

# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### In your light we see light!

"I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

— Ps. 36:1 NIV

Reread those words. If I asked you when you thought they were written, you may guess they were written recently. In today's world, there are many people who have no fear of God. We certainly don't live in a culture that has much time for the God we worship in the Bible.

When were those words written? Around 1000 B.C. The author was David, the shepherd, who eventually went on to become the second king of Israel. It appears that the culture of that time was ungodly as well. David looked around and maybe he saw his fellow Israelites, or maybe it was the heathen neighbors, and he just shook his head and was discouraged that there was no fear or respect for the God who created the heavens and the earth.

In contrast to the wicked, David will go on to say that those who know the Lord know of His steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness and justice. David states in verse 9: "In your light we see light."



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

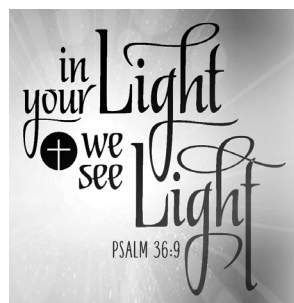
Those words of verse 9 are the theme for our North Wisconsin District Convention in June.

We are in times of unprecedented change. The pace of change is greater than individuals and institutions can cope with, and the effect shows up everywhere, including in our congregations, district and Synod. Nevertheless, the Church does know where the light is. "I am the light of the world" says Jesus (John 8:12), and His followers are "called into His marvelous light." His Word will guide us through these unprecedented times into new clarity about the faith that leads to salvation. It is His Word and Spirit that will guide this convention as we carry out the Lord's business.

Our convention will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, with worship at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS president, will serve as preacher. Following the service, we will join for dinner on Sunday evening and then head back to the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center for the election of district officers and members of the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, the Rev. Dr.

Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, St Louis, will be the worship preacher. He will also be our essayist, and his presentation later that afternoon will focus on the theme verse from Ps. 36:9. Following the morning worship, Harrison will report on the condition and affairs of the Synod and address questions from the delegates. Other convention business and overtures will be presented throughout the day.



#### North Wisconsin District Convention

June 3-4

Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, Rothschild

As it states in the Bylaws of the Synod *Handbook*: "Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. They are the principal legislative assemblies, which amend the district's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle appropriate appeals."

This convention takes place every three years.

Even if you are not a delegate to the convention, you are invited to attend. Of note, you will only need to register and provide payment if you wish to partake in the Sunday evening dinner following the worship service. Please go to [nwdlcms.org/nwd-convention.html](http://nwdlcms.org/nwd-convention.html) to find

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# St. Paul welcomes Rev. Baumann



From left, St. Paul pastors the Revs. Moldenhauer, Baumann and Hulke.

On Sunday, March 11, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, welcomed the Rev. Joshua J. Baumann as its new associate pastor. He joins the Rev. Steve Hulke, senior pastor, and the Rev. Roger Moldenhauer, assistant pastor, as an integral part of the ministry team. At the Service of Installation, the Rev. Greg Laska, Merrill, served as the guest preacher and other area clergy participated.

Baumann, 32, was born in Sheboygan. He attended St. John Lutheran School, Random Lake, and Sheboygan Lutheran High School. He is a 2008 graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin and a 2012 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before accepting the call to St. Paul, he served as associate pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, S.D. His vicarage year was spent at Our Savior Lutheran Church and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, N.D.

Pastor Baumann stated, "I am so

very grateful and excited about the privilege I will have to serve the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in ministry, along with the gracious people of Stevens Point. I look forward to pouring my time, effort and energy into sharing the Good News that it's all about Christ and God's great love for us through Him!

"I am thankful that God has blessed me with a wonderful and supportive family and am excited to reestablish my Wisconsin roots after having been away from the state for nearly 10 years. I look forward to being back in Packer country and to cheering on Green Bay, of course!"

He is married to Margaret (nee Utecht) and they are the parents of four young children: Eliza, John, Peter and Savannah.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School is located at 1919 Wyatt Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481. More information is available at [stpaulsequips.com](http://stpaulsequips.com).

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the "Additional Attendee" registration form. This link will also provide you with access to other convention information as well.

