



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



GREAT WEEK AHEAD!

By Rev. Dwayne Lueck
District President

When I was growing up spring break did not mean that we were going on some family trip to the Gulf Shores, Phoenix, Mexico or Padre Island. Spring break was our week off from school during Holy Week. What that meant was spring-cleaning the house, vacuuming mattresses, washing walls, playing a lot of basketball and going to church on all the holy days. Mom never told me spring cleaning started because of Holy Week.

Holy Week is divided into two sections. The first part is Sunday to Wednesday. It is a time of preparation for the second part of the week. Spring cleaning had its beginning during Holy Week. People carefully cleaned the homes to



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be ready for the rest of Holy Week and the Easter celebration. The second part of Holy Week, Thursday to Saturday, is supposed to be given to prayer and special worship in the home and church.

Holy Week has grown from a one-day celebration of Christ's triumph. Palm Sunday was once known as "Hosanna Sunday." On this day the people cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Hosanna in the highest." But that same day also has another name which I saw on both of my seminary calendars — "Passion Sunday." Many years ago, Passion Sunday was a week before Palm Sunday and kicked off two weeks focusing on Jesus. But that changed to one week, now called Holy Week.

Holy Week remains to emphasize the suffering, death and burial of our Lord. The reading of the passion story on Sunday and again on Friday supports this. The passion story of what Jesus did for us is read from Matthew, Mark or Luke. He paid for the sins of the world.

On Monday, we hear about the example of Christ as stated in 1 Peter 2. On Tuesday, we hear of the kernel of wheat that falls into the ground and dies and brings forth much fruit. Wednesday has been called "Spy Wednesday," as the readings include the deal worked out between Judas and the chief priests.

Then come the three holy days, or Holy Triduum. The liturgy and the readings for the three days remember the death, entombment and resurrection of Christ.

The Maundy Thursday (Maundy is from Latin *mandatum*, "command") theme is the Lord's new command to His disciples in the upper room: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." The world "will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." It is the day we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. Jesus also gave the command: "Do this in remembrance of me." So we celebrate the Lord's Supper on the same night in which Jesus was betrayed.

Good Friday is unique as it is the only day of the church year on which it is preferably celebrated in the afternoon, at the hour of Christ's death. It is a celebration of the King of Kings who triumphed over death and reigned from

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Blessings at Zion, Colby

On Sunday, Jan. 5, Rev. Mark Neumann, who has served as pastor of Zion, Colby, since 1984, was installed as pastor of Trinity, Spencer. Neumann has served Trinity as its vacancy pastor for the past six months and will continue to serve both congregations under a multi-congregation agreement.

In 1976, Pastor Neumann graduated from Concordia Teachers College in Rivera Forest, Ill., with a degree in education. He then attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Ill., and then Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne,

Ind., when the seminary relocated.

In 1980, Pastor Neumann was ordained at Redeemerh, Amery, where he served for four years, before his call to Zion, Colby.

Pastor Neumann and his wife, Joan, were married in 1976 and have been blessed with five daughters: Anna (Jon) Orr, Amalie (Mark) Niethammer, Kristina (Wes Jackson) Neumann, Maja (Andy) Schiemo and Marta Crumbaker; and five grandchildren. Their son, Andrew, has been with the Lord since 1989.



From left, pictured are Terry Beyreis, Trinity congregation president; Rev. Mark Neumann; and Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, district president.



Program offers witnessing help

On Feb. 8, Christ Lutheran Church, Pipe Lake, hosted the *Every One His Witness* workshop for Circuit 3. Ken Koch, a retired LCMS teacher, and his wife, Karen, facilitated the event for the 34 in attendance. Ken Koch said: "It was well received and I have already been approached about doing it again. My hope is that it will really catch on and I will get a lot of requests." For more information contact Ken at kkochsf@yahoo.com.

Mission grants for ministry

The District Board of Directors has earmarked resources for mission grants to be used by district ministries exploring outreach programming. Awarded funds are to be used by the end of 2021. The application can be found at nwdlcm.org. The deadline to apply is April 30. All awards will be announced June 1.

