

# District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

## the Happenings



### The President's Message – July 2017



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#### ENCOURAGING WEEKEND

This past weekend Cheryl and I had the privilege of attending the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Convention in Albuquerque along with 3,470 attendees. "Engage, Encourage, Equip, and Enjoy" has been the personal theme of LWML President Patti Ross and that is what she sees the LWML doing. The convention certainly carried out her theme.

It certainly was encouraging to those in attendance. They celebrated reaching their mission goal of \$2 million since the last convention and tacked on another \$75,000 to that for their 2017-2019 goal. The women heard reports on how their mites are helping children at risk, outreach to Jewish people, mission work with the Navajo, and outreach in Lebanon to the refugees.

Our District was well represented by Deaconess Betty Knapp from Redeemer Marquette as the bible study leader for the convention. Jan Struck from Appleton played the role of Katie Luther and brought humorous insight from the Luther home. North Wisconsin LWML President Mary Harrington from Shell Lake led our District delegation at the District caucus and in the Saturday night "Diamond Dazzle" Celebration.

Encouragement also came in the form of a check. On Friday afternoon, a check for \$109,000 was given from the Estate of Wallace Hamann from our District to Lutheran Bible Translators. (Wallace died at 85 last September 2016. He had remembered reading in the church newsletter - back in the '80s - about a missionary from Wall, SD, who came and spoke at their Mission Festival.)

There was the usual convention business and elections that took place. The overall atmosphere was encouraging and uplifting as those in attendance were encouraged to not only support mission work with their mites, but also to share their faith with those around them on a daily basis. Betty Knapp told how Lee Belmas shared his faith with Bob, an atheist, in Costa Rica. Lee gave him a devotional booklet, Bob took it home and read it; Lee still remains in contact with Bob.

The theme was JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL based on Philippians 2:9. The name of Jesus was lifted up in worship, in bible study, in song, and by the various speakers. It was very uplifting and a joy to attend.

When you go to a Packer game at Lambeau, a Badger game in Madison, or a local high school game, you go there to encourage those who are playing with the hope that they will play their best and win the game. When we go to worship we go there and hear again that we are forgiven because of Jesus. We hear encouraging words from Scripture and a sermon or prayer that gives us hope for the week ahead.

In our daily walk as parents we encourage our children, whether it is taking the first step, learning to ride a bike, drive a car, or pursue their dreams. In our daily lives we can encourage our friends or those at work by taking time to listen to their problems, praying with them, or sharing the hope we have through our faith in Jesus and His love for all of us.

***Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the North Wisconsin District-LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ.*** This is the District mission statement. The goal of the District staff is to encourage you as leaders while you carry out the task of giving direction to your congregation as you reach your goals in the community where you are planted.

NWD mission offerings encourage the work of others while supporting and encouraging the following: Wisconsin Veterans Home in King through the efforts of Chaplain Schwanke, students attending Peace Campus Center at UW Stevens Point through the efforts of Pastor Andy Weden, Pastor Knaack who shares the love of Jesus with the deaf throughout our District, and outreach to the Hmong.

You also support the work of Camp Luther and all they do with the hundreds of campers each year. You encourage the missionaries at five different locations in Lima, Peru. (If you would like more information - contact our office and we can send you some brochures that tell the story of your mission dollar at work.)

Recently I read this quote: "If your focus is on what you can put into people rather than what you can get out of them, they'll love and respect you." That is what encouragement is all about. Let's encourage one another.

Rev. Dwayne Lueck, District President

## **The Effect of a Great Principal on School Culture**

*Posted by Lisa Fields on June 2, 2017 at SchoolLeadersNow.WeAreTeachers.com*

I'd never considered how a principal affects school culture until my kids' elementary school got a new administrator two years ago. She was our fourth principal in a seven-year period. Instability had become the norm and everyone in our community wondered if we'd ever find the right principal. We weren't sure what we were looking for, we just knew each prior principal wasn't it. Then, two years ago, our current principal arrived, and something remarkable happened.

Hours after the first day of school ended, at our annual PTA-sponsored Welcome Back event, our new principal chatted comfortably with parents, students, and teachers—she clicked with every one of them. She was clearly invested in our children's futures. That night, she vowed to memorize the name of every student in school within her first month—and she did.

Since that first evening, our principal has done everything within her power to make our school a better place. She's carefully preserved the existing culture while adding new, positive layers of improvement. Morale was low when other principals were at the helm. Teachers transferred to other schools within the district. PTA officers had trouble getting approval for ideas or initiatives. Parents whose sons or daughters occasionally needed help dealing with out-of-control life circumstances were often told "No."

