PenPALS
NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2026

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"For everything there is a season …"

-Rev. Jonathan Manor

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A PRAYER FOR GRACE TO USE OUR GIFTS

Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. *LSB Prayer 192*

TIMES IN THE FAMILY AND THE CHURCH

FOR EVERYTHING THRE IS A SEASON, AND A TIME FOR EVERY MATTER UNDER HEAVEN…HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEUATIFUL IN ITS TIME. *Ecclesiastes 3:1,11a*

In our family, October and November are filled with birthday activities. What a joy it is to celebrate these days with 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren, my mom and a nephew throughout these months. Gifts and cards are given, dinners and cakes are shared, the Lord is thanked and praised for the lives of our loved ones and the life of faith that He has called each one of them to in Christ.

In the life of the church, we also spend time in October and November celebrating and praising God for His faithfulness in our lives. We proclaim that which the Holy Scriptures teach – we have salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We remember those who have died in the faith and gone before us to their eternal rest with their Lord Jesus. And we look forward to the Advent season, focusing on Christ's coming among us in the past, present, and future.

In the middle of it all, we are reminded of the realities written about in Ecclesiastes, that *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."* Through the ups and downs of those seasons and times, your Lord has promised to never leave you or forsake you. Because of that reality, you can continue to trust that *"He has made everything beautiful in its time."*

As that time marches on and the Church Year calendar guides our worship life together, what a joy it is to celebrate as brothers and sisters in Christ, receiving from Him the gifts of His Word and Sacraments. For those pastors, wives and families currently participating in PALS, you are journeying through these days of anticipation and celebration in your first months and early years of ministry. Throughout this busy and joyful time in the Church Year, I pray that you have joy in your service and the Lord's blessings of wisdom, guidance, and strength in your life together in the church, in your community, and in your family.

The hymn writer Stephen Starke expresses the times in the family and the church so well in *LSB* hymn 762, *There Is a Time for Everything…*

> *There is a time for ev'rything, A time for all that life may bring:*
> *A time to plant, a time to reap, A time to laugh, a time to weep,*
> *A time to heal, a time to slay, A time to build where rubble lay,*
> *A time to die, a time to mourn, A time for joy and to be born.*
>
> *A time to hold, then be alone, A time to gather scattered stone,*
> *A time to break, a time to mend, A time to search and then to end,*
> *A time to keep, then throw away, A time to speak, then nothing say,*
> *A time for war till hatreds cease, A time for love, a time for peace.*
>
> *Before all time had yet begun, You, Father, planned to give Your Son;*
> *Lord Jesus Christ, with time-less grace, You have redeemed our time-bound race;*
> *O Holy Spirit, Paraclete, Your timely work in us complete;*
> *Blest Trinity, Your praise we sing–There is a time for everything.*

The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even forevermore.

Yours in our crucified and risen Lord and Savior Jesus,

Jonathan

Rev. Jonathan Manor

Director of PALS and Continuing Education

SET APART TO SERVE

As a recent Seminary graduate, you are in a unique position to share your story of how the Lord led you into the Office of the Holy Ministry. Every time we survey, current church workers tell us the person who most influenced them to consider full-time church work was their pastor. All it takes is a few moments to encourage a young person that a full-time church work vocation is a great way to serve God and neighbor. A conversation that starts as simply as "Have you ever considered becoming a pastor?" or, "You should consider becoming a Lutheran teacher or a deaconess," could change the direction of a young person's life.

Your story of God's faithful guiding of your life is one to share!

Rev. Jonathan Manor
Set Apart to Serve partner and contributor
Director of PALS and Continuing Education
Office of Pastoral Education

NEWS FROM THE PALS FIELD

WHAT ARE PALS PARTICIPANTS SAYING?

PALS is always restorative and rejuvenating with great takeaways!

Satan wants us to believe that we are alone. PALS is a great way for pastors and their wives to be reminded that Satan is a liar!

It's good to get together with others at a similar place in their ministry.

This was my first meeting, and it was good to see some of the guys I overlapped with at the seminary. It was good to get some good practical advice from pastors who are also "new."

PALS helped work be more productive and rest be more restorative.

