



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Mission: impossible?

In the late 1960s and early 70s there was a TV series called “Mission: Impossible” in which secret government agents were sent on missions all over the world. Every show began with Jim Phelps, played by Peter Graves, receiving instructions on a recording that self-destructed when it was over.

It had been a long time since Joseph ruled in Egypt and brought his father and brothers to join him. The Israelites were made slaves by the Egyptians — a 400-year ordeal — when we learn about Moses receiving instructions from God about an impossible mission:

“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘But I will be with you.’”

— Ex 3:10-12

If you read Exodus 3 and 4, you will see that Moses was rather reluctant about leading this mission. He doubted that people would believe he was sent by God and listen to him. In fact, he tried telling God he was not an eloquent speaker. But God hand-picked Moses to



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

lead His people out of Egypt and said, “I will be with you.”

Epiphany means showing; making known. During the Epiphany season, the Christian Church remembers that Jesus was shown to be God’s Son and the Savior of the world. The Wise Men were Gentiles who traveled, visited and worshiped the Christ Child, who came for them and would save all people from their sins. For this reason, the Church gives special attention to missions during Epiphany.

Now is a great time to talk about the mission of the Church and what your church is doing in mission. Many of our congregations are supporting the work of LCMS missionaries who have to raise their own support. Congregations are also supporting specific mission projects around the world by giving funds and going on mission trips to give support and aid.

The congregations of the North Wisconsin District also support mission work through the dollars that are sent to the district office in Wausau and to the LCMS. Here is how every mission dollar that is sent to our office is divided:

- 39 to 40 cents is sent to the LCMS to support the work of the greater church.
- 39 cents is used for staffing, and to support district congregations and encourage them in ministry.
- 15 cents goes to support the campus



ministry of the Rev. Andrew Weden at Peace Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; the Rev. Wayne Schwanke, who serves as chaplain at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King; the Rev. William Knaack, who carries out deaf ministry throughout the district; the Rev. Gui Kabeo Kasongo (Pastor Gui), who is heading up the French-African church start in Appleton; and Pastor Chou Vang, who serves in Hmong ministry in Eau Claire.

- 6 cents, or \$100,000, is sent to support the work of outdoor ministry at Camp Luther.

The district Board of Directors approved a budget for 2018 that includes

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Church members, students tune into Pilgrim Student Press

Students at Pilgrim Lutheran School, Green Bay, share school news through a newscast. Teacher **Mike Schumm** talks about the project.



Briefly describe the project. What inspired you to make it happen?

My eighth-grade computer class is in charge of making a newscast of announcements and events for our church and school that airs every couple of weeks. After we work through the first segment of the year together as a class,

the rest of the year is completely filmed and edited by our eighth-graders.

I thought of the idea one day while listening to morning announcements. I started to think about how we could make it a little more interesting and fun for the students. I wish we could air these even more often because the lower grade kids really enjoy watching them and are always asking when the next episode comes out.

How have your students and the school responded to the project?

The students have really enjoyed working on this project. It has been a great opportunity to teach them how to better work as a team. It has also been awesome to see their creativity in full swing. They come up with ideas for segments that I would have never dreamed of doing.

The younger grades really look forward to being in eighth grade so they can work on the *Pilgrim Student Press*. It has also been awesome to see students that have struggles in other classes really get excited and work hard for their news episode.

What critical resources did you need to make it happen?

When I first started, I only had a camera and I purchased a subscription to a video-editing website for the students to edit what they filmed. Every year since, I have gotten a little more advanced. Now we have a green screen, microphones, tripods and other things to make it even better.

What advice do you have for school leaders considering a similar project?

My advice would be to start small and let it grow on its own. The kid's creativity is what makes this so successful. The more you let them have the driver's seat, the better it will turn out. They will continually blow you away with ideas that you would never have thought of using.

MESSAGE

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an expectation of receiving \$1,875,000 from the 216 district congregations. In 2007, the congregations of the district contributed \$2,277,932. The district has less to spend and so being wise stewards with what we receive is the goal of the board. The district mission statement states: "Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ." That is what the district staff and board wish to encourage — making known the love of Christ so that all may have eternal life.

My hope is that your congregation has the same mission — to make known the love of Christ to those who are members of your congregation and to those outside your church doors in your own community. It is not getting any easier. Fewer and fewer people are attending worship according to the statistical reports. But that cannot stop us from



The District Resources staff wants to wish you a blessed 2018. May the Lord bless you and keep you! — DJ, Paul, Sandie, Lori, Dwayne, Dennis

being on a mission to point people to Jesus Christ and what He did for all. It is still about Jesus.

God told Moses his mission was not impossible. God told him, "But I will be with you." God has not changed. God is still God. God still loves the world. God

will be with you and your congregation and its mission and the good news is that God has said to us too: "I will be with you."

May God bless your mission in 2018. It is not impossible.

The counseling CONNECTION

Never alone!

He is one of the most recognized men in the Bible. He was personally chosen by God to help fulfill one of the greatest missions God ever orchestrated. His name was Moses.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

Moses had a human side. This was evident when the “call for duty” first came (Ex. 3:10). Moses’ response, in so many words was “No, I won’t go!” (3:11-4:13)!

And God made an extra provision for His called servant. Aaron was chosen to be a joint messenger of God to the Pharaoh of Egypt (14b-16).

We know the success of that deliverance mission. It proved to be the great “exodus,” with God as the Ultimate Victor. The lesson here — chosen men are not meant to do the mission alone.

In the life of Moses, this was evident a

second time. Now we look to Exodus 17. Moses had chosen Joshua to fight the Amalekites (8-9a). Moses would hold another vital position. He would oversee that battle from a hilltop, with the “staff of God” in his hands (9a).

As long as Moses held up his hands, the battle went in Israel’s favor. The battle turned in the opposite direction when his hands were lowered (11). Help was needed.

Again Aaron (along with Hur) came to Moses’ aid now to hold up the latter’s hands (vs.12b). Side-by-side the assistants stood. Victory was again won collectively, as all resources were considered (14). To God goes the glory.

We have the same portrayal in the New Testament. Jesus chose 12 disciples to be His future witnesses, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Paul had Barnabas, Mark, Silas and Timothy as assistants on his missionary journeys.

Even Jesus did not do ministry alone. He continually relied on His Father for encouragement and support. Shared prayer was the tool that was chosen.

Never alone — this is the theme throughout the Bible. The work is too vital to leave vulnerable men and women without assistance.

God does not call us to be superheroes. We are called to be humble servants who remain open to His guidance and receptive to the assistants He makes available.

God gives every Christian “two pieces of glass.” Each has a “mirror” and a “window.”

The “mirror” is for honest, humble self-reflection with God. Here one uncovers areas of vulnerability when outside help is needed. Here is also when confession occurs regarding mistakes made ... and absolution is received.

The “window” is the “glass” we look through to see those whom God has placed in our lives to be valuable resources. We listen to their voices and sense God at work through them. Sometimes their words place us back at the “mirror” for more reflective time with God.

We are never alone! God planned it that way so we remain healthy, resilient workers for Him! My assigned mission is to assist you in that destiny.

You may contact me at 715-610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com.

Gifted to serve

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace ... in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4:10, 11b)



Mary Harrington
LWML District President

A new calendar brings promise and hope to each of us. We look forward to the many activities and opportunities that 2018 holds. I’ve transferred dates and appointments to



my new calendar and look with anticipation to all (most!) that are in store for me and those I love.

How about you? Do you see opportunities in the days that God offers to you in 2018? Are you planning to reach out and share the message of salvation with that new neighbor or with the new person on the job? A smile and word of encouragement can mean so much and are so easy to share. Perhaps your LWML society is in need of someone to be a leader for a time — a Bible study

leader, a fellowship leader, an officer or wherever the need lies.

God has blessed you and me with many gifts and He wants us to use them as we are given the opportunity.

Our mite offerings have blessed many missions the past few months. We will pay the remaining half of the mission grant (\$12,500) to the district office in support of financial aid to students who are studying to become professional church workers. The district office oversees the financial aid and scholarship process.

Our fiscal calendar for the 2016-18 biennium ends on March 31. We look forward to being able to send \$8,000 to

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A valuable ministry

Many students have passed through the doors of Peace Lutheran Campus Center in Stevens Point. This interview was conducted with **the Rev. Dan Kohn**, district counselor, who attended Peace Lutheran Campus Center from 1968 to 1972.

1. Can you remember what your impression of Peace was during those first times you visited?

Peace didn't look or feel like a traditional church. It felt more like a "coffee-shop" atmosphere to come, sit, share and connect. I remember the multi-colored foam chairs and that there were drums and electric and regular guitars. The songs were upbeat and meaningful.

Every week was different. It was always a welcoming place. It was my first expo-

sure to contemporary worship and students did a lot of the worship, greeting, reading, ushering. I also met my wife, Gloria, there on the first weekend of my senior year. She was a freshman and this was her first visit to the center. We met at an ice cream social after the service. Our eyes met ... the rest is 45 years of marital history and bliss.

2. In what areas were you involved at Peace?

I got very involved. I was named the first president of the Lutheran student organization even though I no longer remember the details of how that all came to be. I was also hired as the janitor in my senior year and did the outside maintenance the summer of my senior year since I had to take a class at UWSP. I can remember doing a lot of greeting and ushering during the

course of my time at Peace.

3. As you reflect, what were some of your most memorable memories from your time at Peace?

Worship had a great impact. I looked forward to the creative worship style. It was no longer page 5 or 15 out of



the old hymnbook. I very much appreciated Peace Campus Center since it kept me church-connected (in the midst of a lot of other distractions).

There is no doubt that I grew in my faith by leaps and bounds. I do feel as though God truly and sincerely blessed me with Peace Campus Center during those years.

4. What would be your recommendation or advice be to UWSP college students today?

Come and connect with God in a new, inspiring way. Let Him change your life! Come and experience creative worship. You will be blessed by God through the ministry at Peace Campus.

Teachers are also learners

A group of Lutheran school teachers from across the district spent a day gathered as a professional learning community to talk about student academic success. The teachers explored best practice teaching and learning, specifically around curriculum development, formative assessment and effective interventions. The group will be in contact to support each other as they carry out their new plans for their specific grades and subjects.



LWML

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partially fund a mission grant request for Lutherans For Life (LFL). The money will be used to help equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life through Word of Hope counseling,

Owen's Mission and other ways. And as our mites so often grow and are blessed by our Lord, perhaps we can fully fund the mission grant proposal at \$15,000. We were blessed to have the Rev. Dr. James Lamb join us at our LWML fall retreat at Camp Luther and share the message of LFL and the many it serves.

Prayers accompany our mite offerings

and so I ask you to join me not only on Life Sunday, which will be observed on Jan. 21, but to every day lift up in prayer all women and men who are dealing with dignity-of-life issues both inside and outside the womb. And share an offering in a mite box near you!

Be a blessing.