



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Repetition, confidence, passion

The trinity of (Vince) Lombardi's football success," writes David Maraniss in *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi* was "repetition, confidence and passion." Those three tenants are fitting of the legendary Green Bay Packers coach and the success he enjoyed. I believe that they are fitting for us as Christians.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

Repetition

The Packers worked on plays over and over again until they got it right. When I was in the college choir, under the direction of Eldon Balko, I remember doing one number over and over again the day before we left on our choir tour. He told us if we had to sing it 100 times to get it right, that is what we would do. Thankfully, we did not do it that many times.

Martin Luther, in his explanation of the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, stated a repetitive behavior of ours: "We daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment." How true! Every day we sin. Every day we fall short of God's expectations. There are days when we can work our way through the Ten Commandments and break every one of them while not even working up a sweat. We are very good at it as the devil, world

and our flesh help us in our repetitive sinful thoughts, words and deeds regardless of how hard we try not to sin.

But because of Jesus and what He has done for us through His death on the cross, we have something to counteract our repetitive sinfulness — it is called God's forgiveness. It is called the Gospel, the Good News that God through His Son has forgiven us and paid for our sins. Every Sunday you may hear your pastor say: "Upon this your confession ... I announce the grace of God unto you ... forgive you all your sins in name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Isn't that great news to hear again and again and again?

Not only do we hear that word of forgiveness at the start of the service, every good sermon should have Law and Gospel. Sunday after Sunday your pastor has been trained to bring home the Good News that you are forgiven; you are redeemed as a child of God. You are free to go live as a child of God as you receive that Good News again.

Confidence

The famous Packer sweep was run over and over again in practice so that on game day the Packers could execute the play regardless of what defense was used to stop it. The Packers went on that field very confident.

Because of what Jesus has done for us allows us to echo the words of the Apostle Paul:

"We are more than conquerors



through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Rom. 8:37-39**

No matter what comes our way, we know with confidence that nothing can separate us from God's love and that heaven will be our final stop because of our faith in our Lord who conquered death by rising from the dead. We are confident and remain confident by

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More students, more space

Four questions for

Caroline Bedroske

Principal, Wolf River
Lutheran High
School, Shawano



Wolf River Lutheran High School (WRLHS), Shawano, has just moved into a new building at a new location to better meet their ministry needs. Following are some thoughts from Principal Bedroske regarding the exciting past few months.

1. Tell us about your location, and what is the school's history and what has enrollment looked like?

In 1999, we were able to secure 30 acres of land for the development of a high school, but over time some of the land was sold and developed. In 2004, the high school began in St. James Lutheran School in Shawano. The 9-12 school opened with four students. A few years later, an old elementary school in

Cecil was secured. For several years the enrollment hovered around 15 students. Starting in 2014, a concerted effort was made to increase enrollment and begin a capital campaign for the new building.

To date we have 32 students enrolled.

2. Describe the planning process. Who has been part of making this dream a reality?

The plans began in 1999 when Ralph Beversdorf secured the land for the school. Through the years many people have been involved in this process. We reached out to Cornerstone Ministry to help run the capital campaign in which six of our 12 association churches partnered with us.

The current board members are Dennis Genke, Paul Schmidt, Karen Baker, Mary Luepke, Scott Fischer, Susan Longmire, Rev. John Laatsch, Rev. Michael Schram, Ruben Rackow and Gary Mueller.

3. What blessings have you seen during the construction phase?

So many blessings have been poured upon us throughout this process. We were able to buy land valued at half a million dollars for \$20,000. During the campaign an anonymous donor stepped

forward with \$200,000 in matching funds. In eight short weeks we matched that amount and more.

The construction went unbelievably fast and stayed on target. A granite counter top was donated for our front offices. Little things that had to be changed proved to be blessings in disguise!

4. What else would you like to tell us about this journey?

This is such a blessing to see community and members come together to lift up this school. Our paper has not always printed the most positive things about parochial schools in the area, but the amount of positive media has been incredible.

