



**'Called Into Partnership'  
district convention  
follow-up Part 1 —  
'Mission Outposts'**

Dear friends in Christ,

Although the district convention is a few months past (April 29-May 2) this is the first *Lutheran Witness* article I've written since the convention. It's showing up now because there is about a month-and-a-half delay between writing and publication, plus a further delay created by publishing a combined June/July issue.

By now, I expect that those who attended the district convention as delegates have reported back to their congregations. I hope the reports were positive. My sense was that the convention was a great experience for those who attended. That was reflected in comments to me from several delegates.

The worship services and devotions were inspirational. The opening service included special instrumental music by the students of the Sioux Falls Lutheran School and an adult choir from members of several district congregations. The president of the Synod, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, was preacher. Rev. Darren Olson, pastor of Zion Lutheran in Canistota and St. John's Lutheran in Montrose, did an excellent job of leading the devotions throughout the convention. Former South Dakota District President and current LCMS Secretary Dr. Raymond Hartwig preached for the closing service, which also included recognition of those professional church workers who were called to glory since the last convention.

Dr. Hartwig also served as our convention essayist, basing his essay on the convention theme, "Called Into Partnership," and the theme verses Phil. 1:3-6. The essay was outstanding! Dr. Hartwig's essay is available online on our district Web site at <http://sd.lcms.org>. Although it's 80 pages in length, it's well worth the read and most timely both for our district and Synod.

In addition to elections (reported elsewhere in this issue), one of the important responsibilities of the convention and its delegates is to adopt resolutions that have impact on our partnership here in this beloved South Dakota District. Off and on over the next few months, I will focus on a few of the more significant resolutions. This month, I'll highlight Resolution 2-01—"To Recognize the Congregations of the



Rev. Dale Sattgast  
South Dakota  
District President

South Dakota District as Mission Outposts."

We all know that God's desire is that all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (see 1 Tim. 2:4), and that the purpose of Jesus' earthly mission was to seek and to save that which is lost (see Luke 19:1). Jesus' mission took Him to the cross where He died for all people, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised (see 2 Cor. 5:15). Before Jesus' ascension back into heaven, the very last words Jesus spoke to His disciples—and, by extension, to His Church—was that they and we are to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (see Acts 1:8). To enable that mission, He entrusted to His Church His Word, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the authority to forgive and retain sins (see Matt. 28:19-20 and John 20:22-23).

In the history of the churches of South Dakota, many of which have already celebrated 125 years, our congregations have faithfully proclaimed God's pure Word and administered the Sacraments. Only God knows how many people will be in heaven because of this ministry.

But most of those people have been raised "in the church" since the time of their Baptism. At the same time, the reality is that there "are unchurched people in every community in South Dakota, and many of those who are unchurched are without a saving relationship of faith in the only true God," and that "God has given to every congregation within the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod the means through which the Holy Spirit works to create and sustain saving faith ..." (Resolution 2-01).

Recognizing that, the delegates resolved that "every congregation, ministry, and school of the South Dakota District ... understand itself as a 'mission outpost ...'" While this is always a part of our understanding of the mission of Christ's Church on earth, we who have been called into partnership in the Gospel in our district, in our circuits, in our congregations, and in our schools were encouraged vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches and communities.

In the South Dakota District, there are 115 congregations, three Lutheran schools, and several early childhood centers. At the center of each is the saving message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That's the only Gospel message in the world that brings eternal life. God grant that each of us, in response to His grace that has made us His own, recognize the importance of the

*(Continued on Page B.)*

# DISTRICT NEWS

## FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page A.)

Church's mission to those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior. And recognizing that, may we joyfully and vigorously declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light (see 1 Peter 2:9).

"... nothing ...  
except Jesus  
Christ and Him  
crucified"

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dale L. Sattgast  
1 Cor. 2:2  
2 Cor. 3:4-6  
2 Tim. 1:8-12*

## Convention elections

The following elections took place during the recent South Dakota District Convention:

### Board of Directors

**Rev. Dale Sattgast** was re-elected district president.

**Rev. Gene Bauman**, pastor of St. Paul, Spearfish, was re-elected first vice president.

**Rev. Nabil Nour**, pastor of Redeemer, Armour, was re-elected second vice president.

**Rev. Scott Sailer**, pastor of Faith, Sioux Falls, was re-elected secretary.

**Gerald Wulf**, a member of Faith, Pierre, was re-elected district treasurer.

**John Hirsch**, a member of St. John's, Yankton, was re-elected to the district Board of Directors.

**Earl McKinstry**, a member of Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, was newly elected to the district Board of Directors.

