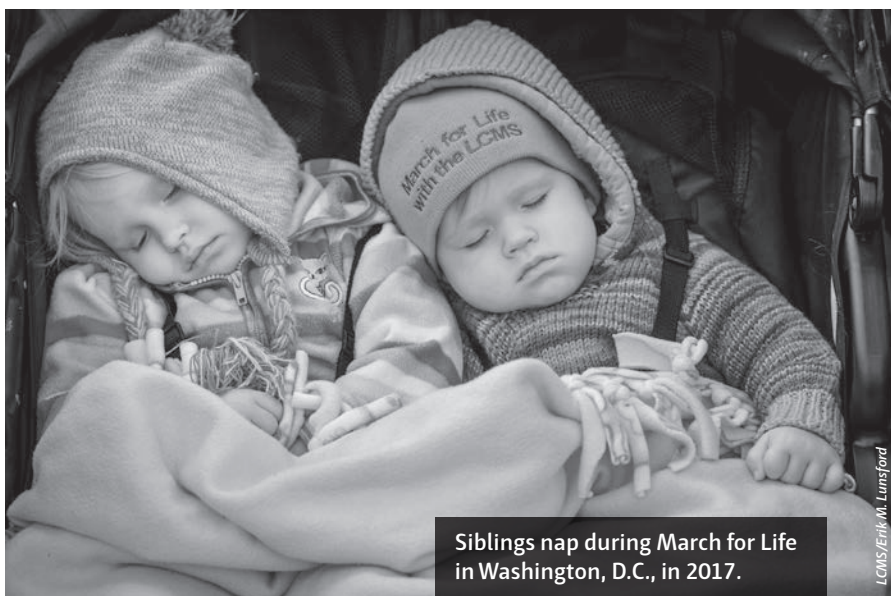




# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

# ‘Now I lay me down to sleep’



Siblings nap during March for Life in Washington, D.C., in 2017.

LCMS/Errik M. Lansford



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

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my Soul to keep  
If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my Soul to take.

Most likely this is the No. 1 bedtime prayer for children. We learned it and we teach it to our children and grandchildren. It is a prayer that tells us about the heart of God and that we can trust Him.

How old is this prayer? According to Wikipedia: “Perhaps the earliest version was written by George Wheler in his 1698 book *The Protestant Monastery*.”

We have two very important things addressed in that prayer — sleep and putting our trust in the Lord. We want our children to get their rest knowing that they can put their confidence in the Lord to watch over them while sleeping.

Sleep is a good thing. To sleep well and long is healthy. National Sleep Foundation guidelines advise that healthy adults

need between seven and nine hours of sleep per night. Babies, young children and teens need even more sleep to enable their growth and development. People over 65 should also get seven to eight hours per night.

Martin Luther was quite candid about sleep:

Sleep is a most useful and most salutary operation of nature. Scarcely any minor annoyance angers me more than the being suddenly awakened out of a pleasant slumber. I understand that in Italy they torture poor people by depriving them of sleep. Tis a torture that cannot long be endured.

Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!

When it comes to the Lord watching out and caring, all we have to do is take a look at Ps. 4:8:

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

David reflected that we can sleep well when we know the Lord is watching out for us. He was dealing with his enemies that were speaking ill of him as king. So who did David trust to deal with his enemies and problems?

The LORD hears me when I call to him.  
PS. 4:3

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# Blessings of an interim pastor

Rev. Bo Baumeister, interim principal at Peace Lutheran School, Antigo, has served 34 years as a full-time church worker, 24 of them as a pastor. He has served in the North Wisconsin District in various ministries since 1989.



Rev. Bo Baumeister

Pastor Baumeister was ordained at Redeemer, Marquette, Mich., and served as pastor at Trinity, Ironwood, Mich., and Hope, DePere. As an intentional interim pastor (IIP), he has been blessed to serve God's people at Faith, Marinette, and Victory, Gwinn, Mich. "Unfortunately, God saw fit to lead the members at Victory to close that congregation after more than 20 years of serving the people at the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base," Pastor Baumeister said.

His work as an intentional interim pastor is unique and important, and he was asked questions about the ministry.

**Why would a congregation have an interim pastor? How is this different from a vacancy pastor?**

A vacancy pastor provides Word and

Sacrament ministry while a congregation is vacant.

Depending on the situation he may be full- or part-time and fulfill the needs of that particular congregation.

A congregation calls an intentional interim pastor when there has been a challenging time with a previous pastor or if he has served them for more than

20 years. Intentional interim ministry can be thought of as transitional ministry because the IIP helps the people transition to a new chapter of ministry.

Specifically, the work of the IIP can be summed up with the acronym CARE. "C" stands for "Commend." He commends the people and processes that are working well. "A" is for "Assess." The IIP assesses the areas and relationships that are burdened with anxiety or conflict. "R" is "Repair." Together with the members and the Holy Spirit, they seek to repair relationships and vision for doing what God has called the congregation to do in that place. Finally, "E" is for "Enable." He enables and empowers

members to work with the next pastor to carry out the various ministries laid before them.

**What do you love most about serving as an interim? What are the challenges?**

I find that God has given me passion to bring order out of disorder. Whether that is a home remodeling project or intentional interim ministry, I love to discern what is disordered or malfunctioning and then collaborate and empower people to change expectations, behaviors and processes for a better result.

Possibly the biggest challenge I face is saying goodbye to people with whom I have developed trust, love and respect. I am constantly encouraged in seeing that God never abandons His people regardless of how hard life in the church seems. Every congregation I know has godly, beautiful, dedicated and passionate Christians who want the best for His kingdom.

**What else would you like to tell us about your ministry?**

I wish intentional interim ministry didn't exist. It does because we are sinners living in a fallen world. Pastors are as fallible as anyone we read about in the headlines. God works through means to bless the people whom He loves and one of those means is Intentional Interim Ministry.

## Faith welcomes Pastor Krueger

Rev. James Krueger was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Marinette, on Aug. 21. Pastor Krueger is a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and has served congregations as a pastor in Michigan, and as an educator in Minnesota and Nebraska.

Pictured are, from left, Revs. Thomas Mackey, Michael Pahlke, Steve Haag, Rick Buhrke, James Krueger, Nick Buchholz, Steven Stoll and Dr. Dwayne Lueck.



**LWML**



## Proclaiming Christ, supporting missions

A beautiful fog covered the ground on a recent Sunday morning, and by the time we were on our way to church the mist began to dissipate. After having COVID this past summer, I noticed my brain was like that, sort of foggy. I called it COVID brain and worked around it. Then, like the fog, it eventually lifted.



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District President

One thing that is not foggy is the purpose of the Mite Box. Every coin, dollar or check donated through the Mite Box helps to pay for the mission grants chosen at our district and national conventions.

At our district convention this past June, we voted to support nine grants totaling \$115,000 for the 2022-24 biennium. We continue to fund the national LWML grant goal of \$2.15 million for the 2021-23 biennium. Seventy-five percent of the mites we raise stays in our district to fund mission grants and programming; and the remaining 25 percent is sent to national LWML in support of the mission goal.

There is no fog surrounding the purpose of the LWML. It is clear that we strive to live out the LWML mission statement: "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others."

**Wellness Corner**



## Tempted and victorious

We falter [temptation].  
We fall [sin].  
We fail to flee (1 Cor. 6:18).

We find ourselves on the slippery slope heading for destruction. We did not heed the insight from Genesis 3 and the first Fall. We stand at a crossroad. For those seeking hope, read on.

God is in the prevention and intervention business. He is fully familiar with our frailty. He has witnessed the fall of King David (2 Samuel 11) and many others.

Being tempt-able is not a sin. It does, however, point to a threshold that is crossable.

We have this assurance from God:

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.  
**1 COR. 10:13**

And there is more. We have One



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

who was tempted and was victorious. Our Intervention Agent has empathy. Christ Jesus has full understanding and healing power. The writer of Hebrews reminds us:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **HEB. 4:14-16**

At the core of the 12-step strategy of Celebrate Recovery is the application of confession and absolution (steps 5-7). We are ready to receive God's grace. Our sins are removed completely and we can now venture into a new destiny. We can celebrate with King David (Psalm 51).

In Christ we are not identified by our failure and sin. We are redeemed and adopted as children of God (Eph. 1:5-7). There is ample room to celebrate our new life in Christ!

Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400.

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## Peace Campus Center

# Serving neighbors on spring break

God worked in mysterious ways as He provided everything that was needed for the team of students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point, leading up to their departure for the spring break mission trip of 2022. The mission team was to serve in Alabama and continue building their foundation in Jesus instead of going to the beach and relaxing like many other college students.

Birmingham, Ala., was the destination and the mission seemed quite simple — to insulate and Sheetrock a house that was damaged the previous year. But with all mission trips, the real mission was to share the love of Christ through serving those in need.

The students of Peace worked with Rev. Ed Brashier, associate pastor of Good Shepherd, Gardendale, Ala., and Southern District Disaster Response



Peace students helping in Birmingham included Will Spreeman (above) and Lorelei Schlueter.



coordinator, and they learned first-hand how to install both faced and blown-in insulation as well as the humbling experience of hanging Sheetrock. Through the frustration of not having a piece of Sheetrock fit time and time again, the students appreciate people who hang Sheetrock for a living. They felt a great sense of accomplishment for what they were able to help with throughout the week.

Whether it was during the cutting and

stapling of insulation, hanging up the Sheetrock, or even just moving the 125 (12' long) pieces of Sheetrock into the home, the students of Peace grew in their faith and love for one another. Just like the home they were helping to rebuild would be stronger, they were reminded that Jesus is our strength and sure foundation.

Everyone in Alabama that week was reminded once again that God is and always will be our Rock.

## Help for our church workers

Our rostered church workers have dedicated their personal and professional lives to the cause of Christ. In many cases, such dedication means significant educational debt with precious few financial resources to address it. Easing this financial burden for new church workers is a priority in the North Wisconsin District and was reaffirmed at the recent district convention. We are therefore blessed to roll out the third year of Labor of Love Grants.

These grants are reserved for rostered church workers, both full- and part-time, who are employed in district congregations, schools or other ministries. Grant details can be found at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org). Go to the "Financial" tab and select "NWD Resources" from the drop-down menu. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 5.

Funding is made possible through the ongoing, generous gifts of Lutherans across the North Wisconsin District, as well as existing district funds that have been rededicated for this special purpose. You can help ensure the continuity of the program by prayerfully considering an ongoing or one-time gift.



## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Bottom line for a good night's sleep? Believe in the Lord, who is watching out for you because He loves and cares for you — and that was confirmed first and foremost with Jesus' act of love on the cross. He took care of sin and our relationship with God so we can rest well.

Remember this verse. Mark it down. Put it on your mirror! "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Good night!

Now the light has gone away;  
Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep  
And to send me quiet sleep.  
(LSB 887:1)