



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### Advice for Christian couples

Couples ...  
listen up! 

Here are a few statistics on marriage in the United States:

- ▶ 2.3 million couples wed every year.
- ▶ the average age of the bride is 25.3.
- ▶ the average age of the groom is 26.9.
- ▶ the average number of guests invited to a wedding is 178.
- ▶ one-third of those getting married each year have been married before.
- ▶ the average wedding budget is \$20,000.
- ▶ June is the most popular month for weddings, followed by August.

(From [soundvision.com/article/wedding-statistics-in-the-united-states](http://soundvision.com/article/wedding-statistics-in-the-united-states))

As it is states above, June is the most popular month for weddings and that seems to hold in our part of the country. It is a time of celebration. Let us make no mistake, when I am talking about weddings in this article I will stick with the view of The Lutheran Church—



**Rev. Dwayne Lueck**  
North Wisconsin  
District President



Missouri Synod on weddings, that a marriage is between a man and a woman. The couple publicly declares their commitment to one another.

What God says about all marriages and His will for marriage is stated in simple straightforward language. His expectation is high.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

— **Matt. 19:5-6**

The relationship of marriage is to be regarded as holy and should be given the highest priority in one's life.

There are a couple of definitions of marriage I would share with couples when I was in the parish:



- ▶ “Marriage is not a contract — no ‘if’ clauses.”
- ▶ “Marriage is a total commitment of a total person for a total life.”

Marriage has so much to do with communication as well. Following are some guidelines for couples and the family. I used these with couples at the start of my parish ministry and I don't even know where they came from or who to give credit, but I believe they still hold true.

Let's begin with some basics about communicating from the Bible:

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” — **Prov. 18:21**

“Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.” — **1 Peter 3:10**

See **MARRIAGE**, Page 2

## MARRIAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**1** Be a ready listener and do not answer until the other person has finished talking. Listen!

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

— **James 1:19**

**2** Be slow to speak. Think first. Don’t be hasty in your words. Speak in such a way that the other person can understand and accept what you say.

“Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.” — **Prov. 21:23**

**3** Speak the truth always but do it in love. Do not exaggerate.

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

— **Eph. 4:15**

**4** Do not use silence to frustrate the other person. Explain why you are hesitant to talk.

**5** Do not become involved in quarrels. It is possible to disagree without quarreling. (Stick to the issue.)

“The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.” — **Prov. 17:14**

“It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.” — **Prov. 20:3**

**6** Do not respond in anger. Use a soft and kind response.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

— **Prov. 15:1**

**7** (This should probably be No. 1.) When you are in the wrong, admit it and ask for forgiveness.

“Whoever conceals his transgres-

sions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” — **Prov. 28:13**

When someone confesses to you, tell them you forgive them. Be sure it is forgotten and not brought up to the person.

“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.” — **Prov. 17:9**

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”

— **Eph. 4:32**

**8** Avoid nagging.

“When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent”

— **Prov. 10:19**

Also, see Prov. 17:9 in No. 7.

**9** Do not blame or criticize the other but restore them, encourage them and edify them.

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

— **Gal. 6:1**

If someone verbally attacks, criticizes or blames you, do not respond in the same manner. “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.” — **Rom. 12:17**

**10** Try to understand the other person’s opinion. Make allowances for differences. Be concerned about their interests.

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do

nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” — **Phil. 2:1-4**

I also shared with couples some suggestions for dealing with in-laws. But by now you have those figured out! And I am out of room. Contact me if you would like them.

Celebrate your marriage. Remember that “*Real love means an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person.*”

**May God continue to bless your marriage — and continue to make your marriage strong.**



# Twins are scholarship recipients

Uniquely, twin brothers Garrett and Wyatt Anklam are each recipients of a 2018 \$1,000 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) North Wisconsin District scholarship. These are two of six 2018 scholarships announced for this spring.

Garrett and Wyatt's extended family are LCEF investors, including parents, Timothy and Elizabeth Anklam, and grandparents, Charles and Carol Korn.

The brothers, who are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau, were both part of their congregation's servant team in the Appawlachians, are excellent students academically and volunteer extensively at Trinity and in their community.

