

PenPALS

NEWSLETTER

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April 2024

A Word from the Director

"...we pray God's richest blessings on the graduates and their families..."

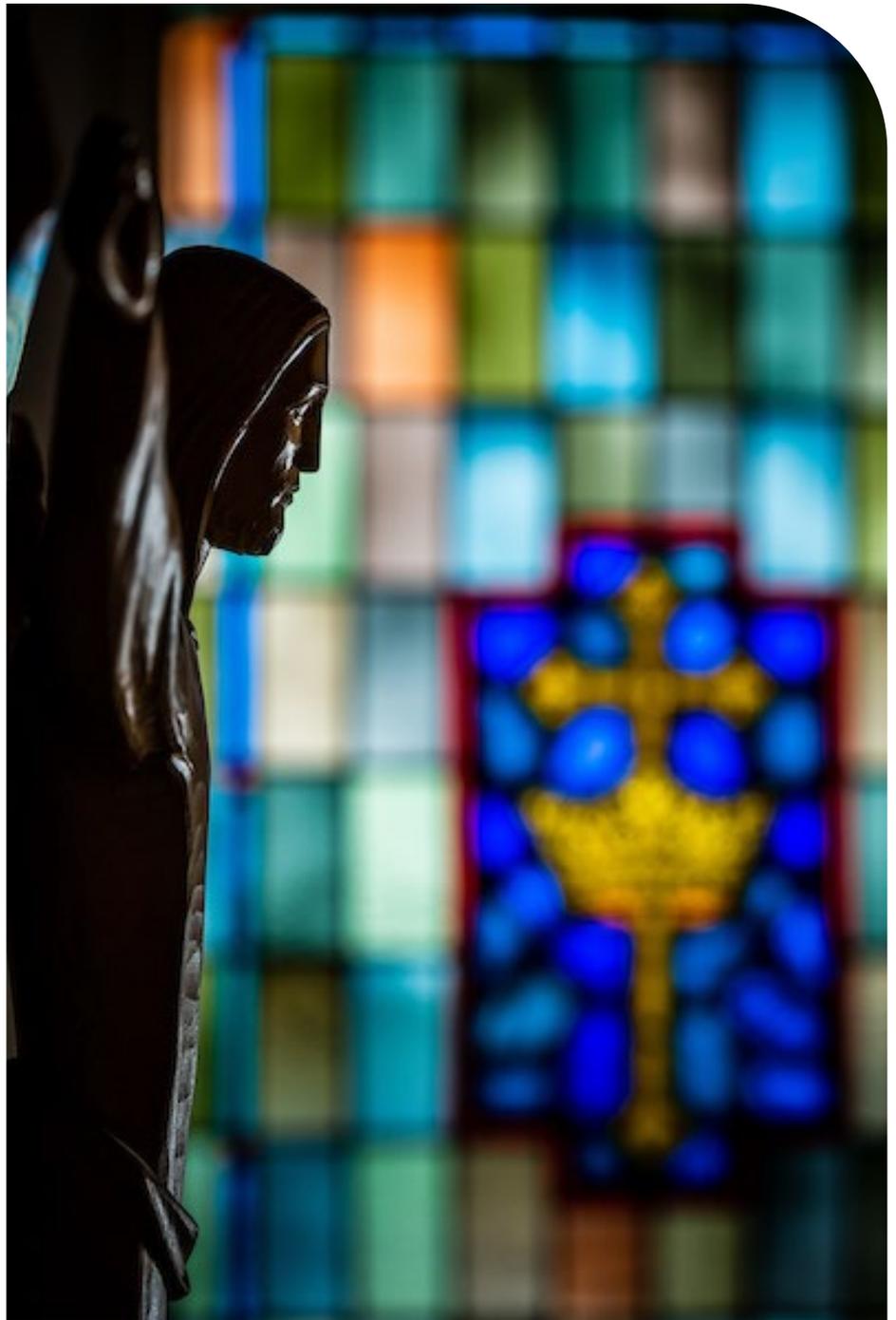
-Rev. Jonathan Manor

News from the PALS Field

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Facilitators Conference 2024

Our 2024 PALS Facilitators Conference is coming soon. What a wonderful opportunity to gather together to learn, share, and build each other up. We look forward to bringing our facilitators to St. Louis on June 25th and 26th as we gather under our conference theme "**Mutually Encouraged in Christ.**"

Facilitators, please return your registration forms no later than Monday, May 13th. Please let us know if you have any questions – see you soon!



EXCITEMENT ABOUNDS!



THE SAYING IS TRUSTWORTHY: IF ANYONE ASPIRES TO THE OFFICE OF OVERSEER, HE DESIRES A NOBLE TASK. *1 Timothy 3:1*

Over the past couple of weeks, social media posts from students preparing for the holy ministry at our two LCMS seminaries have been filled with excitement. They're sharing the news of where they and their families will serve their vicarage. They're sharing with joy where they are headed for their first call. They're sharing the anticipation in their family as they look toward the changes coming very soon. Some are sharing a running countdown of the number of classes remaining "Just over two weeks left in my seminary education!"

