



/ JUNE-JULY 2021

# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### MISSION IN PERU

Rev. Osmel Soliz Bernal catechizes a student after school at Castillo Fuerte, in the La Victoria area of Lima, Peru, last February.



LCMS Erik M. Lunsford

## Even in pandemic, ministry still blessed



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

It has been over a year since I shared with you about the mission work our district supports in Peru. It was November 2019 when Bill Jordan, district business manager and LCEF vice-president, and I attended the FORO (meeting) with other mission partners. The pandemic came along and it shut down Lima — no gatherings at church or school. Travel is shut down for missionaries as well.

So how have our Peruvian brothers and sisters in Christ been doing? God has blessed them.

On April 10, we had our FORO on Zoom. Right now we have two Lutheran pastors in Peru — Rev. Osmel Soliz Bernal from Bolivia and Rev. Walteson Siewert from Paraguay. Vicar Elvis

Carrera, a native of Lima, is ready to be ordained. The plan was for Elvis to be ordained last June. Unfortunately, travel restrictions prevent a pastor qualified to ordain Elvis to travel to Peru. We do not have an LCMS pastor present as the LCMS Office of International Mission is having difficulty recruiting pastors to be missionaries.

So how is the Lord blessing the mission in Peru? In Los Olivos, they have a mercy house called Castillo Fuerte to reach out to neighborhood children, who attend after school while their parents are working. During February and March, Castillo Fuerte staff were able to make contact with 20 new families and offered virtual lessons. They did a brief devotion, taught them about Jesus and how to pray. They also held parent gatherings, sang hymns and prayed together. At the closing, they gave the children school supplies, a Bible and a devotional booklet.



A young girl made a craft through a Zoom lesson.

Pastor Walteson began leading worship at San Borja with four families. Only one in-person service was held due to government restrictions. He reported having an in-person Bible class in Los Olivos while having others on Zoom. He has also journeyed outside Lima to Lunahuana, where he met confirmed

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Vicar Elvis Carrera of the Mision Luterana del Perú in Los Olivos connects with the community during a public health education class hosted by the church in February 2020.



A young boy rejoices after receiving school supplies and a Bible.

## PERU

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Lutherans for a baptism and renewal of marriage vows.

Pastor Osmel leads ministry in the manufacturing district of La Victoria. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he has not been able to do much in-person worship, Bible studies or visitations. Using virtual ministry, they have gone through the *Financial Peace* and *Marriage on the Rock* programs with five couples. The hope is to begin a com-

munity food pantry when government restrictions are lifted.

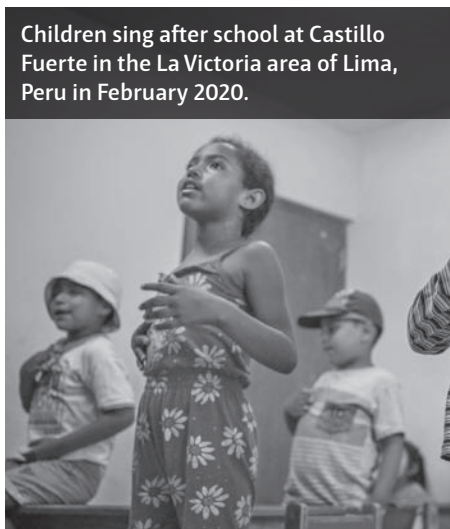
Recently, two Peruvian doctors have joined our Lutheran church in Lima. Plans are in place to help those with anemia, a condition in which there aren't enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to the body's tissues. In Peru, it affects 44 percent of children under the age of three. The project will help diagnose anemia in women and children and offer nutritional support. The hope is that short-term mission teams will be able to support this campaign once restrictions are lifted.

One other major topic we discussed was the hope of purchasing a car. In a city of 10 million people, our missionaries have to take a bus or taxi to get around. A lot of time is used just traveling around the city; time that could be better spent in ministry. The partners at the FORO agreed to support this purchase of about \$25,000. (*Details on how you can help can be found on the next page.*)

God has blessed the ministry in Lima despite the pandemic. Please keep this ministry on your prayer list. God is doing wonderful things.



Castillo Fuerte staff made another youngster happy with school supplies.



Children sing after school at Castillo Fuerte in the La Victoria area of Lima, Peru in February 2020.



# WANTED: Horsepower for Peru

Our workers in Peru are without a car, and this has negatively impacted their ministry for far too long. The missionaries have been using public transportation while serving multiple sites in a metropolitan area of 10 million people — and that's added up to hundreds of wasted hours spent sitting on or waiting for a bus rather than doing ministry.

The Peru mission hopes to buy a Chevrolet Tracker at the approximate cost of \$25,000. No dollars exist in their budget to do this. However, I believe most of us here in the United States are blessed to be in a position to help. The Tracker engine is 165-horsepower, so that equals \$150 per horse to meet the cost.

You can help by purchasing one Peruvian horse for \$150, or maybe a team of horses for \$300. If you're thinking big, perhaps a Peruvian hitch of six (\$900)



is more your speed. Please prayerfully consider your role in meeting this critical need.

Gifts should be sent by check to the North Wisconsin District office at 3103 Seymour Lane; Wausau, WI 54401. Please be sure to write "Peru Horsepower" in the subject line to ensure your gift is forwarded correctly. May God richly bless your giving.

Rev. Walterston Siewert rides the bus between visits in Lima in February 2020..



▲ Children from Castillo Fuerte play with Rev. Osmel Soliz Bernal during recess in February 2020.

◀ Yepci Santana teaches children online.

▶ Two girls reveal what they made during a virtual class.



# 'Running the race'

### Time for convention

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

— Heb. 12:1-2

As you read this, there are many boldly "Running the Race" in Lexington June 24-27 for the 39th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Some are attending and some are watching online. You will be blessed as you hear from missionaries and how the LWML has blessed the lives of others through mission grants.



**Becky Haltaufderheid**  
LWML District President

The spring edition of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* featured Deaconess Heidi Goehman, who will serve as the Bible study leader. Joining her is Mark Senechal, director of Music at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, who will be the song leader. Even with our masks on, we will praise God for the many blessings He provides every day.

Delegates voted to approve the mission grants and the recommended mission-grant goal of \$2.15 million in May. At the convention, we will learn which mission grants God has chosen to be funded for the 2021-23 biennium. In Lexington, delegates will elect new officers and vote on the proposed bylaw resolutions.

There are many ladies and a few men heading to Lexington from the North Wisconsin District. I have asked them to observe what it takes to host a convention, as we will be a host district for the 2023 national convention in Milwaukee. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact me and I will be happy to share your information with Anne Hartman, convention chair.



### Happy Fourth!

In July, we will celebrate our freedom as a nation. This year may be extra special as we may celebrate our freedom from the holds of the COVID pandemic! We may celebrate by getting closer to family and being able to hug our loved ones again. We may have some more freedom from wearing masks in certain circumstances, and freedom from quarantines.

But our greatest freedom is from the sin that our Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself as He died on the cross and arose.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and so not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

— Gal. 5:1

May you be blessed as you celebrate your freedoms this summer!

Serving the Lord gladly!

## The Counseling CONNECTION

# Remembering the call

He wasn't alone. Indeed, he was one of many who faltered in their calling. There were Moses, Elijah and Jeremiah to name a few. They had what Peter needed at that dark hour of denial. Affirmation was needed.

An image forms of this disciple who had boldly stated his devotion to the



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

Lord (Luke 22:33). Yes, Peter ignored the forewarning (v. 34). And now, in that courtyard of the high priest, Peter proved fragile and afraid. The three denials came (v. 55-60a).

Then the rooster crowed (v. 60b). The eyes of the Master met with Peter's and the latter remembered the words of the former (v. 61). Peter ran from that scene. Peter "wept bitterly" (v. 62). Deep was Peter's despair and need. Yet what he needed would not come quickly, but it would come.

