



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



Boundless love

When I am traveling around the district, I have a lot of time to listen to the radio. There is time for sports, news and music. All the tabs are set. One of the tabs I have set is the Beatles station, which features their music and a lot of information about the background of their songs.

Many of their well-known songs dealt with love “Yesterday,” “If I Fell,” “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” “And I Love Her,” “P.S. I Love You” and “All My Loving.” The love the Beatles sang about was the romantic love between a man and woman.

John Lennon and George Harrison have died. Sir Paul McCartney performed to a sold out Lambeau Field this past June. The Beatles last performed together in 1970 — that is 49 years ago — but their music lives on and I do enjoy it.

There is also another artist that I enjoy, but he died back in 1676 — Paul Gerhardt (1607-76). He was a poet, composer, hymn writer and pastor in Germany. He is considered the greatest

German hymn writer. There are 16 of his hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*. Some of them are “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth,” “Upon the Cross Extended” and “Now Rest beneath Night’s Shadow.”

Gerhardt also wrote about love, but his hymns were about the love of Jesus, like “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” (*LSB* #683). He certainly understood and appreciated the love of Jesus. As a youth, his father died. Four of his five children died young. His wife became seriously ill and died. As a pastor he had frustrations with church officials and brother pastors and parishes. In stanza 1 comes the request of faith. Jesus is the source of faith in Gerhardt’s “thankful heart,” and he also asks Jesus to complete and fulfill that love:

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue
declare;

Unite my thankful heart to Thee, And
reign without a rival there!

Thine wholly, Thine alone I am; Be
Thou alone my constant flame.

Gerhardt needed that love of Jesus and so do we. St. Paul wrote:

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” — Gal. 2.20

We are grateful for God’s boundless love for us, that God in His grace and mercy



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

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Hearts for Jesus to support LAMP

LAMP stands for Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Inc. This ministry has recently been supported by other districts through Hearts for Jesus (HFJ) in preparation for LAMP's 50th anniversary, which is in 2020!

LAMP volunteers and staff from Canada and the United States share the love of Jesus to indigenous people in remote areas of northern Canada through Bible studies and other outreach projects.

Many of our North Wisconsin District schools, Sunday schools and other ministries in February will support LAMP, which has been selected as our Hearts for Jesus ministry. Schools can easily access



resources by clicking on the image of the "Lampert" plane at lampministry.org. You may also learn more details of the friendships created and challenges faced in this ministry by reading the



missionary blogs at lightabovemyath.blogspot.com.

The district 2019 Hearts for Jesus campaign was for tables in the new dining hall at Camp Luther, and more than \$11,200 was raised!

Protecting children

Keeping kids safe in our churches and schools is a critical priority everyone supports. Three keys to safety can include administering background checks, implementing a child risk management policy (CRMP), and training staff and volunteers about abuse.

While many ministries perform background checks, that step finds only 10 percent of abusers. Some ministries also have a CRMP like the sample found on our website at nwdlcms.org. MinistrySafe is a vendor the district has a group purchasing agreement with, so all our schools in 2019-20 can train their staff and volunteers about the dangers of child abuse.

All district staff and the Board of Directors have already participated in the training. Our hope is to expand this video training at a reduced rate to our churches and preschools in 2021.



MESSAGE

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sent His Son to die for our sins so we will be saved through faith in our loving God.

The boundless love of God is what we celebrate in November. We celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1. "Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling" (Augsburg Confession, XXI 1-2).

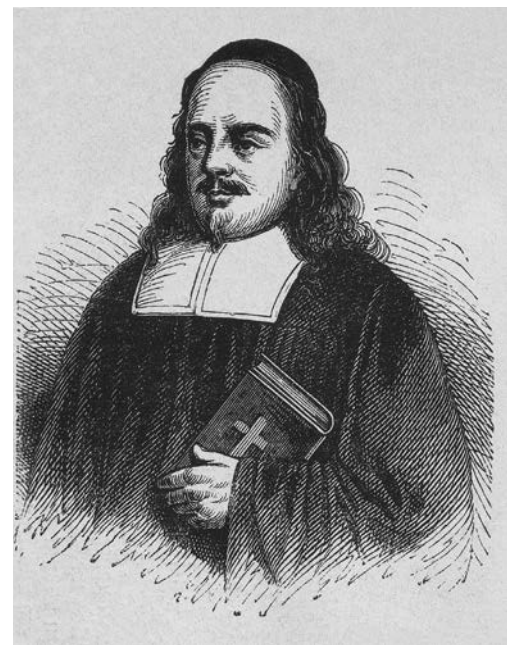
On Nov. 11, we remember our veterans who served our country. As a nation, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28) to give thanks for the blessings God has showered on us as a nation and as individuals. God is good! We have been blessed.

As we consider the details of Paul Gerhardt's life. We can see why Gerhardt

would, in stanza 4, sing of "suff'ring" the "weakness" love of Christ. He lived knowing and believing in that boundless love:

In suff'ring be Thy love my peace, In weakness be Thy love my pow'r;
And when the storms of life shall cease, O Jesus, in that final hour,
Be Thou my rod and staff and guide, And draw me safely to Thy side!

I love the Beatles and their love songs, but I also love hymns and the love songs that point to the boundless love of Jesus. When I am at my desk, I listen to Pandora and one of the settings I enjoy is "Hymns on Piano." What I have learned is there are hymns by present-day hymn writers and by deceased writers. The important thing is that they point to Jesus and His boundless love. We keep that in mind as we celebrate and enjoy this November.



Paul Gerhardt was a Lutheran theologian and is next to Martin Luther as one of the most important German hymn writers.



