



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

GET REAL!

Urban Dictionary — an online dictionary for slang words and phrases — defines “get real” as: “When someone tells you to get real, they want you to get a reality check and to stop behaving as though you’re living in a fantasy world.”



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

The children of our Lutheran grade schools will be celebrating reality during National Lutheran Schools Week, under the theme “Real. Present. God.”

The basis for this emphasis is Psalm 46, which also is the basis for the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” God promises in Psalm 46 to be truly present in our lives through His great and precious promises. These promises are a reality in the lives of children and adults alike.

Let’s look at reality in the theme of “Real. Present. God.” for the five days.

- ▶ **REAL GRACE** – Because of the grace of God, He did send His Son to come into this world, who suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended.
- ▶ **REAL PLACES** – Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died and rose again in Jerusalem. Jesus is also with God’s children wherever they are. Jesus said:

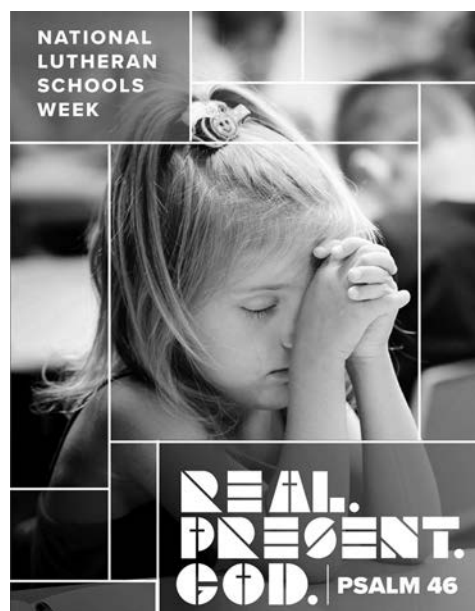
“The LORD of hosts is with us” (Ps. 46:7).

- ▶ **REAL PEOPLE** – Jesus died for all the children, including those who are in our parochial grade schools, along with all their teachers. The students and teachers are real people.
- ▶ **REAL TIME** – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son” (Gal. 4:4). God sent His Son at the right time. God deals with our lives in His time. We may not always agree, but that is what faith believes — God’s time is the right time for young and old.

- ▶ **REAL PRAISE** – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice” (Phil. 4:4). Our praise of our God is real as we believe and rejoice that God has made promises and continues to keep them.

The students in our schools are blessed with Lutheran teachers who serve with the love of Christ in every subject they teach. The children entrusted to their care learn that they are real children of God, created in the image of God and a wonder of God’s creation. They are special. That is real!

Our district has 19 elementary schools, three high schools and more than 40 preschools. There are more than 3,000 students served in the district by about 200 teachers. They will all celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. It is



an annual event that takes place all over our country in LCMS schools. Many of you reading this have been blessed as you attended one of these schools. You understand the reality of Lutheran education. I learned that reality years ago and am thankful for my school and caring teachers.

These schools are making a difference in people’s lives every day. These children are learning how to deal with life’s realities in a Christian setting, whether it’s how to forgive one another or about the beauty of God’s creation.

If your church is blessed with a school, support it with your prayers. Pray for the children. Pray for the teachers. Support it with your dollars. Keep it

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St. James, Shawano, installs pastor

On Dec. 2, Rev. Mark Dregler was installed as senior pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano. Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt served as liturgist, Rev. Scott Malme delivered the sermon and Rev. Dwayne Lueck, North Wisconsin District president, performed the Rite of Installation.

Dregler graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1991, and has served congregations in Wisconsin and North Carolina. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four grown children.



From left, Revs. Kleinschmidt, John Eyer, Lueck, Richard Buhrke, Dregler, Paul Scheunemann, Malme, Steven Schauder, Timothy Shoup, Steven Conratt, Michael Hanson and Mark Palmer.

Salem, Barron, welcomes Rev. Michael Nielsen

The installation of Rev. Michael Nielsen as pastor of Salem, Barron, was held on Dec. 9. Rev. Michael Hanson delivered the sermon, Rev. Scott Malme served as lector, Rev. Quinten Buechner was the liturgist and Rev. Dwayne Lueck performed the Rite of Installation.

Nielsen grew up in Antigo and attended Peace Lutheran School. He graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2006 and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2010. Before coming to Barron, he served in the South Wisconsin and Minnesota North districts.

Michael and his wife, Emily, have three young children, Hannah, Miriam and Jonah. Rev. Nielsen is a strong supporter of Camp Luther in Three Lakes, where he worked as a counselor for two summers.



From left, Revs. Lueck, Tim Roser and Stephen Miller; Scott Peterson; Revs. Leonard Wildauer, Buechner, Preston Paul, Nielsen, Gregory Becker, Brent Berkesch, Jerry Bernecker, Burton Harger, Michael Hanson, Malme and John Miels.

MESSAGE

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affordable for members and non-members. Pray for the school in its mission outreach to those who have no church home or who do not know Jesus as their

Lord and Savior.

I will close with the opening verse of the hymn written for the 2019 National Lutheran Schools Week, based on Psalm 46, composed by Dr. Jeffrey E. Burkart:

Our God is real and present here.
When troubles come we need not fear.

Though mountains tremble, waters foam,

Our God will not leave us alone.
The LORD of Hosts with us always;
The God of Jacob is our stay.
Our God is real and still remains
The great I AM forever reigns! Amen.

Hearts for Jesus!

