

PenPALS

NEWSLETTER

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November 2022

Thanksgiving

“I pray that the Lord would fill your hearts and lives with songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.”

-Rev. Jonathan Manor

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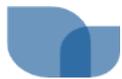
[Faith to Follow](#) by Kate Meadows



SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, we lift our voices together in songs of thankfulness and praise, especially at this time of year when we receive the fruits of the earth, our very daily bread, and reflect on Your bountiful goodness to us all. Strengthen our hearts and lives to continue to sing these songs of thankfulness and praise throughout the year and throughout our lives until, with all Your saints, we sing these songs eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Singing Songs of Praise



LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING; LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE! PSALM 95:2

The Scriptures are full of God's people entering into His presence with thanksgiving, and singing songs of praise. The Church today continues to sing those songs of praise. Songs of praise to the creator and sustainer of all things – songs of praise to the one who has redeemed us with his holy, precious blood – songs of praise to the one who sanctifies and keeps His people in the true faith.

Especially this time of year, these songs of praise are filled with thanksgiving to God for His multitude of blessings in our lives. We thank Him for the fruit of the earth on our table, the fruit of the Spirit in our lives of faith, and the forgiveness and salvation that is ours in Christ.

As I am getting settled into my new role as Director of PALS, I am certainly singing songs of praise filled with thanksgiving to God for the PALS program and its many benefits for pastors and their families, as well as for the churches they serve, the districts, and the Synod.

- Thanksgiving for the PALS pastors, their wives and families, and for their sacrifice to serve the Lord and His people in their vocations.
- Thanksgiving for the PALS facilitators for all they do in caring for the new pastors and their families, giving generously of their time, and lovingly supporting their PALS group as they transition from the seminary life to parish ministry.

- Thanksgiving for the many PALS stakeholders who work together, and in conjunction with the PALS office, to promote, encourage, and support this program and its participants through their prayers, their backing, and their finances, especially our seminaries, districts and district presidents, and our synod.
- Thanksgiving for our PALS congregations as they support and care for their pastor and his family by encouraging their participation in PALS, valuing continuing education for their pastor, and understanding how participation can lead to a healthier worker, family, and ministry together as God's people sharing the love of Christ in their congregation, their community, and around the world.
- Thanksgiving for Dr. Baneck and Robyn Armbrust as they have brought me on board with the Pastoral Education team and helped me navigate these early days in the PALS office and director position.
- Thanksgiving for my family who encourages me and supports me with their love and care as we begin this new journey together.

Indeed, I am singing songs of praise filled with thanksgiving to God! This time of year especially, I pray that the Lord would fill your hearts and lives with songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. He strengthens us as we go through the trials and tribulations of this life, and He showers us with blessings out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. For this we indeed thank and praise Him, singing together,

“Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;

With joyful hearts and voices, Your alleluias raise.

By Him the rolling seasons, In fruitful order move;

Sing to the Lord of harvest, A joyous song of love.”

Lutheran Service Book, 893 v.1

Thanksgiving blessings in Christ,

Jonathan

Rev. Jonathan Manor, Director of PALS and Continuing Education



SEMINARY PALS DINNER

Thankful for the Opportunity to Introduce PALS



What a joy for Dr. Baneck and I to gather with the pastoral candidates and their wives earlier this month at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to share in dinner, fellowship, and conversations about PALS. We were blessed to have several faculty members and their spouses there as well. What a great opportunity to provide details on the wonderful ways that PALS will be a support and encouragement in their transition from seminary life to parish ministry.

Thank you to all the students, faculty members, and wives for making the time to attend. Please keep these future PALS pastors and their families in your prayers as they complete their studies, look forward to their placement, and anticipate service in the Lord's Church.

Jonathan

PALS GATHERINGS



The **Rocky Mountain District** PALS group gathered in Breckenridge, Colorado for a “Fall” Retreat led by **Pastor David and Ginny Vanderhyde**. The group worshipped together, studied together, and enjoyed fellowship together. Pastors worked through a study on the book, [Sexual Morality in a Christless World](#). Wives enjoyed Bible study together, and discussions around the book, [Pew Sisters](#). The group enjoyed staying at an Airbnb allowing for ample time for fellowship, casuistry, and individual family time as well.

