



/ APRIL 2018

DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

He rose, the battle's won

"He met his Waterloo!" Have you ever heard this phrase before? If not, it's in reference to one of the greatest commanders in history — Napoleon Bonaparte. His wars and campaigns are studied at military schools worldwide.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

He was emperor of France from 1804 to 1814, and again briefly in 1815. Napoleon dominated European and global affairs for more than a decade while leading France against a series of coalitions in the Napoleonic Wars. He won most of these wars, building a large empire that ruled over continental Europe before its collapse.

His collapse took place in an epic contest — the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium. On June 18, 1815, the French forces under the leadership of Napoleon were defeated by the Seventh Coalition and a Prussian Army that was commanded by Gebhard Von Blucher. The forces were also defeated by an Anglo-allied army commanded by the Duke of Wellington. The significance of the battle was simple — whoever was the victor would determine the fate of Europe. Napoleon lost. "He met his Waterloo!" This forced Napoleon to abdicate the throne of France.

There was another battle that took place



about 1,800 years before, at Jerusalem. The battle field was Calvary. The leader was Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Who was He up against — sin, death and the devil. Jesus of Nazareth won this battle — whoever would believe in Him and what He accomplished would be able to reestablish a relationship with God the Father.

The good news about this battle is that you and I did not have to participate; we did not get drafted into it. In fact, if you hear about the battle at Calvary, you do not hear about dead bodies under the cross. There were close to 50,000 that were dead and wounded at Waterloo. On that day called Good Friday, Jesus of Nazareth died along with two other criminals. This Jesus died because of sin that came about because of some people named Adam and Eve. On that Friday, it appeared that Jesus was defeated and that the enemies sin, death and the devil had won.

Then came Sunday morning when Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead. When it looked as if Jesus had been defeated, He won. He rose. What He accomplished through His rising from the dead is that He had the last laugh; He won the battle over sin, death and the devil. St. Paul said this about the battle:

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." — **1 Cor. 15:57**

About 14 centuries later, a German named Martin Luther summed up the battle for who was king with this observation: "Jesus Christ, true God... redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won (delivered) me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be (wholly) His own, and live under Him in His kingdom."

This Jesus had said while preparing for His ultimate battle:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." — **Mark 1:15**

The battle was fought there on Calvary because that is where Jesus went through hell. He paid for the sins of all the people of the world so that all the people of the world could believe in Him and have everlasting life. When He rose on a day we call Easter, He could

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By Hannah "Sojo" Ness
Program and Communications Manager

Since 1946, Camp Luther has been blessed to be the camp of the North Wisconsin District. Through God's grace, that special relationship, shared with the congregations and leaders of the camp and district, has provided the support that has allowed Camp Luther to thrive, becoming the camp we know and love today.

Camp Luther is in the third year of a five-year, \$5 million comprehensive campaign, Filled with the Spirit. This campaign supports the Outdoor Ministry Fund (general ministry), Every Kid to Camp and capital improvement projects. Over the last three years individuals, families, foundations and corporations have stepped forward with commitments to the campaign. The involvement across the North Wisconsin District in this campaign as an investor, volunteer, or champion in congregations is a tremendous blessing.

Thank you to those involved already in helping reach these important funding goals that enables this ministry to build up and encourage all people in Christ.

January 2018 marked the beginning of the Congregation phase of the Filled with the Spirit campaign. It is exciting to announce that already

**FILLED
WITH THE
SPIRIT**

many congregations have made a commitment to the campaign. Redeemer, Marquette, and Peace, Eau Claire, have both made a commitment

of \$100,000. By Jan. 31, seven other congregations were actively participating in the campaign. We are so thankful for these congregations stepping up in a leadership role in the campaign.

Filled with the Spirit is a blessing to camp now and for many generations to come. We pray that as you and your congregation learn more you too will be led to support the Filled with the Spirit campaign. Visit filledwiththespirit.org for more information, facility images and plans.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

celebrate the hell He went through and that He had conquered death as well. Easter is such a great day after that Good Friday.

