KANSAS PARISH NURSE MINISTRY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING

Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2025

From the Desk of your Kansas District

Dear Servants of our Lord,

Greetings to you as we look forward to the year ahead and a happy spring. Soon we will see the trees budding and the early spring flowers showing signs of wanting to pop through the ground, painting our surroundings with vibrant colors.

If you find any articles in the newsletter that would be of interest to your congregational members, feel free to share them in your congregational newsletter, in bathrooms or on a bulletin board. Our ministry is to care for, love, and educate our members. I have brochure racks in each of the main bathrooms in the church, I regularly refresh the information to share with members and guests. Additionally, I attach information to the back of the stall doors for people to read at opportune times. I participate in the local Shepherd's Center, a volunteer-run interfaith non-profit group that provides opportunities for older adults to participate in educational, physical, spiritual and social activities and events to enrich their lives. Jamie Spikes and I will share information about a couple of our trips.

May 6 is Nurses Day. God bless the nurses who have committed to helping members of their congregations and beyond. Your dedication and service is truly appreciated.

The **Kansas District Convention** will be June 5-6 in Salina. I am planning to have a Parish Nurse table with information. If you, your Pastor, or the delegates from your congregation are attending, please stop by for a visit and share events in your congregation. I will have some takeaways for you. . *Bring joy to your servants, Lord, for I put my trust in you. Psalm 86:4 (NIV)*.

Mary Hume, Parish Nurse at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS and Kansas District Representative

Health Ministry

The Health Ministry serves as a beacon of support within our church, offering vital resources for our neighbors with disabilities and the parish nursing program. Our parish nurses work alongside the pastor to provide comprehensive care for the physical and spiritual well-being of parishioners.

Yet parishioners are not the only ones in need of spiritual and physical wellness. The Health Ministry collaborates with other LCMS ministries to offer health and respite care opportunities for church workers and the wider community.

We pray that God would grant us the vision to see our neighbors, the compassion to hear their needs, and the dedication to celebrate their lives as reflections of His divine image.

https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/health-ministry/resources

Faith at Work Serving Our Community

In response to the call from the LCMS Kansas District, our congregation is invited to recognize and address the needs of our community, helping our neighbors in the name of Jesus. As Parish Nurses, we are acutely aware of these needs, both within our congregation and beyond. This is a special time for us to lead a team to meet those needs in meaningful ways.

April has been chosen as the month to show our love and care to our neighbors, near and far, through "Faith at Work." This initiative encourages us to put our faith into action with a variety of projects aimed at making a tangible difference in the lives of those around us.

A few ideas for Faith at Work projects include:

- Community Garden: Plan and establish a community garden to provide healthy foods to those in need. This garden can serve as a source of fresh produce and a place for fellowship and education about nutrition and sustainable living.
- Blood Drive: Organize a blood drive to support local hospitals and patients in need.
 Donating blood is a simple yet powerful way to save lives and show our compassion.
- Care Kits: Assemble cancer care kits or hygiene kits to offer comfort and essential supplies to those undergoing treatment or facing hardships. These kits can make a significant difference in their daily lives.
- Eyeglass Collection: Collect eyeglasses for the MOST Ministry, helping to provide clear vision to those who cannot afford it. This small gesture can transform lives by improving vision and independence.

By engaging in these projects, we can demonstrate our faith in action, showing love and care to our neighbors. Let us come together as a congregation and community to make a positive impact through "Faith at Work."

Aging in Place

As you grow older, changes in your body often demand changes in your home. But aging in place — the ability to live in your own home and community safely, independently and comfortably as you get older — isn't as simple as it sounds. A 2024 survey by *U.S. News & World Report* found that a whopping 95 percent of people 55 and older say they want to stay in their current home for as long as possible. But just 10 percent of homes are "aging-ready," according to the U.S. Census Bureau. There are a few tips to follow to help make the home safe and comfortable for your future.

Older adults can assess their current living situation by considering their mobility, health conditions and daily activities.

