



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

A SUMMER OF COMING TOGETHER



Dr. Wilhelm Sihler was a pastor in the Ohio Synod who had been sent from Germany. In 1845, Sihler wrote a letter to Rev. C.F.W. Walther in St. Louis and asked him: "Would it not be possible to form a union together with our brethren?"

Walther replied: "I hold that not only possible but most desirable and rich in promise for our mutual welfare; indeed, I consider it essential. ... I for my part am willing to make any possible sacrifice in order to bring such a union into being."

On April 26, 1847, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) was founded. Walther served as its first president.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

The LCMS is still here and the North Wisconsin District is one of 35 districts that make up the Synod. The purpose for which Synod was organized is (briefly) to:

1. **REMAIN** united in doctrine.
2. **EXTEND** the Kingdom of God.
3. **TRAIN** ministers and teachers.
4. **PUBLISH** sound Lutheran books and papers.

There are some big happenings this

summer going on in the LCMS where Lutherans will be together.

IN PRAISE TO THE LORD

(1 Chron. 16:23–24a) is the theme for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League's convention June 20–23 in Mobile, Ala. Their goal is "Led by God's power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations."

The LWML is a mission organization. Thousands of women come together

every two years to celebrate meeting their mission goal and setting a new goal. The women recently met the 2017–19 biennium goal of \$2,075,000 for mission projects all over the world.

► lwml.org/2019-convention

REAL. PRESENT. GOD.

(Ps. 46:10–11) Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The next Gathering will be held on July 11–15 in Minneapolis. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's Word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the Synod. Nearly 25,000 that attend this event.

► lcmsgathering.com

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Wonderfully made

God's Word tells each of us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. As we look around, we see that every person is different in their own way, including identical twins. When we are baptized, we become part of the Body of Christ. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a purpose, so too we all are part of the Body of Christ and have a purpose.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

At the 37th Biennial Convention of the North Wisconsin District LWML, the delegates selected the mission grant "Wonderfully Made ... Resources for People of All Abilities - Bethesda." This grant will help fund the printing of three "Wonderfully Made" brochures.



We all know people in north Wisconsin and across the United States with developmental disabilities. Many times, these people and their families are not members of a Christian church and do not have the opportunity to hear the Word of God in ways they can grasp the promise of His salvation for them. Two brochures will provide information on how to adapt curriculum using the five senses and how to adapt communication and interactive skills in order to build relationships with people of disabilities. The third brochure will help medical personnel, pastors and others to equip those having the first conversations with expectant parents to share God's promises, and will give suggestions for compassionate care to their child with a developmental disability.

God has selected these parents to care for His child whom he has created to join His family. These brochures are so important and need to be distributed to

those caring for people with developmental disabilities. As you place your mite offerings in your mite box, pray that your offering would extend God's kingdom and help others understand the blessing of an adult or a child with developmental disabilities.

I remember as I worked in the schools as a police liaison officer, I met with students with developmental disabilities. They are the most loving students with whom I have had contact. I remember being present at a high school prom when two students with developmental disabilities had come together as a couple. They were dressed up in their best. Other students acknowledged them. You could not take the smile off their faces as they danced among their classmates. They often came up to me at school and at the dance to give me a hug. I felt these students were a clear picture of God's love to all of us.

As you read this, many LWML women from North Wisconsin District are getting ready to go to the 38th Biennial LWML Convention in Mobile, Ala.

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The Counseling CONNECTION

A clearly defined destiny

God has a plan for His chosen leaders. A certain character quality needs to prevail through our words and actions.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

John places a special emphasis on this element. In John 1-12, it appears eight times.

In chapters 13-17, it occurs 31 times. We are talking about the Greek noun *agape* (love) and the verb *agapao* (love).

The remarkable expression of that love occurred during the evening of Jesus' betrayal. It was in that upper room where Jesus "washed the disciples' feet"

(13:5a). Jesus intentionally became subservient to live out this character quality.

Following this radically humble action, Jesus shared a lesson with His disciples:

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given an example that you also should do just as I have done to you." (vs. 14-15)

It is noteworthy that Jesus washed the feet of Peter and Judas. Jesus' love saw past their rejection of Him that would also occur that night.

Later that traumatic night, Jesus shared a "new command" that would define discipleship:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
(vs. 34-35)

Love is action- and other-centered. Love is submissive. Love is sacrificial. Jesus modeled love in all these dimensions. We are called to do the same so our love exemplifies our Lord. Our L-O-V-E is Lord Our Very Essence.

The ultimate expression of love Jesus lived out was on the cross. He gave all so we could have all with Him in heaven.

Each day is a limited time span for us to live L-O-V-E in all its fullness. We anticipate the day when we will see Jesus' out-stretched arms and we will know fully "This is how much I love you!"

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

REFLECTIONS FROM PEACE CENTER

Rev. Andy Weden, Peace Campus Center pastor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, asked Bailey Hardel to share her reflections from her years of involvement at Peace.

How were you involved at Peace over the years?

I have been involved through attending weekly worship on Sundays, Bible studies, service events, mission trips, and being the Leadership Team president.



Bailey Hardel

Describe your first time at Peace.

My first knowledge of Peace was at the Freshman Fair. My parents and I stopped after seeing “Lutheran” and got a calendar. But sadly, I didn’t make the journey to Peace until my junior year. This is something that I think about and wonder how different my life would be if I had been in Point more on the weekends my freshman and sophomore years to attend Peace earlier

But I know that God had a plan for me in when to attend Peace and it was perfect. As someone dealing with low self-esteem after a whirlwind life change, I wanted to take the chance and find more independence. So I finally took the chance to go to Peace.

Since it was my first time attending, I brought my best friend, Claire, with me to take away the nervousness. We arrived, not entirely sure what we should be doing or where we should be

going for service. After getting name tags, being greeted by some Peace people and taking our seats, I was beginning to feel a little more comfortable. Claire and I left feeling happy and content about meeting new people and finding a new space.

As you reflect back over your years of being involved at Peace how you have been blessed by this ministry?

Peace has blessed me through amazing friendships that will last a lifetime. It has been a constant place for me to have fun during events or just with friends after worship.

What is one of your favorite Peace memories?

The mission trips to Texas and Florida.

What are your greatest words of advice for other students?

Peace will change your life if you will only let it. Try something new. Do something that you never thought you could do, because with God you can do anything! Time spent at Peace can only be a blessing. Don’t let other, less important things get in the way of growing at Peace.

CAMP LUTHER

Campers will learn to ‘Take Heart’

“Take Heart” is the theme for 2019 at Camp Luther, from John 16:33 (NIV):

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

At Camp Luther in 2019, we’re going to explore what it looks like to hold onto Jesus. In the trouble, in the hurt and in the confusion and doubt, we can hold onto Jesus.

Construction on Camp Luther’s new Community Center will begin this fall, but first we need help clearing out the old Dining Hall and Lodge. Volunteers are needed Aug. 16-30 to move equipment and supplies from the current building to the Retreat Center and storage. Heavy lifting is required. Come for a day or multiple days.

Call 715-546-3647 or email info@campluther.com for more information and to sign up.

Upcoming events

Aug. 30-Sept. 2
Labor Day Family Retreat

Sept. 1
Community Center Groundbreaking

Sept. 20-22
Women’s Retreat

Oct. 18-20
Fall Workbee

More information about these events can be found at campluther.com.



Send news to:

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LWML (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

One of the collected offerings will help support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Dominican Republic. Many of these adults and children are marginalized and the government provides no services to educate or help these people or their families, so they sink further into poverty.

Lutherans in the Dominican Republic minister to these people and are in the process of opening their first group home. If you are attending the convention or know someone from your area attending, why not send an offering with them to help these special people in the Dominican Republic learn about Jesus and His love for them? May you be a blessing to others as these special adults and children are a blessing to us.

Blessed to serve!