



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Celebrating Lutheran education

It was a great day! Nov. 5 was the dedication of the new building of Wolf River Lutheran High School (WRLHS) in Shawano.

This was a long day coming. The school had started at St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano in 2004 and later moved to Cecil Elementary School. More than 25 acres were purchased in 2012 and plans were made to construct a building that would meet the needs of educating high school students. Those plans and dreams became a reality this fall when the students and staff moved into that new building.

But for what purpose? Why have 13 congregations in the Shawano area come together to put up a Lutheran high school?

The mission of WRLHS “is to provide a quality Bible-based Christian education which will prepare students to attain their life goals and lead productive Christian lives in an ever changing world under God’s grace in Jesus Christ.” I love that statement as it sums up what Lutheran education is all about in our early childhood centers and elementary and high schools. In our district, there are 46 childcare and preschools (1,150 in the LCMS) 19 elementary schools



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

(793 LCMS) and three high schools (86 LCMS) with that mission.

During this time of year, the majority of district schools and those around the country will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week. It provides our network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God’s work among us in Lutheran schools. The theme this year is “It’s Still All About Jesus.” This is based on Heb. 13:8:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

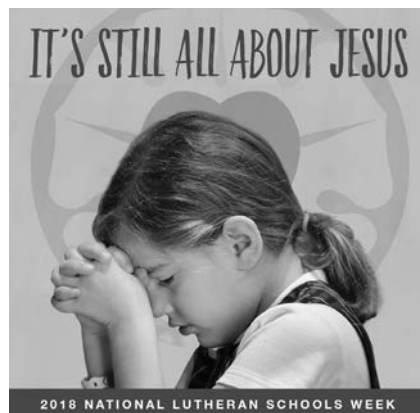
What makes our schools so special is that Jesus is at the heart and core of the Lutheran school’s mission and work. It sets our curriculum apart from those in other education settings. Children, parents, teachers, principals and coaches all have the opportunity to learn about Jesus and be reminded that they

have the opportunity to bear witness to Jesus, the Lord of their lives. They learn what Jesus did for them; they learn about God’s grace and mercy.

However, the schools are not only to teach about Jesus, they are there to “prepare students to attain their life goals and lead productive Christian lives in an ever changing world.” The students at our schools are encouraged to become our future pastors and teachers, but the reality is that many of them will not. They will study for other vocations as children have different gifts and abilities. Our Lutheran schools offer excellence in academics, whether it be in reading, math, science, history, languages, and art; and in extracurricular activities such as sports.

National Lutheran Schools Week allows the schools to celebrate in different ways, including theme days in which students can wear a costume, invite grandparents to visit and participate in other kinds of activities. It is a time to celebrate!

In order for our schools to continue to share that “it still is all about Jesus,” and to offer excellent education and facilities, we as members of our congregations need to continue to support our schools, students and staff. It means that parents need to continue to support and encourage their children. Ask them about their day at school. Ask about or maybe help them with their



See MESSAGE, Page 2



St. James, Shawano

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature and other aid to meet real needs.

The following questions were answered by Jim and Judy Oberstein (Jim serves as coordinator of the OGT packing station at St. James; Judy is Wisconsin Branch recording secretary) and Wil Klienschmidt (former recording secretary).

What is the mission of OGT?

The mission statement is: "In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as bandages well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed."

What kind of impact has your congregation made with OGT

It was a very successful year for the local packing station in Shawano, located within St. James. The group sorted,

packed and loaded 10 semi-loads (about 12,000 boxes) of clothing, medical supplies, medical equipment, school supplies, quilts, sleeping mats, furniture and school desks.

In January 2017, the group kicked off a special project, "Pails for Haiti" to help the Haitian people recover from Hurricane Matthew. The pails will be used to carry clean drinking water to help prevent the spread of dis-

eases. The group exceeded all expectations by collecting nearly 8,500 pails.

How can other congregations be part of your ministry?

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with the packing and loading. The more hands you have, the quicker the job goes.

There are several congregations in the area that hold a rummage sale and then donate all the unsold items to OGT to be packed for shipment. Others hold special projects to collect specific items (hygiene products, medical supplies, quilts, blankets and sleeping mats) that are shipped out during the

year. Monetary gifts are accepted to offset shipping costs through our Wisconsin distribution centers.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your ministry?

Wil Klienschmidt started the local branch at St. James nearly 25 years ago and some of the original packers are still with us. Please come and join us.

If you would like to help, or if you have questions, contact Jim or Judy Oberstein at 715-201-0283.



“

I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.”

John 14:18

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

homework. Take time for family devotions and prayers that lift up the child's needs or those of their classmates and teacher. Keep the communication line open with the teacher — work together.

For those of us who do not have children in school, we can be supportive by encouraging the students with our presence at their chapels, ballgames or events. Take the time to get to know and encourage the staff. Pray for them. Send them a note of thanks. Support the work of your congregation and see to it that our teachers are given a salary that is appropriate. Unfortunately, too many of our teachers are underpaid but continue to serve their Lord and students they

teach with joy. Please encourage and support them.

