


PenPALS

NEWSLETTER


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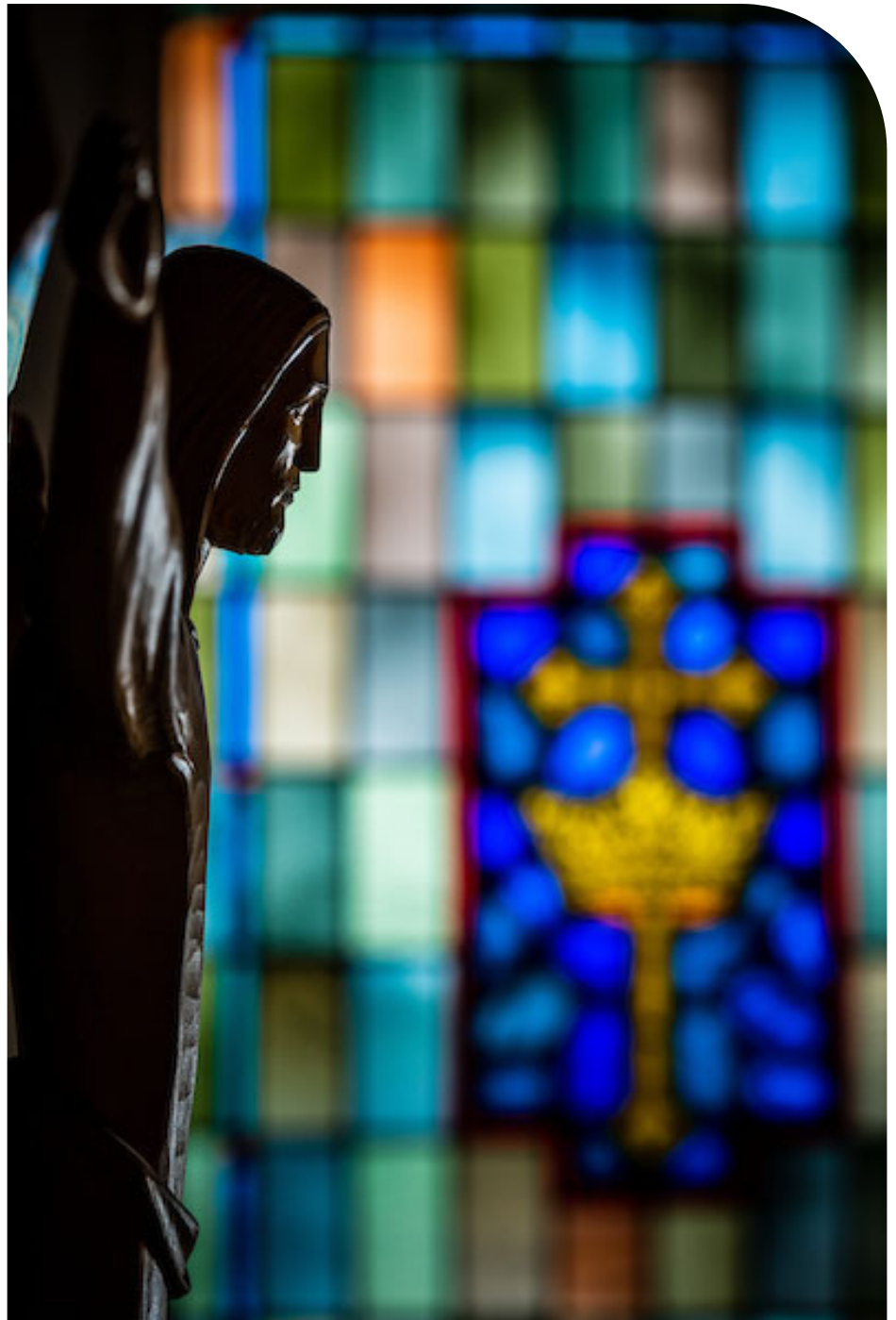
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CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Both of our LCMS seminaries offer summer continuing education learning opportunities for pastors, church workers and laypeople at locations around the country.

Find all the information and registration links here:

<https://www.csl.edu/resources/continuing-education/workshop-series/>

<https://portal.ctsfw.edu/s/continuing-education-list>

-Rev. Jonathan Manor, PALS Director



LABORERS SENT INTO HIS HARVEST



“BUT AS FOR YOU, CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND HAVE FIRMLY BELIEVED, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU LEARNED IT AND HOW FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH THE SACRED WRITINGS, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁷ THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.” *2 Timothy 3:14-17*

It’s that wonderful time of year again on the campuses of our LCMS seminaries. Call Day services have taken place and there is excitement and joy for the graduating students, their families and friends, and the congregations who are receiving these new pastors to serve in their midst. The church has prayed earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest, and indeed he continues to answer those prayers.

