



DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS IN CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS

14301 Grand Avenue South, Burnsville, MN 55306 (952) 435-2550 [information@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:information@mnsdistrict.org)

**March 8, 2011**

## NEWS

[Kieschnick begins work as presidential ambassador for mission advancement.](#)

[Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference](#), March 18-19, Alexandria, MN.

**Thank you to all who responded to the Kroonblawd benefit.** Nearly 450 people attended. God has provided healing and strength.

**HAMMOND, MINNESOTA FLOOD RECOVERY.** Crews are still needed throughout the winter. Thank you to all who have served. Further questions? Contact Vicki Strong, 651-730-5049.

[Networking Resources.](#) (Refreshed 03-04-11) Events in and around the MNS District. Planning to Care-Caring To Plan event; Adventures In Genesis; Life Weekend; Mission speaker Kalia Lo; Pastors and Teachers Wellness Retreat.

[Weekly Classifieds.](#) (Refreshed 03-04-11) Jobs, stuff. Would you like to get an item included?

[District website](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Camp Omega Events](#)

**DCE Internship sites needed.** For additional information, please contact Kevin Hall, DCE Program Director, at [khall@csp.edu](mailto:khall@csp.edu) or 651-603-6165.

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

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

*"Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith,"* (Hebrews 12:2) has already won the victory over sin for us. It still remains to us, however, to continue to fight for the faith, refusing to let sin reign in our bodies. The Apostle Paul tells us to *"count [ourselves] dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."* By God's grace, sin no longer is our master. We are new creatures who *"offer the parts of [our bodies] to Him as instruments of righteousness . . . because [we] are not under law, but under grace"* (Romans 6:11-14).

["Do Not Be Afraid"](#) -A stewardship newsletter article is available for your use on the MSN District website.

## Resources

[Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Minneapolis Scholarships available.](#)

Learn LCMS views on contemporary and doctrinal issues. Visit [Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

[MNS Lutheran Witness](#)

[The Lutheran Witness](#) on-line

[January 2011 LCEF Update](#)

[In The Word Bible Studies](#) available for free from Concordia Seminary

### Lectionary Illustration: Matthew 4:1-11

*"More PT (physical training), Drill Sergeant! More PT!"* The raw recruits, sweltering in the brutal heat and physical training regime were responding to the bark of the basic training drill sergeant, *"What do you like, soldier?" "More PT!"*

We, as witnesses to that scene, would probably see the sergeant's actions as mean-spirited and unmotivating, but recruits had been drilled to believe that the pain and the effort would be worth it in the end. Through this "style" of training, the recruit would be fit for duty and able to deal with anything the enemy might hand out. This tried and true regime has been used for centuries in training recruits. Why? Because it works. When a soldier is in a war-time situation there often isn't opportunity to think things through. Following orders at that critical juncture is all that matters; even when those orders mean harsh, even death-defying tasks. There needs to be an action/reaction instinct in a soldier. Since it can't be "fright/flight", which is innate in every person, the trainer needs to reshape the reaction to fit the action. And there's only one way to do that—drill, as described above.

Author J.I. Packer writes: "Grace is God drawing sinners closer and closer to him. How does God in grace prosecute this purpose? Not by shielding us from assault by the devil, the world, and our own flesh, nor by protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstance, not by shielding us from troubles created by our own temperament and psychology, but rather by exposing us to all these things, so as to overwhelm us with a sense of our own inadequacy, and to drive us to cling to him (and His Word) more closely. This is the ultimate reason, from our standpoint, why God fills our lives with troubles and perplexities of one sort and another -- it is to ensure that we shall learn to hold him fast."

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." Matthew 4:1

### Health

[Self-esteem check](#); too low, too high, or just right?  
[Resilience: Build Skills To Endure Hardship](#)

### MISSION NEWS

[Mission Prayer List for March 2011](#)

[Mission Vision News Spring 2011](#)

**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.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

-Please join us this week in praying for the congregations of **Circuit 10, South Carver County**, Circuit Counselor: Rev. Don Andrix [Please click here](#) for maps of the District and all Circuits.

-Pray for the CSP Board of Regents as they elect a new President on April 4, 2011

-Please pray for Rev. Alan Rehwaldt, who is under Hospice care, Rev. Roger Dramstad, Rev. Robert Gehrke who are recovering from surgery. Pray also for Cass Wegener, Waconia, and Julie Steinborn, Watertown, whose father Leonard Jones of Peoria, IL passed away.

### CALL UPDATE INFORMATION

[Commissioned Ministers](#) (as of 03-04-11)

[Ordained Ministers](#) (as of 03-04-11)

**LCMS Vacancy Report:** Congregations calling: a Sole Pastor – 247; a Senior Pastor – 38; an Assistant/Associate Pastor – 54 = a total of 339 Calling Vacancies. Non-calling Vacancies: Permanent – 372; Temporary – 226 = a total of 598 Non-calling Vacancies. Total Vacancies in the LCMS at this time: 937

**Past Editions of the [MNS Weekly e-News](#) may be viewed on the District Web Site.** E-news/networking submissions should be brief and sent to [debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org)