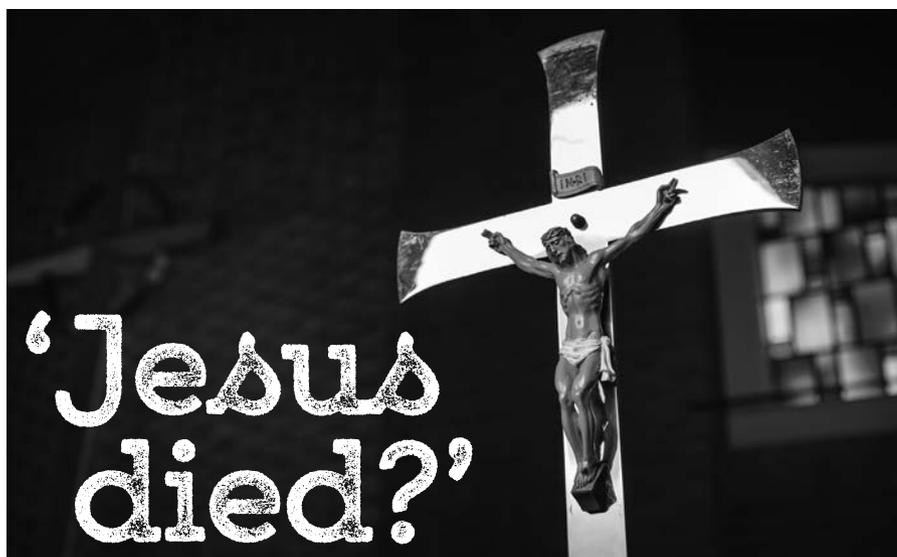




DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



By Rev. Dwayne Lueck
District President

Our daughter shared a story about Mila, our granddaughter who was 2½ at Christmas. Mila was at worship and hearing about the birth of Baby Jesus. Somewhere in the telling of the story, it was stated that Jesus would die for the sins of the world.

When Mila heard that Baby Jesus was going to die, she was stunned. She blurted out, “Jesus died?” I believe she has heard that Jesus did die, but maybe at this stage in her life it has not sunk in.

When the apostle Paul arrived at Thessalonica:

Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was

necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” — Acts 17:2-3

Jesus came to earth to die for the salvation of all people.

That is what the season of Lent is all about — Jesus died! Jesus had to die so we would not be dead in our trespasses and sins, because we are sinners. We



Pastor Lueck and Mila

started our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, when we showed sorrow for our sin and heard the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.”

Luther wrote:

Repentance ... is nothing else than a return and approach to Baptism, to resume and practice what had earlier been begun but abandoned.

Our sins may be great, but in the end, we know that Jesus died for our sins. Jesus did die.

Maybe Mila did not want to think that Baby Jesus died, but she will learn that because of Jesus’ love for her, He died. Her faith in Him will save her. Nevertheless, just as she did not want to hear He died, we live in a world that does not want people to hear the story about Jesus.

On New Year’s Day, we turned on the TV to watch the Rose Parade and saw the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float, which is in every Rose Parade. It was on ABC, NBC and the Hallmark Channel. I turned on ABC as it was the first to show which float was coming, and then I was going to switch to the other two stations and see the float two more times (and the Badger band!).

We watched the entire time and never saw the LHM float. I checked with a friend and learned it was on the Hallmark Channel. It appears that both ABC and NBC chose not to show it. The theme of the float was “Anchored in Jesus.” I guess the two networks did not

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'For I was hungry'

St. John Lutheran Church and School, Easton, has recently provided Mizinga village in Macha Choma, Zambia, with a substantial supply of mielie meal, enabling villagers to withstand the devastating effects of a two-year drought.

St. John school students received the help of congregational members, making the feeding of a village a reality. The effort reflects the school's servant-leadership core value, and is an outreach component to improve the lives of those in need.

