



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



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St Paul wrote:

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. — 1 Cor. 15:55-57

We do not have to fear death! We are victorious through Jesus, regardless of when our death comes because He rose from the dead! That is a reason to honk!

On Easter, the number of deaths from the coronavirus in Wisconsin was 144. At this time, we are doing all we can to stay safe and help prevent the spread of this virus. We certainly do not want to lose loved ones, friends, or co-workers to this virus. We do not want to die now.

So it is we cling to the Lord in faith and know He will be with us. During these anxious days, there are comforting words David wrote in Ps. 94:14, 19:

For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage. ... When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

God has not and will not desert or leave us. We can count on God’s Word.

I recently read in an article titled “That Discomfort You’re Feeling Is Grief” that many people are suffering from grief right now. Things will be different; things will be different after all of this. There will be economic loss. There is a lot of uncertainty. But the author brought out a couple of positive things on how to deal with grief.

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It was a honking Easter celebration!



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

Easter 2020 was memorable and we may never experience anything similar to it again. COVID-19 caused us to hunker down in our homes and watch worship on Sunday morning. There were no mass choirs to hear or congregations to sing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.”

However, on this Easter we did learn a new way to celebrate. Cheryl and I drove to Merrill and went to the drive-in Easter celebration hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church. The estimate was 250-300 cars gathered together in one parking lot. Pastors Scott Gustafson and Adam Rodriguez led worship on stage in snowy conditions and proclaimed the Easter message that Christ was risen.

The new experience? Whenever the pastors proclaimed, “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!”, the people in their cars with the windows rolled up honked “Alleluia!” Every time they made that proclamation, we all honked, “Alleluia!” It was awesome! I heard other drive-in worshipers did the same thing.

Why the honking? Because the best news was proclaimed — that same Jesus who died on Friday also rose victorious from the grave, leaving it empty. By that resurrection, He conquered death and changed for believers in Him how we face death. As

Celebrate 50 years with Peace Campus Center

By Rev. Andy Weden
Campus Pastor

As I think about all of the students who have called Peace “home” over the years, I can’t help but think about those students who faithfully gathered together to grow closer to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as grow closer to our Savior. Yes, Peace Lutheran Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (UWSP) will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 17, but Lutheran students attending Central State Teachers College in Stevens Point were faithfully worshipping our Lord for far longer.

In fact, in preparation for our big celebration this coming fall, we have been going through archives and have found some rather interesting items. It was the fall of 1940 when the first college students from Stevens Point formally organized and became part of the International Association of Lutheran Students, or more commonly known simply as Gamma Delta. This university student group grew out of the student district of the Walther League that was created in 1928.

Students like Edward Walcholz, Ruth Rathke, Leota Brandt and Edna Marotz were just a few of those

first students whose lives would be changed through the original campus ministry of our Lutheran church in Stevens Point during the 1940-41 school year.

Now names like Myles Erb, Adrian Ossmann, Mattea Schlender, Steph Kumbier, Greta Wollmer, Matt Staiert, Natalie Carlson and Katie Schulz are forever linked together as Stevens Point college students who had come together around Word and Sacrament to grow in faith and fellowship.

Over the years, there have been literally thousands of young adults who have provided the energy to make campus ministry in Stevens Point an exciting place to learn about faith in this life and the life to come. Perhaps you or someone you know were one of these students. If so, I especially want to hear from you and would desire nothing more than for you to join us in October. So spread the word and give thanks to our Lord for eight decades worth of faithful students at UWSP!

Feel free to like us on Facebook at facebook.com/PeaceLutheranCampusCenter or send an email to PeaceLutheranCampusCenter@gmail.com for details about the Oct. 17 celebration.

THANK YOU TEACHERS

I am not sure we all realize the monumental task that was thrust upon our schools when face-to-face instruction was banned. Principals had to consider how to help students learn in a new environment and teachers had to make the distance learning vision a reality.

In a short amount of time our Lutheran school teachers researched best practices, reimagined the new distance learning environment, redesigned essential outcomes and curriculum, and are now thriving in achieving their Lutheran school mission. Ask a principal about what is going well and they will share story after story about the unbelievable adjustment and leadership of their teachers.

Keep them in your prayers and consider a financial gift to support your nearest Lutheran childcare, elementary, middle and high school ministry. God bless our Lutheran schools!

New location for early childhood event

The Aug. 7 triennial Early Childhood Conference is coming fast! This event is for all early childhood workers. Christian singer and songwriter Jennie Williamson will be the keynote speaker!

The new location is Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Wausau. Registration is open at nwdlcm.org.



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MESSAGE

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▶ “This is a time to overprotect but not to overreact.”

We do the best we can to wash our hands and use proper social distancing, of course. But this is not the time to give up on the faith that we have and overreact. Jesus is with us. He said so.

▶ “Let go of what you can’t control.”
Right now, I am having a tough time

listening to the news and everyone trying to tell when this will all end and everything gets back to normal. No one is God and no one knows. However, you as a Christian have your faith. Hang on to that God is in control now and into the future.

Honking on Easter was great! It was all about what we believe and hold onto daily in these troublesome times, the message of Easter — “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!”

Honk! “Alleluia!” Honk! Honk! Honk!

Socially distanced — and blessed

Our world has changed these past two months. What we took for granted on a daily basis has either been taken away or has changed forever. Our normal routine came to a screeching halt. The spring rallies normally held in March and April and the spring retreat planned by our Heart to Heart Sisters were canceled. Our district convention plans have changed all due to COVID-19 and the governor's Safer At Home order.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

Those two months felt a little disconnected for me and perhaps for our LWML sisters looking forward to spending time together at their spring rallies. Perhaps you have spent more time in prayer, read your Bible more frequently and attended worship services by live

streaming as I have been doing. Perhaps you called your family and friends to encourage them throughout this pandemic, or checked up on LWML women to make sure they were safe and healthy.

Despite our social distancing, we put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing He is in control of this pandemic. We look to Him for confidence in the assurance that we will be OK, because by His GRACE (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) we have the gift of salvation. We walk by faith, focus our eyes on Jesus and let Him lead us every day.

Our 2018-20 biennium came to a close on March 31. Because of the generosity the district LWML, we were able to fully fund all of our mission grants. Our mission-grant goal was set at \$107,000 and we paid \$109,500 to our grant recipients. We were able to fully fund the last grant for \$8,000 to support Elliot and Serena Derricks, serving with Lutheran Bible Translators in Cameroon. Praise

God for His unfailing gifts He provides us so that we can continue our mission work here and abroad.

Because our convention plans have changed, we will still conduct our business. We will set our mission grant goal and select mission grants to fund for the 2020-22 biennium. Even though we have not been together, it is important to continue to collect our mite offerings. When we are able to be together again, we will be able to begin supporting our newly selected mission grants.

Won't it be great to be able to put our arms around each other and appreciate the comfort a hug provides, sing praises of thanksgiving together and appreciate that person who sings off-key, gather at fall rallies and appreciate time together in Bible study, and enjoy each moment we have together that we took for granted for so many years? Praying God continues to bless you with safety and good health.

The Counseling CONNECTION

Lessons from Jonah

The enemy was known and oppressive. The call from God was to faithfulness in addressing this evil opponent. The mission would not be easy.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

The calling to Jonah was clear, "Go" (Jonah 1:2). But the messenger chose to run (3). The underlying question on Jonah's mind and heart was "Had God made a mistake?" Maybe Jonah could hide from God and from the confusing call.

God was persistent and so was His call to Jonah to "face the giant" (3:1-2). He was, indeed, the one whom God had

called to be a messenger of repentance. This chosen prophet needed to be God's spokesperson to address the issue of sin.

Jonah proved faithful (3) and a remarkable miracle took place. The call to repentance proved successful (5-9). A nation turned to God. A nation was saved from full destruction. Lives were saved.

Though Jonah still had his doubts, he could not ignore the outcome. The compassionate God had saved more than 120,000 naive people (4:11).

Reflect on the following insights

God's Word makes it clear. God calls messengers to address the spiritual crisis tied to sin. The message is one of repentance, leading to a readiness to turn to God for hope and deliverance from death. He is fully ready to redeem and save.

God's ways can be mysterious. Yet His compassion is unconditional. God's mission is one of salvation. Messengers are needed to get the Gospel message of hope to dying souls to a world filled with sinners.

The calling is not meant to be easy. At times, it may defy human reasoning. But God has a whole world He loves (John 3:16). As Christ's true followers, we are to be His "love" messengers, following His model of love (John 13:34-35).

The Lord's message is not merely to sustain physical life. He has a message of eternal life, the final reality of the abundant life He promises (John 10:10).

Now is the time for moving beyond our personal comfort zones. Now is the time to get the Gospel message of our risen Lord to a dying world. God wants to save lives, including those who do not yet know the Messiah. Be the messenger!

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



information at our fingertips,” Daenzer said. “But if that were to ever go out, what would we know? Almost nothing. “When Jonah was in the belly of the whale, it was too late to pull out his Bible. It was too late to grab his catechism and his hymnal. ... The great Song of Jonah in Chapter 2 is nothing but pieces of the psalms stitched together. They’re his childhood memory verses and bedtime prayers that he was able to use in the total darkness of the whale to pray faithfully, to bring God’s Word to bear on his situation, and to comfort himself in the midst of great distress.

“And that’s exactly why we learn the Scriptures now: We never know when persecution may come, when technology or even access to Bibles and churches may go away. We’re getting a taste of that now in the quarantine time. So, it drives home the point that we need to have Scripture ... on our hearts and our minds.”

Tips for effective memorization from Chaplain Daenzer

- ▶ Small, short bites, repeated many times, are way better than one giant “cram” session. Take two minutes every night and say it through twice together, or once in the morning and once in the evening.
- ▶ Music always helps us to memorize more easily and then to retain it. Sing anything that can be sung, either to a tune you know, or to a simple tone like one of the psalm tones in the hymnal.
- ▶ If you have a Bible translation that you’ve started memorizing in, don’t feel like you have to switch translations whenever a new one comes along. Whatever you’re familiar with will be just fine.



Initiative aims to unite Synod in God’s Word

By Stacey Egger
LCMS Staff Editor, Writer

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a suggestion for how to spend some of your free time during the pandemic: memorize verses of Scripture together!

On March 25, Director of LCMS Worship and International Center (IC) Chaplain Rev. Sean Daenzer issued the Psalm 91 Challenge over LCMS social media, encouraging members of the Synod to memorize the psalm over a couple of weeks.

LCMS Communications decided to take the opportunity to launch a memory initiative that had been in the works for several months.

“Psalm 1 teaches us that it is blessed to meditate on the Word of God day and night,” said Dr. Kevin Armbrust, director of Editorial for LCMS Communications. “We in Communications had been talking about providing a Bible passage each week for the Synod to meditate on and memorize together. Our unity is in Christ and in His Word, so we wanted to provide an opportunity for the people of the LCMS to be united in memorizing Scripture.

“When Chaplain Daenzer started encouraging us to memorize some psalms, we knew this was the perfect opportunity to begin posting a weekly memory verse.”

Starting the first week of Easter, a new memory verse will be added weekly at lcms.org/memoryverse and shared on LCMS social media, including its Facebook page, facebook.com/TheLCMS.

The verses will be selected primarily from the Gospels and epistles. Most of the selections will be short, just one or two verses at a time.

Daenzer said that memorizing Scripture is a valuable practice for Christians, even in a digital age.

“We’re so connected with everything digitally, and we have



Short verses will be posted weekly