



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



Photos: L CMS/Erik M. Ljungford

Young disciples

“Therefore, someone must be added to our number to serve with us as a witness that Jesus came back to life.”

ACTS 1:20 GW

These are the words of Peter at the first call meeting of the apostles after Jesus ascended into heaven. They needed to replace Judas. There was a requirement for the one called or selected to fill the 12th apostle slot — he had to see that Jesus rose from the dead. Matthias was chosen and joined the 11 apostles (1:26).

Making Disciples for Life is the theme for the 2023 National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The associated Scripture verse is Matt. 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
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given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Children who are attending our Lutheran schools are learning that they too are disciples of Jesus Christ. They learn that they have the same goal as the first disciples — to share the love of Jesus, their risen Lord, with those around them with words and lives that say, “I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.” The goal of Lutheran education is that the children are lifelong disciples, not just during their years at a Lutheran school or up to confirmation.

The students attending our Lutheran schools are being taught what the Bible says about life’s situations and how to deal with them when they get out into the world. Their world will change as they move forward into high school, college and employment. What they were taught in a

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St. Paul welcomes Pastor Dregler

Rev. Mark Dregler was installed as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fremont, on Dec. 11. Pastor Dregler most recently served St. James Lutheran Ministries, Shawano. Pastors participating in the service were, from left, Revs. Rex Rinne, Scott Malme, Tim Seabaugh, Micah Dregler, Jeff Smiles, Mark Dregler, Wayne Schwanke, Tim Shoup, and Steve Kline.

MESSAGE

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educators as they teach and give so much of their time in their classroom. Write a note of thanks. It goes a long way.

Third, recruit! Our future pastors and teachers don't grow on trees. Plant the seed in the students, hoping they consider serving their Lord as full-time church workers. Right now our Synod is pushing hard to raise up future church workers through the *Set Apart to Serve* program.

National Lutheran Schools Week is set aside to celebrate Lutheran education. Special events and activities are planned not only for student participation, but also for parents, grandparents and supporters of Lutheran education. If there is a Lutheran school in your area, my hope is that you encourage, support and participate.

In the end, it's all about the kids. It is about their learning that they are Baptized children of God who are loved; that through their Baptism they are disciples of Jesus Christ, walking in His footsteps and having the opportunity to share that love of Jesus with those around them. Thank you Lord for our Lutheran schools and the faithful staff members who serve these growing disciples.

Hearts For Jesus to support LeadaChild

Many schools, early childhood centers and Sunday schools participate in Hearts For Jesus every February. This school year we are supporting LeadaChild, which is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization.

LeadaChild is dedicated to "sharing the Good News of Jesus' love to children through Christian education in third-world countries.

"We gather gifts and donations from supporters and use the funds to provide scholarships, school registration, and supplies for children so that they can attend Lutheran schools and after school programs. We also provide professional development for leaders and

teachers at our sites, with an emphasis on effective ways to share the Gospel and teach biblical truths to children.

"Whether our students experience modern classrooms with computers and desks, or are surrounded by woven grass walls, they are hearing about a Heavenly Father who loves them, A Son who has redeemed them from sin, death, and the devil, and a Spirit who fills their hearts with hope and salvation."

For more information, visit leadachild.org. For resources to promote the ministry, include a parent's letter, chapel talks, coloring pages and videos, click the "Resources" link at the top of the page.

LWML

White as snow

What do you think of when you see the word snow? Does it suggest one of the many compound words beginning with snow — snowfall, snowplow, snowball, snowpants, snowblower, snowsuit?

It's remarkable — all those little flakes falling out of the sky, gathering together to make a winter wonderland, blanketing the outdoor world in white.

Many Christians relate to the beauty of the newly fallen snow as cleansing, of purity. It reminds us of how we feel when we know our sins are forgiven.

What would we think of just one flake; a go-it-alone renegade flake? Once it lands on the ground, it is not easy to find. This makes me think of the LWML. Alone as individuals, we may not make an impact. Together as a group, however, the wonderful sisterhood provides Bible study, support for missions, encouragement, friendship, and songs of praise to our Lord as we continue to support the telling of the Gospel through our mite offerings.

At the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, to be held June 22-25 in Milwaukee, we will gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the nation to make an impact. Join us as we “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.”

Sign up for an opportunity to be a part of the excitement by volunteering. It takes many hands working together to make a convention happen. You can apply online at lwml-swd.org/events/other and scroll down for the “Call for Workers” link.



Joan Berquist
LWML District President

Wellness Corner



Photos: Getty Images

ALL THINGS NEW!

The new year has begun. An unchangeable past is behind us. Now is the time to reflect on the new year before us.

Let us consider the “new self” the apostle Paul references in his letter to the Colossians (3:10). These are the “new” qualities he goes on to share:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the love of Christ rule in your hearts. 12-15A

Open your heart and mind to consider the difference these qualities would make in your family, neighborhood and church. Imagine the difference within you if these virtues were emphasized daily.

Paul adds one more attribute: “And



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

be thankful” (15b). Picture each day as an opportunity for gratitude. Picture the groaning melting away as genuine thankfulness were its substitute. This new position could open the door for “singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (16b).

These qualities lie within us. They are comparable to the “fruit of the Spirit” that Paul outlines in another letter:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. GAL. 5:22-23A, 25

Entering a new year is the crossing of a threshold to new opportunities. Paul gives us a clear and timeless picture of God's expectations. His Spirit is within us empowering us to achieve the “new self.” He desires to partner with us in fulfilling this improved, Christ-centered identity.

Out with the old ... in with the new. Today is the day to dedicate ourselves to the “new” in us and through us. We can be difference-makers in the days and months ahead.

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



Servant Events back in full swing

By Sarah Reinsel
LCMS Communications

Registration is now open for a full summer of LCMS Servant Events in 2023. After several summers of irregular events and limited scheduling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Servant Event leaders and youth alike are excited to be back in full swing.

Servant Event leaders noticed increasing anticipation at last summer's LCMS Youth Gathering and hope to make good use of the momentum.

"Our tagline while we were in Houston [for the Gathering] was 'serve next summer,' or 'how are you going to serve next summer,'" said DCE Jim Lohman, who just retired as director of LCMS Servant Events and associate director of LCMS Youth Ministry.

LCMS congregations, summer camps and Recognized Service Organizations across the country will host Servant Events from May through August. Volunteer opportunities — geared toward high-schoolers but open to other ages — range from building trails in Colorado, to doing home maintenance for families in need in Appalachian Ohio, to providing community outreach for refugee children in the Fort Wayne area.

Many Servant Events challenge youth to try something entirely new. Joe Palinkas, the Servant Event leader for Camp Lutherhaven in Albion,



Ind., recounted one event where he taught a group of girls how to use chainsaws. Although they had never done anything like that before, by the end of the training they could use the chainsaws safely and confidently.

At its heart, the Servant Events program provides youth with a way to participate in the work of spreading the Gospel.

"It's really not about our service," said Lohman. "It's about the opportunity that we have to be a Christ-like servant leader in whatever setting we're in."

For a list of upcoming Servant Events and more information on event dates and registration, visit lcms-servantevents.org.

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 April issue are needed by Feb. 15.

Send submissions to Karol Selle:

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