



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



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A great work

Back in early June, we gathered at the Rothschild Convention Center for the 53rd district convention, under the theme “Labor of Love.” Conventions are important, but what takes place after the convention is what it is all about — doing ministry. Delegates go home to their congregations to be the hands and feet of ministry. Pastors go home to weekly preach the Word and administer the Sacraments and serve God’s people. Teachers are already prepping to teach the children in the coming fall.



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

The theme verse for the convention was based on Neh. 6:3. Nehemiah said:

“I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”

Nehemiah’s great work was rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, which was completed in 52 days.

The apostle Paul gave thanks to the Thessalonians for their faithful effort:

We give thanks to God always for all of you ... remembering

before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and stead-

fastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1THESS.1:2-3

As Lutherans we certainly know that our salvation is through our faith in a Savior who was sent by a loving Father to redeem us through His death and resurrection, not our work or labor. But we also know that as His followers, as His disciples, we do have work to do.

The words of Jesus tell us that:

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” MATT. 5:16

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” MATT. 28:19-20

He told His disciples He would send help:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.” ACTS 1:8

So what do we do? What is our great work? We encourage one another in our efforts to be the body of Christ. It takes all of us. It takes a pastor to prepare a sermon that plants the Word of God in the believer’s heart and soul. It takes a teacher getting ready to share knowledge and understanding in a Christian setting, or being a light of Christ in a public school. It takes all of us whether professional church worker or layperson to allow our lives, our words, our conversations to reflect that we are followers of Jesus. That is a great work wherever God has placed us!

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Convention Summary



The 53rd Convention of the North Wisconsin District was held June 5-6, 2022 at the Rothschild Convention Center.

The LCMS *Handbook* states, "Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information." We feel that was accomplished. Praise God! The *Convention Workbook* shared reports from multiple district staff and ministries to better understand the impact of our churches and schools.

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president, shared a report highlighting specific challenges the district is facing and addressing. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS president, reported on the state of the Synod nationally and overseas. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, president, was the convention essayist. Opening worship was held at Mount Olive, Weston.

Elections

- ▶ Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, president (fourth term)
- ▶ Rev. Timothy Shoup, first vice-president, Region A (re-elected)
- ▶ Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, second vice-president, Region B (first term)
- ▶ Rev. Preston Paul, third vice-president, Region C (first term)
- ▶ Rev. Donald Engebretson, district secretary (re-elected)

District Board of Directors

- Rev. Aaron Gehrke
- Brian Betts



Pictured at the district convention are, from left, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS president; Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe Jr., LCMS second vice-president; and Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, president.

- Chrystal Lindeman
- Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen
- David Post
- Althea Wirtala
- Bryon Graff
- David Mellem
- Craig Timm

Resolutions

The convention passed multiple resolutions to encourage workers and enhance ministry in the district, and encouraged Synod action in two resolutions. One resolution failed. Convention business is highlighted below:

Resolution 22-02

Recognize and thank the LCMS for the strengthened and expanded Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 initiative. PASSED 200-2

Substitute Resolution 22-12

Call upon the LCMS to offer clearer information regarding birth control; PASSED 101-95

Resolution 22:06

Endorse the development of a National

Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program that recognizes the service of Lutheran teachers through student loan assistance. PASSED 183-17

Resolution 22-04 (Ov. 22-03)

Develop and promote a \$1 million campaign in support of the district's efforts to help with the student debt of its professional church workers. PASSED 184-14

Resolution 22-10 (Ov. 22-11)

To change circuits in the North Wisconsin District. PASSED 183-16

Resolution 22-08A

To strengthen the advisory participation of commissioned workers at (district) conventions. Northern Illinois has a practice of polling advisory delegates for their opinion on a topic before the official vote is taken by the one pastor and one lay person from each congregation. Other districts have submitted and passed a similar resolution this summer. FAILED 92-110

Welcome, Pastor Schroeder!

Rev. David Schroeder was installed as pastor of St. John, Townsend, on May 15. From left, (front row) Revs. David Karolus, David Schroeder, Don Sprengler, Dr. Dwayne Lueck; (middle row) Don Engebretson, Vicar Jacob Sipes, Dan Kohn, Richard Kelm, Stephen Mueller; (back row) Howie Neider, Paul Radke, Steve Stoll and Vicar Jamie Bauknecht.



Different, but united

By Joan Berquist • LWML District President

Recently when traveling home from Mesa, Ariz., after the birth of our newest granddaughter, Charlotte, I had some uninterrupted time in my flight schedule to do some people watching.

All shapes, all sizes, all ages, all going on a trip or coming home. Each one different from the other. That is exactly what our LWML leadership is like. Each one is different from the other, but our goal is the same. We are all doing what we can to share Jesus with the world.

At our recent North Wisconsin District LWML convention in Green Bay, we voted to support a Mission Grant goal of \$115,000 and selected the grants that we will support during the 2022-24 biennium. I was humbled to be elected district president. Other officers elected are Dawn Via, second vice-president; Diane Simon, treasurer; and Rev. Brian Liermann, pastoral counselor. Continuing in office are Mary Harrington, first vice-president; Kaye Schwalenberg, recording secretary; Sharon



From left, Rev. Doug Reinders installs Joan Berquist (president), Dawn Via (second vice-president), Diane Simon (treasurer), and Rev. Brian Liermann (pastoral counselor).

