



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

# Making a difference



“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”  
— GEN. 8:20



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

Noah and his family were very thankful. After all, God had directed them to build an ark, bring

animals of every kind on it and then they survived the flood that killed the rest of mankind and animals. They gave thanks to God as they were the only ones saved.

If anyone received the credit for saving that group of people — Noah and his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and the wives of his sons — it would have been Noah. In Genesis 6, we are told God saw the wickedness of mankind and decided to destroy them all. Then we are told: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” Noah made a difference in the eyes of the Lord and God chose Noah to build the ark.

What made Noah so special?

“Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.” — GEN. 6:9

His life was so good and maybe godly compared to the world around him, that Noah found favor with God and God saved him.

Something else to be admired about Noah was stated in Heb. 11:7:

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

Not only was he a godly man, but a man of great faith. He built that ark and the people of his day must have thought Noah was nuts and had a good laugh. But Noah and his family got the last laugh.

Noah made a difference for his family. He raised his family knowing that God saved them. They got out of that ark and gave thanks to God. His faith made a difference.

When you think of biblical people that made a difference, some that come to mind:

- ▶ Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and yet God used him to

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## School corner

# Keeping our schools safe

The following is an interview with Dr. Karen Bahn, principal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Marshfield.

### **What is the School Safety Grant?**

The State of Wisconsin, through the Department of Justice, created a \$100 million grant to help schools become safer for their students and families. In all, 735 schools and school districts, made up of 97 percent of public schools and about 40 percent of private schools statewide, applied for the first round of funds. All are expected to receive grant funding, including many North Wisconsin District Lutheran schools.

### **What “strings” are attached to the money?**

The requirements are that all teaching staff must have three hours of trauma training before the end of this school year and that proof can be given to the

state that the funds were used for security purposes as written in the grant. There also are required reports that must be sent in with specific deadlines. These reports keep schools accountable in getting the safety and security measures completed in a timely manner.

### **How much were you awarded and how will you use it?**

We received \$19,278 and we are using it to install cameras and a monitoring system, key fobs and card readers for doors, and for installation costs. As of now, the camera system has been installed and the door system should be completed in the next few weeks.

### **Anything else to share?**

God definitely provided a way for smaller schools like ours to get the funding for the equipment we needed to keep our school safe. Our church and school have been working actively through its safety committee to find



ways to attain the funds and equipment needed to install the best safety and security measures for our building. This grant allowed us to move substantially forward in our safety endeavors.

## Mission grants available

Looking for some extra financial resources for a meaningful outreach event at your church? Mission mini grants are still available and will provide \$200 to \$1,500 to support your witness and mercy outreach. Schools, churches, youth groups and early childhood centers can apply, but only one application per church body per year will be awarded and the application must come from the pastor.

Details and an application can be found at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org). Contact DJ with questions at [dj@nwdlcms.org](mailto:dj@nwdlcms.org).

## MESSAGE

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save his family and moved them to Egypt. After His father, Jacob, died, Joseph reminded his brothers:

“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive.”

— GEN. 50:20

- ▶ David and his faith. He believed that God was on his side, he killed Goliath and the Israelites routed the Philistines.

- ▶ Esther, as queen, saved the Israelites from being destroyed when she asked a favor of King Ahasuerus. As her uncle, Mordecai reminded her:

“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

— ESTHER 4:13

Her request saved her nation.

We also have two youngsters who stepped up in the Bible. There was the little Jewish slave girl who mentioned to Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, who had leprosy:

“Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy” — 2 KINGS 5:3

Naaman went to Elisha and eventually is healed. Remember it was a boy who helped feed 5,000. Andrew tells Jesus:

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” — JOHN 6:9

All of these people were great figures in the Bible that made a difference. You too can make a difference in the lives of people. You may be that one — as a child of God — to invite or be hospitable to your relative, friend, neighbor or fellow student and share the love of Christ. You

can share how Jesus makes a difference in your life and He can do the same for them.

Recently I was privileged to interview a future seminarian who had his fiancé with him. Because of his witness, she learned about Jesus. As she said: “It completely changed my view on life.”

We know the One who made the biggest difference — Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in Jesus will be saved because of what He did through His death and resurrection. He is the One who gives us hope. He is the One who heals. He is the One who made the eternal difference for us through faith.

So do not count yourself short. You can make a difference. Just ask Noah — “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” He made a difference. He gave thanks! During this time of Thanksgiving, give thanks to the One who made a difference in your life.

# Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is upon us. We celebrate by giving thanks for all the blessings God has given us. When one asks a child what they are thankful for, they normally list their parents or guardian first and then the list can go on down to their pets. I, too, give thanks that my parents led me to Jesus at a very young age as I was baptized as His child. They made sure I was instructed in Christian living as I grew and matured. Every day I thank God that I can still learn about Christian living by being in His Word.

This summer I had the privilege of going on a mission trip with other LWML sisters to Ann Arbor and Detroit, Mich. We visited Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, where we cleaned eyeglasses for the next eyeglass



**Becky Haltaufderheid**  
LWML District President

clinic and assembled water filter repair kits. I thank God for my eyesight and to be able to turn on my faucet and have safe, clean water every day. We traveled to East Bethlehem Lutheran Church to help with the VBS program that served many inner-city children this summer. It was a privilege to help the staff teach the children about heroes of the Bible.

Our last stop was at People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), where we heard the testimony from two Christian women who once were avid Muslims. As these women spoke about their journey to follow Jesus, they expressed how dangerous it was for them when their families found out. Both were severely injured nearly to the point of death, but God sustained them and they now have refuge with POBLO. They continue to express their Christian faith to others but have had no contact with their families. I thank God every day that we can witness openly by telling others about Jesus and wearing our crosses and LWML jewelry to display our love of Jesus. We are able to worship on Sundays with our families, read the Bible in public and attend Bible study without the fear

of being persecuted. That's worth our thanksgiving.

