



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

‘Goodness and mercy shall follow me’



So the animals would parade through town and on occasion — as animals do — leave a fertilized trail. To keep things clean there were the circus personnel who would follow with their form of pooper-scoopers to clean up after the animals. Even today we hope those who walk their dogs are considerate enough to clean up after their dog.

Recently a fellow district president shared a devotion mentioning the circus parade and cleanup after the animals. The verse that he shared that fit was Psalm 23:6:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” If we focus on those words, we through faith are comforted that on a daily basis our Good Shepherd is watching out and caring for us.

“We daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment” is what Martin Luther wrote in explaining the Fifth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, but we know that punishment is what our Lord endured for us. Jesus died on the cross and suffered what we should have suffered. Basically, we made a mess of things with our sinful lives, and then Jesus has followed us and cleaned up our mess through His death.

We can sing with the children, “Jesus loves me this I know.” As believers we

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Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

Have you ever been to the Circus World Museum in Baraboo? It is a museum devoted to circus-related history. Back in 1884, five of the seven Ringling brothers started a small circus in Baraboo, Wis., and eventually purchased the Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth in 1907. I have been told that years ago when the circus came to Wausau, it would be settled on the very land that the district office now stands, and remain there before moving on.

When the circus came to town in the early 1900s, there were no media outlets that we have now. There was no TV, and the radio age didn’t begin until the 1920s. So when the circus came to town, I was told that they would take the circus wagons and animals through town to advertise that they were present, letting people know when the three-ring circus would take place.

SPRING LUTHERANS ENGAGE THE WORLD

Following where God leads



“It’s a thrilling ride when you try to go where God is leading,” says Principal John Jacob of Bethel Lutheran School in Morton, Ill. Bethel stepped out in faith to start a new Lutheran high school with only eight families and two teachers. Just three years later, the program has expanded and added new students, teachers and extracurricular activities.

In the Spring 2024 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*, you’ll find several such stories about Lutherans who have been presented with unusual and exciting opportunities to share the Gospel. There are articles about a new Lutheran church plant in the heart of Rome; how Lutherans in Tanzania are caring for children

with albinism; and the restoration of a church in Balboa, Panama, that was once devastated by a series of catastrophic events.

“With the restoration work completed, we have the opportunity to revitalize the congregation, renew our presence in the Balboa area and serve as an example of God’s faithfulness to all our congregations in Panama,” Rev. Dr. Arthur Rickman, an LCMS missionary to Panama, says in the article.

The Spring 2024 issue started arriving in mailboxes. Read it online at engage.lcms.org. If you aren’t currently receiving the magazine but would like to, visit engage.lcms.org/subscribe to sign up for a free subscription. Both individual and bulk subscriptions (for congregations) are available.



MESSAGE


(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

live with the comfort that because of Jesus’ love and His “goodness and mercy”; because He died and conquered death, we will “dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

As parents and grandparents, you clean up a lot of messes. Kids are going to be kids and leave a mess. It comes with the territory. Sinners are going to be sinners and daily we make a mess. Daily Jesus comes and follows behind us to clean up our mess. He forgives us. He has mercy on us. How grateful we are that He is the Good Shepherd watching out for us.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be. **LSB 710 v.5**


For All EC Directors and Teachers!



**NWD
Early Childhood
Conference**

**Friday, August 9, 2024
9am-3pm
Trinity Lutheran School
501 Stewart Ave - Wausau**

**Spiritual Nurture in the
Early Childhood Classroom**
Practical strategies to promote
the integration of the Christian
faith into classroom
environments, curricular
experiences and in the homes of
school families.



LWML



We tell people about Jesus!

The LWML North Wisconsin District supports the mission of telling others about the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ. We tell people about Jesus and we have fun doing it!

We supply those in need with Gifts from the Heart, which includes health kits, school kits, quilts, blankets, food, and various types of supplies as requested. Our servant events put loving hands together to accomplish tasks as we donate our time and efforts to share God's love.

