



# LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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## ISAIAH 7:14

<sup>14</sup> THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL. KJV

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Share your Experiences of Lutheran  
Faith and Scouting  
HERE!



## LUTHERAN LAMB AWARD

The Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling received the Lutheran Lamb Award at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood (St. Louis), MO on Sunday, December 12, 2021.

Rev. Dr. Kiessling serves as Director of Youth Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS). His distinguished and exceptional service to fostering spiritual growth of youth has been through developing the Lutheran Religious Services at a number of BSA National Jamboree while at AP Hill, prior to the site change to Bechtel Reservation. Mark also serves as the LC-MS representative to NLAS.

Rev. David Meggers conducted the presentation and Elizabeth, Mark's wife, bestowed the ribbon holding the medallion.



### Lutheran Religious Awards for Adults

The Servant of Youth and Lamb awards are awarded by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting to Lutheran Adults who are leaders in the Boy Scouts of America, Girls Scouts USA, Camp Fire, American Heritage Girls or 4H club members.

The Servant of Youth Adult Recognition is awarded for distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs.

The Lamb Award is awarded to acknowledge the distinguished service of Lutheran adults for 1) fostering the spiritual growth of youth through church and civic youth serving agency programs and 2) increasing the use and quality of the civic agency programs in Lutheran congregations as a part of their ministries with youth.

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## P.R.A.Y. Corner Jason Noland—Chief Executive Officer

*The P.R.A.Y. Program - a Bible-based religious emblems program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches designed to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. Our program has impacted the lives of thousands of children nationwide.*

P.R.A.Y. continues to make strides in program. We are grateful for the volunteers from across the country who served this past year as writers, virtual RP3 coordinators, content experts, and virtual presenters. In one case, Amanda Vogt from the National Religious Relationships Committee of the BSA, assembled Protestant teams in all five programs and through a network of nearly 70 volunteer counselors and clergy have led more than 350 youth through the P.R.A.Y. ministry. As youth finish the coursework, they visit with their own Pastor to complete the final review. Amanda and those who stepped up are a true blessing to our work. Thank you!

We still welcome volunteers and will need more in the coming year. P.R.A.Y. continues to develop virtual RP3 presentations and write lessons for upcoming patches in the series. If you are so moved and are willing to help present a favorite RP3 lesson or write a curriculum for one of the three patches in 2022, please reach out to Jason Noland at [ja-sonn@praypub.org](mailto:jasonn@praypub.org). For more information about the RP3 ministry, please visit: <https://www.praypub.org/rp3>.

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Applications for the Adult Lutheran Awards are available from PRAY at [praypub.org/adult-nominations](http://praypub.org/adult-nominations) and [NLAS.org/adult-awards](http://NLAS.org/adult-awards). These awards are presented by the Lutheran Church for long tenure of service to Scouting, religion, and the community. These awards require a nomination by other leaders, units or church bodies. Self-nomination is not allowed. (There is a fee that must accompany the award application).

BSA leaders that receive one of the Lutheran Adult Religious Awards are able to wear the Adult Universal Religious square *knot* over the left shirt pocket of the Scout uniform. This square knot does not replace the knot a leader earned as a Youth. Both knots can be worn at the same time.





## President's Perspective

**But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.'** *Luke 2: 10-11*

As 2021 draws to a close, in many ways it seems like things have been on hold and nothing seems to change – masks, vaccinations, restrictions, and uncertainty about what's next. The days are shorter and it gets dark (and cold) earlier.

Israel was similar when Joseph and Mary made their trip to Bethlehem, but that changed in the blink of an eye. The Savior promised throughout time, had arrived and God's glory showed brightly across the heavens. I've spent a number of nights camping under the stars and can't imagine what that night was like for the shepherds. The past year has been a challenge for everyone and our programs. We've been forced to look at new ways to meet, share, teach, and have fun. Virtual faith walks, online religious emblem classes, and gathering with masks (smiles underneath) are just a few examples.

What I find most encouraging is our willingness to keep trying new things and planning for the future. BSA has set a date for the National Jamboree in 2023 and GS-USA has a 2023 date for their national gathering in Florida. PRAY has expanded their online libraries that allow flexible opportunities to share materials. As obstacles continue to block our path forward, we find ways to adapt and continue the journey.

Advent is a season of reflection, anticipation, and patience. We have faith that something amazing is coming, but get impatient and anxious. Covid has us in what seems like an endless Advent season – when will things finally change? I continue to get up each day, know that we are moving forward, things will change, and God has some amazing things in store for all of us. I try to remember that this is the journey and it isn't home.

Minnesota received a fresh blanket of snow and I was able to get my outside lights up before it came. I began the indoor decorating last night and set up my Nativity with Christmas music playing. As I placed the figures around the manger, I couldn't help but think about how God chose a very ordinary place for such an extraordinary event.

