

# THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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May 27, 2023

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## Captured and Lavished with Gifts

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:*

*"When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people." (Ephesians 4:7-8)*

In professional sports only the winners of the World Series or the Super Bowl take home a trophy, lucrative endorsements, a commemorative ring, and accolades for following generations. "To the victor belong the spoils." When new technologies are developed, dozens of companies compete for market share. Over time those with the best value and marketing strategies remain. The others either get out of the market or go bankrupt. "To the victor belong the spoils." In ancient times when two city states or

nations engaged in warfare, the losers of the battle often lost their property, their status as nobility if they had any, and their freedom—they were now captives. "To the victor belong the spoils."

Paul's words quoted above are from his letter to the Christians in Ephesus. He took them from Psalm 68. They describe a conqueror who has taken captives. But this conqueror did something unheard of. He gave gifts to his captives. The conqueror referenced is our Lord Jesus. Jesus came to earth from heaven and captured us or to be more exact, recaptured us.

In the beginning, all humanity held the honored status of children of God who were made in his likeness. All of creation was placed under our feet to rule and steward to God's glory. Our relationships with each other were cooperative and harmonious. But Satan took us captive. He stole our hearts with his lies and deception. We turned against God and each other. We chose to give up our status as children of God in order to become his enemies. We, who had every good thing God could give, traded it all in for the devil's due—an eternity in darkness and torment. How foolish! How tragic!

How wondrously unexpected, then, that the very Creator we offended should send his own Son to recapture us at the cost of his own life. Through faith in Christ's life, death, and resurrection for us, our status is restored. We are righteous daughters and sons of the Most High once again. We have peace with God and strive to live at peace with each other here on earth and will do so perfectly in heaven. Instead of the devil's due we will inherit Jesus' due—glory everlasting in a new heaven and earth.

On top of all these gifts our ascended Captor continues to send gifts to his Church on earth. After quoting Psalm 68, the apostle Paul speaks of called ministers of the gospel-spiritual servants-as gifts from above. These servants encourage God's people in faith as well as equip and train them for works of service using the means of grace. During the month of May this we were concretely reminded of this reality with assignment of staff minister and teacher candidates at Martin Luther College and pastor candidates from Wisconsin

Lutheran Seminary. Our ascended Savior continues to shower gifts on his Church. His word continues to be proclaimed in its truth and purity. Daily blood-bought souls are taken captive by his gospel.

“To the victor belong the spoils.” Christ has triumphed. We are his and all that is his is ours. To God be the glory.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Dennis Klatt*

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## WELS Called Worker Vacancy Update

In the Assignment Committee at Martin Luther College this year, there were 61 (74 in 2022, 92 in 2021, 120 in 2020) teacher candidates who could go anywhere (48 from the graduating class and 13 from previous years), and all of them were assigned. In addition, 40 teacher candidates who were limited geographically received Calls, and 37 teacher candidates returned for another year to their current place of service, for a total of 138 candidates assigned (125 in 2022, 168 in 2021, 150 in 2020). After the Assignment Committee met, there were still 158 total vacancies for teacher-trained men and women synod-wide (at least 140 at this time in 2022, 90 in 2021, 50 in 2020). Of those 158, 114 had brought Calls to the Assignment Committee that went unfilled.

At MLC, 4 Staff Ministry candidates were available for assignment, and all of them were assigned. Two staff ministry Calls went unfilled.

At Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary this year, there were 116 requests for candidates (90 in 2022, 74 in 2021, 57 in 2020). There were 42 candidates available (27 in 2022, 33 in 2021, 26 in 2020), and all of them were assigned, so 74 of those Calls were unfilled (63 in 2022, 41 in 2021, 31 in 2020). Of those 42 candidates, 37 were seniors receiving their first Call and 5 were from previous classes. In addition, 2 men were reassigned to one-year Calls. After the Assignment Committee did its work, there were still 140 vacancies for pastor-trained parish men synod-wide (136 in 2022, 95 in 2021, 87 in 2020), a 12% vacancy rate.

