



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Motivation — God style



Motivate:

provide (someone) with a motive for doing something.

Vince Lombardi had a way with words about motivation for his players: “If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you’ll be fired with enthusiasm.”

Recently, I was looking at *Education Week*, an electronic newsletter.

One of the articles had this title: “Want Teachers to Motivate Their Students? Teach them How to Do It.”

My first thought was: With all that education, didn’t teachers learn how to motivate? That led me to think: Did the seminary teach us how to motivate the members that we would serve?

The simple answer is — yes! Preachers over the years have been trained to preach God’s Word so that “Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”

Why? What was God’s motivation?



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

“God so loved the world.”

This summer there have been seven seminarians ordained and installed in congregations in our district (see page 2), along with two pastors already serving in the field. At the installations, they affirmed to perform faithfully the duties of the pastoral office according to the Word of God and the confessional standards as recorded in the Bible and the *Book of Concord*.

Words to motivate and encourage them in their role as pastor came from Scripture.

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” — **2 Tim. 4:2**

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

— **1 Cor 15:58**

What motivated these men to go into the pastoral ministry? Ask them. For me, it was to serve my Lord and to share God’s Word with God’s people inside and outside His church.

Most of you who are reading this have been baptized. You claim to be a child of God. With that washing, there is an



expectation that you live as a child of God. Jesus said:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” — **Matt. 5:16**

We as Christians are to love God and love our neighbor. What is our motivation? The Apostle John stated it very succinctly:

“We love because he first loved us.” — **1 John 4:19**

If we were to talk about our motivation for putting our money in the offering

See **PASTORS**, Page 2

CALL DAY 2019

Call Day was held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., (CTSFW), on April 30. The night before, deaconess students and second-year seminarians found out where they will serve as an intern or vicar. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), held both events on May 1. **The following were called or placed to serve in the North Wisconsin District.** They are pictured with Rev. Dwayne Lueck, district president, and his wife, Cheryl.



CTSFW

From left, Joshua Schiff (with Shelly), vicar, Faith, Green Bay; and Paul Radke (with Katie), pastor, St. Luke, Elcho, and St. Matthew, Deerbrook.



CSL

From left, (front row) Richard "Adam" Bridgman (with Julie), pastor, Faith, Appleton; Kyla and James "Adam" Rodriguez, pastor, Trinity, Merrill; Brittany and Connor Wondrasch, vicar, Pilgrim, Green Bay; Matthew (with Aimee, seated) Bergstresser, St. Luke, Wisconsin Rapids; (back row) Lauren and Christopher Deneen, vicar, Peace, Antigo; Kyle Wangelin, pastor, Zion, Wausau; Ryan Anderson, pastor, Trinity, Vesper, and St. John, Sigel; and Timothy Smith, pastor, Trinity, Wausau.



Holoubek installed in Wausau

Rev. Scott Holoubek was installed as assistant pastor of Christ, Wausau, on May 5. Rev. David Wetmore, Christ senior pastor, led the liturgy and preached while Rev. Dwayne Lueck, district president, performed the Rite of Installation. Rev. Orville Jank also participated in the installation. Pastor Holoubek began his ministry serving as a licensed deacon at St. Paul, Marengo. He served at Trinity Lutheran Chapel in Cable while he was completing his studies in the DELTO (distance education leading to ordination) program. Following his ordination, he was called to serve as pastor of St. Peter and Trinity, Wausau. From left, Wetmore, Holoubek, Lueck and Jank

PASTORS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

plate, we may be tempted to ask: "Why should I give my hard-earned money to the Lord." Paul gave this reason:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." — **Rom. 1:16**

It is because we understand and believe the Good News that Jesus gave His all on the cross so we could have it all through faith in Him.

Going to worship every Sunday helps you better understand how God is working in our world today. Going to worship every Sunday allows you to leave with hope that God will continue to be with you during the week, through the reality of daily living. When you mess up, He forgives you. When things get tough, He will be with you. When things go well, you give thanks to Him. In the end you know what motivates God, His love for you.

Welcome the new pastors in our district. Give thanks for them. Encourage them. Pray for them.

The motive? "We love because he first loved us."

God leads, we follow

“He Leadeth Me” is the theme for the LWML Fall Retreat at Camp Luther Sept. 5-7. It is based on Ps 43:3:

“Send out your light and your truth: let them lead me.”

I have learned in my presidency to turn problems, concerns and issues over to God and He will lead me in the way He has planned. But I don’t always do this. As you know, when our plans differ from God’s, we experience frustration and worry. By letting God take the lead and following His plans, our problems are made so much easier. It becomes easier to let God lead as we read His Word, offer our problems to God in prayer and be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

At the Fall Retreat, you will be able to relax and let God lead you. You will be



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President



reminded of God's helping hand in your life as you listen and share in the Bible study led by Rev. Gary Schultz, based on portions of Nehemiah. Learn how God is preparing each of us with special leadership abilities. Rev. Schultz and his wife, Nan, will share memories of their many mission trips to Tanzania through the Pastoral Leadership Institute.

Kathy Altergott, past LWML district board member, will share hugs, laughs and tears as she presents “God Will See Us Through.” We all need to be reminded that God is always with us. He is our light that shines the way, and He will lead us though each and every day.

I would encourage you to enjoy the campfires and singing of camp songs, which is my favorite evening activity. During the day, enjoy the fun activities

planned around Camp Luther. The grazing table will be there too, but in a different location. This is due to the preparations for building the new Community Center.

You may register today for this retreat by going to nwdlwml.org and downloading a registration form, or by getting a form in the current *Mission Tidings* newsletter.