It is recommended to ask: "Can I move around easily? Are there safety hazards? Is the home accessible for potential future needs? Focusing on everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing and carrying groceries. If those activities are becoming difficult today, imagine how much harder they might

be later. Consider what home modifications would make them safer and easier such as grab bars.

Talking to an occupational therapist or home health provider for their thoughts and opinions on the living arrangements, is there clutter, or scatter rugs or For a simple and low-cost aging-in-place improvement, replace doorknobs with lever-style handles. People who have arthritis in the joints of their hands have an easier time opening a door with a lever-style handle. A lever is a fitting example of universal design because it works for people of all ages and abilities.

Rugs are tripping hazards, it is recommended to remove them from a home to create stable, even surfaces. Area rugs are the No. 1 risk in a home. Area rugs should either be donated or thrown in the trash. Low pile rugs are less of a hazard. They can be secured to the floor with a nonslip mat or anti-slip rug tape. Also, avoid curled edges and corners that are easy to stumble over.

Clutter can be just as dangerous as rugs. It is recommended to remove excess furniture and belongings — especially those that block your home's major arteries. Decluttering can significantly enhance safety by reducing tripping hazards and making the home easier to navigate and essential items easier to find when you need them.

Getting a professional assessment of the home can allow older adults remain safely in the home longer. https://www.seniorresource.com/your-complete-guide-to-aging-in-place-common-questions-concerns-and-benefits

Alcohol Awareness

One in every 12 adults or 17.6 million people experience alcohol disorder or alcohol dependence. Alcohol Awareness Month offers a focused opportunity across America to increase awareness and understanding of alcohol addiction, it causes, effective treatment, and recovery. It is an opportunity to decrease stigma and misunderstanding, dismantle the barriers to treatment and recovery, making help more available to those who suffer from this disease. The U.S. Surgeon General has made a statement that the excessive and chronic use of alcohol can be a

the excessive and chronic use of alcohol can be a contributing factor in many cancers of the upper gastrointestinal system, the liver, and the pancreas.

It can lead to impaired driving, family problems, marital breakups and much more.

Alcohol addiction is a chronic, progressive disease, genetically predisposed, and fatal if untreated. However, people can and do recover. In fact, it is estimated that as many as 20 million individuals and family members are living lives in recovery from alcohol use. If you or a loved one cannot live without drinking an alcohol beverage routinely, more information is available at www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohols-effects-health.

Brain Supplements That Do or Do Not work

Copied from WebMD.comThe advertisements on television say that this pill or

that pill will improve your memory and help you to stay focused. Over 25% of adults over 50 are taking pills that "keep your brain healthy". It is unclear, as the FDA does not require makers to prove the supplements are effective, if they do not make any claims about specific diseases. The following is what experts say about some of the popular items. B Vitamins: B vitamins like B6, B12, and B9 (folic acid) all play a role in brain health. But unless you're low on them or pregnant (folic acid is a must to prevent birth defects), a supplement is unlikely to help. If you are at elevated risk for Alzheimer's, ask your doctor if medication should be prescribed. The research into the use of vitamin B supplements to boost cognitive ability is inconclusive. You should stick with food sources like leafy greens to stay sharp.

idea, because of the risks if you overdose. But you can enjoy coffee guilt-free if it doesn't interfere with your sleep or make you jittery. Some might be good for your brain. It is a stimulant that helps perk you up, plus it promotes energy by blocking brain receptors for a chemical called adenosine.

L-theanine: A natural amino acid, L-theanine seems to have potential for improving mental performance, especially when combined with caffeine. Studies have been small, such as one in 2019 that included 30 people. Until there's more research, a safe bet is to drink green tea: It naturally contains both L-theanine and caffeine, as well as antioxidants that

may help your mental and physical well-being in

other ways.

