



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



BE PATIENT

God is in control

Stacking wood

This summer I did something I have never done before — I stacked firewood. To prepare for this I watched some YouTube videos and talked to some veterans who stack wood. You just cannot dump it because it will not dry or burn well. It needs to be stacked and seasoned for six months to a year. Patience is needed.

I also learned there is a choice on how to stack — square stack (Canadian) or circular (Scandinavian). My choice was the square model. Presently, I have five pallets stacked. There will be more than enough to supply my evening fire.

I learned that creating a neatly stacked pile of firewood is very satisfying. I keep



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sending pictures of the stacks to my children in Texas. It is a sense of accomplishment, including having the patience for it to dry. I read tips on stacking and the first tip shared: “Pick the sunniest spot on your property.” Guess what? My stacks are under trees, in good shade and will hardly see the sun. Drying will take longer.

Sigh! It is a learning experience.

A tough year

My stacking of wood for the first time is similar to what 2020 has been like. This is a new experience. None of us have ever experienced going through a pandemic as we are working from home, the kids are staying home for online learning, the college kids were

sent home, all sports on any level were shut down, and worship was reduced to watching a live stream or sitting in our car in the church parking lot. We have not been able to see loved ones in the hospital or nursing home.

Many of us had planned to visit loved ones and bought tickets for flights. Students had planned on attending prom, playing sports and going to college. All of this has changed. There has been a lot of disappointments along the way. When will things get back to normal? Right now, no one knows.

God's timing

It made me think about Joseph, Jacob's son, who was sold by his brothers into slavery to the Midianites. He served admirably as overseer of the house of Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard, and then was wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison. God was with Joseph, however, and the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. He soon became Pharaoh's right-hand man — the second in command of Egypt — and in the end saved his father and brothers from a famine. When Jacob died, the brothers were concerned Joseph would hold a grudge and retaliate.

Joseph's response?:

But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

— Gen. 50:19-20

See MESSAGE, Page 2

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



It was 23 years between the time Joseph had dreams about his family and the dreams were fulfilled. That was a long time. You never know what God's timetable looks like. The time between when God made the promise to Abraham, that his ancestors would be blessed by the Messiah's coming, until the time Jesus was born was almost 1,800 years. However, in the end God loved the world and kept His promise and sent His one and only Son to die for our sins and rise from the dead to conquer sin, death and the devil. In the end, all who believe in Jesus will be winners.

Many times our timetable and God's are not the same. We want an end to this pandemic — now. We want to get back to normal — now. We want to go back to work and school — now. We want to attend ballgames — now. We want the pastoral vacancy at our church filled — now. We want our present sufferings to come to an end — now.

The answer is always the same for us as Christians. Put your faith in God who loves you.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. — **Rom. 8:28**

God is in control. Be patient! You can trust Him now and into the future.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;

He suffer naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.

Now I may know Both joy and woe;

Someday I shall see clearly That He has loved me dearly. (*LSB #760, v4*)

Time to think about convention

The 2021 North Wisconsin District Convention will be held June 6-7, 2021. There are many things to do in order to make this gathering meaningful and useful for the Lord's ministry in our district and the world.



A second mailing went out in mid-September reminding congregations to add to their fall voters' meetings the business of nominating for district president, vice-president, voting delegates, circuit visitor, and of the convention overture

submission deadline.

The 2021 Nominating Committee recently sent a letter and a nomination form to each congregation. This letter included information about the leadership positions that the district needs to fill. Nominations will be need for openings on the Board of Directors, 2024 Nominations Committee and district secretary.

Please visit our 2021 convention page periodically to find any updates. A "Convention Timeline" will be added to the page soon. Find it at nwdlcms.org. Go to "About Us" and select "NWD Convention" from the drop-down menus.

WANTED: Convention parliamentarian

The North Wisconsin District uses a parliamentarian for the triennial district convention to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business and to insure justice and fairness to all — both the majority and the minority.

Our current and highly qualified parliamentarian is ready to prepare and train the next person. President Lueck would like to have a qualified and interested individual shadow and assist the parliamentarian during the next

convention and then transition into the lead role in 2024.

The ideal candidate would be well versed in *Robert's Rules of Order* and have considerable experience in monitoring business meetings. If you know of a person with significant parliamentarian experience or training, please share this opportunity with them.

For more information and/or to be considered, please submit a resume or *curriculum vitae* (cv) to Lori Kavajecz, convention organizer, at lori@nwdlcms.org.

District helps church-work students

The North Wisconsin District has multiple funds that make up the annual awards to professional church-work students enrolled in our Concordia universities and seminaries. Award letters were recently sent to 28 applicants, with gifts totaling over \$116,000.

Awarded were six students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; three at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; 13 at Concordia University Wisconsin; three at Concordia University, St. Paul; two at Concordia University, Irvine; and one at Concordia University, Nebraska.