PALS has been an enjoyable, helpful resource as my husband and I adjust to ministry in the parish. Our facilitators walked alongside us and genuinely care for us in this time of transition.

PALS GATHERINGS

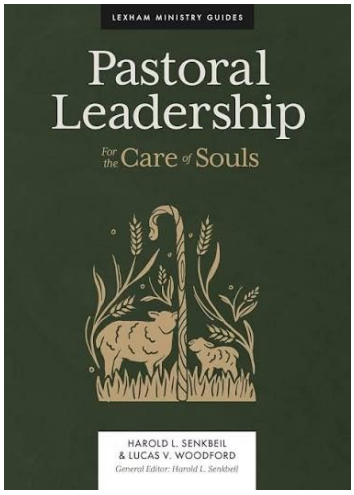
South Dakota District

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Dan and Christine Grimmer,** hosted their first PALS event of the year at **St. John's Lutheran Church** in **Yankton**. The group enjoyed worship together, and sessions using PALS course, *Finding Balance and Setting Boundaries Between Work and Home*. One participant shared, "*It is a great opportunity to connect with brother pastors who are still new and facing similar things*."

Iowa District West

PALS facilitators, **Pastor Chris and Heather Nitzel,** hosted a PALS Retreat this past August at **Camp Okoboji** in **Milford**. The group worked through Ambassadors of Reconciliation course, *Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation* as well as PALS course, *The Pastor's Life of Prayer*.

One participant shared, "*The time away is nice, but having someone to do this (PALS) and specifically care for you is so encouraging*." And another shared, "*Timely topic to encourage renewed devotion to God's Word!*"



South Wisconsin District

Pastor David and Becky Juhl gathered their group together for their second meeting of the PALS year at **St. Peter's Lutheran Church** in **Arlington**. PALS pastor, **Rev. Patrick Randolph**, led the group in Morning Prayer. Pastors enjoyed working through the book Pastoral Leadership: for the Care of Souls, by Hal Senkbeil and Lucas Woodford, while wives discussed portions of the book Parenting in the Pew.

One participant shared, "*It is helpful to get together with other pastors and talk about pastoral leadership issues that we are dealing with.*"

Rocky Mountain District

Pastor David and Ginny Vanderhyde met with their group in **Keystone**. Pastors worked through PALS course, *Premarital Pastoral Care* by Rick Marrs and Kevin Bergmann. Wives enjoyed a study using Ladylike: Living Biblically by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle.

One wife shared, "*PALS is a gift to our family that we look forward to every retreat*."

Florida-Georgia District

Pastor Mark and Bonnie Mueller gathered their group together for a PALS retreat at the **Rosen Centre Hotel** in **Orlando**. The group worked through PALS course, *Finding Balance and Setting Boundaries Between Work and Home*. One participant shared, "*Not just for Pastors! PALS is an opportunity for the whole family to learn and grow together!*"

Minnesota North District

Pastor Scott and Tammy Brown led a PALS retreat at **Lutheran Island Camp** in **Henning**. The group worked through the PALS course, *Finding Balance and Setting Boundaries Between Work and Home*. One pastor shared, "*It's the break from the office that I need. PALS ROCKS*!"

Another participant shared, "*I really appreciated the topic about boundaries. Both my husband and I really needed to hear these suggestions*."

North Wisconsin District

Pastor Joshua and Erica Errer gathered their group together for a PALS retreat at **Camp Luther** in **Three Lakes**. Pastors worked though the topic, "Knowing Whom to Refer and when to Report." Wives studied excerpts from the book, Pew Sisters.

Time for worship and fellowship was greatly appreciated. One participant shared, "*I really enjoyed the location, topics, structure and fellowship. It helped me feel more connected and supported*."

LCMS WORKER WELLNESS

The LCMS loves her church workers. That's why we make worker wellness a priority, promoting and nurturing the spiritual, emotional and physical wellness of pastors and church workers. That's why we care about your wellness, and your ability to serve the Lord, your church, and your family in healthy ways.

Check out these wellness resources for you!

A Lutheran Perspective on Worker Wellness
Church Worker Wellness Action Plan
Markers of a Well Church Worker