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, CT

Pastor Nathan Erb, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT  
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT  
 Pastor David Rowold, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT  
 Pastor Ryan Oakes, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT  
 Pastor Philip Bartelt, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT  
 Pastor Evan Scamman, St. Paul Lutheran, Greenwich, CT  
 Pastor Gem Gabriel, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT  
 Pastor Joshua Schiff, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

