



North Dakota District Convention  
January 23-26, 2022

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
North Dakota District  
59th Convention  
Fargo, ND

*Following is a brief summation of the 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod of the North Dakota District for churches and delegates to be shared with their congregations in total or in part:*

The theme for the 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod of the North Dakota District was: **“Rejoice in the Lord Always! Rejoice!”** taken from Philippians 4:4-9: **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.** (Philippians 4:4-9 esv)

#### **Opening Divine Service**

Convention was opened with the Divine Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo. Rev. Bernard Worrall and Rev. Steve Schulz served as liturgists. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, proclaimed the Word of *Rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord Always!* based on the convention theme verses. Convention offering to benefit Wittenberg Chapel was collected during the service in the amount of \$17,941.55.

#### **Synod Representation**

Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison presented a report on the Synod, and was available during the convention for conversation and fellowship. Synod regional vice president, Rev. Nabil Nour, was also present for the entirety of our convention. Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, English District President, was the convention parliamentarian. Rev. Dr. Jon Vieker, Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Dean of the Chapel at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, was the essayist “On the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas: Singing and Understanding the Hymns of Epiphany” entitled “Origins, Scripture, and Themes of the Season of Epiphany”.

#### **District President’s Report**

President Bertsch’s report was based on the theme verses from Philippians, citing the many reasons the district has to rejoice in the Lord. As part of his report, President Bertsch shared the results of his study of hymns versus songs used in the congregations of the North Dakota District and pledged to work with congregations and pastors to refrain from using songs with false theology.

#### **Recognition of New Members to Synod**

Five new members have been admitted to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the North Dakota District. The chair introduced each pastor to the assembly and the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison welcomed the new members to the Synod. Each new member present signed the constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. New members recognized were:

Rev. Brian Doel  
Rev. Brock Schmeling  
Rev. Brian Shane  
Rev. Justin Woodside  
DCE Susanna Danner

#### **Nominations:**

**District President:** Rev. Arie Bertsch

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Steve Schulz

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Kirk Peters

**District Secretary:** Rev. Daniel Voth

**District Treasurer:** Mrs. Kay Kreklau

**Board of Directors-Ordained:** Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek and  
Rev. Lester Wolfgram

**Board of Directors-Lay:** Mr. Marty Visto, Mr. Thomas Langer,  
Mrs. Tana McKenna, Mr. Eric Poppinga, and Mr. Scott Pfennig.

**Nomination Committee-Ordained:** Rev. Philip Beyersdorf,  
Rev. Clark Jahnke,

**Nomination Committee-Lay:** Mr. Robert Wurl, Mr. Jonathan Buchop,  
Mrs. Susan Corwin, Mr. Greg Nelson

#### **Resolutions Adopted:**

1-1 “North Dakota District Encouragement for Shepherd’s Hill”

1-3 “Encouraging Continuation of Message in the Pew”

2-02 “To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile”

2-03 “To Explore an Ongoing Ministry Partnership Between the North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Services”

3-1 “Constitution Bylaw Resolution”

3-2 “To Update the North Dakota District of the LC-MS By-Laws”

3-3 “Support Historic Communion Practice of the Synod Affirmed”

3-4 “To Adopt the LCMS North Dakota District Guidebook and Resources”

All Omnibus Resolutions

Blessings and REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! REJOICE!

Rev. Arie Bertsch

LCMS ND Dist. President



Reagan D	2/3
Arianna R	2/6
Gavin V	2/9
Liam T	2/11
Dick D	2/11
Anita N	2/12
Bill P	2/13
Jacob P. F	2/14
Zeva B	2/21
Miranda A	2/21
Henry H	2/21
Pam D	2/22
Cindy O	2/22
Nancy K	2/23
Jamie R	2/26

Mark & Anita N	2/14/15
Jeremy & Becky G	2/20/10



**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

Matthew K	2/15
Kristin V	2/16
Norm S	2/16
Max N	2/20
Linda H	2/22
Luella R	2/26

**February 2022 Elders**

2-1 to 2-15	Marty Bjegaard	223-2375
2-16 to 2-28	Ken Purdy	226-6703



*Feb 6.	Jensen H.	815am
	Taylor B.	1045am
Feb 13	Jason C.	815am
	Shaylee C.	1045am
*Feb 20	Reese D.	815am
	Aspen R.	1045am
Feb 27	Brekken Z.	815am
	Gavin V.	1045am



**North Dakota District  
Contact Information**

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**Business Office  
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Office: 701-293-9001

**Director of Biblical Finance  
Mr. Ed Bean**

**Website: [www.nodaklcms.org](http://www.nodaklcms.org)**



**Martin Luther School** provides quality **Lutheran** education using the **Classical** learning model to the Bismarck-Mandan community

**What does this mean?**

The classical learning model emphasizes mastery of learning building blocks to be used for logical and critical thinking. A Lutheran education means weaving Christ into the teaching of every subject to hundreds and hundreds of children, including the unchurched, so that Christ is always at the center. It also means teaching children to pray and sharing the gospel. It means children growing in Christ.

