



/ AUGUST 2018

DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Keep the faith

In 1980, I led the youth group from the congregation of Trinity, Martinsburg, Neb., and the youth from a vacancy congregation I was serving (Cheryl's home church) to Kansas City to see a Royals game and take in Worlds of

Fun amusement park. Then in 1981, the baseball players went on strike. Afterward, the two groups agreed that if we couldn't go to Kansas City, we would go on a canoe trip. We made plans to canoe the Niobrara River.

We loaded up the two vans and headed out. We arrived, and took off in our eight canoes. It was a beautiful day with a clear, blue sky — a great day to float. We stopped and saw the waterfalls and kept going. We started to get spread out. Then things changed. About mid-afternoon, a storm arose with thunder and lightening. It poured. Everyone got their canoes out of the river as the water rose rapidly.

When the storm was over, we could not go back in the river. We finally got everyone together and walked back to the vans. We could not get home that day because the road was too muddy. We



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin
District President

stayed that night at the canoe facility, ate all their candy bars and slept on the concrete floor or in the vans.

The next morning, we got up and went back to get our canoes. We finally got out of there later that morning, but just as we were leaving, State Patrol stopped us and asked if we were the youth group from northeast Nebraska. They were checking as the telephone lines had gone down and parents were concerned if we were OK. It was an unforgettable trip for all of us. But thank God all were safe.

That trip reminded me of the trip Jesus and the disciples took across a lake. Luke tells us:

"One day he (Jesus) got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake." — **LUKE 8:22-23**

You know the rest. They awoke Jesus from His sleep: "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Jesus gets up, calms the storm and then says to His disciples: "Where is your faith?"

In that group, there were experienced fishermen who had been on that lake. However, it must have been some storm as they had to wake a tired Jesus from His sleep because they thought they were going to die. What does He do?



Only what Jesus could do. He got up and calmed the storm. Then he asks, "Where is your faith?"

The disciples were rebuked more than once for their weak faith. Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, says:

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" — **MATT. 6:30**

What the disciples were learning — the more they were around Jesus — was the power of His words. He spoke and the storm stopped. Jesus spoke and people were healed. Remember the Roman centurion who wanted his servant healed? He told Jesus not to come but

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'In your light we see light'



President Lueck, vice-presidents re-elected to three-year terms

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison reads the Gospel verses during the convention's opening service.

The Rev. Dwayne Lueck of Wausau was re-elected on the first ballot to his third term as president of the North Wisconsin District during the district's 52nd convention June 3-4. The convention was held at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, served as preacher for the convention opening service, held at Mount Olive, Weston.

The first order of business was the election of president and vice-presidents.

Re-elected were:

- ▶ **The Rev. Dr. Timothy Roser**, pastor of St. Paul, Junction City, and St. John, Dancy, first vice-president, Region B;
- ▶ **The Rev. William Plautz**, pastor emeritus of Faith, Chippewa Falls,

second vice-president, Region C;

- ▶ **The Rev. Timothy Shoup**, pastor of St. Paul Church and School, Bonduel, third vice-president, Region A.

The Rev. Donald Engebretson, pastor of St. Peter, Antigo, was elected as the new secretary.

The following were also elected:

Board of Directors

Rev. Aaron Gehrke, Brian Betts, Sharon Voight, Karol Selle, Kathy Strasser, Bruce Plautz, Paul Duerst, Stephen Fischer and Richard Bartanen.

Betts was selected as an advisory delegate to the 2019 LCMS convention in Tampa.

Nominations Committee

Pauline Jerabek, Rev. Matthew Uttenreither, Wayne Carlson, Rev. Tim Swanson, Paula Krueger, Rev. Ronald Mueller and Mary Harrington.

