



# DISTRICT NEWS

## SOUTH DAKOTA



Among those who help get Main Street Living (MSL) on the air are, from left, Randy Gayken, MSL Board of Directors secretary; Peter Nord, Board president; Jay Schaefer, executive director; Dutch Te Slaa, executive director emeritus; and Todd Taylor, board vice-president.



# Thank you, Dutch!

**MAIN STREET LIVING (MSL)**, the television ministry supported by so many individuals and congregations in the South Dakota District and throughout the Great Plains region, recently announced the news that Arlen (“Dutch”) Te Slaa, executive director, will retire from his service on June 1. Jay Schaefer of Moorhead, Minn., is the new executive director.

Dutch, a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, was instrumental in the founding of Main Street Living in 2001, and the program launched on Jan. 6, 2002, the Epiphany of Our Lord. Since beginning in the Sioux Falls television market, MSL has spread to Rapid City and today, under Dutch’s leadership, is broadcast also from television stations in Fargo-Moorhead and Bismarck, N.D.; Sioux City, Iowa; Lincoln and Omaha, Neb.; Minneapolis, Minn.; and Eau Claire-La



**Rev. Scott Sailer**  
District President

Crosse, Wis. In addition, MSL planted the seeds and helped to fund a similar TV program broadcast from Duluth, Minn.

Of all of that, Dutch would say, “This is God’s doing, not mine.” But God works through and with His people! And so, while we certainly thank God for the growth of MSL, we also thank Dutch for his long, loving and faithful service in helping to get the Good News of Jesus out into the region via Christ-centered televised worship services and programs like *This Is the Life*, *Kids’ Crossing* and *On Main Street*. We also thank Dutch’s wife, Carol, for her support of Dutch’s work.

Jay is very familiar with the ministry of Main Street Living. In fact, Jay has been the technical director for Main Street Living North (Fargo-Moorhead) since 2017. In the past year, Jay has been serving as the central editor for all the MSL markets, a role he’ll continue to serve, along with his added duties.

See MSL, page 2



Pictured are, from left (front row) Ben Bobby, Lydia Street, Brooke Schwagel, Cassy Bitz; (middle row) Isaac Jung, Gus Bobby, Sebastian Vogel, Peyton Bauer, Braydon Bauer, Abby Larson; (back row) Rev. Sam Bobby, Michael Leapley (DCE intern), Vicar Ray Anderson, Judah Bobby, Drake Anderson, Kylene Bowen, Larry Jung and Rev. Martin Herzberg. Not pictured are Rev. Timothy Koch, Paulina Burke, Liz Vogel and Bella Voge.

## Meeting their neighbors

On April 17, a group representing three district congregations participated in an Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ evangelism weekend at St. Paul's, Aberdeen.

Rev. Sam Bobby, St. Paul's senior pastor, led the participants in a Bible study on the way of Jesus Christ — in contrast to the way of the world. Rev. Martin

Herzberg, pastor of Our Savior, Wilmot, and Trinity, Corona, led the group in singing and Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Emanuel, Milbank, shared witnessing tips with the attendees.

After lunch, seven canvassing teams walked around Aberdeen and knocked on 224 doors and asked questions about

faith of 61 people. Fifteen were certain of salvation because of what Jesus did for them. Ten were trusting in their own good works. Eleven didn't know how they would attain salvation, and 25 did not answer the question.

The next O AFC event will again be at St. Paul's, Aberdeen, on Saturday, Sept. 11. Questions? Contact Pastor Tim at [revtimkoch@gmail.com](mailto:revtimkoch@gmail.com).

## MSL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Jay and his wife, ReNae, and sons Jacob (18) and Adam (12), live in Moorhead, Minn., and are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo. Jay is a graduate of Moorhead State University and earned a Lutheran teacher diploma from Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE) in 2009 and director of Christian education certification in 2011, also from CUNE. Before accepting the new position with MSL, Jay had been the Spiritual Life specialist at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Fargo and a music teacher at Dakota Memorial School, Fargo.

