

# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN



*Our cry for God's help, and celebrating what He's done*



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

May Day is celebrated on May 1 in many cultures around the world. What is it? It's a celebration of spring and a day of unity, togetherness and rebirth; a day for everyone to come together and celebrate life. We did not celebrate it in our household, but every May 1 our neighbors hung a basket of paper flowers on our door.

When I asked a fellow worker about May Day, the response was, "You mean 'mayday' like the distress signal?" I replied, "No, May Day!" Honestly, I had forgotten there is another use of "mayday." It was conceived as a distress call in the early 1920s by Frederick Stanley Mockford, officer-in-charge of radio at Croydon Airport in England. It was chosen because it could be easily understood and is very similar to some French words (m'aidez) that mean "help me."

So you have basically the same term but two different meanings. "May Day" means a celebration of life while "mayday" is a cry for help.

In a way it sort of sums up our lives as followers of Christ, and

even when we come together to worship. At the beginning of our worship we confess our cry for help, "I, a poor miserable sinner" and receive the Good News that we are forgiven. Then we move on to hear the Good News from God's Word through the readings and sermon. As baptized children of God we are encouraged to reflect on God's Word and then apply that to our lives by loving our Lord and our neighbor.

It is interesting that in May we have set aside opportunities to love those around us. May 1 is School Principals' Day. The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week. I hope that we reach out and encourage these faithful workers in our parochial and public schools. They need to hear that we are thankful they are in the classroom, teaching and modeling for our children. It has been a tough two years. Thank them!

During May, we certainly remember the second Sunday as it is Mother's Day. As it states in Prov. 31:28-29:

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

Honor her. Pray for her daily.

Many confirmations are celebrated in May, when the catechumens, baptized individuals, publicly confess their faith and renew their baptismal vow. The prayer of parents and members is that they be faithful in their profession, become fruitful in every good work and in the end receive the crown of life.

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# Wilaby receives LEA award

Michaela Wilaby was selected to receive the Lutheran Education Association's 2022 Outstanding New Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award.

She is in her first year of teaching kindergarten at Pilgrim Lutheran School, Green Bay, where she also serves as girls' basketball coach.

Michaela earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Concordia University Wisconsin. She was the recipient of the Martha Konz Student Educator Award for superior achievement in the field of teacher



**Michaela Wilaby**

education and was a nominee for the Donna J. Streufert Women's Leadership Award.

Michaela found joy in her first year of teaching. "Sharing Bible stories, God's grace, Christ-like forgiveness and Jesus' love with my students has been a great joy, especially when I have seen them begin to do the same with one another," she said. "My greatest challenge has been

meeting the unique, God-given needs of each student who has been placed in my care."

"Parents have shared with me their thanks for Michaela and her teaching,

commending her Christian methods, her classroom atmosphere and her dignified professionalism," said John Schultz, Pilgrim principal. "I foresee the children in her room becoming highly successful as a result of Michaela's instructional methodology."

A parent said, "She has found the perfect combination of encouragement and structure to motivate our son to be successful. I could sense her passion for teaching and care for children. She talks to them at their level and truly sees them for who they are."

Michaela's personal mission statement is "to be a model of Christ's love to each student, sharing the Good News of the Gospel while growing them academically."

# Excitement at NEWLHS

## Chris Nelson

(pictured) is the executive director of the Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran



School Association, which oversees the operation of NEW Lutheran High School (NEWLHS), Trinity Lutheran School and Faith Christian Preschool in Green Bay.

NEWLHS opened its doors in 1977 with 36 students. Times have changed. There has been a lot of ministry at NEWLHS the past few years, including a recently completed building project. Nelson answered a few questions to provide some details about the project.

## What was built and what it will allow you to do?

Under the supervision of Principal Jim McClellan, the faculty and staff collaborated to determine the facility needs moving forward. What was undertaken, through our "All Things New" capital campaign, was an addition onto the east side of our existing building. This new space has dedicated instructional areas for chemistry, biology, music, 3D printing and tech ed.

By creating these new dedicated spaces, along with renovating existing space for a new art room and athletic training, we are meeting the needs of our faculty and student body in new and dynamic ways, now and for years to come.

## Were there any surprising moments when God's hand was clearly blessing the project?

Our general contractor, Todd Wendt of John J. Calmes Construction, was on top of his game when it came to communicating with Mr. McClellan, meeting with the city of Green Bay, securing the subcontracts and keeping us informed of each step of the process. With the supply chain and labor issues being very real obstacles, we felt that God truly was at work throughout this time.

The other aspect of this that was truly remarkable was how God has worked in His people who love our schools. The total campaign goal that also addresses initiatives at Faith Chris-

tian Preschool and Trinity Lutheran School is \$1.9 million. By God's grace and through His generous people, we recently reached the \$1 million mark. It is truly humbling to see God at work — His blessings are flowing for His schools in Green Bay!

## What was the most difficult part of the project and how was it overcome?

I think the time frame of the project was challenging from the beginning. We had an aggressive timeline, so identifying a campaign team, creating the case and then holding events to communicate the needs and ask for support were essential. The board, the faculty and staff from all three schools, our school families and the campaign team all were key players in the success of "All Things New" to date.

## What is next for NEWLHS?

With a tremendous administrator and a dynamic and dedicated faculty and staff who challenge each other to identify educational trends and ways to attract students, we are striving to fill the new addition as quickly as possible. It is not unreasonable to prepare for 75 to 100 new students in the very near future.