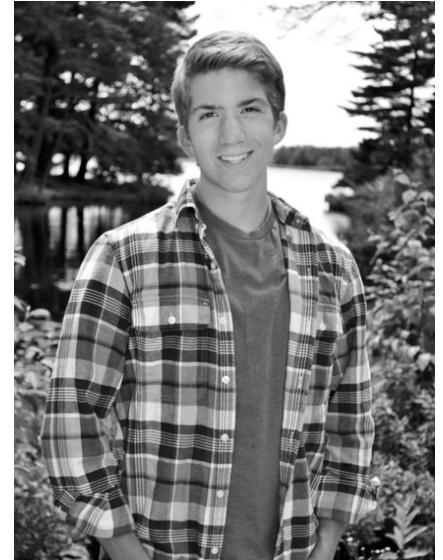
In his letter of recommendation for Garrett, Trinity DCE Rick Stengl wrote: "Garrett is an excellent example to those around him. He is always putting others before himself and encouraging those who need to be lifted up. I know that he is a blessing to everyone he comes in contact with on a daily basis."

In his letter of recommendation for Wyatt, the Rev. Gary Schultz wrote: "Wyatt loves his Lord, his family and the many people he touches. He has a servant heart that is always leading him to help in anyway."

In his scholarship essay, Garrett wrote: "LCEF has a powerful mission statement that I can relate to on a very personal level. It talks about being a 'servant' partner of the LCMS. I understand the importance of being a servant. LCEF also helps many people by showing the importance of being stewards of their money and investing it somewhere that aids in the effort of sharing the gospel."

In her letter of recommendation for Wyatt, Wisconsin Valley LHS Spanish and History Teacher Alissa Davies wrote the following:

"I have witnessed Wyatt's drive for academic excellence, desire to serve others,



From left, Garrett Anklam and his brother, Wyatt, each received a scholarship of \$1,000 from Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The twins graduated from Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School in Mosinee in May. Garrett plans to attend Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon this fall, while Wyatt plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

and his love of God. ...His desire for excellence in all things, from academics to the musical abilities that he shares on our campus praise team, PB & J, demonstrates his work ethic that will make him successful in his future endeavors.

"While academics are important, the trait that stands out most about Wyatt is his faith and willingness to serve. He steps in to do whatever is asked of him, from cleaning up at fundraisers to helping the elderly with yard work.

"Last year when I took a group of students to help at a local daycare, Wyatt enjoyed this experience so much that he continued to go weekly, often encouraging other students to come with him and act as Christian role models for these little children."

Wyatt expressed an understanding of the ministry of LCEF in his scholarship essay: "Something I like about the LCEF mission is that it makes it known that this life is not about money, it is about serving the Lord. Through providing

necessary financial loans and security, the LCEF encourages Christians to fulfill the spiritual needs of others."

**L**CEF IS BLESSED TO PROVIDE ANNUAL DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS for active, faith-filled LCMS students just like Garrett and Wyatt. For updated announcements on the remainder of the 2018 LCEF district scholarship winners, visit [lcefcentral.org](http://lcefcentral.org) and click "Newsfeed" at the top of the page.

Learn how you can become a partner in ministry via LCEF investments, loans and ministry support at [lcef.org](http://lcef.org).



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## St. John BREAKS GROUND

St. John Lutheran Church, Townsend, is on the doorstep of celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed in 2015 to answer this question:

“How is God using St.

John Lutheran Church to achieve His mission and make a difference in our world in the 21st century?”



The congregation found itself at a crossroad in determining needs for future generations. God has been good for more than 100 years and provided the congregation with good leaders who have supported the mission God set before them.

This committee was charged with “enhancing our spiritual oasis where we gather in safety and comfort.” After analyzing many ideas, the committee determined that an addition along with other improvements would provide the greatest opportunity for alignment.

The proposed project includes an additional 2,520 square feet that includes an expanded altar, altar guild storage, meeting room, increased seating and replacement flooring for the altar, sanctuary, entry, fellowship hall, kitchen, offices and upstairs classrooms. The total project cost is \$450,000. A pre-project fund-drive goal of \$150,000 was surpassed and the funding is well on its way!

A groundbreaking service was held on Sunday, April 29. The Rev. Dwayne Lueck, North Wisconsin District president, delivered the message. All members were involved in the actual groundbreaking and a time of fellowship followed the service. The community was invited to celebrate with the members as they look forward to serving the Lord and community now and into the future.

— Submitted by Stephen Mueller,  
Pastor, St. John, Townsend



## SCHOOL CORNER

# FLAME

By DJ Schult

Assistant to the President

### What does FLAME stand for and what is its purpose?

FLAME stands for Future Lutheran Administratorsff–Midwest Educators. FLAME is a joint effort of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) districts in the Great Lakes Region to identify and develop future leaders in our Lutheran schools. Last year was the first year and it will be offered again this summer at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.