We welcome Jay into his new service as executive director of Main Street Living and wish him every blessing in Christ.

The Lord uses many people to bring MSL

on television and computer screens in South Dakota and many other locations. Besides being very appreciative of leaders like Dutch and Jay, I thank you for your prayers and financial support of this important ministry of the Word of God.

Thank you to our pastors for their willingness to record the worship services and sermons for the weekly program. Thank you to the volunteer staff that records the program in the studio at Zion, Sioux Falls, and on the road once a year in the Black Hills, Pierre and Aberdeen. Thank you to our Main Street Living choir and the Board of Directors.

All praise and honor to God for blessing this television and digital ministry and using the time, talents and treasures of so many of His people!

**Your servant in Christ • Pastor Scott Sailer**  
"Not ashamed of the Gospel"  
Rom. 1:16; 16:25-27



## Send us your news!

Send submissions to  
**Kate Meadows:**

- ▶ [kate@katemeadows.com](mailto:kate@katemeadows.com)
- ▶ 420 E. Liberty Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the August issue is June 15.  
The deadline for the September issue is July 15.



# Youth compete in Bible Bowl

Five teams from four congregations participated in the 2021 Bible Bowl, hosted by Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, on March 27. The topic was the Gospel of Matthew and the Lord's Prayer from the Small Catechism.

The team competition was won by the Concordia High School, Cresbard, team. Second place was won by the Fire-Breathing Rubber Duckies, a team from Resurrection, Sioux Falls, that was competing at Bible Bowl for the first time. Third place was won by the youngest team in the field, Concordia Middle School from Concordia, Cresbard. Fourth place went to Brood of Vipers from Mount Calvary, Brookings, which was the defending Bible Bowl champions. Rounding out the field in fifth place was God Squad from Immanuel, Dimock, another young team that was competing in Bible Bowl for the first time.

Nineteen youth competed in the individual competition, which needed a second-round tiebreaker test to sort out the final positions for trophies and top 10 certificates. The top 10 in the individual competition were:

1. Cody Rausch, Concordia High School, Cresbard
2. Daniel Ascher, Resurrection, Sioux Falls and Ethan Olson, Resurrection, Sioux Falls (tie)
4. Jonathan Baumann, Resurrection, Sioux Falls; Logan Rausch, Concordia High School, Cresbard; Luke Rausch, Concordia Middle School, Cresbard (tie)
7. Josh Rausch, Concordia Middle School, Cresbard
8. Emerald Wittmeier, Concordia Middle School, Cresbard
9. Meika Kelly, Immanuel, Dimock
10. London Surgenor, Immanuel Dimock; Carl Steinlicht, Mount Calvary, Brookings (tie)

It was a job well done by all the teams and individuals competing on short notice this year. May God bless His Word among them for eternal life.



Pictured is the team from Mount Calvary, Brookings.



Pictured is the high school team from Concordia, Cresbard.



The individual winners were, from left, Cody Rausch, Daniel Ascher and Ethan Olson.



Pictured is the middle school team from Concordia, Cresbard.



## Call Information

### ACCEPTED

**Rev. Paul Albers**, Concordia, Vermillion, accepted the call of pastor to Mount Olive, Omaha, Neb., March 9.

**Rev. Wade Harr**, First, Fort Benton, Mont., accepted the call of pastor to Trinity/Zion/Christ, Reliance/Hamill/Winner, Feb. 26.

**Rev. Peter Utecht**, Messiah/Redeemer, Redfield/Doland, accepted the call of pastor to Bethesda, Hot Springs, March 6.

### DECLINED

**Curtis Miller**, Concordia Preparatory School, Towson, Md., declined the call as Middle/High School principal at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, March 9.

### VACANCIES

- ▶ Aberdeen, St. Paul (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Leola, St. Paul
- ▶ Mitchell, Zion (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Redfield/Doland, Messiah/Redeemer
- ▶ Sisseton/Waubay, Emmanuel/Zion

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# Convention is here

“Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus” is the theme for the 39th Biennial LWML Convention June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky. The hosting districts are Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. I am so thankful to all the women and men who worked so hard to plan a convention in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wearing a mask is a requirement for being in the convention center, and social-distancing protocols will be used. We want convention attendees to be safe while they worship God, learn from our mission-grant recipients, participate in Bible study, sing, pray, and enjoy fun and fellowship with their LWML sisters.