**This is most certainly true!**

Please visit [givingheartday.org](http://givingheartday.org) on or prior to Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> to continue your gracious support of Lutheran education in Bismarck/Mandan and **Martin Luther School!**

Alternatively, you can drop off or mail your 2/10/22 dated check to the school by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Your donation goes farther on**

**February 10, 2022**



## Bunko Night

Join us on Friday, February 11, for an evening of fun and fellowship as the board of stewardship serves a light meal and we enjoy an evening of Bunko. If you have never played, it's okay. We'll teach you. All you need to do is be able to toss a few dice and have fun! Supper starts at 5:30 and Bunko begins at 6:00 pm.



**Men's Network** for February is scheduled for February 19 at Messiah Lutheran Church at 8:00 am.



## Pictorial Directory Update!

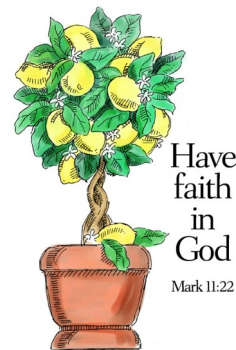
Exciting News! Leaders at Shepherd of the Valley have determined that it is time for our new pictorial directory. Our dates for photography will be March 10-12. We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please contact Cheryl Purdy or Darlene Kautzman to be a part of this project.

Online registration is open if you'd like to sign up for a time to have your photo taken. Go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com). Click on schedule appointment Our Church Code is ND106. Password is photos. We will also provide opportunities for members to sign up at church in the coming weeks.

"Shepherd of the Valley Sunday school students have been gathering offering throughout the 2021 Fall semester to go toward a purchase through Food for the Poor. Their contributions, in combination with an anonymous donor (who doubled every dollar the kids gave) made for a grand total well over \$400! During the education hour on Sunday January 16th, the Sunday school students voted to donate:

- Materials for a well
- A goat
- 3 fruit trees

Thank you to parents and guardians for your diligent giving, and in doing so teaching our students the power of prayer and action."



## "MAIN STREET LIVING" MEDIA MINISTRY

FEBRUARY UPDATE

LOVE is the theme of "Valentine's Day", celebrated annually in February. While there are a variety of competing stories for the origin of this day, as Christians we know the true source of all genuine love is our Creator & Savior, the Triune God! *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:10-11*

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "Main Street Living" media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) – then click on the link under the picture identified as "Fargo."

Thank you for your much-needed financial support! Checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH", 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website. God's blessing in Christ! -Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator

### "MSL North" Programs for February 2022:

**Feb 6:** Rev. Paul Preus, Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale, ND, presents the message: **"It Is Good to Hear Jesus"**, based on Matthew 17:1-9. *"This Is The Life" program: "Finders Keepers" - A man finds a large sum of money and struggles with the consequences of keeping it.*

**Feb 13:** Rev. Nathanael Biberdorf, Zion Lutheran Church, Browns Valley, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City, SD, presents the message: **"Ever-Green Savior"**, based on Jeremiah 17:5-8. *"This Is The Life" program: "Girls Best Friend" Focusing on the here and now creates problems for a mother and her daughter and prompts spiritual questions for all.*

**Feb 20:** Rev. Kirk Lee, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, MN, presents the message: **"I Am Your Brother Joseph"** based on Genesis 45:3-15. *"This Is The Life" program: "Song of the Night" - A son's accident causes his family to question everything.*

**Feb 27:** Rev. Dave Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: **"Greater than the ... Greatest?"** based on Hebrews 3:3-6. *"This Is The Life" program: "Hope Enough to Live By" - A medical research scientist falls into despair after an accident and subsequent events.*

**"MAIN STREET LIVING"** is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally **"This Is The Life,"** along with occasional church-season specials).

