



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

TEAM MINISTRY



These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them ... "Proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'"

Matt. 10:5, 7

"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Deut. 11: 18-19

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Eph. 6:1-5

As I write this article in mid-July, the news is all about schools. What are the reopening plans? Some schools had their plans set only to reconsider and reverse their course of action as coronavirus infection rates continued to spike and new hotspots emerged around the nation.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

There are conflicting opinions and contradictory plans. How our churches have handled worship throughout our district and Synod is no different — plans are made, reconsidered and changed.

It is time for the school year to begin for your parochial and public schools. It is also a time for our congregations to get back into the swing of things in the parish. The majority of our congregations celebrate Rally Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day weekend, marking the start of Sunday school and Bible class. What will that look like in 2020? What precautions will you put in place in the classrooms, and for teachers and students? Your leadership will do their best to make all feel safe.

Why all the fuss? It's because of the subject matter — teaching children what Jesus did for them and how He showed His love for them by dying on the cross



to forgive their sins. They also learn that He is the Good Shepherd who walks with them through pandemic times that all of us are experiencing right now. They learn about the love and care of our loving God when taking a look at His Word.

Sharing God's Word, especially with our children, is a team effort. When you look at the Scripture at left, notice who was involved. Jesus sent out the professional church workers — the apostles. Moses did not call just the parents together to tell them what to teach. God had Moses call the nation of Israel together to tell them they all had the responsibility — the parents and the congregation. It was a team effort of pastors, teachers, elders and parents all working together to teach the children about God's kingdom and His love for them.

It was and still is a team effort — getting the proper educational materials and getting rooms sanitized and ready for

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Welcome, Pastor Schroeder!

The North Wisconsin District has supplied and financially supported a chaplain at Wisconsin Veterans Home in King for decades. Rev. Wayne Schwanke recently retired from the position after 15 years of service. Rev. Ben Schroeder accepted the call to serve and will begin in October. Get to know Pastor Schroeder from his answers to questions from DJ Schult, district assistant to the president, and offer prayers for his transition and new ministry.



Rev. Ben Schroeder

Where are you from, where did you grow up and where have you lived?

I was born and raised in Pulaski (not far from King!) for my first five years. My dad's first assignment as a pastor was at St. John Lutheran Church.

It's very meaningful for me to be back in the area where I was born. My father also took calls to churches in Harvey, Ill., where I spent my grade school years and then in Erie, Penn., where I spent my high school years.

Other states where I have lived include Missouri, Ohio and Florida.

Describe how you were called to the military, and where and how you have served.

I've always had deep appreciation and respect for those who serve our nation and defend our freedoms. About 10 years ago while serving as a pastor in parish ministry, I sensed God's prompting and was encouraged by colleagues to consider being a Navy chaplain.

I wasn't sure I would be accepted because I was over the age limit (42) for a Naval officer commission. But God opened the door and the Navy gave me a waiver to be a chaplain at the age of 46.

I have been greatly blessed to serve the seaside community (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast

Guard) at various bases and installations in North Carolina, Washington, Florida, Washington, D.C., and Andros Island in the Bahamas.

Why do you believe the ministry at King is where God wants you at this point of your career?

Because of my special concern for veterans and my past experience with working in the military community, I believe King is where God wants me right now.

Also, I enjoy being around older people to hear their life stories and learn from them.

Finally, I see God's hand all over the call process and how all the pieces came together so quickly and beautifully. I'm very thankful for that and I'm looking forward to ministry at the veterans' campus while continuing to serve as a Navy reserve chaplain.

How do you have fun?

Some of the things I like to do include motorcycle riding, target shooting, reading suspense novels and watching action/suspense movies.

I have a feeling that I may turn into a Packers' fan in the near future if I want to fit in around these parts. I know Wisconsin residents take their football seriously.

I also enjoy playing the piano and long scenic car drives.

Welcome back students!

Schools are open across the North Wisconsin District! Plans are in place for full days at school and full days at home — a mix of both. Whatever comes their way, the principals, directors and teachers in our Lutheran schools and childcare centers are well-equipped and well-prepared to teach, proclaim God's Word and keep everyone safe. God bless our Lutheran schools and all who serve!

Adult gathering canceled

The 2020 Annual Adult Gathering, held every October at Mount Olive, Weston, has been canceled for due to health concerns. We hope to have the event in 2021.

Wellness during the pandemic

The District Wellness Task Force has detailed four critical tools and best practices to help pastors, principals and directors lead their teams, as well as allow individuals to create their own plans to thrive. Details about each of the items listed below can be found in the July 2020 *District Happenings* e-newsletter. Additional tools and resources can be found on the website under "Congregations/Worker Wellness."

The four priorities include:

- **PROCESSING:** sharing our struggles and validating with love, not judgment.
- **COPING:** understand and implementing healthy coping behaviors, both short and long term.
- **BOUNDARIES:** accountability for limits that protect us and meet our needs.
- **SEL:** Student Social Emotional Learning education to best support the students we serve.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

students. Or maybe this fall it will be a Zoom Sunday-school classroom at home. Who knows! The apostle Paul also reminded the children of their responsibility to obey with a promise: "live long on the land." They have their part to play as well.

We are all in this together. Do what you can for people to feel safe when they are together to learn that they have a loving Lord. As the psalmist stated:

The LORD will never desert his people or abandon those who belong to him. ... When I worried about many things, your assuring words soothed my soul.
— Ps. 94:14, 19 GW

May God bless your team ministry to teach God's children.

LWML business carries on

When 2020 began, I would tell others that we would be able to see perfectly this year. I couldn't have been further from the truth!



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

2020 has been a year of changes. We haven't been able to see clearly as we live day-to-day, but we trust our Triune God. He is in control and only when we focus our eyes on Jesus can we see perfectly.

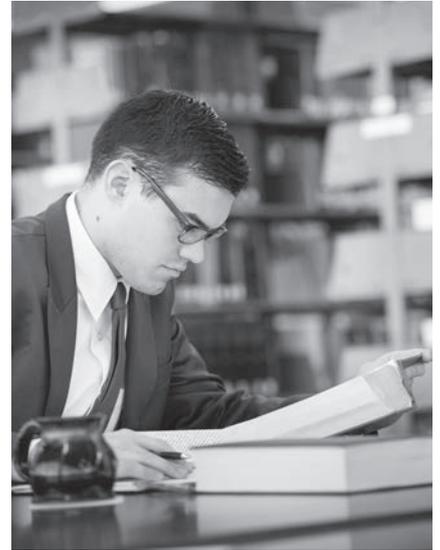
Our convention theme this year was "Jesus Be My Vision," based on 2 Cor. 5:7 — "Walk by faith, not by sight." Two years ago, this theme and verse were selected by the hosting zones. At that time, we didn't know how appropriate this theme would be as we continue to navigate through the coronavirus pan-

dem. Our 38th biennial convention business was conducted online with the convention live streamed.

Mission Grants

On June 22, the North Wisconsin District LWML approved a \$110,000 Mission Grant Goal and selected 11 mission grants to fund for the 2020–22 biennium. Two of these mission grants total \$45,000.

The North Wisconsin District Professional Church Workers Student mission grant is for \$25,000. There is a need for pastors, teachers and other professional church workers in our area and all over the world. At times students find it difficult to pay for their education on their own. Some have chosen to be a church worker as a second career, and some have families to support. This grant will help North Wisconsin District students with their financial needs as they study to become professional church workers.



You may know adults and students whom God has chosen to become a pastor, deaconess, DCE or teacher. Please encourage them to pursue their occupational choice, and let them know the North Wisconsin District LWML has chosen to support them by selecting this

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The Counseling CONNECTION

Positive outcomes

We humans run in the wrong direction. Our foolishness is showing, as God is well aware (1 Cor. 1:25, 3:19a) We miss out on the potential God desires us to achieve.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

In his letter to the Romans, Paul gives us a counter-human example. In Rom. 5:3-4, we read the author's appreciation of suffering:

We rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

So the suffering we humanly resist has the potential of producing rewards.