We collect used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries and canceled stamps for mission funds. We gather our mites to support our district and national LWML Mission Grants and our mission goals. In August, we will go on a trip by chartered bus to Michigan and visit five mission locations, gaining knowledge and hands-on experience.

We are mission-focused women who share the love of Jesus with others. We gather our Lutheran Women in Mission for rallies, retreats, trips and conventions. The fellowship we gain is priceless. There is no place on earth that is more meaningful than an LWML event.

Do a little digging. Check out lwml.org or nwdlwml.org for more information about the sisterhood — and the vital mission of our group — and give us a try!

The LWML North Wisconsin District 40th Biennial Convention will be held June 13–15 at Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Center in Appleton. We will elect new officers and vote on mission grants to support during the 2024-2026 biennium. More information is available in *Mission Tidings* (nwdlwml.org/newsletters).



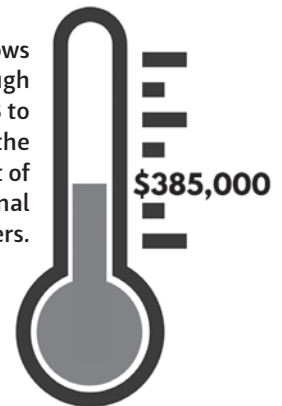
Joan Berquist
LWML District President



MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN

Help reduce the educational debt of North WI District Professional Church Workers

This graphic shows actual gifts through February 2023 to help reduce the educational debt of district professional church workers.



High school students: Learn about life at CSL

Spread the word about **Vocatio: High School**, a retreat in which ninth- through 12th-grade students explore many aspects of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) and learn valuable information about formation for pastoral and diaconal ministry.

Attendees will also participate in worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation. This unique and engaging event will be held June 22-29 at CSL.

Registration is open to men and women and closes on May 24. The cost is \$100 per student. To learn more and register online, visit csl.edu/visit and scroll down to the event.

School Ministry



LCMS/ETH. M. Lunsford

Lutheran School Accreditation

Twenty of our 21 North Wisconsin District elementary/high schools have achieved National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA), along with one early childhood center. This April seven of those schools will renew their accreditation.

The rigorous process includes surveys, completing an extensive self-study based on seven best-practice standards, providing evidence that shows achievement of the multiple indicators under each standard, and creation of a five-

year school action plan to prepare for ongoing improvement. All of the work is reviewed by the district's NLSA consultant, reviewed in detail by an onsite validation team, reviewed and recommended by the district Accreditation Commission, and finally approved and accepted by the LCMS National Accreditation Commission.

Congratulations to all of our accredited schools and thank you to those serving on validation teams.

Summer ahead!

Congratulations to all our principals, directors and teachers for completing another school year! Teacher Appreciation Week is in early May and is a great time to celebrate the dedication and sacrifice of those serving in our Lutheran schools.

Teaching is an incredible challenge and an awesome responsibility. Give thanks for these leaders, encourage them to set aside time to recharge this summer while they wrestle with the responsibilities a summer still brings, and pray for the Lord of the harvest to bless their work. Contact information to send cards and notes can be found at nwdlcms.org. Click the "Schools" tab and scroll down to "Contact Lists."

'Friends for Life'

This podcast from LCMS Life Ministry explores life, health and family issues in a way that honors our heavenly Father's value of human life, serves our neighbor, shares the faith and connects us to others who are doing the same.

Listen to the new season that includes eight episodes focused on the importance of upholding the family as an institution created by God. Check it out at kfu.org/category/friends-for-life.

Share your news with us!



We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District insert of *The Lutheran Witness*. They help remind us of what God is doing around the district. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ's church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men's or women's group, servant events, conferences, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

Submissions for the August 2024 issue are needed by June 15.

Send submissions to Karol Selle:

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- ▶ 3177 State Hwy. 66
Rosholt, WI 54473