

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



The President's Message - August 2019



In This Issue:

- The President's Message
- Across My Desk: DJ Schult
- News and Events
- Counselor Corner
- Rural & Small Town Mission
- CPS News
- NWD Financial Box Score

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER!

At the end of Luke 10 we are told that Jesus stopped by and visited with his friends Mary and Martha. By the conversation Jesus had with Martha, it appeared that Martha planned to feed Jesus and his 12 friends. I doubt that Jesus called ahead. I am sure Mary and Martha (maybe Lazarus too) were thrilled Jesus stopped for a short visit.

At the start of Luke 11 we are told "Now Jesus was praying in a certain place" (Luke 11:1 ESV). So it appears Jesus left Bethany and the next thing we are told He had gone off to pray by Himself. He got away for some private time. It appears that was important for Jesus to have his prayer time. The disciples took notice and finally asked him to teach them how to pray.

So here it is at the start of August. We are at peak vacation time before school starts. Before you know it teachers will be going back to school and sport teams begin practice in mid-August. The planes are full of families traveling, the Northwoods highways are packed on the weekends, and people are getting their lake time at the cabin before summer is over.

We are told by professionals that taking a vacation, taking time to relax, taking time for yourself, taking a walk, taking devotion and prayer time are all healthy things to do. Whether you are a professional church worker or not – you have vacation time coming and you should take it. People need it both physically and mentally.

Many of our church workers, as part of their benefits can participate in a program called Vitality. It is a health and wellness program that integrates healthy activities and choices into daily life and provides personalized feedback. The whole purpose of it is to keep our church workers healthy. I love it!

A part of being healthy is mental wellness. At the recent LCMS Convention in Tampa Resolution 3-04A was passed to deal with this – *"To Encourage Training of our Pastors, Church Workers and Congregations to Recognize and Provide Pastoral Care for Those Suffering from Clinical Depression, Mental Illnesses, and other Mental Disorders."* The resolution stated the following: "According to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, an estimated 22.1 percent of Americans ages 18 and older, about one out of five adults, suffer from an array of diagnosable mental disorders in a given year... and 70 percent have not had appropriate interventions to treat them." The result of mental disorder "has a downward spiral effect in families." The resolution encouraged that our church workers be better equipped to "provide ministry and compassionate care to those suffering from a mental disorder."

Church workers are hurting as well. In 2017, LCMS Research conducted a survey of the well-being of church workers and their spouses:

- 24% have been told by a professional that they suffer from anxiety or depression
- 33% struggle with compulsive behavior
- 26% have experienced serious marital difficulties while in ministry

Church workers are no different than the people in the pew. They too have families and they too need to be ministered to and receive compassionate care. All of us are in this together – making it through this journey of life. Healthy workers make for healthy churches.

My encouragement to you whether a lay person or professional church worker, most likely your health plan offers help in some form – so use it. Concordia Plan Services offers help for church workers. Take the time to go to their website (<https://www.concordiaplans.org/health.html>) and learn what is available as part of your paid benefit. It is there for you to use, to help you. Whatever plan you have – make use of the resources that are there for you. As God's people, we need to encourage each other. Pray. Encourage. Use the resources there for you to use. Finally, take the time to look into God's Word. It is encouraging!

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Dwayne M. Lueck, District President

67th LCMS Convention

The 67th triennial convention of the LCMS was held in Tampa July 20-25, 2019. Incumbent President Harrison was reelected to his 4th term prior to the event. Learn more about resolutions passed and people elected to serve at this link <https://www.lcms.org/convention>

Thank you to the NWD servants who attended the convention!