### Circuit Counselors

**Circuit A** (Aberdeen)—**Rev. Hyle Anderson**, pastor of St. Paul and St. John, Aberdeen, was newly elected.

**Circuit B** (Milbank)—**Rev. Iver Possehl**, pastor of Mount Olive, Watertown, was re-elected.

**Circuit C** (Pierre)—**Rev. Brad Urbach**, pastor of Faith, Pierre, was re-elected.

**Circuit D** (Huron)—**Rev. Peter Utecht**, pastor of Messiah, Redfield, and Redeemer, Doland, was re-elected.

**Circuit E** (Brookings)—**Rev. Dwaine Doremus**, pastor of St. Peter, Wentworth, and St. John, Chester, was re-elected.

**Circuit F** (Black Hills)—**Rev. William Paepke**, emeritus, was re-elected.

**Circuit G** (Chamberlain)—**Rev. Albert Althoff**, pastor of St. John, Gregory, was newly elected.

**Circuit H** (Mitchell)—**Rev. David Otten**, pastor of Immanuel, Dimock, was re-elected.

**Circuit I** (Yankton)—**Rev. James Mueller**, emeritus, was newly elected.

**Circuit J** (Sioux Falls)—**Rev. Howard Shane**, emeritus, was newly elected.

**Circuit K** (Freeman)—**Rev. Thomas Christopher**, pastor of St. Martin, Alexandria, and Trinity, Spencer, was newly elected.

### Other Elections

• **Bill Snow**, a member of Mount Olive, Watertown, was elected as a member of the **Synod's Nominating Committee**.

• The following men were elected to the **District Nominating Committee** for the 2012 convention:

**Rev. Dan Deardoff**, pastor of Blessed Redeemer, Brandon;

**Rev. Warren Uecker**, pastor of Our Savior, Madison;

**Guy Bauman**, member of Resurrection, Sioux Falls;

**Paul Konrad**, member of Mount Calvary, Brookings; and

**Ray Larson**, member of St. John, Columbia.

God's blessings on each of the above individuals as they serve the Lord and His church.

## Campus ministry— How can I help?

I had the great joy of being a pastoral delegate at the South Dakota District Convention. The convention was very insightful about how we continue to walk together. Each of us walks in different ways, but we still need to help adjust our steps as we walk together.

There are congregations in our beloved South Dakota District that have taken up the task or mission to help strengthen the faith of our college students. These congregations need our help to facilitate them with names of these students in their midst.

Many college students may have come home for summer, and others are getting ready to head off to an inspiring college or university for the first time. While they make their plans to attend another or first year of college, these district congregations would like you to help them prepare for their arrival on campus.

You may ask, "How can I help?" It is simple—just remain in contact with your college students. Help give them support to find a fellow partner church. You can also inform these fellow partners in Christ of your loved one who is going to be coming into their mission field.

I hope to offer you further information in the future on how you may help strengthen the faith of our college students.

*Pastor David Knefelkamp  
Campus Ministry*



**Call information**

*as of June 16*

**CALLS PENDING**

**Benjamin Roberts**, Grace, Corona, Calif., called to serve Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis, 6/23/09.

**ACCEPTED**

**Timothy Davis**, Christ, Sioux Falls, accepted the call as pastor at Calvary, Wray, Colo., 6/14/09.

**Candidate Ryan E. Paszek**, Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, accepted the call as director of youth and youth ministry at Zion, Sioux Falls, 6/15/09.

**DECLINED**

**Eric Van Sharrel**, Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, Okla., declined the call as pastor at Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis, 5/19/09.

**VACANCIES**

- Our Savior, Aberdeen, senior pastor
- St. Paul/St. John, Aberdeen, assistant pastor
- Zion, Chamberlain
- St. John, Howard
- Bethesda/First English, Marion/Parker
- Christ, Sioux Falls
- Lord of Life, Sioux Falls
- Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis
- Concordia, Vermillion
- First/Emmanuel, Wall/Creighton

**Rev. Victor Dorn to retire this month**



You are cordially invited to attend the retirement celebration Sunday, Aug. 30, at Zion Lutheran Church in Mitchell, S.D., for Rev. Victor and Terry Lynn Dorn.

The worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a meal. There will be an open house from 1 to 3 p.m.

Victor Dorn graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. (now Fort Wayne, Ind.), and was ordained into the pastoral ministry in 1969. He then served Redeemer, Bagley, Minn., and Trinity, Lake George, Minn., from 1969 to 1977; Trinity, Athens, Wis., from 1977 to 1985; Gloria Dei, Pequot Lakes, Minn., from 1985 to 1996; and Zion, Mitchell, S.D., from 1996 to the present.

The Lord has blessed the Dorns with four children

and nine grandchildren.

Come celebrate and thank the Lord with Zion members Pastor Dorn's 40 years in the pastoral ministry! Cards may be sent to Pastor Victor and Terry Lynn Dorn, c/o Zion Lutheran Church, 620 E. Third Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301. Call 605-996-7530 with any questions.

**Trinity, Spencer, marks 10th anniversary of church building**

On Sunday, May 31, a thanksgiving service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencer in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the congregation's church building.

On Saturday, May 30, 1998, an F4 tornado struck the town of Spencer, destroying almost the entire town, including the Trinity Lutheran Church building. Six people in the town of Spencer were killed and nearly all the citizens lost their homes. Despite the terrible personal losses of many of the members, the congregation of Trinity quickly resolved to rebuild its church building as soon as possible—the only one of the four congregations in Spencer to do so.

On June 6, 1999, a year after the tornado, the new building was publicly dedicated with a standing-room-only crowd of more than 600 people.



Ten years later, under the theme "See What God Has Done," based on Ps. 66:5, "Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf!," about 100 people gathered to thank God for the ongoing Word and Sacrament ministry at Trinity in Spencer. A thankoffering of \$2,200 was gathered at the service, which will be used to aid St. John's, Yankton, after its fire, and for flood relief efforts in the North Dakota District.

The congregation members wish to thank everyone who aided them in their time of need. Without the faithful and generous support of the people of our Synod, especially the South Dakota District, the rebuilding of Trinity, Spencer, would not have been possible.

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

Summer activities are now in full swing, and you may have travel plans to visit friends or relatives, see the magnificent sites God has created, or just go into your backyard and relax. I always marvel at what God has created just for me to see and give thanks for His many gifts.

The LWML Portland convention is over, but what an awesome experience it was as we sang, participated in worship, Bible study, and servant events; heard about our mites in action; and, most of all, spent time with our LWML sisters! Indeed, we are a special group.

Have you ever thought what is all included in the spelling of LWML? In the 50th anniversary history book of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, titled *Wings, Women In God's Service*, by Marlys Taege, it spells out many things to members, missionaries, and beneficiaries of the league's Christian care and concern activities. Quoting Marlys, she spells "LWML" this way:

1. Good News, helping members grow in the Word;
2. Mustard Seeds that are used to share God's Word;
3. evangelism through the distribution of numerous marked Bibles;
4. hospitality, and sharing God's love with others;
5. family togetherness, by providing great opportunities for reunions;
6. compassion, as we care for our LWML sisters in Christ;
7. dedication to the work of the LWML;
8. great clergy relationships with pastors who are willing to serve the league;
9. mission tours that help us understand the work that is done in the mission fields;
10. discipling woman to woman by gaining firsthand knowledge of mission needs at home and abroad;
11. fun, fellowship, and unforgettable experiences that are found wherever one or two are gathered together;
12. personal growth, which may include a first plane ride to a meeting, the sharing of Christian fellowship, and, most of all, the privilege of working for the Lord in this special capacity; and
13. last, but not least—WINGS of gratitude for the opportunities the league has given us to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Ps. 100:2—the league motto).

This is how the Lord works in our lives and uses us to spread His message of the Gospel.

*"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe" (Prov. 29:25).*

## LWML Puppet Place ministry

Are you looking for a way to "serve the Lord with gladness"? Each year, during the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, the LWML furnishes volunteers to invite people to see the show put on by the Puppet Place Ministry. We give Bible studies to the adults and whistles to the children after the Bible story puppet show presented by Pastor Utecht and friends.