It would be on a seashore where the

encounter with his Lord would take place (John 21:15-17). It was a scene reminiscent of their first meeting (Luke 5:1-11). What took place now was an intentional action on the Lord's part. Now was the selected time for remembrance of the call. The ministry Peter had been chosen for was still his destiny.

Jesus raised the question regarding Peter's "love" (v. 15a, 16a, 17a). Peter affirmed his devotion, and Jesus called Peter to "feed my sheep." Three was significant. Three affirmations were shared by the Lord. Three denials were set aside. Yes, there was a remembrance of the call. Grace held new meaning for this chosen apostle.

We need affirmation. We need to hear the words that lead us to recall our calling. In the midst of self-doubt and

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## WELCOME!

On Sunday, April 11, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamburg, was received into membership of the LCMS North Wisconsin District. The congregation had formerly been a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

From left, Rev. Joel Danner, St. Paul pastor; Jeff Draher, congregation chairman; Maranda Rhyner, congregation secretary; and Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president.



Early childhood educators:

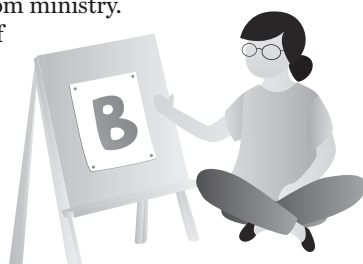
## Be 'restored' at conference

The Early Childhood Conference will be held on Friday, Aug. 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Wausau. The theme for this year's conference is "RESTORED!" from 1 Peter 5:10.

Early childhood educators from across the district will gather to celebrate God's faithfulness and work in their ministry. The keynote presenter is Jennie Williamson, a Nashville recording artist who travels the country sharing a message of hope and encouragement in the name of Jesus.

Attendees will also attend two breakout sessions that will better equip them for classroom ministry.

It will be an exciting day of encouraging, networking and equipping for our teachers. Online registration remains open through July and can be found at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).



## Register for district golf outing

The annual district golf outing will be held at Pine Valley Golf Course, Marathon, on Monday, July 19. Friends of the district and church and school workers are invited to attend. This event is not a fundraiser, but rather a break-even fellowship event. Online registration can be found at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).



## CALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

despair, the human heart cries out to hear the validation that our commissioning is still viable.

The apostle Paul offers one such encouragement that is still relevant today:

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. — Gal. 6:9

Brothers and sisters, affirm and encourage one another. Stand unified in your callings.

Visit [nwdlcms.org/worker-wholeness.html](http://nwdlcms.org/worker-wholeness.html) for wellness resources. Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400.

# 75 years of blessings



By Gary "Woody" Vought  
Camp Luther Executive Director

For 75 years, Camp Luther in Three Lakes has been a blessing to our congregations, families, children and many others! Each year, thousands visit this beautiful setting, where they participate in youth camps, family camps and congregational retreats, and to serve as volunteers.

It is the Walther League, which was an LCMS organization for youth and young adults, that is credited with the vision for starting a camp in the North Wisconsin District. They began offering camps at rented locations around the district in the 1920s. In the 1940s, they approached the Young People's board with the idea of purchasing a property for a camp. In 1945, the district convention authorized the newly formed Camp Committee to begin the search for a property.

The committee began traveling across north Wisconsin during the fall of 1945 and into the spring of 1946 to inspect various site possibilities for a camp. It was a 91-acre tract near Three Lakes

that caught their attention. It included a lodge and several cottages situated on the northeast shore of Range Line Lake, connected to the Three Lakes-Eagle River chain of 28 lakes.

Rev. W. L. Kohn, then district president, was along on this trip and was likewise impressed, despite the group having to trudge through snow to view the lake! Following additional inspections after the snow melted, the committee recommended the purchase of the site, which included nearly 1,000 feet of shoreline, the lodge, four cottages and all the furnishings, furniture, boats and equipment, for a cost of \$22,000. The purchase was approved on May 6, 1946, and the North Wisconsin District became the first LCMS

district to purchase and operate its own camp ministry.