If you can't attend in person, you can watch the livestream. Visit [lwml.org/2021-convention](http://lwml.org/2021-convention) for the stream. You can be part of the Photo Finish Mission Walk. Maybe your group or zone can have its own mission walk to raise money for mites. Be sure to wear your Kentucky Derby bonnet! You can also conduct your own Gifts from the Heart. I know that many ladies from our South Dakota Dis-



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

trict will not be attending the convention in person as they usually would do, so make other plans to support the mission work of LWML.

Part of the convention business will be to elect new officers, including pastoral counselor, VP of Christian Life, VP of Communication, VP of Gospel Outreach,

recording secretary and Nominating Committee. Our former district president, Lisa Asmus, is a candidate for the Nominating Committee.

Bylaw revisions will be voted on. The new mission goal and mission grants, voted on in May, will be announced at the convention.

Praise be to God for our reaching and surpassing our mission goal for the 2019-21 biennium, which was \$2.1 million. The final amount was \$2,137,742. The extra money will be used to fund our next mission goal.

Please pray for a successful and safe convention. Let us always “Look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” He endured the cross for us and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God.



## Keep updated on what's going on!

Our website, email and social media are three platforms you can use to access LWML resources and find out about the latest information on national LWML and South Dakota District events.

At [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org), you can click the link(s) of the most current events that are planned at the top of the home page, or scroll down to the “Events” section. As details of the events are finalized, the information is quickly posted on the website.

Do you know who the email contact is for your group (society)? Ask them for the latest news! This past spring, President Patty kept us updated with the latest information about the LWML convention in Lexington via email.

We also share information on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/sdlwml](https://facebook.com/sdlwml), including pictures of group (society) and zone events. Email your photos and a brief description to me at [lwmlsd2020@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlsd2020@gmail.com) and I'll be happy to post them for you!



**Nancy Bogenhagen**  
Communications/IT





## COUNSELOR'S CORNER



# SHELTER

It is here!

Summer is upon us, or at least the summer heat is about to begin bearing down on us. When summer does come, the usual heat hangs around and beats on us, wears on us and runs us down so we seek refuge, whether it is in a mall, a library, a lake or in the comfort of our own homes.

Take a minute to read Psalm 121. In life, it isn't just the sun that beats us down and wears us out. In fact, many things can do that. Work wearies us. Friends frazzle us. Enemies engulf us. Tasks try us. We spend a good deal of our life seeking refuge.

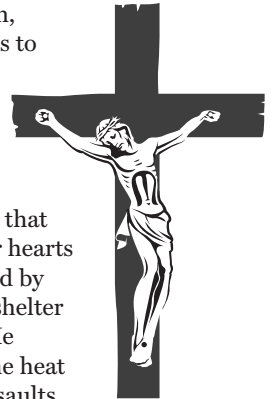
Psalm 121 is reminder that we have a shelter no matter



**Rev. Clint O. Thorson**  
LWML District Counselor

what might be assaulting us. The Lord promises to shelter us from all evil, and the psalmist reminds us that not even the sun can bring us harm against his power.

God, in this psalm, certainly promises to keep His believers from evil and to keep our lives in Christ. Our Lord promises us that He will guard our hearts from being tainted by evil. Jesus is our shelter in times of evil. He shades us from the heat of hell and the assaults of evil. But He also sends us into the world to be surrounded by that heat and evil, that we might offer the shelter we enjoy in Him to others who have been scorched by that heat and run down to nothing by the evils of the world.



When next you stroll in the sun and endure the heat of summer, remember that you have a shelter greater than any evil you might experience, greater even than the gates of hell itself. Your shelter is Christ, the one who endured and conquered the world. He will keep you as you go in and out this summer, and He will guard your heart and life from being snatched by any evil.