God's hand has been in all of this. When the devil tried to stop it in various ways, God made the path. Sometimes He had to light it with strobe lights, but He made it happen. What an incredible gift and miracle this building is

"They shall mount up with wings like Eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Is. 40:31). (Side note: we now are located next to the two nesting bald eagles in town. They live along the Wolf River right by our school. How is that for God's providence!)



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

hearing, reading and studying God's Word. Our faith in our Lord gives us that confidence wherever we go.

Passion

In his book, Mariniss shared that Lombardi was passionate about his faith. He was passionate about his family. And he was passionate about the Green Bay Packers — in that order. Daily he went to mass.

There is no doubt about God's passion for us. He was willing to send His only Son to die for us. Jesus was passionate

about completing the task His heavenly Father gave Him, so much so that He sweat drops of blood as He prayed in Gethsemane before His passion story unfolded that night and the next day. There has never been a doubt about our Lord's passion.

What about us? What is our passion level?

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'" **Matt 16:24-25**

That is what happens because of God's love for us. We are willing to stand up for our faith and that we believe in our Lord. And just as we are more than happy to share that we are a Packers fan, or whatever team you cheer passionately for, we should be just as passionate to share the love of Jesus and what He did for all people.

Repetition, confidence and passion worked for Lombardi as a coach. Repetition, confidence and passion good ways to summarize our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. May God be with you in your daily walk.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Stronger together, and in Christ

National LWML President Patti Ross and the members of the Executive Committee are challenging us to focus on these three themes:

Nurturing faith In Christ

By God's Grace

LWML offers each woman opportunities to be in the Word and to use her unique gifts in God's service.

Each time LWML members come together in our societies, zones or district, we begin with prayer and God's Word. Joining our hearts as one and asking God to bless and guide our fellowship is



Mary Harrington
LWML District President

the foundation of our organization.

Each issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* magazine has Bible studies for us to use. There are many Bible studies available at lwml.org/bible-studies and are free to download. There are also Bible studies, that are doctrinally reviewed, available for purchase, at the LWML site or at CPH LWML store, going to CPH.org.

Making our faith meaningful

We equip each woman to make a significant difference in the lives of all people.

When we work together, we can accomplish more than when we work alone. The same is true of our mite offerings. We ask God to bless and guide the work of our hands and the footsteps we are taking; He blesses our mites and they



do amazing things in support of missions here in the district and around the world.

Sharing encouragement

We value each other in Christ and we accept and encourage each woman in our congregations to grow in her relationship with Christ and with other women.

When we pray together and are in fellowship with one another, it is a gift to both the giver and receiver. We are stronger together and we are stronger in Christ.

The counseling CONNECTION

Mission fulfillment

He was a man chosen by God for a special mission assignment. God saw what this messenger was blind to initially. When God said "Go," this chosen man said "No!"



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

We are talking about the prophet Jonah. His assignment was clear and decisive. Yet Jonah ran from this calling. The mission didn't match his personal agenda. He presumed himself to be god.

We have two storylines that intersect. We have God's divine story — His sovereign, flawless plan to fulfill His kingdom work. We also have the human story involving the imperfect, disjointed enactment on earth.

The story of Jonah reminds us that

God's story always moves forward. Regardless of the human dynamics that come into play, God's plan is not thwarted.

God intervened in Jonah's all-too-human diversion. God send a storm and a great fish to gain Jonah's attention and to give him a second chance to fulfill the divine story. God worked in the heart of Jonah to equip him for the mission. God's plan was moving forward in spite of human foibles and obstacles.

The Word of God proved powerful. It convicted the hearts of the heathens who heard it. There was true repentance and a readiness to let God lead. Yes, the God-planned mission was a remarkable success!

Now is when we would like to apply the human adage, "And they lived happily

ever after." But Jonah regressed, his short-lived passion turned to pouting. His inner turmoil was over God's unfair grace toward the unworthy sinners who were saved. Jonah wanted to decide the limits of God's compassion.

God's grace extended to Jonah as well. He used an object lesson to get Jonah's attention and to point him to the ultimate good that He has brought about

— the saving of 120,000 souls who would have perished, tied to their ignorance, if He had not intervened. God decides where grace is applied.

