



# DISTRICT NEWS

## SOUTH DAKOTA



### *(without an asterisk)*

An article caught my eye in *USA Today* way back in 2009. The headline was “A World of Asterisks.” The writer, Robert Lipsyte, referred to this little punctuation mark as “the spidery star.” He wrote about the world of major league baseball and that many fans and commentators are demanding that the records set by players known to have used steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs be marked with an asterisk. (That debate is renewed annually, by the way.)

Lipsyte, though, maintained that slapping the punctuation version of the scarlet letter only on athletes falls way short. “It’s as if we’re saying only athletes are important enough to be stained for life.”

He continued: “How about asterisking cosmetically enhanced actors, senators who get campaign funds from industries that benefit their voters, war profiteers, and writers whose memoirs are fictional?”

I would add, how about us Christians? Should we be asterisked for falling short in trusting God, not obeying the 10 Commandments,

not loving our neighbor as ourselves — all while still claiming the name “Christian,” and even “saint”?

I can’t help but think of the man in a congregation I assisted during my time at the seminary. This man regarded his performance as a follower of Christ so lacking and pitiful that he did not even want to be called a Christian. Nor did he feel worthy to receive the Lord’s Supper. Maybe he would have accepted the label “Christian” for himself if the label came with an asterisk — a way of indicating he had the look of a Christian and he went where Christians went (to church), but he was, in the end, by his estimation only a pretender, a hypocrite.

Maybe I should have an asterisk too! After all, I am so disappointed in myself sometimes. Why don’t I pray more, trust Jesus more, feel compassion more? Why don’t I feel impatience and resentment less? Maybe I’m not who I look like: Christian Scott. And of all the nerve: “Saint” Scott!

Christian\* Scott.

Saint\*\* Scott.

These labels seem more accurate. Not-quite-what-he-seems-to-be Scott!

But as I study Scripture, I do not find that God believes in asterisks. This spidery star is not on His keyboard. But these words are:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a



**Rev. Scott Sailer**  
District President

See **ASTERISK**, page 2



## A new (but familiar) assistant pastor installed at Holy Cross

Rev. Dr. Michael L. Kumm was installed as assistant pastor of Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, on Jan. 16. He will serve with Rev. Jeremy Richert, senior pastor. Pastor Kumm is new in this particular ministry position, but he is, of course, very familiar to the Holy Cross flock, having served as Holy Cross's sole pastor (2014-18). He also serves as LCMS Board of Directors chairman.

Pastor Kumm and his wife, Janet, now live in Sioux City, Iowa, which is just across the Sioux River from Dakota Dunes.

We are grateful that the Lord of the church has provided another shepherd to serve His people. God bless you, Pastor Kumm, in this new service in the Lord's church!

Pictured are, from left, Revs. Scott Sailer (district president), Michael Kumm and Jeremy Richert.

## ASTERISK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



result of works, so that no one may boast. EPH. 2:8-9

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 TIM. 1:15B

And after having forgiven our sins, God says, "What sins?" He forgets them. He does not bring them up again to judge us because Jesus was judged — condemned! — for them in our place on the cross.

God is not the God of the ✱, but He is God of the ✚. Although we sin daily, He forgives daily. He declares us truly forgiven, truly righteous through faith in His Son, truly His children, truly bound for heaven. In short, he declares us truly asterisk-free children of God!

Listen!

See what kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 JOHN 3:1

Take it to heart, for it is clear. Your being declared a Christian is not the result of your goodness, but Christ's performance in keeping the Law perfectly for you, being condemned in your place, redeeming you by His blood, giving you the humility to confess your unworthiness before Him and giving you the faith to trust Him. He then gives you the peace and joy of being among His children, people of the ✚, and not the ✱.

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

## Share your news with us!

Send submissions to Kate Meadows:

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

The deadline for the May issue is March 15.





# Supporting, lifting up **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Four of the five South Dakota District DCEs attended the National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) Conference in Fort Collins, Colo, in January.

The theme was "For All Generations," based on Ps. 78:4:

Tell to the coming generations the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might and the wonders that he has done.