The English and many others were very happy with the outcome of Europe after Wellington was victorious over Napoleon in the Battle of Waterloo. The result of Jesus' victory on that first Easter morning was very special to His disciples at that time and for all eternity. As the Apostle Paul said:

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

— **Rom. 10:9**

Jesus won the battle. He rose. He is alive. If you do not believe me — look inside the tomb and it is empty. He is not there. He is alive! Happy Easter! Celebrate!

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!" (*LSB* #464)

Send news to:

Karol Selle

(715-677-4877)

► selleks@gmail.com

► 3177 State Hwy. 66
Rosholt, WI 54473



District LWML to host summer mission trip

Plan to join others for a mission trip to Michigan. The group will leave on July 16 from Lamars Bus Terminal in Wausau, with stops in Stevens Point, Oshkosh and Milwaukee. The return trip is scheduled for July 19. While in

Michigan, the team will help MOST Ministries, Ann Arbor, and Gifts for All God's Children, Detroit.

MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) has offered the team the opportunity to participate in the processing of eyeglasses that are used in clinics around the world.

The mission of the Gifts for All God's Children ministry is to meet the needs and share the Gospel with at-risk children in southeast Michigan. The

mission team will help with a summer Bible camp and help organize school supplies for distribution.

The cost for the bus is \$110; individuals are also responsible for their housing and meals. A block of rooms is being held at the Red Roof Inn, Ann Arbor South.

For more information and to register, contact Lynne Johnson at 715-366-4642 or lafa@uniontel.net.

Still celebrating the Reformation

By Sierra Mathieu

Peace Campus Center participant and UWSP student

Early in February, college students from both Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point, and Calvary Lutheran Chapel, Madison, gathered at Camp LuWiSoMo in Wild Rose for the annual winter retreat. The weekend was spent building relationships within the body of Christ through various winter activities and indoor games.

The weekend was also a time for faith to grow as the students studied God's Word through a Bible study created by the Rev. Andy Weden surrounding the *Solas* of the Lutheran faith. Though we think of America as an area of the world that already knows of God and His Son Jesus, it's in need now more than ever of that reminder and the evangelical work of God through the body of Christ.

Sola Gratia, or grace alone, was the focus of the first Bible study session and informed students about the foundation of the Lutheran faith. With a firm reminder that human life in its entirety is lived in sin, the students learned that grace is a necessary and unmerited gift from God. God's grace gives us reason to rejoice, as it's a reminder of the burden that Jesus carries on our behalf as He works in our lives each and every day.

Sola Fide, meaning faith alone, brought everyone into a discussion about the origin of our faith in God and its significance. As the Bible conveys, faith is a gift from God that works hand-in-hand with grace — not a matter of choice or acceptance of God. Students go to school to study many things, but Bible studies are a great reminder of a spir-

itual need that is often overlooked and they are the fuel that keeps faith strong.

Lastly, ***Sola Scriptura***, or Scripture alone, conveys the singular importance of God's Word, made into flesh through Jesus Christ. The Word is an unshakable foundation for the Lutheran faith and the way in which God speaks to us today. This study taught students about the importance of remaining in the Word in order to keep God at the center of their lives and, as a result, in the lives of all those they see and speak to each day at school, home, work, and the rest of the world. God's Word is yet another part of our faith that can never be taken away.

As it is written in Eph. 2:8-9:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

We are dead in our sin, unable to do a single thing to obtain salvation. But that's when God mercifully steps in with the gift of His son, Jesus



Christ, who died for all.

When asked what we learned and how we would use it upon returning to

school, the general consensus was this: The *Solas* are essential to what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, and

we will put this knowledge to use by sharing our faith with others.

Gatherings like this one are what keep the body of Christ strong and united and demonstrate how God is at work through His children to bring news of His saving grace to all of the earth — even one college student at a time.



Along with Bible studies, the students enjoyed games during the winter retreat.

Go online for District Convention updates

The triennial convention of the North Wisconsin District will be held June 3-4 in Rothschild, under the theme "In Your Light, We See Light." Ongoing updates are posted at nwdlcms.org/nwd-convention.html.



