



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Back to the Word!

"The deplorable miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach [so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it]. Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, have been baptized and receive the [common] holy Sacraments."



These words were written by Dr. Martin Luther in the preface of his *Small Catechism* because of that discovery in the villages of Germany.

What was his intention when he wrote it? I believe we find this when he writes:

"As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household." He put those same words at the heading of The Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and The Sacrament of the Altar. He wanted everyone to know and understand them; and in Luther's words, "to help us inculcate the Catechism upon the people, and especially upon the young."

Every September is a time to get back into the swing of things. Summer is over. The kids are back to school. The majority of congregations have a Rally Sunday, the Sunday after Labor Day, and



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

it marks the beginning of Sunday school and Bible classes after summer hiatus. So it is truly right and proper that all of us be encouraged to get back into God's Word, get into Bible study so we get our spiritual food that is so necessary and vital to make it in today's world.

The Bible says:

- ▶ "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." **PROV. 22:6**
- ▶ "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" **MATT. 19:14**
- ▶ "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" **JOHN 8:31-32**
- ▶ (Jesus said) "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." **JOHN 15:5**

What does this mean for the home?

Children: Parents have a responsibility to

do what Luther suggests — teach their children the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Pray with them and have family devotions together. Read "The Story Bible," selections from the Arch Books series and *My Devotions*, all available from Concordia Publishing House (cph.org).

Adults: Maybe as an individual you have daily quiet time. Take time to read a devotional book or read the Bible with notes to help you understand better the Word of God. As parents, as adults, you need to model to your children or grandchildren that you are reading God's Word and hope that the children ask what you are reading. Tell them. And when they ask you, "Why you are reading devotions or the Bible?" Make sure to tell them.

What does this mean for the Church?

Schools: When The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was formed, it became a membership requirement that Synod congregations provide Christian education for their children. Today, congregations have a corporate responsibility to provide a Christian education for the children. Support your school and the

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Embrace, support your school ministry

School has begun for our three Lutheran High Schools, 19 elementary schools and 42 standalone preschools and childcare ministries. Teachers and principals have been busy preparing to make a difference in the lives of students, families and the communities they serve. LCMS statistics reveal three meaningful pieces of evidence as we consider the strength and future of our Lutheran schools.

❶ There are more than 2,000 Lutheran schools in the world. This number has been trending lower over the past few years, but early-childhood centers are meeting a tremendous need in communities.

❷ There are 21,731 educators teaching in our schools, but only 28 percent of those teachers are on the active LCMS roster. Finding quality teachers is becoming more difficult. Training excellent teachers to serve in a Lutheran school will be important for our future. Finding quality principals is even more difficult, thus identifying and equipping new leaders is critical.

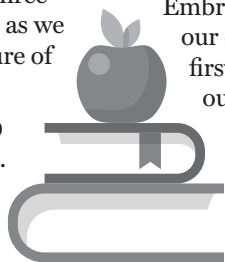
❸ Only 38 percent of the more than 169,000 students attending our schools are members of a Lutheran

congregation. Our mission field is growing and non-members are hearing the Word of God proclaimed every day in our schools.

Our district congregations need to understand the realities of Lutheran schools today. They are different then 50 years ago, even 10 years ago!

Embracing the school ministry in our own buildings is an important first step. Are they an extension of our ministry? An outreach to the community? A mission-arm of the congregation? If there is no school in your church, how can your congregation support the ministries of the local Lutheran high school and the Lutheran elementary schools in your community? Can you support teacher salaries? Participate in fundraisers? Share the story of how schools are impacting lives for the Kingdom of God?

Contact your nearby Lutheran school principal to see how you can serve. Contact information for principals are found under "Contact Lists" at nwdlcms.org/school-resources.html. To learn more about how the district is supporting schools, contact DJ Schult, assistant to the president, at dj@nwdlcms.org.



MESSAGE

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teachers. Volunteer to help teach Sunday school and influence a child as he or she grows in faith and love of Jesus.

Adults: Needless to say, we have a long way to go when it comes to adults from our congregations being in Bible class. If you are not in the Word, it is hard to stay connected to Jesus in this world. If you say, "But they don't have a Bible study on what I would like," then I would suggest talking to your pastor and sharing what you would like to study. Take the opportunity to start a new chapter in your discipleship journey. Make a plan to go to a new study this September when classes are beginning.

Leaders: Elders are considered under-shepherds who work together with their pastor. They are to be spiritual leaders of the congregation and see to it that the pastor is proclaiming God's Word faithfully and encouraging fellow members. I would expect them to be in Bible study and to be a model to others. We have too many elders who are not in the Word. If you are an elder, I encourage you to get into a Bible study and encourage others to join you.

September! School is starting! Vacation time is over. Now is a good time for all to get back in the Word. Who knows, you may learn something.

► "Jesus said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'" **LUKE 11:28**

Why?

► "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." **ROM. 1:16**



'What PEACE means to me'

Every year, many UWSP students pass through the doors of Peace Lutheran Campus Center (at UW-Stevens Point), just known as "Peace" to those who call the ministry home. Students share the importance of this district ministry in their lives.