During the last two years, normal rainy seasons have eluded the Mizinga village, as well as the entire south-central African region. Zambia has experienced limited harvests of maize and vegetables during this two-year period, which has led to the depletion of food and fresh water supplies.

The drought has restricted villagers to one meal per day. Mielie meal is a course corn-

flour derivative used as a filler for general purpose cooking in Zambia.

St. John held suppers at the church during Advent to help raise funds for the 68-family village. With congregational donations and proceeds from suppers, the school and church raised \$1,250.

The donation of Mielie meal could sustain the entire village for several months. The effort was part of the school's recent Learning Journey, "Operation Feed My Sheep," a month-long thematic study of hunger, poverty and homelessness.

The kindergarten through eighth-grade school strives to demonstrate the servant-leadership model of Jesus Christ on both local and global scales with students participating in service-learning opportunities. The service events follow Jesus' command in John 21 to care for one another.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

want people to hear about Jesus.

During Lent, we think especially about what Jesus did for all people. While in grade school, I remember going to midweek Lenten services and hearing about the objects of Lent and the various people that are a part of the passion story. Those themes take us to the sacrifice of Christ, who is always at the heart of our faith, life and worship. During Holy Week we really focus on the passion of Christ.

The journey takes us to the cross, and then to Easter and the empty tomb. Paul told the Corinthians:

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. — **1 Cor. 15:14**

Someday the story of Jesus will make more sense to Mila. She will celebrate the birth of Jesus. She will learn that because Jesus loves her, He had to die to pay for her sins. She will also hear the best news — Jesus came to life again on Easter, and that she will never have to fear death through faith in Jesus who is alive!

May God be with you on your travel through the season we call Lent. The Good News is Jesus did die and rise again for you, all people, and me!

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
(LSB #420 v.6)

CAMP LUTHER EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 13, 2020

Camp Luther Community Center Dedication



May 22-25
Memorial Day Family Retreat

June 13
Community Center Dedication

June 19-21
Keweenaw Base Camp Family Camp

June 19
Golf Classic (benefitting Every Kid to Camp)

July 3-5
Fourth of July Family Camp

For more information, visit campluther.com

Hope

“The Power of Hope” was the theme for the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1. In December, my sister, cousin and I traveled to Pasadena, Calif., to help decorate the parade floats.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

We sported our Petal Pusher shirts as we descended on the Phoenix Decorating Company and joined many other Petal Pushers in preparing roses and cutting and gluing flowers onto many floats, including the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float. On many of the floats, we saw examples of earthly hope in which people put their trust, but the LHM float, under the theme “Anchored in Jesus,” showed the Hope we have in Jesus.

He is our Anchor, and with Him our

hope is solid! Being a Petal Pusher among all of the float workers was an amazing experience. We were able to show many people the hope we have in Jesus.

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. — **Rom. 5:2b**

As we stood next to the LHM float on Sunday morning for the church service, we listened to Rev. Christopher Schaar’s message about our hope in Jesus. Rev. Schaar serves as pastor of Historic First Lutheran, Pasadena, and he served as pastoral counselor for the Petal Pushers. We also sang Christmas carols with others around us in celebration of our hope. It was very fulfilling!

LWML women always put their hope in our Savior, Jesus Christ. We do this through reading God’s Word daily, Bible study and prayer. We are able to share the hope we have with others through our mite offerings. As you place your offerings into your mite box, praise God for the blessings He provides, so that we are able to fund mission grants and

share the hope we have in Jesus with others here and abroad.

Our district biennium will end on March 31 and with your offerings, we pray that we are able to fully fund all the grants selected at the 2018 district convention.

Our Heart to Heart Sisters have planned the annual LWML Spring Retreat for Saturday, April 18, at Camp Luther. The theme is “Connecting Cultures and Generations.” Heather Ruesch, our keynote speaker, will present on connecting cultures and generations in the body of Christ; Debbie Suchyta will give a presentation on loving others as Jesus loves us; and Rev. Doug Reinders, junior pastoral counselor and pastor of Zion, Fremont, will speak on ways to share the Gospel with others.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Come Friday night to experience different cultural foods and styles. The registration form is in the January issue of *Mission Tidings*. Download the issue at nwdlwml.org/newsletters, fill out a registration form and send it in. I hope to see you there!

