



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



‘Nothing has changed’



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

I recently read an article at *lifehack.org* titled “15 Things Students Really Want From Teachers” and the top three were:

1. They want teachers who make class interesting and fun.
2. They want teachers who are passionate.
3. They want a teacher who wants to help them learn.

When I thought about my teachers from my grade-school days at St Peter’s in Reedsburg, I thought of Mr. Strahle. He was my third-grade teacher and did exactly what was mentioned above. In fact, I looked him up online and emailed him to share with him my memories of third grade.

The parochial schools of our district annually join other schools around the LCMS to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. It had been declared this year for Jan. 26–Feb. 1. Many of our schools will celebrate the first week of March. It is a time

to celebrate the blessing that our Lutheran schools have been over the years.

This year’s theme is “Joy:fully Lutheran,” based on the passage from 1 Thess. 5:16-18:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

In 1947 in a book by Walter A. Baepler, *A Century of Grace*, he wrote:

“Our father knew no other, no better way for founding and building up Christian congregations. Therefore, they simply began with Christian day schools wherever they settled; and the results fully justify their procedure.”

Nothing has changed.

Our ancestors wished to train their children in Holy Scripture and in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. They believed that religious education — rearing children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord — was of the greatest importance. Nothing has changed. Our district is blessed to have 22 schools, including three high schools and 35 early childhood centers that are giving the children a Christian education.

It takes many people to make this happen. It takes a congregation and its members to provide the place and space, along with financial support. It takes parents who wish to have their children receive a Christian education, and who support their children at

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Year-end letter from President Lueck

Grace, Mercy and Peace in the Name of Jesus Christ,

As another church year ends, we begin the celebrations of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. We have much to be thankful for, in our personal lives and the life of the church. This letter looks at our ministry together this past year and allows us to give thanks for the partnership we share in the Gospel.

Your financial gifts this year provided critical ministry that most of our congregations could never support on their own. The North Wisconsin District is one of 35 districts in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, with a ministry area that includes the top half of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We host and support 216 churches, three high schools, 19 elementary schools, 35 stand-alone early childhood centers, campus ministry, Camp Luther, veteran's ministry, deaf ministry, worker counseling, and much more.

Our mission statement describes our shared purpose:

"Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the LCMS North Wisconsin District to vigorously make known the love of Christ."

To accomplish our purpose and effectively steward your gifts to the LCMS North Wisconsin District (NWD), we have aligned our personnel and financial resources to support three key outcomes:

- ▶ Church workers will be encouraged, equipped and aided to fulfill their calls

and vocations.

- ▶ Congregations will be encouraged, equipped and aided to minister to the needs of all through Word and Sacrament.
- ▶ Ministry opportunities will be identified and resources deployed to collectively carry out Witness, Mercy and Life Together.

We have more to do and need your help. Better supporting rural and small-town ministry is a new emphasis for 2020. Worker wellness has become a more intentional priority as well, especially by addressing financial health through worker debt relief and development of a wellness task force.

Thank you for your gifts and please join us in ministry in 2020! Pray for the workers in the NWD, that they may shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Pray for the ministries in the NWD, that they may proclaim through Word and Sacrament the hope we have in Christ. Pray for the hearers, that they would be changed by grace through faith in Christ. Finally, give financially to the NWD.

Please see the information attached to better understand our financial stewardship of your gifts. We are grateful for your support and strive for transparency. Contact me at any time to discuss the ministry we share.

Together in Ministry,



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



home, as well as the financial commitment. It takes dedicated teachers to instruct in the ABCs along with Christian teaching. Finally, the main thing — the children. It is the children who are the receivers of all this. Nothing has changed.

At this time, our Synod faces a shortage of Lutheran-trained teachers. The number of commissioned workers in our Synod who are Lutheran is 28 percent. We need more. What can we do? Support the teachers who are serving in our schools with your prayers and encouragement. Care for them with a good salary and benefits. And we need to encourage our youth to consider going into the teaching ministry and attend one of our Concordia colleges and universities. Accompany them for a campus visit to Mequon or St. Paul.

I am thankful for our schools, and teachers and the students they educate. I am thankful for Mr. Strahle and all my teachers from my St Peter days. They impacted my life. I was blessed to have a Lutheran education. May God continue to bless the students who attend our Lutheran schools, their teachers, their parents and their congregations that support the school.

Go celebrate with the children as they enjoy National Lutheran Schools Week. Some things never change.

Hymn festival is Feb. 23

From the time we are born, music shapes and defines our life and identity — the lullabies we hear, the music our parents played and the music that we can't help but sing along. Music tells us about who we are and what is important in our lives.

Join us at 3 p.m. on Feb. 23 at Faith Lutheran Church, Appleton, as the joint choirs of Faith, Appleton, and Faith, Green Bay, present "How Can I Keep From Singing? American Hymns of Faith," a hymn festival devoted to the spirituals, hymns and texts that have helped shape and define American Christianity.

Paul Heiser • Director of Music, Faith, Green Bay

Inspired to share HIS story

When national LWML presidents are elected, they reveal a theme for their term. This past fall, President Debbie Larson met with LWML leaders under her theme “Inspired to Share HIS Story” and shared with us the “Heart of Christ in Us” logo. I’d like to share this with you too.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

As her logo revealed, we are **held** by God’s Word and through His Word we are assured of His promises. We have a better understanding of how we need to live our lives to His glory.

Because of **His** promises, we are **inspired** to share His Gospel message with the world, and we do this through mission education, service to others and our mite offerings.

We are **surrounded** by His grace. As we live our lives, we mess up, but as His children we are covered with HIS grace and mercy, and we are able to live in joy knowing that our sins have been forgiven.

President Larson stated, “Let the Holy Spirit fill you and Christ will remain at the heart of all you do.”

What a great message to carry with us. With Christ in our hearts and our lives purposely focused on Him, He leads us and we are able to do far more and reach more people with the Gospel than we have ever expected.

In February is Valentine’s Day. Perhaps there’s someone who you will give a Valentine greeting. Perhaps it is a grandchild, niece, nephew, spouse or significant other. Share the Gospel with the special people in your life, to let



them know that with Christ in their heart, they are surrounded by God’s grace.

As we get together with our LWML sisters for Bible studies, we encourage each other to be faithful in God’s Word and as we do, we are assured of His promise to be with us always. As we fill our mite boxes with our offerings, we are inspired to share **His** Gospel message with others through the Mission Grants we have selected nationally and in our district.

With **Christ** in our hearts, we know that we are surrounded by His Grace, and we willingly share His love with others so they too may live in joy of knowing that their sins are forgiven and they are assured the gift of eternal life. So, fill your Mite Box this month and give a little extra on Valentine’s Day, remembering that Christ lives in your heart!

Blessed to serve!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Equippers!

Christ established His earthly church. With it came a key Person and a plan. The Person being referred to was God the Holy Spirit. Of lesser prominence, yet still used by Christ, were the trained apostles who were His “witnesses” (Acts 1:8). This would also include Paul, the last chosen apostle (Acts 9:3-19a).



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

There was a third variable in Christ’s church plan that came through the Spirit. These were the empowered “gifts” given by this power source for the sake of fulfilling the ministry of the church

(Rom. 12:4-8 and 1 Cor. 12:4-11).

Select “gifts” are also referenced in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. They hold a special role within the body of believers:

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and the teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”
— Eph. 4:11-13

Pastors as shepherds, along with the other three ministers, are equippers of the saints who are fellow, sanctified members of the body. The ultimate goal is spiritual maturity in Christ.

In a different frame of reference, this work goes back to the commissioning of the first disciples. They were called by Christ to “make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19a, 20a). Beyond the sharing of information is the maturing work to be an equipped follower and fellow messenger of Christ.

Herein lies a challenge in our post-Christian culture. Too many attendees of the church (if they even attend) are superficial believers who are swayed by comfort and convenience. They have their own agenda that hampers their maturity. They are far from being equipped messengers for Christ.

Yes, there is work to be done for the sake of Christ and His church! Equipping toward maturity is still a high calling!

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



WVLHS students are NHS members

On Nov. 5, Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School (WVLHS) students from Stevens Point, Wausau, Junction City, Plover, Weston and Merrill were inducted into the WVLHS Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS).

Those selected for this prestigious honor took part in the ceremonial lighting of candles of scholarship, character, service and leadership. The induction brings the total number of WVLHS students in NHS to 56. WVLHS, established in 2004, is located in Mosinee.

Established in 1921, NHS and National Junior Honor Society are the nation's premier organizations that recognize outstanding high school and middle school (grades 6-8) students.



Inductees are (top) from left, Peter Breitwisch, Cole Graff, Evan Graff, Laura Hetherman, Christian Johnson, Sydney Lilienthal, Ethan Mehlberg, Amaris Wiesneski and (in circle) Lydia Schult, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Hearts for Jesus 2020

For its 50th anniversary in 2020, the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) has worked with other districts for Hearts for Jesus. Many of our schools, Sunday schools and other ministries support the district's special offering in February. Many children across southern Canada and the United States have helped keep LAMP planes "fueled up" by sending money they've collected individually or in groups.

Sunday schools, day schools and VBS groups have used LAMP's curriculum to help children understand the mission. "Lampert"™ and the "Lost Little Ones" curriculum encourages children to be mission-minded by:

- ▶ Teaching about LAMP's ministry to indigenous children in remote areas of northern Canada.
- ▶ Encouraging prayers for the children and their families in the north and becoming involved in "Fueling the Mission" by collecting money for airplane fuel.

Schools can easily access resources like curriculum, videos and songs by clicking the "Lampert" at lampministry.org. Adults may wish to learn more about the friendships created and challenges LAMP faces by reading the missionary blogs at lightabovemyath.blogspot.com.

Sending **all** children to Camp Luther

How will your gift help

Your support will impact the lives of children for eternity! Your gift will help a child come to camp and he or she will learn about Jesus and what He did for them.

What is "Every Kid to Camp?"

It's a ministry that sends kids to camp at no expense to their parents (except transportation) and provides financial aid through camperships to those in need. The ministry goal is that every child in the North Wisconsin District, and beyond, attends a five-day camp.

What is the purpose?

It's to help kids build a stronger foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. It's a unique experience where youth grow in maturity, self-worth and, most importantly, in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

It's a tremendous blessing that every one of our children deserve to experience. It's about connecting **kids to Christ** through **camp** ... one kid at a time.



Every Kid to Camp

MATCHING GIFT

If Camp is blessed with \$20,000 in donations for Every Kid to Camp by April 30, 2020, our friends at MCL, Inc. of Pulaski, WI will provide an additional \$20,000 towards helping kids go to Camp Luther and Keweenaw Base Camp.