This has been our prayer in the PALS office, along with our prayers for the graduates and their families. We now look forward to supporting and encouraging them in their transition from seminary to parish life. I’m confident that our wonderful PALS facilitators have also been praying for the graduates and looking forward to meeting those moving to their district and PALS group. It’s always an exciting time of the year for all of us involved with PALS.

That excitement began for me as I was blessed to meet so many of the graduating students and their wives at our PALS meal and presentation on the seminary campuses at St. Louis in February, and at Fort Wayne in April. What a joy to share with them the support of PALS, encourage them in their studies and future ministry, and assure them that their Synod continues to care for them as they enter the parish, not just because they’re

pastors and pastors' wives, but because they are beloved children of God.

What does that encouragement and support look like in the days following call day? Here's what will happen:

- Our prayers for the graduates and their families will continue as they complete their studies and prepare to move from the seminary.
- Our PALS office will send letters both to congregations receiving a new graduate as well as to new candidates, encouraging support for and participation in the PALS program.
- District Presidents will share their support for the new pastors to be involved in PALS and receive its benefits.
- Facilitators will contact the new pastors and wives assigned to their group, introducing themselves and welcoming them to PALS.
- District Presidents and facilitators will collaborate as they strive to best serve our new pastors, wives, and families.
- Facilitators will make plans to attend the ordination and/or installation service of the new pastors coming into their PALS group.

What a wonderful time of year in the life of the LCMS and here in PALS, as we remember those words from St. Paul to Timothy and how the formation of our pastors is rooted in the Word, equipping them to serve God's people entrusted to their care. As our graduating students and their families transition from the seminary to the parish, as these men have the joy of being ordained and installed as servants of the Word, and as the congregations receive these workers as gifts of God to his church, we pray God's richest blessings on all. *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

Yours in our crucified and risen, Lord and Savior Jesus,

Jonathan

Rev. Jonathan Manor

Director of PALS and Continuing Education



PALS RETIREMENTS



Central Illinois District PALS facilitators, **Pastor David and Kassie Weaver (2017-26)** are retiring from their service with PALS.

The Weavers have been a true blessing to the families in their care. We appreciate their service and trust our Lord to continue to work through them to continue to serve their new congregation, St. John Lutheran Church, Ellinwood, Kansas in the LCMS Kansas District.

WHAT ARE PALS PARTICIPANTS SAYING?

In short, I need this!

PALS is an amazing time to unwind with brothers in ministry to get real, personal, and refreshing encouragement to get back out there.

Gathering together to worship, pray, and support each other is refreshing and helpful to both pastors and their wives.

PALS helps connect pastors who travel the lonely way in their first years.

I enjoyed connecting with other new pastors and their wives. They are good friends and wonderful resources in life and ministry.

PALS is so refreshing, encouraging, and edifying for our family! We love fellowshiping with everyone and getting away for a few days.



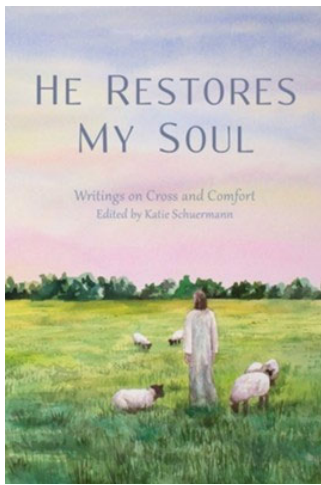
PALS GATHERINGS

New England District

PALS facilitator, **Pastor Scott MacDonald**, hosted a PALS meeting at **St. John Lutheran Church in Meriden, Connecticut** this past February. Pastors discussed the topic of catechesis in the church, using portions of the book [The Pastor](#) by Wilhelm Loehe.

The group enjoyed time for personal sharing throughout, and especially during their shared meal.





Kansas District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Mark and Lynn Boxman** led a PALS meeting at **St. John Lutheran Church** in **Ellinwood, Kansas** around the topic of generosity and worked through some materials from *Set Apart to Serve*.

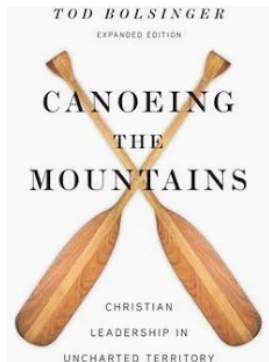
Wives worked through portions of the book, *He Restores My Soul*. The time for discussion around the topics in this book was a true blessing.

