



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



ENCOURGE your children

It's August! What are the important days to celebrate? Here is what I learned: S'mores Day is Aug. 10; Best Friends Day is Aug. 15; Cupcake Day is Aug. 19 and Bacon Day is Aug. 31.

It is also time for school to start again and for taking advantage of all the back-to-school specials to get ready for the year.

Our students — our children — and the learning process certainly took a hit because of the pandemic. Many students around the country learned in front of a computer screen. There were also students who attended in-person classes and followed protocols to be together in school.

So what is ahead for us this coming year? I asked our district expert, DJ Schult, who serves as my assistant working with our schools and educators, for his thoughts. He has experience as a father of three high school graduates and educator, including 10 years as a Lutheran school teacher, seven years as a principal and eight years as our education executive.



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

I asked DJ what he sees as the top challenges coming into the 2021-22 school year. Here are his thoughts:

- ▶ **Mental health:** “Teachers are exhausted, principals are burned out and students have been disrupted. How will we meet all the needs?”
- ▶ **Our methods and practices:** “We have learned some things that can improve student achievement (less structure, more projects) but will we go back to what we always did?”
- ▶ **Navigating social justice:** “So much is happening with race and social issues. Are we ready to help our students understand it all with a Christian worldview?”

I also asked DJ what would his advice be to parents (and grandparents) on what should be their priorities for the school year. Here is his list:

- ▶ **Reduce the chaos:**
 - Develop a family schedule for the week and review it every Sunday.
 - Avoid overscheduling events.
 - Find a place for daily items: keys, backpack, lunchbox, shoes and dirty clothes
- ▶ **Realize quality time and quantity time matter:**
 - Be where you are.
 - Ask questions and listen. Repeat.
 - Intentionally infuse your Christian faith into daily conversations.
 - Say “I love you” the first and last time you see them each day.
- ▶ **Encourage, encourage, encourage:**
 - The world will not do this for you.
 - Pray with them and for them, without ceasing.

The theme for National Lutheran Schools Week this year (and the 2022 National Youth Gathering) is “In All Things,” based on Col. 1:15-20. The apostle Paul wrote:

In him all things hold together.

This certainly will be a theme to remind our children that Jesus cares for them and the world around them, and that He will walk and be with them.

May God be with our children and their parents and our teachers in the new school year. Please include them in your prayers.

Congratulations ... and welcome!

Here are the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., students who were called or assigned to serve in the North Wisconsin District. Call Day at both campuses was held in April.



▲ Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck is pictured with CTSFW student Anthony Keilani, who was assigned as vicar at Faith, Green Bay.



◀ Pastor Lueck is pictured with those called or assigned from CSL. They are, from left (front row) Andrew (and Kristen) Zobel, pastor, St. James, Shawano; Corey (and Katie) Shaffer, pastor, Trinity, Port Edwards; (back row) Jacob (and Marie) Sipes, vicar, Peace, Antigo; Alicia Benning, deaconess intern, St. Paul, Manawa; and Joshua Duncan, vicar, Pilgrim, Green Bay.

Pastor Buechner installed in Clayton

On, June 6, Rev. Quentin Buechner (right) was installed as pastor of Silver Creek Lutheran Church, Clayton. He is pictured with Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president.



Grant total near \$118,000

The North Wisconsin District every year provides grants to students pursuing a vocation as a professional church worker. Annual gifts and endowed gifts fund the entirety of the grants.

When investments do well, there is more aid to grant. The amount received by each undergraduate and seminarian depends also on the number of applicants. The total amount to grant in 2021 is near \$118,000!

God bless those receiving grants this school year and thank you to those who have funded endowments throughout the years!

Refresh, Reflect, Renew



This year's Fall Retreat will be held Sept. 9–11 at Camp Luther in Three Lakes. You will be able to:

- ▶ **REFRESH;**
- ▶ **REFLECT** on all the gifts you receive from a loving God; and
- ▶ **RENEW** your faith through Bible study.

Be ready to renew old friendships and make new memories with new friends.

Rev. Benjamin Schroeder, who serves as chaplain of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, will lead Bible study. He has also served our country as a Navy Reserve chaplain. His study will help you to be Jesus' witness as God has commanded:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Matt. 28:19-20**

Come, be refreshed in God's Word, reflect on His command for us and renew your mission readiness.

There will be times to reach out to your fellow sisters as you sing around the campfire, enjoy the Kitchen Band (directed by Betty Snyder), or simply enjoy the outdoors.

New this year is a Mission Mite Walk on Saturday morning. Bring any of your past mission-walk T-shirts from a district or national LWML convention. Let's see if we can see a rainbow of colors as we reflect on the promise God made with Noah:

This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all the future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **Gen. 9:12-13**

Gifts of the Heart will be for veterans. Please check out the summer edition of *Mission Tidings* for a list of items needed. If you wish to attend, you will find a registration form in this issue or online to fill out and send to Sharon Hanke.

