



DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS IN CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS

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January 3, 2012

NEWS

[Church Crisis Response Symposium](#), April 27, 2012, Concordia University, St. Paul. Crisis response experts will help you and your church prepare for the unexpected. For more info contact weinkuf@csp.edu

[LWML Mission Grant Proposals](#) Deadline: Jan. 15, 2012. Grant proposals may be submitted by LWML individual members, units, zones or conferences or LCMS-affiliated organizations.

MNS District Constitution Committee, Jan. 20, 2012. The deadline for submitting new or revised documents is Monday, January 9, 2012! Please send four (4) hard copies to the Chairman Rev. Evan G. Schiller, 1105 7th Ave SW, Pipestone, MN 56164. **REMINDER:** All constitution changes/revisions MUST be approved by the Constitution Committee.

["The Art of Marriage" Conference](#), Feb. 10-11, 2012, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines. The conference is a DVD-based teaching presented by Family Life. Enrollment deadline is Friday, January 27, 2012. Questions? Please contact Good Shepherd at 763-784-8417.

Mission U School of Witnessing, Feb. 11, 2012, Trinity Lutheran, Waconia.

[Learn about Domestic Development grants](#) available under two categories: Development grants, Servant Event grants.

MN [un]Paved – Courage 2012, Jr/Sr. High event. Jan. 27-28, Mayer Lutheran High School. [Register here](#). Or contact [Traci Kohls](mailto:Traci.Kohls), 952-442-4165 x274. Nearly 300 already registered! Sign up today!

[Networking Resources](#). (Refreshed 12-28-11) [Weekly Classifieds](#). (Refreshed 12-28-11)
Would you like to get an item included? Debra.Connolly@mnsdistrict.org

[District website](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Camp Omega Events](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER- (CAN BE INCLUDED IN YOUR SUNDAY BULLETINS OR NEWSLETTERS)

A new year offers a new start for many of us. Like Paul, we *"[forget] what is behind and [strain] toward what is ahead"* (Philippians 3:13). Through Christ, Who has paid the penalty for our sins, the slate is clean; we can forget about the past. We are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), ready to go forward in His strength to serve Him with the gifts He has given us.

["A New Year- New Opportunities"](#) -A stewardship newsletter article is available for you to use.

Resources

Lectionary Illustration: The Baptism of Our Lord, Mark 1:4-11

There's a story of a young American engineer who was sent to Ireland by his company. It was a two-year

assignment. He had accepted it because it would enable him to earn enough to marry his long-time girlfriend. She had a job near her home in Tennessee, and their plan was to put their money together and put a down payment on a house when he returned. They wrote often, but as the lonely weeks went by, the girlfriend began expressing doubts that he was being true, exposed as he was to the beautiful Irish lasses.

The young engineer wrote back. He declared with some passion that he was paying absolutely no attention to the local girls. "I admit," he wrote, "that sometimes I'm tempted. But I fight it. I'm keeping myself for you." In the next mail, the engineer received a package. It contained a note from his girl and a harmonica. "I'm sending this to you," she wrote, "so you can learn to play it and have something to take your mind off those girls."

The engineer replied, "Thanks for the harmonica. I'm practicing on it every night and thinking of you." At the end of the two years, the engineer was transferred back to company headquarters. He took the first plane to Tennessee to be reunited with his girl. Her whole family was with her, but as he rushed forward to embrace her, she held up a restraining hand and said sternly, "Just hold on there a minute, Billy Bob. Before any serious kissin' and huggin' gets started here, let me hear you play that harmonica!" By briefly taking the time to point to the prophecy of Isaiah, Mark "pulls out the harmonica." In quoting Isaiah's prophecy, Mark demonstrates how John the Baptist's ministry was a critical sign – given by God - to indicate that the Good News of Jesus Christ was real. He's giving proof that the Good News that he is writing about is faithful to the prophetic scriptures given by God to his people.

[MNS Lutheran Witness](#)

[The Lutheran Witness](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

[Mission Prayer List for Jan. 2012](#) [Mission Vision News Winter 2011](#) [Reaching Rural America](#)

Health & Ministerial Helps

[Health of a Leader](#)

[Health, Wellness, and Shalom](#)

[Free on-line CPR Training.](#)

Every year, the church should approve a housing allowance designated by its clergy. To designate/alter your housing/parsonage submit a [2012 Housing/Parsonage/Manse Allowance Form](#) to your church's finance committee for approval.

Educators and Administrators Notebook

["Information for Private School Families: 2011 K-12 Education Tax Credit & Deduction/Subtraction."](#)

Region 1 Teachers Conference, Jan. 27, 2012, St. Paul Lutheran School, Prior Lake.

[Administrators' In-service #2](#), Jan. 24, 2012 at CSP. Dr. Bernard Bull, speaker.

[Servant Events, Summer 2012](#). Registration is now open. The theme for 2012 is "We Are His Hands."

IN OUR PRAYERS

-Please join us this week in praying for Circuit 2, St. Paul Metro, Rev. Al Braun, circuit counselor. [Please click here](#) for maps of the District and all Circuits.

-congratulations and prayers for Chaplain Matthew Franke, selected for promotion to Lt. Col., and scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan.

CALL UPDATE INFORMATION

[Commissioned Ministers](#) (as of 12-23-11)

[Ordained Ministers](#) (as of 12-28-11)

Change of address, e-mail address, contact information? [Contact the Minnesota South District](#)

Do you have a brief story of a new ministry in your church? An event happening? We would love to hear about it. [Contact the MNS District](#). Attach your story to your e-mail.