Anna Lutz

God has certainly blessed my time at Peace, especially when it comes to my faith life. For the last year, I have served as a housefellow; and during that time Peace became both my spiritual and physical home.

At Peace, I was able to find a family of believers close to my age with similar experiences and struggles, and who shared with me the hope and joy that comes from knowing Christ as their Savior. Through regular worship services, I



was given the opportunity to glorify God with music, and through weekly Bible study I was able to grow in my love for God and in my understanding of His Word. Without this, I would have been lost. I would have been overwhelmed by school, by work and by the struggles of living in a sinful world.

Peace has also given me the opportunity to continue in the ministry field. After visiting Queens, N.Y. on a mission trip, I have accepted a campus and youth ministry position there. Yet another example of how God has been working through the people and places in my life to shape me and prepare me for the plans He has made for my life. Without the blessing of Peace, I would have never had the opportunity to serve God in New York, nor would I have ever thought that He would call me there.

Colin Welch

What does Peace mean to me? Saying it's a blessing is an understatement. Peace Campus Center is the greatest thing that has ever happened for my faith life and college life.

Peace has provided me with so much: a place to grow, a place to socialize, a place to study, and a place to procrastinate. Peace was a place to live and a place to meet some of my greatest friends. Peace has helped me grow so much over the last two years.

My faith has never been stronger, and I've learned so much from the Bible studies and services. I've grown personally, from a guy who would practically pee his pants speaking in front of people to a person who could give a commencement speech.

Peace has provided me a place where I could find myself and find my place in God's kingdom. Pastor Andy and Peace are the best things that have ever happened to me.



Melissa Wood

Peace has been a blessing in so many ways. Having a place to worship with other university students was a great experience for me. The blessing of Peace allowed me to



grow in my faith. Through worship and fellowship opportunities, I have gotten to grow closer to the Lord and develop many friendships that will last long after my time at UWSP.

At the campus center, I was able to grow in my leadership skills by serving as president and student coordinator. Also, I have had the opportunity to go on mission trips to serve others in need. I am very thankful for this ministry called Peace Lutheran Campus Center.

Plan for youth gathering

The State Youth Gathering is held every three years. This year's event will be held Nov. 3-5 at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells.

The theme verse is Heb. 1:1-4.

Highlights on the gathering include a candlelight worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, lock-in at Kalahari waterpark on Saturday night and Sunday morning Bible studies.

Questions? Contact:

- Robin at mueller@swd.lcms.org;
- Chris at cody@swd.lcms.org; or
- dj at dj@nwdlcm.org

Visit nwdlcm.org for updates, schedules, pre-event studies and registration. Plan now to attend!

LWML has new look

In June, I was blessed to represent the North Wisconsin District LWML at the LWML 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. Attendees looked back at the many blessings we have received and shared with people around the world since our organization began in July 1942. We challenged ourselves to look ahead to the next 75 years in service to our Lord.

A new logo was adopted by the convention delegates. Its symbolism is beautiful and represents our organization's dedication to serving God and one



Mary Harrington
LWML District
President



another. The heart represents the love and giving nature of God through His children. The drop symbolizes the blood of Christ. The cross above all else clearly shows the purpose behind all that we do in the LWML. Our prayer is that this design will get people to take a new look — or even a first look — at LWML and Lutheran Women in Mission, and will give our faithful members a sense that their organization is looking toward the future and is ready for 75 more years of mission outreach.

What a blessing the convention was to all of us who attended and now are excited to share what happened in Albuquerque. Ask us about former president Ida Mall's keynote message. Ask about Sharon Niemann's check presentation to Lutheran Bible Translators. Ask about the Diamond Dazzle parade. Ask about the early-morning Bible studies. Ask about Deaconess Betty Knapp's Bible study focusing on past conventions and their themes. Ask about the new mission grant goal of \$2.075 million and the mission grants adopted.

Each of the delegates will share a convention message at the fall zone rallies and you can see archived convention sessions by visiting lwml.org/convention.

Join the many voices that proclaim Jesus Christ Above All!

The counseling CONNECTION

God's invitation to rest

In the midst of our "got to do it now" schedules, it's time to take a break. It's time to explore God's alternative — found in rest.

It began in the beginning — with God's first "break." Following six days of doing, God "rested from all his work that he had done in creation" (Gen. 2:3b). In God's plan, there was a need and a plan for rest!

King David found appreciation for this God-centered rest:

"My soul rests in God alone ... He alone is my rock and my salvation." **PS. 62:1A, 2A NIV**

It is God's timeless, unchanging plan. Our loving God offers us real rest! We



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

can also meditate on God's words of assurance spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."
Is. 32:18

God would invite us to find a quiet resting place in our daily lives. God would encourage us to find balance and rest.

And we dare not overlook Jesus own, personal invitation:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." **MATT. 11:28**

And when the work is done we will find ourselves in the final resting place. With arms extended, our Lord will invite us into heaven. John was the first to hear this Good News which can be applied to our lives:

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them!'" **REV. 14:13**

Yes, come and celebrate the real rest from God. Come and be renewed in His embrace of peace.

If you are seeking some guidance to find such rest, contact me at 715 610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com.



Send news to:

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The deadline for the **November** issue is **Sept. 16**.