But with our new principal, a very positive vibe took over the school. Teachers felt motivated and supported, and they stopped leaving. The PTA had a willing partner to encourage participation among parents, and we were able to implement new programs. And parents with reasonable requests were rarely turned down.

The right principal can make a school a community.

*From DJ: Principals are in high demand across our LCMS. Identifying talented young leaders, encouraging them to lead, supporting their ongoing training, and working with them as leaders in ministry are critical steps in development. Spend time today thanking a Lutheran School principal for serving their community!*

Check out the full blog post here:

<https://schoolleadersnow.weareteachers.com/principal-affects-school-culture/>



*District Resources*

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## **News and Events**

### **Hearts for Jesus 2018**

Suggestions for Hearts for Jesus 2018 will be accepted thru August 1. [Guidelines](#) and the [application](#) for submission are posted on the NWD website.

### **Reformation 500**

Reformation 500 events in the NWD are posted on our [website](#) under About Us, Reformation 500. You will also find a link to the [Synod events](#) on this page. Please send us your event at [dj@nwdlcms.org](mailto:dj@nwdlcms.org).

### **A Church Growth Event**

Tried Everything? Still Struggling? Discover a VALUABLE untapped resource for Church Growth ready to help every congregation grow AND help struggling congregations not only survive but thrive! Join Zion Lutheran Church, Zachow (Rural Bonduel) & Family Crossfires Ministries on Wednesday, July 19th 2017 from 7-9pm at N4437 County Road F, Bonduel, WI 54107. A free will offering will be taken. Registration is required for Resources and Refreshments. For questions or to register by e-mail: [info@familycrossfires.org](mailto:info@familycrossfires.org).

### **Reformation Day Retreat**

Join Trinity, Boulder Junction on Saturday, July 29 at 9:00am for a day retreat celebrating 500 Years of the Lutheran Reformation. Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett will present "The Lutheran Reformation's Answer to Sin, Death, and the Devil". All the details can be found at [www.trinityboulderjunction.net](http://www.trinityboulderjunction.net).

### **NWD Church Workers' Annual Golf Outing**

Join us for the NWD annual golf outing on Monday, July 31 at the Merrill Golf Club. A [Save the Date](#) and the [registration link](#) for golfing or sponsorships are available on the NWD website. Join us for this annual event!

### **NWD Early Childhood Conference**

[Register now](#) for the 2017 Early Childhood Conference based on Joshua 1:9 as we focus on the theme 'Be Strong and Courageous'. Early childhood educators will gather on Friday, August 4 at St. Paul, Bonduel as we feature keynote speaker Kim Marxhausen and meaningful breakout sessions. Come to be encouraged, networked and equipped for ministry!

### **All Schools Summit**

The 2nd annual All Schools Summit will be at St. Paul, Bonduel on Friday, August 11. Instructional leaders from CUW will create a collaborative environment, focusing on best practice classroom management and building parent relationships. Nearly ALL of our NWD-LCMS schools and teachers attend this outstanding event. Registration is available on the [NWD website](#).



## News and Events

**Peru**—Check out the latest from our Peru Missions on the District Resources [website](#).

### **Shepherd's Canyon Retreat**

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat provides week-long counseling retreats for men and women in full-time ministry who are in various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds. Retreats are conducted at the Standing Stones Retreat Center located near Wickenburg, Arizona.

Upcoming Shepherd's Canyon Retreats: August 15-22, September 12-19, & October 10-17. All future retreat dates are found on the [SCR website](#) under the SCHEDULE link.

*Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an RSO of the LCMS - 480-588-8837*

### **Adult Gathering**

The annual NWD Adult Gathering will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at Mount Olive Lutheran, Weston. Our presenter will be Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D, President of Concordia University, Wisconsin. More information to follow later this summer.

### **PCWC 2017**

Registration for the "Thrive" Professional Church Workers Conference will begin electronically on August 1. Based on John 10:10b... *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*, John reminds us of his experience with God's steadfast support. The PCWC is held every three years to gather all the called workers of the NWD together with great value in being together, learning & worshiping, encouraging, networking and equipping! This one day event will be held Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Check out all the details on the [NWD website](#)!