District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



Items of Interest for the NWD

Learn more about every action at the Convention Website at LCMS.org

Resolution	Title	Why We Care
1-01A	To Encourage God's People to Engage in Active Witness	EVERY ONE A WITNESS tool available for evangelism
1-03	To Study Shared Ministry among Small Congregations	Over 500 dual congregations in Synod, over 15% Over 60% congregations have less than 100 in average weekly worship
1-07A	To Promote Adoption of Policies that Continue Vigilance in Child Protection	Child Risk Management Policies should be in place at all churches and schools. NWD has sample policy. NWD has Ministry Safe starting now to train staff and volunteers.
1-08	To Give Thanks to God for 100 Years of LCMS Campus Ministry	250 Campus Ministry Chapters. God bless our Campus Ministry workers!
2-06	To Encourage Support of Short-Term International Mission Activities	Encouraging the work and striving to improve the confusion created in past convention.
2-08	To Give Thanks for LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	God bless those who serve our military!
3-02A	To Commend Lutherans For Life and LCMS Life Ministries	Condemn the work of states to kill children. Eyesoflife.org created by LCMS.
3-04A	To Encourage Training of Our Pastors, Church Workers and Congregations to Recognize and Provide Pastoral Care for those Suffering from Clinical Depression, Mental Illnesses, and Other Mental Disorders	We need to learn more about how to care for our friends and co-workers. The stats are incredible: 22% of adults suffer from a mental disorder; 70% of children with a mental disorder have not had appropriate intervention for treatment; 90% people committing suicide suffer from mental illness. NWD Professional Church Worker Conference in 2020 has this as its topic.
4-01	To Affirm and Celebrate 60 Years of Director of Christian Education Ministry in the Synod	God bless our DCE's!
4-02	To Commend LCMS Deaconesses and Diaconal Work	100 years!
4-03A	To Commend to Synod Priorities for the Mission and Ministry Emphasis for the 2019-2022 Triennium	Making Disciples For Life is the emphasis, directing us all to: Evangelize the lost; Retain the faithful; Strengthen congregations and schools; Plant new congregations and schools; Engage in international mission.
4-05	To Commend the Celebration of the 175 th Anniversary of the LCMS in 2022	Celebration starts with NWD district convention. Referenced special emphasis on the involvement of younger generations.
4-06A	To Amend Bylaw Section 6.2 to Revitalize Synod's Recognized Service Organization Program	RSOs will be reorganized over time into Witness, Mercy or Education, through two tiers. Districts will have more responsibility for oversight. Synod fees will likely begin over time.
4-09	To Declare April 18, 2021 as "Here I Stand" Sunday and to Encourage Multi-Congregation Celebrations	Consider a Synod-wide thank offering for proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.
4-10	To Continue the Celebration of the 500 th Anniversary of the Reformation, including Commemoration of Events from 1519 through 1522	What will you do to celebrate?!
4-11A	To Encourage the Study of the Doctrine of Closed Communion and Faithful Practice in All Congregations	Closed communion is defined differently and practiced without uniformity among pastors. Previous conventions have spoken on the issue. Study is encouraged.
5-09A	To Confess the Biblical Six-Day Creation, to Encourage Pastoral Conferences to Study Our Synod's Statements on Creation, and to Help Congregations Concertedly Address Issues Related to the Intersections of Faith and Science	Some in our Synod debate the definition of the word day. The study and teaching of the topic as explained through the CTCR is encouraged.
6-01	To Support and Participate in the Comprehensive Church Worker Recruitment Initiative	Enrollments in the CUS from 2004-2018 include: Lutheran teacher down 61% DCE down 56% Pre-Seminary down 59% Combined Seminary down 55%

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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		Also, 50% of all ordained pastors are over 55 years old. NWD supports professional church worker students annually and is exploring worker debt support.
6-02	To Promote Residential Seminary Education as the Preferred Option for the Preparation of Men for Pastoral Ministry	6 routes to ordination. The floor was clear; the more education the better.
6-07	To Support and Utilize PREACH THE WORD	Tool by Synod to help pastors grow in their preaching ability. Encouraged to be used.
7-05	To Recognize and Give Thanks for Work at Selma	Hurt, disappointment and lack of trust shared regarding the closing of Concordia University-Alabama at Selma
7-08	To Aid Our CUS Schools in Clear Confession	Clubs at our Concordias; that they honor our confession of faith
8-01	To Encourage Congregations to Support Pastoral Formation	When a pastor is installed or ordained, consider a special offering to a seminary.
8-02	To Encourage a Synodwide 1.1.1 Funding Model for Defined Mission Outcomes	A program created by the English District to raise funds for mission work.
9-08	To Amend Bylaws to Clarify Multi-congregation Parish Representation at the Circuit Forum	Pastor and lay representation for multi-congregational parish; can have additional advisory representation (voice, but not vote).
9-17	To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS	Churches "own" the convention vote, played out through a pastor and a lay person. Commissioned Ministers do not have a vote in the convention system, yet make up a significant number of Synod workers with unique perspectives on ministry.
11-03A	To Encourage Synod to Develop Resources to Aid Congregations and Schools regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues	Cultural and legal challenges are all around. We need to learn more on how to boldly confess our beliefs and compassionately minister to others.
11-04A	To Affirm the Common Humanity of all People and Ethnicities	Consider and act on our Christian duty; understand the kingdom of the left and the right; review Synod documents including IMMIGRANTS AMONG US.
11-05A	To Encourage Responsible Citizenship and Compassion Toward Neighbors Who Are Immigrants Among Us	"My neighbors need is my call to mercy." President Harrison, at the 67 th Synod Convention
12-01A	To Commend and Give Thanks for our Lutheran Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools	Thanks be to God!
12-02A	To Exhort the Congregations of the LCMS to Actively Encourage Future Lutheran School Teachers	28% of Lutheran School teachers are on the roster. Steady decline of new synod trained teachers since 2005. WI has a significant decline of teachers, both private and public. Only 30% fulfillment rate for schools calling a new grad. Encourage church workers and provide funding.
12-05A	To Take Further Steps in the Retention of College-Aged Students in Synod Congregations	LCMS Youth Ministry has an outstanding study called "Retention of Lutheran Millennials: 2017 Study of Young Adults"

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Managing God's Money

Happy summer to all my fellow redeemed in Christ!

If you're reading this, my assumption is you're already a pretty engaged Lutheran. So in one sense, I'm preaching to the choir. But in another sense, the choir delivers a message like no one else. So can I count on you to help deliver the following?

Congregational income given to the North Wisconsin District has been declining steadily. By way of example - over the past 15 years, June congregational income to the NWD was at its lowest by over \$50,000. You may ask, "How does that affect us?" Well, 65 percent of our operating budget supports NWD & Synod missions with the remaining 35 percent supporting NWD workers, schools and congregations. As District income declines, so does our ability to provide support to your church, school and workers – not to mention missions in our district and beyond.

In brief, an efficient and effective way for your congregation to support local and world missions, as well as ensure ongoing support & resources for your church and its workers, is to faithfully give to the North Wisconsin District. We ask you to prayerfully consider the above.

Thanks, and may God richly bless you!

Bill Jordan
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News and Events

Upcoming Events & Save the Dates:

- **More information available on the homepage of our website under 'Events & Information'.**

- All School Summit - August 15, 2019—St. Paul, Bonduel
- Early Childhood Regional Meetings
 - ⇒ October 3—Trinity, Wausau
 - ⇒ October 17—St. Paul, Fall Creek
 - ⇒ October 24—Pilgrim, Green Bay
- Fall Pastors' Conference - Sept. 23-25, 2019—Holiday Inn, Marquette
- NWD Adult Gathering - October 1, 2019—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Weston - *Featured Presenter - Former LCMS President, Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick - Registration opens soon!*
- Retirement Workshop - October 18, 2019—NWD Office
- Team Ministry Workshop - January 28, 2020—St. Mark's Lutheran, Wausau

LCMS Congregation & Rostered Staff Mailing

Congregations & rostered staff should have received communication from the LCMS regarding the LCMS Information Support Network for Congregations & the LCMS Church Worker Updates. For the rostered staff who requested paper forms or didn't have an email on file with the LCMS their letters were mailed mid-July. The LCMS is working on getting the schools fully online as well. For any questions, request for login information, or request for a paper form; please contact rosters.stats@lcms.org or the LCMS Church Information Center at 888-843-5267.

Future Church Worker Grants Announced

37 grants to professional church-work students have been awarded for the 2019-20 school year, totaling just over \$101,000! Awards included 21 students attending four different Concordia University System schools (Chicago, Nebraska, St. Paul, Wisconsin) and 11 attending a seminary (two at FT. Wayne and nine at St. Louis). The other five were awarded for service at Camp Luther. These awards are outside of the fiscal budget of the North WI District, paid out from endowments created by generous donors. Churches and individuals are encouraged to donate to these established accounts to further support future church workers!

Serve in Peru?

The NWD has been part of an important mission in Peru for the past few years, with President Lueck serving on their leadership team called a foro. Working in partnership with the Office of International Mission, ministry in Peru has been making an important difference. This ministry in Peru is again ready to accept service teams into special programs for the 2020 school year. See the information and contacts at this link if your ministry or circuit is considering serving in Peru and let us know when you are going! - <https://mailchi.mp/46487ce3e46f/save-the-dates-2019-drlm-foros-1891161?e=031aaa394b>



District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

News and Events

All School Summit in August

NWD schools will gather on August 15 to give teachers the chance to learn and grow with other teachers from around the NWD. The staff from Grace Lutheran School, Menomonee Falls will lead and guide our NWD schools through the activities and practices that have moved their school from good to great. Grade level groups will collaborate on research-based best practices that meet the needs of all learners. High school staff will be served by leaders from Living Word Lutheran High School in Jackson. Thank you teachers for your commitment to Christian education and thank you principals for your leadership.

2019 NWD Early Childhood Regional Conferences

This event is for the full EC staff and one or more additional congregational leaders (pastor, board member, congregational president, etc.). Events will be held this fall throughout the district, in the evenings. The training will have a split learning session, allowing teachers to attend professional development while directors and church leaders can attend a session specific to their leadership. The event dates and locations are: Oct. 3 - Trinity, Wausau; Oct. 17 - Fall Creek; Oct. 24 - Pilgrim, GB.

The Lutheran Fathers Conference

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 9:30am-3:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls. We are now in the midst of our study of the *Augsburg Confession* and the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*, having completed through Article XV in May and will be starting Article XVI in August. Pastor Dan Pfafe is our study leader using the Kolb Wengert translation (Fortress Press, 2000), although some of us use older translations to prepare. For class the text is shown on a large computer screen. In preparation, read or at least look at the next five to six articles, XVI through XXI, as these are shorter. We begin with fellowship at 9:30, Matins at 10:00, study at 10:30, break for lunch at nearby restaurants, and conclude by 3PM. There is no cost and prior attendance is not required. These meetings are open to all pastors, laymen, and laywomen. If you have questions or need directions, please contact the church office at 715-723-6380 or zionluther-ancf@charterinternet.com. Please come and join us!

Servants of Christ Seminar

Take advantage of this great opportunity to help youth in grades 5-8 wrestle with some of the challenges that our culture is throwing at them. This event is an especially good opportunity for confirmation classes to grow together. With all of this in mind, please encourage youth in your congregations and youth you know to save the date and to attend the Servants of Christ Seminar at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). The seminar will ground youth in the grace of their baptism, teach them about the doctrine of vocation, give them information about college and careers, and allow them to take part in breakaway sessions led by CUW professors and other guest speakers. These sessions are designed to strengthen their faith and help them to live as servants of Christ in our challenging world. The event is free (includes lunch), is open to all students in grades 5-8, and will take place on September 28th from 9:30am-2:00pm on our Mequon campus. Registration is now open & we encourage you to identify advocates who will urge youth to attend and plan rides for youth. Adult chaperones are welcome to attend all sessions and to eat with us at no cost. Adults are also free to drop kids off at 9:30am & pick them up at 2:00pm. Please visit and encourage youth to visit this link for more information and for a sample schedule and sample breakaway sessions from this event last year: www.cuw.edu/ServantsofChristSeminar

For more info contact: Rev. Ron Mudge, Ph.D.; Rouse Associate Professor of Pre-seminary Studies, Pre-Seminary Director, Concordia University Wisconsin, ronald.mudge@cuw.edu, (262)243-4301



District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Counselor Corner

MINISTRY COMPLEXITY

Ministry is complicated. The complexity is increasing. There is an inverse relationship—as respect for the church decreases, ministry stress increases.

Jesus understands. He faced the same reality in His role as an itinerant Rabbi. Matthew 14 shares a fitting portrayal.

Jesus faced an emotional crisis. He learned that John, His relative and advance messenger had been arrested and subsequently executed (vss.3-12). Jesus' response was to find a "solitary place" (vs.13a). Jesus needed some alone time, away from ministry demands.

The crowd lacked understanding. Jesus' private, personal needs would have to be put on hold. They sought Him out bringing their demands with them.

It was time for compassion—shared with the multitude of needy souls (vs.14). Jesus' heart was stretched as He intermingled miracles and ministry.

And then there was the practical concern (and distraction)—providing a meal for the physically hungry (vs.15). Jesus was drained but still seized the opportunity to perform a miracle.

Over 5,000 were fully fed with "five loaves and two fish" (vss.17-20a & 21). And Jesus threw in a second miracle for good measure—the disciples collected "twelve basketfuls of broken pieces" (vs.20b).

Finally it was time to dismiss the crowd (vs.23a). It was alone time again (vs.23b) for renewal.

These are the lessons we can glean here from the Master—

1. We do not fully control our ministry, nor should we let it control us.
2. The demands in ministry are varied and complex.
3. Jesus was a non-anxious presence amidst the demands.
4. Personal renewal time is a priority in ministry.
5. Love is at the core of meeting people's needs in ministry.

Placing Christ at the center positions us to overcome the complexity of ministry. This is what He modeled for us.