### Why is a program like this needed?

There is a significant principal shortage in the LCMS. Forty percent of current LCMS principals planned to retire between 2015-20. Only 28 percent of our current teacher pool is rostered. This means there are fewer Lutheran-trained leaders in the pipeline as potential administrators.

There are other possible leaders who are not rostered, but most of our schools and churches desire a leader who will maintain the Lutheran identity of their ministry and are looking to a rostered worker to make it happen.

### How does FLAME help?

FLAME is for leadership training and a network building program. It provides small group discussions around the most important real-world issues a principal will face. Critical issues are presented by experienced administrators and best practice approaches are considered. Topics include Mission, Marketing, Law, Change, Conflict, Boards, Budget, Instructional Leadership and more.

### How do our district offerings support this effort?

The North Wisconsin District (NWD) Board of Directors encouraged and approved the use of funds for this type of leadership development. District staff recruits current district teachers to participate in the training. The district staff attends the training to lead a session and support the attendees in their work. Finally, the NWD pays the program costs (materials, presenters, meals, travel) for each participant, except lodging.

Please pray for those attending last year and this year that they would consider the leadership call when it comes would be prepared for the joys and challenges of school leadership.

# Former student conducts survey for Peace



The following is an interview with **Josh Chang** (pictured), a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Oak Creek, and a former University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (UWSP) student who attended Peace (2012-16). Josh recently graduated with a master's degree in applied psychology from UW–Stout and shares some insights and reflections from his time in Stevens Point. The Rev. Andy Weden, Peace campus pastor, conducted the interview.



## 1. What types of things were you involved in during your time at Peace Lutheran Campus Center?

While at Peace, I had the opportunity to take part in a variety of events and activities ranging from usher coordination to mission trips. Throughout my Peace career, I was fortunate enough to be able to take on a leadership role in which I helped to get others involved as well as plan and coordinate events. Some of my fondest college memories centered around activities offered through Peace.

## 2. What have you discovered the greatest blessings of Peace are for UWSP students?

I did not realize the impact the ministry had on me and what a true blessing Peace was until I left Stevens Point. The community and endless opportunities for fellowship are some of the things that I took for granted before coming to UW–Stout and have since realized an excellent resource for students to gain further faith knowledge while building a strong support network. As stated previously, the relationships and friendships paired with the opportunities to dig deeper into one's faith are some of the greatest blessings Peace offers to students.

## 3. What are some of your best memories from your time at Peace?

Some of my best memories from my Peace days center around doing things that I never thought I would do. For instance, prior to attending Peace I was able to develop my cultural competencies along with bringing back life-changing stories and memories in the process.

## 4. You recently conducted a small survey among former and current Peace students. What were you hoping to discover?

The survey was designed to determine if there were differences in opinions between those students who were former members of Peace and have graduated and those who are currently attending the ministry. Along with this, a sample of the general student population of UWSP (this was a random selection of students provided by the university) was simultaneously polled to determine what things they were interested in from a student organization at a general level.

Both surveys were done in order to help Peace determine their current state of affairs from a student/alumni perspective as well as give insight into what facets

they may be able to add or adapt in order to help growth in the future.

## 5. Was the survey helpful in learning why students place such a high value on Peace Lutheran Campus Center to help them grow in their faith during college?

Through this survey, I think it was clear why students and alumni place an emphasis on Peace for their faith growth. Being that many questions allowed individuals to write in responses, there was an overwhelming number of positive responses indicating that students see Peace in a very positive light and the majority specifically picked out aspects that helped them grow in their faith. Through the data collected, Peace has many testimonials by which they can show that members put great value in their Peace worship experience.

## 6. What would you say to other Peace alumni to help them see the importance of continuing their involvement and support even after they have left UWSP?

I think that each alumna has at least one fond memory from their time at Peace. This is something that would not be possible if alumni before us did not give of their time, talents and treasures. For this reason, I think it's important to give future students on the UWSP campus the opportunity to build these kinds of memories and friendships along with having an environment away from the craziness of the classroom where they can grow in their Christian faith and are surrounded by a strong and supportive community of believers.

The full report and summary of Josh's survey on the Peace Lutheran Campus Center is on the Facebook page: [facebook.com/PeaceLutheranCampusCenter](https://facebook.com/PeaceLutheranCampusCenter). As you will see, both at a national and local level, there is no greater time than now to reach our campus communities with the Good News of Jesus.