Soon we will celebrate Labor Day. It is a wonderful day to relax and reflect on God's blessing of jobs. This day traditionally marks the end of the summer-vacation season and the beginning of the school year. This can be an overwhelming time for families and students. So during these last few days of August, let's refresh our spiritual needs by reflecting on God's Word, renewing our faith and reaching out to God in prayer. You will be refreshed and ready to take on whatever God has planned for you!

Serving the Lord with gladness always.

The Counseling CONNECTION

Not alone

The wisdom of God is fully reliable. He gives His Word as a life-coaching manual. Herein we find the ingredients for the full life that Jesus offers (John 10:10b). We begin where God began. In His fulfillment of human creation, God took note of an important reality:



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

"It is not good that the man should be alone." **Gen. 2:18a**

Love relationships were God's prescription for mankind. Marriage, family and church are His institutions of love. We would be in common unity with Him and others He places in our lives.

Interdependence would be the timeless remedy overshadowing independence. God was fully aware that the outcome of independence was aloneness — an unhealthy position for man. In contrast, interdependence would hold planned, rich rewards. God has not changed. Nor has mankind. Relationships are still essential for well-being. Love-sharing continues to provide meaning and fulfillment in this life.

Aloneness defines the life of all too many of us. We find too many Elijahs

(1 Kings 19:1-8) and Peters (Matt. 26:75) in today's congregations. So many find themselves alone and desperate. We may falter in our aloneness. We distance ourselves from God and from those He places in our lives for support, encouragement and help.

So we offer a path toward restoration. It begins with divine "rest" offered by Christ Himself. With a ready heart and out-stretched arms, Jesus invites us to:

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

To this we add an invitation to visit the district worker wellness page at nwdlcmms.org/worker-wholeness.html.

If you are looking to explore and discover answers from a compassionate listener and fellow worker, contact me at revkohn@gmail.com or 715-610-2400.

A FAMILY THAT SERVES

It was the last Wednesday Vespers service before spring break at Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point. As the students gathered to continue their Lenten journey the mood was reflective, yet filled with a little bit of anxiety. That is because one of the students, Katie Leaf, was receiving a military send off.

Katie is a member of the Army ROTC program at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point and the Wisconsin Army National Guard. In October, she learned that her unit had the possibility of being deployed to the Middle East in the spring of 2021. Katie had a whirlwind of thoughts, emotions and decisions to sort out. Then after several days of intensive training at Fort McCoy in March, the orders were given to her unit that they would be indeed deploying at the end of the month for at least 12 to 14 months.



Katie Leaf

After making all the necessary arrangements with her professors, employer, swim team, landlord and roommates, Katie quickly got ready to leave in order to serve our country. As she came and stood before the Lord's altar to receive prayers and a blessing of protection and guidance from her fellow students, you could see the eyes begin to water.

Although the sendoff for Katie was brief, it was nonetheless special as the care and concern that the students shared for this brave young lady reflected the care and concern of Jesus. Their love for her could be seen and heard through their hugs and heartfelt words of encouragement and support. The family of Peace students is really just that, a family of God's children in this place, just a couple blocks from campus. This family will be praying for God's protecting presence to be with Katie every step of the way.

'In All Things'

LCMS School Ministry has released the 2021–2022 edition of *Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools*, an annual resource designed to assist Lutheran schools with weekly chapel.

Under the theme "In All Things," the resource includes devotions for every week of the school year as well as for Christmas. The theme, which will also be used during National Lutheran Schools Week and at the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering, is based on Col. 1:15–20:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body,



the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Drawing on the theme, each devotion is organized around various types of "things":

- ▶ "First Things" are introductory thoughts or activities that connect to the week's theme;
- ▶ "The Main Thing" shares Law and Gospel exploration of the text and brings Christ and His redemptive work to the students;

- ▶ "All Things in Jesus' Name" offers a petition relevant to the theme; and
- ▶ "More Things" provides suggestions for carrying the devotion beyond the chapel setting through additional activities, further reflection and study.

Chapel Talks was written by the Rev. Bob Riggert, a former Lutheran teacher, principal, parish pastor and district education executive who has written the last seven editions of the resource. It includes a new hymn by Jeffrey Burkhart, "In All Things Jesus Christ Is Found," sung to the tune WAS GOTT TUD ("What God Ordains Is Always Good," *LSB* 760).

Riggert writes in the introduction: "In All Things' is a confession of Christ's redemptive work ... a celebration of the Christ for youth, children and adults of the church ... [and] an opportunity for Lutheran schools to worship Christ in all things."

Chapel Talks is available for free download at luthed.org/chapel-talks or lcms.org/schools.

Purchase a print copy for \$9.99 plus shipping at amazon.com.