Pastor Dan Kohn

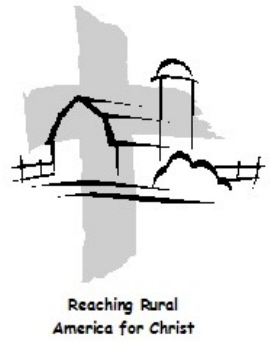
revkohn@gmail.com / (715) 610-2400

Pastor Kohn was a licensed addiction counselor for over 30 years before becoming an LC-MS pastor. He is now a contracted counselor for church workers in the North Wisconsin District.



Rural & Small Town Mission

To check out the latest 'Reaching Rural America for Christ' Newsletter [click here](#). This month's edition includes the following article entitled...



"The No-Casserole Illness and How the Church Can Respond"

It's a conversation I'll never forget. While visiting with a local pastor one day about the mental health focus of The Lutheran Foundation, he shared something he did one Sunday morning in church.

As people gathered for worship, everyone received a sheet of paper with a list of ten questions related to mental health issues. There were questions like, "Have you ever been depressed?" and "Have you ever been prescribed medication for mental health issues?" Each person was to circle any question that applied to them.

When everyone finished answering their questions, the ushers collected them. They shuffled the papers and walked to a different part of the church to pass out those same sheets of paper. Each person was now holding someone else's paper (no names were on them.) The pastor then started to read the questions, one by one, and asked people to stand up if the question he read was circled on the sheet they were holding.

When people in the congregation saw the number of people standing up in response to each question, there was an audible gasp from the congregation. "Everyone thinks they are the only one living with mental health issues," the pastor said. Too often, the stigma is so great in the church that people are afraid to talk about mental illness.

While author Amy Simpson was growing up, her mother had serious psychotic episodes and was later diagnosed with schizophrenia. The family was always active in church. But when it came to her mother's mental health issues, there was silence and shame. "We needed community and loving friendships," she says. "The church is one of the only places left in society where that is readily available — at least in theory." Amy tells her family's story in her book, *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission*. Amy says the phrase is not original with her, but she often refers to mental illness as the "no-casserole illness." It's not uncommon for people from church to bring a casserole when a family member is in the hospital, or when there has been a death in the family. But when it's mental illness, people often don't call or visit, or bring casseroles.

However, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in five adults will experience a mental illness in any given year. That also means one in five in our churches. Most people don't realize that mental illness is more common than cancer, heart disease and diabetes combined.

The Lutheran Foundation is focused on promoting mental wellness and reducing stigma around mental illness. Starting the conversation and silencing the stigma is one step toward healing. Sometimes those caring conversations happen best across the table... over a casserole.

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter By Rev. Dr. Dennis Goff, director of Ministry Programs for The Lutheran Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Rural & Small Town Mission - Upcoming Events

Don't forget that Rural & Small Town Mission provides free monthly webinars on topics important to congregations in town and country settings. Up next is **"The No-Casserole Illness and How the Church Can Respond"** on August 22, followed by **"Church Reflections"** on September 26. Find past webinars in our archives and watch for information on all our upcoming events!



Register for one of our Engaging Your Community (EYC) or Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events at lcms.org/rstm. These partner events offer practical resources and communication skills for reaching out to our wandering members and our communities with Christ's love. Online registration is available for both types of events. Contact your district office or ours if you are interested in holding an event near you.

Register now for the 2019 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference, *Running With Endurance: Eyes Fixed On Jesus*, Nov. 14-16 in Minneapolis at lcms.org/rstm/conference.

To see our calendar, visit lcms.org/rstm. Contact our office at 888-463-5127 or rstm@lcms.org.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. Learn more about RSTM at lcms.org/rstm or by calling 888-463-5127. "Like" us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/lcmsrstm.



- Check out the [CPS website](http://www.cps.org) for a wealth of information or head right to the 'Blog & News' section for the latest info!

- Visit the NWD website for a CPS corner listing the main contacts for churches using CPS, as well as links to the most important news and answers found on the CPS website. Bookmark it so you have it! <http://www.nwdlcms.org/concordia-plan-services.html>

NWD Financial Box Score June 2019

June Offering	\$87,828.97
June Budget	\$149,812.50
Year-to-date total offerings	\$633,642.13
Year-to-date budget	\$779,625.00

NWD Financial Box Score July 2019

July Offering	\$174,779.31
July Budget	\$169,500.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$808,421.44
Year-to-date budget	\$949,125.00

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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District Resources

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