It's always an exciting time of year on our seminary campuses with Call Day and graduation happenings. There is also much excitement here with the PALS staff, as we pray for the graduates and their families, and look forward to supporting and encouraging them in their transition from seminary to parish life.

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

- 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 encourage their new pastors to be involved in PALS.
- 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 every effort 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. We rejoice with the Church in the issuing of 118 calls into the holy ministry this spring. As the calling congregations await the arrival of their new pastor to begin Word and Sacrament ministry among them, our wonderful PALS facilitators await their arrival as well. They are looking forward to connecting with those pastors and their families who are headed to their district and PALS group and are keeping them in prayer during this time of transition.

Here in the PALS office, we pray God's richest blessings on the graduates and their families, on the congregations receiving them, on the districts supporting them, and on the PALS facilitators who will serve them. *"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



WHAT ARE PALS PARTICIPANTS SAYING?



“PALS always provides the opportunity for rest, encouragement, and growth. I am so thankful for the opportunity to grow.”

“We look forward to PALS retreats because it is an opportunity to spend time with other young families in ministry. It’s particularly fun to watch the kids play together.”

“PALS helps bridge the transition between the seminary and full-time ministry.”

“It’s a good time to have gotten to spend time with fellow new pastors and discuss problems and hear how they view them and address them. It also helps us know other things going on in the district.”

PALS GATHERINGS

New England District

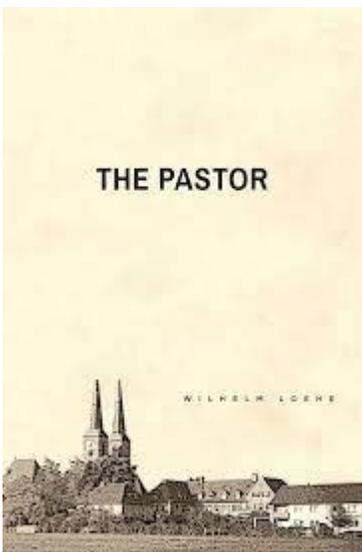
PALS facilitators, **Pastor Scott and Wendy MacDonald** hosted 2 PALS events over the past few months. The February event began Friday evening with snacks and fellowship, followed by Vespers in the sanctuary. The evening concluded with coffee and dessert. Following breakfast and devotions on Saturday morning, the pastors studied *Conduct in Ministry* (Chapter 3) of The Pastor by Wilhelm Loehe. The group enjoyed discussion and a pizza lunch to close out the weekend.

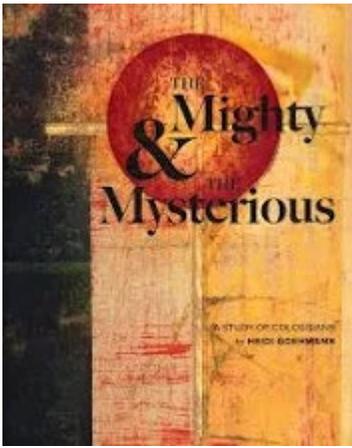
More recently, the group met this past March over a Friday/Saturday timeframe. Everyone genuinely enjoys fellowship, worship, and study together. Pastors continue working through Loehe’s book, The Pastor.

Iowa West District

Pastor Chris and Heather Nitzel hosted a PALS retreat this month at the **Camp Okoboji Retreat Center in Milford, Iowa**. The group worked through PALS courses, *Making Pastoral Referrals with Confidence* and *Finding Balance and Setting Boundaries*.

Participating pastors and wives shared the following, “Once again, a worthwhile and encouraging experience.” “Excellent time for fellowship and professional growth.” “PALS is useful for finding support and encouragement as well as working through problems that can occur, especially early in ministry.” “I appreciate the candid conversations we can have.”





Kansas District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Andrew and Miriam Wehling** gathered their group together at **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence, Kansas**. **President Justin Panzer** spoke to the group regarding the call process.

The group enjoyed time in discussion together, as well as in separate study groups. Pastors worked through the PALS course, *Pastoring the Dying and Funeral Preparation* while PALS wives studied portions of Heidi Goehmann's book, *Mighty & Mysterious*.

Minnesota South District

Pastor Dennis and Sheila Heiden led their PALS group over a Friday/Saturday this past month. Pastors discussed the book *RARE Leadership*, and wives worked through portions of the book *Pew Sisters*.

The group discussed future PALS event planning and closed with a devotion and prayer.

Participants shared, "So good to connect and get to know others in the same boat...refreshing." "Appreciate time to connect and talk about a range of topics we all deal with." "PALS helps me deepen in fellowship with pastors in various different contexts." "Love connecting with my brothers and their wives."

South Wisconsin District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor David and Jacklyn Groth** led a PALS Spring Retreat at **Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Adell, Wisconsin**. 26 adults and a wonderful group of children enjoyed time together in worship, study, and fellowship.

The group appreciated the generous members at Emmanuel for providing a brat fry on Sunday night and coffee with pastries on Monday morning. PALS pastors led worship and Bible study, and all enjoyed their time together.

