



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



DEC. 2 MARKS THE START OF ADVENT

— it is a time to prepare for the coming of the Savior. We will certainly celebrate His birth when we arrive at Christmas. Advent means getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth — along with presents. But Advent offers adults a deeper spiritual experience because it also focuses on Jesus now in Word and Sacrament and His return on Judgment Day. It is a time to look forward with hope through our faith in Jesus.

Jeremiah has been called the “weeping prophet” as he preached against idol worship of his fellow Jewish people and how they were not being the people God wanted them to be as His chosen



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

people. They did not listen. Jeremiah shared with them that the Babylonians were going to invade and take them captive — not exactly a word of hope for their future. Yet in the middle of despair, Jeremiah shared with them words of hope.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ... This is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” —**JER. 23:5-6B**

Jeremiah was sharing with his people God's promise that He would send them a king who was “righteous,” unlike their kings who were not faithful to the true God. Jesus was the one foretold in the prophecy. Jesus was going to be the king who would do things right. He would do what God expected of His people and the kings that sat on the throne of

Judah. These were words of hope for the people who needed to hear Good News.

As we know, Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophet by coming into this world and putting all things right with God because we cannot. Jesus was both God and man and fulfilled perfectly the Law, living a perfect life that eventually led Him to die on the cross for the sins of the world. Jesus is the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Jeremiah: “The LORD is our righteousness!” He was the “righteous branch” because He came and lived and died and rose again for the salvation of all people.

Advent is a time of hope. It is a time for us to repent, as John the Baptist proclaimed, and to hear the Good News that we are forgiven because Christ came. He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets who said God would send a Messiah. God kept all of those prophecies of hope!

Advent is also a time to reflect that Jesus will come again in judgment — “to judge the living and the dead.” There will be a joyous reunion in heaven with Jesus for those who believe in Him. That is great news.

We need to hear God's Word of hope and be reminded of it during Advent. We need to hear it as there are times when we can get down and depressed, especially when life throws us those curves we didn't expect. We may believe that we are healthy, and then we learn that we have to deal with an unexpected issue. We learn that we are mortal, and we are people who will die unless Jesus

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New pastor in Mondovi

On Sunday, Sept. 23, Rev. Scott Johnson was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Mondovi. Rev. Timothy Moe, pastor of Zion, Eleva, served as the liturgist and Rev. Dwayne Lueck, district president, delivered the sermon.

Johnson was born in Elk Mound and attended Concordia University Wisconsin, graduating in 2009 with a major in psychology and minor in biblical languages. In 2013, he received a Master of Divinity degree and, in 2016, a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. In 2014, he served his first call to the pastoral ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Mich.

In 2013, he married Rebecca and God has blessed them with four sons: Eli (4), Daniel (3), Ezekiel and Jeremiah (1).



From left, Revs. Bruce Richardson, Paul Bittner, Carl Rockrohr, Lueck, James Norton, Daniel Pfaffe, Johnson, David Shudy, Jonathan Wessel, Gary Paul, Moe, Carlton Kangas and Joseph Schultz.

State LFL announces essay winner

Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin is privileged to announce that the 2018 state essay contest winner is Jack Statz of Portage. Jack, who recently finished eighth grade and graduated from St. John's Lutheran School, Portage, won the middle school division. He is the son of Terri Leigh Rhody of Portage and Edward Statz of Stoughton.



Jack Statz

The essay contest, sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents of Lutherans For Life, is for students in grades 6 through 12. Any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible to submit an entry.

The 2019 essay guidelines are available at lfl-wi.org. Look under "Events" and click "2019 Essay Contest, Sample Letter & Rubrics."



New teachers gather

On Oct. 8, new teachers over the past three years gathered to share and learn about the initial years of teaching and district and Synod responsibilities, and to talk about the methods of a quality teaching and learning environment. Continue to pray for these hardworking servants, that they would be encouraged and equipped to serve.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

comes again soon. That is why we look to Jesus as the promised Messiah, who took care of our concerns for eternity. Jesus took care of our future ... and through faith in Him. Our future is very bright.

So before we get to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, take time to get ready for the festival of Christ-

mas. The time of Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas. It is a time to reflect on why it was so important for Jesus to come into the world the first time — to forgive us our sins — and on the joy that will be ours when he comes a second time — to enjoy the fruit of faith in Him.

Enjoy Advent. Light those Advent candles. Get ready! Get prepared! Christmas will be here soon enough!

‘What a gift!’

Christmas is an exciting time of the year, especially for children. When I was a child, my brothers, sister and I would be so excited to see all of the gifts under the tree. Then we would begin to read the tags to count the number of gifts we would be able to open.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

We often wondered if we were getting for what we had asked. There were times when we got so caught up in the activities of the Christmas season that the true focus was pushed aside. We had to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. This brought us back to focusing on that baby born on that first

Christmas night and placed in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

Christmas is a time of giving. The North Wisconsin District LWML has given many mission grant gifts over the past 75 years totaling nearly \$2 million, including the first mission grant for this biennium (2018-20), paid to the Wisconsin branch of the Orphan Grain Train for \$15,000. It would be great to see the faces of the grant recipients as they look at the gift. Is it money to build a building where they can learn about Jesus? Is it a gift of Bibles or religious literature in their language so that they too can read and study God’s Word? Is it a gift of a missionary to teach those who have not heard the love of Jesus, or is it a gift to help equip Lutheran high schools in the North Wisconsin District? I can hear those looking at the gift saying, “What a gift!”

Those gifts are received because of faithful men and women who place gifts into a mite box on a daily or weekly basis. What a gift you are giving by

placing that penny, nickel, dime, dollar or more into that small mite box. You may not think that the money in your mite box will go far, but add up all the mite boxes being filled in our district. Then consider all the mite boxes being filled in each LWML district every day — it’s overwhelming!

As you place your coins or dollars in your mite box, think of the recipients’ faces as they see the gift you have provided and then hear them say, “What a gift!”

As we close in on Christmas, let’s focus on the gift of the Christ Child, the gift that has brought joy to the world, and forgiveness of sins and eternal life through His death and resurrection. We have this promise in Romans 6:23:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What a gift! May you be blessed this Christmas — and may you be a blessing to others. Merry Christmas!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Passion in the call as a Christian

The man had all the needed ingredients for service to God. He had the one, special element.

Saul, the Pharisee, had passion, though misdirected. Christ

knew before He intervened in Saul’s life that he was fit for another calling. The encounter on the Damascus road was personal and intentional (Acts 9:3-6). Now Christ would use that skill and passion to expand His kingdom into the Gentile world (v.15).

Skill, gifting and passion are vital ingre-



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

dients for mission work. In the Spirit’s hands these overcome any obstacle that stands in the way of kingdom growth. Paul is a model for today’s servant-workers.

Christ chooses whom He will call to fill a kingdom need. He seeks the heart. He looks for passion. It is a key ingredient in defining a disciple: “One who is passionate to know Christ, grow in Christ and show Christ in their daily life.”

It was Paul, along with the other disciples now referred to as apostles, who led the early Church. Thirteen men with passion, empowered by the Holy Spirit, began the work of putting Christianity on the map!

Acts gives a portrayal of their work, especially Peter, John and Paul. They

were the inner-core of whom the Spirit used to place the risen Christ at the center of this new religion. This is Christ’s promised church (Matt. 16:18) that has prevailed over the centuries of struggle and celebration.

Christ is looking for postmodern day disciples who have the passion to fulfill the call. He is seeking disciples to “make [more] disciples” (Matt. 28:19a), who will grow in passion “to know ... grow ... and show Christ in their daily lives.”

A key role for Christians is to lead such a transformation among followers of Christ. Yes, we are to guide believers to attain “to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13b).

Imagine the impact if each believer had such a passion. Imagine what the combined passion would have on today’s world! The Spirit of Christ is ready for the work ... for such a time as this!

If your passion is dissipating, contact me at 715-610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com.



Camp Luther is 2019 Hearts For Jesus mission

The North Wisconsin District's Hearts for Jesus mission has been chosen for 2019 — Camp Luther's Filled with the Spirit campaign!



Chapel and Sunday school offerings will be used to purchase new and larger round tables for the new dining hall and Community Center. Camp Luther's Sojo and Beemer will kick off the challenge with a Facebook live event during National Lutheran Schools Week and provide weekly updates on social media.!

There are promotional items available online at nwdlcm.org ("Hearts for Jesus 2019" link on right side of page) and campluther.com (click the "Hearts for Jesus" tab at the top of the page).

Champs!

Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School (WVLHS) in Mosinee is celebrating its 15th year of ministry and second year in an athletic conference for most sports. Last year — year one in the Central Wisconsin Conference-North — the boys were baseball conference champions. This year in year two, the girls' volleyball team were conference champions and won conference tournament, ending the season with a record of 20-5. Congratulations Wolves!

Camp Luther in full swing!



Community Center

"A gathering place where I can eat with my friends and talk about our day together."

GOAL: \$2.5 million • PROGRESS: \$1.9 million



Winter Retreats

"This is a great place for winter fun with friends and family!"

Keweenaw Base Camp

(Adventure and serving others)

Impact program: Leadership development

"It was a great life-changing moment"

Family Camp

"It's the one week out of the whole year that we all live on the same block."

Get ready for the best summer ever!

Camp Luther has summer camp programs for 4-year-olds through high school seniors. Registration opens Jan. 1. Go to campluther.com/summercamp for a full description of each program.