Caffeine: Caffeine pills and powders aren't a good

Omega-3s: The traditional Mediterranean diet, which includes omega 3-rich-fish, is linked to a lower risk of dementia. But can omega-3 supplements help? So far, large studies (including one sponsored by the National Institutes of Health) haven't proved that. One possible exception: People with the APOE4 gene mutation, which is tied to Alzheimer's, might benefit if they start taking the supplements early enough, a 2017 review shows.

Curcumin: Found in turmeric (an ingredient in curry powder), curcumin has been noted for its antioxidant powers. Does it help explain why Alzheimer's rates are lower in India? A UCLA study found that people who took curcumin fared better on memory tests and had less buildup of abnormal proteins in their brains. But this study only included 40 people, and other research hasn't found this result, so more studies are needed.

Food First: While certain supplements might help in some cases, most healthy people don't need pills to stay sharp. Eating a diet that is rich in vegetables, berries, whole grains, and fish: key parts of the so-called MIND diet (Mediterranean Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay) Diet is a way to support brain health as you age. Staying physically active, getting enough sleep, taking care of any medical conditions you have, keeping up your social connections, and challenging your mind by being a life-long learner can make a significant difference, too, and it is good for the rest of your body!

Ideas for Health Articles

Keeping your congregation up-to-date with health information is a task that is important to the parish nurse ministry. Information can be shared in a monthly newsletter article, on bulletin boards and posting news in the bathrooms. Information can be obtained by searching for the health topic or at cdc.gov/health-topics.

- ✓ March Women's History; National Colorectal Cancer Awareness; National Nutrition; Save a Vision; National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (20-26); National Corndog Day (16)
- ✓ April Alcohol Awareness; National Donate A Life; Parkinson's Awareness; Autism Awareness Day (2); World Health Day (7)
- ✓ May National Nurses Week (6-12); Arthritis Awareness; Mental Health Awareness; National 3625

✓ June – Men's Health Month; PTSD Awareness; National Migraine and Headache Awareness; National CPR and AED Awareness Week (1-7)

Annual Meetings

We are excited to announce that the Annual District Representative meeting will be held on the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin on May 13, 2025. Jamie Spikes and I are planning to attend.

Following the annual meeting, The Parish Nurse conference will begin on May 14 and will last for two days. This conference is an incredible opportunity for parish nurses and healthcare workers from across the United States to come together, share knowledge, and find inspiration. The event will include a chapel service and several sessions presented by parish nurses and health professionals. Jamie and I will be presenting a breakout session on May 16, entitled "Planning Your Funeral." We believe that this information can be a true blessing for your family at the right time, helping to ease their burden and celebrate your life in a meaningful way, your way.

For the nurses planning their own funeral service, we recommend considering include the Florence Nightingale Pledge to be read during the service. It talks about the heart of a nurse. Currently some states have a Nursing Honor Guard that serves at nurse funerals.

Attending the conference leaves us inspired and refreshed, and we look forward to another year of growth and productivity within our congregations. We get further inspired and refreshed by attending the presentations of our colleagues.

I have attached a brochure with detailed information about the complete program. If you are can attend, please let me know - we can arrange carpool together.

Parish Nursing Education

Concordia University Wisconsin offers a Certificate of Completion for Parish Nursing/Faith Community Nursing. The course is offered online for a flexible way to learn congregational health ministries. The Christ centered course is taught by theology and nursing faculty with real-world experience. Contact Carol Lueders Bolwerk, Director of Parish Nursing at

Concordia University Wisconsin at carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu.

LCMS Parish Nurse Council in collaboration with the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia offers a 17-module course. The course is an introduction for parish nursing (LCMS.org/health). The schedule is flexible. Module 17 is specific to the organization and resources available for parish nurses within the LCMS. For additional information, contact the LCMS Parish Nurse leader, Dr. Marcy Schnorr, at 815-562-2744 (mornings), marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com.

Lutheran Parish Nurses International

(lutheranparishnurse int.org)

Lutheran Parish Nurse International exists to service the Lord and His Kingdom through Christ-centered parish nursing in Lutheran denominations. The site invites you to read health topics, devotions and Bible Studies. An invitation to the upcoming study tour to Seoul South Korea is also available. I am attaching additional information on the study tour.

Kansas District-LCMS Parish Nurse Representative

As your Kansas District Representative, I am here to help you with information on Parish Nursing. Please keep me informed of changes in your life, such as a change of address, email address change, status of the ministry in your congregation and more. If you know of others who would like to receive the newsletter and other information, please let Mary Hume know at her contact information below. The newsletter is archived on the Kansas District

An additional helpful website is: LCMSParishNursing

website: www.kslcms.org/caring-ministry/parish-

- Mary Hume: 2633B SW Arrowhead Rd Topeka, KS 66614 Email: maryhme29@cox.net Cell: 785-580-6650.
- Dr. Jamie Spikes: LCMS Parish Nurse Council Member; Parish Nurse at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan;

Email: jamiespikes@gmail.com

Cell: 785-313-1587.

"Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-43625





LUTHERAN PARISH NURSES INTERNATIONAL

STUDY TOUR October 9-16, 2025

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

LPNI study tours provide Parish
Nurses and others from around the
world an opportunity to learn,
network and support one another,
share experiences and models of
practice, meet with pastors,
deaconesses, missionaries and
others to enjoy fellowship with likeminded people. Previous study tours
have included Palestine, Australia,
Finland, USA, Germany, New
Zealand, Brazil, England, Canada,
Singapore, Romania











Itinerary (continued on next page)

Thursday, October 9

Arrive at Seoul airport, and transfer to your accommodation at Ibis Ambassador, Seoul Insadong. This evening there will be a welcome dinner and introduction to the tour program. Meet Pastor and Mrs. Hansen of the International Lutheran Church in Seoul.

Friday, October 10

After breakfast, head out to visit Gyeongbokgung Palace and experience the most representative buildings of the Joseon Dynasty (more than 500 years old). View the Traditional Royal Guard Changing ceremony, and pass by the Royal Blue House, before taking a break for lunch (at your own expense).

After lunch, walk around the historical Bukchon Hanok Village to see several traditional homes. Finish the day with some free time at the Dongdaemun open market, a large commercial district of traditional markets and hundreds of international restaurants as well as many street foods.

Saturday, October 11

Day-long seminar at the International Lutheran church, including a presentation on the history of Lutheranism in Korea, by the President of the Lutheran Church in Korea, the Rev. Eunseop Kim.

Sunday, October 12

Morning worship at the International Lutheran church, followed by presentation on Parish Nursing. Community luncheon hosted by the congregation. Afternoon guided tour of the city, including Namsan Park, a symbolic mountain at the center of Seoul with a maritime aquarium, and the 236-meter-high Seoul Tower.

Monday, October 13

After breakfast, travel by coach to visit the Lutheran university in Yongin City. Lunch at the university, followed by a visit to the nearby cultural center.

Tuesday, October 14

After breakfast depart for a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. **Be sure to take your**

Passport with you. Upon arrival, tour Imjingak Resort, which has various warrelated artifacts, and the spacious Pyeonghwa Nuri Park. The resort preserves the Freedom Bridge and Impinging rail bridge from the Korean War to remind people of the past, along with a Memorial Hall, memorial monuments, the bell of Unification, Last Train Out, and the Bridge of No Return.

Proceed to passport security control, followed by a short introduction to the United Nations camp. Visit Dora Observatory and Dorasan railway station. Late morning, visit the third tunnel dug into the rock at a depth of 73 meters and able to move a full division per hour with their weapons. The last visit is Unification Village.

Head to Insadong Cultural Street, one of the most memorable attractions in Seoul. It represents the focal point of Korean traditional culture and crafts.

Wednesday, October 15

After breakfast, travel by coach with Pastor Hansen to visit and learn about the Lutheran Church of Korea's soup kitchen and ministry to homeless people in Daejon City. Lunch at the soup kitchen. Farewell dinner in the evening.

Thursday, October 16

After breakfast, depart for the airport and flight home.