NWD PASTORS CONFERENCE APRIL 16-17

Confronting today's gender issues

Johnny went to school Monday and came home Mary on Friday. ... Parents insisted on sending their 4-year-old boy to a church preschool in a dress. ... A kindergartener suffers nightmares fearing she will wake up a boy because of what she is seeing on TV and heard in school. ... A woman walks into the restroom and sees a man.

The above have all happened in our LCMS districts.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Weise, professor emeritus of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will lead the event being held at Camp Luther in Three Lakes.



Convention to feature Jan Struck

The women of the North Wisconsin District LWML are excited to invite you to the 37th Biennial Convention. Attendees will gather on Sunday, June 24, in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, 1100 Amber Ave.



Mary Harrington
LWML District
President

The convention theme is “Remember all His Benefits,” based on Ps. 103:2:

“Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

Our district is observing the 75th anniversary of the LWML in North Wisconsin.

Sunday evening begins with a Divine Service with Holy Communion at 7 p.m. and is open to all (including those not registered for convention).

The convention program includes:



- ▶ Jan Struck, keynote speaker, will address the assembly on Tuesday morning, June 26.
- ▶ Michelle DeRusha will serve as the Bible study leader.
- ▶ The Rev. Bob and Sue Pfeil are the mission speakers. Besides sharing the message of their service in Kyrgyzstan, they have much to share about mission opportunities here in the United States. Bob continues his service with Lutheran Heritage Foundation and Sue works at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, seeking financial and prayer support for missionaries.
- ▶ The Rev. Andy Weden of Peace Campus Center in Stevens Point is hosting an open house for convention attend-

ees on Sunday afternoon and will talk about campus ministry at a Monday luncheon.

- ▶ The Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner are coming to share the exciting news of their upcoming mission work in the Holy Land.
- ▶ Wendysue Fluegge will share her musical talents with us throughout convention, and she will speak at a Monday luncheon about her music ministry.
- ▶ Karen Carter will talk about opportunities to serve with Bethesda Lutheran Communities. She has developed a curriculum for children with communication problems, and organizes a volunteer program for those wishing to serve adults with disabilities.

God puts opportunities for Christian fellowship and service in our lives. We joyfully invite you to join us at convention. Registration forms can be found in the winter issue of *Mission Tidings*, or online at nwdlwml.org. Be a Blessing!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Good men falling

He was a man of great valor and popularity. He was a mighty man who ignored his vulnerability ... and Satan took him down.

We have heard the story of King David and Bathsheba. She was a bathing beauty whom the king could not resist (2 Sam. 11:2-4). The one-night-stand resulted in a pregnancy, and a premeditated murder and cover-up (v.5, 14-17).

In this sad story we find temptation and sin. We find a human tragedy that included sexual sin. It began with a nude female body and a man's corrupt desire.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

We find a popular playground of Satan. David forgot to flee!

In his book “Stand Firm,” Lynn Fredrick shares his story of addiction to pornography and sexual sin — and the freedom found through God's grace. He calls pornography a pandemic. He also shares these challenging facts:

- ▶ Pornography makes up 30 percent of the data on the internet.
- ▶ Sixty-five to 90 percent of pastors struggle with porn.

Pornography is a powerful addiction. It does not require an external agent to trigger the internal thoughts, though the former can reinforce a deeper corruption. Visual images are planted deep in the brain, but can be easily retrieved.

This is also an addiction that progresses quickly. Recovery is a long journey, and the success rate is low in contrast

to other forms of addiction.

The apostle Paul offers sage advice and reinforcement:

“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside the body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 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 a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

— 1 Cor. 6:18-20

Paul's reference to the Holy Spirit is significant. This Third Person of the Trinity is a vital force to overcome such sin and addiction. He is the more powerful agent who fosters transformation, and overcomes Satan.

Additional, key ingredients to overcoming addiction are the three “H's”—Help, Honesty and Humility. The battle is winnable, but not alone. To learn more about the steps to freedom connect with me confidentially at 715-610-2400 or revkohn@gmail.com.