



# DISTRICT NEWS

## INDIANA



# CELEBRATING GOD'S TABERNACLE



Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege  
President

### “AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT (TABERNACLED) AMONG US.”

JOHN 1:14

In this profound verse penned by the inspired apostle John, we observe that the “Word” became flesh.

Who or what is this Word? Boiling down the biblical evidence, we realize that the Word in this verse (and in some other verses in the Bible) is the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Thus, when St. John says, “The Word became flesh,” we can legitimately paraphrase by saying, “The Son of God became flesh.”

We properly celebrate Christmas as we commemorate God the Son becoming flesh. However, He did not become flesh just to visit us, nor did He come just to show us how to live.

### GOD “TABERNACLED” AMONG HIS OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE

The ultimate reason the Son became flesh finds an answer in the verb “dwelt;” the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This word dwelt can accurately be translated as “tabernacled.”

In the Old Testament God tabernacled (dwelt) among the children of Israel in what was appropriately called the tabernacle. In this movable tent, God would be present to mediate forgiveness and prayer to His people through the animal and grain sacrifices. He did this via the priests and the furnishings He designated to be used in His tabernacle. This tabernacle activity could mediate forgiveness and prayer because it pointed to the future when God would create the time-transcending avenue for forgiveness and prayer.

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## St. Paul welcomes the Yeager family

Rev. Andrew Yeager was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Preble), Decatur, on Oct. 2. This is the congregation Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Brege served for 36 years prior to his election as Indiana District president this past June.

Pastor Yeager graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 2010 and then was called by the seminary as an admissions counselor, in which he served for three years.

In 2013, he was called as pastor by Zion Lutheran Church, Garrett, where he served until he was called by St. Paul's.

Pastor Yeager is married to Heather (Bishop) and they are the parents of three children, Andrew Thomas, Mary Grace and Eve Elizabeth.



Participants in the service are, from left (front row) Rev. Dan Dahling, Rev. Shayne Jonker, Rev. Peter Brock, Yeager; Rev. Dr. John Pless, Brendan Harris; (back row) Rev. Leonard Tanksley, Rev. Martin Moehring, Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, Rev. Dr. Charles Gieschen, Rev. Christopher Maronde and Tim Schmeisser. Harris and Schmeisser are students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

### THE SON OF GOD "TABERNACLED" AMONG US

In Jesus, the son of Mary, God set up His permanent dwelling (tabernacle) among fallen flesh. The Son of God fulfilled the Old Testament tabernacle

picture as He created for sinful souls the only avenue for forgiveness and prayer. Christ created this avenue not by the sacrifice of animals or grain, but by the sacrifice of Himself.

Through this sacrifice-created avenue God's people — from Adam until the end of time — could be connected to Him. We properly celebrate Christmas, as we joyfully recognize

the time when the Word became flesh to save separated sinners.

Furthermore, we properly celebrate Christmas as our tabernacled God continues to mediate forgiveness and prayer to God's people through the means conveying His saving presence: the spoken Word, the Sacraments and the pastoral office. Merry Christmas ... every Sunday!



# District has new education counselor

**D**r. Kevin Brockberg has accepted the call by the Indiana District Board of Directors to serve as executive counselor for Christian Education. Dr. Brockberg succeeds Dr. Jon Mielke, who announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Mielke has held the position since 2006.



**Brockberg**

The Indiana Department of Education also designates this position as the Superintendent of Lutheran Schools.

Brockberg had previously served as principal of Trinity Lutheran School, Orlando, Fla., since 2014. That followed a two-year assignment as head of Buenavista Concordia International

School in Shenzhen, China. His wife, Susan, served there as a middle school science teacher. She also taught at Trinity, Orlando.

Brockberg spent his childhood in River Forest, Ill., where his father was a professor at Concordia Teachers College (now Concordia University Chicago). He attend-

ed Grace Lutheran School in River Forest and Walther Lutheran High School (now Walther Christian Academy) in Melrose Park, Ill., and earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Concordia University Chicago.