District attendees were, from left, Michael Leapley (DCE intern), St. Paul, Aberdeen; DCE Liz Peters and DCE Hailey Miller, Memorial, Sioux Falls; and DCE Lorien Petersen, Zion, Rapid City. The conference gave them an opportunity to "worship, rest, listen, connect, recreate, learn something new and be affirmed in their call."

The mission of NADCE is to support and promote Christian education through advocacy, professional connections and resources for DCEs.

## **Geidel serving part-time**

We are blessed to welcome Dave Geidel of Dimock to our district staff. Since January, Dave has been serving as our part-time interim executive secretary and will specifically tend to matters involving our district schools, preschools and early childhood centers, and commissioned ministries.

Dave served as teacher and principal in Lutheran schools in Minnesota, Colorado, Florida and Nebraska. He has been involved in National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) and enjoys helping schools use the accreditation process for improvement and planning.

After 45 years in education, he retired in 2017. Dave and his wife, Mona, live on a farm west of Dimock, where Dave was raised. Dave and Mona are members of Immanuel, Dimock.

Dave's work will end when the district installs a full-time executive secretary. We are grateful to the Lord of the church for Dave's willingness to step out of retirement to serve our district. The position opened when previous executive secretary Rev. Darren Olson accepted the call to serve as a district missionary-at-large.

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, was a mission grant recipient for the 2020-22 biennium. Delegates to the June convention will vote on recipients for 2022-24.

## Let's gather for convention!

### What are you doing on June 3-4?

I am excited to give you a good reason to drive to St. John's, Yankton — we are holding our LWML South Dakota District Biennial convention. This year's theme is "Walk in Love." You don't want to miss it!

We have many activities planned for you. Jan Wendorf, former national LWML president, will be the keynote speaker and Marie Chow, vice-president of Organizational Resources, will bring news from national LWML and host a breakout session.

The Mite Walk will be held along the Missouri River and ends with a birthday party in the park. We will celebrate the 50th year of South Dakota's own Puppet Place ministry and the 80th year of LWML. Rev. Andrew Utecht will be at the birthday party to entertain us with magic and a puppet show. Our servant events will support the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

Mission grant reports will be given by



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Tina Lenz, Young Woman Representative (YWR) chairwoman; Rev. Don McKillop of the Community Outreach Mission at Trinity, Belle Fourche; and Rev. Peter Utecht, pastor of Bethesda, Hot Springs.

The convention will also include an opening communion service, Bible study, a sending service, breakout sessions, ingathering, choir, banner parade, YWR activities and voting on the mission grants for the 2022-24 biennium.

You will soon be able to register for the convention and book a hotel room. Please talk to your friends and make plans to attend. If you know a woman who wants to know more about the mission of LWML, this is a great introduction. We joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others!



## MILBANK ZONE report

The Milbank Zone held its Fall Rally/Workshop in October at Emanuel, Sisseton. It was great to meet and have a Bible study together since we hadn't been able to gather in person for over a year.

Thomas Mueller, a Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, student who is serving this school year as vicar at Emanuel and Zion, Waubay, led the group in a Bible study, titled "Eyes on Jesus." Patty Peters, LWML district president gave an interesting report on her most recent trip to Guatemala. She showed us pictures and displayed items she had purchased on her visit. She spoke with such enthusiasm and the pictures were so heartwarming that several had tears in their eyes.

We held an ingathering for a Sisseton homeless shelter and Sweet Grass women's shelter. The outpouring from the Milbank Zone was amazing. Collectively, the ladies donated 21 of their own handmade quilts and blankets, 15 packages of new socks, 100 food items, 24 sweaters and sweatshirts and numerous gloves, scarves, coats and kids' and baby clothing. They also donated bar soap, laundry soap and toilet paper, including nearly 400 care packages.

The items were greatly appreciated by both the homeless shelter and Sweet Grass. Many adults and children in the area will be warmer now, as all of the items are especially needed during the cold South Dakota winter months.

**Jeanette Gravdahl**  
Milbank Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

**L**ent! Here it is! Sometimes during this busy time of year I have to wonder, "What am I doing again?" Sometimes I have so many things that need to get done that I lose my place and forget what I'm doing.



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

It is like that for many Christians, and not just during Lent and other busy times of the church year. We can get so busy that we forget what we're doing. It is during those times that I am most likely to start plowing through things just to check them off my to-do sticky note on my desk — just to be done with them. My focus is on getting done, not what I'm doing or why.