### CAMP LUTHER

## Big changes coming to YOUR CAMP

By Hannah "Sojo" Ness  
Program and Communications Manager,  
Camp Luther

Can you imagine serving three meals a day to more than 225 people? That's what happens each summer day in the Camp Luther Dining Hall.

In 1946, the North Wisconsin District purchased a lodge, three cottages and 91 acres of forest property just north of Three Lakes for \$22,000. Camp has since grown to 215 acres, including 15 cottages, a Retreat Center, and five themed villages. This is YOUR Camp. Annually, more than 6,000 youth, children, and adults visit Camp Luther.

After 72 years, it is time to replace the lodge and the dining hall that was constructed later. A new Community Center is planned that will provide additional room for meetings, Bible studies and other activities. The capital cost is projected to be about \$2.5 million, of which \$1.3 million has been committed by in-



▲ The new Community Center will house the dining hall and additional meeting rooms.



◀ The original lodge is more than 100 years old.

dividuals and congregations of the North Wisconsin District through a campaign called Filled with the Spirit. Campaign leaders are reaching out to congregations and members in the NWD for your meaningful support of your camp.

Learn more at [filledwiththespirit.org](http://filledwiththespirit.org) or contact Camp Luther at 715-546-3647 for more information on how you can support this campaign.

## Fore!

The annual North Wisconsin District (NWD) golf outing will be held July 30 at Pine Valley Golf Course. Church workers and friends of the NWD are encouraged to participate.

Watch for registration at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).



## Wanted: Hearts for Jesus recipient



Hearts for Jesus 2018 was a success, supporting Lutheran Special Education Ministries! Forms to recommend a potential February 2019

Hearts for Jesus recipient are now available and posted on the North Wisconsin District homepage: [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).

Applications are due Aug. 1 and must include a plan for how the ministry will promote its focus. Your support of Hearts for Jesus has raised more than \$185,000 since 2004, supporting 15 local, national and international ministries!

## Church Mutual has safety resources



Have you had questions from lay leadership about armed security at church or concealed carry during worship? Have ministry boards been asking how the church can do more to keep people safe?

Church Mutual has free videos and a sample policy on multiple church safety items. Visit [churchmutual.com/98/Safety-Resources](http://churchmutual.com/98/Safety-Resources).



## The Counseling CONNECTION

# Satan's 'slippery slope'

It began in the first Garden. Satan designed a slippery slope toward a fall into sin. Satan accurately perceived our human vulnerability. It was our potential to be distracted from God and to make an allowance for evil to enter in.

Distraction is an intentional ploy of Satan's. For Eve it began with a subtle question: "Did God really say?" (Gen. 3:1b). The seed of "choice" was planted and the focus away from God begun.

Eve now stood at the edge of the slippery slope. What she failed to do was a part of her slide: she chose not to reconnect with God and His Word (v.2:16-17). God had made the holy "choice" clear.

Eve continued to allow Satan room to maneuver as she dialogued with him.



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

The outcome was a turning away from God and the enticement toward personal gain. Satan offered an attractive lie: "You will be like God" (v.5b).

God's authority was now available to mankind. New rules could be authored and access to more power and pleasure. God replaced with self. The "choice" was desirable (v.6a). The slide was now moving quickly toward the fall!

Now we move the scene forward about 1,000 years. Using these opening paragraphs as a template for Satan's slippery slope, we now insert a new character. "Act 2" is found in 2 Sam. 11, titled "David and Bathsheba."

Satan is now invisible, but no less sinister and successful. Verses 1-4 could be summarized as: 1. The look (distracted); 2. The desire; and 3. The sin.

King David, the leader "after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14) is now a sinner whose heart has been corrupted and

who has ignored the heart of God. Oh how slippery —and dangerous — is the slope: down, down, down!

The short-term aftermath of both scenarios is mankind's response to sin — a feeble effort to hide from its reality. This is a futile endeavor to place one's faith in God's presumed ignorance.

The Good News is God's response! With Eve and Adam and David, God came to address the sin (Gen. 3:8-19, 2 Sam. 12:1-13a). In both stories are the sustaining of life and the sharing of forgiveness (v.21, 13b respectively). All received absolution from God! The love relationship was sustained by God and the amazing vitality of grace was evident!

Satan has not changed, nor has his slope. Every Christian does well to learn from what God's Word portrays as life lessons.

Sin prevention is the goal. God's Word and Spirit are safeguards. His gifts of absolution and grace provide hope beyond the fall!