**In Christ • Pastor Thorson**

## PIERRE ZONE report

The Pierre Zone has been struggling to meet in person for over a year, but summer is now here and we have survived the long drought of being distanced from our LWML sisters!

In April we met in person at Faith, Pierre. It was so great to be in person as we gathered around the Word. Rev. Dr. Corey Rajek, Faith senior pastor, led us in Bible study and we were able to hold a brief

meeting and have some much needed fellowship.

We are very blessed and excited to have Trinity LWML, Blunt, reactivated in the Pierre Zone. While many groups are struggling to stay active, we are so blessed to have them once again in our group. We are looking forward to once again being about Serving the Lord with Gladness in the Pierre Zone area.

**Jan Larson • Pierre Zone President**

## Mission grants due by Aug. 31

Summer is here at last! I feel like we are coming out of a long winter that has lasted for over a year. It's now time to think of the missions that need our assistance. If you know of an organization in need of our financial help, go to [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org) and click "Mission Grant Applications 2022-2024," located under "Missions."

**Jan Larson**  
VP of Gospel Outreach



# LWML South Dakota District Christian Life Retreat

September 17–18

Faith Lutheran Church, 714 N. Grand Ave., Pierre

Theme: “God’s Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms”

**Scripture Verse:** *Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant (Psalm 119:76).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Society \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for registration and meals – Aug. 27**

**Mark which applies:**

- Member of the LWML South Dakota Board of Directors
- LWML Member
- Young Woman Representative
- H2H Sister
- Director of Christian Education (DCE) *(no registration fee)*
- Pastor *(no registration fee)*
- Guest
- Special Dietary needs

**Housing Information**—You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Ask for the LWML rates. 2 queen beds. Rooms are blocked at:

- Super 8 Motel, 320 West Ave, Pierre  
\$65 + tax • Phone: 605-224-1617  
Reserve before Sept. 16
- Quality Inn, 410 West Sioux Ave, Pierre  
\$69.99 + tax • Phone: 605-224-0377  
Reserve before Sept. 10
- Governor’s Inn, 700 W Sioux Ave, Pierre  
\$75 + tax • Phone: 605-224-4200  
Reserve before Aug. 17
- Club House Hotel & Suites, 800 W Sioux Ave, Pierre  
\$139 + tax • Phone: 605-494-2582  
Reserve before Aug. 17
- AmericInn Lodge & Suites, 312 Island Dr, Ft. Pierre  
\$104.99 + tax • Phone: 605-223-2358  
Reserve before Sept. 1

**Registration Fee**

	Quantity	Cost	Fee Total
Registration	_____	\$15	\$ _____
Friday Supper	_____	\$12	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	\$14	\$ _____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

**\*Pastors please choose gratis meals.**

Make your check payable to: **LWML South Dakota District Retreat**

Mail your registration form with payment to:

Marla Moseman  
PO Box 414  
Onida, SD 57564

## LCMS South Dakota District Congregational Year-to-Date Report of Mission Receipts for the three months ending April 14, 2021, compared to the three months ending April 14, 2020