Meeting under the convention theme "In Your Light We See Light," from Ps. 36:9, delegates adopted resolutions to:

- ▶ **"HUMBLY** confess the six 24-hour-day creation as being in accordance with Holy Scripture," reaffirming the official position of the LCMS regarding creation.
- ▶ **DECLY** every form of racism in church and society — including white supremacy under the white nationalist movement — as being antithetical to the Gospel. The resolution encourages racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and society at-large.
- ▶ **ADDRESS** and help alleviate student debt among the district's professional church workers. The resolution asks the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors to continue its research on the topic, including identifying ways to alleviate student debt, and encourages district congregations and other entities to use available resources to alleviate student debt.

The worship offering collected \$2,831 for the Church Worker Emergency Fund as approved by the district Board of Directors at the November 2017 meeting.

Placements

Call Day was held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on April 24 and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., on April 25. Concluding students received their pastoral and diaconal calls, and second-year students received their vicarage and internship assignments. The North Wisconsin District is pleased to welcome its new pastors and vicars.



From Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, front row (from left) vicars Colin Moon, Pilgrim, Green Bay, and Michael Fox, Peace, Antigo; top row, left, David (and Jenny) Shudy, pastor, St. John, Black River Falls, and Grace, Alma Center; middle row, right, Andrew (and Rebecca) Belt, associate pastor, Christ, Marshfield; middle row, center, Daniel Ondov, associate pastor, Redeemer, Marquette, Mich. Also pictured are Rev. Dwayne and Cheryl Lueck.

From Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., with Dwayne and Cheryl are, from left, Grant Sorenson, vicar, Faith, Green Bay, and Matthew Bless (with his fiancée, Janelle Beckman), associate pastor, St. John, Merrill. Their wedding is scheduled for Aug. 14.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

merely say the word and his servant would be healed. He was healed and Jesus commented positively about the centurion's faith. It was also faith in Jesus that healed the Canaanite woman's daughter.

It is our faith in Jesus that will save us and we will have everlasting life, not because of what we have done or earned, but what Jesus did for us on the cross. He died for and paid the ransom for our sins with His blood. Jesus made that supreme sacrifice so that all can be saved. That is the Good News that we believe and that we need to share with all those around us. Jesus deserves our attention and our faith in Him.

If He is willing to go to the cross and die for you and me, then it follows that He will be with us in our storms and stresses of life. But you have to believe in Him. Just as He asked the disciples, "Where is your faith?" He can ask us as well, "Where is your faith?" We want to hear what Jesus said to that Canaanite woman, "O woman, great is your faith!"

If you are heading to the lake this month, do as Jesus did — relax. Take a nap. Let your faith know that you have a Lord who watches out for you and that you can trust. You can rely on and trust Him regardless of what life throws your way.

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!
(TLH 394)



CAMP LUTHER

Mortgage goes up in flames

By Hannah "Sojo" Ness

Program and Communications Manager,
Camp Luther

On Monday, April 30, the Camp Luther Board of Directors and the district's Board of Directors gathered for the burning of the Camp Luther Retreat Center mortgage. This was possible because of your generous support!

When the Retreat Center was completed in 2001, the debt on the building was nearly \$1 million. In 2015, the congregation of Zion, Oneida, took on the debt and allowed Camp Luther to pay it back interest free. Last summer, 16 years after the Retreat Center was built, the lower level of the building was completed thanks to your donations to the Filled with the Spirit campaign. In March 2018, the last payment was made on the Retreat Center mortgage.

Thank you for your support of Camp Luther! No more debt on the Retreat Center means we can focus more on our core mission of building up all people



From left, Craig Timm, Terry Hanstedt, Gary "Woody" Vought, Rev. Dwayne Lueck and Rev. Steve Hulke rejoice before burning the Retreat Center mortgage.

in Christ! And because of you, more children and families are hearing about the saving love of Jesus!

We give thanks to the Lord for His bless-

ings and faithfulness, and for the many people whose gifts and prayers made this day possible.

To God alone be the Glory!

Mission mini-grants are still available

Looking for some extra financial resources for a meaningful outreach event for your congregation? North Wisconsin District mission mini-grants are back for the third year, providing \$200 to \$1,500 to support your witness and mercy outreach.