God calls us to His kingdom work. We become vessels incorporated into God's divine story. His mission will be fulfilled. The world is God's harvest field. A Savior came for them all, offering eternal life (John 3:16).

If the mission has you questioning or struggling, give me a call. We will carve out some "grace

space" to get you re-centered in the fulfillment of God's mission that He has called you.

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

“God does not call the equipped. God equips the called.”

Rick Yancey

A Q&A with Jordan VanProosdy

While attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (2003-07), Jordan VanProosdy was very active at Peace Lutheran Campus Center. A high school math teacher for Chippewa Falls High School the last 10 years, he is now director of Missions at Peace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire.

1 *Would you say that your time at Peace Campus helped you in the decision to become the Missions director at Peace Lutheran Church?*

During my time at Peace, I was blessed to have an amazing pastor in Carl Selle and fellow Christian students who loved the Lord. He taught all of us what it meant to live out our lives with a mission focus. While at Peace I was able to grow in appreciation for missions firsthand while serving as the president and Mission coordinator of Peace Lutheran Campus Center.

I was able to participate in mission trips to San Luis Colorado (Mexico), Houston, New Orleans, Chicago, and Minneapolis. These trips helped open my eyes to the needs of others. I'm very thankful for these experiences and how they helped shape my faith.

2 *What have you done in missions since leaving Peace Campus upon your graduation?*

My wife, Shea, and I have been able to participate in multiple mission trips to Juarez, Mexico, with our Eau Claire church. We have also been able to encourage others in the Eau Claire area to participate with Operation Christmas Child and have served at Feed My People by preparing meals for those in need.

3 *Was the decision hard to leave your teaching position? How did your faith help you in the process?*

The decision was extremely difficult. I



Jordan is pictured with his wife, Shea, and their children, Micaiah, Elyse and Lucas.

had built a solid bond with my co-workers and really enjoyed my time getting to know my students. I was able to coach basketball and baseball and also lead the Student Council during my time in the school.

I feel that my students genuinely enjoyed learning from me and I enjoyed learning from them. My faith helped me feel confident that God had orchestrated these changes. I was confident that God would open and close the doors if it was His plan. This gave me confidence to be able to step forward with faith.

4 *As you are just getting started in this new position, what are you looking forward to the most as you serve?*

I love meeting with new people! I've learned from the first few weeks that my job is active in the community. Many organizations and groups are positively affected by Peace Lutheran Church. Peace is a very generous body of believers that is blessed with members who truly care about the community. I'm thrilled to be able to continue the process of showing Eau Claire and the surrounding area what being a mission-minded Christian is all about.

5 *Reflecting back on your time in the Peace Campus community what are some of your favorite memories?*

Spring break of my junior year (March 2006), Peace Campus Center decided to gut houses in New Orleans, which was still not functioning by itself. Due to this, we had to stay at a church about an hour drive from the French Quarter. Each day we would wake up very early and drive to the city to help clean up the damage that Hurricane Katrina had left.

Our plan for the final day was to wake up and take the hour drive to our final house. After finishing, we planned to head back to our base for our final lunch before we hit the road. We were nearly done when a family in need of their house to be cleaned out asked for our assistance. We informed them that we would love to help; however we had worked all morning and had no food to eat. We just simply didn't have the energy to help them. We said that we were sorry and they understood.

While walking back to our vehicles, I leaned in and told Pastor Carl, "It's too bad that we didn't have a couple loaves of bread and fish." Suddenly, a van came around the corner and stopped at our vehicles. On the side of this van were the words "Loaves and Fish for the Volunteers of Katrina."

We stared at each other in amazement. God had given us this meal so that we would now be able to help one more family. We now were nourished and in awe of what God had done. This gave us more than enough strength to finish the job and left an amazing feeling in our hearts and minds on our long road trip back to Wisconsin.

6 *What words of advice would you give new students coming to Peace Campus about getting involved in the area of missions while studying at UWSP?*

Get involved. You are going to feel nervous the first few weeks of the semester. It is alright to relax and enjoy your college years, but take some healthy risks and go outside of your comfort zone of faith. These moments will help develop your character and shape your future. You can never go wrong with helping others and living for Jesus!