



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

March for Life

On Jan. 19, I was in Washington, D.C. and participated with thousands of others from around the country in the March for Life. It was an opportunity for me to celebrate my commitment along with others to upholding the sanctity of life.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

It was great to be there with fellow Lutherans from around our Synod. We sang hymns on our march to the Supreme Court building. Some said it was cold, but after you have been through the cold of this winter in north Wisconsin — it wasn't bad at all.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of marchers descend upon the nation's capital on the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision in 1973 that legalized abortion nationwide. They march to make their voices heard on behalf of those who can't yet speak. The result of the *Roe v. Wade* decision is the law has allowed the abortion of more than 61 million children.

A few days later, the governors of New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion. As LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

wrote in a statement: "Life, not death, is the goal of humanity ... the right to life is the hallmark of a good society."

God's Word gives us support to stand for life:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
— JER. 1:5

Ps. 139:16 says:

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

God teaches us to value life. We are to love our neighbor with our words and actions. Jesus, as He took a child by His side, told His disciples just how valuable a child was in God's kingdom. God has laid out in His commandments that we are not to hurt, harm or kill our neighbor. God is all about life. As Harrison wrote: "We stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life." At a recent meeting on Feb. 7, the LCMS Council of Presidents and praesidium unanimously voted to sign their names in support of President Harrison's statement.

The thought came to me that we are on our own march for life during the season of Lent. We are following our Lord



A young Lutheran participates in the March for Life on Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C.

on His march from the upper room to Gethsemane to the Jewish leaders and Pilate, with His march ending at Calvary. For what purpose? To suffer for the sins of all people. He marched to the cross to redeem you and me by giving His life as a payment, a ransom. He paid the price for us because He came to give us life. His march to the cross was for life — our life, our eternal life.

Luther summed it up very nicely in his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

"In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all

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Distinguished!

Brian Betts wins school administrator award



Brian Betts was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's (LEA) 2019 Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator Award. Betts is administrator at Immanuel Lutheran School, Wisconsin Rapids. He was selected by LEA's Network Leadership Team.

Betts earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Concordia College (now University), St. Paul, Minn. His master's degree in Educational Administration is from Concordia University Wisconsin.

Among his joys in ministry, he said, "... is the opportunity to see God's hand in all that is part of ministry. The ministry at Immanuel makes such an impact to the families we serve. I love building those relationships with God's hand guiding as we go. My goal is that people see Christ through me."

In support of the nomination, his pastor, Rev. Jonathan Petzold, wrote: "Brian sets the bar high for our teachers, encourages and challenges his co-workers, and is always willing to jump in and help out. He never asks others to do something he isn't willing to do himself. Brian seems always to be with people, talking with students, greeting parents and working on projects. For Brian, ministry is not a nine-to-five, clock-in-clock-out endeavor, but a vocation and a way of life. He does not limit his responsibilities only to what a 'traditional' principal or administrator would do, but rather identifies whatever

needs or opportunities may arise and strives to meet them."

One parent said: "The dedication he has to our ministry is above and beyond. The more than 25 years I have watched Mr. B make huge strides in the progress of our school. Over the past years that I have been able to watch Mr. B go from a new teacher with visions of science experiments to a great leader as the principal of Immanuel Lutheran School. His passion for ministry and those he serves is evident in the choices he makes for the greater good of the school and actions he makes every day."

One colleague said: "Mr. Betts is an overcomer and a problem-solver as well. The parents of our school recognize that he is an approachable leader and most feel comfortable raising their concerns to him when necessary. When challenges arise he tackles them swiftly and with great concern. He investigates before judging, makes decisions with a level head, and protects the privacy of others when possible."



Principal Academy

Twice a year, our district principals gather to be encouraged and equipped for ministry, and to network with one another. On Feb. 5 at the district office in Wausau, the principals participated in a meaningful exploration of "Principal as Instructional Leader," led by Deb Erdmann, principal of Grace, Menominee Falls. Principals explored the best practices Deb has organized and implemented. Principals went through hands-on activities that tied supervision of instruction, professional development and curriculum review to student and school success.

