



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



So how are we going to get there? What is our ticket to heaven? Remember Dr. James Kennedy's evangelism questions from his book *Evangelism Explosion*:

- ▶ Have you reached the point in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die tonight you would go to heaven?
- ▶ If you were to die tonight and God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into heaven," how would you answer?

I hope that you would give a firm *yes* to the first question. Your second answer would center on your faith in Jesus Christ and what He did for you as your Savior. Our answer as a Christian is based on God's Word in John 14:6:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Another passage:

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom. 10:9

Faith in Jesus and only in Jesus makes the difference.

Surprisingly to me, a majority of American Christians (52 percent) think some non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life.

You and I are not going to be able to evangelize the world or change a lot of people's minds or beliefs. But what we can do is reach out to those who we know, love or come into contact with and share the love of Christ in word and deed. We can cast the seed of God's

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YOUR NEXT MOVE

The housing market seems to be going crazy these days. It is a sellers' market as there are people seeking to purchase a new house and are having a difficult time finding a place. Pastors considering calls to our district have had a tough time finding a house to purchase.

If you do sell your house, the question you have to answer next is "Where are we going to move?" or "Where is our next move?"

What is your next move? That is a question we hear often, especially when playing checkers or chess. Where are you going to move when you retire — south or next to the grandkids?

Church workers could exchange the word "call" for "move." Where do you see or hope your next call will be? Is it to a larger church/school? Somewhere



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

warmer than north Wisconsin? Closer to parents? Bigger city? Near a good healthcare facility?

There is also another move we always deal with in the church — from life to death and where we end up. Do we take it seriously? Do we really believe that Jesus Christ is truly God's Son who made full payment for us, opening up eternal life with our Heavenly Father. Do we believe in a heaven or hell?

In the end what we want is for our children, grandchildren and parents to join us in heaven. But do we?

Do we believe that there is a heaven? Research has found that roughly seven in 10 Americans (about 72 percent) say they believe in heaven. Hell? Fifty-eight percent of U.S. adults also believe in hell. I would believe that the majority of you reading this article believe there is a heaven and hell.

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Welcome, pastors!

Rev. Jonathan Rathjen was installed as pastor of **Peace, Arbor Vitae**, on July 18. From left, Revs. Paul Devantier, Dr. Dwayne Lueck, John Frahm III, Jonathan Rathjen, Rick Miller, Jason Wolter, Al Montgomery, Tom Baumgartner, Peter Kufahl and Brian Liermann.



Rev. Brian Liermann was installed as pastor of **Rock of Ages, Minocqua**, on July 11. From left, Revs. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Peter Kufahl, Joshua Conradt, Rick Mueller, Brian Liermann, Charles Schedffler, Al Montgomery, Paul Devantier, Tom Baumgartner and Zachery DeArmond.



Rev. Andrew Zobel was installed as associate pastor of **St. James, Shawano**, on June 26. From left, Revs. Mark Dregler, Andrew Zobel and Timothy Shoup.



Rev. Eric Wenger was installed as pastor of **Lakes Area Christian Fellowship, Rome**, on July 11. From left, Revs. Matthew Bergstresser, Tim Wenger, Eric Wenger and Dr. Dwayne Lueck.

Translating the Word in Africa

Through mission grants, the LWML North Wisconsin District has been supporting Elliot and Serena Derricks, who serve for Lutheran Bible Translators in Cameroon, Africa.

The grant for the 2018-20 biennium was for \$5,500 for “Missionary Support,” and the \$5,000 grant for 2020-22 was for “Translation and Office Building Support.”

Elliot and Serena, along with their two daughters, Lydia and Josephine, arrived in Cameroon in March 2018 and their mission is to translate the Bible for the Subula people and increase literacy rates. They didn’t waste any time getting settled and began to learn French, which is often spoken in Cameroon, and the Fulfulde language.

As I followed the Derricks’ ministry on social media and in newsletters, I found it very interesting as to how much work goes into translating the Bible for the people of Cameroon. Once they completed their French and Fulfulde lessons, they began to concentrate on the Subula language. With the help of



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LWML District President

30 participants selected by their respective communities, the Derricks held workshops to help them have a better understanding of which dialect would be best for their literacy program and the Bible translation. They discovered most adults were looking forward to being able to read and write in their own language. Biblical short stories and literacy primers had been stored for years in an old oil drum for safekeeping.

While Serena works on the literacy program, Elliot has been working on the Bible translation. Although the New Testament was translated nearly 40 years ago, access to the entire Bible was not available. At the literacy workshop, the 30 participants were overjoyed at being able to read from the Gospel of Mark, but they noticed errors in the spelling and word choice. This helped the Derricks confirm that a revision of the New Testament was necessary.

From these workshops, the Derricks were able to choose one dialect that could be used to begin the Subula Bible translation and literacy program. Just recently, they have finished putting a Bible translation team together, which includes three translators.

Interestingly, a songbook was located in the oil drum. The Derricks have seen 15 Cameroon people huddled around one

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The Counseling CONNECTION

Stay the course

It’s a popular phrase. What is called upon here is faith and focus, with the “Course” referring to what God would have us faithfully follow. We live in uncertain times. Radical changes surround us. False “prophets” abound with misleading messages.