'Praise be to God'

Laus Deo — I had never heard these two words before a friend shared a message with me about them and their meaning. These words are written on an aluminum cap on top of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. *Laus Deo* has been on this monument for many years, facing skyward toward our heavenly Father. It's a Latin phrase meaning "Praise Be to God."

When a visitor goes to the top of the Washington Monument, they won't see these words, but they will see a cross! As one looks across the landscape from this point, they will see the White House to

the north, the Jefferson Memorial to the south, the U.S. Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. These buildings were purposely designed and placed in their locations to form a cross. As I read this, I know God is always with us and will provide little ways to tell us He is near.

"Praise Be to God" for His unconditional love for us and little reminders He is near.



and mercy of Jesus Christ to their fellow veterans as they visit

VFWs, VA hospitals, veterans' homes, veterans' clinics and other locations.

The men and women of our communities have answered the call to military duty as they are deployed to protect and defend our nation. Some of our men and women have often been deployed to dangerous areas and this can cause stress and worry for

As I reflect on *Laus Deo*, I give thanks and praise to God for His gifts given to us so we can share them with others. Through our LWML mite offerings received, the North Wisconsin District LWML Executive Board met in September and approved paying three mission grants for a total of \$29,500.

One of those grants paid was

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Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

The Counseling CONNECTION

A pastor's grief

Pastors' grieve. There is an emotional response to the losses they face.

This scenario often begins with the loss of dreams. High are the aspirations of those who come into ministry or who start in a new position. All too often, the response from the congregation and its leaders is discouraging.

Loss No. 1: A pastor's relational needs often go under met. Feeling lonely in ministry is common. Close friendships are limited. There can also be a dis-



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

tancing in family relationships due to ministry demands.

Loss No. 2: Pastors find themselves "on stage" on a regular basis. This is true both in the worship setting and in other areas of ministry. Yet positive feedback is infrequent. Doubt can replace a stable self-confidence.

Loss No. 3: Ministry is about giving — giving of oneself for the sake of others. Many of the demands are intense and unscheduled. A pastor's energy reserves can be depleted. This is exacerbated if one's "tank" is not refueled by "Barnabas's encouragers." We are dealing with a loss — the loss of stamina for ministry.

Loss No. 4: In a related way are deaths within the congregation. A pivotal question goes unanswered. Who ministers to the minister, especially when the one who has died was well-known

to the pastor?" With each death comes another lost relationship

Loss No. 5: Ministers can be led astray. One of those distractions is pornography, a growing concern for those in ministry. This "hidden sin" can be concealed for years. Yet the impact on one's ministry and marriage can be progressively destructive. There is a loss of integrity, even when not acknowledged.

Loss No. 6: The loss of one's ministry and/or marriage can be a subsequent area of grief. This can be voluntary, or demanded. One's livelihood is in flux as is one's identity. It can feel like one's whole world is crashing in.

A pastor's grief is real and common. It is also addressable. Every pastor needs a support network. God never intended for His ministers to go it alone.

For assistance in this effort, feel free to contact me: revkohn@gmail.com or 715-610-2400.

Ground broken, consecrated at Camp Luther

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new dining facility at Camp Luther in Three Lakes were held on Sept. 1. About 175 people gathered for worship, followed by the groundbreaking.

Rev. Dwayne Lueck, president of the North Wisconsin District, delivered the message, titled “Grace Place.”

Ground was broken and consecrated as a place of ministry and the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Rev. Steve Hulke, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, officiating.

The two-level, 15,000-square foot facility will house expanded dining, kitchen and educational spaces. Donors have pledged over \$2.6 million toward the project. Construction began this fall.



Participating in the groundbreaking were, from left, Rev. Dwayne Lueck, North Wisconsin District president; Terry Hanstedt, chairman, Camp Luther Board of Directors; Gary “Woody” Vought, Camp Luther executive director; and Anne Hartman, Campaign Steering Committee chairman.



Thirty-seven grants totaling over \$100,000 from special gifts and endowments were distributed in 2019! Now is a great time to make a gift to strengthen our awards for 2020. Check out the difference a gift made for Bennet, a college student studying to become a church worker in the LCMS.

“Thank you for graciously contributing financially to me furthering my education, pursuing my career. This money is going to help me to study to become a Lutheran high school teacher. I look forward to giving back to kids and telling them about Jesus because I know how much my life was positively impacted by my teachers. Thank you all again. God bless.”



LWML

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their families at home.

We know that veterans who return to their communities after deployment may suffer from financial, physical and emotional stresses, and they will need support as they transition back to civilian life. This mission grant will be used to help veteran comfort dog handlers in congregations to reach out to veterans and their families with the love and mercy of Jesus. We are grateful and thank our military and veterans for their sacrificial service for our freedoms. Thank you veterans. *Laus Deo!*

Blessed to serve!

SAVE THE DATE

The annual **Lay Leader Training** event will be held the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 7 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Green Bay. This training shares best practices and district services in key leadership areas to encourage, network and equip lay leaders to address the strategic, policy and conflict issues that arise in congregational ministry.

Congregational presidents, executive directors, board chairs, board members, pastors and senior staff are encouraged

to attend. Registration can be found at nwdlcms.org.

The time is right for a **Team Ministry Workshop**, to be held during the day on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool, Wausau. The event will be for both church and school leadership teams, no matter what size, from two people to many.

The day will be collaborative, with short topics surrounded by intentional leadership conversations for the team to explore, develop and implement. Pastors and principals are encouraged to attend, as well as any multi-pastor teams. Registration can be found at nwdlcms.org.