Connect and let me help prevent your slide! Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400.

**E<sup>4</sup>** ■ engage  
■ encourage  
■ equip  
■ enjoy

Patti Ross of Oklahoma serves as our national LWML president. She is a dynamic leader and as the opportunities present themselves, she encourages us as leaders in our districts, as committee members and as her Sisters in Mission.

She has chosen a theme for her term of office: "Engage, Encourage, Equip, and



**Mary Harrington**  
LWML District President

Enjoy." At our last board meeting in St. Louis, we were challenged to use those four key words as the foundation for advice and suggestions to one another.

### Engage

Do this for yourself and others in the work God has given us to do through your vocation and within the LWML. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

### Encourage

We are encouraged by Phil. 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



**Patti Ross**

### Equip

"Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus

Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20-21).

### Enjoy

Revel in your time of service, using the gifts that God has given you to serve and share His love with others to His glory. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:10-11b).

Be a blessing!

# Challenges in your rural, small town church?

*Conference will remind attendees to 'Have No Fear'*

Registration is now open for the 2018 LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) National Conference, to be held Nov. 8–10 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

Under the theme “Have No Fear,” the conference will address the blessings and challenges facing contemporary rural and small-town congregations. The theme verse for the conference is Matt. 19:26: “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

The RSTM conference is open to anyone who serves, resides or has an interest in rural or small-town areas, with topics and resources specifically suited to the rural and small-town mission field. Congregations will be encouraged to become healthy churches, eager to bear witness for Christ, show mercy to those in need and develop a robust life together with fellow members.

Breakout topics for the conference include ministry to inactive members, stewardship, family ministry and outreach, hope during grief, opportunities with Recognized Service Organizations and other topics affecting rural and small-town congregations.

New this year are special tracks for

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) Disaster Training and Youth Ministry; these options have a limited number of seats and require attendance in all six sessions.

### Registration and lodging

Registration cost for the conference is \$215 per person and includes all plenary and breakout sessions, materials, dinner on Thursday, and lunch and dinner on Friday. Special rates are available for couples, groups and those needing meals only.

Hotel reservations must be made separately from conference registration. The Hilton Kansas City Airport conference rate of \$106/single occupancy or \$114/double occupancy (plus applicable taxes) includes breakfast, complimentary self-parking and complimentary airport transportation on request.

To reserve a room, contact the Hilton Kansas City Airport at 816-8891-8900, ask for in-house reservations and request the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Conference rate. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 21.

Registration for the conference closes Sept. 15. Lodging grants are available for first-time attendees. For more information, or to register for the conference, visit [lcms.org/rstm](http://lcms.org/rstm) or contact RSTM Coordinator Amy Gerdt at 888-463-5127.

## It's time to submit nominations

*67th LCMS convention is next summer, but the earlier, the better*

The Oct. 20 deadline may seem a long way off, but the time is now to submit nominations for the 74 officer, board and commission positions to be elected at the next LCMS convention, July 20–25, 2019, in Tampa, Fla. Details on the positions are available at [lcms.org/2019-nominations](http://lcms.org/2019-nominations).


If every LCMS congregation submitted one nomination, there would be more than 6,000 total nominations. But four months into the process, only 226 nominations had been received. Of those, only half have been positively identified as willing to serve.

As outlined in Bylaw 3.12.3.4, nominations may be submitted by agencies and officers of the Synod, congregational and individual members of the Synod, and laypersons of the congregations of the Synod. While it may seem that there is still plenty of time to nominate, input is desired as soon as possible to allow time for the Committee for Convention Nominations to identify the best candidates.

Nominations for regional positions may come from anywhere in the Synod, but the nominee must reside in the designated region. The nomination process for president, first vice-president and regional vice-presidents will be conducted by mail with the nominating member congregations beginning in October.

The nomination form is available at [lcms.org/convention/2019-nomination-form](http://lcms.org/convention/2019-nomination-form). It may be downloaded and sent via U.S. mail, or filled out electronically and emailed to [ccn@lcms.org](mailto:ccn@lcms.org).

For more information on the nominations and elections process, go to [lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections](http://lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections).



**KEYNOTE speakers**

**The Rev. Timothy Koch,**  
pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, S.D., and Immanuel Lutheran, Wecota, S.D.

**The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett,** executive director of Luther Academy and visiting professor in Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**The Rev. Tom Schlund,** pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, Iowa

**Chaplain Craig Muehler,** director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces