



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### Welcome to Appleton!

#### *French Africans start congregation at Good Shepherd*

**D**o you know that there are 150 to 200 French Africans in the Appleton area? Not really a place you expect to find French Africans. The group of 20 (including those in the photo) met at Good Shepherd, Appleton, for worship on Jan. 7.



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

The service was led by the Rev. Kasongo Gui Kabao — Pastor Gui — who I had recently met and had the privilege of hearing his story, and about his people and congregation.

In 2007, members of Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, were asked if they would consider hosting a French-African congregation. This was a big risk for both congregations because while its pastor had become Lutheran, the French-African congregation still did not know very much about Lutheran doctrine and was more of a Baptist persuasion. An agreement was put in place, and eventually the children were all baptized.

In 2012, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church was formally received as a member of the LCMS, and Kabao was ordained and installed as its pastor after completing the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

In January, our district office was contacted by Pastor Gui because he was looking to form a French-African congregation in the Appleton area. He connected with Rev. Tim Seabaugh at Good Shepherd, and after they met Seabaugh emailed: “We are ‘a go’ here at Good Shepherd. Pastor Gui is a wonderful man and pastor. I pray that we can coordinate this on our end pretty seamlessly. This will be a major, long-term endeavor.”

So, 20 French Africans from Burundi,

Congo, Kenya, and Rwanda gathered in worship at Good Shepherd for the first time in January. Praise God!

When I met with Pastor Gui, he shared that the French-African immigrants are refugees and it is quite a switch from living in 80-degree weather to Wisconsin winters. They have come to Appleton to learn English and to make a living. Most of them speak French, but some also speak Swahili. Pastor Gui is taking them through the French edition of *Luther’s Small Catechism* and the *Book of Concord*. He shared with me that he teaches the majority of them in French and has a translator for those who speak Swahili. His goal is to train them so they can be confirmed in the Lutheran Church.

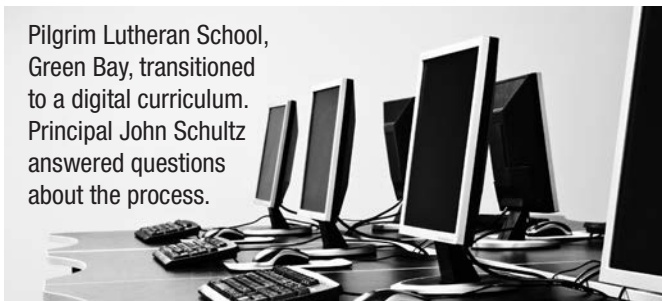
Pastor Gui has been driving from Milwaukee to Appleton every week to lead worship, catechesis and Bible study. He has an 18-passenger van to provide

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## 5 Questions

Pilgrim Lutheran School, Green Bay, transitioned to a digital curriculum. Principal John Schultz answered questions about the process.



### with Principal John Schultz

By DJ Schult

North Wisconsin District  
Assistant to the President

#### 1. Why did you decide to pursue a digital curriculum?

For a variety of reasons:

- ▶ We had a 1982 English curriculum and textbook. This was out-of-date and the books were falling apart.
- ▶ While our students were doing OK, we were seeing a decline in English/Language Arts success.
- ▶ We anticipated with the new form of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP) testing that our skills would be behind.



John Schultz

- ▶ We were looking for a positive curriculum that would strengthen not only English but also our writing skills.
- ▶ We are trying to move away from paper for cost and efficiency. This does not include the writing component that students still need to learn, practice and work on.

#### 2. You started with Shurley English. What makes that program a good fit for your school?

It teaches basic parts of speech in a repetitive manner that uses songs, rhymes and jingles. I have used this at two previous schools and saw a dramatic increase in the students' test scores in English/Language Arts. I also saw a dramatic increase in scores on the state tests that had a strong, lengthy component for writing in all the core curriculum subjects (reading, math, science, social studies).

#### 3. What technology and human resources were essential to make this transition?

The ability to download information was enhanced with our Technology director, who did this for the teachers. We also provided the students with a variety of technology hardware to call up the textbook, which is digital from the web-based program. We had the Smartboard technology in place so the teacher could show what the students would see on their computers. We did order textbooks for the students to work and write in. We have 30 Chromebooks that work fine with the program but with limitations and we had a donation of 180 laptops to use with this program where all components work very well.