Soon we will celebrate Labor Day. It is a wonderful day to relax and reflect on God’s blessing of our jobs. This day traditionally marks the end of summer vacation and the beginning of the school year. This can be an overwhelming time for families and students. So during these last few days of summer, if you are becoming overwhelmed, remember to take it to God in prayer and hand your concerns over to Him. He will lead you according to His plans for you.

We are reminded in Matt. 11:28:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

May you be rest assured that God leads and you simply follow!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Marijuana: our Christian reponse

One could argue that this debate has roots in the first garden. It was a perfect place with perfect plants and animals. God gave mankind a special place in His creation and formed their bodies. All was good ... all was in harmony.

Then the great deceiver came on the scene. His broad goal was to corrupt what was healthy and holy. And he posed an alternative — Eve (mankind in a broader sense) could be “like God,



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:5b).

What lay in the balance was control and who would decide good and evil. Also, in question was whether mankind was qualified for such a pivotal position.

The rest of the story was not good. One outcome was the corruption of perfect creation. Unhealthy vegetation would now plague mankind (v.18). Now all was not good. Conflict with God also had its beginning.

Now we jet forward 6,000 years. In 2019, we face a controversy over the marijuana plant, with all its intrigue and complexity. We have entered a time when mankind wants to define its goodness for medical purposes. A growing

body of research points to its unique benefits. This research is relatively new, lacking fully conclusive results. (We might consider how long it took to determine that nicotine was addictive.)

So how does a Christian respond to this controversy? What position should be taken regarding the medical use of this plant? (The concern only grows when the recreational use of marijuana is promoted as another liberal step.)

A clear and direct answer is not found in Scripture. A specific reference to marijuana is not given by God.

An alternative is to use what God does offer. A pivotal reading is the following:

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with

See **COUNSELING**, Page 4

LFL essay winners announced

Thomas Jackson, a seventh-grader at Southern Door Middle School in Sturgeon Bay, has won the 6-8 grade division essay contest for Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin.



Thomas Jackson

Thomas, the son of Chris and Mary Jackson, wrote about how Lutherans are pro-life because they “recognize that we are all dependent on God, and we should support those who are dependent on us. We are not different from those infants, disabled and elderly.”

Jacob Kohlmeier, a senior at Milwaukee Lutheran High School, has won the 9-12 grade division essay contest.



Jacob Kohlmeier

Jacob, the son of James and Laura Kohlmeier, wrote about why Christians should respond to the sanctity of life that

is under attack across the world today. He said, “The Lord has ordained and caused the formation of every human life, and we as a part of God’s creation are not permitted to act as though we are God and decide which of his created beings are allowed to live and to fulfill their part in his plan.”

Lutheran students throughout the state were invited to enter life-affirming essays that centered around different life issues such as adoption, abortion and the value of life at all ages.

Both students have received an award certificate and a check for \$150 from Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin. For more information

on the next essay contest, please email lflofwessay@gmail.com.

CAMP LUTHER

Matching gift offered for new Community Center

We need your help! Over the last five years, Camp Luther has been securing commitments and gifts from individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations to help build the new Community Center that will include a dining hall and kitchen at Camp Luther, Inc.

Any gift made toward the new Community Center will be matched up to \$100,000 from Bay Tek Entertainment of Pulaski. You can be the difference in helping reach that goal by Sept. 15. Please send your gifts to: Camp Luther, 1889 Koubenec Road, Three Lakes, WI 54562 or go to camppluther.com and click “Donate.” Thank you for making a difference!

Join us for groundbreaking

Sept. 1 is an exciting day for Camp Luther as the groundbreaking for the new Community Center will be held. The festivities begin with worship at 10:30



a.m., followed by the groundbreaking and a picnic lunch.

Plan to join us for this exciting time for Camp Luther. RSVP for lunch by Aug. 19 at 715-546-3647. Lunch is \$8 per person.

Upcoming retreats

• **LWML Fall Retreat, Sept. 5-7**

• **Women’s Retreat, Sept. 20-22**

(For more information and to register, visit camppluther.com/adult-events)

Theme: Take Heart (“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world” John 16:33.)

Guest speaker: Elise Arndt (wife, mother, grandmother, author, Bible teacher)

• **Marriage Retreat, Sept. 27-29**

(For more information and to register, visit camppluther.com/adult-events)

Theme: Running the Rapids, “Canoe” Do It? (“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” Is. 43:2)

Guest speakers: Rev. Mark and Elizabeth Dregler (Mark is pastor of St. James, Shawano, Elizabeth is director of Student Ministries)

• **Fall Workbee, Oct. 18-20**

COUNSELING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

a price. Therefore, honor God body.” — **1 Cor. 6:19-20**

We have a responsibility for the welfare of our God-given bodies. We should not intentionally do anything to corrupt what is holy. What we put in our bodies must be examined carefully. Side effects, including spiritual, need to be considered.

This moves us into another arena with spiritual implications. A very contemporary agenda is “individual rights.” More specifically, it is the cry, “It’s my body, I can do with it as I please!” As previously stated, it is really God’s body.

Another matter deserves consideration. God gives us what we need, not what we want or desire. He recognizes our fleshly tendency to pursue, sometimes impulsively, what is not in our best interest.

God is in ultimate control over our lives, and we are to be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us—including the welfare of our human bodies. May all we do, honor Him as we live holy, healthy lives.

Contact me at revkohn@gmail.com or 715-610-2400.

Hearts for Jesus 2020

Now is the time to submit an application to be considered for Hearts for Jesus 2020. The ministry will be selected in early fall and in time for schools and churches to plan for the February 2020 Hearts for Jesus annual gathering.



Application forms can be found at the homepage of nwdlcms.org.