

# CONTENTS

Volume Twenty-Six, Number Three



## Correction

In the Summer 2022 issue, we incorrectly reported that the Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF) and speaker at the CTSFW Commencement Ceremony May 20, was found guilty of hate speech in his trial in Finland. He was, in fact, acquitted. Thanks be to God!

## For the Life of the World

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

## FEATURES

### 4 Field Education

#### Jeffrey H. Pulse

Field education for our students is an important part of their formation as pastors. At Shepherd of the City, this fieldwork takes on some added dimensions. In the past, various field workers have shared the Gospel with the homeless man sleeping on our front steps, prepared and delivered home-cooked meals to the shelters, participated in outreach dinners to our communities, tutored school children after classes—they have worked in the midst of the disease of poverty. This can be quite the wake-up call for our seminarians, but it also helps prepare them for a possible call to urban ministry.

### 7 Mentoring a Vicar

#### David R. Nehrenz

It is a privilege to mentor vicars. Much work is required. The congregation must also be committed to doing their part in showing the vicar what parish life looks like in the real world. The rewards are a joy to behold when we see men go all around the country and world to be pastors in Christ's church. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up pastors in His harvest field!

### 10 Urban Immersion Detroit 2022

#### Don C. Wiley

Our CTSFW trip to Detroit for a weekend immersion in urban ministry was two years in the making (due to COVID). Finally, at the end of April, three pastoral and two diaconal students headed to Detroit to take it all in. The immersion trip served its intended purpose. We gained insight into the challenges and blessings of urban ministry, and eyes and hearts were opened to serving the Lord and His church in such ministry.

#### Also in this Issue:

<b>Black Ministry Family Convocation</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>Outreach: Back to the City</b> . . . . .	<b>14</b>
<b>CTSFW Commences 177th Academic Year</b> . . . . .	<b>16</b>
<b>Alumni Focus: Little Homes</b> . . . . .	<b>18</b>
<b>Formation through Experiential Learning</b> . . . . .	<b>20</b>
<b>Admission: Formed for Service</b> . . . . .	<b>22</b>
<b>Faculty Focus: Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>
<b>Lutheran Leadership Development Program</b> . . . . .	<b>26</b>
<b>Military Project</b> . . . . .	<b>27</b>
<b>Profiles in Giving</b> . . . . .	<b>28</b>
<b>In the Word Bible Study</b> . . . . .	<b>30</b>

# Mentoring A Vicar

David R. Nehrenz

Trinity Lutheran Church in Norman, Oklahoma, presently has our 33rd consecutive vicar. I have been the vicarage supervisor for all 33 men. Our congregation of 500 baptized members also has an Early Childhood Learning Center. In addition, we are the Campus Ministry, the official LCMS U chapter, for the Oklahoma District at the University of Oklahoma. With each vicar, we examine the biblical framework for the pastoral office:

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

*1 Timothy 3:1-7*

Then I share with them Luther's Pastoral Prayer:

“Lord God, Thou hast made me a pastor and teacher in the Church. Thou seest how unfit I am to administer rightly