It is a time for us as brothers and sisters in Christ to come together and encourage one another as congregations, members of congregations and

professional workers of this district to vigorously make known the love of Christ. As David wrote: "In your light we see light."

Come join us at the convention June 3-4 to see and hear what is going on in your district and Synod!

## Church worker debt

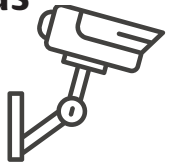
The issue of student loan debt for rostered workers was recently brought before the district Board of Directors. A brief survey received 152 responses from pastors and teachers in our district.



From the initial data analysis, it is clear that there are many workers who have a significant loan burden that weighs on them financially and emotionally. About 21 percent of those responding indicated a severe financial burden and a debt ranging from \$40,000 to \$80,000 or more. For some of them, the situation is so severe that they are considering resigning their calls for financial reasons.

Though the student loan burden of our district workers is lower than average in Wisconsin, their compensation is also significantly lower. It is clear to the Board of Directors that the amount of student debt affecting our employees is a serious problem and needs to be addressed, especially for younger pastors and teachers. This is an issue that will be brought to the district convention in June for discussion regarding what actions may be taken to help the workers in our district.

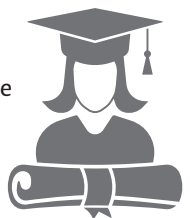
## Church Mutual has safety resources



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).

## Student grants

College and seminary students working toward a degree in professional church work can still apply for fall 2018 grants from the district.



Generous donors have created these annual gifts to support our future teachers, pastors, DCEs and those in other vocations. Review the specifics of the grants on the Financial Resources page at [nwdlcm.org/financial-resources.html](http://nwdlcm.org/financial-resources.html).

## PUTTING 'CHRIST'S LOVE IN ACTION'

## Zion, Fremont, members help rebuild in Texas

By Kari Joas

Larsen Beat Reporter, Winchester News

Members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fremont, took a week-long mission trip in January to Houston to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The group stayed at Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, and worked on two houses throughout the week. One house was in Klein and the other in Humble, with selection based on need.

"Deciding where to go is based on following the news and looking at places which have been hit hard and need the most help," said the Rev. Doug Reinders, Zion pastor.

Many houses flooded, leaving much work to do. "We did a lot of dry walling, electrical work and seaming of dry wall," Reinders said. Monday and Friday, they worked in the house in Humble, which had been engulfed with 10 feet of water. Wednesday and Thursday were spent

working in Klein, with a house which had five feet of flooding.

"Over 90 percent of the people don't have flood insurance and many don't have family and friends to turn to," Reinders said. "This is why we help them. It makes you count your blessings because we don't experience natural disasters like those who live down south and by the Gulf of Mexico."

Tuesday they were unable to work due to inclement weather. "It was too cold and there was a dusting of snow on the ground," Reinders said. While it's nothing for Wisconsinites, it shuts lots of things down in Houston.

Zion has been doing mission trips for 10 years and attempts to place their efforts in the south during the winter, while working more north in the warmer months.

Reinders enjoys participating in mission work and wishes more people



From left, Nicole Reinders, the Rev. Doug Reinders and Doug Bartel.

would get involved. "It is a wonderful way to put Christ's love into action," he said.

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## CAMP LUTHER

## Matching funds available to help send children to camp

By Hannah "Sojo" Ness

Program and Communications Manager, Camp Luther

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

— John 8:12

Every child that comes to Camp Luther brings a flashlight. Walking in the dark of night through the woods can be scary. When the darkness surrounds a child, he or she can turn on the flashlight. The darkness disappears, and that child will walk with a certain confidence, knowing that he or she is safe from the unknown. The world we live in

has much darkness in it, causing fear, doubt, anxiety, sadness and separation from the One who loves us, Jesus our Light.

You can help bring the light of Christ into the life of a child when you help send a child to camp to learn about the true Light of this world. You can help a child hear about the loving Savior, who died and rose so he or she can always walk in the light and share the Gospel Light of Jesus with others.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matt. 5:16

This spring when you give to Every Kid to Camp, your gift will go further! If camp is blessed with \$20,000 in donations for Every Kid to Camp by June 1, our friends at MCL Industries, Inc. of Pulaski will provide an additional \$20,000 toward helping kids go to Camp Luther's Keweenaw Base Camp!

