

Grace, Mercy and Peace in the Name of Jesus Christ,

Happy New Year from the NWD staff! We celebrate and give thanks for the partnership we share in the Gospel. We have accomplished much during 2022 and look forward to our work together in 2023!

Your financial gifts this year provided critical ministry support that most of our congregations could never fund on their own. The North Wisconsin District is one of 35 districts in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, with a ministry area that includes the top half of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We host and support 215 churches, 3 high schools, 19 elementary schools, 30 stand-alone early childhood centers, campus ministry, Camp Luther, veteran's ministry, deaf ministry, Peru ministry, worker wellness, and much more. Our mission statement describes our shared purpose:

Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the North Wisconsin District LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ.

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.

We have more to do and need your help. The NWD Convention voted for congregations to support a District-wide campaign to reduce the educational debt of church workers. That work is being prepared and many will be asked to contribute, starting late this summer. Recruiting and training workers who embrace our Lutheran ethos is critical, so Synod's *Set Apart to Serve* campaign will become more and more visible. The NWD has been piloting a training system to help protect children from abuse, a system that has now been adopted by the Synod and will be made available District-wide this year. And this year we gather for the triennial LCMS Synodical Convention.

THANK YOU for your gifts and please join us in ministry in 2023! Pray for the workers in the NWD, that they may shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Pray for the ministries in the NWD, 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, give financially to the NWD.

Contact me at any time to discuss the ministry we share.

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, District President