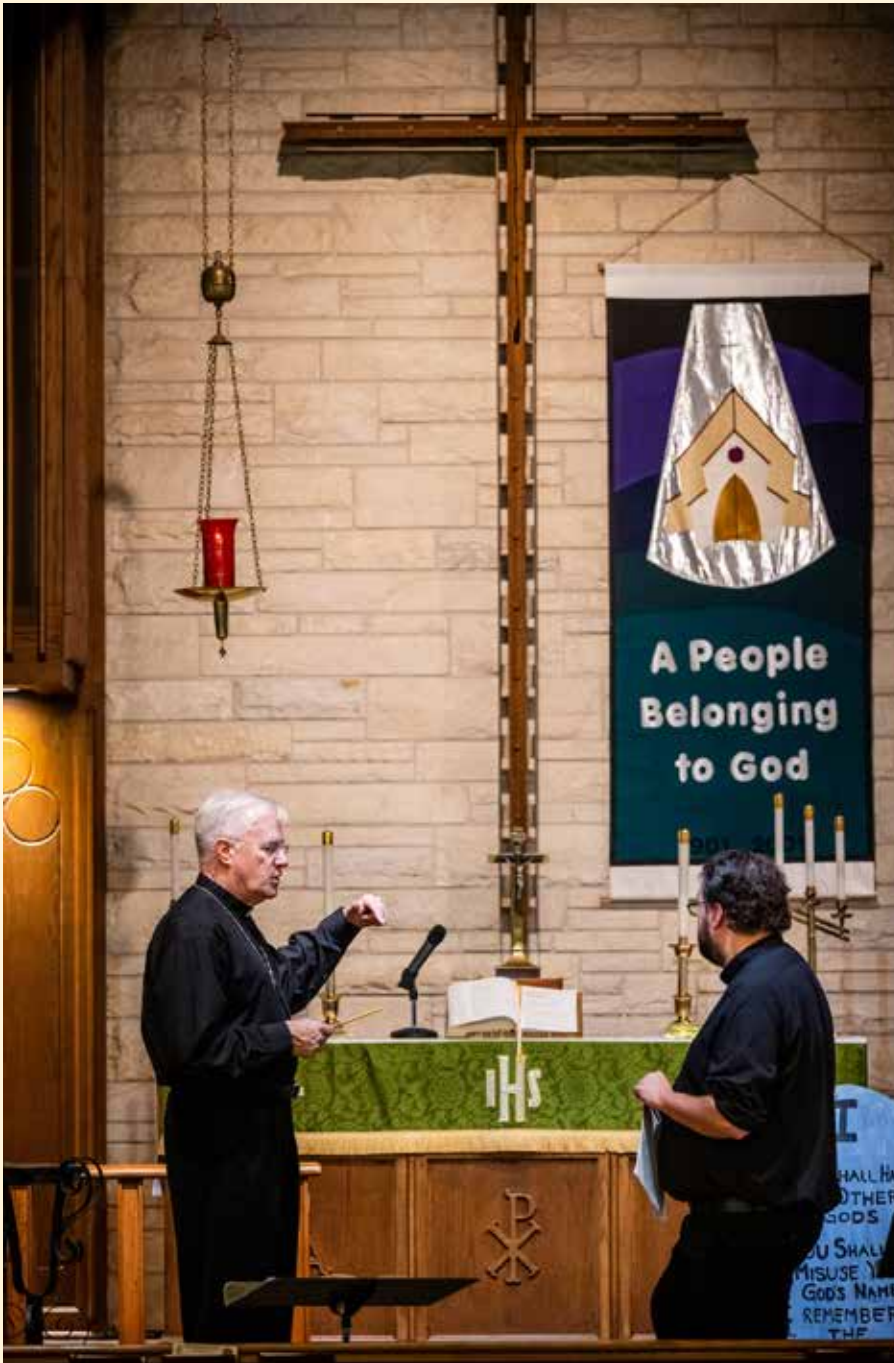


Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*The Rev. David Nehrenz (left), pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma, and now District President of the LCMS Oklahoma District, goes over the upcoming chapel service with Vicar Mark Gaschler on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, at Trinity.*

this great and responsible Office; And had I been without Thy aid and counsel, I would surely have ruined it all long ago. Therefore do I invoke Thee. Now gladly do I desire to yield and consecrate my heart and mouth to this ministry. I desire to teach the congregation. I, too desire ever to learn and to keep Thy Word my constant companion and to meditate thereupon earnestly. Use me as Thy instrument in Thy service. Only do not Thou forsake me, For if I am left to myself, I will certainly bring it all to destruction. *Amen.*”

As we go through the vicarage year, I share my understanding of our vocations and callings:

Each one of us is a:

- ✘ Disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ✘ Husband of his wife
- ✘ Father of his children
- ✘ Pastor of his flock
- ✘ Member of his congregation
- ✘ Citizen in his community

Our daily reminder is that “God gives—we receive” (Divine Service). Wherever we go each day, we ask God, “Remind me to *be* what I say I *am.*” The life of a pastor is stressful, so we need to breathe in, breathe out, and relax. The pastor is a shepherd of sheep. So we pray for wisdom, humility, courage, patience, and love—not for our own sakes, but for the sake of the Gospel.

The world does not define us. God does. Who am I? I am a Lutheran pastor who is called to be faithful, biblical, confessional, creedal, evangelical, liturgical, sacramental, and thoughtful.

We have basic proficiencies. We are not to become workaholics nor lazy. So we model a consistent work ethic with regular office hours so our people can come to see us. To be organized in daily tasks we use planning systems.