Seventy-five years later, God's faithfulness is evident through all that has happened and continues to happen at Camp Luther. Tens of thousands of people have been encouraged in their faith through camps and retreats, and through the sharing of God's Word in worship, campfire devotions, Bible study and encouraging conversations with friends in Christ.

## Join in celebrating 75 years of ministry!

In February 2021, the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution encouraging congregations to give thanks for Camp Luther, to encourage their members to participate in the camps and retreats offered, and to express their thankfulness through a district-wide ingathering of gifts and thank offerings. Gifts in honor of Camp Luther's 75th anniversary can be designated for Every Kid to Camp or for the completion of the new Community Center. Gifts can be sent to Camp Luther at 1889 Koubenec Rd, Three Lakes, WI 54562, or online at [campluther.com/give](http://campluther.com/give). Contact Camp Luther at 715-546-3647.

## A mission of encouragement since the founding

In 2006, leadership decided to revisit the Camp Luther mission statement to ensure it was aligned to the growing ministry. A committee of staff and volunteers was enlisted to develop a mission statement that would have its basis in Scripture and provide the guiding Christ-centered principles on which the camp and its staff would base

Continued on next page



Learn more about **CAMP LUTHER** at:

- [campluther.com](http://campluther.com)
- [facebook.com/CampLutherWI](https://facebook.com/CampLutherWI)





The original Camp Committee is pictured in front of the old lodge in 1946.

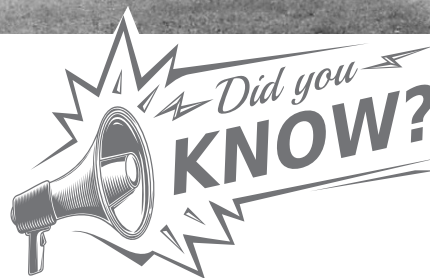
all ministry decisions going forward. All agreed the mission statement should be simple enough for it to be memorized, yet embody the original purpose of the camp itself.

“Building up all people in Christ for service and witness in the world” would become the new mission for Camp Luther, both in words and action. Specifically, the phrase “Building up all people in Christ” is based on 1 Thess. 5:11:

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

It was intended to draw upon the purpose of all the camps and retreats that Camp Luther offers to youth, families and volunteers. Through the sharing of God’s Word within a Christ-centered community and caring relationships, all participants are built up and encouraged in their faith. The second half of the mission statement, “for service and witness to the world,” is a daily reminder to take the love of Christ into our world in response to the Great Commission and extend the mission of camp far beyond its borders.

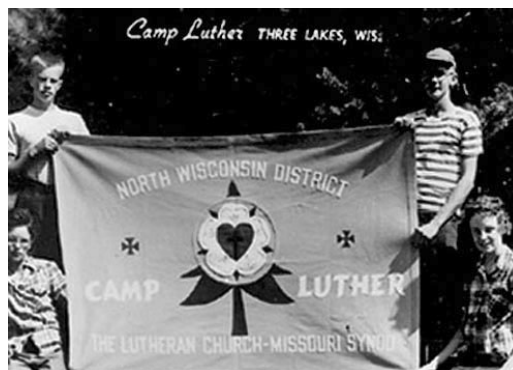
Interestingly, a few years later camp staff came across an article about Camp Luther from 1962 written by Walter Roehl, who served on the original Camp Committee. The new mission statement unknowingly had the very same purpose that Camp Luther had from its beginning, to “encourage one another and build each other up,” confirming that the original mission of Camp Luther should always remain the basis of this ministry.



- More than 6,000 people participate in Camp Luther programs each year!
- Rev. Dr. Arleigh Lutz, former district president, served as the program director at Camp Luther during his seminary summers (1958-61). He met his wife, Barb, at camp and there is a brick in the courtyard that says “Barb and Arleigh met here.”
- Fred Luderus (1885-1961), a major league baseball player, once owned Camp Luther’s property. He was a friend of Cy Williams (1887-1974) and both played for the Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago Cubs. Luderus had the main lodge and four cottag-

es built. He named the property the HyMont Resort.

- In a typical year, 46 college-age youth are hired in the summer as counselors and for leadership and support.
- The Camp Luther bell was donated by Palmer Gum in 1964. The bell came from the Easton Center School District #5, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1911 which still stands today. It is quite possible that the bell has been regularly used for 110 years — 50 years welcoming farming kids on their long walk to school and these last 57 years as a wake-up and meal-time bell at Camp Luther.
- The North Wisconsin District continues to support the mission of the camp through an annual subsidy and available line of credit.
- In 1963, camper fees were \$18; cottages rented for between \$35 and \$60 and individual meal costs were 75 cents for breakfast, \$1.75 for lunch and \$1 for supper!
- The junior counselor program began in the early 1970s. Today, 60 high school students serve as junior counselors each summer.
- The earliest Camp Luther logo had Luther’s seal incorporated on it. This logo was proudly displayed on a blue banner that hung in the dorm lounge until 2000 and has just recently been framed and hung in the Retreat Center Fellowship Hall.



This postcard from the 1950s shows campers holding the first logo with Luther’s seal.

## Camp Luther history booklet is available

The history of Camp Luther has been published in honor of the 75th anniversary and is available at camp or by contacting the camp office at 715-546-3647 or [info@camppluther.com](mailto:info@camppluther.com).

The cost is \$10 plus \$5 for shipping.

# Chinese student grateful for ministry

For more than 30 years Peace Lutheran Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) has been a place for international students to feel welcomed while studying so far away from home. In recent years for various reasons, the university has had to end a wide variety of programs geared toward international students, and as a result the number of international students at UWSP has decreased significantly.

But this hasn't stopped the campus ministry from sharing the love of Jesus with individuals like Kaihua (K-hi wah) Liu. He was asked to share what this Christian center means to him.

"I moved to Stevens Point in 2019 and started to become a part of the Peace family right away. I was introduced to Peace by my friend, Larry, and I am so

glad that I was. When I first joined the other students for Sunday worship at Peace, I was surprised at how very close the people at Peace were with each other. They really made me feel welcome and cared about each other and me.

"Over the course of time, I've learned so much about the culture here that I never knew about while growing up in China. There have been so many great experiences while I have been at Peace with my new American friends. The activities that happen at Peace are always full of fun and bring me great laughter and joy.

"I especially am thankful for the opportunity to worship on Sundays with students my same age. Every week the time is filled with great worship music and a biblical teaching, something I didn't have in China.



Kaihua Liu

"Before I became part of Peace, I didn't go to church very often and used my school and job as an excuse that I was too busy for church. But through their kindness and encouragement my Peace friends helped me join the activities at Peace and because of that I feel refreshed and restored now. I know that through my involvement at Peace my life has been changed in the most positive way. I love my Peace family."



M.Div. student Koh Yamamoto reads coursework during class on Jan. 15.

## CTSFW receives highest level of accreditation

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), has again received full accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for the next 10 years – the longest term the accrediting agencies can approve.

"Both visitation teams commended the culture of assessment that informs integrated planning," said Rev. Robert Roethemeyer, CTSFW vice-president of Strategic Planning and Mission Execution and self-study chair. "These are great characteristics to celebrate in this 175th year of forming pastors,

"This 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation builds upon the strength of the 10-year reaffirmation achieved in 2010," said CTSFW President Lawrence R. Rast Jr. "Both commissions recognized CTSFW's strong sense of mission and identity."

deaconesses and other servants of Jesus Christ for the congregations and service organizations of the LCMS and beyond."

The accreditors noted that CTSFW's "mission and [Lutheran] identity permeate, animate, and guide the school and are supported by a strong sense of community." They also complimented the seminary for "exceptional financial stewardship and generosity of the seminary's constituency (both local and global) that make it possible for students to graduate with manageable debt."

The tremendous amount of work that goes into preparing an institutional self-study of this magnitude allows the seminary to celebrate and build upon its strengths and recognize areas for potential growth and improvement.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is also accredited by both agencies, and received its most recent 10-year renewal in 2014.