

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER



## Repentance every day

On a summer trip to Arkansas, my wife and I listened to the book *Martin Luther* by Eric Metaxas. Metaxas pointed out that there are a lot of myths surrounding Luther. Did he really throw an inkwell at the wall when the devil was tempting him? Did he finally understand the Gospel one day while sitting on the toilet? Did he actually nail the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg? We're not absolutely sure.

We do know that Luther wrote the 95 Theses. Luther's first thesis states:

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

The danger of Luther's day was the people thought a few certain actions (buying indulgences, worshipping relics, observing the Mass) would help their salvation. It was largely an outward action without any inward effect. The other danger was that Rome taught that you could never be certain of your salvation; hence you always had to keep on buying indulgences, worshipping relics and observing the Mass.

Repentance is not just a Sunday thing, or an occasional activity. It is an everyday, all-day way of life. Luther taught this in his Morning and Evening prayers. In the morning, we pray that God would "keep me this day from all evil." In the evening we pray that God would "forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong."

Until we die or the Lord returns, our sin will cling to us, but that doesn't mean we cannot be certain of our salvation. Immediately before Jesus died on the cross, He declared, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He carried your sin to the cross. He suffered your hell. He paid the price of your redemption. It is finished. Your sin is forgiven. You will not suffer hell. You have been redeemed. All of that is as certain as Christ's resurrection on the third day.

As we celebrate the Reformation this month, we do well to live our entire lives in repentance, confessing our sins and receiving forgiveness from Jesus through His Word preached and His sacraments given.

**Rev. Bruce Timm**  
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

## Scholarship recipients

For the last 55 years, the LWML Minnesota North District has been offering scholarships for those training for full-time church work. These scholarships are funded through generous mite giving.

Ten scholarships have been awarded to the following recipients for the 2019-20 academic year:

### Concordia Theological Seminary, Forth Wayne, Ind.

- ▶ Gino Marchetti, Emmanuel, Elk River, pastor (vicarage year 2018-19)
- ▶ Leann Gregoire, Trinity, Isle, Masters In Deaconess Studies

### Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

- ▶ Joshua Mork, Our Redeemer, Moorhead, pastor (vicarage year 2018-19)

### Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.

- ▶ Michael Thomas, Immanuel, Parkers Prairie, Theological Languages/Pre-Seminary
- ▶ Jacob Frank, Mount Olive, Duluth, Pre-Seminary, Theological Languages

### Concordia University, St. Paul

- ▶ Emily Safarik, Zion, Alexandria, teacher
- ▶ Cara Schmidtke, Immanuel, Walker, teacher (math)

- ▶ Madison Schellack, Trinity, Sabin, Christian Ministries, DCE

- ▶ Madison Patrow, Our Redeemer, Cohasset, DCE

### Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.

- ▶ Travis Woltmann, Holy Cross, St. Cloud, Theology with DCM certificate

Scholarships are available to students who are members of an LCMS congregation and a resident in the Minnesota North District. Applicants must be preparing for full-time church work in the LCMS.

An application and informational flyer (for the 2020-21 school year) are available for download at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) under the "Resources" tab. The application deadline is May 15, 2020.

## Mission Grant applications

The application for mission grants to be voted on at the 2020 LWML Minnesota North District convention is available for download at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). Under the "Resources" tab, select "Forms/Applications" from the drop-down menu.

The application must be post-marked by Feb. 15, 2020.

For more information, contact Sue Zeige at [missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org) or 218-301-0167.



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