**The district LWML paid the first grant of \$15,000 to Orphan Grain Train (OGT)-Wisconsin Branch.** This grant will help pay for the cost of shipping many boxes of supplies for disaster relief. How fortunate we are to have OGT locations right here in North Wisconsin. Thank you to the many volunteers who pack the boxes with love-filled hands and load the trailers. I thank God for all the faithful mites that our sisters and brothers in Christ provide so that we can share the love of Jesus with those near and far through our mission grants.

I noticed this phrase the other day: "Be thankful for the bad things in life. For they open your eyes to the good things you weren't paying attention to before." So very true!

"Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; his love endures forever."

— 1 CHRON. 16:34

May God continually bless each and every one of you during this season of thanksgiving and thanks living!

## The Counseling CONNECTION

### The race

It is an endeavor that involves more than mere muscle. Two other elements are pivotal: mind and motivation. These are the three "M's" of the "race."

The same can be said of the ministry "race"... the one the apostle Paul frequently referenced regarding his work for Christ. Reflect on these selected verses spoken at "mid-stride" and at the "finish line."



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." — ACTS 20:24 NIV

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day." — 2 TIM. 4:7-8A NIV

There is a race set before each Christian. There is a need for "muscle" (physical endurance in the midst of the strain); for "mind" (mental alertness and responsiveness); and for "motiva-

tion" (the unending passion to finish well for Christ).

All three elements are vital as the "race" is a marathon vs. a sprint. There is a need to remember that the Holy Spirit is the coach offering guidance and support.

The writer of Hebrews also references the "race." Following his expose on the faith heroes, he goes on to offer these words of added encouragement:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning

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## Camp Luther

# 2018: A memorable summer!

By Anne "Draino" Hartman

Filled with the Spirit Campaign Chairman

Because of you, it was a wonderful summer for children and families at Camp Luther! More than 450 individuals were served in our biggest week. The ministry programs here continue to be a blessing to many children, youth and families.

Because of you, camp continues to be an incredible place where ministry happens. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the action at camp. Check out below the successes from this past summer:

- ▶ Youth campers filled our weekend and weekly programs.
- ▶ Keweenaw Base Camp ministered to many youth groups and helped with the cleanup in the Houghton area after severe rain and flooding.

- ▶ A new group of family campers checked in each Saturday for a week full of exciting opportunities.
- ▶ Weekly, two Traveling Day Camp teams went to different congregations in the North Wisconsin District.
- ▶ Our youth leadership camp, IMPACT, reached a new group of campers every week.
- ▶ Volunteers gave of their time this summer as well. After our tree removal last fall, much brush was needed to be cleaned up.
- ▶ Every two weeks, a new group of high school students arrived to volunteer as junior counselors. This program is vital to the ministry here as it develops leaders for future summer staff.
- ▶ More than 48 young adults served as staff. This group ministered too many in all the different programs.

The major project will be building

the new Community Life Center. Our funding goal for this project is \$2.5 million. We plan to begin construction in September 2019 and have it ready for use the following summer. Currently, we have received pledges of nearly \$1.9 million for this project.

Even though construction is a year away, there is urgency as we will meet with our North Wisconsin District early in 2019 to get their approval to move forward with the project. We would like to announce 100 percent funding for the center. This will allow us to move forward with the blessing of our district and in a God-pleasing way that avoids any long-term debt for Camp Luther.

Thank you for being a part of The Filled with the Spirit campaign. My prayer is that it has given you an opportunity to be blessed by Camp Luther's exceptional outdoor ministry programs and the beauty of this place. Your gifts have helped us to sustain and build on the impact of camp in touching thousands of lives every year.

Please accept my thanks for your commitment to the campaign. Your joyous response in support of the children, young adults, families and all those who benefit by the ministry of Camp Luther is a true blessing.

## Peace Lutheran Campus Center

# Celebrating the Reformation

As Lutherans, we probably know the basics of the Reformation, that Martin Luther and his 95 Theses were at the center. We know the three *solae* – *sola gratia* (grace alone), *sola fide* (faith alone), *sola scriptura* (Scripture alone). There is, however, so much more to learn and discover.

In order to help appreciate and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Peace Lutheran Campus Center created a museum-like display of 13 prints outlaying the history and context of Luther and the Reformation. These prints were on display at various conventions and congregations throughout the year. Provided below are reflections people shared after viewing this historical display.

▶ "I stood and pondered the question, how will the Church look 500 years from today? Will they find the doors open



or closed? I know God's Word does not return void. His words will echo forever."

- ▶ "I had forgotten that all of this started over one simple but, oh so important foundation of our faith; 'By grace through faith.'"
- ▶ "This is a wonderful display. Most inspirational! Makes a person so proud to be a Lutheran and bless those who made this possible for us!"

The celebration of the ideas that Luther championed will always be at the core of our Christian faith. He reminded us all that it is and always will be **all about Jesus**. If your congregation would like to host the display, please contact Rev. Andy Weden at [aweden@uwsp.edu](mailto:aweden@uwsp.edu) or 715-345-6510.

## RACE

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its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (12:1-3)

We are called "for such a time as this." The call for today is to fulfill Christ's mission plan. The Spirit will supply what is needed to finish the race set before us! Stand tall and finish well!

For support, encouragement and counsel, contact me at 715-610-2400 or [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com). Also, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) — go to "Congregations" and select "Worker Wholeness" from the drop-down menu