Pastor Stephen and Heidi Lutz met with their **Ohio District** PALS group for a day of fellowship and study. Pastors discussed “Rhetoric and Preaching” while the wives enjoyed time in Bible study together. One of the wives shared, “A *great opportunity to meet with other wives to discuss topics that are unique to pastors’ wives.*”

The **North Wisconsin District** PALS group met for a fall retreat at the **Keweenaw Base Camp**, made available to the group by **NLOMA Camp Luther**. PALS facilitators, **Pastor Nate and Sarah Reichle**, led the group through the PALS course, *Pastor’s Life of Prayer*. Evening worship was held at **St. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church** in **Houghton, Michigan**.

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Daniel and Sarah Pool**, gathered their **Iowa District East** PALS group together for their second event of the year. The group enjoyed study, worship, and lunch together. Guest pastor, **Rev. Daniel Redhage**, **Trinity Lutheran Church** in **Lowden**, led a discussion on conflict and resilience.

The **Southern Illinois District** PALS group gathered together this month and enjoyed a discussion around the PALS course, *Transition: Seminary to Urban & Inner City or Rural & Small Town* by Rev. Dr. Steven Schave and Rev. Todd Kollbaum. PALS facilitators **Pastor Kirk and Lori Clayton** hosted this event, leading discussion, study, and planning for future events.

A few comments from the recent **Minnesota North District** PALS Retreat led by PALS facilitators, **Pastor Guy and Emily Roberts**. Strong voices encouraging pastors and wives to participate as they are able:

- *New pastors and pastor's families, go to PALS if you are able. You need all the support you can get in these first few years. Do not reject this gift and opportunity.*
- *'Tis good Lord to be here.*
- *You need this, even if you think you don't.*
- *Sharing ones own and listening to others' joys and trials in ministry is one healing aspect of PALS.*

And from the **Northern Illinois District** group led by **Pastor Leonard and Lori Payton**:

- *PALS is so important for me and my wife to encourage others in our situation, as well as to receive that encouragement.*
- *Christians, especially pastors, cannot have enough support. The PALS program is a unique support network in that it is a family of peers.*
- *PALS has been a wonderful and encouraging place for me to grow as a pastor!*
- *PALS is a great idea....so thankful that this program exists...it's amazing for the kids to hang out with other young Lutherans.*



RESOURCES

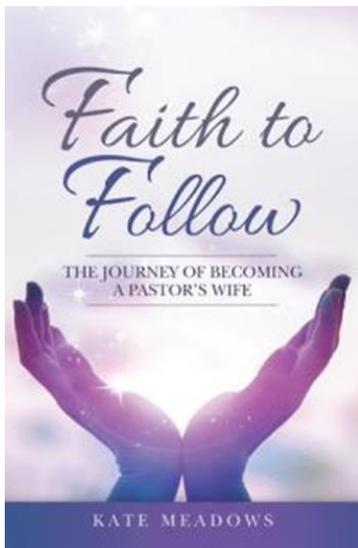
[Faith to Follow](#) by pastor's wife and **South Dakota District PALS** participant, **Kate Meadows**, is written to follow the journey of a wife from the beginning days of seminary through the first year in the parish.

The final section of the book offers personal stories and insights into her first year as a pastor's wife. It is this section that is being offered specifically for use as a PALS course for pastor's wives.

The *Faith to Follow* study guide and accompanying videos are available for download on our PALS page at lcms.org.

Through several generous grants from the **LWML**, we are able to provide the books for use as a book study during a PALS meeting at no cost to our participating new pastors' wives.

We are also thankful to have received a set of books from **South Dakota District** President, Rev. Scott Sailer. **Thank you President Sailer!**





INCENTIVE

To the **first year** new PALS pastor or pastor's wife who notifies Robyn.Armbrust@lcms.org, informing her you've read this entire newsletter, we will send a \$25 CPH gift card. Please include your mailing address in your email.