### **SYG 2017**

**'HERO - Greater. Better. True.'** (based on Hebrews 1:1-4) is the theme for the State Youth Gathering on Nov. 3-5, 2017 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in WI Dells. Awesome activities are being planned including speakers from the National Youth Gathering, engaging Bible studies, offsite candlelight worship, and a waterpark lock-in! Details are available on the [NWD homepage](#) and online registration will be available in August. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

### **"17 in '17"**

Help the Theology Department at Concordia University Wisconsin celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by identifying and supporting Pre-Seminary students. We are calling it "17 in '17" and we are hoping to raise at least \$17,000 for scholarships for Pre-Seminary students. These scholarships will be over and above other financial aid that our Pre-Seminary students receive. Please visit this link for more information <https://www.crowdrise.com/cuw-pre-seminary-17-in-17-scholarship-fund>



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### **A Success Story – Peace Antigo**

*Written by Principal David Reineke*

*1. One sign of a strong school is strong enrollment. How has your enrollment changed recently?*

Our enrollment includes our three-year-old program through eighth grade. In the 13-14 school year we had 89 students. We dropped seven students the following year of 14-15. In 15-16 we had 90 students and in 16-17 we had 114. Now for the 17-18 school year we have 154 enrolled.

*2. What programs or efforts have made the greatest impact on your growth?*

Peace started a childcare ministry in August 2014. That has brought new families from the community into our building and into our ministry. Our childcare Director has done a great job of involving the families and encouraging them to be part of our church and school. In May we had 10 baptisms at one service and 26 total new members. The Childcare has boosted our school numbers in our 4K program which in turn has gained us more 5K students. In 3 years our 5K went from 7 students to 20 students.

Peace Lutheran Ministries made the decision to enter the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the 17-18 school year. We worked this past winter on preparing for this participation. The schools in the NWD that have been in the WPCP were very helpful in encouraging me and sharing resources with me. The key is getting enough applications into the program to cover the expenses. We were hopeful for at least 10 applications. In the span of 6 weeks, we had over 40 applications and ended up with 51 verified applications! Our growth for next school year looks like it will include 30 new students coming in through the voucher program. Of the 51 applications, 20 were returning students in 4K-1 grade. In addition to the voucher students, we have 17 new students enrolled for the 17-18 school year from our community. Lots of new families to share the Good News of God's Kingdom and bring to the foot of the Cross. What an opportunity God has blessed us with. Now we pray for wisdom and the Holy Spirit to work among us.

*3. As the principal, what do you most appreciate about your Pastor's leadership?*

Our pastor has been very encouraging to our Childcare Director and to me. He has challenged us to step out in faith and know that God will bless our efforts to grow the kingdom. We have a very unified ministry between our church, school and childcare as well as amongst the staff.

*4. Anything else to add?*

Our teachers have been very enthusiastic about the way things are going. The growth has meant flexibility in the grades they are teaching and how we can combine different groups for optimal learning to take place. They have been participating in TEC21 the last two years and incorporating technology into their classrooms. We have been using iPads the last four years and now are bringing in Chrome books for the coming school year for grades 6-8. The teachers play well together in the sandbox! I love how well they work with one another and show genuine love and support for one another.

May God guide and direct our path as we grow the kingdom here in Antigo and beyond.



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## **Counselor Corner**

### **PETER'S CALL**

It was a call from Christ Himself. It was personal and intentional...though it likely raised questions by those who knew him best.

He was Simon (Peter), a semi-successful fisherman from a fisherman's family. It's the only trade he knew. His resume' and references were limited.

Jesus saw what others missed. One word that would have defined this view was "potential." Jesus did not see who Peter was...He saw who Peter could be--past the rough, rugged exterior. Jesus saw a future leader.

More than any of the other 12 disciples, Peter became known as the one who would take on challenges...and also challenge his Master. His personality was a blend of impulsiveness and passion.

He made it to the "inner circle." Peter, along with James and John, were the advanced students. They were given special privileges and responsibilities. Yet all three had an ego that needed to be addressed.

The tempering for a lead role got intense during Jesus' Passion. At a critical time, Peter failed. His expressed bravado crumbled when the test came. Three times he denied he even knew who Jesus was. Gone was the self-confidence...shame and guilt filled the void as he "wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62).

He had "tanked" at the end of three years of discipleship training. Peter presumed the call was over. He had a long three days to consider the dismal future that lay ahead of him. Maybe it was time to throw nets for fish again.

Christ had other plans. Christ saw past the failure. The call still had a future.

Peter's failure was never brought up. Grace intervened. Peter was fully reinstated to his role as under-shepherd who would care for Christ's "sheep" and "lambs" (John 21:15-10).

Peter was destined to share the sermon that would ignite the early church (Acts 2). Peter, along with John, would stand boldly before the Sanhedrin, defending Christ (Acts 4:8-12).