October is when we normally celebrate LWML Sunday. Perhaps you have celebrated it already or you are in the process of planning a special service. LWML Sunday may look different due to COVID-19. The theme, “Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit,” was written by Rev. Larry Krueger, senior pastor of St. Paul, in Waco, Texas (lwml.org/lwml-sunday).



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

What kind of trees do you have? What trees tend to be your favorite? In my backyard, I have trees that produce flowers and some that generate pine cones (used for decorations) and food for small animals, and provide shade for us to cool off and rest. I have a small apple tree that produces enough apples for the deer to enjoy. But I often forget about all the different types of fruit trees. We have apple and cherry tree orchards in our area that people flock to when the fruit is ready to pick. I know there is a lot of work that goes into making sure fruit trees are tended to and taken care of so we can reap the best fruit.

“Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit” reflects the work of the LWML as the women collect their mite offerings on a daily or weekly basis. We became Kingdom People at baptism, when the seed of faith was planted in us. Our faith was nurtured and cared for by our families and it grew. Perhaps a family member, friend or someone from your

church invited you to your first LWML event. Those ladies cared for you and mentored you and your faith continued to grow. As LWML ladies, and some men too, we have shared the Good News of Jesus with others, planting the seeds of faith in those we met along the way.

Through the LWML’s mite offerings and mission grants, we extend God’s Kingdom, reaping more kingdom fruit — *and this pandemic can’t stop us*. As we continue to gather our mite offerings, we use our hands, feet and voices to extend His Kingdom as Jesus commands in Matt. 28:19:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

As I think about all the different types of trees, I’m reminded of all the different cultures of people around the world who have become Kingdom Fruit, and whom we will see face to face when we are together in God’s Kingdom. Go out, Kingdom ladies, and produce Kingdom Fruit! Blessings to you as you serve with gladness!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Embrace of grace

It is an interwoven thread in one of Jesus’ most loved parables. It is a timeless theme we can apply to our lives as well. We do well to meditate on the “embrace of grace” found in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

These insights can be beneficial to those who know of prodigals and their parents in their settings. Herein is found guidance and hope.

It all begins with the demand from the younger son (Luke 15:12a). Grace was



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behind the father’s response. The parent who had been so dishonored still treated this offender as a loved son. The son received what was undeserved.

The son secured what was not his to own and ran off to a “far country” (v.13a), allowed by the father. Freedom was provided. There were no demands in the father’s love. His heart was broken, an added burden placed on his shoulders — but grace was still shared.

There was the patience of this father. One can only imagine the depth of his prayers for this prodigal. His heart would not give up even as he “let go” of control over this rebel’s choices. Grace was evident at this junction as well.

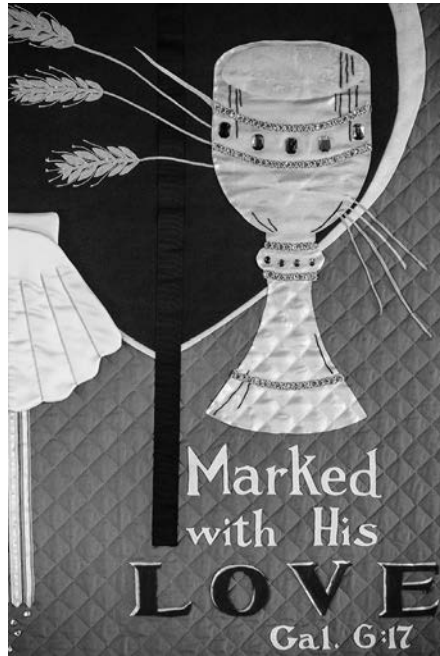
Oh, we dare not overlook the remarkable reunion! The father’s eyes were where they had been every day. He was

looking down that road with the hope of seeing his returning son. Only grace can explain the action that was played out.

There was genuine love in the hug and kiss (v.20). There was compassion as the confession was heard. Absolution was immediate. The celebration of reunion was only beginning in this embrace of grace.

And only grace can explain the robe and the ring (v.22). Radical, unconditional love prompted the festive party for this “lost and found” son (vs.23-24). Amazing grace surrounds this story shared by the Savior. A Father’s love for His wayward children. Grace makes room for radical love. The reunion and celebration are in our life story as well. We the fellow prodigals have a home awaiting us ... and a loving Father with outstretched arms of grace! Get ready to receive and share the embrace of grace!

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



TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE, WITH WHICH HE HAS BLESSED US IN THE BELOVED

Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have a rich heritage of visual art depicting God’s plan in Jesus Christ for the salvation of His people.

At lcms.org, there is a searchable church art gallery with photographs of many of these treasures. A

few are highlighted here. To see more, go to lcms.org and click on the thumbnail below “Photos.”

These images are offered in service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We encourage our congregations and schools to use them as they proclaim God’s love in Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace.



PHOTOS LCMS/
ERIK M. LUNSFORD