As a child attending St. Paul's Lutheran School, Luxemburg, I remember looking forward to the Hearts for Jesus campaign in February. We would put our money in envelopes, not really realizing where our money was going, but we knew that



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

we were helping someone in need. Perhaps you remember those days as well. This year, Hearts for Jesus funds will help Camp Luther purchase items for its new dining hall.

The LWML has its own version of Hearts for Jesus that takes place daily, not just in February. Our mite offerings for Jesus are not placed into an envelope like the Hearts for Jesus money was when I was a child. They are placed into our mite boxes. We pray for the recipient of our mite offerings, that they too may know the love of Jesus and give their "heart to Jesus."

To help you with your mite offerings,

you can download a monthly calendar at lwml.org/mites-received. For each day there is a suggested amount to give. These suggestions are great reminders of how God has blessed us and how we are to share our gifts, prayers and love with others.

One of the North Wisconsin District LWML grants selected for the 2018-20 biennium will support the Food and Clothing Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. This mission grant will help students attending the seminary, who are preparing to serve God's people here and abroad. Their stay at the seminary can put a strain on their finances. The co-op helps to meet the food and household needs of the students and their families free-of-charge.

National LWML Grant #16 — "Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants—Ministry Focus" is designated to help 20 full-time church workers who have completed their training at a Concordia university or seminary. Many times economic challenges and finances can affect the service and commitment of our church workers. This grant will help these students manage their loan debt while encouraging and equipping

them to continue their service to God.

St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 8:1-7:

"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

As we lovingly and prayerfully place our coins and dollars into our mite boxes, we can rest assured that our Hearts for Jesus will bless others in many ways.

The Counseling CONNECTION

A greater force

The church stands alone. It is the last and primary institution for God to fulfill His plans on earth. Its endurance over the centuries is a testimony to its remarkable strength.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

The fulfillment of this work is tied to strong leadership. Here we let Paul, a note-worthy leader, speak to remind us of the source of our power in our corrupted culture (as was relevant in his time). The "boldness"

Paul spoke of was not tied to "walking according to the flesh" (2 Cor. 10:2). He went on to clarify:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete" (vs.3-6).

The church is not a human institution, but a holy one. God is on our side. The Holy Spirit is not dead!

Yes, this same Spirit that empowered the first disciples to be Christ's witnesses to the world (Acts 1:8) offers the same power today. In the midst of the erosion we see all around us — within and surrounding the church — can come a spiritual explosion to revive the church, and the culture.

What is called for is a partnership between the Holy Spirit and baptized believers. We are to never lose sight of the reality that they are chosen to lead the charge forward through the Spirit.

The Word holds power, as Paul also reminds us. It is the God-inspired Word full of purpose:

"All Scripture is breathed out by god and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for the training in righteousness, that the

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Q&A

Rev. Andy Weden, campus pastor of Peace Lutheran Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, recently spoke to **Sierra Mathieu**, a recent UWSP graduate who attended Peace.

How were you involved at Peace over the years?

I've taken on many roles at Peace, all of which have been a crucial part of my time here. I began simply attending services, and through regular devotion to being present and serving Peace, I took on a role as the Public Relations coordinator.

At the end of my freshman year, I was asked to become co-president of the Leadership Team, allowing me to take on more responsibilities and have a role in guiding our core members to help the Peace community grow. After the first semester that year, I became president of the team and remained in that position until the end of my junior year. At that time, I remained a general member of the team and grew in my



Sierra Mathieu

role as a musician by taking on the task of Music coordinator.

Describe your first time at Peace. What was it like? What do you remember thinking and feeling as a new student in a new worshiping community?

I remember walking up to the doors, trying to pull them open, and then upon failing wondering if I was in the right place at the right time. Turning around in confusion, I began to walk away until another student walked past me and opened the door.

Turning around with renewed determination, I tugged on the door a little

harder and found myself at Peace. I was immediately greeted by people who later became some of my best friends, and I remember leaving that service knowing that I wanted to keep coming back for as long as I could. It was also the place where God presented me with an opportunity to grow in my faith.

As you reflect back over your years of being involved at Peace how have you been blessed by this ministry?

In more ways than I can count. Perhaps one of the greatest was through all of the wonderful connections I've made during my time here. I have lifelong connections through all of my experiences at church and in many other places through service events and mission trips. I've also been blessed for the past three years through the Peace House that has provided me with a budget-friendly and faithful community in which to live near the campus.

What are your greatest words of advice for other students?

Have an open mind and a little bit of courage. God can do a lot with those two things, which I've evidenced in my time here at Peace simply within my own life and the lives of others. All you have to do is take a leap of faith!

Helping Camp Luther reach kids

What is Every Kid to Camp?

It's a ministry that sends kids to camp at no expense to their parents (except transportation) and provides financial aid through camperships to those in need. The ministry goal is that every child in the North Wisconsin District, and beyond, attends a five-day camp before they reach the ninth grade.

How will your gift help?

Your support will impact the lives of children for eternity! Your gift will help a child come to camp and he or she will learn about Jesus and what He did for them. Your gift makes an impact on the life of a child forever!

What is the purpose?

To help kids build a stronger foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. It's a unique experience where youth grow in maturity, self-worth and, most importantly, in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a tremendous blessing that every one of our children deserves to experience. It's about **connecting kids to Christ through camp** ... one kid at a time. (campoluther.com)

COUNSELING

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man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" — 2 TIM. 3:16-17

Equipped with the Spirit and the Word, we have what is needed to move the church forward. For this we have been called "for such a time as this."

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