LPNI Study Tour: Seoul, South Korea

October 9-16, 2025

REGISTRATION FORM

Included are:

Mana - -

- Accommodation for October 9-16, checking out on October 16
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Participation in Saturday seminar
- Program tours and admission fees as per program
- Transfers between airport and hotel

Deposit to hold reservation by February 5, 2025 US \$500.00

Regular twin shared room per person; pay by August 5, 2025 US \$2350.00

Regular with single room supplement; pay by August 5, 2025 US \$2875.00

Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Status: Parish Nurse	□ Pastor
□ Other:	

I am willing to share a room with:		
Special requirements:		
To register, complete the above form		

To register, complete the above form and forward, along with your check, to:

LPNI, 39783 St. Honore Dr, Murrieta, CA 92563, USA

To register and transmit funds electronically, contact Sue Neff at retparishnurse@gmail.com.

US participants who wish to travel to South Korea together should contact Sue Neff retparishnurse@gmail.com or Marcy Schnorr marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com.

In Every Way, God's Path



The 33rd Annual Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries National Conference

May 14-15, 2025

Hosted by: Concordia University Wisconsin School of Nursing

33rd Annual Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries Conference

12800 North Lake Shore Drive Mequon, WI 53097 Carol A. Lueders Bolwerk, Carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu 262-243-4233 Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

Welcome to our 33rd annual conference! This year's gathering is based on Proverbs 3: 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

We will serve in our churches and communities with caring service in our ministries with God's guidance. God's "plan" and "purpose" indicates our path – one chosen for us, for which God has prepared. God's will is a constant presence in our congregational health ministries.

This annual national gathering of nurses, pastors, deaconesses, lay ministers, and others is a true blessing. It helps us all focus on our calling to share and tell the love of Christ, and to serve Him in all we do. It includes gaining knowledge, networking with peers, and sharing resources to help us all develop new programs and ministries in congregational health.

If you cannot attend, please pray for a successful conference and consider a financial donation. hope to see you in May 2026 at the 34th annual conference in Meguon, WI.

Your sister in Christ,

Carol Lueders Bolwerk, PhD, RN

Director of Parish Nursing

Concordia University Wisconsin

262-243-4233

Carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu

Concordia University Wisconsin

CUW is located in Mequon, Wisconsin, 25 miles north of Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport.

TRANSPORTATION: Go RiteWay shuttle service is available from Mitchell International Airport to hotels. Call 1-800-236-5450 to make arrangements.

DIRECTIONS – Traveling on Interstate 43: Construction continues – plan accordingly.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take Exit 87 (Highland Rd.) and turn right on Highland to the main campus entrance.

FROM THE NORTH: Take Exit 87 (Highland Rd.) and turn left on Highland Rd. until the main campus driveway.

LODGING within five miles (please make your own reservations):

- Hampton Inn & Suites 1385 Gateway Dr., Grafton, WI 262-474-1000
- Comfort Inn & Suites 1415 N. Port Washington Rd., Grafton, WI 262-387-1180
- TownePlace Suites 1601 Gateway Dr., Grafton, WI 262-618-8100

All hotels serve complimentary breakfast.

Mention Concordia to get better rates Rates vary depending on room and bed size.

PARKING When arriving at CUW, park in Lots A and B, and enter Luther Administration Building.

DISABILITY? Concordia is wheelchair accessible!

IN-GATHERING

Bring PRAYER SHAWLS and CARDS for our in-

Registration Form

Name (print clearly or paste address label here):				
Ad	dress:			
Cit	y/State/Zip:			
Ph	one:			
Em	ail:			
Re	ligious affiliation:			
	Nurse □ Clergy □ Other			
You	ır name and address will be shared with particip	oants.		
PL	EASE CHECK DAYS YOU WILL ATTEND):		
	Wednesday, May 14, 2025	\$95.00		
	Thursday, May 15, 2025	\$95.00		
	Special Clergy Rate – Full Conference	\$60.00		
	□ LPNI Scholarships (<i>first-time attendees</i>): Four \$250 scholarships are available for parish nurses from any Lutheran Synod. Email Marcy Schnorr for an application: marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com. Register for conference with full payment. Reimbursement after attending the conference.			
то	TAL FEES ENCLOSED: \$			
pay	e includes all materials and food. Make che vable to Concordia University Wisconsin dit cards, please). Send check and this for	(no		
	Carol Lueders Bolwerk			
	Concordia University Wisconsin – Parish Nursing and Congregational Health Mini			
	12800 North Lakeshore Drive			

