



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN



was not being distracted and getting things done, but the lack of human contact and being around people was the worst.”

You may not have had to be quarantined, but you may have felt that way — isolated. You know elderly family members who have felt lonely. Family members have not been able to visit loved ones in nursing homes. There are people over 65 that are fearful of going outside their homes because they could get the virus. People are not coming to worship because they don't want to catch the virus. Many are working at home.

There are many people who may not be quarantined but still feel isolated and lonely.

“All the lonely people.” Even preachers during these times have feared going through what Father McKenzie experienced: “Writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear” (from “Eleanor Rigby” by the Beatles).

Our Lord was human. He experienced being alone. Early in His ministry, He was alone for 40 days and nights. (Ironically, the origin of quarantine is from the mid-17th century - from Italian quarantina “forty days” from quaranta “forty.” What happened? He was tempted by Satan, but did not fall to being tested ... thank God!

Jesus also experienced isolation and loneliness was on the cross:

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” —**Matt. 27:46**

See **MESSAGE**, Page 3



Quarantine: a strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of disease.

(from dictionary.com)

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others.

(from cdc.gov)

Have you been quarantined? We presently have six students from the families of our district staff away at college. Three of them have experienced being quarantined. Two of them came home and were not allowed to be in contact with anyone for two weeks. One of them was quarantined at school.

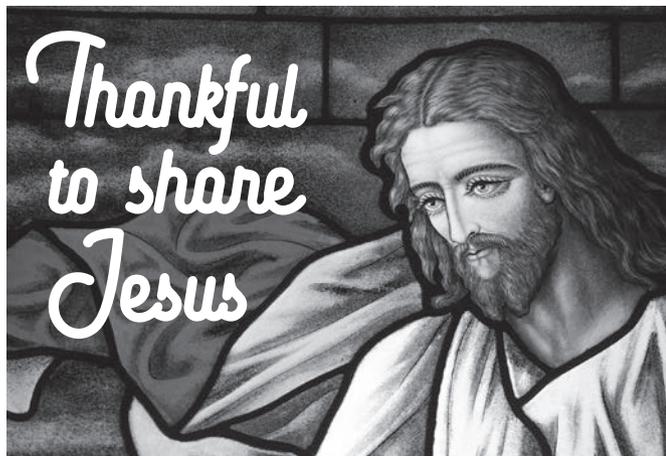
Colleges have set up separate dorms or hotels for students who have tested positive for COVID-19. I spent two years in isolation when I was a seminary student years ago, but that term was often used because our dorm was all alone on the east end of the campus!

When asked what is the good and bad of being quarantined, one our students responded: “The best part is you get time to think and the worst thing is you don't get to see anyone.” Another replied: “The good



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS



This year the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we worship, but it will never change the way we share Jesus with others.

We have worshiped Jesus virtually, with all of us “safer at home” watching on our digital devices or perhaps a recorded version on our local TV channel.

Since June, some of you may have begun worshiping in person by wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Some of you may attend drive-in services where you can listen to the words of Jesus in your vehicle.

Whatever means you have chosen to worship, we still are all fed His Word and take part in the Lord’s Supper, allowing us to go out joyfully and share Jesus with others.

Our LWML sisters and brothers have continued to gather their mite offerings and are grateful to be able to share the love of Jesus with others through our Mission Grants. Two of the 11 grants for the 2020–22 biennium are for missionaries serving overseas. Let me share a little about them.

“Sharing the Joy of Jesus in Prague and Brno, Czech Republic, Through a Mobile App” \$12,000

We are told in 1 Tim. 2:3-44:

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God has opened doors for Cindy Wrucke, LCMS missionary to Eurasia. Based in the Czech Republic she serves as Eurasia director of Communications and is developing a mobile app to allow those in Prague and Brno to access Scripture, prayer and request a free Bible. Through this app, families will be able to access information about a local church or email pastors with any questions they have.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President



Cindy Wrucke

Since most Czech people carry a cell phone but have never attended a church service, this app will explain the service and what to expect when they choose to attend the first time. What a great way to share Jesus with those that have not heard and tell them about Jesus’ saving grace for all people including those in Prague and Brno.

Cindy’s home congregation is Peace, Beaver Dam.

“Lutheran Bible Translators – Derricks Translation and Office Building Support” \$5,000

Lutheran Bible Translators called Elliot and Serena Derricks to serve in Cameroon and translate the Old Testament in the mother tongue of the central African nation. The Derricks have been in Cameroon for over two years and learned French in order to build on their next language journey. I have been following the Derricks ministry on Facebook.



Elliot and Serena Derricks

In August, they began a dialect workshop with 30 community members in order to determine how close the nine dialect vowel sounds were represented in the alphabet. Then they determined what dialect would be easily understood so that a dialect could be used for the Bible translation. As they worked with the community members on the dialect, they spent a day whistling various words to determine the tone of their vowels and consonants which they didn’t realize their language had.

Lastly, they had community members write stories and read them to help the Derricks understand the native language that will help with the translation and the ability to help the people of Cameroon read materials and the Bible in their mother tongue. What a task! Once this foundation is completed, they will begin to set up and use their office for translating the Bible for the people of Cameroon.

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching. — **Rom. 10:14**

These two missionaries are working to share Jesus’ love with others, and we are thankful they are serving the people of the Czech Republic and Cameroon. Please remember their work as you gather your mite offerings this month. You are serving as a missionary when you support their efforts.

God bless you and your families this Thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for all the gifts He has given especially the ability to share Jesus with others!

I am so blessed to serve gladly even during this COVID -19 pandemic!

Ministry Safe — Year 2

Our district's schools and early childhood centers again have access to Ministry Safe, an online training system for staff and volunteers to help prevent child sexual abuse. Ministry Safe can be used throughout the church, school, early childhood center ministry.