Getty Images

But part of the message of Lent as a season in the Christian church is to be purposeful. Paul tells us in Phil. 3:14 that he is "[pressing] on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Our goal during Lent is the Cross, where Jesus is lifted up and slain, that we might have the everlasting prize of eternal life with God.

As you go about your days during Lent, go with the goal of the cross ever on your mind, remembering that Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:53) and the cross with your salvation in mind. Remember that Paul encourages

you to press on toward the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Remember the Cross of Christ. Through His Word and Sacraments, the "high and lifted up" Jesus (see Is. 57:15) calls you to receive His gifts, that on the last day we might be called upward to "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17) with all believers and spend eternity with Him.

That is our focus during Lent. No matter how busy you are, you are never lost. You are on your way to the Cross and —through the Cross — resurrection and eternal life.

## Mission trip is April 2

The LWML South Dakota District will hold a mission trip to the Orphan Grain Train branch in Milbank from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 2. Attendees will prepare Mercy Meals and sort clothes.

Register by March 15 at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org) (click the link at the top of the page, underneath the LWML logo).

**Nyla Jurens**  
VP of Special Focus Ministries

## Mite deadline near

The deadline for the 2020-22 bi-ennium mite offerings is March 15. Please remind your groups about this deadline when you meet this month.

We still have four grants waiting to be paid from the past convention. Please consider holding a special event to help raise the remaining needed funds. God bless your efforts!

**Jan Larson**  
VP of Gospel Outreach

## Wanted: YWRs

We are looking for young ladies who want to learn more about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and attend the South Dakota District Convention in Yankton June 3-4. At the convention you will learn how the women of South Dakota are mission-minded and about the many ways they are the hands and feet of Jesus, helping to spread His love.

The Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) participate in many fun activities during the convention. They make new friends, take part in mission activities, discuss business and participate in social events with their

fellow sisters in Christ.

Keep an eye out for the registration form in a future *Lutheran Witness* insert. You don't need to wait for an invitation to attend; simply fill out the registration and join us!

If you have any questions, please ask your local LWML group.

LWML members, please encourage at least one young woman in your congregation to attend the convention.

**Tina Lenz**  
YWR Chairwoman



# 'NOT JUST PLAIN WATER'

*Can you be saved without being baptized?*



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

Dear friends in Christ,

In the Bible study I lead for high school students on Sundays, we have been learning about what Paul means when he says the church is the body of Christ. We have been studying human anatomy to appreciate God's design and our purpose. We recently learned that babies in utero can see light and hear sound. They know their mother's voice and can even tell that her language is different than others. In fact, I can remember the way our own children moved in utero when we attended church and they heard the organ and hymns.

It's life lived together. Hebrews 10:25 urges us to encourage one another, and this verse reminds us of the Word's power preached in Hebrews 4:12. If babies are blessed this way, how much more those in arms, or all of us who come to worship independently?

This gives me the opportunity to address an issue I see becoming more common in our congregations. The interaction begins when a grandparent approaches me and asks, "Can someone get to heaven if he or she is not baptized?"

I usually say something like, "Yes, we are

saved by grace through faith, but it is the Lord's will that we should be baptized." And then I say, "Why do you ask?"

The individual or couple explain that their son or daughter has become distant from the church, or married someone from a denomination that sees Baptism as a work — a personal decision for Jesus rather than a means by which God Himself works to deliver His gifts of forgiveness in Christ. Therefore, the young children of that son or daughter go unbaptized.

I am always impressed with the intensity of the Lutheran grandparents I serve, because almost without exception they ask, "Would it be OK if I just secretly baptize the kids next time they get dropped off at my house?"

I understand the intensity (and have often wanted to do the same), but I advise against that move because it would:

- ▶ Create distrust in the family.
- ▶ Separate the Baptism from the teaching mentioned in the Lord's call to disciple.
- ▶ Separate the Baptism from the worship life of the church.
- ▶ Teach children that Baptism is a thing to be hidden when the Lord

meant it to be a public witness and proclamation of the Gospel.

Instead of a secret Baptism, I suggest the discipleship path of Matthew 28:18-20. Sometimes we baptize and then teach (as with infants), and sometimes we teach and then baptize and then teach some more (as with adults or children who are beyond the infant and toddler stage).