He earned a doctorate of Philosophy in Administrative Leadership from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., in 2008.

In the mid-1980s, Brockberg was a teacher and principal at Zion Lutheran School, New Palestine. He has also served in Pennsauken, N.J.; Milwaukee; Chaska, Minn.; Hong Kong; Birmingham,

Mich; and Detroit, where he worked in inner-city public schools.

Kevin and Susan have four adult children who live in Fort Wayne, Detroit, Boston, and Gothenberg, Sweden.

Dr. Brockberg was installed into his new position on Oct. 29 during the Indiana Non-Public Educators Conference at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. District educators attending the conference gathered that afternoon for worship, which included Brockberg's installation.

Brockberg and Mielke have been working together to facilitate a smooth transition.

# God blesses Peace with new members

On Sept. 30, Rev. Russell Fuhrmann and the congregation of Peace, Berne, welcomed into membership Mike and Kathy Bruner through the Rite of Confirmation. Mike and Kathy are both living with Stage IV cancer and were instructed by Rev. Don Sauls, pastor emeritus, by Mike's beside in the Bruner's home. The congregation held a brief reception for their new family members after worship. From left, Fuhrmann, Mike, Kathy and Sauls.



## IS THIS ALL THERE IS?



**Ken Schilf**  
Council of Resources

**G**enerations come and go. At Christmas time, there are so many memories of our children and grandchildren unwrapping present after present and then looking at us with a blank stare and seemingly saying, “Is this all there is?”

Thinking back to my childhood, I vaguely remember having the same reaction. In this society’s season of giving, when is enough ... enough?

Even in my 70s, I still receive presents from my adult children. But now as I receive each present, I quietly thank God for the giver, for not only is the gift a blessing, but the giver is even more of a blessing from God.

Adopting the attitude of gratitude is a Christ-like approach for a Christian steward because “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father” (James 1:17). Take time to count the many blessings from our Heavenly Father (actually, there are too many to count). So maybe try this approach. Psychologists suggest ending your day by recalling three things for which you are grateful.



“EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER.”  
JAMES 1:17

Especially in this Advent/Christmas season of the Church year, let me suggest adding one more to that list of three. Let us always remember the best Gift our Father in Heaven has given us! The baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. And when He’s unwrapped, we find that He came for us so that we might be saved. What a gift!

And what kind(s) of gift(s) can we offer in return? Giving gives us the opportunity to experience the joy in giving. Giving is an important part of being a Christian steward. Furthermore, if we can love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19), we certainly can give because God first gave to us His one and only Son.

## Calendar of Events

### Dec. 8

Advent Candlelight Evening Prayer, CTSFW

### Dec. 11

Christmas with the Kantorei, CTSFW

### Jan. 13

Epiphany Evening Prayer, CTS, Fort Wayne

### Jan. 14

2019 Lenten Preaching Workshop, CTS Fort Wayne

### Jan. 15-16

34th Annual Symposium on Exegetical Theology, CTSFW

### Jan. 16-18

Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions, CTS, Fort Wayne

### Jan. 27-Feb. 2

National Lutheran Schools Week

### Feb. 8-10

Katie Retreat, Inn at DePauw, Greencastle

### Feb. 12

Seminary Guild, CTSFW Wayne

### Feb. 15-17

Christ Academy Confirmation Retreat, CTS, Fort Wayne

### Feb. 17

Choral Vespers, CTSFW

### March 1

Deadline for vicarage and call documents to district president for spring placement

### March 12

Seminary Guild, CTSFW

### March 13-16

Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit, CTSFW

### March 20

Lecture/Recital Convocation, CTSFW

### April 9

Seminary Guild Spring Luncheon, CTSFW

### April 28

Easter Evening Prayer, CTSFW

### April 29

Vicarage assignments – CTSFW

### April 30

Call Service, CTSFW

### May 1

Vicarage and Call Services, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis







## Go back in time – to our Savior’s birth

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Martinsville, will present its sixth annual Bethlehem Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8. The church is located at 3496 E. Morgan Street.

