



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



going to become a great nation and “all people” would be blessed “through you.” Think about it. This was a promise made to a man who was raised surrounded by idolatry in the land of the Ur of the Chaldeans. This was not a Christian nation. God promised him that *everyone* in the world was going to be blessed through him.

This promise was made to a 75-year-old man. Up to this point, Abram and Sarai had no children. Maybe he was retired and pulling down his social security. God comes along and makes a promise to him. What does he do? “Abram went.” Why? God spoke. He listened. He obeyed. In faith, “he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Abraham had no destination to type in his GPS, but just took off.

By faith, “Abram went.”

God gave Abraham a promise and Abraham took off in faith not exactly knowing where he was going — but he obeyed God. He went!

The time between when I write this and when you read this could be six weeks or longer. I have no idea what the COVID-19 crisis will be like when you read this. In just the past week, the baseball games I was going to watch in Arizona were canceled. We were told no more than 50 should meet in one place.

On March 17, we were informed: “Effective at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all public and private mass gatherings are prohibited in the State of Wisconsin” — no more than 10 people in a room with the instructions to

PROMISE AND FAITH



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

Back on March 19, I had a video conference with the circuit visitors of our district. I shared with them the following words about Abraham:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. — **Heb. 11:8**

He did not know where he was going, but as Gen. 12:4 states:

Abram went.

Martin Luther’s comment about this?

Promise and faith belong together. — **AE 2:266**

What promise did God make to Abraham?

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

— **Gen. 12:2-3 NIV**

What did God promise Abraham? His future family was

See **MESSAGE**, Page 2

LCEF is here to help

As the coronavirus situation evolves, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is monitoring circumstances closely and is completely committed to finding ways to help those it serves. LCEF understands the challenges, particularly for those who are on the front lines of this battle, often laboring in difficult and restrictive conditions. Your tireless work is deeply appreciated.

While uncertainty abounds, LCEF exists precisely for such a time as this. Deposits are secure and the organization remains in a strong financial-capital position. LCEF is the church helping and supporting the church, and as such, its work is always to go above

and beyond what traditional financial institutions do and provide.

To that end, all LCEF departments have developed the capability to work with little or no interruption through a quarantine. Helpful information in addressing possible needs you may have as an investor or borrower is now posted on its website. For these updates, in addition to LCEF's business continuity plan statement, please visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.

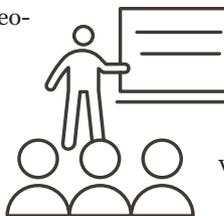
As always, District Vice-President Bill Jordan stands ready to discuss your particular needs on the local level: contact him at bill.jordan@lcef.org or call 715-570-5888.

CTSFW to offer class in Shawano

Every summer, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., offers a number of continuing education sites across the country.

While CTSFW provides the framework for these classes, pastors in your district serve as the coordinators, choosing the topic, teacher, time and location (usually their home church). Classes are open to both church workers as well as lay people.

"Scripture and Sacramentality," presented by Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, is scheduled for June 22-24 at St. Jakobi, Shawano. Dr. Wenthe is CTSFW president emeritus.



This course will offer hermeneutical and theological investigation of Israel's history and the life of Jesus of Nazareth, with particular focus on the Incarnation as foundation for the Scripture's description of Sacraments. The meaning of

Baptism and Eucharist and their relationship to the Gospel in the context of the parish will be explored.

Visit ctsfw.edu/ce and scroll down to the Shawano link for registration and more information about the teacher, course readings (when available) and contact information for the site coordinator.

Send news to:

Karol Selle (715-677-4877): selleks@gmail.com
or 3177 State Hwy. 66; Rosholt, WI 54473

Got a smartphone? We would love to show photos of what your church and school life looks like while under a stay-at-home order. It could be of you and/or your family in your living room watching worship on your big screen; or your student (or a teacher) at her desk, working or looking into a screen of her classmates in rows of rectangles. Whatever it is you're doing, send in your photos, and we'll publish them to show that while we're physically apart, we're still together as the Body of Christ.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"preserve social distancing of six feet between people."

The leadership teams of congregations have figured out ways to worship, either online or in small groups. Pastors are trying to figure out how to care for people in your congregation — for you. People are out there suffering, alone and scared.

This is new territory for all of us. How long will this last? Where is this all going? I don't know. You don't either.

Therefore, we do what Abraham did. We hear the promise of God and move forward in faith — just like Abraham did when he was 75 years old. Many of us are over 60 years old and are being told that this is not the ideal age when confronting the coronavirus. We hold on to the same familiar promises that are simple yet powerful:

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. — **Rom. 8:28 NIV**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

— **Ps. 46:1**

"I am with you always, to the end of the age." — **Matt. 28:20**

And don't forget — and to hold on to — these words at this time and always:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." — **John 3:16**

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, in a recent video, put it this way: "Your days are in the Lord's hands. I plead for your patience as we all struggle through this with our nation and world. I do know this. Crosses always drive people to Jesus, including us. Count on it."

God bless you and keep you.

Believe the promises of God.

Keep the faith!

Abraham did and "he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Blessings abound!

The 2018–20 biennium has come to an end for the North Wisconsin District LWML. We were able to surpass our Mission Grant goal set at \$107,000. Because of your generosity, we were able to fully fund all of our grants for a total of \$109,500.

Let me share with you all the people who have been blessed with your mite offerings during this biennium.

You have helped put food on the table of students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Many times, these students who have been called by God to serve His people find it difficult to provide for their families while attending seminary.

Throughout the United States, there are many Orphan Grain Train reception centers for clothing, medical and school supplies, hygiene kits and bicycles. These items are shipped overseas or shared nationally. Whether far or near, you helped to bring these goods, along with the saving Gospel, to many in need. Your mites paid for the shipping costs of these items.

You have helped teachers, pastors and DCEs pay for their training through the financial aid mission grant.

You have helped the homeless in Ashland. We know what



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District
President

Wisconsin winters are like — and my house is warm. Your mite offerings were able to help repair the Ashland Cares Inc. shelter so that those in need would have a warm place to stay.

Through Mission Central, you have helped bring the love of Jesus to the people of the Czech Republic through Cindy Wrucke, and to the people of Russia through Rev. Dr. Charles and Connie Cortright. These missionaries are from Wisconsin.

You have helped Victory Lutheran Church, Gwinn, Mich., keep its doors open to serve many families, youth and children. You have helped bring the message of Jesus' saving grace to them through Bible camps and Bible studies.

You have helped veterans who are struggling with PTSD and depression to be strengthened by comfort dogs through Operation Barnabas.

You have helped parents welcome their child with a disability into their family through Bethesda's brochure, "Wonderfully Made." This brochure will help them understand God's special gift to them.

You have helped Elliot and Serena Derricks, who serve with Lutheran Bible Translators in Cameroon, Africa, purchase and maintain their vehicle so they are able to travel to the various villages they are serving.

Blessings abound as we are held by God's Word and His promise

See LWML, Page 4

The Counseling CONNECTION

The 'greatness' alternative

It began in that first garden. Here the perfect relationship with God was first found and then corrupted. A critical factor was the option of "greatness."

Satan introduced the concept to Eve. He posed the possibility that she could secure greatness — to be "like God" (Gen. 3:5b). What a tantalizing thought! Eve bought the lie, and pride entered the human race for the first time. Pride has been a stumbling block



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

in our relationship with God ever since "me" over "He."

The desire is to elevate oneself, even to the point of wanting to be God. We create an idol, and it is us. Move over God. In such a position we ignore the reality of SIN — Self In Nature — in spite of God.

Centuries of human history give ample evidence of the corrupting influence of pride. The legacy of God's chosen people, the Jews, is a prime example of this sin pattern. Hardened hearts rebel against God.

So we turn to the New Testament. We find Jesus' chosen disciples during their training under Him. This challenging sentence is before us:

An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest.

— **Luke 9:46**

Here is a "reality check." None of Jesus' chosen disciples had an impressive resume. Fishermen, a tax collector, unknowns — they were a band of misfits with no merit or status to claim.

But now they were with Jesus, the Great Teacher and Miracle Worker. Perhaps they presumed greatness tied to their association with Jesus.

Regardless of their misguided motives, Jesus was quick to put them in their place, with grace. Jesus did not condemn their inflated pride. He realigned their positioning and thinking. Jesus brought a small child in front of them (v. 47b), and reminded them:

"For he who is least among you all is the one who is great." — **v. 48b**

Only from a position of humility can Christ be truly elevated in our lives. This is equally true in ministry. To Christ be the glory ... always!

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

PEACE CAMPUS CENTER

From the heart of parents

By Matt and Tracy Chang

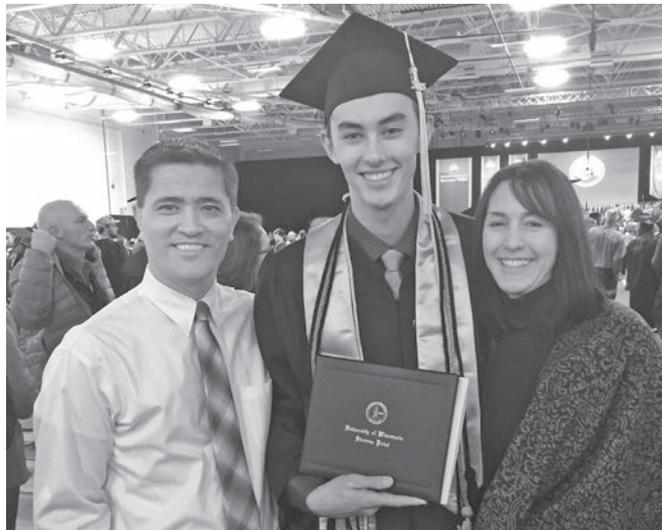
Pewaukee

Being the first of four children, our hope to send Joshua to a Christian college came to an abrupt stop when we sat down with financial counselors of a reputable, multi-location national Christian school. Although all of our children attended Christian elementary and high school, the expense to extend a Christian education through college was not a financially realistic option.

It was weekend Mother's Day weekend 2012 when we registered Josh to attend UWSP (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point). We prayerfully hoped that he would gain a good education while not abandoning his faith. The first year he mentioned on and off that he was doing well in school, but with Joshua not being a highly communicative son, it was hard to broach the issue of faith and religion without seeming too controlling or overbearing.

His second year he began attending Peace Lutheran Campus Center. We were overjoyed! We asked many questions and his replies were light-hearted, almost like asking about one of his classes. We were ecstatic when we attended our first service at Peace and heard our son stand up to give a statement about his faith and how he was "growing."

We could mention at least 100 stories of how a little campus ministry right outside the boundaries of UWSP not only



From left, Matt, Josh and Tracy Chang.

changed our son's life, but also helped in molding him into the man he is today.

With encouragement of growth, opportunity to learn new skills and the responsibility to accomplish tasks around the ministry, Joshua rose to each occasion and became very involved with its global mission.

The story does not end with a simple graduation and life-long friendship with the pastor and members of Peace. Our son met and recently married a young woman who was attending Peace when he started getting more involved. Additionally, we as parents will continue to attend Peace functions. It is obvious by the worship, message and praise that those who attend *want* to be there.

CAMP LUTHER EVENTS

Celebrate center dedication

Join Camp Luther on June 13 to celebrate the dedication of the new Community Center!

The day's schedule is:

10 a.m.: Canteen, wagon camp tours, Community Center lower-level tour

11 a.m.: Dedication/ribbon-cutting in Courtyard

Noon: Lunch (free-will offering, suggested donation of \$8.50 per meal) and program

1:30 p.m.: Canteen, continuation of tours, family activities

3 p.m.: End of day

Please RSVP by June 1 — call 715-546-3647 or send an email to info@campluther.com.

Golf scheduled for June 19

Join Camp Luther on June 19 for the 16th Annual Golf Classic. Raise funds for Every Kid to Camp and enjoy a day of golf, good food and fellowship! The outing begins at 9 a.m. at Rhinelander's Northwood Golf Club.

The golf scramble will include prizes and a putting contest. The hole-in-one contest is sponsored by Eagle River Ford and features a 2020 truck! You don't have to be a scratch golfer — there is a "Competitive Division" and a "Hackers Division."

Can't make it but would like to help? Encourage your business or organization to be a hole sponsor. Learn more and register at campluther.com/golf.

LWML

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

of eternal life. We are inspired to share His Gospel with those around the world. Your mite offerings are a blessing. You may think your coin is "just a penny," but it is far more than that. Each coin has "In God We Trust" imprinted on it. Think of it as God's message to you; to put your trust in Him. When we trust God with our mite offerings, we know that they will multiply as they serve others. Thank God for His abundant blessings shared with us so that the 2018-20 LWML Mission Grants could be fully funded.

Serving the Lord with gladness!