

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



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The President's Message – September 2017

ARE YOU READY?

Pretty soon you will be hearing Hank Williams Jr. on a Monday night singing: "Are you ready for some football?" Ready or not football season is here. High schools in Wisconsin already have two or three games under their belt. College football goes into high gear on Labor Day weekend and then comes September 10 when the Packers face the Seahawks at Lambeau Field. And all the fantasy teams are drafted and ready. Is everybody ready?

Not only is football starting but so is ministry season. The summer is over. The kids are back to school or off to college. Sunday School kicks off most likely on September 10. Many bible studies at congregations begin with a new topic and members are encouraged to attend. For all of these things to happen you have to be equipped and ready. Just as the football teams have been practicing and getting ready so have teaching and pastoral staffs been gearing up for ministry season. It is time to continue to equip God's people for living in this daily world through God's word in the school or the church.

It reminds me of the familiar passage that we need to take seriously: "*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip** the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ*" (Eph. 4:11-12 ESV). Just as a football player needs to be equipped to take the field and practice and get in shape before the game – so God's people need to be equipped with God's word for daily living. The Apostle Paul did not expect the 'church workers' to do all the work for the people, he wanted them to train the people to do the work themselves.

In the "Supplement to the Diploma of Vocation" which is part of the call document that a pastor receives with his call papers, it states: "*In the name of the Triune God and by His authority, in order that we might carry out His mission to the world, we hereby authorized and obligate you: To equip and enable the members of the congregation to serve one another and those outside the fellowship of the congregation.*" Equipping is part of the calling a pastor has to the congregation. In a sense, he and the staff are sharing the ministry load of reaching out to fellow members and to those outside the congregation.

The District staff believes that equipping and helping you as a congregation is important as well. Our mission statement reads: *Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ.* The District staff and I are committed to walk alongside you as church workers and leaders of our congregations as together we make known the love of Christ. We will do whatever we can to equip and assist you in ministry, whether it's helping you with ministry concerns or with the call process to fill that vacant ministry position.

Do not hesitate to contact us. The NWD staff and contact information is available on our website... <http://www.nwdlcms.org/staff.html>.

May God be with you as you move into fall ministry season. Are you ready?

Rev. Dwayne Lueck, District President

Across My Desk: DJ Schult

If you build it...they will come.

By Pastor Eddie Hosch

Obviously the headline above is not original to me. I took some liberties with the famous line from the Kevin Costner movie, "Field of Dreams." However, that was exactly the situation this last Tuesday and every Tuesday as we gather together to worship in San Juan de Lurigancho.

Just a few short months ago there was no church located in that part of the city. We began services and like every church plant we have our ups and downs. However, there has been one thing that has been consistent...the kids and young people. Every Tuesday evening we have bible study and Divine Service and every Tuesday they are there. They are on fire to hear more about Jesus and to be able to study the bible. They bring such an amazing passion and excitement for Jesus and it is contagious. Right now teachers across Perú are on strike so the public schools are closed. Normally when the schools are closed for vacations we see a drop in attendance in Castillo Fuerte. However, when it is time to gather together and hear God's word...they are there with their smiles and laughter. This is completely the work of an amazing and powerful God that is aided by all of you who support our mission work here in Perú. We pray that God will continue to use our family to proclaim God's word here in Perú and with your prayers and support we can build it...and they WILL come and to God be the glory!!



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News and Events

Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

We have received multiple phone calls and emails with questions regarding support for our brothers and sisters in Houston. Thank you for your generous hearts and desire to serve!

President Lueck is encouraging cash donations to be sent directly through the LCMS link... <https://www.lcms.org/give/hurricane>. If you choose to send donations to the NWD office, we will send them for you. President Lueck is waiting for direction from LCMS Disaster Relief regarding how they will organize teams. As that information becomes available, we will share. Also, please check the [Hurricane Harvey page](#) of the LCMS website for news directly from Synod.

Please see the [letter from President Harrison](#) and continue to watch postings on our Facebook site at facebook.com/nwdlcms.

