



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### ‘COME AND SEE’



I was recently talking to a fellow district president and we were both recognizing that it seems we as a church have forgotten about the emphasis on evangelism. In case you forgot, evangelism is the spreading of the Christian Gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

“Evangelism” means bringing the unconverted — regardless of age or race or condition in life — into a blessed relationship with their God and Savior. The Christian’s final objective in all his missionary activities will always be to labor together with God in saving people from hell and for heaven.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **MARK 16:16 KJV**

Unfortunately, too many times we believe it is the job of the Evangelism Committee or the pastor’s job to share the Gospel. There are congregations going to a new governance model which results in no one leading the charge for congregational

outreach. Since COVID, our outreach efforts have also taken a backseat to being simply focused on inviting our fellow members to come back to in-person worship.

This is a reminder to all of us that converting someone to be a believer is the work of the Holy Spirit. No one disputes that fact. Nevertheless, this does not take us off the hook to “go and make disciples,” as our Lord said before ascending into heaven. It is not that difficult or intimidating.

We need a reminder by looking to the conversation Philip had with his friend Nathanael in the Gospel of John. The story is simple. Jesus invited Philip to follow Him. Philip found Nathanael and told him that Jesus was the Messiah who Moses and the prophets wrote about. Nathanael asks:

“Can anything good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Philip’s response?

“Come and see.” **JOHN 1:46**

No arguing. A simple invite for Nathanael to come and see Jesus on his own. “Come and see!”

During Lent and Easter, we have a wonderful opportunity to invite those we know to come and see Jesus at worship. During Lent the story focuses on what Jesus did and endured for us on His journey to the cross to die for our sins. People learn that His journey was done out of love for all people — including

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**Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck**  
North Wisconsin District President



## Rep. Gallagher visits Pilgrim

The Lord blessed the students and staff of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Green Bay, with a visit from U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher. In his time with the students, Gallagher was inspirational, motivational, insightful and instructional. He took questions from the children and toured the facility. Pilgrim Principal John Schultz was able to encourage his support for legislation that has helped our Lutheran schools be successful in their mission, especially during the pandemic. Pictured with Rep. Gallagher is the eighth-grade class and its teacher, JJ Schultz, and social studies teacher Mike Schumm.

## Retirement blessings

Two longtime principals in the North Wisconsin District, John Schultz of Pilgrim Lutheran School, Green Bay, and Gerry Schmidt of St. Paul Lutheran School, Bonduel, are set to retire from their leadership positions at the end of this school year. Their leadership has helped their schools successfully adapt with the changing landscape of Christian education.

They have navigated accreditation, vouchers, worker shortages and COVID. Both men have been respected leaders in their church and community, and with their fellow principals. Both will be missed. God bless Gerry and



Schmidt



Schultz

John as they transition into the next phase of life and service.

Gerry Schmidt graduated from Concordia College Milwaukee in 1982 and has been teaching or serving as an administrator ever since. He has taught at all grade levels, and his previous experience includes teaching at St. John Lutheran School, Waltz, Mich., and Zion Lutheran School, Wayside. While serving as principal at St. Paul, he has also taught math in grades 6-8.

John Schultz has been in ministry for 45 years. After graduating from Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., he received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Janesville. He later served at St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Adrian, Mich.; Evansville Lutheran School, Evansville, Ind.; and Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Crown Point, Ind.

## 'Labor of love' helps church workers

The North Wisconsin District has recently awarded 16 gifts totaling \$30,000 to church workers struggling under a burden of educational debt. The gifts of \$500 to \$3,500 were given to both ordained and commissioned workers.

Grants and amounts are awarded based on the individual's overall financial need, current financial commitments, special circumstances and the availability of grant funds, which are sent directly to the lender(s) and applied to principal with the purpose of reducing total loan indebtedness.

Please consider supporting the financial health of our church workers by contributing to the Labor of Love fund at [secure.myvanco.com/YHHG/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/YHHG/home).

LWML

# Register for convention!

**“As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.”**

— LWML mission statement

During this past biennium (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022), our North Wisconsin District LWML has met each of these goals.

We **joyfully proclaim Christ** when we meet in our groups, study God’s Word together and inviting invite others to join us.

We actively **support missions** with our mites and donations from bake sales and other fundraisers. We actively support missions when we make cards, sew quilts, tie blankets, make layettes for womens’ shelters or have an ingathering (Gifts from the Heart) at our rallies.

We **equip women to honor God** by offering opportunities to serve others. Our rally speakers provide us with information on their mission and open our eyes to the need of sharing the Gospel, whenever and wherever God has placed us.