Thank you for sharing the light of Christ with others through your generous gift!

## Send news to:

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Rosholt, WI 54473



# That mighty mite box!

As the women of the North Wisconsin District LWML gather for convention in Stevens Point in June, we will have so much to celebrate. Under the theme, “Remember All His Blessings” (Ps. 103:2), we will look back and celebrate our past leaders and mentors, and the women and men who helped shape and guide this wonderful organization. We will look back and celebrate the many mission projects that mites have funded since 1944 when our district LWML began. In total, we have sent our prayers and mites of more than \$1.9 million to a variety of missions and missionaries in a variety of nations to help serve those in need as we all share the story of salvation in Christ Jesus.



**Mary Harrington**  
LWML District President

The first mite box, introduced in 1942, pictured a large globe to represent the vast mission field of our Church. Clara Schmitt, LWML's first president, mailed some 50,000 of the boxes from her house. Despite several suggestions to change the name to “Blessing Boxes” or “Mission Boxes,” the name has stayed the same. Its name comes from the story of the widow's mite recorded in Mark 12 and Luke 21.

There have been a few style changes through the years and in 2001, a children's mite box was introduced. And our current mite box was first presented in 2017 as our national organization celebrated its 75th anniversary. Its simple design continues to serve as a witness tool as people who see it on your kitchen counter, on your desk or in your car ask “What's that box for?” And then you can



**Our mite boxes, in 1942 (left) and above.**

respond with its 75-year-old purpose — missions!

Seventy-five percent of all funds stay in the district to fund our mission grant goals and other expenses. Twenty-five percent goes to the national LWML.

At our convention, delegates will vote to set a new mission goal for the 2018-20 biennium. This past biennium, our mission grant goal was \$105,000 and we reached that goal and beyond! God continues to bless the mites we offer and we have been able to send financial and prayerful support to nine missions in the amount of \$107,000.

To God Be the Glory! Be a blessing!

## The Counseling CONNECTION

### The wall

He thought he was on “top of his game.” He was bold (even a bit brazen) in the stand he took for his Master:

“Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!”

— **Matt. 26:35**

Even Jesus' prophetic warning — “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times” (v. 34) — did not deter Peter's claim.

We know the rest of the story all too well. When there was opportunity to “walk his talk,” Peter failed miserably. He denied his Savior not once, but three times (v. 69-74a).



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

And then Peter “hit the wall”:

“And he went outside and wept bitterly.” **v. 75b**

This chosen one, this lead disciple failed to recognize his vulnerability. The one willing to make the ultimate sacrifice dissolved in fear when tested. (It is important to note that even though Peter gave up on his Lord, the latter never gave up on him. Indeed, Peter was reinstated in his leadership role (John 21:15-19).

But the “wall” was no less real. Peter is an example of what can happen to a chosen leader when the warning signs are ignored.

A leader can be in “functional burn-out.” Outwardly, there is an image of confidence and control. But stress takes its toll. There can be a rooster ready to crow (v. 74b)!

With Peter, we need to consider the

events that preceded this fall — the upper-room trauma, the fatigue in the Garden and the arrest of Jesus after Judas' betrayal. And we need to factor in Peter's self-assured personality.

Peter was unprepared for the “wall.” He ignored its potential.

The same can be said of us. Our role can be high stress. The warning signs can be overlooked. How close is our “wall?”

To remain on the “top of our game,” we need three things — renewing resources, rest and regular reality-checks (“How am I really doing?”)

Maybe it's time for a sabbatical like the one offered by Camp Luther. Like Jesus, maybe it's time to find a “solitary place to pray” (Mark 1:35).

For more information on “burnout,” check out our wholeness page ([nwdlcms.org/worker-wholeness.html](http://nwdlcms.org/worker-wholeness.html)) or contact me and “check-in” — before or after the “wall” ([revdkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revdkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400).