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2021 Intention	3 months 2021	3 months 2020	Avg/Per 2021	Comm. 2020
<b>Circuit 1 – Aberdeen</b>						
Aberdeen, Our Savior	329	10,000	3,065	3,020	9.32	9.18
Aberdeen, St. John	87	12,500	4,348	3,446	49.98	39.61
Aberdeen, St. Paul	780	38,000	10,320	8,333	13.23	10.68
Andover, Zion	106	–	–	–	–	–
Britton, St. John	155	–	–	7,000	–	45.16
Columbia, St. John	102	7,750	3,875	1,938	37.99	19.00
Cresbard, Concordia	58	2,225	2,272	–	39.17	–
Doland, Redeemer	43	–	1,000	1,000	23.26	23.26
Ferney, St. Paul	165	4,000	–	2,119	–	12.84
Groton, St. John	308	–	2,983	2,862	9.69	9.29
Leola, St. Paul	48	–	–	–	–	–
Mansfield, Trinity	280	23,500	8,092	4,307	28.90	15.38
Redfield, Messiah	152	–	–	–	–	–
Stratford, St. Paul	43	–	–	1,000	–	23.26
Weecota, Immanuel	86	6,902	4,829	1,778	56.15	20.67
<b>Circuit 1 Totals</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>\$104,877</b>	<b>\$40,784</b>	<b>\$36,803</b>	<b>14.87</b>	<b>13.42</b>
<b>Circuit 2 – Watertown</b>						
Aurora, First English	–	–	–	–	–	–
Brookings, Mount Calvary	375	40,000	11,275	10,021	30.07	26.72
Brookings, Peace	271	–	–	–	–	–
Corona, Trinity	146	2,000	–	–	–	–
Flandreau, Redeemer	37	3,000	750	750	20.27	20.27
Millbank, Bethlehem	62	400	–	–	–	–
Millbank, Emanuel	575	16,000	9,715	3,259	16.90	5.67
Revillo, St. John	126	–	1,155	–	9.17	–
Sisseton, Emanuel	161	3,900	1,100	–	6.83	–
Watertown, Mount Olive	389	30,700	7,675	7,675	19.73	19.73
Waubay, Zion	118	2,500	–	–	–	–
White, Zion	77	3,500	900	1,103	11.69	14.32
Wilmot, Our Savior	162	3,000	285	770	1.76	4.75
<b>Circuit 2 Totals</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$32,855</b>	<b>\$23,578</b>	<b>13.15</b>	<b>9.43</b>
<b>Circuit 3 – Pierre</b>						
Blunt, Trinity	37	–	500	500	13.51	13.51
Draper, St. Paul	21	–	–	250	–	11.90
Gettysburg, Emmanuel	201	6,500	–	–	–	–
Harrold, Immanuel	19	600	–	–	–	–
Lebanon, Christ	23	300	–	–	–	–
Midland, St. Peter	40	3,000	777	674	19.43	16.85
Murdo, Messiah	76	3,000	1,000	300	13.16	3.95
Norris, St. John	68	2,500	190	90	2.79	1.32
Onida, Holy Cross	110	–	–	–	–	–
Pierre, Faith	1,478	45,000	11,250	11,250	7.61	7.61
Presho, Zion	95	1,500	–	–	–	–
Reliance, Trinity	38	–	–	–	–	–
Rosebud, Rosebud Mission	–	–	691	283	–	–
<b>Circuit 3 Totals</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>\$62,400</b>	<b>\$14,408</b>	<b>\$13,347</b>	<b>6.53</b>	<b>6.05</b>
<b>Circuit 4 – Black Hills</b>						
Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	364	15,225	3,806	1,000	10.46	2.75
Creighton, Emmanuel	52	–	–	–	–	–
Custer, Our Redeemer	195	–	750	3,960	3.85	20.31
Deadwood, Grace	73	3,000	750	433	10.27	5.93
Hill City, Our Savior	23	–	–	–	–	–
Hot Springs, Bethesda	308	7,000	1,750	1,750	5.68	5.68
Philip, Our Redeemer	50	–	–	–	–	–
Rapid City, Bethlehem	448	27,667	6,917	8,977	15.44	20.04
Rapid City, Our Redeemer	125	2,200	925	485	7.40	3.88
Rapid City, Peace	524	21,000	4,226	7,834	8.06	14.95
Rapid City, Zion	792	24,000	6,000	4,750	7.58	6.00
Spearfish, St. Paul	316	41,500	41,500	41,000	131.33	129.75
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel	27	800	1,612	1,806	59.70	66.89
Wall, First	201	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Circuit 4 Totals</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>\$142,392</b>	<b>\$68,236</b>	<b>\$71,995</b>	<b>19.51</b>	<b>20.58</b>
<b>Circuit 5 – Mitchell</b>						
Armour, Redeemer	222	8,000	2,000	2,000	9.01	9.01