Schools, churches, youth groups and early childhood centers can apply, but only one application per church body per year will be awarded and the application must come from the pastor.

Program details and applications can be found on the District Resources homepage at nwdlcms.org. Contact DJ Schult with questions at dj@nwdlcms.org.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Accrediting our schools

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) serves as the accrediting body for schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. NLSA has been accrediting schools since 1978, and accreditation decisions have always been based upon a school's compliance with national standards that reflect the essential qualities that are expected of Lutheran schools.

The purpose of an NLSA self-study is to evaluate the actual conditions in place that are related to essential indicators of school quality. These are evaluated and measured in seven specific standard areas. In order to become accredited in good standing with NLSA, a school must comply fully with 30 required indicators of success. Additionally, the school must evaluate itself on a scale of 1 to 4 (4 being the highest rating) using a variety of general indicators that quantify how it complies with standards in each accreditation area.

Ratings are established by the school based upon evidence and practices that are in place at the time of the self-study. Ratings allow a school to identify and celebrate unique strengths and address concerns that need corrective actions.

As a part of the process, each school is responsible to construct a school action plan based on concerns identified in its self-study. Actions are required for all conditions that have been given a rating of 1 or 2. The actions that are planned by the school ensure continuous improvement and schools are accountable to their district accreditation commission for annual progress.

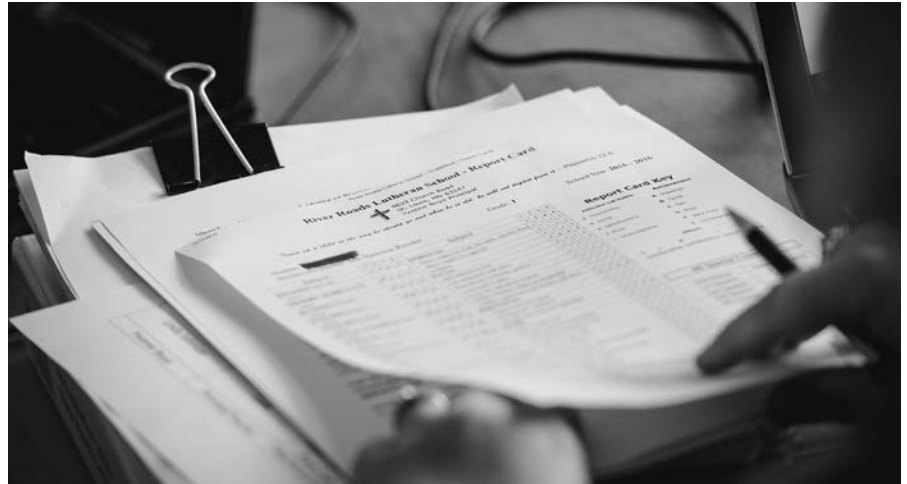
Upon conclusion of the self-study, an NLSA visiting team validates that the information prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual conditions



National
Lutheran
School
Accreditation

practices. If the evidence presented does not sufficiently support a school rating, the visiting team has the authority to change the school's rating in its report.

that are present at the school. In a formal, two-day visit, the team examines evidence, interviews school stakeholders, visits classrooms and observes overall school



Special thanks go to your North Wisconsin District accreditation commissioners, tasked by the National Accreditation Commission to review the documents of schools re-applying and the progress of schools currently accredited.

Your commissioners are:

- **Kathy Yahr** (Trinity, Merrill)
- **Jim Wegner** (St. Paul, Stevens Point)
- **Dean Frick** (Trinity, Athens)
- **DJ Schult** (District assistant to the president)

WITNESS FOR LIFE

"We want to spread the word and mission of Lutherans For Life (LFL). The organization is able to host a display and give a presentation to any congregation or group. Contact LFL at info@lfl-wi.org to arrange a date."