### 2023 MLC Candidates Assigned to the MN District

Admissions Counselor (1 yr.)	MLC, New Ulm, MN	Alyssa Heckendorf
Dormitory Supervisor	St. Croix Lutheran Academy, W. St. Paul, MN	Hannah Willems
Grades 6-8/General Instructor	St. Croix Lutheran Academy, W. St. Paul, MN	Amanda Weddle
STEM Engineering	West LHS, Plymouth, MN	Maxwell Holmes
Grades 7-8 (1 yr. reassigned)	St. Peter's, St. Peter, MN	Joseph Nash
Grades 7 HR/6-8 Reading (1 yr.)	Bloomington, MN	Jacob Kasper
Grades 7-8/AD	Salem, Loretto, MN	Matthew Krueger
Grade 5-8 (1 yr.)	Immanuel, Hutchinson, MN	Joel Holz
Grades 2-4 (1 yr.)	Immanuel Hutchinson, MN	Rebecca Loescher
K (.5) Grades 5/6 (.5) (1 yr.)	St. Paul's, Arlington, MN	Sophia Scheuerlein

Grades 1-2 (School Choir Director) (1 yr.)	Trinity, Belle Plaine, MN	Hannah Renner
3K-4K Teacher (Dir. Apprentice)	Christ, Cambridge, MN	Linsey Mahron
3K-4K Teacher	Salem, Woodbury, MN	Katherine Fink
3K-4K Teacher	St. Paul's, St. James, MN	Chantel Vant Hul
3K-4K Teacher 1yr.	Mt. Olive, Delano, MN	Abigail Bartel

## Remaining MN District Teacher Vacancies

9-12 Math	St. Croix Lutheran Academy, W. St. Paul, MN	Heidi Paulsen - Deliberating
Grades 7-8/AD	Risen Savior, Mankato, MN	Jakin Anderson - Deliberating
Grades 7-8/Technology	Resurrection, Rochester, MN	Timothy Schroeder - Deliberating
Grades 6/ELA	Crown of Life, W. St. Paul, MN	
Grades 6-8	Christ, (Samuel) Marshall, MN	Sam Evans - Deliberating
Grades 3-8	St. Mark's, Bemidji, MN	Colleen Haag - Deliberating
ECE 3K-4K (2 positions)	Holy Trinity, New Hope, MN	
ECE 3K-4K	Christ Our Rock, Rochester, MN	

## WLS Assignments to the MN District

MLC, New Ulm, MN Tutor (1 yr.)	Aaron Bush
MLC, New Ulm, MN Tutor Reassignment (1 yr.)	Nathanael Savage
Holy Trinity, New Hope, MN (Associate)	Yaffet Gabayehu
Christ Our Savior, Collinsville, IL	Philip Schroeder
Salem, Woodbury, MN	Robert Beaver
St. John, Lake Benton/Good Shepherd, Pipestone, MN	Erik Lund
Our Savior, Kasson, MN	Karl Christie

## Remaining MN District Pastoral Vacancies

\*\*Resurrection/Life, Rochester, MN

\*\*St. Paul's, North Mankato, MN

\*Pilgrim, Minneapolis, MN

\*\*St. Peter's, St. Peter, MN

Christ Our Rock, Rochester, MN

Shepherd of the Hills, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Shepherd of the Lakes, Fairmont, MN

Beautiful Savior, West Des Moines, IA

Faith, River Falls, WI

St. John's, Centuria, WI/Redeemer St. Croix Falls, WI

\*\*\*Grace, Clear Lake, WI/Zion Almena, WI

Christ, North St. Paul, MN

Emmanuel, Hudson, WI

Mt. Olive, Delano, MN

Petra, Sauk Rapids, MN

St. Paul's, Prescott, WI

Redeemer, Maple Grove, MN

Salem, Stillwater, MN

Hope, Andover, MN

Trinity, Glenwood/ St. John, Hancock

\*\*\*Zion, Morton, MN

MVL – Dean of Students/Religion, New Ulm, MN

One Africa Team

\*Vacant for over a year

\*\*Vacant for over two years

\*\*\*Not actively calling