This expanded, live Nativity will take participants back in time to experience a night like no other — when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born. The evening will begin in the sanctuary with a short introduction. Guests will then proceed outside to walk through the gates of Bethlehem to confront Roman guards and tax collectors, hear the words of the prophets and wise men, shop at the merchants’ tents, encounter a variety of animals, and visit the inn and the stable.

Members of Prince of Peace will serve cookies and hot chocolate in the fellowship hall following the walk.



**Tickets** for this event are free and may be secured online through Eventbrite at [thelc.ms/bethlehem-walk-tickets](http://thelc.ms/bethlehem-walk-tickets).

You may also contact the church office at:



765-342-2004



popchurchlcms@hotmail.com



Visit the church website at [popmartinsville.org](http://popmartinsville.org).



## Attention new church workers

Each year the Indiana District awards New Church Worker Grants to commissioned and ordained workers who recently began their ministry. To qualify, an applicant must:

- ▶ Have attended a Concordia university or seminary.
- ▶ Be a member of an Indiana District congregation three years prior to attending the Concordia university or seminary
- ▶ Be serving in an LCMS congregation, school, RSO, or mission field anywhere in the world.

The grant is given for the first three years of service and workers must apply each year. **The deadline to apply is Dec. 31.** If you are aware of someone from your congregation who graduated this past year and is now serving in church work, share this information with them. Information about this grant and the application may be found at [in.lcms.org/resources/grants](http://in.lcms.org/resources/grants).

Last year, \$82,500 was awarded to 17 pastors, 17 teachers, four DCEs and one deaconess. They came from 28 congregations and are now serving in 16 states, seven of them in the Indiana District. The average grant is about \$2,100 and is based on the number of years they attended a Concordia university or seminary.

One of our recipients, a pastor, wrote:

“We are working hard to eliminate our debt and the grants we have received the last two years have gone a long way toward helping us do that. I know that there is no way to



thank all of the congregations in the district ... so our thanks will be given to the Lord.”

A DCE wrote:

“I want to say thank you for the financial support that I have received these last three years to help defer the cost of my student loans. I remember all through college, I wondered how I would be able to pay off the debt. Through your help and that of my congregation, I will be able to do that at the end of this year.”

These grants are funded from support the congregations send to the Indiana District. It is part of the budget that is adopted and approved each year by the district Board of Directors.

### Help the district identify potential grant recipients!

If you know of a student from the Indiana District that is attending a Concordia university or seminary, please have him or her contact the district at 260-423-1145, Ext. 2212, or [amy.mews@in.lcms.org](mailto:amy.mews@in.lcms.org) so the district can let them know about the grant.



# December Prayer List



**Week of Dec. 3**

- › Ohio District
- › Circuit 17
- › Faith, Bloomington
- › University, Bloomington
- › Faith, Columbus
- › Grace, Columbus
- › St. John's, Columbus
- › St. Peter's, Columbus
- › Trinity, Ellettsville
- › Good Shepherd, Franklin
- › St. Paul, Jonesville
- › Shepherd of the Hills, Morgantown
- › St. Peter (Waymansville), Columbus
- › Mission: Burmese Muslims, LAMB, New Life, Fort Wayne
- › RSO: Lutheran Ministries Media, Fort Wayne

**Week of Dec. 10**

- › Oklahoma District
- › Circuit 2
- › Trinity, Crown Point
- › Faith, DeMotte
- › Good Shepherd, Gary
- › Our Saviour, Gary
- › St. John, Gary
- › St. Michael, Hebron
- › Trinity, Hobart
- › Trinity Memorial, Merrillville
- › Mission: Burmese, Karen, Southwest, Fort Wayne
- › RSO: Lutheran School Partnership, Fort Wayne

