



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### Missionary happenings in **LIMA, PERU**

By Rev. Dwayne Lueck  
North Wisconsin District President

#### Praise the Lord for:

- ▶ Leading us to so many special people whom He has prepared in advance to hear His Word and come to faith in Him.
- ▶ Allowing us to live here and get to know the people and culture and special sights of Peru.
- ▶ For current good health.
- ▶ For encouraging us when we get frustrated.

The words above are from retired missionary Paul “Bo” Brink, who along with his wife, Barb, are serving for six months in Lima, Peru. This mission is supported through North Wisconsin District (NWD) congregational mission dollars. I had the privilege to see firsthand what is going on in Lima in early November and support the mission workers at the Foro (Spanish for “forum,” a system of support used for LCMS missions and sister churches in Latin America and the Caribbean). This update was written in November.

The Lima mission office is located in San Borja. The ministry in this neighborhood has been going on for at least three years with mainly an English as a Second Language (ESL) outreach. There are classes on Wednesday evenings with one hour of grammar and conversation and one hour of an English Bible study. There is an average of 12 participants, several of whom have

expressed an interest in learning more about the Bible and salvation.

In addition, a new Sunday-evening Spanish evangelistic Bible study has just started. Based on the good work done by previous missionaries, 14 people were invited and four of them are attending.

In La Victoria, the Saturday-afternoon Bible school for children has grown from an average of six in the first month

to 16 in the last four weeks. The children come on their own initiative, listen intently to the Bible stories, ask good questions and enjoy group conversation, songs and crafts.

Reaching the parents of these children is a difficult task. On the positive side, four parents have recently attended at least one worship service. What is proving to be more challenging is getting the parents into Bible study. Even though Rev. Osmel Soliz has been doing a great job of visiting many in their homes and inviting them to study the Bible with him, none have attended. We think the new strategy may be Bible studies in individual homes, but homes are tiny and schedules are difficult.

In Los Olivos, though Satan is working overtime to cause discord and interpersonal strife, Jesus continues to grow His church. Average worship attendance has grown from 23 in the first month to 34 in the second. Almost everyone stays for Sunday school and Bible class. The action support teams are slowly

See MESSAGE, Page 3



Staff and supporters of the mission in Peru meet to discuss strategies. Pastor Lueck is third from left.

## MINISTRY CORNER

# How does District Resources help schools?

By DJ Schult

Assistant to the President

The NWD's District Resources has the mission to encourage, network and equip district congregations to vigorously make known the love of Christ. For decades our Lutheran schools have been a critical tool for our congregations to achieve the Great Commission of making disciples by baptizing and teaching. District Resources employs an education executive who serves to encourage, network and equip the called and lay workers serving in our schools.

While efforts in state and national education change over time (vouchers, teacher licensing), there have been district-wide strategic initiatives implemented or reorganized over the past five years to strengthen our Lutheran schools. This includes:

- ▶ Strengthening the Lutheran ethos of our schools as we prepare for a teacher shortage (Colloquy and Lutheran teacher programs at CU-Nebraska);
- ▶ New principal recruitment and development (SLED and FLAME);
- ▶ Strengthening curriculum through mapping (Curriculum Trak);



- ▶ Technology integration in the classroom (Tec21);
- ▶ Ongoing school improvement through accreditation (NLSA);
- ▶ Communicating and filtering critical state/national trends (WCRIS);
- ▶ Early Childhood Director leadership development (consultant, regional meetings).

Our newest initiative, Ministry Safe, in the final stages of planning, is securing the organizational and content resources necessary to help our schools train staff and volunteers to prevent student sexual abuse. Watch for the pilot in our

schools in 2019, with possible rollout to our preschools and churches in 2020.

Your continued support of District Resources provides the resources our schools need to work together on these priorities. Support in the call process, board training and professional conferences are also provided through your gifts. Please pray for the ministry of our schools and the work of the teachers, support staff, principals and pastors that make ministry happen each day.

## Celebrate our Lutheran schools!

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) provides nearly 2,000 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in our schools.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. NLSW gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. For more information and resources, visit [lcms.org/lutheralschoolsweek](http://lcms.org/lutheralschoolsweek).

## Teachers gather for conference

Nearly all of the teachers from North and South Wisconsin district schools attended the triennial State Teachers Conference in November. The two-day event contained worship, motivating and encouraging keynote messages and meaningful breakout sessions.

A special thank you to Rev. Steve Hulke, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Stevens Point, for leading the morning devotion and to Cathy Page of Trinity, Wausau, and Lynette Hansen of Pilgrim, Green Bay, for serving on the planning team!



Send news to:

**Karol Selle**  
(715-677-4877)  
▶ [selleks@gmail.com](mailto:selleks@gmail.com)  
▶ 3177 State Hwy. 66  
Rosholt, WI 54473

# Position announcement

The North Wisconsin District is seeking qualified candidates for a full-time position of NWD Business Manager and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) vice-president.

The critical leadership responsibilities of Business Manager include oversight of all district financial operations, leadership to congregations regarding business practices and stewardship, and oversight of building maintenance plans, vendor contract negotiations and improvements of district properties.

The LCEF role is to resource ministries of the LCMS with investment opportunities, loans and related support services that assist member congregations of the LCMS, its affiliated Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), and other district-supported organizations.

Preferred candidates will be active members of an LCMS congregation, demonstrating an effective understanding of church leadership as well as district and Synod governance, and will have a bachelor's degree and 10 or more years of professional experience in the business administration/management, accounting/banking and/or finance and marketing and/or sales management.