Programs are broadcast starting at 9:00am Central time on the following FOX stations:

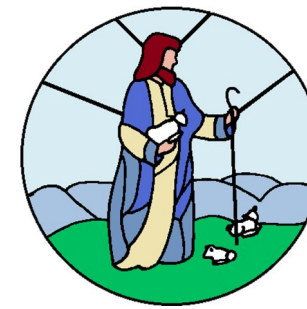
Bismarck/Dickinson

KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Midco channel 594

Please check your cable and satellite providers for the corresponding channel on your system. MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) then click on **"(Fargo)"**.



# FEBRUARY



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
 “A church family that shares, nurtures, and lives our faith in Christ”  
 February 2022, Newsletter

		<b>1</b> <b>4:30pm:</b> Stewardship <b>5:30pm:</b> Human Care	<b>2</b> <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Confirmation @	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>*8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Ed. Hour <b>*10:45am:</b>	<b>7</b> <b>8:30am</b> Circuit Winkle @ Beach	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Confirmation @ Bethel	<b>10</b> <b>7:30pm:</b> Trustees	<b>11</b> <b>5:30pm:</b> Bunko	<b>12</b> <b>8:30am:</b> Board of Edu- cation
<b>13</b> <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Ed. Hour <b>10:45am:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Confirmation @ Bethel	<b>17</b> <b>10:00am:</b> People Matter <b>6:00pm:</b> Sun- day School Planning	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>8:00am:</b> Men’s Net- work
<b>20</b> <b>*8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Ed. Hour <b>*10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>1:00pm:</b> Middle	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>6:00pm:</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b> <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Confirmation @ Bethel <b>7:00pm:</b> MVCO Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>7:00pm:</b> MVCO Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>1:00pm:</b> MVCO Re- hearsal
<b>27</b> <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Voter’s Meeting <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>1:00pm:</b> Senior High Games <b>3:00pm:</b> MVCO Concert	<b>28</b>					

### Teaching in a Simple Way

The first words of Luther’s Small Catechism are, I think, often overlooked. They are, “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” Yes, the early Lutheran Reformers, as well as Lutherans today, placed a high value on home instruction of God’s truth, particularly from the head of the household!

This is Scriptural! We are told in Deuteronomy 6, “**7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**”

Today we might call this Family Devotions! This can, at times, feel like a tall order, and as parents, we all find this a difficult part of our vocation. As a result, this clear commandment of the Lord often falls by the wayside. I think that there are a number of reasons why this happens.

- 1. Too Busy.** This is probably the major reason why family devotion time suffers. Parents work a full shift, pick up the kids from school or daycare, and then by the time homework and dinner and dishes are done, its time for bed! When are we *supposed to do* family devotions? I would argue that one solution is, once again, to keep it *simple*. What does a simple devotion look like? This leads us to the next reason for lagging family devotions.
- 2. Where Do I Begin?** Family devotions do not need to be a half-hour long. A mere 5-10 minutes right before bed may not seem like much, but over the course of a year that’s 30 to 60 hours spent with your children in prayer and study of God’s Word! This is an invaluable investment in a child’s growing faith!  
To keep it simple, start simple:
  - For younger children get a *Story Bible* book (BTW: the church is gifting those to parents this year!) Beginning with the first reading, read it aloud to your child and talk about the picture. Older children could read the appropriate passage from the Bible itself (usually referenced in the *Story Bible*!)
  - Recite a portion of the Small Catechism.
  - Say the Lord’s Prayer or Luther’s Evening prayer together.

There is still one more reason that parents often avoid family devotions, and that is . . .

- 3. Fear of Teaching Wrongly.** It think that this is a major reason for dwindling family devotion time in our society. Parents feel inadequate to the job. But who isn’t? We are all imperfect in what we say and do at times. We are weak and simple people! Yet God still instructs *us* to teach our children “diligently.” But consider the quote at the beginning of this article, “As the head of the family should teach them in a *simple way* to his household.” Leading a family devotion does not require a degree from the Seminary! We teach in a simple way.

Will your children ask questions that you cannot answer? Probably. Kids do that all the time. And when that happens, simply tell your child that you don’t know! Then on Sunday morning he can ask a Pastor about it. That is, after all, part of what we are here for!

This admonition is for all of us with children. As Proverbs 22:6 says, “**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**” It is a weighty task, and we will certainly not carry it out with sinless perfection, but as Christian parents we are called to try. What better gift can we give to our children than the Gospel of Jesus, and through it forgiveness, life and salvation?