**Week of Dec. 17**

- › Pacific Southwest District
- › Circuit 6
- › Trinity, Auburn
- › Immanuel, Avilla

- › St. John, Columbia City
- › Zion, Columbia City
- › Zion, Corunna
- › Clear Lake, Fremont
- › Lake George, Fremont
- › Zion, Garrett
- › St. John, Kendallville
- › Shepherd by the Lakes, Syracuse
- › Messiah Wolcottville
- › Living Water, Wolf Lake
- › Mission: Burmese, Southwest, Fort Wayne
- › RSO: Lutheran Social Services, Fort Wayne

**Week of Dec. 24**

- › Christmas Eve – office closed (24-25)

**Week of Dec. 31**

- › New Year's Eve – office closed (31-Jan. 1)

# December Birthdays

**Dec. 1**

William Gann, 90  
*Trinity, Darmstadt*

**Dec. 2**

John Lose, 96  
*Faith, Louisville*

**Dec. 3**

Jerri Clayton, 90  
*St. Paul's, Evansville*

**Dec. 4**

**Marie Heller, 101**  
*Immanuel, Avilla*

**Dec. 5**

Jane Cameron, 98  
*Our Redeemer, Evansville*

Mary Ann Dohrmann, 93  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

Helen Jaebker, 93, Our Redeemer, Evansville

Richard Noblitt, 90  
*St. John's, White Creek*

**Dec. 6**

Al (Bud) Wiser, 96  
*Calvary, Indianapolis*

Marjorie Mueller, 93  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

Dorothy Heckman, 92  
*Zion (Friedheim), Decatur*

Charles Ness, 90  
*St. Peter, North Judson*

**Dec. 7**

Marvin Conrad, 98  
*Zion (Friedheim), Decatur*

Bertha Jackson, 94  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

**Dec. 8**

Elmer Lant, 90  
*Our Redeemer, Evansville*

**Dec. 8**

Alberta Krampe, 96  
*Calvary, Indianapolis*

**Dec. 9**

Ralph Herb, 96  
*St. Paul's, Fort Wayne*

**Dec. 10**

Rose Hussung, 94  
*Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown*

Russell Byrnett, 93  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

**Dec. 11**

**Irene Schamber, 106**  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

Earl Butler, 91  
*St. John, Monroeville*

Tomas Villasenor, 91  
*Calvary, Plymouth*

**Dec. 12**

Martha Hilst, 93  
*St. James, Lafayette*

**Dec. 13**

Bernice Caston, 92  
*Zion (Friedheim), Decatur*

**Dec. 16**

Arnold Bosse, 90  
*Our Redeemer, Evansville*

**Dec. 17**

Lucille Fox, 93  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

**Dec. 18**

Pauline Zollman, 94  
*St. John, Lanesville*

**Dec. 19**

Alma Keidel, 96  
*Zion (Friedheim), Decatur*

**Dec. 20**

Lewis Sorenson, 93  
*St. John, Lanesville*

Bernice Ostermeyer, 91,  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

Anna Witte, 90  
*St. Paul's, Fort Wayne*

**Dec. 21**

Donald Zettlemeier, 95  
*Zion, Fort Wayne*

**Dec. 22**

Norbert Bleeke, 90  
*Zion, Decatur*

Jesse Kovener, 90  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

**Dec. 24**

Paul Hoppe, 92  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

**Dec. 26**

Maxine Myers, 90  
*Calvary, Plymouth*

**Dec. 27**

Shirley Heilmann, 93  
*Our Redeemer, Evansville*

Ruth Sinnett, 92  
*St. John, Vincennes*

Donna Keefer, 90  
*Emmanuel, Fort Wayne*

**Dec. 30**

Margie Krueckeberg, 90  
*Emmanuel, Fort Wayne*

Sharon Mater, 90  
*Grace, New Albany*

**Dec. 31**

Mary Beckemeyer, 91  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

Joan Gesse, 91  
*Heritage, Valparaiso*

Leo Kanter, 91  
*Our Redeemer, Evansville*

Arol Amling, 90  
*Heritage, Valparaiso*



## December Anniversaries

### Dec. 2

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tarter  
51, St. James, Lafayette