If you are in this situation with your adult children, then teach! There are some great resources about Baptism available from Concordia Publishing House that your loved ones can read themselves and then share with their children. Your pastor will be able to help you choose one or more resources according to your family's dynamics and desires.

Before you go shopping, however, dig into the Bible itself. Start with the Baptism passages in Luther's Small Catechism (and the study guide). If the study guide is not something you are familiar with, focus on these five passages:

**Matthew 28:18-20** has Jesus's command to baptize, so we know who

See **BAPTISM**, page 8

## LCMS South Dakota District Congregational Year-to-Date Report of Mission Receipts for the 12 months ending Jan. 14, 2022, compared to the 12 months ending Jan. 14, 2021

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2021 Intention	12 months 2021	12 months 2020	Avg/Per 2021	Comm. 2020
<b>Circuit 1 – Aberdeen</b>						
Aberdeen, Our Savior	329	10,000	12,325	12,120	37.46	36.84
Aberdeen, St. John	87	12,500	17,146	16,032	197.08	184.28
Aberdeen, St. Paul	780	38,000	39,310	50,350	50.40	64.55
Andover, Zion	106	–	650	–	6.13	–
Britton, St. John	155	–	7,000	7,000	45.16	45.16
Columbia, St. John	102	7,750	7,750	7,750	75.98	75.98
Cresbard, Concordia	58	2,225	9,250	5,225	159.48	90.09
Doland, Redeemer	43	–	2,000	2,000	46.51	46.51
Ferney, St. Paul	165	4,000	4,000	4,000	24.24	24.24
Groton, St. John	308	–	7,000	10,098	22.73	32.79
Leola, St. Paul	48	–	600	600	12.50	12.50
Mansfield, Trinity	280	23,500	32,936	23,401	117.63	83.58
Redfield, Messiah	152	1,000	–	–	–	–
Stratford, St. Paul	43	–	3,000	4,000	69.77	93.02
Wecota, Immanuel	86	6,902	11,939	8,752	138.83	101.77
<b>Circuit 1 Totals</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>\$105,877</b>	<b>\$154,906</b>	<b>\$151,328</b>	<b>56.49</b>	<b>55.19</b>
<b>Circuit 2 – Watertown</b>						
Aurora, First English	–	–	–	1,010	–	30.61
Brookings, Mount Calvary	375	40,000	47,249	44,191	126.00	117.84
Brookings, Peace	271	–	6,000	8,300	22.14	30.63
Corona, Trinity	146	2,000	3,222	2,306	22.07	15.79
Flandreau, Redeemer	37	3,000	3,000	3,000	81.08	81.08
Milbank, Bethlehem	62	400	430	500	6.94	8.06
Milbank, Emanuel*	575	16,000	32,294	10,380	56.16	18.05
Reville, St. John	126	–	3,519	2,401	27.93	19.06
Sisseton, Emanuel	161	3,900	4,585	4,400	28.48	27.33
Watertown, Mount Olive	389	30,700	30,700	30,700	78.92	78.92
Waubay, Zion	118	2,500	5,376	7,011	45.56	59.42
White, Zion	77	3,500	7,044	4,053	91.48	52.64
Wilmot, Our Savior	162	3,000	3,113	4,525	19.22	27.93
<b>Circuit 2 Totals</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$146,532</b>	<b>\$122,777</b>	<b>58.64</b>	<b>49.13</b>
<b>Circuit 3 – Pierre</b>						
Blunt, Trinity	37	–	2,000	2,000	54.05	54.05
Chamberlain, Zion	407	–	18,084	16,472	44.43	40.47
Draper, St. Paul	21	–	–	250	–	11.90
Gettysburg, Emmanuel	201	6,500	8,608	7,265	42.83	36.14
Gregory, St. John	258	–	4,090	3,885	15.85	15.06
Hamill, Zion	25	–	500	500	20.00	20.00
Harrod, Immanuel	19	600	600	600	31.58	31.58
Lebanon, Christ	23	300	300	300	13.04	13.04
Midland, St. Peter	40	3,000	3,072	3,918	76.80	97.95
Murdo, Messiah	76	3,000	3,265	3,635	42.96	47.83
Norris, St. John	68	2,500	2,500	2,500	36.76	36.76
Onida, Holy Cross	110	–	1,600	–	14.55	–
Philip, Our Redeemer	50	–	–	400	–	8.00
Pierre, Faith	1,478	45,000	45,000	45,000	30.45	30.45
Presho, Zion**	95	1,500	3,000	–	31.58	–
Reliance, Trinity	38	–	–	–	–	–
Rosebud, Rosebud Mission	–	–	2,141	753	–	–
Winner, Christ	68	–	2,000	2,000	29.41	29.41
<b>Circuit 3 Totals</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>\$62,400</b>	<b>\$96,760</b>	<b>\$89,478</b>	<b>32.10</b>	<b>29.69</b>
<b>Circuit 4 – Black Hills</b>						
Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	364	15,225	15,225	15,000	41.83	41.21
Creighton, Emmanuel	52	–	306	267	5.88	5.13
Custer, Our Redeemer	195	–	3,000	6,960	15.38	35.69
Deadwood, Grace	73	3,000	3,447	2,828	47.22	38.74
Hill City, Our Savior	23	–	–	1,584	–	68.87
Hot Springs, Bethesda	308	7,000	7,000	6,416	22.73	20.83
Rapid City, Bethlehem	448	27,667	27,727	29,236	61.89	65.26
Rapid City, Our Redeemer	125	2,200	3,661	2,115	29.29	16.92
Rapid City, Peace	524	21,000	22,284	26,485	42.53	50.54
Rapid City, Zion	792	24,000	25,500	21,500	32.20	27.15
Spearfish, St. Paul	316	41,500	41,500	41,000	131.33	129.75