One participant shared, *"It has been so good to have this group to grow and learn with. I am grateful for the relationship we have developed with our peers and facilitators!"*



Rocky Mountain District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor David and Ginny Vanderhyde**, gathered their group together at an Airbnb in the mountains west of **Colorado Springs**. 13 adults and 18 children enjoyed time in fellowship, casuistry, devotion and prayer. Wives read several chapters together of Katie Schuermann's *He Restores My Soul*. One participant shared, *"PALS retreats renew and refresh my family!"*



Texas District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor David and Ann Jung**, gathered their group together in **North Richland Hills, Texas**. The group enjoyed working through a chapter in the book, *Canoeing the Mountains*.

One participant shared that the time spent was "very encouraging, honest and educational."

Texas District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Jim and Karen Menke** hosted a Spring PALS Retreat. Pastors worked through the topic, "Engaging the Spiritually Open" Barna Report while wives enjoyed using "Be Still and Know" by Deb Burma.



The group enjoyed time for sharing, devotion and worship, as well as meals together. One participant shared, *"It's been helpful to debrief and discuss our various ministries. The conversations have provided helpful considerations for my own ministry."* And another, *"This PALS meeting was contextually relevant to current demographics and insightful, thought provoking."*



Ohio District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Mark and Sue Matzke** hosted a Spring PALS Retreat at **St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio**. The group enjoyed listening to presenter, **Rev. Phil McClelland**, share his work on “Barriers to Healthy and Viable Ministry.”

The group met for dinner, worship, and fellowship on Friday evening, and enjoyed worship, meals and several sessions with Rev. McClelland on Saturday.



Minnesota North District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Scott and Tammy Brown** hosted a Spring PALS Retreat. The group met at **Lutheran Island Camp**.

The men spent time using the PALS course, “The Pastor’s Life of Prayer” and the women worked through the first two sessions in the book, Faith to Follow and then joined the men for their last two sessions.



Nebraska District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Rick and Cheryl Kanoy** hosted a Spring PALS Retreat this April at **Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center in Fremont, Nebraska**. The group enjoyed discussing the congregational life cycle, marriage, as well as personal time for sharing in smaller groups.

One participant shared, “Where pastoral ministry can sometimes feel like an impossible task, God gives us the gift of community, wisdom, and encouragement in the PALS program.”



Northern Illinois District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Leonard and Lori Payton** hosted a Spring PALS Retreat at **Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Dundee, Illinois**.

Pastors and wives together enjoyed discussion around the book, The Anxious Generation. They also worked through PALS topic, *Death and Dying: Funeral Preparation*.

The group was blessed to have 3 women from Immanuel who volunteered to provide childcare.

DOXOLOGY AND PALS

DOXOLOGY is the Lutheran center for spiritual care and counsel whose purpose is to “help pastors become the best pastors they can be, providing a safe environment for clergy to reflect on their own spiritual and emotional health and assists them to review and enhance their professional competencies and skills as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s sacred mysteries.”



The “Classic DOXOLOGY” program of interest to PALS includes three separate events: (1) The Gathering – where the pastor participates by himself with other participants; (2) The Encore – where the pastor is accompanied by a member/leader of his congregation; and (3) The Grand Reunion – where the pastor is accompanied by his wife.

The next Classic DOXOLOGY program begins with The Gathering, June 1-4, 2026, in Wichita, Kansas. <https://www.doxology.us/events/2026-kansas-classic/>

Tuition grants for the DOXOLOGY Classic Program are available for recent PALS graduates and for current PALS facilitators. The grant for participating PALS pastors after the completion of the PALS program will provide 50% of the tuition, a total of \$1,450. Pastors will ideally be in the 4th or 5th year of their first or second call(s). The tuition for current PALS facilitators will be fully covered.

If you are a PALS graduate or PALS facilitator who is interested in attending the DOXOLOGY Classic Program, please contact the PALS office (Robyn.Armbrust@lcms.org) for the grant applications.

SET APART TO SERVE

As the school year soon draws to a close, many young people will take a break from their formal studies. They’ll have the opportunity to spend time over the summer in recreation and travel, attending camps and concerts, volunteering or participating in Vacation Bible School or working their first job, or perhaps simply hanging out with friends. During those activities, they will have time to think about many things in their lives, maybe even about their future vocation.

As an influential adult in their lives, you can help guide those youth by showing interest in them, asking about their hopes and dreams, and talking with them about church work vocations. We’ve found in those conversations around serving in church work vocations, most youth are not saying “no”. Many are saying “maybe” or “I haven’t thought about it yet”. What a joy it can be to help them think about these things and to encourage them to learn more.

Rev. Jonathan Manor
Set Apart to Serve partner and contributor
Director of PALS and Continuing Education