Kautzman, financial secretary; Deb Young, Mission Grants director; and Rev. Larry Yaw, pastoral counselor.

Our newly elected officers each bring their own talents to the Board of directors, but share the same goal. Please continue to pray for all of our leadership as some adjust to their new positions and others continue in their term, serving the Lord with gladness!

Wellness Corner

CALLED and BLESSED

It was an odd call for several reasons. It was to a foreign and evil city, to a man with no known credentials. God was behind it all.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

It brings to mind a book by Randy Frazee called *The Story*. It is his summation of the Bible. Frazee shares the concept of the “upper” and “lower” stories. The former is God’s perfect plan toward redemption of mankind. The “lower” story is how it plays out on earth, which often appears disjointed and confusing. The human mind cannot fully comprehend God’s story or His work.

So we find in Jonah that this chosen prophet certainly was confounded by God’s plan. On the surface it certainly appeared to be absurd! This justified his choice to run from this assignment and from the “presence of the Lord” (1:3a).

There was an interwoven theme in this book that needs to be appreciated. God valued Jonah’s life, as He did the citizens of Nineveh. Said differently, God does not make mistakes when He calls His chosen ones for service in His kingdom.

The upper and lower stories come together from God’s vantage point. It is centered on His primary theme: His love and ours.

God intervenes in a significant way in Jonah’s life. Indeed the latter’s life was on the line, and God alone could save it. It is in the stomach of a “great fish” (v.17a) that Jonah comes to this realization (2:1-9).

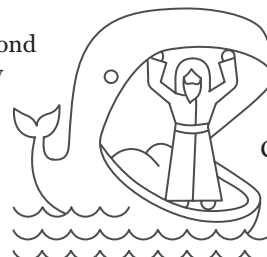
God’s call came to Jonah a second time (3:1-2). God’s upper story would move forward, and Jonah would play a key earthly role. We find the chosen prophet pursuing the improbable — the conver-

sion of these evil people. We learn later that Jonah was more interested in their judgment and destruction (3:10-4:2).

God gave the Ninevites grace as He did Jonah. In regard to the latter, God “rescued” the prophet a second time (4:5-6). Though it was in a much smaller way, God’s action gained Jonah’s attention, creating room for God to share His central message that He alone was the author of redemption as He chose (v.11). Jonah and the Ninevites were beneficiaries who did nothing to merit His mercy.

There are modern-day lessons conveyed through this story of grace and mercy. We are called by God for specific kingdom work He knows we are capable of fulfilling. There is no room for questioning or retreat. We are called to be faithful even when the work exceeds our feeble, human understanding. The kingdom work continues, and we are

blessed to be a small part of its fulfillment. We anticipate the heavenly greeting, “Well done good and faithful servant!”



Contact me at
revkohn@gmail.com or
715-610-2400.

SET APART TO SERVE

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), held Call Day services in April. The North Wisconsin District received two candidates and four vicars. Please keep these faithful servants and their families in your prayers!



From left, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Benjamin Ramthun (pastor, Our Savior, Escanaba, Mich.), Jonah Schultz (vicar, Immanuel, Wisconsin Rapids), Dante Pronsati (vicar, Pilgrim, Green Bay) and Bryce Clayton (vicar, Peace, Antigo).

From left, Jordan DeBoer (vicar, Faith, Green Bay), Brendan G. Harris (pastor, St. Paul's and St. John, Fall Creek) and Cheryl and Dwayne Lueck.



Welcome, Pastor Nehring!

Rev. Craig Nehring was installed as pastor of St. Paul, Town of Washington, and Immanuel, White Clay Lake, on June 12. He is pictured with his wife, Wendy.

Share your news with us!

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at selleks@gmail.com. You may also mail your submissions to Karol at 3177 State Hwy. 66; Rosholt, WI 54473. Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Sometimes it is hard to get ourselves in the right mind and attitude to get something done, to do a great work. Sometimes there is self-doubt, sometimes we feel lazy, and sometimes there is something else we would rather do.

At those times I believe we should take a look at Jesus in Gethsemane as an example. He was only hours away from being crucified — taking the weight of the world's sins upon Himself — and He knew it. He went to His Heavenly Father in prayer and said:

"Father, if you are willing, remove this

cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." LUKE 22:42

He knew what was the right thing to do — go forward to His death on the cross and enduring all the humiliation in between. It certainly was a labor of love, a love for you and me.

Jesus received his encouragement at that time. Luke tells us:

There appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. LUKE 22:43

There are those times you need encouragement. I remember leaving a baseball practice early and feeling dejected. When I got home my mother told me to go back and keep trying. I did and started in centerfield the next game.

Just as God has enabled us to do a great work in service to Him, so we also need to encourage one another. Paul did this at the start of his letters to his congregations:

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers. 1THESS. 1:2

We can encourage each other with words, but *all* of us can pray for one another. Pray for your pastor and teachers, just as pastors pray for their people and teachers pray for their students.

We have great work to do as followers of Jesus. Let us encourage one another! "That is a Labor of Love."