For more information, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).

# Lay Leader Training

Registration is open at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) for Lay Leader Training, to be held 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Trinity, Wausau.



**The administrative assistants in the North Wisconsin District** work part and full-time, in large congregations and small, doing everything from answering the phone to being the go-to person for the entire congregation and staff. In October, this group gathered in Wausau to discuss leadership in their role by exploring the special tasks of their specific location. Thank you for serving the church!

# MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

gaining momentum. Bo and Barb are working at visiting everyone in their homes. Eight ladies are studying a mid-week prayer course with Barb. Bo's lay leadership training course has eight regular attendees. A new building is needed to accommodate the ministry's growth.

While we were there, Pastor Osmel, a native of Bolivia, was installed as pastor to the Lima mission sites. He recently graduated from Concordia Reformer Lutheran Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic, and was ordained. Elvis Carrera is a native of Peru and is attending Concordia Reformer seminary. He will be going home this spring to serve as a vicar, and eventually be a pastor to his people.

Jencarlos Ramirez, also a seminarian, is a native of Lima and is married to Deaconess Caitlin Worden de Ramirez, who serves as a missionary in the Dominican Republic.

I was happy to see the progress the mission has been making and the plans for continued outreach with the Gospel to the people of Lima. The support of our district is very crucial and necessary for this ministry to happen.

Interested in hearing firsthand about the Lima mission? Call me and I would be happy to set up a time to talk about it. If you



Elvis Carrera, a native of Peru, writes notes during class at the Concordia Reformer Lutheran Seminary and Mercy Center in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic.

would like to make a contribution directly to help support this mission work, you can send a check made out to the North Wisconsin District and with PERU in the memo line.

In closing, below are the recent prayer requests from Missionary Bo.

Please ask the Lord to:

- ▶ Work in the hearts of all the folks mentioned.
- ▶ Foil Satan's attempts to prevent this ministry from prospering.
- ▶ Clearly guide our plans and strategies to make the most of our time here.
- ▶ Set into motion whatever needs to be done to bring another missionary here before we leave in April, 2019. May He already be preparing that person for service here.

## 'You came to me'

Welcome to 2019 and your New Year's resolutions! Most of the time we think of resolutions as those that keep us healthy — like diets, more exercise, less social media. I will admit that I break these pretty quickly.

Last year, I made a promise to be in God's Word daily — this one I have kept. I read several devotions every morning. It's amazing that some days they are all about the same topic. God must have known that I needed His words of assurance or promise on that particular day.

I have been reading through the Bible this past year while riding my exercise bike. It's a benefit for me to get healthy physically and spiritually. I encourage you to make your resolution this year to be in God's Word daily. It is healthy and you are fed spiritually every day. Think about the mission statement of the LWML:



**Becky Haltaufderheid**  
LWML District President

The mission of the LWML is to assist each woman of the LCMS in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

What better way to do that than to encourage each other to be in God's Word daily. This enables each woman to be nurtured in her faith in Christ so that she can grow in her relationship with others and make a difference in the lives of all people.

Our mite offerings make a difference to people here and abroad. Since the LWML was founded in 1942, over \$100 million in mites has been paid in 43 countries. One of the national mission grants recently paid was the "Prison and Jail Ministry-wide Conference 2018" for \$36,500. This grant helped more than 200 lay and clergy participants from 30 LCMS districts learn about the importance of prison and jail ministry. The participants were able to network with each other to learn about the best practices used in handling various situations and to offer support to those ministering in a very different and sometimes difficult environment. These

participants were very grateful for the opportunity to be able to attend this conference with the help of the LWML.

Deaconess Lori Wilbert, a good friend and daughter of one of our congregational members, works in the Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, Ill. She often speaks to my LWML society about her ministry behind the walls and how the Holy Spirit is at work through her to reach many individuals who need God's saving grace any given day. Deaconess Wilbert has explained how difficult her work can be on any day and how her schedule needs to be flexible, depending on what has happened prior to her arrival for the day. She reflects on how the classes she teaches have changed individuals in a positive way as they digest the materials, challenge one another to grow in their faith and learn to love themselves and others.

Thanks to the LWML, those working "behind the walls" had the opportunity to network with other lay and clergy participants so that they can continue to bring Christ to incarcerated individuals as He has commanded:

"I was in prison and you came to me." — **MATT. 25:36**

## The Counseling CONNECTION

### 'Let go ... and let God!'

His ministry was a success story. He was a called pastor with a consistent passion for Christ. His impact was widespread and then the "thorn" came.

Yes, we are talking about Paul, the apostle chosen in spite of his initial opposition to Christ. Now this faithful witness faced a daunting, unidentified challenge. Paul introduces this major impediment this way:



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited" (2 Cor. 12:7).

This thorn appears to have had both physical and spiritual dimensions. It was significant enough that Paul pleaded with God three times to have it removed (v.8). This was Christ's persistent response: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'" (vs.9a).

Removal was not the solution. The weakness was a "grace space" where God's power could be displayed. God's plan would be fulfilled.

I am reminded of one of the slogans from the 12-step program: "Let go ... and let God." We need to turn over to God what we cannot control, giving Him the positioning to work out His "good" purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Paul indeed let go as he focused on an alternative, Christ-centered view:

"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (v.9b-10).

So what is your thorn challenge? Are you ready to let Christ have control? Christ, who chose you for ministry, will not let you down! Let go ... and let God!

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