We are so grateful to God for His many blessings and excited to see how He leads us forward in our mission of "helping families prepare Christian leaders."

LWML



## Graying, growing, greening

Looking out my window as I write this, there is still a field of white. It takes a while for 20 inches of snow to disappear, and when the ground cover melts, the vestiges of snow piles remain.

Then comes the season of gray. It's not too long before there are things sprouting up through the gray as we have the season of growth. In northern Wisconsin, we tend to get pretty excited when new growth spurts up.

Then comes the season of lush green. With the lushness comes maintenance. Trees need to be trimmed, lawns need to be mowed, gardens get planted and then weeded. God's creation is beautiful and a wonderful gift to each of us, but it comes with responsibility.

Our faith life is much the same. We sometimes go through a quiet period and then hit a growth spurt that will need to be tended by God's Word in worship, fellowship and Bible study. When we contribute to mites, we are growing someone's faith walk as the mites go into action sharing the Gospel.

During this past biennium, the district LWML has continued to meet as the pandemic allowed, celebrating the mission of sharing the Gospel. We have gathered our mite offerings and put them to work. We were able to fully fund all the Mission Grants that were selected at the 2020 LWML convention. Our mission goal of \$110,000 was met and surpassed because of faith-filled giving.

We plan to gather together in convention next month to select new Mission Grants to support and elect officers who are excited to continue the work of the North Wisconsin District LWML.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. **ROM. 10:17**



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District  
President

Wellness Corner

## Press on!

He was a man who knew great suffering. It was a part of his personal calling (Acts 9:16). His name was Paul and he was Christ's missionary to the Gentiles.

Frequent imprisonments were only one challenge Paul endured (for a full list of sufferings, see 2 Cor. 11:23b-28). During his imprisonment in Philippi, Paul penned these words regarding his calling for Christ:

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

**PHIL. 3:13B-14**

It is noteworthy that Paul wrote those words while He was still in prison. The apostle leaned into the challenges rather than bemoan his plight. The suffering he faced only increased his passion to carry on the work before him. Paul did not let the past deter his determination. His focus was fearless and forward. He was fully ready to passionately "press on" for the sake of Christ!

Paul adds two additional thoughts:

Let those of us who are mature think this way ... Only let us hold true to what we have attained. **PHIL. 3:15A-16**

Spiritual maturity is a vital goal for all who follow Christ. What have been attained are the gifts of forgiveness and salvation



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

and the privilege to be Christ's called servants. All these insights can be applied to our calling today.

The challenges can indeed be daunting and on-going. Many are the detours that could be taken that would diminish our ministry impact. Yet

we remain focused on Christ and His calling to be a part of His kingdom mission. Even the suffering holds merit as it promotes perseverance, character and hope (Rom. 5:3-4).

We dare not lose sight of another key component in our ministry work. It is one that is too easily ignored. This is the vital partnership we have with the Holy Spirit for the work before us. As with those first apostles, we too have "power" through Him (Acts 1:8). He also gifts us for this work (Rom. 12:4-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-11, Eph. 4:11-13 and 1 Peter 4:10-11).

We never do ministry alone! With that thought in mind, we do well to consider one additional aspect of Paul's ministry for Christ. He had a ministry partner on his three mission trips. This prompts the question — who is our partner in ministry?

Paul speaks to all in ministry today in light of the challenges being faced ... "Press on!" Let it be a part of our lasting legacy, "There is one who pressed on!"

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

# DISTRICT NEWS

## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Pray for them. Encourage them.

The month wraps up with the national holiday of Memorial Day on the last Monday. It is a day to remember those in the U.S. military who died while serving. Because of them, we continue to live in a country where we have the freedom to come together and worship our Lord.

May is a great month to reflect on what our God has done and how He has blessed us — and continues to bless us — with those around us. He heard our “Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!” cry for help through His Son.

May God bless your month of May.



## Share your news with us!



We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District insert of *The Lutheran Witness*. They help remind us of what God is doing around the district. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ's church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men's or women's group, servant events, conferences, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

**Submissions for the August 2022 issue are needed by June 15.**

Send submissions to Karol Selle:

- ▶ [selleks@gmail.com](mailto:selleks@gmail.com)
- ▶ 3177 State Hwy. 66  
Rosholt, WI 54473

## THE WORD AT WORK

gathered for a week of intensive studies.

“It's all about the Word,” says LCMS missionary Rev. Dr.

Cory Rajek in the Spring 2022 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*. The issue highlights a few places where the Word of God is at work, including in rural western Kenya, where men and women are being prepared to serve a dozen Lutheran church bodies in East

Africa; in Lutheran schools in California and Wisconsin, where the next generation is growing in their knowledge of math, science and the Savior, Jesus Christ; and in Germany, where students who attend online classes through the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia, recently



The issue also includes five stories written by LCMS missionaries about mission work in Brazil, Italy, Taiwan, Germany and more. In addition, you'll hear from the Rev. James Krikava, director of the LCMS Eurasia region, who is coordinating the Synod's response to help those who are displaced, suffering or in danger due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

The magazine was slated to arrive in mailboxes in late April. You can read the issue online at [engage.lcms.org](http://engage.lcms.org). To have the magazine delivered directly to your door, visit [engage.lcms.org/subscribe](http://engage.lcms.org/subscribe).

Individual and bulk subscriptions (for congregations) are available at no charge.

## Convention is June 5-6

“Labor of Love” is the theme of the triennial North Wisconsin District Convention, to be held June 5-6 at Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild. For more information, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) and click “Convention” on the right side of the page.

