



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

The view from the hill

“Meriwether Lewis wrote: ‘After refreshing ourselves we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the west of us with their tops partially covered with snow.’” (from *“Canoeing the Mountains”* by *Tod Bolsinger*).



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

It’s not what Lewis and Clark expected. They had expected the Northwest Passage. A river to ride down to the Pacific Ocean. What most people had assumed was wrong. What a disappointment.

In his book, Bolsinger makes the point that the world is changing around us at a fast pace. Our churches are facing challenges that we have not had to face in many years. We have to think about how we take God’s Word to God’s people and to the community around us. It is a challenge. But we just can’t sit here either. We must move forward knowing the future is nothing like the past. God has given us the command to “Go!”

What Lewis and Clark faced when they got to the top of that ridge was certainly a surprise and a disappointment. But isn’t it that way in the life we live. We are going along life’s journey and things are

going well and then we get to the top of the ridge and life throws us a curve. The reality of marriage is not what we anticipated. Our children are not perfect. Ministry is tougher than we thought. Then along comes a biopsy, an accident, a church conflict and all of a sudden our view from the ridge of life takes a disappointing turn. What do we do?

Lewis and Clark had to make an adjustment in their journey. They had to switch from a boat to horses. They needed help from the Shoshone tribe to traverse the Rocky Mountains to eventually get to the Pacific Ocean. They could have looked at the snow-covered Rocky Mountains ahead of them and decided to turn around and go back because it was not what they had prepared to see.

Just as they had to make an adjustment; so it is that we have to make adjustments when our life’s journey takes a turn we did not foresee. We have to make adjustments based on what the doctor or counselor says, or take to heart what God’s Word says. It says: “I (God) will be with you always.” That is what faith does.

During Lent, we look at the adjustment God had made. He created Adam and Eve and they were perfect. Then they sinned and along with sin came death and all the problems that sin brings with it. They had to adjust to a sinful life. One their sons killed his brother. Humankind became so evil that God sent a flood to destroy all but Noah, his family and a boatload of animals. God put the rain-



bow in the sky and promised not to do that again. God had told Adam and Eve He would send help to all people (Gen. 3:14-15). God gave hope.

Lent is a time to reflect and realize we need to come before God and confess we are poor, miserable sinners in need of His grace and mercy. God’s course of action to overcome the disappointment that sin has brought was the sending of His Son. Jesus took the journey up the hill to Jerusalem, to the cross on Calvary to pay for sins — your sins and mine.

The Good News — when we climb that hill at Calvary — is that we can look beyond that hill and find that Jesus overcame our sin and death through His death and resurrection. On the other side of that hill, we have a view that is glorious. Jesus did die for the sins of all people and arose from the grave to conquer death. Whoever believes in Him

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will have eternal life.

Our faith in a loving and forgiving God allows us to deal with the adjustments that come along in life. Faith believes that God will be with us. Faith believes that God will help us when life throws a curve we did not see coming. We turn to God's Word for comfort and hope, whether reading it or hearing it proclaimed. We turn to God in prayer to give Him thanks and take our petitions and concerns before Him because that is what He told us to do. "Ask!" He listens. He responds. He helps us make those adjustments to those disappointments that life throws us. That is what faith in our Lord does for the believer.

So it is time to keep moving on our journey to the cross during this season we call Lent. Unfortunately, sin put our Lord on His journey to the cross, but the Good News is what happened there on that hill. He suffered. He died. He rose. Our faith at the top of that hill allows us to view a life that shows us God will walk by our side and guide us to a great ending. We have hope. You can count on it.



Blessings in Chippewa Falls

On Jan. 13, Rev. Dr. Daniel Wonderly was installed as pastor of Faith, Chippewa Falls. Participating in the service were the Revs. Tim Heupel, preacher; Mark Schulz, worship leader; Dwayne Lueck, who performed the Rite of Installation; and pastors of the Eau Claire Circuit.

In 1985, Wonderly graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He served at Hope, Stanton, Mich., and Pilgrim, Burton, Mich. In 2002, he earned a master's degree in Counseling from Oakland University. He received his Doctorate of Ministry from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2009.