#### 4. As a leader, what do you feel are the most important pieces of advice for a principal wanting to implement digital curriculum?

Cast the vision. Share the dream. Guide the process. Engage the faculty in the decision making. Provide the training. Use Title II funds. Check in to see how it is going. Provide the expertise and one-on-one assistance with confident staff members. It takes time for transition; however, it is well worth the effort to provide students with a new and exciting learning tool.

#### 5. Is there anything else you are willing to share?

We must stay relevant in the new world of education on our own terms as Lutheran schools. To stay relevant, we must be willing to be creative and innovative, and willing to motivate our students whose parents are consumers looking for what is best for their children. As it has been said, "Many of the jobs our students will work at in the future have not even been invented yet!"

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rides to the church as none of the people have their own transportation. This will become an issue as more people join them. Currently, if everyone who has shown interest would attend worship, there would be nearly 30 people in attendance.

This community worshipping in Appleton is looking for financial support as they need to pay for rent, insurance and transportation. Pastor Gui is presently being supported by the members of Zion Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, the South Wisconsin District and other congregations supporting the outreach ministries

at Zion. An urgent need for this group is warm clothing for young and old, food and hygiene materials.

If you or your congregation would like to support this French-African community, please contact Pastor Gui at [kasongo.guy1000@gmail.com](mailto:kasongo.guy1000@gmail.com) or Seabaugh at 920-734-9643.

Jesus came for all of us, including the French Africans who have arrived in Appleton. They too worship Jesus just as we do. We give thanks for their coming and pray that God blesses their outreach efforts in the Appleton area so others may also worship our Lord.

## 2017 Hearts for Jesus

A special thank you to all our Lutheran schools and Sunday schools for supporting the Hearts for Jesus project for Baton Rouge Lutheran School in Baton Rouge, La.

Please send any remaining gifts to the North Wisconsin District Office, 3103 Seymour Lane, Wausau, WI 54401.

## The counseling CONNECTION

### The addict's world

No one plans this outcome in his or her life. This is a story that is rarely shared voluntarily. Too many die before this hidden life is known.

I am talking about the world of an addict. The word itself creates its own trauma ... one of the reasons it remains so hidden.

So we begin with a definition, "When someone's behavior of choice (drinking, drugging, gambling and pornography) causes harm to love relationships." Since such relationships are a top priority in human lives, it is not natural to do anything to damage them. This includes one's love relationship with God. This



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

also removes the common defense of one's behavior: "No one else is being hurt by what I do."

Addiction is always self-centered. There is a careless disregard for others, including God. To summarize one angle on addiction "I get what I want when I want it because I deserve it." Take note of how often "I" is used in that sentence.

Addiction complicates lives. What is being done behind the scenes is adding confusion, risks and stress that the healthy person would avoid.

Addicts are haunted by "dark," hidden emotions like anger, fear, guilt, loneliness and shame. What are progressively lost are God's "light" emotions of hope, joy, love and peace.

In most cases, the addict is the last to admit or accept there is a problem. The addict puts blinders on and refuses to see what others see. Defensiveness is one of the symptoms of this sickness that is

progressing in the addict's life.

What also complicates things is that most addicts are functional. They maintain the essential aspects of their life, at least in the early stages. What is hidden is unknown to family members, friends and co-workers.

The following are relevant questions for an addict: What does God know about your life that others don't see? How has your relationship with God been affected by your behavior?

When an addict is ready to be honest (an essential element of recovery), an assessment can be very valuable in helping the addict recognize the clues of what addiction looks like. The positive outcome of an assessment is the addict admitting, "This is me!"

Recovery from an addiction is possible. It involves hard work, honesty and humility. The outcome of such a life transformation is truly worth it all! To God be the glory!

Contact Rev. Kohn at 715-610-2400 or [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com)

### Mighty Mites

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

At the top of the 2015-17 national Lutheran Women's Missionary League's (LWML) mission-grant poster is the phrase "Giving from Our Hearts for Mission." It reflects the dedication of LWML members as they offer their gifts

(mites) and their Christian hearts as they serve with gladness. The national biennium ends on March 31 of odd years. In the district, we complete the biennium on March 31 of even years.