Chamberlain, Zion	407	–	–	1,605	–	3.94
Delmont, Zion	99	16,000	4,000	4,000	40.40	40.40
Dimock, Immanuel	166	15,000	2,953	–	17.79	–
Emery, St. Peter	59	3,000	1,941	1,747	32.90	29.61
Gregory, St. John	258	–	–	–	–	–
Hamill, Zion	25	–	–	–	–	–
Huron, Mount Calvary	766	70,000	17,020	7,940	22.22	10.37
Mitchell, Zion	555	30,350	7,639	7,335	13.76	13.22
Parkston, Faith	191	10,000	1,700	1,700	8.90	8.90
Plankinton, St. Paul	145	4,000	1,000	2,000	6.90	13.79
Tripp, Emmaus	57	2,500	625	–	10.96	–
White Lake, Trinity	117	–	3,050	2,800	26.07	23.93
Wessington Springs, Zion	75	8,000	650	650	8.67	8.67
Winner, Christ	68	–	500	–	7.35	–
Wolsey, St. John	216	13,400	1,591	1,380	7.37	6.39
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	11	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Circuit 5 Totals</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>\$180,250</b>	<b>\$44,669</b>	<b>\$33,157</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>9.65</b>
<b>Circuit 6 – Freeman</b>						
Alexandria, St. Martin	81	1,100	1,375	–	16.98	–
Canistota, Zion	227	5,000	–	1,387	–	6.11
Emery, St. John	51	–	–	–	–	–
Freeman, St. Paul	265	9,000	3,184	2,063	12.02	7.78
Hartford, Trinity	96	3,000	–	–	–	–
Howard, St. John	111	4,000	–	4,570	–	41.17
Madison, Our Savior	221	3,000	1,200	900	5.43	4.07
Marion, Bethesda	61	2,500	–	–	–	–
Menno, Immanuel	62	3,000	1,171	615	18.89	9.92
Montrose, St. John	88	–	–	–	–	–
Parker, First English	43	2,000	10,000	–	232.56	–
Scotland, St. Paul	31	600	200	150	6.45	4.84
Spencer, Trinity	77	–	1,000	–	12.99	–
Wentworth, St. Peter	181	7,750	1,937	1,957	10.70	10.81
<b>Circuit 6 Totals</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>\$40,950</b>	<b>\$20,067</b>	<b>\$11,642</b>	<b>12.58</b>	<b>7.30</b>
<b>Circuit 7 – Sioux Falls</b>						
Brandon, Blessed Redeemer	285	–	3,300	3,300	11.58	11.58
Sioux Falls, Christ	90	–	–	375	–	4.17
Sioux Falls, Faith	619	43,500	10,875	10,875	17.57	17.57
Sioux Falls, Lord of Life	179	12,000	3,000	3,000	16.76	16.76
Sioux Falls, Memorial	725	52,000	6,835	7,028	9.43	9.69
Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer	324	–	8,000	–	24.69	–
Sioux Falls, Resurrection	214	10,000	2,500	2,500	11.68	11.68
Sioux Falls, Trinity of the Deaf	35	–	–	–	–	–
Sioux Falls, Zion	646	–	17,625	10,000	27.28	15.48
Tea, Risen Savior	100	9,750	4,594	2,481	45.94	24.81
<b>Circuit 7 Totals</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>\$127,250</b>	<b>\$56,729</b>	<b>\$39,559</b>	<b>17.63</b>	<b>12.30</b>
<b>Circuit 8 – Yankton</b>						
Alcester, Peace	113	3,000	781	1,166	6.91	10.32
Avon, Zion	190	5,000	1,285	1,250	6.76	6.58
Centerville, First English	64	2,000	770	553	12.03	8.64
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross	173	26,000	3,460	5,577	20.00	32.24
Fairfax, Trinity	71	2,500	2,000	–	28.17	–
Hurley, Zion	31	2,750	–	–	–	–
Springfield, Our Savior	24	–	–	–	–	–
Tyndall, St. John	132	–	–	–	–	–
Utica, Martinus	65	–	–	533	–	8.20
Vermillion, Concordia	81	–	2,160	2,160	26.67	26.67
Wagner, St. John	231	9,000	2,250	2,250	9.74	9.74
Yankton, St. John	1,107	53,000	8,833	4,417	7.98	3.99
<b>Circuit 8 Totals</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>\$103,250</b>	<b>\$21,539</b>	<b>\$17,906</b>	<b>9.44</b>	<b>7.85</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>21,476</b>	<b>\$866,369</b>	<b>\$299,287</b>	<b>\$247,987</b>	<b>13.94</b>	<b>11.55</b>

