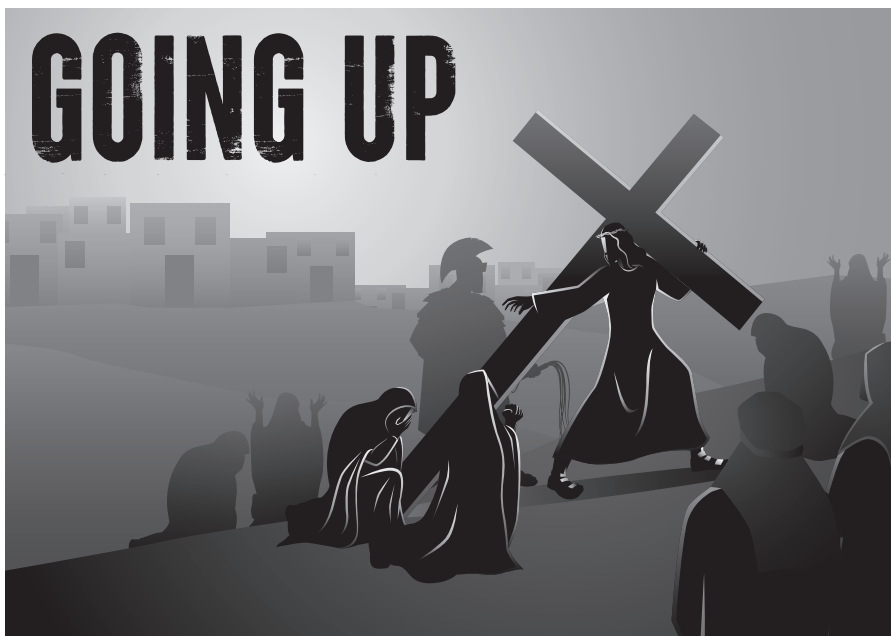




DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

GOING UP



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

It is not uncommon to hear someone in our neck of the woods say, “We are going up north.” What it usually means is our friends are going to relax at a lake or cabin, go camping or snowmobiling, or visit their favorite vacation town north of here. We can purchase vacation gear that has “Up North” printed on it. We know what “Up North” means.

At the start of Lent, we find that Jesus is going up as well. In the Gospel of Matthew we read:

And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day” **MATT. 20: 17-19**

Jesus told His disciples that their journey would now proceed up to Jerusalem, which is on one mountain. Across from it is the Mount of Olives. Some of you have had the chance to visit Jerusalem and the experience of “going up” to Jerusalem from Jericho.

In Psalms, you will see the title “A Song of Ascents” at the head of Psalms 120 through 134. Many believe it indicates the Psalms that were sung by the Israelites during their annual pilgrimage on their way up (“ascents”) to Jerusalem.

For Jesus to tell the disciples it was time to go up to Jerusalem was not that surprising since it was almost time to celebrate the Passover. However, what Jesus told them, as recorded in Matthew, was that He was going up there to die by crucifixion. He also told them He would rise again, but history tells us the disciples did not hear or remember that part.

Jesus told them the Jewish leaders would condemn Him, but the Gentiles — the Romans — would crucify Him. Jesus later said it this way on Palm Sunday:

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.” **JOHN 12.32-33**

Jesus was going up — up on a cross to die for us.

Jesus was going up to Jerusalem to do what He came to do. He was coming to do what the angel told Joseph:

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **MATT. 1:21**

This is Good News. Jesus was coming to pay for the sins of the world — for yours, for mine — so that we might be saved through faith in such a loving and gracious God.

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Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez (second from left), LCMS career missionary, leads Sunday school in Peru in 2017. The North Wisconsin District supports the LCMS's mission work in Peru.

To accomplish our purpose and effectively steward your gifts, we have aligned our staff and your financial resources to support three key outcomes:

- ▶ Church workers will be encouraged, networked and equipped to fulfill their Calls and vocations.
- ▶ Congregations will be encouraged, networked and equipped to minister to the needs of all through Word and Sacrament.
- ▶ Ministry opportunities will be identified and resources deployed to collectively carry out *Making Disciples for Life*.

Please pray for the workers in the North Wisconsin District, that they may shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Pray for the district ministries, that they may proclaim through Word and Sacrament the hope we have in Jesus. Pray for those hearing God's Word, that they would be changed by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Finally, please give financially to the North Wisconsin District.

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
President, North Wisconsin District

Grace, mercy and peace in the name of Jesus Christ!

We celebrate and give thanks for the partnership we share in the Gospel. Despite the rollercoaster of COVID variants and the politics of masks and vaccines, we have accomplished much together during 2021!

Your financial gifts provided critical ministry support that most of our congregations could never fund on their own. The North Wisconsin District is one of 35 in the LCMS and has a

ministry area that includes the top half of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We support 215 churches, three high schools, 19 elementary schools, 30 stand-alone early childhood centers, campus ministry, Camp Luther, veterans ministry, deaf ministry, Peru ministry, worker wellness and more.

Our mission statement describes our shared purpose: "Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the LCMS North Wisconsin District to vigorously make known the love of Christ."

Dual parish welcomes pastor

On January 23, Rev. Brian Beardsley was installed as pastor of Zion, Gilman, and Trinity h, Sheldon, on Jan. 23. A 1991 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he most recently served at Immanuel, Auroraville, and Trinity, Borth, in the South Wisconsin District. From left, Revs. Gary Lodholz, emeritus; Karl Rose, emeritus; John Trewyn, emeritus; Scott Holoubek, Trinity, Prentice; Brian Beardsley; Craig Zandi, St. John's, Ladysmith; Dwayne Lueck, district president; and Paul Mundinger, St. John, Berlin.



LWML

Our mission comes alive

“As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.”

— LWML mission statement

As we approach the end of the LWML North Wisconsin District’s 2020-22 biennium on March 31, let’s reflect on our accomplishments. The district LWML has gone through change as our faithful leader, Becky Haltaufderheid was called to glory on Dec. 18. We figured out how to have effective virtual meetings and supported the \$105,000 in Mission Grants that were selected by convention vote in 2020.

Our sisters within our district have shared their servant hearts and continued to volunteer where needed, including learning sign language! We have held retreats, rallies and workshops both in person and virtual. Our generous gifting of Mites has continued to support our mission.

There are several opportunities coming up to participate in as we keep sharing the joy of knowing Jesus as our Savior. Zone rallies have begun this month, the Young Women coordinators are preparing a retreat at Camp Luther on April 2, and our district convention is being planned for June 16-18 in Green Bay. We will select new Mission Grants to support, elect new officers, be inspired by mission speakers and share wonderful Christian fellowship.

Join us as we, Lutheran Women in Mission, continue to share the love of Christ with others.



Joan Berquist
LWML District President



Wellness Corner

Sufficiency in Christ

He was a devout man.

He was a man filled with passion. But God needed to change his focus. This is Saul, the Pharisee who persecuted Christ’s church who then became Paul the apostle who witnessed for Christ. The redirection was life-changing!



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

Paul’s new-found ministry was far from easy. Indeed it was filled with the suffering which Christ had planned (Acts 9:16). Toward the end of his ministry Paul shared a summary of his deep suffering (2 Cor. 11:23-30). He concluded by saying:

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Weakness was an accepted part of Paul’s life and ministry.

In the next chapter, Paul writes of another time in His ministry when a change in focus was needed:

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 COR. 12:7-10

Paul’s sufficiency and contentment were tied to Christ. The removal of the “thorn” was not the solution. A change in focus — on Christ — was necessary.

This brings to mind Paul’s words in his letter to the Philippians, in which he also emphasized his contentment (4:11-13): He writes:

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Again Christ was his sufficiency!

There are lessons here for us in ministry. To begin with, it is God’s plan that surpasses our own. He creates our niche within which we are to serve, even in the face of challenges.

Also, we are to be content with God’s provision. Regardless of external challenges, we, like Paul, need to appreciate the “power of Christ” that rests on us. We too need to live by the motto “Christ is my sufficiency.”

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

‘Reclaiming the joy’

In the fall of 2021, the district’s Wellness Task Force reviewed the book *Reclaiming the Joy of a Church Vocation* by Rev. Darrell Zimmermann and published by Grace Place Wellness Ministries, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization.

The task force recommended the book be made available to all district teachers and principals, who all received a copy with encouragement to explore it together as a during the winter months.

Pray for the wellness of those serving in our schools and early childcare centers that they would be strengthened to serve.



Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Help for future church workers

It's time for those studying to be church workers to apply for a district grant. The purpose of the grant is to make it possible for young men and women, who lack financial resources and have the desire to train for full-time service in the church. Students should contact the school's financial aid office to get the district financial aid application and return it to the school before May 15. The form can also be found at nwdlcms.org, under "Financial Resources."

District financial support is available to all college and seminary students who are attending an LCMS school training to become pastor, teacher, deaconess, parish worker, DCE, lay assistant or

other full-time ministry position. A new application must be filed each year.

The following was received from Zachary, a grant recipient in 2021:

"It has been such a blessing in my life to have encouragement and support from people like you. Your generosity enables me to continue my education to become a Lutheran educator.

I am beyond excited to start teaching in a classroom and dive into ministry. It has been such a blessing to learn and grow at CUW and I cannot wait to see where the Lord takes me next! I would not be able to do any of this without help, so thank you."

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 and click "Convention" on the right side of the page.



Help is available for youth ministry



While some of our district congregations have a commissioned worker leading their youth ministry, many rely on volunteers or a youth board to care for the youth. The LCMS has many resources to help congregations make a positive difference in the lives of its young people.

A great resource for discussion among adult leaders is *7 Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry*. This research-based tool provides the support, direction and inspiration many congregations need. The resource can be found at youthsource.com. Click the "7 Practices" tab.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

So now during Lent we go on our annual journey with Jesus to remember what He did for us. We are reminded He suffered humiliation. He was mocked, spit on and whipped, and then He went to hell for us. Why? Because of His divine love for us. Let us go up with Him to Jerusalem and give thanks that He was willing to be lifted up and die for us.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies down.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

LSB 700 V.1

Share your news with us!

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at selleks@gmail.com. You may also mail your submissions to Karol at 3177 State Hwy. 66; Rosholt, WI 54473.

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.