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the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

In January, I was happy to be a part of that march in Washington, D.C., and stand up for the sanctity of life. Now during this season of Lent, I am even happier because of the march for life by our Savior. He made it to the cross to redeem us so that we could have life through our faith in Him. The joy of Easter is ours as Jesus conquered death and gave us the victory that gives us life — eternal life.

Happy Easter! Celebrate life!

Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us,
 Thou has conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because Thou didst arise
 And hast opened Paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.

"Like the Golden Sun Ascending," verse 2
The Lutheran Hymnal #207

The Counseling CONNECTION

Conflict in the ranks

It could not have come at a more inopportune time. In the midst of the pre-Passion emotional drama, we find Jesus' disciples at their worst.

Jesus has just disclosed that one of the disciples would soon betray Him (Luke 22:21-22). If this dark mark was not enough, we find this scene next in this Gospel:

"A dispute also arose among them [the disciples], as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest" (v. 24).



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

One can only begin to imagine what new emotions this mini-drama would have generated. As if Jesus didn't have enough on his plate already, He now needed to deal with His disciples' arrogant self-centeredness.

Jesus was quick to address this pride. In contrast to Gentile rulers, this was His expectation for His followers:

"Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ... I am among you as one who serves" (v. 26b, 27b).

In Christ's kingdom, humility is a high quality. Jesus is the ultimate model of humble greatness, as Paul would later emphasize (Phil. 2:5-11).

Christ's directive is timeless, with ap-

plication for today's pastors and church leaders. There is also relevance in this regard ... the Lord had conflict in His ranks as well, as is all-too-frequent in churches today. Some human dynamics do not change.

The apostle James gives clarity to the source of such conflict:

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this that your passions are at war within you?" (v. 4:1).

Pastors and other church leaders need to pay heed to Christ's model and message. The "greatest" is always Christ. In His church there is ample room for second place. What a difference it would make if all Christians lived by the motto: "I am second."

For support and encouragement, contact me (revkohn@gmail.com or 715-610-2400). Also, visit nwdlcms.org/worker-wholeness.html.

Spring's new life!

It's spring! Soon all of the plants and trees will come to life again. I love this time of the year. The snow and ice is behind us. There is life beginning under our feet. Soon the blossoms will appear and provide a wonderful sweet smell in the air. Enjoy these gifts of God!



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

One of the mission grants of North Wisconsin District LWML is \$12,000 for **Ashland Cares Inc.**, a non-profit organization providing outreach to the homeless in the Ashland area. The volunteers provide emergency housing and housing assistance. They supply food when other programs are not open or available. They provide hygiene supplies and emergency transportation, and help the elderly, homebound and disabled. Last year, they served more than 440



people in need of shelter, food or other necessities. Ashland Cares also provides education to promote and preserve the dignity of those they serve.

I thank God I am able to help this mission with my mite offerings. As you place your coins or bills into your mite boxes, pray for Ashland Cares Inc. Pray that your offering will bless those in need so that others can see Jesus' hands of love. In Matt. 25:35-36, Jesus reminds us:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

In June, many LWML sisters will be in Mobile, Ala., for the **38th Biennial Convention** under the theme "In Praise to the LORD." It will be an exciting time

for the 18 delegates, two Young Woman Representatives, a Heart to Heart Sister and junior pastoral counselor representing our district. Together we will be led by God's power to praise and proclaim Him among all the nations.

There will be opportunities to hear mission speakers share what our mite offerings have done all over the world. Those attending can sing in the choir, serve others during the servant events and raise money for the mission walk. If you would like to donate to the mission walk, please contact me. My information can be found in the current *Mission Tidings*.

As **Lent** is nearing an end, I have been focusing on Jesus' suffering and death, and His plan of salvation for you and me. As I watch new growth begin this spring, it reminds me of that first Easter morning when the grave was found empty and the glorious angels told Mary: "He is not here, He is risen!"