Peter's past was defined by the Jewish leaders as "unschooled and ordinary" (vs.13a). Now he was recognized as one of the courageous witnesses who "had been with Jesus" (vs.13b).

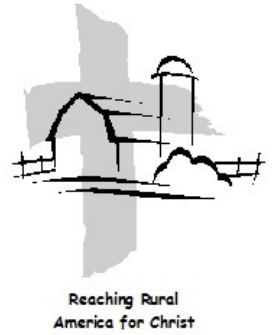
Peter fulfilled his call, through the power of the Holy Spirit. He proved to be a seasoned model for all who are called today. Success is not tied to perfection...but to perseverance.

Pastor Dan Kohn  
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## Rural and 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...



### Teaching the Faith: College/Young Adults

**I HAVE SPENT** nearly my entire ministry working with the young people of the Church, especially those who are college age. It is both exhilarating and challenging. Here are a few thoughts about teaching the faith to this age group:

#### Raising the Bar

I have yet to meet any single college-age young adults who complained that something was too deep for them. While many teachers seek to "dumb" things down or present material in a subjective fashion, young adults are nearly always seeking precisely the opposite. I am convinced that college-age adults can handle whatever depth of catechesis you might offer them, and the deeper the catechesis, the more they will want.

#### Authenticity

The young people of the Church expect two things from whatever you might teach them. First, they want the truth and they want it straightforward and unvarnished. In a world that is a gray sea of confusion around them, they are looking for that which is black and white. Give it to them. Second, they also want to know if you believe it yourself and are passionate about that which you are teaching them. If it means something to you, it will mean something to them. The opposite is also true: if it's not important to you, it's not going to seem important to them.

#### Make It Worth Their Time

Young people, whether in college or not, have less time than ever before. Nothing will keep them from returning to a Bible class opportunity more than believing it is not worth the time they invest in it. They are certainly dedicated (they can binge entire TV show seasons on Netflix over a weekend, after all!), but their time is limited.

#### Opportunities to Ask Deep Questions

Our young people have many substantive questions, and they are used to simply "Googling" answers. They need an outlet to bring up their own topics. In many ways, the depth of one's biblical understanding will be proportional to the depth of their questions. They have many questions. They are dying to ask them. Let them. And don't be afraid to take time to research things and get back to them when you are prepared.

#### Integrate or Segregate?

Many rural and small town congregations often lament that they can't have separate Bible classes or studies (especially on Sunday morning) for their high school youth, college students and young adults. However, you shouldn't assume that young people view this as a negative thing. While they certainly like to hang out with those their age, they also want to feel incorporated into the fuller body of Christ. In short, they want to be Church.

These are just a few of many tips for teaching the faith to today's college student or young adult. There is much, much more to explore. I invite you to join the free RSTM webinar on July 6 at 1 p.m. CST as I flesh out "Teaching the Faith to College Students and Young Adults." In the meantime, feel free to email me at [marcus.zill@lcms.org](mailto:marcus.zill@lcms.org) or call 307-760-7497.

*Contributed by Rev. Marcus Zill, director, LCMS Campus Ministry and LCMS U, and resides in Albuquerque, N.M. 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. If you have a good idea for outreach or a story you'd like to share so that we can share it with others, please email Amy Gerdts at [amy.gerdts@lcms.org](mailto:amy.gerdts@lcms.org). Learn more about us at [www.lcms.org/rstm](http://www.lcms.org/rstm), by calling our office at 888-463-5127, by email at [rstm@lcms.org](mailto:rstm@lcms.org) or "like" us on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm).*



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## **CPS News**

- ⇒ The NWD website now has 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>
- ⇒ Click [here](#) to read the latest articles from Concordia Plan Services:
  - Your Health Benefits Choices are Vital
  - Administrative Guides Provide Answers You Need
  - CRSP, ProManage Can Boost Workers' Investments
- ⇒ The CPS website is loaded with a wealth of information... [check it out!](#)
- ⇒ The 2017 versions of the Administrative Guide for Treasurers and Business Managers are now available:
  - [Guide for Treasurers and Business Managers](#)
  - [CRSP Administration Guide](#)

These Guides include tools and information to assist church treasurers and business managers in the proper administration of the Concordia Plan. For more information and tools, including videos, step-by-step forms, publications and more, go to the following link -- <http://www.concordiaplans.org/ministry-resources/plan-administration.html>.

### **NWD Financial Box Score**

#### **June 2017**

June Offering	\$145,790.88
June Budget	\$137,445.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$738,192.84
Year-to-date budget	\$793,677.50

### **North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

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