This may be the time God wants you to share your faith. On a rotating basis, these are the LWML zones scheduled to supply volunteers at the 2009 Puppet Show:

Thursday, Sept. 3—Yankton Zone

Friday, Sept. 4—Aberdeen Zone

Saturday, Sept. 5—Black Hills Zone

Sunday, Sept. 6—Brookings Zone

Monday, Sept. 7—Chamberlain Zone

Anyone is welcome to volunteer at the Puppet Place—not just LWML members. If you can volunteer for a day at the Puppet Place, contact your zone LWML president or Susan Kinsley at 605-352-4639.

We ask the Lord to bless the sharing of the Gospel at the Puppet Place, that more people may know Jesus as their Savior. Please include the Puppet Place Ministry on your church's prayer chain during the five days of the South Dakota State Fair.

## Mighty mites ...

You have heard that phrase many times, yet, during these economic times, those words are more relevant than ever. When we combine all our mites, God blesses their efforts, and mighty things for Him are accomplished.

It is time to submit mission grant proposals for the South Dakota LWML 2010 convention. Mission grant proposals need to be submitted to Arlene Naasz, vice president of Gospel Outreach, by Aug. 31.

To obtain guidelines for submitting a mission grant proposal, contact Arlene at 6219th Ave., Brookings, SD 57006, or download a copy of the guidelines from the South Dakota LWML Web site.





Rev. Daniel  
Deardoff  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's corner August—the new June

It's true, August is the new June. Brides used to dream of spring weddings, but today many like August because there are no major holidays to work around.

My wife and I chose August for our wedding date because it let us get settled in right before my last year of college. I suspect the reason my nieces and nephew are getting married this August also has to do with school.

So what does this mean for you as an LWMLer? It means opportunities. You have an opportunity to encourage those young men and women who are making a lifelong commitment as man and wife. What was assumed to be a natural step in our days is now almost considered radical today.

Frank Sinatra may have sung, "Love and marriage goes together like a horse and carriage," but for many today, marriage is just that: horse-and-buggy thinking. Sinatra sang, "You can't have one without the other," but today's young people are pressured to experiment with living together first. We need to celebrate with the young couples who do the right thing and who ask God's blessing on their marriages.

One of the best gifts my wife and I received as a wedding present was a white pack of "Mustard Seed" devotions for newlyweds. We made it part of our routine to go through them at supper time. There is no shortage of good devotional resources you can add to your wedding gift for a young couple. And don't just give the book; explain to the couple how to use it and tell them that you just know God wants to be an everyday part of their marriage and to bless them with His presence.

Many weddings have disposable cameras on the tables at the reception. An even better idea is one I saw at my niece's wedding. Paper and pens were distributed to write notes of encouragement and Bible verses. These pages were then turned into a scrapbook. If you have a relative getting married, you might ask permission to do this. Whether or not this idea is used, you can always include a handwritten Bible verse in your wedding card.

Let an August wedding be another opportunity to "let your light shine" and to "give glory to your Father in heaven"!

## Christian Life Workshops slated throughout district in September

Get out your calendars and mark the dates of the fall Christian Life Workshops. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about how God comforts and leads us through difficult times. The topic this year is "Suffering and the Christian Life."

Rev. Hyle Anderson from St. Paul, Aberdeen, will be our presenter. As we all at times face physical and spiritual trials during our sojourn here on earth, so we can all relate to this topic. Pastor Anderson will guide us through the promises of God's Word and provide take home materials to encourage us when we most need help.

Plan to attend a workshop near you this September:  
Sept. 11—St. Paul, Freeman  
Sept. 12—Trinity, Mansfield  
Sept. 25—Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk  
Sept. 26—Zion, Presho

Watch for publicity to come to your local congregation and society. Bring along your Bible and that friend who needs the assurance of Christ's comfort and healing in their life.

*Janell McKinstry*

*South Dakota LWML VP of Christian Life*

*"... Who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Cor. 1:4).*



## Mitey creative!

A mite-y lady, Marlys Rustman of the LCMS Rocky Mountain District, greeted attendees to the LWML convention in Portland, Ore., and shared her enthusiasm for collecting mites.

Since November 2008, Rustman has dressed up once a month in her mite-box outfit, including her mite-box hat and earrings, and collected mites from members of her congregation in Colorado Springs. The total collected so far is more than \$1,200. This is her

effort to encourage others to be creative as they, too, collect mites within their church.

# LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

## Men's NetWork registers 1,000th church

In less than 45 days, nearly 15 percent of LCMS churches from 43 states have registered on the Men's NetWork at [www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com)!

Steven Steingraber of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Marshfield, Wis., took the honors for logging on the 1,000th LCMS church shortly before midnight on Thursday, Feb. 12. In addition, 69 Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) churches and 104 other churches have come on board.

"Our goal was to have 1,000 churches online by May 31," said Bruce Wurdeman, who directs U.S. Ministries for Lutheran Hour Ministries. "We thank God for those churches who have joined us as together we build up the Body of Christ."



## Consider God's good gifts

### —Words for Women

In a recent interview, Phyllis Wallace, who hosts "Woman to Woman," expounds on how God has blessed her life—and how she uses those blessings in her relationships with others.

**Q: How are your God-given gifts blessing others?**

**Phyllis Wallace (PW)**—Each morning I follow Martin Luther's advice to cross myself in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thanking God for protection and rest, asking Him to order my day using my gifts. This keeps me focused on whose day it is. Then, some time during the day, I dive into God's Word to check how my gifts are matching up with tasks He ordains. This little peek can take minutes or hours. It's one way He makes clear where I need confession and forgiveness for misusing or not using my gifts. I pray for discernment in saying yes or no to specific opportunities. As someone pointed out, "Every need is not a call from God on your life." I try not to waste my time or His.

**Q: What is an area of blessing or service women often neglect?**

**PW:** I encourage women to see the Lord, to intentionally develop "the unfading beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (1 Peter 3:4). This spirit is nearly extinct in our culture.

It centers on what matters most. It is what's lacking in women who long for more and better, louder and faster. Quiet and gentle doesn't mean you can't "rush the net in doubles" anymore. It doesn't hold you back from passionate activism in your cause. It does cause you, however, to compare your take on something or someone with God's. It tempers your reactions and transforms you into a person people seek out, want to be with, and trust!

**Q: How does a Christian woman take stock of her gifts?**

**PW:** Listen to what others say to affirm your strengths: "My kids won't miss Sunday school because of the way you teach!" "When you do devotions, I marvel at your insights." Go with those. Plus, do you love it? Is it challenging enough to send you to the Lord in prayer? If the opposite is true, try something else.

## Sri Lanka anti-conversion law threatens Christians

A Buddhist political party is very close to getting a bill voted into law that could outlaw religious conversions. "If this bill comes to action, there will be more problems for churches and Christian organizations," reports S. Sathiyabalan, who directs Lutheran Hour Ministries in Sri Lanka.

The "Prohibition of Forcible Conversion of Religion" bill failed when it was introduced five years ago, but has since garnered support. It was brought forth by a political party led by Buddhist monks. The bill proposes heavy fines and prison terms for anyone who tries to convert a Sri Lankan citizen from one religion to another using "force, fraud, or allurement." The harshest penalties would be reserved for those converting women or children.

Although the Lutheran Hour Ministries center in Sri Lanka does not force conversions, the bill could put Christian organizations and missionaries at risk.

Nearly 70 percent of Sri Lanka is Buddhist, but activists have blamed Christianity for a decline in adherents.

"We don't know what will happen, but we trust God. He is the one who called us to serve Him, and He will continue to help us share His News with the people in Sri Lanka," Sathiyabalan concludes.





*Lutherans For Life—'Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God'*

### **Thank you! Life News sponsors**

Lutherans For Life of South Dakota (LFL SD) extends its thanks to those groups and individuals who sponsor "Life News" monthly church bulletin inserts. With your help, many individuals are being informed about life issues and encouraged to fight the good fight of faith.

If you are not a sponsor and would like to help keep your congregation up-to-date with life issues, we invite you to consider becoming a sponsor. The cost is \$5 per 100 copies per month. To place an order for your congregation, call Lutherans For Life at 888-364-LIFE or [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).

### **Word of Hope**

For those who have had an abortion, there is a Word of Hope! "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Ps. 147:3). Word of Hope shares the message of hope by providing a toll-free hot line (888-217-8679); Web site ([www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)); crisis intervention; counseling; spiritual care; support groups; resources for pastors, parents, and teachers; education programs; and Titus 2 for Life (a model for mentoring biblical manhood and womanhood).

Your support is crucial!

### **Faith in action**

Have you ever driven by a church, property, or open field and seen the very moving and impressive display of a lawn filled with hundreds of small white crosses representing the thousands of unborn children killed by abortion? Have you considered placing these on your church, private school lawn, or other property but did not know how or who to contact to get them?

Lutherans For Life of South Dakota has two such "Witness of the Crosses" displays conveniently available to be transported in their own specially designed trailers on the east and west side of South Dakota. You can contact:

**East River:** Ron Hoops at 605-395-6655  
or [rrmmfarm@nrctv.com](mailto:rrmmfarm@nrctv.com)

**West River:** Milt Berg at 605-745-7039  
or [mb91803@gwtc.net](mailto:mb91803@gwtc.net)

Also contact the national office of Lutherans For Life at 1-888-364-LIFE and request Karen Frohwein's article "Witnessing For Life through the Display of the Crosses" from *Directions 2008—Faith in Action*. This excellent article will help you address any concerns your pastors, congregation, or community might raise regarding the display.

Lutherans For Life of SOUTH DAKOTA



**GOD  
LOVES  
LIFE -  
AND  
SO DO  
WE!**

*Before you were born, I set you apart. ~Jeremiah 1:5*

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Quasquicentennial services



Trinity Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), White Lake, S.D., celebrated 125 years of amazing grace on Sunday, June 14. Approximately 150 members and guests attended the two celebration services. A meal was served between the morning and afternoon services.

Guest preacher at the 10:15 a.m. service was Rev. Brian Mosemann, son of the congrega-

tion and dean of students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Guest preacher at the 1 p.m. service was Rev. Dan Elkins, a former pastor of Trinity.

Guest organist for both services was Dr. Russell Mosemann, son of the congregation and professor of computer science at Concordia University Nebraska, Seward.

Serving as a guest lector for the morning service was Rev. Dale Sattgast, LCMS South Dakota District president, Sioux Falls, S.D.



From left are Rev. Dan Elkins, South Dakota District President Rev. Dale Sattgast, Rev. Brian Mosemann, Rev. Richard Milbrandt, and Dr. Russell Mosemann.

Special music was provided by Trinity's adult and children's choirs and Praise Team, accompanied by Laura Bogenhagen, daughter of the congregation and a Lutheran school teacher.

In 1883, a number of German Lutheran settlers began the work of organizing a congregation in the White Lake area. In 1884, candidate A.H. Kuntz was called as resident pastor and a congregation was organized under the name of St. Martin's Lutheran Church.

A few years later, many members of the church who had a great distance to travel by horse and buggy thought it would be preferable to have a house of worship closer to them. In 1913, a church was built in Gales Township and was organized in 1914 as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, a sister church to St. Martin's.

In 1888, St. John's Lutheran Church was started in

Crystal Lake Township, serving its members faithfully until 1952. At that time, many members joined St. Martin's Lutheran Church in White Lake, while others joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Stickney.

In 1954, it was seen to be feasible to merge St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gales Township, and St. Martin's Lutheran Church back into one congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church, named after the Triune God, was completed and dedicated June 12, 1955.

## Bethesda, Hot Springs, to celebrate 90 years of God's grace

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, S.D., will celebrate its 90th anniversary Sept. 27. A worship service will begin at 9 a.m., with Rev. Robert Nowak as guest speaker. A program and potluck will follow the service.

Contact the church office at 605-745-4834 or [bethesda@gwtc.net](mailto:bethesda@gwtc.net) for more information.

Cheryl Huddleston  
Bethesda Anniversary Committee



## First English, Centerville, to celebrate 75 years of God's grace

First English, Centerville, S.D., will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sept. 6 with a special worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a catered meal.

Former members and pastors are invited to attend and participate.

Please contact the church office at 605-563-2904 or visit [www.firstenglishcenterville.org](http://www.firstenglishcenterville.org) for more information.



### October issue deadline: Aug. 15



When possible, please send photos in a JPEG format, at 300 dpi. If you send print photos, please send a copy that you won't need back. Thank you.

**Vonda Sturzenbecher**

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or mail **8605 Woodland Drive**  
**Black Hawk, SD 57718**