May you be blessed as you journey through this Lenten season.

Serving with joy!



PEACE CAMPUS CENTER

‘A special place’

By Dave and Pam O’Brien
Marinette

Peace Lutheran Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) became a place of worship, leadership, Bible study, fun, mission-trip opportunities, service to God and home for our son Christopher, during his years at UWSP. Our daughter, Caitlin, came to UWSP three years later and Peace became those same things for her. The friendships they made while at Peace have been lasting.

We as parents were happy and blessed to attend worship and special events with them. Knowing they had a church home and would continue to learn and grow in their faith blessed us greatly. Peace remains a special place in our hearts and we can’t begin to imagine where Christopher and Caitlin would



The O’Brien family, from left, Christopher, Pam, Caitlin and Dave.

be now if it wasn’t for the added blessing of Peace during their college years.

Peace Lutheran Campus Center and its ministry is a wonderful outreach for the students of UWSP and their families. It is a place many students have called their “home away from home” during their college years.

Peace Lutheran Campus Center is a valuable outreach of the North Wisconsin District. Please join us in prayer and consider financial support of this very deserving ministry!

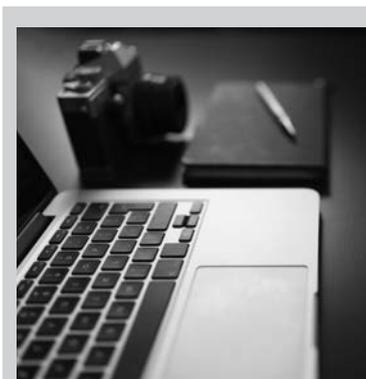


Early childhood directors gathering

The annual Early Childhood Directors Gathering will be held on April 24 at the North Wisconsin District office, 3103 Seymour Lane in Wausau.

The agenda includes one session to review the Ministry Safe abuse awareness training videos, and a session led by Sarah Jones of Mount Olive Lutheran Church on Trauma Informed Care and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

We are excited to encourage, network and equip our early childhood directors. Registration is open at nwdlcms.org.



Send news to:

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Rosholt, WI 54473

Please send photos in high-resolution.

Early childhood workers conference is Aug. 7

The North Wisconsin District has recently decided to hold a district-wide conference for early childhood workers every three years. The next Early Childhood Conference will be held on Friday, Aug. 7, with the location to be determined.

We are excited to announce that the keynote presenter will be Jennie Williamson (pictured), a Christian singer and songwriter from AriSon records. We are blessed to be able to book Jennie considering the high demand for her as a singer and speaker. Check out her music at arisonrecords.com and watch for registration information in May!



Mental health to be emphasized at church worker conference

The triennial Professional Church Worker Conference (PCWC) will be held Oct. 29 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. The theme is “Refuge and Strength,” and presentations will focus on mental health, with the hope of reducing the stigma that comes with mental illness while preparing our professional church workers to better care for themselves and others in ministry.

Our first speaker is Dr. Stephen Saunders, chairman of the psychology department at Marquette University. He will present on “Understanding Anxiety/Depression/Burnout,” which will include guilt, doubt, isolation, and self-care and caring for others.

Our second presenter is Dr. Justin Hannemann, a marriage and family therapist, who will lead on the topic “Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).” Hannemann will discuss “what is it and how it impacts my school, confirmation, Sunday school and VBS?”

Both speakers will facilitate afternoon breakout sessions designed specifically for ordained and commissioned workers. New this year, a trained counselor available to meet with attendees throughout the event. Also new is a sectional for pastors’ wives, led by a trained counselor who is the spouse of an LCMS pastor.

Watch for registration and more details in late summer.