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District  
President

As we enter the 2022-24 biennium, we will gather for our district convention at the Radisson Hotel/ Convention Center in Green Bay from Thursday, June 16, through noon on Saturday, June 18. There will be servant events on Thursday afternoon and an opening worship service that

evening. We will elect new officers, choose mission grants to support and be enlightened by the scheduled speakers:

- Elliot and Serena Derricks of Lutheran Bible Translators.
- Cynthia Khan and Joy Markus of POBLO International.
- Lynn Corker of Women of the Pearl.
- Linda Reiser, former national LWML president (2003-07).

Sharla Fritz, CPH author, will lead us in Bible study. Music leaders will be Heather Ruesch and Jim Olsen.

To register, visit [nwdlwml.org](http://nwdlwml.org) and click “Events” or check the current *Mission Tidings*.

God bless your worship this Lenten season, and your Easter celebration.

## Wellness Corner



## A walk with the Shepherd

The words of Psalm 23 are more familiar than the journey. David’s famous psalm is meant to be experienced. Let’s take a meaningful walk with the shepherd in the six remarkable verses.

The shepherd is a guide and protector. The Lord God certainly fits that description. Our wants are known and provided for. This is our daily assurance and comfort. We all need “green pastures” and “still waters.” These are environments for rest and renewal. The shepherd makes these regular stops on the life journey.

There is a spiritual component to this walk. Our “soul” (the connecting link to God) needs regular restoration. The all-knowing God keeps our feet on the straight “paths of righteousness” (in right alignment with our God).

Crises and dangers could also be a part of the sojourn. Even “death” can be a reality. In these dark days we need the reassurance that the shepherd holds the “rod and staff” that bring comfort and security. Sometimes redirection is needed for our good.

The shepherd is also present when we face “enemies.” They come to distract and destroy. But we are “anointed” to ensure the relationship with God is secure.

As we look to the future we have confidence in God’s great promises and provision. Yes, “goodness and mercy” accompany us “all the days of (our lives).” We also have the shelter of love God provide “forever.”

There is a calling for an “Amen.” This would imply, “Yes, it shall be so, oh God!”

Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400.



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor





## CHRIST'S HANDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The preparations were blessed and the logistics of the trip were all coming together for the team of students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. For the first time in two years, volunteers of a mission team were once again leaving their comfort zones and taking the leap of faith during their semester break in order to serve others and bring the hope of Christ.

Claremont, N.C., was the destination. The tasks varied over the week, but the goal remained the same — to serve those in need. Working with members of St. John's Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church and their joint ministry, Building Bridges, students learned first-hand what it takes to build wheelchair ramps. Besides honing their carpentry skills, students also helped many elderly and disabled individuals with yard cleanup, tree removal, and insulating and skirting a trailer home.

For many students it was their first mission trip. The feelings of uncertainty and

anxiousness filled their hearts and minds before the trip, but once the service began those feelings were quickly overcome by a sense of care and concern for those they were helping. Through the sweat and blisters of hard work in the North Carolina countryside, students began to realize that God was using them to bring hope to these individuals.

Whether it was during the buzz of the circular saw to cut lumber for the ramps or the sound of tree branches dragging on the ground as they were hauled away, the students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center grew in their faith and love for one another as they worked side-by-side with each other.

By the end of the week of service, the bond within the group and with those the group served was strengthened beyond comprehension as the Lord blessed the work of their hands and their servant attitudes. With the love of their Savior in their hearts, the students, indeed, were used by God to give many the hope they needed the most, and His name is Jesus.

## Convention is June 5-6

"Labor of Love" is the theme of the triennial North Wisconsin District Convention, to be held June 5-6 at Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild. For more information, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) and click "Convention" on the right side of the page.



## MESSAGE

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those you invite or with whom you share the Gospel.

When we get to the Easter story, we learn that there were others invited to "Come and see." In the Gospel of Matthew, the women arrived at the grave on Easter morning only to see an angel and an empty tomb. What does the angel tell the women?

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

MATT. 28:5-6 NIV

How important is it to invite people to see about the death and resurrection of Jesus? The apostle Paul wrote:

If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 COR. 15:14

It is a life and death matter. Faith means not fearing death and the future. It is very simple to do — invite those who do not know Jesus to "Come and see!"

He is risen!

He lives and grants me daily breath;

He lives, and I shall conquer death;

He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

(LW 461:7)

Have a blessed Easter celebration!

## Share your news with us!

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at [selleks@gmail.com](mailto:selleks@gmail.com). You may also mail your submissions to Karol at 3177 State Hwy. 66; Rosholt, WI 54473.

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.