Future church worker grants

Students attending a LCMS university or seminary preparing for full-time church work have until May 15 to complete the application. Grants are funded through generous endowment gifts and not congregational giving.

Forms can be found at your university or on the Financial Resources page at nwdlcm.org. Included are eligibility guidelines and student responsibilities. Grants are distributed at the end of summer.

MESSAGE

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the cross. Our King was in charge — even in death. The Passion reading is according to St. John. Many times, the Bidding Prayer is used as we pray for all people everywhere. The focal point is the cross often covered with a black veil in memory of Christ's death. Good Friday comes from "God's Friday," the first English name for this day.

Finally, we get to Holy Saturday. The last day in Lent as we wait for the joy of Easter. On this day in history the early church baptized those who had been taking instructions.

Holy Week prepares us for Easter, the high point of the year as Jesus rose from the dead, the greatest event in history. As St. Paul wrote:

Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. — 1 Cor. 15:54-57

I learned that Holy Week was also given the name "Great Week" by Chrysostom, an early church father. He explained it this way: "the great things shaped at this time by the Lord." I like that! You can enjoy spring break but do not forget "Great Week." It is all about what Jesus did for you leading up to the great day — Easter.

Evangelism

In the past when I heard “evangelism,” I immediately thought that I would have to go door-to-door to tell my neighbors about Jesus and ask if they went to church. This felt so uncomfortable to me and you may have felt the same way. As I have gotten older, it has become much easier to share Jesus with others, and I am finding out there are many ways to do so. Through the LWML, we witness to others in wearing our purple outfits with the LWML logo, gathering our mites and presenting Gifts from the Heart.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

Last summer, I attended the LWML convention in Mobile, Ala. As I waited at the airport to fly home, I saw there were many LWML sisters on same flight. We

boarded the plane at 2:15 p.m. for our flight home. As we waited to leave, our captain told us we would be delayed for about a half hour due to bad weather in Atlanta. About 45 minutes into this delay, the pilot came then informed us that we would be delayed another 90 minutes due to severe storms.

We were allowed to leave the plane, but had to be back for a 5:30 departure. Everyone was back on and ready to leave. The pilot, who began to sound frustrated, apologized and announced we had another 60-minute delay due to the number of planes waiting to land in Atlanta. There were some frustrated passengers, but we LWML women knew that God was controlling this flight.

On the plane, from our North Wisconsin District, was Lisa Gast and her sister, who were sitting across from me. My prayer partner, Linda Koeller, was one row behind me across the aisle. Behind me was an LWML sister who manned the Christian Life booth during the

convention. She had a bag of M&M’s (mission-minded food!) that we shared with other passengers and our attendant.

As we waited for our departure, we decided that we would sing the Doxology once we were off the ground. Finally, clearance was given at 6:15 p.m. and we were off the ground! What an opportunity we were given to witness to many others on the plane as we sang. We received applause from the passengers.

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. — **1 Peter 3:15**

The next time you are given the opportunity to tell others about Jesus, don’t be afraid of what you will say. The Holy Spirit will be with you and will give you the words as you witness. Wear your LWML colors proudly and be a witness as you tell about the mission work of the LWML and the love of Jesus!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Beyond addiction

We live in an addiction-prone culture. Two basic ingredients are foundational in this “reality check.” We are “self-seeking” and we “desire personal pleasure.”



In a spiritual sense, we distance ourselves from God to make room for our passion pursuits. The relationship with God is one of the first broken by the addict, but not the last one corrupted. Herein we find a definition for addictive reality: When the pursuit of choice brings harm to love relationships.

This outline for addiction is premised on the reality that we are created by

God to be love beings. In His divine plan for mankind, love was to be the highest priority and pursuit in our lives. The addict ignores one of God’s succinct portrayals of love (a paraphrase from Rom. 13:10): “In love, no one gets hurt.”

Addiction is the antithesis of love. What love constructs, addiction destroys. All too often, the ones who are closest are the ones most crushed as the addict progressively seeks self-satisfaction while distancing himself from others.

