

# District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

## the Happenings



### The President's Message – August 2018



#### In This Issue:

- The President's Message
- Across My Desk: DJ Schult
- News and Events
- Counselor Corner
- Rural & Small Town Mission
- CPS News
- NWD Financial Box Score

#### CHALLENGED TO CHANGE

Remember the story of the rich young ruler? He came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus went through the commandments and the ruler said he kept them. So Jesus challenged him with the words: "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." What happened? "When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." (Matt 19:16-22 ESV)

Jesus challenged him. What Jesus was asking the young ruler to do, was to make a significant change and that meant selling his possessions and following Jesus. The young man walked away because he loved his possessions too much.

Making changes is tough inside and outside the church. Just try changing the time for worship or changing the hymnal or order of service and you as a leader will certainly hear it from somebody. Move the furniture around before anyone gets home and watch the reaction. Suggest changing the way you go to grandmas and see what kind of reaction you get. Change can be difficult.

Recently I preached at a congregation celebrating their anniversary and read this from an old anniversary booklet about their history: "Since attendance at the German services was dwindling, it was decided to drop the German services altogether and hold only English services. Since this change, both the membership and church attendance has increased." This took place around 1962. Can you imagine the discussion about dropping the German service? But it was dropped. The change was made and two positive things happened.

Our staff is reading a book called NECESSARY ENDINGS. The author states there are things that must end if things are going to change positively in the future. We discussed the following statement: **"Ask your team if they want to be where they are now a year from now or if they want a different reality. Then ask them what endings will be necessary to bring that about"** (pg. 156 - written by Henry Cloud).

That is a great statement to discuss with a school or ministry staff or church council. If you do not change you will continue to keep getting what you have. We have many smaller congregations in our district who are looking at the future and talk about closing the doors. That is a big change to discuss. I have asked leaders, "Do you see yourself still worshipping in 5 years?" And if they answer, "No!" there is only one more question they need to answer – "When are we going to close." If they believe they should close (FYI - only a congregation can make that decision to close) I encourage them to make plans and go out celebrating the many years of ministry God has blessed them with. Treasure the memories.

Jesus challenged the rich young ruler. The young man had to make a difficult choice. We have choices to make and some require change. Not all change is bad. Stop and think about some of the best days in your life – the day you got married or the day your children were born. Those were BIG changes and good ones. In the end we can always hold onto the simple fact that our good Lord has been with us in the past and will continue to be with us in the future – change or no change.

Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, District President



**Wednesday  
July 10th  
4:30-6:30**

**Cost: \$30/person**

**Food, friends and  
fun, Minnesota  
lumberjack style!  
All are welcome  
to participate in  
log rolling, axe  
throwing, cross-  
cut sawing, and  
cookout.**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Lumberjack Show  
(Log rolling, crosscut sawing and axe throwing)
- Live Music
- Climbing Walls

**MINNESOTA BUFFET**

- Pulled chicken sandwich
  - Walleye sandwich
  - Veggie burger
  - Corn roast
  - Wild rice salad (cold)
  - Sliced watermelon
  - Tater tot bar
  - Snicker salad
  - Ice cream
  - Strawberry shortcake
- Vegetarian, dairy free, gluten free and peanut free options will be available and clearly marked.

**Join the facebook group to  
stay up to date "NYG 2019  
North Wisconsin District"**

*District Resources*

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



## **News and Events**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- New Worker Orientation - August 28, 2018 - Camp Luther, Three Lakes - (Watch for Newer Teacher Gathering coming this fall!)
- Fall Pastors' Conference - Sept. 24-26, 2018 - Metropolis Resort, Eau Claire
- Pre-Retirement Workshop - October 19, 2018 - NWD Office, Wausau
- Office Support Staff Gathering - Oct. 23, 2018 - St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wausau
- Adult Gathering - Oct. 30, 2018 - Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston
- North / South Teachers' Conference - Nov. 1-2, 2018 - WI Dells

### **District Statistics Summary**

Congregations are required by Synod to submit annual statistics. Not all churches in our North Wisconsin District meet this requirement, but every three years, the year preceding the national LCMS convention, there is a more intentional effort for a better response. Our most current NWD statistics, reported by our congregations based on 2017 data, are shown in this [picto-graph](#). Often our church members are encouraged by these types of statistics, despite trend lines, reminded that God's church and His ministry is bigger than their Sunday morning pew. Pray for our churches and the pastors that lead them!

### **Early Childhood Director Regional Meetings**

This August the NWD is holding its first set of regional meetings for early childhood directors. Directors are encouraged to bring a guest or two: lead teacher, pastor, board chair. The theme is Telling the Story of Jesus. Telling the story is the reason our centers exist. Often the struggles of staffing, budgets and schedules push the intentional sharing of our Christian faith to the sideline. School leaders will share intentional ways to tell the story of Jesus Christ throughout their center. Meetings were held already held in Ishpeming & Bon-duel. It's not too late to register for the August 16th meeting at Trinity, Merrill. Registration can be found on the homepage of [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org).

### **Back to School!**

The LCMS School Ministry office has aligned the themes for the new school year, National Lutheran Schools Week and the suggested annual Chapel Talks to thematically connect our school and youth ministries! The theme for 2018-19 is "Real. Present. God." from Psalm 46, coinciding with the LCMS Youth Gathering in 2019, held in Minneapolis. Please celebrate and pray for the workers, students and families of our Lutheran schools. Even more, connect with the pastors and principals of your area Lutheran preschool, elementary and high schools, asking them how you can participate in their dynamic ministries.



### **Is Your Retirement On Track?**

The North Wisconsin District and Concordia Plan Services are offering you an opportunity to attend a pre-retirement workshop! This workshop is designed to help you as you plan for that very important transition in your life: RETIREMENT! Start learning what you'll need to know about making plans for your future. Join us on Friday, October 19th from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at the District Office. Visit our [homepage](#) for all the details.



# *District Resources*

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



## **News and Events**

### **Office Support Staff Gathering**

Office personnel are an integral part of ministry. They are often behind the scenes handling the details making sure things run smoothly and are communicated with the congregation and staff. The NWD is planning a gathering to encourage, network & equip these amazing servants on Tuesday, October 23rd. This event will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran, Wausau. Watch for information being released soon!

### **Adult Gathering**

The annual NWD Adult Gathering will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at Mount Olive Lutheran, Weston. Our presenter will be Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, former president, Minnesota South District. More information will be released soon and will be available on our website.

### **North-South WI LCMS Teacher Conference**

Nov. 1-2, 2018 - Kalahari Resort, WI Dells - Cost \$110 (Hotel Rooms-\$114 for a standard room). Registration opens in August. Separate high school focus areas planned.

### **LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) National Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2018 LCMS RSTM National Conference, to be held Nov. 8-10 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Hilton Kansas City Airport. Under the theme "Have No Fear," the conference will address the blessings and challenges facing contemporary rural and small-town congregations. The theme verse for the conference is Matt. 19:26: "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." The RSTM conference is open to anyone who serves, resides or has an interest in rural or small-town areas, with topics and resources specifically suited to the rural and small-town mission field. Congregations will be encouraged to become healthy churches, eager to bear witness for Christ, show mercy to those in need and develop a robust life together with fellow members. For all the details visit [lcms.org/rstm](http://lcms.org/rstm) or contact RSTM Coordinator Amy Gerds at 888-463-5127.

### **2019 National Youth Gathering**

Minneapolis, MN - US Bank Stadium, July 11-15, 2019! Looking for updates about the already planned District Event for the NYG? Want to sign-up on the Facebook group page to stay connected with your NWD NYG coordinators, Samantha and Tara? Check out important updates on the NWD website under the tab Missions/Youth Ministry or directly at <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>.

### **Mission Mini Grants Still Available**

Looking for some extra financial resources for a meaningful outreach event at your church? The NWD still has funds available to fund grants for local 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. Combining NWD Mini-Grants with Thrivent/other agencies is encouraged. Grants will be awarded to approved applications until funds are exhausted. Complete the application found on the [Financial Resources](#) page of the NWD website or click [HERE](#). Contact DJ with questions at [dj@nwdlcms.org](mailto:dj@nwdlcms.org).



# *District Resources*

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

## **Counselor Corner**

### **GOD'S CHOICE**

The Bible is many things. It is God's Story Book portraying the lives of select people. Those chosen give us timeless lessons about God and His plans.

We find such a story in 1 Samuel 16. God is ready to select the second king of His people. God's criteria was significant—He “sought out a man of his own heart” (13:14a). This was in contrast to King Saul whose rejection was tied to his arrogant heart—he had “not kept the Lord's command” (vs.14b).

Samuel the prophet was called upon to anoint this new king. He was sent to a small village, to an unknown family, to fulfill this task (16:1b). God's ways are not our ways...but they are always accurate. What is small should not be ignored.

Jesse was the father of eight sons. None were exceptionally qualified to be a king. God saw past their external, human qualities. There was only one who had a “heart” for leadership. God made this clear to Samuel—

“Do not consider his appearance or his height.... The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (vs.7)

God desires what is invisible to man. God seeks a heart of character...a heart of integrity. Such a person is humble and coachable—vital qualities for success.

Seven sons passed by Samuel. None were qualified. The one not chosen by Jesse—because he was too young...and only skilled as a shepherd—was the one whom God was seeking. David was anointed that day to be God's servant king (vss.12b-13a). The least likely became the most honored.

David would prove to be Israel's greatest king. He was also positioned by God to be the key descendant of the Messiah—Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:6a & 16). God sees the “big picture”—the fulfillment of His Story.

God still seeks and calls leaders today. His criteria and qualifications are unchanged. The heart condition is still His primary focus—for the sake of His kingdom.

For support, encouragement and counsel in your call, give me a call.

Pastor Dan Kohn  
District Counselor  
[revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) / 715-610-2400



## **Rural & Small Town Mission**

The current issue of Reaching Rural America for Christ is available at <https://blogs.lcms.org/tag/reaching-rural-america-for-christ/>. Check out the great article... "Pastors Leading Churches with Schools".

The newsletter is filled with enriching articles, resources, and information about ongoing Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events, Engaging Your Community (EYC) events and free monthly webinars.

*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. Learn more about RSTM at [lcms.org/rstm](https://lcms.org/rstm) or by calling 888-463-5127. "Like" us on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/lcmsrstm](https://facebook.com/lcmsrstm).*



- ⇒ Check out the [CPS website](#) for a wealth of information or head right to the '[Blog & News](#)' section where there are great articles including one about protecting your time by limiting distractions.
- ⇒ Visit the NWD website for 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>

## **NWD Financial Box Score**

### **July 2018**

July Offering	\$172,381.10
July Budget	\$173,062.50
Year-to-date total offerings	\$918,779.47
Year-to-date budget	\$942,750.00

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

3103 Seymour Lane  
Wausau, WI 54401

715-845-8241 | [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org) | [www.facebook.com/nwdlcms](https://facebook.com/nwdlcms)



# *District Resources*

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