Comm. Members: Communicant membership as of Feb. 4, 2021.

# My friend Kim

Dear friends in Christ,

I have been anxiously awaiting an opportunity to share my friend Kim's life story. Recent events have created a fertile and relevant context. In March, while stimulus payments were being sent to Americans across the country, Planned Parenthood rejoiced to receive their share ... \$50 million in fact.

Numbers and institutions are impersonal, so I really wanted to put a face on this issue. I wanted to teach people about the long-term impact a culture hostile to children has on a nation. Then I received an email update from Live Action. The article was titled "Due to population control, one South Korean island (Nokdo) has just three children remaining." The article relayed a Reuters report declaring, "the death rate is now higher than the birth rate."

Parallel articles on CNN's website insist this is because of problems with fertility in South Korea. That is not the whole truth, Live Action reports. "Nokdo's birth slump began when South Korea began heavily promoting a family planning program to its residents in the 1970s and 1980s, urging people to be sterilized." No wonder South Korea has fertility problems! This is where Kim's story comes to life.

Kim was born in South Korea in 1976. Within the pressure of this cultural hostility toward children, Kim's mother abandoned her. In the city where Kim was born police officers directed traffic standing on boxes that helped them to be seen above daily commuters. Kim was left in one of those boxes and found by one of those officers. She was dehydrated and in need of medical care, so her next home was a hospital. It's unknown how long she was there, but eventually she was well enough that she was moved to an orphanage. Her story lacks detail from those days.

That historical gap gives way to her adoption story around the age of 3. Her adoptive parents found Kim through their involvement in the Wisconsin foster-care system. By the early 1980s,



Kim (MeeHee)

Kim had a new adoptive family and became an American citizen.

She was blessed to attend a Lutheran school and learn about Jesus, but questions concerning her birth family always weighed on her heart. Many facts were never discussed, not because her family didn't care, but rather the answers simply didn't exist. Her parents enrolled her in dance classes with other Asian children and she remembers this as a gesture meant to connect her to her homeland. Still, it was difficult to be different, and she can remember other children making fun of those differences as early as first grade. Kim was in high school before she accepted the difference of her ethnic identity.

Concerning her identity as an adopted orphan once abandoned by her birth mother, she was unsettled, tossed about in life and relationships. She came to learn that even the name "Kim" had not been her own from the beginning, but that she had been MeeHee. Kim, looking back at this picture of herself (MeeHee), can tell you from experience that orphaned children often wonder what life would have been like if "orphaned" had never happened. She can tell you that her kind of grief

creates difficulty navigating transitions and predictable life stages that others sail through.

Unable to rewind time, she longed for her future family. Having children and being married promised purpose and presented a future in which broken pieces fit together. The thought of having children gave her hope for having something truly her own and a tangible expression of self. While she could long for the mom she never met, she could not actively love her, hold her or hear her.

God has given Kim three children of her very own and a husband who loves her and loves the Lord. In those three children she can see and touch an earthly expression of past generations God ordained to be her family. But I write this to tell her something more. Where population control and political fear worked to blot out the faces of children and parents from history itself, God was at work to reveal Himself to Kim and Jason and their children.

1 John 4:12 says:

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Kim, your family's story is perfect and whole because they can see who they are in Christ as they see Him in you.

**Your friend and fellow worker, Pastor Chris**



Someone is near you that needs your help in the name of Jesus. **Have you**

**been blessed to know the difference Jesus has made using your work and witness in His name?**

I'd enjoy hearing that life story. A fellow worker may need to hear it. Contact me at:

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