Pastor Dan and his wife, Sandy, have three married children and six grandchildren.

From left, Revs. Ron Mueller, Jeff Carlson, Heuple, David Forte, William Plautz, Charles Yunghans, Wonderly, Lueck, Schulz, Daniel Yang and Ray Bell.

'Farewell and Godspeed'

Members of St. Matthew Lutheran, Deerbrook, and St. Luke, Elcho, along with friends and area pastors, joined Rev. Jerome Hahn and his wife, Jan, for a retirement luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Upham Town Hall in Summit Lake. A letter from Rev. Dwayne Lueck, district president, was read to those gathered and then presented to Hahn. Rev. Donald Engebretson, pastor of St. Peter, Antigo, conducted a brief rite of "Farewell and Godspeed for Retiring Pastors." Hahn served the dual parish since 1990.



Conference to focus on life issues

On May 3, Lutherans For Life and the Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) Bioethics Center will host a one-day conference on the CUW campus. For more information contact 715-362-6425; info@lfl-wi.org or visit www.lfl-wi.org.

Sing along on St. Patrick's Day

What do Lutherans sing on St. Patrick's Day? Attend the hymn festival on March 17 at Faith, Appleton (601 E. Glendale Ave.) to find out. While many of the hymns we sing are from German, English and American sources, a surprising number that are familiar to us have connections to the history and culture of Ireland.

The festival will feature the combined choirs of Faith, Appleton, and Faith, Green Bay, instrumentalists from Fox Valley and meditations on the hymn texts by Rev. Joshua Errer, pastor of Faith, Green Bay. This is the fourth hymn festival that the churches have assembled as a devotional gift to the district and communities of northeast Wisconsin.

The Counseling CONNECTION

The solid rock

Filled with energy and enthusiasm, the seminary is left behind. With good intentions and resiliency, the new pastors enter parish ministry. Let the adventure begin!



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

Then reality sets in — the reality of people, politics and pressure to perform. Beyond the professional life are the personal responsibilities as well.

The “air” in the resiliency “ball” is dissipating slowly, but steadily. The “bounce” isn’t what it used to be.

Satan is working behind the scenes to keep the deflation active. He is the author of debates, doubt and deception.

He hasn’t changed his strategy since Eve and the first Garden (Gen. 3:1-5). Why change what works so effectively with vulnerable human beings ... even chosen ones!



Life gets out of balance. Healthy habits are set aside. Sources of strength are ignored. The Word is only pursued for the essentials of Bible class and sermons.

There are cracks forming in the foundation, the very one Jesus emphasized at the end of His famous Sermon on the Mount. We apply it to pastors in the above context:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but

it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

— **MATT. 7:24-25**

Pastors can find themselves in a curious position. They are seminary-trained in the Word. They have been exposed to both the content and context of the Bible.

All of this is irrelevant if the Word is not being applied personally. In addition to what they need in the classroom and from the pulpit is the personal application for the pastor himself. He needs to heed Jesus’ warning about building on “sand” (vs. 26-27). He needs to pay heed of the potential “great fall.”

The role of pastor is a calling to never abandon the solid “rock.” It’s what Jesus Himself relied upon in His “wilderness walk” with Satan (Matt. 4:1-10). There is victory through the applied Word!

I am available to help. Contact me at 715-610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com.

Following the leader

In November, four members of the North Wisconsin LWML Board of Directors attended the Assembly of Leaders conference in St. Louis. Under the theme, “Follow the Leader,” leadership activities along with inspiring Bible studies and training sessions were part of the program.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

Our true leader is Jesus Christ, as He states in John 14:6:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The LWML strives to assist each woman of the LCMS in affirming her faith in the Triune God and to use her gifts to minister to all people by helping them

follow the true leader, Jesus. We have been sharing this leadership information with members of the LWML Board of Directors and will continue to share it with other LWML members throughout North Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

There are many resources available at lwml.org/resources to help women affirm their faith in the Triune God: Bible studies, Scripture bookmarks to color, devotional resources, service ideas for any season or holiday of the year, and YOUTH in Mission are the teens of the LWML). So if you are searching for some Scripture to enrich yourself or are working with a group, there is something you can use to help you plan. Most resources are free to download and can be used to help strengthen your faith or the faith of others so that they too can follow their leader Jesus Christ.