Paula Oldenburg
President, Lutherans For
Life of Wisconsin



UWSP graduate reflects on blessings of Peace



The following is an interview with **Melissa Wood** (pictured), a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Pulaski, who participated in the faith community of Peace Lutheran Campus Center throughout her college career at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). The Rev. Andy Weden, Peace campus pastor, conducted the interview.

1. How were you involved at Peace over the years?

My sophomore year I joined the leadership team, and for my junior and senior year I was president and the administrative assistant. In addition, I took the opportunity to go on five mission trips with Peace.

2. Describe your first time at Peace. What was it like? What do you remember thinking as a new student in a new worshiping community for the first time?

It was very welcoming. I felt like people wanted to get to know me.

3. As you reflect back over your years of being involved at Peace, how have you been blessed by this ministry?

Peace allowed me to stay connected to my faith with Bible studies and worship. I have made friends for life through Peace — that in itself is a great blessing. It's all the blessings that Peace has given me that makes me sad about not being at Peace every week.

4. What is one (or two) of your favorite Peace memories?

Mission trips for sure. Each trip



brought a different skill set and as a result I got to do an assortment of tasks. From walking across trusses on the roof of a trailer home in Nebraska, to helping at a food bank in Arizona, canvassing around Staten Island and Queens (N.Y.), and putting up drywall in Baton Rouge (La.) and Beaumont (Texas), each provided opportunities that I wouldn't have had without Peace.

5. In what areas would you say that you have grown the most while at Peace? How has Peace helped you grow in this area?

I would say in my confidence and leadership abilities. When I first came as a freshman, I was very quiet and always wanted to stay as close to my comfort zone as possible. However, by being in-

involved in leadership and through a variety of events, I began to venture out of my comfort zone and that's when I began to notice a change.

6. Would you say that Peace has helped you grow in your faith while at UWSP? How so?

Peace definitely has helped me grow in my faith. Along with worship services, being a part of various Bible studies allowed me to stay connected to God's Word. For many people, college can be a time when they don't grow in their faith, and without Peace that could've been me. I'm thankful for the opportunities to keep connected and grow in my faith.

7. What will you miss the most about Peace?

The relationships I have made with others. I have made some amazing friends over the past four years and I will truly miss hanging out and seeing them every week. College isn't always the easiest and being able to go through my four years with others that understood the feeling made it less stressful at times. Peace is basically my home in Stevens Point, and it's not because of the building. It's the people there that make it that.

8. Would you be willing to advocate for the support of Peace in the next community the Lord places you as you take the next step in your career?

Of course I would. Peace has been such a blessing to me over my college years and I'm so glad I came to Stevens Point. I want others to be able to have the opportunities that I have.

The Counseling CONNECTION

Fighting 'LIONS'

It is a story hidden in the pages of the Old Testament. It is a name that does not appear even in Sunday school curriculums. Here is a man whom God declared as a "valiant man"... "a doer of great deeds" (2 Sam. 23:20).



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

This warrior's name was Benaiah. One of his unique exploits was this:

"He also went down and struck

down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen." (v. 20)

This was a mighty deed that God did not ignore and is unique in Bible history. Let's see what lessons we can glean from this brief account.

We certainly have our "snowy" days that present increased risks. There is greater vulnerability on these days. Actual "lions" are rare, especially where there is "snow." Real lions pose no risk to Christians (except in the days of Roman amphitheaters). But other "lions" merit our attention. Peter identifies our primary "lion":

"Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." — **1 PETER 5:8B**

Peter is quick to point our sure defense:

"Resist him, firm in your faith." — (vs. 9)

These are clear instructions and far harder to implement when you are in the "pit" with the "lion." This is the time to do battle with the "whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

Christians can face lesser "lions" that pose a threat. These can include overwork, conflict, depression, addiction and sexual sins. Satan can work behind the scenes to increase the risk of these "enemies."