Reformation 2017—It's Still All about Jesus

Reformation 500 is fast approaching! Check out the Synod's [Reformation website](#) for History, Events, Resources, and more. If you're planning a local Reformation 500 event please send the info to dj@nwdlcms.org and we'll add it to the list on our [website](#).

2018 NWD Convention - June 3 & 4, 2018

Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center
10101 Market Street - Rothschild, WI

By now you should have received the Nomination Ballots for District Secretary, Board of Directors and Nominations Committees. Please note that these nominations are due by **November 1, 2017**. A second mailing will be going out soon and will include nominations for DP, VP, Voting and Advisory Delegates and Circuit Visitors. It will also include registration for others to attend, as well as request for Convention Overtures. For more details, check out our website under [About Us, NWD Convention tab](#). If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Adult Gathering

Join us for the NWD Adult Gathering being held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Our presenter will be Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D, President of Concordia University, Wisconsin. All the details are available on our [website](#) or [click here to register!](#)

Pre-Retirement Workshop

The annual NWD Pre-Retirement Workshop will be held October 20 & 21, 2017 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wausau. To register contact Lori at 715-845-8241, ext. 103 or by email at lori@nwdlcms.org.



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PCWC Registration Open!

The Professional Church Worker Conference is held every three years to gather all the called workers of the NWD together. There is great value in being together, learning and worshiping, encouraging, networking and equipping! This one day event under the theme THRIVE will be held Thursday Oct. 26 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Details and registration can be found on the [NWD website](#) homepage. A special message from the key-note speakers is also available on the [registration page](#).

SYG 2017

Registration is now open for the State Youth Gathering from Nov. 3-5, 2017 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in WI Dells. High school youth from across the state will gather to focus on the theme '**HERO - Greater. Better. True.**' based on Hebrews 1:1-4. Awesome activities are being planned including speakers from the National Youth Gathering, engaging Bible studies, offsite candlelight worship, and a waterpark lock-in! All details & the registration link are available on the [NWD homepage](#). You won't want to miss this exciting event!

Servants of Christ Seminar - Grades 5-8

CUW's Servants of Christ Seminar will ground your youth in the grace of their baptism, teach them about the doctrine of vocation, give them information about college and careers, and allow them to take part in breakaway sessions led by CUW professors designed to strengthen their faith and help them to live as servants of Christ in our challenging world. They will also have the opportunity to attend a free CUW football game. The Servants of Christ Seminar is free, open to all students in grades 5-8, and it will take place on October 14th. Please visit this link for more information www.cuw.edu/ServantsofChristSeminar and encourage your youth to attend!

CUW - Women's Leadership Institute

Gifted to Influence Conference

Looking to develop skills and confidence from a biblical perspective? Join CUW's Women's Leadership Institute for Gifted to Influence, September 29-October 1, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. With close to 20 workshops focused on biblical and leadership skill development led by some amazing Christ-centered women, this is an event you will not want to miss! Check out our website and register online... <http://wlicuw.org/event/wligifted/> ... if you would like to bring a group, bring 5 and the 6th is free! Contact Darcy at wli@cuw.edu with any questions.

Pressure Points Bulletin

As Christians, we all serve Christ through our vocations in the home, church, workplace, and world. For those in the workplace, living your faith amidst everyday responsibilities and decisions can be difficult. Where do you go for encouragement, accountability and best practices? Join the Women's Leadership Institute and Concordia University Wisconsin to discuss the Pressure Points of following Jesus in the secular workplace. September 29th, 9-3 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. Registration information can be found at <http://wlicuw.org/event/pressurepoints/>. Questions? Feel free to email wli@cuw.edu.



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Wednesday Night Family Ministry at Mt. Olive, Weston

Why are Wednesday nights special at Mt. Olive?