A best practice for ministries would include implementing a child protection policy and abuse training like Ministry Safe. This tool takes very little time to set up and monitor, and the user can automatically receive emails, videos and follow-up material. Best yet, the service is free to your ministry thanks to funds designated by the district's Board of Directors. Contact the district office to get started and to learn more about keeping children safe.

Church work students say thank you

With more than \$120,000 distributed this year to university and seminary students preparing for full-time service to the church. Rob, a fourth-year student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., shared the following:

Thank you very much for continuing to support me as I attend Concordia Theological Seminary! Your generous gifts have truly been a blessing from the Lord. I have finished my vicarage and am looking forward to returning for my fourth year in the fall.

God has been so good to me. I am thankful that he has used you to impart some of that great goodness! Thankful to share Jesus.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This was a cry of pain and loneliness. This revealed how deeply Jesus felt abandoned by His Father as He bore the sins of all people. Our Lord understands being alone. He understands pain. Thank God He was willing to go through that separation and pain so we could have eternal life.

We are grateful for so many things as we enter November. We remember our sainted loved ones on Nov. 1 and veterans on Nov. 11; and look forward to deer-hunting season and, finally, Thanksgiving Day as we nationally give thanks for all the blessings God has bestowed on us.

And yet, the best thing is still Jesus. He suffered alone on the cross, rose from the dead because He cares for you. He has not abandoned you.

You do not have to feel alone in the days of COVID-19 — even if quarantined. You know Jesus will be with you! You have God's Word that gives comfort:

The LORD will never desert his people or abandon those who belong to him. — Ps. 94:14 GW

Never!

The Counseling CONNECTION

Brother-to-brother and sister-to-sister

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."

— Luke 17:3b

Christ has high expectations for those who claim His name. He desires us to be holy; set apart for Him and from the world. This is especially true of those who are kingdom workers, as we all are.

So we face the dilemma of sin that separates us from God, who provides a way back to holiness. The work of Christ on the cross bridges the gap (Rom. 3:23-24 and 2 Cor. 5:19a, 21). Through confession comes His absolution.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

Forgiven sinners also carry a responsibility regarding fellow sinners. The opening verse from Luke provides the directive. We are called to "care-front," to "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15a) to a fellow sinner.

Let's apply this regarding a fellow worker. The observers of sin have a pivotal role to approach the sinful person within a space of grace to set the stage for confession and subsequent absolution. Accountability is also part of God's plan for purity in the kingdom.

By extension, when a hidden sin is suspected, there is a need to approach this brother or sister with the concern. The role is not to accuse, but to create room for truth to be shared. Here again, love is used for leverage to bring about the God-pleasing outcome.

In setting up such a meeting, it can be helpful to add a third, empty chair. Introduce Christ as the invisible One who sits in that chair. Now Christ has oversight in what takes place. It is prayed that Christ's "presence" will heighten the likelihood of confession. The "presence of Christ" can be reinforced by sharing Matt. 18:20. Jesus said:

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

In Christ's kingdom there is a welcome sign for sinners. Christ calls:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

— Matt. 11:28

The Savior's expectation is that those who come are ready to release their burden of sins. His response is remarkable grace and freedom.

Sometimes a brother or sister can take the hand of a fellow worker and guide him or her to that Christ-offered "rest."

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

Youth Ministry announces 2022 Gathering theme



After months stuck at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lutheran youth have something to look forward to in 2022. Planners of the next LCMS Youth Gathering — set for July 9-13, 2022, in Houston — have announced the theme: “In All Things,” based on Col. 1:15-20.

“Last January, we gathered 55 creative voices, including a group of Concordia University Texas students and Houston church workers,” said Rev. Derek Broten, associate director of LCMS Youth Ministry and Gathering program director. “After looking at Generation Z demographic studies, we facilitated a process of looking through Scripture to find a scriptural focus that would speak toward what this generation is encountering. We landed on the words of Paul in Col. 1:15-20, which highlight that Jesus is before all things, in all things and holds all things together.”

The Gathering’s 2022 Thematic Development document, written by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Assistant Professor Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger, said these six verses were chosen because, in them, “Paul accomplishes two significant things. First, he unambiguously announces the supremacy of Christ as Lord and God. Second, he does this by outlining the major movements of the Christian story in a way that encompasses all things.”

LCMS Youth Ministry also debuted the 2022 Gathering logo, which was

created by James Saleska, a graphic designer based in Frankenmuth, Mich.

The logo “is based on organic shapes that help convey the key messages of ‘In All Things.’ The colors are taken from the bright and beautiful Houston landscape and help remind the youth of the exciting and fun nature of the event,” Saleska said, noting that “these shapes are covered with a cross to demonstrate Christ’s preeminent nature.”

Despite the pandemic, LCMS Youth Ministry Director Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling said the impact on the Gathering has been minimal so far: “We delayed the release of the theme, and planners may have [otherwise] spent more time in Houston, but we will make up the time. We are in regular communication with our contacts in the city of Houston and those who work in the hospitality industry.”

The first resources for the Gathering — including the Thematic Development document, talking points and a media kit — are available at lcmsgathering.com, and more information is coming soon.

Follow Gathering news and announcements at:

- ▶ facebook.com/lcmsgathering
- ▶ twitter.com/lcmsgathering
- ▶ instagram.com/lcmsgathering



Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District *Lutheran Witness* insert. Why should you send them in? It helps remind us of what God is doing around the district. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ’s church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men’s or women’s group, servant events, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

We understand the church looks different in these days of the pandemic, but please share with us how your church is still engaged in ministry and what your life together currently looks like.

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at selleks@gmail.com

You may also mail your submissions to Karol at:

3177 State Hwy. 66;
Rosholt, WI 54473

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.