



Minnesota District  
Mission Board

***Fall Update – 2023***

There are a number of great things going on for the missions within our district. Over the past four years, we've secured funding for new starts in North Liberty, IA and Collinsville, IL; a restart in West Des Moines, IA; a ministry enhancement to begin Hispanic outreach at St. John in St. Paul, MN; and continued the support for Immanuel Hmong. Each of these ministries is now fully staffed.

Here is a summary of the work being done in those places.

**Good Shepherd, Cedar Rapids and North Liberty, IA**

Pastor Lucas Callies has been meeting people and growing relationships in a number of ways, including a Grief Share support group, among other programs. This year they held their second Easter Fest weekend which drew 272 kids (450+ with adults).

They continue to have a strong relationship with the North Liberty Community Center where they hold weekly Bible class and worship services. The Community Center has even asked Good Shepherd to be involved in different things, like providing Bible lessons and activities for the Center's "Breakfast with Santa."

A focus this year has been cultivating leaders for the North Liberty location. Reworking the constitution and bylaws will ensure that both campuses are represented in leadership. They have also formed three subcommittees identified as the "Outreach Team," the "Faith and Fun Team," and the "North Liberty Property Team."

**Christ Our Savior, Collinsville, IL**

Christ Our Savior, which started as a preaching station in the early 2000s out of Martin Luther in St. Louis, was approved as a new mission start in fall of 2021. Since that time, they had been patiently waiting for a missionary to accept the Lord's call to serve them. Despite the extended vacancy, weekly attendance has been holding steady around 25. Prayers for a missionary were answered by the Lord via the assignment committee. Pastor Philip Schroeder—who previously tutored at Martin Luther College—and his family moved to the area this summer and he was installed July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There are open opportunities to reach out to different groups in the Metro East. There is a sign language interpreter at every worship service, which provides opportunities to serve the deaf and hard of hearing. The group includes some college students, as they are located near several campuses. There are also military families connected with the nearby Scott Air Force Base. Pastor Schroeder is currently focused on meeting people and cultivating relationships with his neighbors and with the core group.

**Beautiful Savior, West Des Moines, IA**

Beautiful Savior's request for a mission enhancement was approved in the spring of 2023. This allows them to call a full-time pastor. Pastor Brian Schmidt has accepted that call and will be installed on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Beautiful Savior has much ministry potential in West Des Moines, a suburb of over 70,000 in a metro area of 750,000. Their facility is in an excellent location, adjacent to an elementary school and a nursing home. It's also near a sprawling retail and commercial development. Our mission

board has confidence that with the Lord's blessing and with faithful shepherding, Beautiful Savior has an excellent opportunity for mission work.

### **St. John / San Juan, St. Paul, MN**

The need for Hispanic outreach in this neighborhood is obvious, and the opportunity is there, with the Mexican Consulate right next door and the *Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio* (CLUES) even renting a portion of St. John's building for community services. Pastor Timothy Otto wasted no time in meeting new people, quickly growing the prospect list to over 100 people.

Pastor Otto's wife, Jenny, is leading a Bible study with Latina women whom they meet through the New Day pregnancy resource center. Members of St. John volunteer to help in this ministry and there is even an effort to expand it to support husbands and youth as well. Pastor Otto currently has couple of BIC courses running in Spanish with a dozen or so in attendance. They have also begun worship services on Saturday evenings.

### **Immanuel Hmong, St. Paul, MN**

A vibrant congregation in the heart of St. Paul, Immanuel is very active in reaching out to the Hmong community around them. An event is planned for just about every month, and each one is geared toward outreach. For example, 30+ couples had registered for February's Valentines Banquet. Rev. Pheng Moua shows his passion for teaching by leading many Bible classes both locally, and online where he has a global reach.

Immanuel Hmong continues to utilize shared space with St. John— which is now a center for Spanish, Hmong, and English-speaking ministries. St. John recently began to call for an English-speaking pastor to round out the ministry team. This call has been accepted by Prof. Paul Wendland.

### **Looking Ahead to 2024**

We will continue to be aggressively pursuing all avenues to start up new missions and to enhance existing mission-minded ministries. As it stands right now, we may bring as many as four ministry enhancement requests and one mission status request to the Board for Home Missions in 2024.

If you would like to learn more about the process or how you might help, you can reach out to a board member or visit the following links.

[www.mndistrictmissions.com](http://www.mndistrictmissions.com)

[www.wels100in10.net](http://www.wels100in10.net)

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Steve Waldschmidt (Chairman)

Mr. Douglas Dorn

Rev. Robert Guenther

Rev. Mark Kaesmeyer

Mr. David Sauer

Mr. Daryl Schultz

Mr. Glenn Schulz

Rev. Dustin Sievert