Jesus rose to give us new life, our beautiful spring! May you be blessed as you celebrate our Risen Lord.

Blessed to serve!

Witness Workshop



On Jan. 26, Circuit 7 hosted a witness workshop at Peace, Antigo. The presenters, Rev. Dave Karolus, Vicar Mike Fox and Rev. Don Engebretson, used the *Every One His Witness* resource from LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and Concordia Publishing House (everyonehiswitness.org).

CAMP LUTHER

Celebrate!

By Anne "Draino" Hartman

Filled with the Spirit Campaign chairman

Our lives are full of celebration! I think we celebrate even more in today's world of social media because we can include people all over the world, not just our everyday people. First lost tooth, first birthday, weddings, retirements, first job, different holidays ... the list can go on and on!

In the Bible, we learn about celebration after celebration. The shepherds and Wise Men celebrated Jesus' birth. We recognize Good Friday, Jesus' death, as a celebration for us sinners, forgiven through His death on the cross. Easter is a celebration of His resurrection so we can celebrate eternity with Him.

These celebrations are the reason we continue ministry at Camp Luther. Every year, we celebrate the work of God with thousands of people who come to this place. Part of this continuing celebration is the development and implementation of a campaign to keep ministry going throughout generations.

We have much to celebrate in the Filled with the Spirit campaign. We celebrate weekly with praises for individuals, families and congregations that have made a commitment and gifts to the campaign. We celebrate the many volunteers who have played a role in our campaign and we celebrate the goals met along the way.

We look forward to celebrating the groundbreaking of our new Community Center. Stay tuned for more details — we hope you can join us! Thank you for your continued prayers as we look forward to celebrating all that will come with achieving our campaign goal. We have much to celebrate about this special ministry we call Camp Luther.

For the most recent information on the Filled with the Spirit campaign, go to filledwiththespirit.org.

Mission trip reflections

In January, students from **Peace Lutheran Campus Center in Stevens Point** traveled to Florida to help with Hurricane Michael cleanup. The following are a few thoughts from the team.

"We were blessed with the opportunity to go to church. During the sharing of the peace, I met a woman. ... She whispered in my ear and let me know how much this meant to her for us to be here. Some of her family members lost their homes. She started tearing up, causing an immediate domino reaction. That moment of pure gratefulness is why I am here." **Anna**

"One of our assignments was at a Lutheran church in Panama City. It was disheartening to see that a house of God was damaged to that degree. I walked into what was the sanctuary where a small altar was the only thing remaining in the room besides a few banners on the wall. One banner read "Remain Faithful" and the words really hit me. It was a "God moment" that reminded me to trust in God's plan regardless of how terrible the circumstances currently are." **Greta**

"We got to encounter a disaster zone and assist in cleaning up so that they can begin to think about recovery. It got me thinking that this will likely be my last mission trip with Peace, and I thought of all my previous mission trip experiences, teams, friendships, lessons and all of the ways I've grown in my



faith. I can't even express it all into words. I am who I am because of Peace and because it offers the chance to grow in ways like this." **Sierra**

"As we drove down the street my body froze as house after house, building after building, and church after church was tore down to the foundation. I thought to myself, 'How will this ever be fixed? Will this ever be back to normal?' ... As I was cleaning up all these things, I thought how difficult it must be for these people to lose everything. I pray that although the people of these cities have suffered a lot, that they continue to stay in their faith." **Natalie**

"I was not prepared for what we saw in Mexico Beach. The wreckage was so widespread and utterly devastating. There were a few times today when I really reflected on what the destruction meant and how it affected people. First, I saw a decoration across the canal from where we were working that said 'Home.' It was tossed on top of a huge pile of garbage and belongings that once represented a person's life. This really hit me because like the decoration, this person's home and life were strewn about on the bank of this river, completely in disarray." **Mattea**