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2021 Intention	12 months 2021	12 months 2020	Avg/Per 2021	Comm. 2020
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel	27	800	1,612	1,806	59.70	66.89
Wall, First	201	–	–	2,100	–	10.45
<b>Circuit 4 Totals</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>\$142,392</b>	<b>\$151,262</b>	<b>\$157,297</b>	<b>43.87</b>	<b>45.62</b>
<b>Circuit 5 – Mitchell</b>						
Armour, Redeemer	222	8,000	9,000	8,000	40.54	36.04
Delmont, Zion	99	16,000	16,000	16,000	161.62	161.62
Dimock, Immanuel	166	15,000	21,151	23,704	127.42	142.80
Emery, St. Peter	59	3,000	4,949	3,368	83.88	57.08
Huron, Mount Calvary	766	70,000	67,500	70,000	88.12	91.38
Mitchell, Zion	555	30,350	30,510	29,340	54.97	52.86
Parkston, Faith	191	10,000	10,200	10,000	53.40	52.36
Plankinton, St. Paul	145	4,000	4,000	8,000	27.59	55.17
Tripp, Emmaus	57	2,500	3,000	1,700	52.63	29.82
White Lake, Trinity	117	–	8,150	12,650	69.66	108.12
Wessington Springs, Zion	75	8,000	650	650	8.67	8.67
Wolsey, St. John	216	13,400	11,972	13,400	55.43	62.04
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	11	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Circuit 5 Totals</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>\$180,250</b>	<b>\$187,082</b>	<b>\$196,812</b>	<b>69.83</b>	<b>73.46</b>
<b>Circuit 6 – Freeman</b>						
Alexandria, St. Martin	81	1,100	2,200	1,000	27.16	12.35
Canistota, Zion	227	5,000	1,379	4,405	6.07	19.41
Centerville, First English	64	2,000	2,264	2,356	35.38	36.81
Emery, St. John	51	–	–	790	–	15.49
Freeman, St. Paul	265	9,000	14,957	8,910	56.44	33.62
Hartford, Trinity	96	3,000	3,000	3,000	31.25	31.25
Howard, St. John	111	4,000	4,600	9,270	41.44	83.51
Hurley, Zion	31	2,750	2,750	2,750	88.71	88.71
Madison, Our Savior	221	3,000	3,600	3,600	16.29	16.29
Marion, Bethesda	61	2,500	2,500	2,500	40.98	40.98
Menno, Immanuel	62	3,000	4,335	4,500	69.92	72.58
Montrose, St. John	88	–	–	–	–	–
Parker, First English	43	2,000	12,000	2,000	279.07	46.51
Scotland, St. Paul	31	600	600	600	19.35	19.35
Spencer, Trinity	77	–	3,000	1,000	38.96	12.99
Tea, Risen Savior	100	9,750	11,899	7,951	118.99	79.51
Wentworth, St. Peter	181	7,750	8,421	7,820	46.52	43.20
<b>Circuit 6 Totals</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>\$55,450</b>	<b>\$77,505</b>	<b>\$62,452</b>	<b>43.30</b>	<b>34.89</b>
<b>Circuit 7 – Sioux Falls</b>						
Brandon, Blessed Redeemer	285	–	13,420	13,200	47.09	46.32
Sioux Falls, Christ	90	–	4,511	2,550	50.12	28.33
Sioux Falls, Faith	619	43,500	39,875	43,500	64.42	70.27
Sioux Falls, Lord of Life	179	12,000	12,000	12,000	67.04	67.04
Sioux Falls, Memorial	725	52,000	47,199	35,595	65.10	49.10
Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer	324	–	25,866	23,617	79.83	72.89
Sioux Falls, Resurrection	214	10,000	10,000	10,000	46.73	46.73
Sioux Falls, Trinity of The Deaf	35	–	–	–	–	–
Sioux Falls, Zion	646	–	47,000	40,000	72.76	61.92
<b>Circuit 7 Totals</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>\$117,500</b>	<b>\$199,871</b>	<b>\$180,462</b>	<b>64.12</b>	<b>57.90</b>
<b>Circuit 8 – Yankton</b>						
Alcester, Peace	113	3,000	3,283	4,040	29.05	35.75
Avon, Zion	190	5,000	5,100	5,025	26.84	26.45
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross	173	26,000	28,378	25,576	164.03	147.84
Fairfax, Trinity	71	2,500	6,500	2,500	91.55	35.21
Springfield, Our Savior	24	–	100	–	4.17	–
Tyndall, St. John	132	–	2,500	2,500	18.94	18.94
Utica, Martinus	65	–	1,904	1,818	29.29	27.97
Vermillion, Concordia	81	–	7,200	7,200	88.89	88.89
Wagner, St. John	231	9,000	9,000	9,000	38.96	38.96
Yankton, St. John	1,107	53,000	53,000	53,001	47.88	47.88
<b>Circuit 8 Totals</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>\$98,500</b>	<b>\$116,965</b>	<b>\$110,660</b>	<b>53.48</b>	<b>50.60</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>21,476</b>	<b>\$867,369</b>	<b>\$1,130,883</b>	<b>\$1,071,266</b>	<b>52.66</b>	<b>49.88</b>