The website also has information on Deaf Ministry and ways to communicate and share Jesus with our

deaf sisters and brothers. There is an explanation of the Heart to Heart Sister and Young Woman Representative programs, as well as information on the mission grants. I have been checking if we have met our goal for the 2017-2019 biennium that ends on March 31.

As you search through the LWML website, check the mite offering report. A mite box calendar is available. It is a great tool to help you fill your mite box. Download and share it with others so that our mite offerings will help share the love of Jesus with people at home and abroad so that they, too, may have the opportunity to follow Jesus, their one and only leader!

This month we travel through the season of Lent. May we continue to follow Jesus to Calvary, where we see Him pay the price for our sins. Such GRACE — God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense — is for each and every one of us. May your heart be opened and prepared to receive Jesus as your leader this Lenten season.

Sawyers to servants

By Rev. Andy Weden

Campus Pastor, Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point

Hurricane season comes and goes each year and for most of us, the closest we get to the devastation is what we see on the news. We only get a mere glimpse of the damage and the lives that have been affected. Not being satisfied with remaining at a distance, 10 students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center departed in early January for the disaster zone of Panama City and Mexico Beach, Fla. These cities were ruined by Hurricane Michael in October.

While helping the residents of the Panhandle, the students worked closely with members of Trinity Lutheran Church and the staff of Shepherd's Heart Ministries, which specializes in tree removal and clean up through its chainsaw ministry. After receiving disaster response training, a certified chainsaw safety class and field exercises, the students soon became sawyers in their own right and used their newly



learned skills in service to others.

Once the work week began, the students were able to survey the extent of the damage. The tree damage was so widespread that it will take years for the cleanup and decades before mature trees appear. However, this did not deter these novice sawyers from cleaning up one tree at a time. The days were long and tiring and the impact that these students had wasn't with their chainsaws, but rather with their hearts as they showed the people the grace and mercy of Jesus. In turn the residents — many of whom had been long

overwhelmed with the struggles of the disaster including cleanup, dealing with insurance companies and simply trying to get back to a sense of normalcy — were once again filled with hope.

Although the sound of chainsaws, skid-steers, and logging trucks filled the worksites each day, it was as if they were all muted as the homeowners paused to simply say "thank you" and storm stories were shared. Those two simple words made these college students turned lumberjacks realize just how important and how easy it is to show the love of Christ to those in great need.

Johnson retires from LCEF

Dennis Johnson will retire this month as Lutheran Church Extension Fund regional vice-president for the North Wisconsin District. He served in this position for more than 26 years. His role included stewardship initiatives and support to congregational treasurers and business managers.



Send news to:

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CAMP LUTHER

Workbee Weekends

April 26-28 | May 10-12

Make a world of difference in just one weekend! Workbee Weekend volunteers are crucial to the ministry at Camp Luther. Projects vary, but there is something for everyone to help get camp ready for summer.

Workbees begin on Friday with registration at 7 p.m. and ends on Sunday after lunch. Participants work all day Saturday and Sunday morning on assigned work projects. Housing and meals are provided at no cost. One-day participants are welcome also.

For more information and to register visit camppluther.com/volunteer.



Save \$75 on Camp Luther's Keweenaw Base Camp programs!

Keweenaw Base Camp (KBC) is a satellite site of Camp Luther located near Houghton, Mich. KBC programs are targeted at high school students and provide a close-knit community feel, intentional group building and incredible adventure experiences.

This summer campers can save \$75 on their KBC summer camp registration through the Bring-A-Friend program. This special offer is made possible by our friends at MCL, Inc. of Pulaski. Funds are limited, so sign up now!

Wondering which KBC program is right for your camper? To find out about the options and to register, go to camppluther.com/summer-camps-1.