



/ FEBRUARY 2024

# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

### Celebrating our Lutheran schools

Recently I attended a 50th high school class reunion. It was great to see many of my former classmates and rehash the good memories. We looked at old yearbooks and remembered teachers and games that we won and lost. We were in the school together in the late 60s, when there was a lot of change happening. It was great! But as someone has stated — we tend to want to only remember the good times.

In today's world a teenager's life can be tough. There are too many teens committing suicide. Student anxiety, depression and peer pressure are some of the things that high school counselors are dealing with today. Health professionals say we need more counselors in our high schools. As parents and grandparents we are



**Rev. Dr.  
Dwayne Lueck**  
North Wisconsin  
District President

urged to stay connected, discover their needs, discuss their fears and listen to their opinions.

“CONNECTED” is the theme for our Lutheran schools as they celebrate Lutheran Schools Week this year. It is based on a familiar passage, John 15:5:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

What we teach to our children we as adults need to believe as well — stick to Jesus. He is the One who we need to stay connected to as He came to give life and guide our life as the Lord of our life. Students are the branches connected to Jesus by their Baptism and faith, just like their teachers who teach and lead them. Jesus stated:

“The branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine.” JOHN 15:4

We need to stay connected to Him.

We give thanks for our Lutheran

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## CONNECTED

JOHN 15:1-5



## Zion welcomes Pastor Paul

Rev. Preston Paul was installed as pastor of Zion, Cleghorn, on Dec. 9. Pastor Paul also serves as North Wisconsin District third vice-president. Pictured are, from left (front row) acolyte Isaac Paul, Revs. Jonathan Wessel, Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Preston Paul, Gary Paul and James Norton, lay minister Scott Johnson, crucifer Nathaniel Paul; (middle row) Revs. David Knefelkamp, Ryan Fehrman, Scott Johnson, John Miels, Bruce Richardson, Tim Jones; (back row) Tim Moe, Daniel Pfaffe, Mark Benning, Jeff Kazmierski and Brad Thomas.

## Meyer is now rostered DCM



James Meyer was awarded the director of church ministries (DCM) certificate during commencement at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), Mequon, Wis., on Dec. 16.

The director of church ministries was recognized as a new position in the LCMS during the 2019 convention. Similar to the director of Christian education (DCE), director of Christian outreach (DCO) or director of family life ministries (DFLM), DCMs are equipped to aid in various congregational responsibilities such as visiting shut-ins, leading Bible classes and organizing vacation Bible school. In handling these responsibilities, DCMs help pastors from becoming overworked.

However, a key distinction for the certificate is its focus on nonprofit management. The DCM program prepares learners for ministry by exposing them to a solid foundation of theological classes while interspersing courses that focus on nonprofit fundraising, marketing and communication, legal issues and change management.

Those who major in the DCM program at CUW can specialize in one of five areas, including youth ministry. Students with this specialization:

- Complete requisite youth ministry academic courses;
- Spend a semester interning at an LCMS congregation, specifically under a called youth director; and
- Participate in CUW's on-campus youth ministry teams, which regularly serve congregations throughout the semester by leading youth events.

## 'Friends For Life'

Lutherans believe that God is the author and sustainer of all life. They also know it can be hard to speak about the intrinsic value of that life when it feels like the world is trying to drown them out.



We join alongside one another as a community of Christ's redeemed people, who speak up for the sanctity of human life. In the "Friends For Life" podcast of LCMS Life Ministry, life issues are explored in a way that honors our heavenly Father's value of human life, serves our neighbor, and connects listeners to others who are doing the same.

The podcast can be found at [kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life](http://kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life).



# 2025 Gathering headed to New Orleans



Planning is underway for the next LCMS Youth Gathering, to be held July 19–23, 2025, in New Orleans. The theme will be “ENDURE” and is based on Heb. 12:1–3.

The Gathering office has been very busy preparing for the 2025 event. There is already a significant amount of information available on the Gathering website for adult leaders, volunteers, participants and their families. To see the latest news and information, visit [lcmsgathering.com](http://lcmsgathering.com)



## ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA

or [facebook.com/lcmsgathering](https://facebook.com/lcmsgathering).

The LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend

time together in God’s Word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the Synod. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry.

## NATIONAL24 is July 21-24

The National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference (NATIONAL24) will be held July 21-24 in New Orleans.