The ultimate Victor — for Benaiah and for us who do battle is our Lord God. We need to use the battle slogan of another "lion" killer — King David (1 Sam. 17:34-35), when he faced his giant Goliath: "The battle is the Lord's" (vs.47b).

If there are "lions" or "pits" you are facing, I'd like to offer confidential help. Sorry, I can't do much about the "snow."

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

Christ for veterans and their families

“For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up.

— ECCL. 3:1-5

At the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, one of the mission grants adopted was in support of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF). This mission grant will be used to host national training events for Operation Barnabas. MAF uses Operation Barnabas to provide a network of care through trained congregations that want to reach out to members of the military, their families and the veterans in their congregations and communities. So far, \$27,500 has been sent to MAF and the grant has been paid in full.

There has been an immense drawdown of our military forces, returning soldiers to civilian communities and their families. Thousands of veterans struggle with physical, mental, financial and emotional stress. This time of adjustment to a more normal pace of life with-



Mary Harrington
LWML District President



in our civilian communities is an important period and we want to equip churches to reach out to veterans and their families with the love of Christ.

The summer issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* magazine contains a number of articles about LWML members who are veterans or who are currently serving in the military. There are articles about wives and children separated from their husbands and fathers, mothers whose children have served in the military and a Bible study on "Peace Makers."

At our North Wisconsin District LWML convention in June, United States Marine Corps veteran Charlotte Hamilton of Menomonie

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District LWML celebrates 75 years at convention

Members and friends of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) met in convention June 24-26 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point. The theme was "A Bouquet of Blessings."

The 398 attendees worshiped together, were led in Bible study by Michelle DeRusha, sang under the leadership of Wendysue Fluegge, enjoyed a message from National LWML President Patti Ross, and were inspired by keynote speaker Jan Struck and mission speakers Rev. Bob and Sue Pfiel. Special luncheons featured Fluegge, Rev. Andy Weden, Rev. Robert and Kristi Roegner and Karen Carter. A banquet held on Monday evening included dressing as women of 75 years ago.

The delegates elected the following to serve: Becky Haltaufderheid, president; Sharon Hanke, second vice-president; Jody Cook, treasurer; and Rev. Douglas Reinders, pastoral counselor.

Also, the delegates approved a mission goal of \$107,000 for the 2018-20 biennium. They selected the following mission projects to support:

- ▶ Orphan Grain Train-Wisconsin Branch, \$15,000
- ▶ Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.-Food Coop, \$10,000



Celebrating 75 years with hats!



New elected to serve are, from left, Sharon Hanke, second vice-President; Jody Cook, treasurer; Becky Haltaufderheid, president; and Rev. Douglas Reinders, pastoral counselor

- ▶ District Professional Church Workers Financial Aid, \$25,000
- ▶ Ashland Cares, Inc. – Homeless Shelter, \$12,000
- ▶ LCMS Mission Central – Current Need, \$10,000
- ▶ Mission of Hope, Victory Lutheran Church, Gwinn, Mich., \$20,000

- ▶ Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations, \$2,500
- ▶ "Wonderfully Made" – Resources for People of All Abilities, \$7,000
- ▶ Derricks Family, Missionary Support in Cameroon, Africa, with Lutheran Bible Translators, \$5,500.

LWML

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

was introduced and we had the opportunity to thank her for her service. Her story and photo will be featured in an upcoming *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*; we are blessed by her service and by her love for the Lord.

On July 4, it was fun to celebrate America and the freedoms that we cherish. From parades, flags, fireworks and singing "God Bless America," we were blessed.

Let's go one step further ... there

are veterans who worship with us and to whom we have the opportunity to say "thank you for your service," but we also may have the opportunity to take the time to listen to their stories. When we offer our mites, we have the opportunity to say a prayer for the men and women enlisted in the Armed Forces and who may be serving thousands of miles away from home and family.

Our purple goes well with red, white and blue!

Be a blessing!



The Rev. Jonathan Frusti addresses participants during the 2015 Operation Barnabas Conference in 2015 in San Antonio, Texas.