The existence and role of God is at the center of the cultural debates. His Word is also in question. In the extreme, we have a conflict between theism (the study of God) and atheism (the belief that God does not exist.)

Here we insert a basic, practical identity for G-O-D. In addition to His many, grander qualifiers, He is also **Good Orderly Direction** for life. His Word can



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

be viewed as **Believable Insights Before Leaving Earth.**

We have a reason to “Stay the Course” and to rely upon God and His Word. Both are unchangeable and fully trustworthy. They have stood the test of controversy. We face a great debate. At its core is a spiritual battle — an intentional dispute over the existence of God and His reliability and the vitality of His Word. It is a spiritual debate that dates back to Genesis 3 when Satan planted the seed of doubt regarding the trustworthiness of God (v.1-5).

What Satan implied was that God was replaceable. Eve could be “like God, knowing good and evil” (v.5b). It was an appealing temptation.

The historic roots of humanism were planted that day on earth. Human choice would be superior to God. Mankind could decide between “good and evil.” The Word of God would also lose its positioning as a reliable guide for life.

The outcome would be tied to E-G-O: **Edging God Out.** And referring back to the definition for G-O-D, we would give up good orderly direction. The outcome could be summarized as confusion, chaos and conflict. All these erode the foundation of order, one of Satan’s goals.

A growing debate today is over human sexuality. What is being challenged, intentionally, is God and His design for this human activity. Keeping G-O-D in mind, His plan was for procreation and pleasure. God created mankind distinctly as “male and female” (Gen. 1:27) with that purpose in mind, within the design of marriage that He also fashioned (Gen. 2:18-25).

In His Word, God outlined the design for sexuality and also addressed any deviation from His good orderly direction. God defined the latter as sin. It was not an allowable choice. Satan promotes “choice” over “sin” toward our demise. Now is, indeed, the time to “Stay the Course” with bold confidence! To God be the glory even today!

Contact me at revkohn@gmail.com or 715-620-2400.

Strengthening faith, serving others

By Katie Schulz
Oxford, Wis.

I have been involved at Peace Lutheran Campus Center throughout my four years at UWSP. I have made connections with fellow students, had my faith strengthened and served others.

It has been special to have a church community of fellow college students. I have attended Sunday worship. I started attending Study and a Meal (SAM) and I have learned so much about my faith each semester! I have been a part of the Leadership Team since the end of my freshman year and have co-led numerous events.

I have also seized many volunteer opportunities. Feed My Starving Children, Orphan Grain Train, making cookies for the police department and Operation Christmas Child have been my favorites. Serving others throughout my time at Peace



Katie Schulz

showed me the importance of truly having a servant heart.

Peace has been a blessing to me by allowing me to grow in my faith through worship, Bible studies and fellowship. I can't believe how much my faith has grown over the last four years. I feel blessed to have found a community with a place to study, delicious food, friends and faith. I will miss the people and the sense of community that I have felt the past four years.

I graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May 2021 with majors in elementary education and special education, as well as minors in mathematics and specific learning disabilities. After

graduation, I am excited to be the sixth-grade math teacher at Berlin Middle School.

The ministry that happens at Peace is special and I feel so fortunate that it has been a part of my life.

Higher enrollment a blessing for 2021-22

Our 19 elementary schools, three high schools and 30 stand-alone preschools are back in session! Enrollment has increased again this school year. Twenty-one of our 22 elementary and high schools have National Lutheran School Accreditation, compared to 36 percent of all Synod schools.

The ministry of our Lutheran schools cannot happen without the service of our teachers, principals, pastors and engaged congregational members. Contact your closest Lutheran school principal and ask how you can help serve children and families in 2021-22.

A list of schools can be found at nwdlcms.org under the schools tab.

MESSAGE

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Word and love. We will let the Holy Spirit do the heavy lifting and work on those hearts.

Right now as we come closer to the end of COVID and people returning to worship, I urge you to invite, nudge and welcome back those who have been absent at worship, whether family or friends. Invite those who have no church home. Let your light shine

and be a witness to the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

You may not be the apostle Paul, but you can share what Jesus means to you and your life as your Savior — the difference between heaven and hell. We will eventually make a move from life to death. Invite those around you to join you in your move. Do you care about your loved ones' next move? Of course you do! Encourage them to join you in your walk with Jesus as your Savior.

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songbook in order to be able to sing. The songbook has now been reprinted in the local language. A waitlist was created for the Cameroon people eager to buy one of the songbooks.

The Derricks have found a great desire and community support for literacy as they are welcomed during meetings by traditional leaders — Christian and non-Christian alike. These leaders are the first to stand up in support of the Derricks' work. We thank God for calling the Derricks to Cameroon and we praise God He will continue to prepare the way for the literacy program and the Bible translation to move forward.

On behalf of the Derricks, I wish to thank you for your mighty mites that have helped support the Derricks and will establish the translation office in Cameroon.

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" **Rom. 10:15**

So very blessed to serve!