NATIONAL24 is a standalone youth ministry practitioner conference, but also provides an opportunity to prepare for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. The four-day conference is a great opportunity for:

- ▶ Adult leaders planning to take a group to New Orleans in 2025 and wanting to familiarize themselves with area hotels, facilities and restaurants.
- ▶ First-time adult leaders desiring to connect with other new and seasoned adult leaders.
- ▶ Adult leaders looking for training and net-

works which support your service as a youth ministry practitioner.

- ▶ Youth (high school) leaders in congregations looking for an opportunity to sharpen their skills and meet other LCMS young leaders through YouthLead training.
- ▶ Young adults (ages 18-25) looking to serve their congregation and the opportunity to serve the community of New Orleans through a young-adult servant event.

Adult participants will receive a complimentary registration to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Registration for NATIONAL24 will remain open until the event fills or on July 1. Visit [lcmsgathering.com/national24](http://lcmsgathering.com/national24) for more information.

## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

schools, where our staffs are driven by a commitment to the Gospel. The children learn as they get older the basics — that they have a God who loves them and cares for them. They learn that death is a reality we as Christians do not need to fear. Faith in Jesus means eternal life. Staying connected to Jesus means you can talk to Jesus in prayer and He hears you and watches out for you because He does love you. Our schools have educators who model faith and spiritual leadership.

Staying connected with our young can be challenging at times. But if we are going to connect with them, we may need to take the time and effort to ask them how they are doing and then listen. It is funny how much you learn about someone when you take the time to listen. Who knows — they may even ask you for advice. Be ready to open up and share from your vast wisdom and experience that you too had concerns and stress growing up. You may have the opportunity to share how much your faith helped you.

When Jesus saw Martha after her brother, Lazarus, died, He told her:

“Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” JOHN 11:25-26

She answered “Yes!”

Jesus said:

“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” JOHN 15:5

Do we believe it? I pray so!

May God bless you in your staying connected to Him as your Savior. May God bless you in staying connected with our youth today. We pray that God may continue to bless the efforts of our Lutheran schools as they teach the importance of their students staying connected to Jesus.

LWML



## The sisterhood

Several years ago, when my mother became seriously ill, my sisters and I had several conference calls so that we were all aware of the situation. After my mother went to be with Jesus, the calls continued. Now four years later, every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. CST, the four of us gather on Facetime to catch up on the week's news.



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District  
President

This same sisterhood is found in the LWML. We regularly gather in our groups and twice a year we attend rallies to catch up on what is happening in the LWML. We have an additional opportunity to hear what's happening by attending the national LWML convention in odd years and the LWML district convention in the even years.

The members of zones 12 and 18 are preparing for your arrival at the 2024 LWML District Convention at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Conference Center. The registration form and hotel information is available in the winter issue of *Mission Tidings*.

Come and gather with your sisters in Christ as we catch up on the missions we support and explore the Bible with each other by attending your group meeting, rally or convention. You are loved, dear sisters in Christ. Embrace the sisterhood!

## Share your news with us!

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at [selleks@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**Labor of Love**  
NWD Church Worker Grant

\$1,000,000



This image shows actual gifts through December 2023 to help reduce the educational debt of our district's professional church workers. We give thanks for the gifts and pledges already received and encourage others to give. Contact Pastor Lueck about the campaign or how to make a special gift.

*Set Apart to Serve* is an initiative to encourage future church workers. The cost of attending a Concordia seminary and university has been a barrier that leaders are working hard to address. Check out the costs for teacher education at [lcms.org/serve/set-apart-to-serve/teacher](http://lcms.org/serve/set-apart-to-serve/teacher) and pastor education at [lcms.org/serve/set-apart-to-serve/pastors](http://lcms.org/serve/set-apart-to-serve/pastors).



## Sign up for servant event

For more than 40 years, thousands of Lutheran youth and adults have participated in LCMS servant events, serving others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Servant events equip God's people to grow in their faith through serving, sharing Christ's love and developing relationships. Servant events provide opportunities for Christian service to the church and the world; include time for Bible study, group building and connection with other Lutheran youth; give youth a chance to live out their faith by connecting acts of service to daily life; and take youth out of their comfort zones and work to love and serve their neighbor.

Interested in finding out more about the LCMS servant events happening this summer, including the event at our very own Mount Olive, Weston? Visit [lcms.org/how-we-serve/youth/servant-events](http://lcms.org/how-we-serve/youth/servant-events).