The pastor’s calling includes the following:

- ✘ Learn to listen carefully before speaking.
- ✘ Don’t just *like* your people; *love* your people.
- ✘ Study, read, and ponder theology as the lifeblood of the church.
- ✘ Teach your people to think theologically and have a Christian worldview.
- ✘ Be engaged in the news of the day—nationally and locally.
- ✘ Talk to people every day with an attitude of care and compassion.
- ✘ Preach Law and Gospel, and have a detailed outline before the written manuscript.
- ✘ Teach the Bible effectively in confirmation class, adult instruction, and in various studies.
- ✘ Challenge your church folks in evangelism through knowing how to speak of Christ in one’s daily vocation and calling (The Table of Duties).

- ✘ Be committed to the use of our three main “texts” as Lutherans: the Bible, the Catechism, and the hymnal.
- ✘ Use active calling procedures to visit the sick, the homebound, the lonely, and those with special needs. (Take elders once a month on calls.)
- ✘ Ensure accountability to the Board of Elders and the congregation, giving monthly evidence of how you have done the pastoral work you are called to do.
- ✘ Offer your services to your circuit, district, and Synod.
- ✘ Tithe out of your income for the church’s work, so you set a stewardship example.

It is also important to have time off and take vacations. Require yourself to take your weekly day off and have hobbies—it gives outlets for one’s creative energies. Life is short, so take vacation time to do fun things with your wife and children.

The daily devotional life includes:

- ✘ Rejoicing in and being committed to a daily encounter with God through Word and Prayer. (This consists in the offices of the church, the reading of biblical texts from the Psalms, Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel lessons, the study of a portion of the *Book of Concord*, the singing of a hymn that fits the liturgical year, and the praying of the prayers of the church and prayers for special needs.)



Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Finally, we are called to be grateful and thankful!

- ✦ Do not complain about your lot in life—be happy you have a job and a way to support your family.
- ✦ Ask your elders if there are suggestions they have in order for you to be a better pastor.
- ✦ Be present at all the fellowship events so your members can better get to know you.
- ✦ Have lunch with the leaders of your congregation, and ask them about their joys, sorrows, and challenges (which will put your life as a pastor in a clearer perspective).
- ✦ Take care of your health, and get plenty of sleep, because every day requires your best effort.
- ✦ Finally, read through the pastoral epistles every year.

It is a privilege to mentor vicars. Much work is required. The congregation must also be committed to doing their part in showing the vicar what parish life looks like in the real world. The rewards are a joy to behold when we see men go all around the country and world to be pastors in Christ's church. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up pastors in His harvest field! 🙏

*The Rev. David R. Nehrenz (tlcnormanpastor@gmail.com) has served as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Norman,*



*Oklahoma, (tlcnorman.org) since 1988. He also serves as the LCMS Oklahoma District President (oklahomalutherans.org), elected in 2022.*

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**Below left to right:** *Exterior photograph of Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma.*

*Vicar Mark Gaschler leads a Bible study on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma.*

*Framed photographs of prior vicars hang on the walls at Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma.*

*Evan Goeglein, Matthew Moss, Jay Hobson (LCMS U student who then attended seminary), David Menet, David Nehrenz, Eric Brown (LCMS U student who then attended seminary)*

### **Trinity Vicars 1990–2023**

1. Peter Scaer 1990–91
2. Christopher Irelan 91–92
3. Todd Schlechte 92–93
4. Scott Sundbye 93–94
5. Marcus Zill 94–95
6. Christopher Esget 95–96
7. Steve Willweber 96–97
8. Tim Gerdes 97–98
9. Eric Ahlemeyer 98–99
10. Paul Beisel 99–2000
11. Jeffrey Ahonen 00–01
12. Chadric Dietrich 01–02
13. Dan Mackey 02–03
14. Ryan Mills 03–04
15. David Menet 04–05
16. David Carver 05–06
17. Mark Preus 06–07
18. George Kirkup 07–08
19. Jacob Gaugert 08–09
20. Evan Goeglein 09–10
21. Matthew Moss 10–11
22. Bill Willenbrock 11–12
23. Aaron Uphoff 12–13
24. Joshua Woelmer 13–14
25. John Zimmerman 14–15
26. Eric Rudsenske 15–16
27. Eric Bednash 16–17
28. Keith Kettner 17–18
29. David Keating 18–19
30. Robert Schrader 19–20
31. Jordan Peiser 20–21
32. Mark Gaschler 21–22
33. Jonathan Anderson 22–23



Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod