

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



The President's Message – November 2018

BASIC PRIORITIES

"I derived my strength from daily mass and communion." Those words were not from Luther in 1517 but from a guy named Vince Lombardi. He was a spiritual man. His faith was important to him. He let his team know what his priorities were when he said: "There are three things that are important to every man in this locker room. His God, his family, and the Green Bay Packers. In that order."

What are your priorities? And in what order are they? God, family, and your job are right up there at the top and for many of you - the Packers may be fourth. In today's world, our love for sports or our sports teams certainly rank right up there. Just stop and look at what is spent whether it is to buy a ticket, a cap, or to support our child's efforts to achieve sport success in basketball, volleyball, hockey, etc. We will spend what it takes because it is a priority.

For us as Christians where are our priorities when it comes to giving our money? You may ask, "Giving to what?" Good question. Is our giving to our church and the budget needs? Is our giving to help our neighbors in other parts of the state or nation that have gone through hurricane or flooding or tornadoes? Is our giving to someone going through a tough physical trial? Or we may ask - Am I getting good bang for my buck?

In our own Lutheran circle, there are all kinds of needs to be addressed. Our professional church workers are coming out of college or the seminary with large debts. Our Lutheran colleges and seminaries are looking for funds to help with financial aid for their students. Those who wish to be full-time LCMS missionaries must raise their own funds so they lean on family, friends, & congregations for support. Our district office seeks support so that we can help support our mission outreach throughout the district. Together we are able to support what we cannot do alone.

So what is our motivation for giving our money? St. Paul stated it so clearly, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16 ESV). "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1). It still comes down to this...God in His love sent His Son into the world to redeem you and me through His death and resurrection.

So what are some financial basics to assist us in prioritizing our giving? Take a look at what Scripture says:

Firstfruits giving: "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce." (Proverbs 3:9)

Proportionate giving: "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deuteronomy 16:17)

Sacrificial giving: "For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints - and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." (2 Corinthians 8:3-5)

My hope and prayer is that your giving is based on your response to God's love for you through His Son and your Savior - Jesus Christ. Keep those priorities in order.

Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, District President

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NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

LAY LEADER TRAINING

WHAT is it? Annual leadership training, sharing best practices and NWD services in key leadership areas so lay leaders are encouraged, networked and equipped to address the strategic, policy and conflict issues that arise in congregational ministry.

WHO is it for? Congregational presidents, executive directors, board chairman, pastors and senior staff.

AGENDA

6:00 Opening devotion: Servant Leadership.

6:15 Strategic: Mission/Vision/Plan. Roles.

7:00 Policy: Critical Handbooks. Critical Policies.

7:30 Relational: Communication. Change. Conflict.

8:00 Closing

January 29. 6-8pm. Trinity Wausau, 501 Stewart Ave.

Registration opens soon at nwdlcms.org

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News and Events

We're Hiring!

LCEF District Vice President Dennis Johnson will be retiring in the spring of 2019. Dennis has faithfully served the NWD for many years and has become a friend in ministry to leaders in our churches and schools. We give thanks for his ministry and will honor him this spring. The position announcement and detailed job description are available on [our homepage](#). Please share this position opening in your bulletins and with candidates you would encourage to serve in the NWD.

Hearts for Jesus 2019—Camp Luther

This February, our [#HeartsForJesus2019](#) will be **Filled with the Spirit!** Chapel and Sunday School offerings will be used to purchase new & larger round tables for the new dining hall/Community Center, as part of the current Camp Luther campaign. Sojo & Beemer will be kicking off the challenge with a Facebook Live event during Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January and will update everyone weekly via social media! We're encouraging every day school and Sunday School to share their "fires" on social media and try to win a visit from Sojo & Beemer when they take their Facebook Live on the road! How much money and how big of a fire can we build? A **\$3,000 "Spark," a \$5,000 "Flame", or an \$8,000+ "Bonfire"?** **Please let us know that your group will participate by sending a note to sojo@campluther.com and we will be sure to get "thank you" pencils to your children.** Check out the Camp Luther website for all the templates and ideas you will need... Chapel Talks/devotions, printables, a promotional video, and links are all available now at www.campluther.com!

LCEF Scholarships

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) - Central Region Scholarship applications are available now January 31, 2019. NWD graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining are encouraged to apply. Click [here](#) for more information.

LWR—Season of Hope

Journey with Lutheran World Relief this Lent and proclaim to the world that the hope of Christ makes a new season possible: **A Season of Hope.** Visit lwr.org/lent for resources to invigorate congregations for global good!

Rostered Church Workers - Called to Glory

- Rev. Gary Bratz, October 13, 2018, <https://www.brainardfuneral.com/notices/TheRevGary-Bratz>
- Rev. Paul Bittner, October 31, 2018. https://www.leadertelegram.com/obituaries/paul-bittner/article_2abb95f3-cd78-5a01-b943-c3121bf06887.html



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NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

News and Events

The Lutheran Fathers Conference

The Lutheran Fathers Conference is meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls. After a wonderful introduction to the *Augustana*, based on a little book by Theodore Graebner, *The Story of the Augsburg Confession*, we are now in the midst of our study of the *Augsburg Confession* and the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, having completed Articles V through X in August. Pastor Dan Pfaffe is our study leader using the Kolb Wengert translation (Fortress Press, 2000), although at least some of us will have older translations along. For class the text is shown on a large computer screen. In preparation, read or at least look at the next five to seven articles, XI through XVII. We begin with fellowship at 9:30, Matins at 10:00, study at 10:30, break for lunch at nearby restaurants, and conclude by 3PM. There is no cost and prior attendance is not required. These meetings are open to all pastors, laymen, and laywomen. If you have questions or need directions, please contact the church office at 715-723-6380 or zionlutheranconf@charterinternet.com. Please come and join us!

Send a Short-Term Team to Peru in 2019

There is still time to send a team in 2019! These are the open dates for short-term teams to come and work alongside the missionaries sharing the gospel in Lima. Collaborators will have until Friday, November 30, to claim one of the openings below, at which point they'll be considered open to those beyond the FORO circle.

February 8-18, 2019 | M-F Castillo Fuerte Kids Summer Camp

May 3-13, 2019 | English Camp San Borja

June 14-24, 2019 | Show and Tell All Mission Sites

July 21-31, 2019 | VBS or Kids Camp Los Olivos or Castillo Fuerte

August 24-Sept 1, 2019 | Show and Tell All Mission Sites

Oct 6-13, 2019 | English Camp San Borja

Contact us today for more information or to reserve your date!

Erin Mackenzie - Volunteer Coordinator, Latin America & the Caribbean
erin.mackenzie@lcms.org - (809)754-8337

Bible Bowl 2019

The details for Bible Bowl 2019 are complete and posted to the NWD website under the tabs [Missions/Youth Ministry](#). You will see links to videos of last year's event, plus detailed links to registration, information and more. Please contact Pastor Palmer, listed on the page, with any questions. The link for the information is <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>

2019 National Youth Gathering

Minneapolis, MN - US Bank Stadium, July 11-15, 2019! Looking for updates about the already planned District Event for the NYG? Want to sign-up on the Facebook group page to stay connected with your NWD NYG coordinators, Samantha and Tara? Check out important updates on the [NWD website under the tab Missions/Youth Ministry](#) or directly at <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>.



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NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



Ministry Corner

Topic: Hearts for Jesus 2019 - Camp Luther



Dear Friends,

We are so excited to be writing this letter to you and letting you know that The Hearts for Jesus Mission has been chosen for 2019! The North Wisconsin District's #HeartsForJesus2019 will be **Filled with the Spirit** for Camp Luther! Chapel and Sunday School offerings will be used to purchase new & larger round tables for the new dining hall/Community Center, as part of the current Camp Luther Campaign. Sojo & Beemer will be kicking off the challenge with a Facebook Live event during Lutheran Schools Week and will update everyone weekly via social media!

There are promotional items available online at our website; www.campluther.com under the tab, "Hearts for Jesus". Please go there to find additional information.

Please consider having one teacher be this year's Hearts for Jesus coordinator for your group/school

- Make sure everyone on staff has the templates & activities that have been created for this program.
- Organize a common and visible space to display a "fire" for each classroom.
- Send a weekly school total to Sojo@campluther.com for weekly social media updates
- Post a photo with your school "on fire" to Camp Luther's Facebook page.

Here are some other great ideas that will ensure a successful event.

- Show the promotional video
- Print and display the Hearts for Jesus posters, you can also use them as flyers.
- Watch the kickoff Facebook Live Event with Sojo & Beemer as a school or in classrooms during National Lutheran Schools Week.

With the Joy of Jesus,

Louise Reisler

Louise Reisler
Chair for Hearts for Jesus
Camp Luther

Shelly Karolus

Shelly Karolus
Director of Donors Relations
Camp Luther

We would like to thank everyone who was a part of this team for Hearts for Jesus. All have a special place for Camp in their hearts as former staff, parents of staff, annual volunteers or cottagers. Thank you for your time and talents, it couldn't have been done without you.

Nathan Doell - Teacher - St. Martin, Clintonville
Dean Frick - Principal - Trinity, Athens
Abby Johnson - Teacher - St. John, West Bend
Stephanie Karolus - DCE - First Lutheran,
Gainesville, FL

Robyn Meyer - Teacher - Trinity, Green Bay
Jane Relneke - Teacher - Peace, Antigo
Kelly Schumm - Teacher - Pilgrim, Green Bay
Sojo - Camp Luther Programs &
Communications Manager

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A subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



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NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



Counselor Corner

PASSION IN THE CALL

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 "Gentle" world (vs.15).

Skill...gifting...passion—vital ingredients 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 lives."

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!

The book of 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 (Matthew 16:18) that has prevailed over the centuries of struggle and celebration.

Christ is looking for post-modern day "disciples" who have the "passion" to fulfill the call. He is seeking disciples to "make [more] disciples" (Matthew 28:19a) who will grow in passion—"to know...grow...and show—Christ in their daily lives."

A key role for pastors is to lead such a transformation among followers of Christ. Yes, "pastors" are to guide believers to attain[ing] to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 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, give me a call.

Pastor Dan Kohn
District Counselor
715-610-2400 / kohndan01@charter.net



Rural & Small Town Mission

The current issue of Reaching Rural America for Christ is available at <https://blogs.lcms.org/tag/reaching-rural-america-for-christ/>. Check out the article... **'Introducing New Hymns in Small Congregations'**.

The newsletter is filled with enriching articles, resources, and information about ongoing Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events, Engaging Your Community (EYC) events and free monthly webinars.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. Learn more about RSTM at lcms.org/rstm or by calling 888-463-5127. "Like" us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/lcmsrstm.



- ⇒ Check out the [CPS website](#) for a wealth of information or head right to the '[Blog & News](#)' section for their latest articles!
- ⇒ Visit the NWD website for a CPS corner listing the main contacts for churches using CPS, as well as links to the most important news and answers found on the CPS website. Bookmark it so you have it! <http://www.nwdlcms.org/concordia-plan-services.html>

NWD Financial Box Score

October 2018

October Offering	\$156,020.02
October Budget	\$167,625.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$1,304,177.51
Year-to-date budget	\$1,362,000.00

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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