Though the substance varies (alcohol and other drugs, gambling, sex, work), the destructive pattern is the same. The frequency of involvement with the destructive behavior is secondary to the damage done to the relationship.

We are dealing with spiritual warfare. Put simply, what God prioritizes, so does Satan. The vows made are the vows broken. Or, said differently, the

“mistress” in the marriage is the substance of choice.

Yet there is hope. It shines through when radical life transformation takes place. It begins with repentance, when the realities of the self-destructive behavior are acknowledged and confessed.

God is repositioned back to His rightful first place. He is allowed to do His redemptive, restorative work. A succinct summary of the early steps of recovery are “I can’t ... God can ... I will give Him ample room to work.”

With the repositioning of God comes the restoring of love. Relationship building becomes a priority pursuit ... love for God and love for others. Forgiveness and reconciliation are Christ-centered endeavors. Accountability is also added.

The miracle of life transformation over addiction is God’s work. To Him be the glory.

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

Early childhood directors gathering

The annual Early Childhood Directors Gathering will be held on April 24 at the North Wisconsin District office, 3103 Seymour Lane in Wausau.

The agenda includes one session to review the Ministry Safe abuse awareness training videos, and a session led by Sarah Jones of Mount Olive Lutheran Church on Trauma Informed Care and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

We are excited to encourage, network and equip our early childhood directors. Registration is open at nwdlcms.org.



Send news to:

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We love to feature a variety of our congregational events. All that is needed is a brief description and a couple of photos.

Please submit anything of note in your congregation to be published in our newsletter.

Please send photos in high-resolution.

CAMP LUTHER

Why be a junior counselor?

Your gifts to the Outdoor Ministry Fund support Camp Luther's junior counselor program. This two-week volunteer program is for high school students who have completed 10th through 12th grade. Junior counselors gain valuable skills, grow in their faith and develop relationships with fellow Christians as they help lead a group of campers each week. The following are 2019 junior counselors' responses to the question, "Why do you want to be a Junior Counselor?"

I was brought up in a household that believed in God, went to church and helped out whenever we could. Both of my parents have always been close with God and I see His work through them every day.

For a long time, everything was perfect, and then my grandpa passed away. After that, we didn't go to church as much and over time I started falling away from God (like a lost sheep). I was close enough to my mom to tell her about how I was feeling. That is when I started coming to Camp Luther. While I was here, I regained my trust (belief in His Word) mostly because of my outstanding junior counselors. That week at camp saved me from being a "lost sheep" and I can't thank this place enough for all that it has done for me.

I thought long and hard about how I could give back to a place that has given me so much. I talked to my pastor and he helped me realize that I could be that awesome junior counselor that helped me so many years ago. And that's why I am here today (to help the place that saved me from being lost).

I am a junior counselor because eight years ago I came to camp and my life was changed. I then came back and realized it hadn't just been a fluke. There was something very special about this place. Something about it that made me feel so happy and loved. It was God and His servant leaders.

I knew I wanted to give back to camp because it has done so much for me. The people here have become role models and friends. I am a junior counselor because of the unique opportunity I have to not only serve and lead under God, but to have fun while doing it. I get to hang out with awesome campers, counselors, and co-junior counselors. I am learning hands-on how to become a better communicator, listener, leader, friend, and am gaining confidence in myself and in my faith.

Ultimately, I return every year because of the camp culture that supports every kid that crosses the bridge. I think camp is so special because it gives kids and staff a place to be atypical and different. I come back to give campers the chance to feel the undeniable happiness and love that I have felt and feel every time I am here.

Thank you for your support of the Outdoor Ministry Fund and the junior counselor program! Your gifts are making a difference in the lives of the 60-plus junior counselors that serve each summer and in the lives they touch.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22-25
Memorial Day Family Retreat

June 13
Community Center Dedication

June 19-21
Keweenaw Base Camp Family Camp

June 19
Golf Classic
(benefiting Every Kid to Camp)

July 3-5
Fourth of July Family Camp

For more information, visit camluther.com