The pain activates gain — endurance, character and hope. All this is in God's plan for us.

Yes, there are positive outcomes tied to the suffering from which we run. James adds this insight regarding "trials of various kinds" ... the "testing of your faith ... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (1:2-4).

And we find Peter's perspective:

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share in Christ's suffering, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ... Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. — **1 Peter 4:12-13, 19**

And we would be negligent if we over-

looked Jesus' wisdom in the opening of His most famous sermon:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
— **Matt. 5:10**

Jesus went on to say about those who suffer in His name: "Your reward is great in heaven" (11-12a). Earthly pain has heavenly gain. Now there is a positive outcome all believers should run toward, rather than run from.

Jesus is our model of suffering, the One who offers great gain through His personal pain (Heb. 2:10). In Christ there is no retreat. Rather, "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (12:2).

The day is coming when all suffering will end and we will see our Savior in heaven above!

Visit nwdlcm.org, click "Church Resources" and go to "Counseling and Worker Care." Contact me at revkohn@gmail.com or 715-610-2400.

District women serving in national posts



Anne Hartman

The LWML Board of Directors approved the appointment of Anne Hartman of Eau Claire as the Host Committee chairman for the 2023 convention. Anne also serves as the Committee on Young Women chairman.

She has served on the Christian Life, HOPE and Leader Development committees, and on the Young Woman Representative (YWR) Task Force. On the district level, Anne has co-chaired a district convention, served on the Christian Life Committee and as YWR chairman. She was selected as a YWR for the 2003 Oklahoma City convention.

LWML President Debbie Larson stated, "We are so blessed to have someone with people and organizational skills willing and ready to step up and serve God with such joy. Anne will be a welcome addition to our planning process."



Lauren Deneen

The LWML Board of Directors approved the appointment of Lauren Deneen of Antigo as the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Christian Living editor, filling the position vacated by Eden Keefe, who now serves as vice-president of Gospel Outreach.

Lauren, the wife of seminary student Christopher Deneen, worked in the LWML office as the clerk until she and her husband left St. Louis for his vicarage year in Wisconsin.

Her degrees in English and Spanish from Concordia University Ann Arbor will be a wonderful asset and the *Quarterly* publication staff looks forward to serving alongside Lauren.

GRANTS

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mission grant. Five vicars were recently placed in our district, along with a pastor, associate pastor and missionary. Introduce yourself to them, tell them how important they are to the LWML and keep these church workers in your daily prayers as they minister to those around us.

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment mission grant for \$20,000 will provide for the new Community Center Building at Camp Luther. Have you been to Camp Luther as a young child? A teen? An adult? I have been there many times as a young teen, a young adult and most recently at LWML retreats.

Last September, the ladies who attended the Fall Retreat were the last group to eat in the old dining hall. Worker volunteers were literally dismantling

it as we were eating our last meals. Now a new, more modern facility has been built to meet the needs of Camp Luther's growing ministry, and I am excited that I will be able to enjoy this new facility when we are able to be together again.

If you have never attended an LWML retreat at Camp Luther, prayerfully consider signing up to attend a spring or fall retreat in the near future.

To view all of the selected projects, visit nwdlwml.org.

September to Remember!

National LWML has chosen Sept. 15 as "Giving Tuesday" this year. As you give your mite offerings, please remember these district grants that will help impact congregations and families into the future, and remember the 21 mission grants selected at the national convention in Mobile we continue to fund.



Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District *Lutheran Witness* insert. Why should you send them in? It helps 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, 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.

We understand the church looks different in these days of the pandemic, but please share with us how your church is still engaged in ministry and what our life together currently looks like.

Please send submissions to Karol Selle Slack at selleks@gmail.com

You may also mail your submissions to Karol at:

3177 State Hwy. 66;
Rosholt, WI 54473

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.