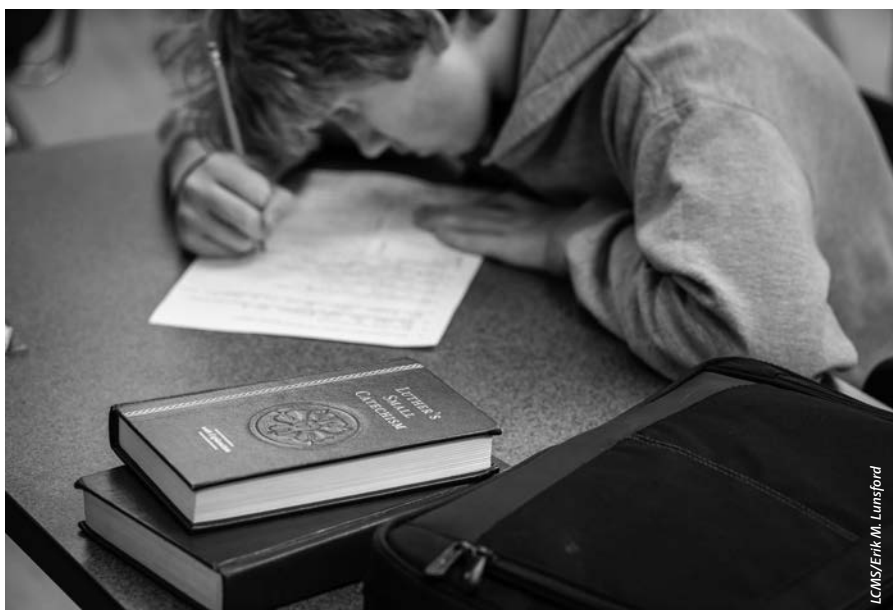


DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



vow that was made for them at their baptism — the most important day of one's life.

It is interesting what the pastor tells the confirmands before confirming them, which are the words of Jesus:

“Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” MATTHEW 10:23-33 NKJV

What follows is the confirmands answering what they believe and what they will do, including their affirming the following question:

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? *LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK, P. 273*

So how are you and I doing years later? Are we doing what Jesus stated — confessing that we are followers of Him and His cross? Are we continuing to be steadfast, committed and unwavering in our daily lives? Most likely we would respond that we try our best, but we know we fall short.

There is Good News. Remember Jesus and Peter on the seashore after Easter? Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. Three times Peter told Jesus he loved Him. Peter had denied Jesus three times, and now Jesus restored Peter to serve Him and feed His sheep. Jesus told Peter to “follow me!” Peter had his own day of confirmation. Jesus

Remember your confirmation?



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

Do you remember the day of your confirmation? I certainly do! Pastor Lemke confirmed me and my 30-plus classmates at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Reedsburg, on a cloudy Sunday — March 19, 1967. That was a big deal for me just as I am sure your confirmation was for you. At that time, I could finally go to Holy Communion as confirmation class was done — big milestones in a young Lutheran child's life.

But what makes Confirmation Day so special? I went back to my old catechism for the answer:

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is the rite by which a baptized person renews his baptismal vow, publicly confesses his faith, and is received into communicant membership by the congregation. (LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM, 1943)

Special? The confirmand personally and publicly renews their

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Congratulations, Kathy!

Kathy Yahr, principal of Trinity Lutheran School, Merrill, is set to retire at the end of this school year.

Born in Fort Atkinson, Kathy graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1983, received a master's degree from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, in 2001, and received her colloquy in 2006. Her leadership has helped schools in Utah, Alaska and Wisconsin successfully adapt

with the changing landscape of Christian education. She has navigated accreditation, the state voucher program, worker shortages, COVID, early childhood, and building efforts.

Kathy is well respected in her church, the Merrill community, and among her fellow principals. She will be missed. May God bless her as she transitions into the next phase of life and service.



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 nwdlcms.org. Click the "Schools" tab, and scroll down to "Contact Lists."



WANTED: Ministry lay leaders to connect, learn and share



Shareboard

Brought to you by Concordia Plans

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up. ... 1 THESS. 5:11

Lay leaders benefit from connecting with those who serve in similar roles at church to learn and share through experience and expertise. Concordia Plans has created a free resource called Shareboard — a new online LCMS community where ministry lay leaders can connect, learn and share information, as well as best practices and experiences to help support one another nationwide.

Learn more about and join the Shareboard community by visiting cpshareboard.org.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

asked the questions and Peter responded with words of faith and service and conviction.

We too are like Peter. We have denied Jesus. We have not been totally faithful since our day of confirmation. The Good News? We have a forgiving Savior who forgave Peter — and you and me. Now Jesus lives with us each and every day, blessing our lives.

Remember your day of confirmation. Remember those words you confessed when you renewed your baptismal vow. Continue to follow and confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

LWML



Emerged from winter!



Joan Berquist
LWML District
President

Spring finally came to the Northwoods! Spring is the season of hope as grass emerges from under the snow piles, the trees bud out, lawnmowers replace snowblowers, and the sun warms us as the long winter subsides. We have just celebrated Easter and the renewing of our faith in the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our district LWML also emerged from the long winter, having held our spring zone rallies along with a spring retreat at Camp Luther, and we are finishing up our plans as a host committee for the LWML 40th Biennial Convention to be held June 22–25 in Milwaukee.

We are sending two buses to Milwaukee from our district. For more information, contact Bonnie Grosskopf at 715-741-0209 or bonniekwml@gmail.com. There are three Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) being sent by our district to attend the convention. Please encourage these young women: Amy Gawry (Zone 2), Holly Schmitt (Zone 3) and Andi Anderson (Zone 16) as they prepare for a wonder-filled experience.

Joining us in hosting the national LWML convention are the Northern Illinois and South Wisconsin districts. Workers are still needed to sign up for various jobs during the convention. If you can donate some of your time, you must complete the Call for Workers volunteer application form (if you're an LWML member or not), found at lwml-swd.org/events/other. Under "LWML 2023 Convention Resources," it's the 14th link from the top.

There are so many reasons to attend the national convention. Speakers, early morning Bible studies, worship, special programming, and hugs and smiles are just waiting for you. And this year, the site is very close.

Register at lwml.org/2023-convention. See you there!

As Lutheran Women in Mission we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

CHURCH WORK STUDENTS: Apply for financial aid

This annual grant to college students pursuing professional church work is making a difference. The purpose of the student aid fund is to make it possible for young men and women — lacking in financial resources but who have the desire and ability for church work — to train for full-time service.

District financial support is available to college and seminary students who are attending an LCMS university or seminary preparing to become pastor, teacher, deaconess, parish worker, DCE, music director or other full-time church vocation.

A new application must be filed each year. Students simply need to contact the school's financial aid office to get the district financial aid application and return it to their school before May 15.

The form and other information can also be found at nwdlcms.org. Go to the "Financial" tab and select "NWD Resources" from the drop-down menu. From there, scroll down to "Financial Aid."

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held July 29–Aug. 3 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. The theme is "We Preach Christ Crucified."

Learn more about important elections, the triennial offering, overtures submitted to floor committees and more at lcms.org/convention/national.





MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN

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

Delegates to the 2022 North Wisconsin District Convention voted to create a \$1 million campaign to reduce the educational debt of district professional church workers.

Financial stress weighs heavy on our church workers and we can help. Campaign materials are being prepared and initial gifts will be collected soon. Watch for a congregational kickoff this fall.

The Word at work

The Spring 2023 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World* gives a glimpse of how the Word of God is at work around the world, including in India, where Concordia Historical Institute is helping Lutherans preserve priceless historical documents going back to the first LCMS missionary to the country. As Indian Lutherans remember and celebrate the history of their church, so, too, can the entire church find encouragement in their stories.

In addition, read about Lutherans who are showing the love and mercy of Christ to those impacted by a tornado that hit Selma, Ala.; pro-life ministries that are serving families in Sealy, Texas, and Clinton, Mo.; and a ministry that is reaching out to the Winnebago Tribe in rural Nebraska. The issue also includes information about the five Lutheran church bodies — in Ukraine, Finland, Sudan and South Sudan, Uganda, and Sri Lanka — that delegates will be asked to recognize or endorse fellowship with at the Synod convention this summer.



The magazine began arriving in mailboxes in early April. This issue can also be read 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.

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 issue are needed by June 15.

Send submissions to Karol Selle:

- ▶ selleks@gmail.com
- ▶ 3177 State Hwy. 66
Rosholt, WI 54473