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Woods  
51, Grace, New Albany

### Dec. 5

Mr. and Mrs. William  
Wallschlaeger  
54, Zion, Fort Wayne

### Dec. 6

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Beilke  
66, St. Paul's, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hacker  
65, St. John, Vincennes

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Conrad  
55, Zion (Friedheim), Decatur

### Dec. 7

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Blake  
61, Calvary, Plymouth

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Peters  
50, Zion, Seymour

### Dec. 8

Mr. and Mrs. Rich Reidenbach  
55, Heritage, Valparaiso

### Dec. 9

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schultz  
62, Faith, DeMotte

Mr. and Mrs. James Stone  
51, Trinity, Darmstadt

### Dec. 10

Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Robinson  
67, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Alfeld  
52, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Ferguson  
52, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Noble  
51, St. Peter, North Judson

### Dec. 11

Mr. and Mrs. Deane Fisher  
63, Calvary, Plymouth

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Polk  
57, St. John's, Indianapolis

Mr. and Mrs. David Cooper  
53, Trinity, Hobart

### Dec. 14

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Menges  
50, St. John, Lanesville

### Dec. 16

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Perkins  
57, St. John, Vincennes

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kline  
51, Our Redeemer, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt  
51, Emmaus, Fort Wayne

### Dec. 17

Mr. and Mrs. William Swift  
58, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson  
53, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

### Dec. 19

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schoen  
54, St. John, Lanesville

### Dec. 21

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Meyer  
60, Immanuel, Seymour

### Dec. 22

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beall  
62, St. James, Lafayette

### Dec. 23

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hille  
68, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schiefelbein  
64, Calvary, Plymouth

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carpenter  
58, Zion, Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stanford  
57, Calvary, Indianapolis

Mr. and Mrs. George Hofmann  
52, Our Redeemer, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Petroff Jr.  
52, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

### Dec. 24

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Toppe  
52, Zion, Seymour

### Dec. 26

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schur  
65, Concordia, Louisville

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Buock  
59, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Martin  
58, Our Redeemer, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ruwe  
54, Emanuel, Dudleytown

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Prough  
53, Concordia, Louisville

### Dec. 27

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Berning Sr.  
65, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Schmidt  
60, St. John, Monroeville

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fuhrer  
55, St. Paul's, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kolanowski  
53, St. Peter, North Judson

### Dec. 28

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cox  
69, Zion, Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Phillips  
63, St. James, Lafayette

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barks  
55, Concordia, Greenwood

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller  
55, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis IV  
53, Immanuel, Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Barnett  
50, Immanuel, Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Galbraith  
50, Grace, New Albany

Mr. and Mrs. David Huffman  
50, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schultz  
50, St. James, Lafayette

### Dec. 30

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Herb  
68, St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

### Dec. 31

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hansen  
63, Zion, Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fields  
58, Concordia, Louisville

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wimsatt  
55, Shepherd of the Hills,  
Georgetown

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wild  
52, St. John, Vincennes

### Aug. 11

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kreigh  
51, St. Paul (Preble), Decatur

## Share Your News!

Do you have exciting news you'd like to see published in the Indiana District *Lutheran Witness*? We'd love to share your news and see photos of what's happening in our district! Be sure to send in your submissions.

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated. Please send all submissions to Jan Koenig at:

[jan.koenig@in.lcms.org](mailto:jan.koenig@in.lcms.org) or **Lutheran Witness Editor**  
**Indiana District LCMS**  
**1145 South Barr St.**  
**Fort Wayne, IN 46802.**

The deadline for the February issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is Dec. 10.