Wednesday night is study night at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Weston, WI. We have set aside this night for the entire church to come together for fellowship and studying God's Word. We have a church meal provided for families from 5:00-6:00pm. Families have time to eat with each other and other families before our study time begins. We have around 225 people come to these meals each week. After dinner, we break out in classes from 6:15-7:30pm. We have classes for people 3 years old-adults.

What educational opportunities do you provide on Wednesday nights and how many attend?

Our FISH (Families in Study Hour) study allows parents to learn the Bible with their kids age 3-5th grade, along with crafts, games, and snacks. We have about 50 adults and kids that join in on the FISH fun each week. The confirmation program is for our 6th and 7th grade students. We have 150 students attend the program. Fusion is our high school youth group that includes students in grades 8th-12th. Each week about 80-100 students attend. We also offer adult Bible classes that also have about 50-80 people attend.

How do you organize the leadership of these events? Is it all staff led?

Our programs are both staff lead and volunteer lead. We could not do any of our programs without the amazing volunteers who step up to lead.

What advice do you have for other churches looking to expand their family ministry?

Churches can make Wednesday education nights very simple and family friendly. Focus on quality programs, not quantity. Wednesday nights are a great way for families to grow in God's Word together in our fast paced world.



Counselor Corner

THE OTHERS...

It was at a Promise Keeper event years ago in Boulder, Colorado that I first heard of this game plan for leaders. I believe it was Greg Laurie who said that--Every leader needs three other men in his life. He needs a Paul, as an seasoned mentor... a Barnabas for encouragement... and a Timothy, as a teachable student—as a future leader.

These are wise words that pastors need to heed in their professional lives. What can result are shared blessings—

- One remains teachable.
- One never does ministry alone.
- Others are brought into the ministry to help ensure its future.

The apostle Paul had all three men—He had Gamaliel as his teacher (Acts 22:3)... he had Barnabas ("Son of Encouragement") (Acts 4:36 & 9:27)...and he mentored Timothy—his "true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2a). Paul was a model leader in this way.

In a contemporary context we too often find the absence of the three. Too many pastors do ministry alone... removing themselves from learning... and are not intentional about mentoring successors. This is both a lonely place to be... and one that short-changes ministry.

Paul also modeled "team ministry." On each of his missionary journeys he had a partner—to share the road and the load.

There is an underlying theme here. Ministry is relational. For the pastor, the primary relationship is with the Holy Spirit—who equips for ministry, including spiritual gifts for the work. And, as already referenced, there are the vital human connections that fulfill ministry.

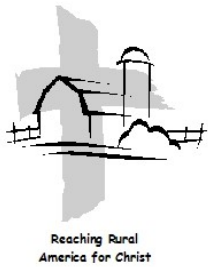
There is a "love" connection that Christ Himself emphasized. As He did the final preparing of His disciples for the work ahead He told them—

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

Three times in three sentences Jesus repeated the command "love one another." Love is to define professional relationships... as well as the ones impacted by ministry. Yes, when it comes to these "others" L-O-V-E is defined as Lord Our Very Essence—as we share in Christ.

Pastor Dan Kohn
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Rural and Small Town Mission

[Click here](#) to check out the latest 'Reaching Rural America for Christ' Newsletter.

[Register now](#) for the National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference. November 9-11, 2017 in Kansas City, MO. Registration deadline is Sept. 15.



- ⇒ [Check out](#) the CPS website for a wealth of information.
- ⇒ Click [here](#) to read the latest articles from Concordia Plan Services:
- Let Us Hear Your CHP Choices - Sept. 8 Deadline!
 - Decision Time: Why the CHP is Best
 - View additional articles under '[Blog & News](#)'
- ⇒ Visit the NWD website for a CPS corner listing the main contacts for churches using CPS, as well as links to the most important news and answers found on the CPS website. Bookmark it so you have it! <http://www.nwdlcms.org/concordia-plan-services.html>

NWD Financial Box Score **August 2017**

August Offering	\$133,535.55
August Budget	\$133,017.50
Year-to-date total offerings	\$1,040,038.93
Year-to-date budget	\$1,100,907.50

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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