Mequon, WI 53097

CANCELLATION: No refunds after May 1. Refunds will be from less than \$50 per day prior to May 1, 2025.

Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025: ALBRECHT 9:45 AM Breakout Session 2			
	TERRACE ROOM	0.107	District Costs in 2
8 AM	Registration & Lutheran Parish Nurses International (LPNI) Auction		Session E: Really I'm OK, I Don't Need Help – Deaconess Christie Hansard, RN, PN LO 112
8:30 AM	Keynote: Liz Deck, DNP, RN: Diabetes and 4Ms: What Matters, Medications, Mentation, and Mobility		Session F: Renewing Nursing's Ethical Rich Traditions – Marie Wiegert, RN, MA LO 110
9:45 AM	Break: Follow Signs to Chapel		Session G: Advanced Funeral Planning – Mary Hume, RN, BSN, PN and Jamie Spikes, PhD, RN LO 118
10 AM	Chapel - Chapel of Christ Triumphant		
10:45 AM	Keynote: Philip Zimmermann, MD: Prevent and Heal Type 2 Diabetes with Thoughtful Fasting –		Session H: Observing St. Luke's Day by Parish Nurses – Marcy Schnorr, EdD, RN R118
	Based Practices	10:45 AM	Snack - sponsored by LPNI
12 PM	Lunch & LPNI auction – sponsored by Concordia Plans	11:15 AM	Breakout Session 3
1:00 PM	Keynote: Deaconess Tiffany Manor, Doctor of Congregation and Family Care: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Disabilities Ministry		Session I: Building Community Through Shepherding – Heidi Then, BSN, RN LO 110
1:15 PM	Break – LPNI Auction Closes		Session J: Supporting Others Through Mobility Changes – Kelly Menke LO 112
1:30 PM	Keynote: Rev. Dan Paavola, PhD: Today is the Day for Wisdom: Proverbs 3: Directions for Peaceful Wisdom		Session K: The Church's Path in Responding to Social Determinants of Health – Christine Blanke, MS, RN, CPH
2:45 PM	Closing & LPNI item distribution Closing & LPNI item distribution		Session L: Walking with God on the Path of Life Transitions from Home to Skilled Care – Dr. Carol Lueders Bolwerk, PhD,RN R118

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025: LOEBER AND RINCKER HALLS

Registration

8:30 AM	Breakout Session 1
	Session A: Reflecting on Gratitude and Joy as Servant Leaders – Carmen Stephens, DNP LO 110

Session B: V.B.S. First-Aid – Deaconess Christie Hansard, PN,RN, LO 112

Session C: Lutheran Perspective on Well-Being – Deaconess Tiffany Manor, PhD **LO 118**

Session D: All of Life and Life's Resources: A Study in Stewardship and Congregational Culture Change – Rev. Nathan Meador, PhD R118

9:30 AM Break

8 AM

12:30 PM Breakout Session 4

Session M: Faith Community Nurses as part of the Interdisciplinary Team for Fall Prevention Education – Carmen Stephens, DNP, RN LO 112

Session N: Following God's Path to Alaska: The 2024 LPNI Study Tour – Darlene Rueter, Diploma, RN, PN LO 118

Session O: Aging with Grace: A Journey of Love – Marilee Tollefson, MSN, PN and Carol DeSchepper, MSN, PN LO 110

Session P: Showing Care and Comfort, Even When it is Awkward – Brenda Jobe, DNP R 118

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way: walk in""