**Mary Harrington**  
LWML District President

The 2015-17 biennium ends on March 31. There is always a push, a concern, that we're not going to meet our mite goal and be able to fully fund the 19 mission grants adopted at the 2015

convention in Des Moines. A \$2 million mite goal was adopted for this biennium and as members, we also know that if all the mites needed aren't collected

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### 2015-17 LWML MISSION GRANTS

1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry – MOST Ministries
2. Disaster Response Trailers
3. Cancer Care Packages – Phil's Friends
4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings – Nigeria
5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home – Sanford, Fla.
6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People – Rocky Mountain District
7. Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon
8. Healthy Families – Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska
9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative – International Student Scholarships
10. Training Teachers and Leaders – Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
11. Opportunities in Uganda – Women of the Pearl
12. Lutheran Bible Translators – Africa
13. International Student Scholarship, St. Paul High School, Concordia, Mo.
14. Apple of His Eye Mission Society Israel
15. Helping Hands Initiative – home repair
16. Deaconess Training
17. LCMS Young Adult Corps – Scholarships
18. Providing Hope for Detroit - Acts 2 Enterprise
19. Rosa Young Academies



# Peace students serve in flooded Baton Rouge



By Kaylie Cartwright  
Mission Team Member

Ten students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point, chose to become a mission team during winter break and headed to Baton Rouge, La. The purpose of the trip was to help in the cleanup from the August flooding.

The team wasn't sure what to expect to see in Baton Rouge. While driving down the streets, we saw houses that appeared perfectly normal, but were unlivable. We saw pile-upon-pile of garbage on the

curbs from the gutted homes. We also found that the residents were united in facing the devastating loss from flooding forced upon them. And we were ready to get to work!

Our first project was to help a woman whose entire home was destroyed. We were able to help her by taking down a fence, a porch and removing windows. When we finished, we moved the items to the road.

The next project was to help a man remove everything down to the frame of

his home. The leaders of Camp Restore worried there might be toxic mold in the home, so we wore Tyvek suits and masks. While not everyone was a fan of our new outfits, we enjoyed helping the man get one step closer to moving back into his home.

Our final project was helping a man who had five feet of water in his house during the flood and was in the process of restoring the interior. Our team was given a crash course in how to install insulation and drywall. We had a few bumps along the way, but learned to work as a team and accomplished our task.

While in Louisiana, we learned a lot about the culture and the hospitality of the people. Everyone was very happy to have us helping people in the community. It was impossible to completely restore someone's home in a week, but we knew we could bring joy and hope to those in need. We were God's messengers through our actions. Every home owner we talked with mentioned their faith. One man said the flood was a good thing because it brought everyone together. We learned a lot in Louisiana about the power of faith. Each of us will continue to grow in our faith and use our new experiences to show others we are Christians by our love and caring for others.

## LWML (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

before March 31, the grants will be funded using offerings from the 2017-19 biennium, which starts April 1.

LWML members take a lot of pride in being able to meet the mission goal and we fully rely on God to reach it.

Prayers are offered along with our mites and it makes a powerful combination. We ask God to bless our mites and the missions and missionaries we are funding, that His kingdom may grow and others may learn of salvation in Christ Jesus.

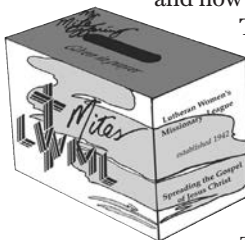
Go to [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants) to

stay informed on the progress of funding the grants. It shares photos and a description of the work being done by the grant recipients and how our support will be used.

There are prayers and devotions to accompany each grant. It's one of the most visited sections on the website.

Missions and mites are the core of our organization. I encourage you to go to the website and see what kind of progress we've made at reaching our goal. Join us by offering gifts in support of these missions.

Give all thanks and praise to God!



## Get your district information booklet

The new District Resources information booklets are ready! The booklets tell the story of the work we are doing together in the district. Learn about student grants, campus ministry, Mission Peru, schools and more.

Watch for them at events or in the information center of your congregation. Call District Resources at 715-845-8241 for more information and a free copy.

## Leadership meeting resources online

Did you miss the circuit leadership meetings held in January and February? Multiple resources from those events are available on the district's website at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org). Look at the right side of the homepage and click on the items of interest.

Want to learn more about stewardship, board business, conflict or worker health issues? Contact DJ Schult at District Resources, 715-845-8241 or [dj@nwdlcms.org](mailto:dj@nwdlcms.org).