



Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
**North Dakota District**

*Cultivating Life in Christ*  
*Strength for Today...Hope Forever*

**Message in the Pew—June 2020**

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is a humanitarian organization that packs and distributes donations to those in need. Donations includes quilts, clothing, medical and school supplies, items for newborns, hygiene items and much more. Furniture is accepted to be used in the local community. OGT also accepts monetary donations. Container shipping costs vary from \$6,000–\$10,000. A shipment was sent to Moldova in May and a shipment is planned to Liberia that will include bikes, desks, schoolbooks, devotional, Sunday School and VBS materials, along with other items. Regular groups of volunteers meet from 9-noon Monday and Saturday mornings at the Jamestown warehouse to accept, sort and pack donations. Volunteer groups are always welcome! OGT is very thankful for all that God has provided to OGT.



Your prayers and support for this mission are greatly appreciated. For more information, please call Sue Corwin at 701-320-3259. The mailing address is Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1456, Jamestown ND 58402-1546.

**Congregations' Status**

- St. Peter, Belfield and Redeemer, Grassy Butte: vacancy (served by Rev. Anthony Ahrendt and Rev. Michael Wolters)
- Peace, Barney and Trinity, Great Bend: Pastor-elect Brock Schmeling to serve. Installation TBA. (served by Rev. Matthew Tooman).
- Zion, Claire City and Zion, Brown Valley, MN: Pastor-elect Nathanael Biberdorf to serve. Installation TBA. (served by MN North District.)
- Trinity, Tolley: vacancy (served by Rev. Joel Brandvold.)
- Our Savior, Minot: Pastor-elect Brian Doel to serve as Associate Pastor. Installation June 14.
- Zion, Bismarck: Vicar-elect Benjamin Ramthun to serve.

*Your servant in Christ,*  
*ND District President*  
*Rev. Arie Bertsch*

**Pastors and DCE'S**

Rev. Michael Giddings, Crosspointe, Fargo, has returned a call to the South Dakota District as the Missionary-At-Large and Chaplain at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

**NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS**  
**Financial Information**  
**May 2020**

**INCOME**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Congregational Mission Giving                     | \$76,826.14        |
| Synodical Pledge (35%)                            | (26,889.15)        |
| Other Gifts                                       | 1,045.47           |
| <b>Total left for District Missions, Expenses</b> | <b>\$50,982.46</b> |

**EXPENSES:**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Local Missions and Committee Activities:<br>(Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Life Skills & Transition Center, Deaf Ministry, Youth) | \$11,602.37 |
| Congregational Support<br>(Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)               | 31,560.01   |
| 1-1-1 Mission Giving  | (1,083.78)  |
| Current gifts given for these missions  | (1,836.00)  |
| International Missions  |             |
| Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000)   | 0.00        |
| Chile Mission (\$25,000)  | \$0.00      |
| (These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)                   |             |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Net Expenses</b>                               | <b>\$40,041.55</b>  |
| <b>NET OPERATING INCOME FOR MAY</b>               | <b>\$10,940.91</b>  |
| Funds Given in the Past used for Current Expenses | \$400.00            |
| <b>YTD NET LOSS</b>                               | <b>(\$9,326.61)</b> |

Congregational giving was average for May. Expenses are still down, so we were able to gain ground on the YTD deficit. Summer typically means less giving and on top of a pandemic, we 'numbers people' worry. If your congregation does not already participate in an online giving program and would like to, please consider LCEF's Joyful Response which is provided at no cost to your congregation.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our international missions are sent on at the end of each fiscal quarter. Those amounts are not included in income or expense totals. YTD designated gifts for international missions as of April 30, 2020:

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Christ's Care for Children – Kenya | \$1,341.00 |
| Chile Partnership                  | \$2,366.00 |

Please contact Tami Ulland at [lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com) or call 701-293-9001 if you have more questions.

*Please pray for your church, our ND District and international missions. Support as you are able with monetary donations.*