



Grand Commandery of Minnesota

## *Knights Templar*

S.K. Joseph J. Anderson R.E. Grand Commander

Editor Tom Hendrickson P.G.M.

### **Grand Commandery of Minnesota Holy Land Pilgrimage program**

The Holy Land Pilgrimage program that is sponsored by the Grand Commandery and the Constituent Commanderies of Minnesota is alive and well. We will again this year be sponsoring a pastor from Northwest MN to “Walk in the footsteps of Jesus”. The Pastors name is Rachel Stout. Rachel is the Pastor for the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA in Parkers Prairie, MN. Pastor Rachel writes:

My name is Rachel Stout, I am a pastor redeveloper at First Lutheran and Elmo Lutheran Churches in Parkers Prairie MN. I am originally from a little town in southern Minnesota called Kiester and I went to college at Augsburg in Minneapolis and seminary at Luther in St. Paul. I am married to Ryan Stout and together we have three children Soren (14), Anastasia (10), and Brigid (8) and we live in New York Mills where my husband serves as pastor at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church.

I am excited about the pilgrimage to the Holy Land because as a student of theology and Biblical studies it will be holy amazing to see the places that I have only read and studied about these last 23 years. The act of pilgrimage itself is holy unbelievable and transformative and to do that where Jesus, the Apostle Paul, and Abraham walked is unreal an experience I am unlikely to ever forget. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to sharing my pictures and telling my stories when I return.

The Grand Commandery is also participating in a fundraiser for our Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. Again, this year we will be parking cars at the Renaissance Festival in Shakopee, MN. The Renaissance Festival “Cars for Cash” program allows us not only to add funds to our coffers but also promotes comradery, fellowship, and fun. Each participant also receives admission to the festival along with a few other “perks”. The dates of the event are September 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>, which is BBQ, Bellies, and Beer weekend, which is right up our alley! If you are available to help out this great cause, please contact PGC Jim Luchsinger (Chairman) or any of the Officers of the Grand Commandery of

MN to sign up or for more information.

The Grand Commandery of Minnesota met in Grand Conclave on Saturday, June 26, 2021. The Sir Knights of Minnesota were represented well. SK Sean Gardiner, Right Eminent Grand Commander, called the Grand Commandery from refreshment to Labor at 09:00 in Alexandria, MN. The weather was beautiful as we started out our business. This year, we were joined by the Most Eminent Grandmaster of Knights Templar of the United States of America, SK Jeffrey Nelson, as well as our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota, Most Worshipful Brother Rolf Widstrand (who happens to be a great Sir Knight as well).

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The Grand Conclave was attended by approximately 100 Sir Knights, with a total of 52 voting delegates. These delegates represented 12 of the 14 active Commanderies in the state. Our normal business was undertaken, including the budgeting for our next Templar year, followed by the business at hand. There were a total of eight resolutions that were in form and received a lively debate. All but two of the resolutions were passed with the majority necessary to become part of our Constitution. The two resolutions which were tabled were the Uniform Resolution and the resolution that would remove the requirement of be a Companion in Cryptic Council as a requirement for the Orders of Knighthood.

Elections were accomplished as expected, with SK Joseph J Anderson being elected to the office of Grand Commander, SK David Dumonceaux as Deputy Grand Commander, SK Alan Mackenzie as Grand Generalissimo, SK Jerry Zierdt as Grand Captain General, SK David Seitz as Grand Treasurer and Brian Dimatteo, PGC, as Grand Recorder. Installation took place immediately following the Grand Conclave with our Most Eminent Grandmaster presiding as Installing Officer.

While there were a few issues during the weekend, it was great to see our Sir Knights and your officers in person again. There were countless hours spent getting to know each other again, and the events provided a time for everyone to enjoy themselves. Remember, the Grand Conclave is your Conclave, the events are for you as well. Templary needs our Sir Knights more than ever in this world, something that our Grandmaster and Grand Master both commented on. Please remember to reach out to your District Officers, or my office ([gcommandery@gmail.com](mailto:gcommandery@gmail.com)) if there is anything our Officers can do!

Courteously  
SK Brian K Dimatteo, PGC, KTCH, KCT, Grand Recorder