It was my privilege to be trained in a Lutheran elementary school, high school, college and seminary. It was all about learning about Jesus and the other building blocks that prepared me to become a Lutheran pastor. I give thanks for all those faithful Lutheran teachers, pastors and professors who cared for me and taught me. Jesus certainly blessed me with my experience as a student.

My hope and prayer is that God will continue to bless the children at our schools and that they learn about Jesus and receive the training to reach the goals before them now and in years ahead.

May God bless our Lutheran schools.

Faith grows at Peace Campus Center

The following is an interview with **Molly Vechart**, a former University of Wisconsin – Stevens



Point student who attended Peace Lutheran Campus Center. (2010-14) She serves as assistant director of Worship and Music at Faith Lutheran Church, Appleton.

1. What types of things were you involved in during your time at Peace Lutheran Campus Center?

I first got involved on the worship team during my freshman year and eventually started helping out on the leadership team as a worship director. I also loved First Friday Fellowship, especially bunico nights! I was involved in a women's Bible study my first year as well and eventually ended up leading that same study group in my final year.

2. Having been gone for a few years now, as you reflect back on your time at Peace, what were some of your greatest blessings?

There were many blessings, some of which are lifelong friendships, fond memories and confidence in leading worship, but the greatest blessing was the growth in my faith.

Through Bible studies, mission trips and services, I grew so very much in my relationship with God. In times of trial, I turn to God for confidence and peace, and in times of joy, I praise God for the blessings and happiness He has given me.

Peace was also a home to me while in Stevens Point. I always felt I could go there to find a quiet place to study, to find a friend to talk to or to just get away from the craziness of college life and spend time with God whether it was in His Word or in worship and song. I'm so thankful for this home away from home, and every time I return to Peace for a visit, it feels like coming home.

3. Do you have a favorite memory or two from your time at Peace?

There are so many memories. I really loved the mission trip to Puerta Barrios, Guatemala. The entire experience has helped me be thankful for all the little things in life that we don't really think about, such as socks and shoes or a place to go get coffee.

One particular memory from that trip that I will always hold dear is when we all prayed together and then had communion. I had tears in my eyes as we experienced this sacrament together. How amazing it is that we partake in this meal together with our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world together!

4. What advice would you give to current UWSP students about Peace Lutheran Campus Center?

Get involved! It's so easy to just head in for worship on Sunday and leave right away without talking to anyone. Don't do it! Stay after worship, get to know the other students, go to First Friday Fellowship and Wednesday Vespers.

There are so many ways to meet people and form relationships, and the friendships we make at Peace with brothers and sisters in Christ — those will last!



5. As a Peace alumnus, how would you encourage others, who called Peace "home" over the years, to help Peace continue to be a special place for the next generation of college students

Don't be afraid to step up and lead. Peace is unique because the majority of activities and groups are created by students for students. So many things would not exist at Peace without student leaders who plan activities, lead Bible studies and small groups and help out with worship.

Start small. Volunteer to read a Scripture reading for a service once a month, or sing with the worship team for a Sunday. Attend a Bible study and meet some new people.

6. Are there any other thoughts you'd like to share?

God is doing amazing things at Peace. There are so many college students who need to hear the Gospel, and now more than ever, our world is hurting and longing for light.

Peace is a beacon for God's light to shine in the darkness. Thank you, Lord, for this amazing ministry!



The counseling CONNECTION

Beyond the suffering

One could say he had a calling with a built-in burden. First the divine call from Christ Himself:

“He is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” **Acts 9:15**

But there was more — a special, additional plan tied to the call. Christ added this dimension:

“For I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” **Acts 9:16**

We, of course, are talking about Christ’s calling of Paul. His former position held deep Jewish roots (2 Cor. 11:22). He



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

was a devoted Pharisee. Christ redirected his life, however, with an expansive role, meant to fulfill a far nobler purpose.

Yet all this would come with a price. The cost would certainly challenge this minister of the Word. In the aforementioned letter to the Corinthians, Paul elaborated on his extensive suffering:

“I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers,

in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”

1 Cor. 9:23b-28 NIV

Today’s believers face challenges. There are burdens that are carried (too often alone). None have surpassed Paul. He is a model of both ministry and suffering. He would remind us to “rejoice in suffering,” tied to these divine outcomes: “perseverance ... character ... and hope” (Rom. 5:3-5).

It is prayed that today’s Christians, as those of the past, can hold on to this mantra:

“I can do all things through him (Christ) who strengthens me.”

Phil. 4:13

New logo, same mission

A new logo for the LWML was adopted at our national convention last summer in Albuquerque, N.M. I think it’s important for us to re-visit the love and faith it represents to LWML members.



Mary Harrington
LWML District President



► So that His heart is impressed upon our own and by the Spirit we are blessed with joy and peace.

Our prayer is that this design will get people to take a new look or even a first look at LWML — Lutheran Women in Mission — and will give our faithful members a sense that their organization is looking toward the future and ready for 75 more years of outreach.

God’s love for us guides our service. Every mite offering, every Bible study, every prayer request, every mission grant proposal and completion is guid-

ed by our love for Him. We are blessed to come together freely in Christian fellowship to give thanks and praise.

This month, as we join our hearts and prayers to journey through another Lenten season, I pray that your heart is filled with God’s love and that your service to others reflects that love.

Be a blessing!



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