As Advent comes to a close I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. I hope you enjoy time with family, reflect on the blessings we all have received, and celebrate the foundation of our faith – the birth of our Savior. Laugh, smile, share, and have those extra cookies. The New Year will be here soon enough with resolutions, opportunities, and challenges.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

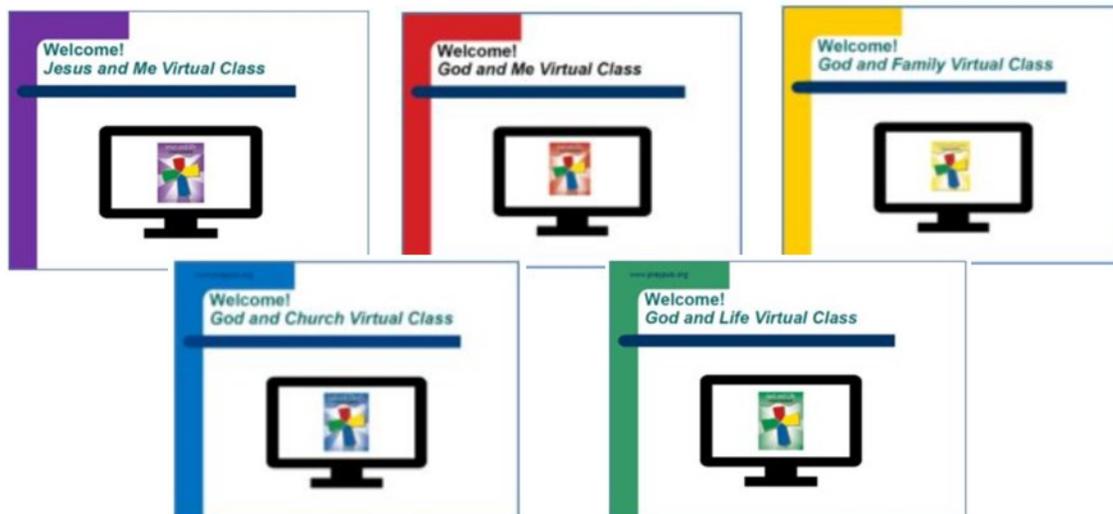
Phill

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P.R.A.Y. also has a vacancy on its Endowment Committee and would welcome an experienced investment professional who could meet four times a year in a virtual space to review the fund's status and advise for future growth, within the endowment guidelines. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to Jason Noland at [jasonn@praypub.org](mailto:jasonn@praypub.org).

P.R.A.Y. continues to see downloads for virtual classes on the increase. As we find more units and churches gathering face to face, we also know that these pieces are great companion materials for display on screens and whiteboards through a laptop in a face-to-face environments as well. These are free resources, but because of their size, must be ordered and downloaded through our store. The Counselor manual is still required to teach the program, and students are required to have their own original Student workbooks.



## Ordination of President– Elect Thomas Miller

Tom Miller began his journey to the pastorate when he started the Pacific Southwest District deacon program in 2000. At first, his motivation was to help a friend who didn't want to do the program alone; but it soon became a mission of his own to serve the church in this way. To be teaching, and doing Word and Sacrament ministry on a substitute basis in his home congregation of St. Paul's, Garden Grove, CA, for 12 years. Transitioning to Redeemer Lutheran in Huntington Beach, Tom gave up his deacon ministry for a time, only to find himself asked to teach, to be an elder, and to be church treasurer.

But, when Redeemer went through a pastoral transition, going from two pastors to one, it made the job of the mission pastor they had called much more challenging.

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The pastor was not only now a sole pastor, but was unable to pursue his dream of being a mission pastor at least part time. Seeing this, Tom stepped into the gap when he applied to the LCMS



Specific Ministry Pastor colloquy program. A completely new way to Serve. Ordained on December 12, 2021, his long journey has resulted in yet a new opportunity to serve where needed most.

In addition to his work with the

Church, Tom is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor Member, and recipient of the Silver Beaver. With nearly 40 years as a registered scouter, he recently completed four years as a District Commissioner serving 80+ units. Tom is currently serving as the President-Elect of the NLAS and is looking for-

Pictured with Rev. Thomas Miller are: Rev Dustin Parker – Ordination and Sermon, Rev Tim Eaton – Installation, Rev Jim Toma - Liturgist. Rev Doug Johnstone - Lector, Rev Kerry Duerr – Participant (who met Tom, as a youth, at Scout Camp), Rev Mark Jasa - Participant, Rev Mark Pierson - Participant, Rev Bill Duerr Jr. – Participant, Rev Van Pinkerton – Participant, Rev Harry Moon - Participant, Rev Nader Hanna – Participant, Rev Johan Dodge – Participant (and current scout leader), Deacon Bob Foutz - Participant.



Congratulations Tom!! We are happy for you, and for the NLAS!!



## *Merry Christmas from Girl Scouts*



In this season of gratitude, we wanted to say thank you to NLAS and all the Lutheran churches and dedicated leaders who have supported Girl Scouts this year. Your support has helped girls celebrate their faith and learn about other faiths at our [Girls of Faith: Celebrating Together](#) virtual event, recognized Lutheran-based troops with the

Lutheran Recognition of Excellence Award, and provided safe places for girls to meet and be themselves as our world rids itself of the pandemic. We are grateful!

As we go into 2022, we look forward to continuing our work together to serve more girls and equip them with the values and skills to become compassionate leaders who make the world a better place and grow in their faith. We invite you to contact us at [faith@girlscouts.org](mailto:faith@girlscouts.org) to learn more about opportunities to partner with Girl Scouts in your community. We also invite you to share this brochure explaining the benefits of a partnership with Girl Scouts.

Wishing your families and you all the blessings of Christmas this holiday season and in the New Year!

Kara Ball  
 Director, Faith-Based Partnerships  
 Girl Scouts of the USA





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We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblems program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, 4H and Camp Fire USA.

**NLAS Mission**

To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies.

**NLAS Vision**

That all young people and their families are exposed to Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to know him as Lord and Savior

The mission and visions statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12th, 2002

