



December 2020

Grace, Mercy and Peace in the Name of Jesus Christ,

Merry Christmas from the NWD staff! As another church year ends and we begin the celebrations of Advent and Christmas, we give thanks for the partnership we share in the Gospel. Despite the struggles of Covid and the polarization of elections, we have accomplished much in ministry together during 2020!

Your financial gifts this year provided critical ministry that most of our congregations could never support on their own. The North Wisconsin District is one of 35 districts in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, with a ministry area that includes the top half of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We host and support 215 churches, 3 high schools, 19 elementary schools, 30 stand-alone early childhood centers, campus ministry, Camp Luther, veteran's ministry, deaf ministry, worker counseling, and much more. Our mission statement describes our shared purpose:

*“Encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the LCMS North Wisconsin District to vigorously make known the love of Christ.”*

To accomplish our purpose and effectively steward your gifts, we have aligned our staff and your financial resources to support three key outcomes:

- *Church workers* will be encouraged, networked and equipped to fulfill their Calls and vocations.
- *Congregations* will be encouraged, networked and equipped to minister to the needs of all through Word and Sacrament.
- *Ministry opportunities* will be identified and resources deployed to collectively carry out Making Disciples for Life.

We have more to do and need your help. Worker wellness has become a more intentional priority as the stressors of ministry during a pandemic continue. Addressing financial health through Soldiers of the Cross and worker debt relief has started to bear fruit and will need more attention. There is so much more.

THANK YOU for your gifts and please join us in ministry in 2021! Pray for the workers in the NWD, that they may shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Pray for the ministries in the NWD, that they may proclaim through Word and Sacrament the hope we have in Christ. Pray for the hearers, that they would be changed by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Finally, give financially to the NWD.

Contact me at any time to discuss the ministry we share.

Together in Ministry,

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, District President