Comm. Members: Communicant Membership as of Feb. 4, 2021, per *locator.lcms.org*

\*\$13,575 from Emanuel, Milbank, is for 2020 missions \*\*\$1,500 from Zion, Presho, is for 2020 missions



**Bearing Good News!** | Members of Peace Lutheran Church, Rapid City, braved wind and wintry temperatures in December to sing Christmas carols to 10 elderly church members.

## BAPTISM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)



can baptize and where that authority comes from. Why baptize infants? Because Jesus said “all nations” and did not discriminate on the basis of age.

**Acts 2:37-41** shows that Baptism promises the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, and includes children.

**Acts 8:26-40** shows (among many

other verses) that Baptism includes water. Don't believe anyone who points you to a Baptism that does not include water!

**Romans 6:1-10** ... The Bible was written over 2,000 years ago. How do you know that you are included in all of its promises? This passage says that all who are baptized into Christ are included in his death and resurrection. Your sins are buried and you are alive forever in Christ!

**1 Peter 3:18-22** declares that Baptism now saves us like Noah was saved in the flood! Baptism now saves you! It's in the Bible — see for yourself!

In fact, I encourage you to look up this last passage together. Take your grandchildren and your children to church regularly. The Word itself will work. It

will work in the liturgy, the hymns, the preaching and the fellowship. These sounds bring the true Light, which speaks even to the unborn, to those who have been (and have yet to be) reborn.

Someone is near you who 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 [pcnavurskis@gmail.com](mailto:pcnavurskis@gmail.com) or 605-352-7121.

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