



/ JANUARY 2022

# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN



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

**“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11 KJV**

Those were the words of the angel to the shepherds. It was Good News that Jesus was born. As we know, the shepherds went and saw the baby Jesus, and “they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child” (Luke 2:17 KJV). They were happy. They were thrilled.

But the shepherds were not all that excited when the angel first appeared to them. Luke tells us about the angels appearing to the shepherds:

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **Luke 2:9 KJV**

Of course they were afraid! It was a normal night when, all of a sudden, an angel appeared. And what did the angel say? “Fear

not!” Do not be afraid!

“Fear not” is a familiar phrase in the Christmas story. The angel says this to Zechariah before telling him the good news that he and Elizabeth would have a son, the forerunner to the Messiah. Mary heard “fear not” before she learned the good news that she was to be the mother of Jesus. Even Joseph was told by the angel to “fear not” and take Mary as his wife.

We should also not be afraid. We should believe the words of the angel. Fear not! Have faith!

Fear, however, is a reality. People live in fear. People fear because of their failing health or that of a loved one. They fear financial stresses, job loss and concerns about raising their children or taking care of their parents. Many react by not eating, losing sleep or taking it out on those around them.

Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing wrote a book titled *Overcoming Life's Sorrows* (CPH). It is about the prophet Jeremiah and what we can learn from him. The answer to overcoming fear, according to Dr. Lessing? “What do we do when things look like a total loss? Renounce fear (**False Evidence Appearing Real**) and embrace faith. Faith? (**Forsaking All I Take Him.**) Him? That would be Jesus, whose perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)” (p. 264).

We hold on to passages that we have learned and possibly memorized.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for

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## Celebrate our schools!

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) provides our network of more than 1,800 LCMS preschools and elementary and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. NLSW gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.



## Teachers gather for conference

More than 800 teachers attended the North-South District Teachers Triennial Convention, held in November under the theme "Building Up the Kingdom," based on Heb. 10:24. Keynote speakers and breakout sessions were offered for teachers of all grade levels. Also provided was onsite access to a licensed counselor available for check-ins and private appointments. In the photo, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president, offers greetings to teachers from the North and South Wisconsin districts.

## LAY LEADER TRAINING

**Jan. 18**

The Lay Leader Training event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Trinity, Wausau. This event is for anyone serving on church and/or school boards. The two-hour event will include sessions on strategic, financial, ministry and relational leadership. For more information and to register, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) and click the "Events and Info" tab. Questions? Call the District Resources office at 715-845-8241.



## Team Ministry Workshop

The Team Ministry Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 27, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wausau.

This event is for those on ministry teams (the full team or part of them):

- Pastors and DCEs;
- Pastors and principal;
- Pastors and early childhood directors;
- Pastors, principals, early childhood directors, DCEs, business managers; or,
- Others depending on your ministry team!

The event will focus on crucial conversations. Participants will explore tools to personally grow as a leader and strengthen the leadership team. Time will also be reserved to collaborate with other leaders on team ministry best practices.

For more information and to register, visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) and click the "Events and Info" tab. Questions? Call the District Resources office at 715-845-8241.

## LWML



## A wonderful model

It has been my privilege and honor to work alongside our dear past district president, **Becky Haltaufderheid**. Becky has shared with us many of her admirable qualities, among them her gift of leadership, her love for the Lord, her gift of mentoring — and let's not forget her sense of humor! An amazing woman of faith, she has touched us all with her dignity and grace as she led our district forward in missions.

Many women of the North Wisconsin District, past and present, have contributed selflessly to the mission set before us of telling others about Jesus. As we go about our daily tasks, we pray for each other, for programs and for the mission grants that we support with our mites. We work hand-in-hand to lead workshops, rallies, retreats and conventions — but our goal always is to tell others about Jesus.

Our members have been blessed to know Becky and walk beside her. We will continue to support the LWML and will carry with us the shining example that Becky set before us, knowing that each of us is an integral part of our group and that we make a difference by what we do as sisters in Christ.



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District  
President

## Wellness Corner

# Encouraged!

He was a man of God who proclaimed the Word with bold confidence. He was also one who faced challenges and suffering in his ministry. This was Paul, who also shared words of encouragement to his fellow kingdom workers. We reflect on these select verses from his second letter to the Corinthians:

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. **2 Cor. 4:1**

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **2 Cor. 4:8-10**

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen are transient, but to the things that are unseen are eternal. **2 Cor. 4:16-18**

The trauma was real. These were challenging times in ministry for Christ. But Paul's focus was upward. He "finished the race" (2 Tim. 4:7b). He summarized the victory for himself and all the faithful:

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. **2 Tim. 4:8**

Along with Paul, we look forward to the day when we will see our Savior in heaven and hear Him say:

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

**Matt. 25:21**

We share this call to En"courag"e. Herein we extend the "En-ergy" toward "Courage." To Christ be the glory!

Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715-610-2400.







# Being a housefellow at Peace Campus Center

By **Steph Kumbier**  
Senior, UW-Stevens Point

**G**rowing up in a Lutheran household, I was always involved in doing various activities and service projects in youth group. I knew that when I entered college, I wanted to find a place where I could not only make friends but also grow in my faith.

My home pastor gave me information about Peace Campus (at UW-Stevens Point). I came to a few events and services, and the rest is history. It's hard to believe that was almost four years ago, and in 2022 I will be graduating, ending a chapter in my life here and starting a new one.

For me, Peace is my home away from home and a place where I can express who I really am. I've heard that the church is not a building, but a people — and that is Peace. Yes, we have our own building, but it is the people that make Peace what it is today. Throughout my years here I have made many lifelong

friends. Being a housefellow gives me a chance to give back for all that this place and community have given me. Just like the housefellow who welcomed me to this community my freshman year, I get to do the same and welcome those who enter our doors. Maybe a couple of years from now they will have the privilege of being a housefellow and welcome the next group of new students.

As a housefellow in my last year of college, I want to make the most of it. Being a housefellow is doing a lot of the behind-the-scenes work like cleaning, maintaining the lawn, and setting up for services, but the best part is being able to interact with the students who come here and show them all that Peace has to offer.

I thank God for the chance to serve my community. As my chapter ends at Stevens Point, I hope I can help someone else's chapter begin.

## MESSAGE

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good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**Rom. 8:28**

And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. **1 John 3:24**

Nevertheless, it is not easy. We do not want to hear, "Be patient!" The reality is that we may suffer for months or years.

So what do we do? We go back to what we know best — the simple truth. "Jesus loves me, this I know!" Jesus loved and cared for us enough to do the best thing for us. He suffered, died and rose from the grave, doing what we cannot do, because He is God and we are not! We are helpless, and yet in His love and through faith in Him, we will overcome sin, death, the devil and our worldly problems. It all hinges on believing in Him.

Does faith allow us to sleep better? Does faith take away anxiety and fear? Do you have a better solution? Try it out in 2022. Remember the words of the angel to all those people in the Christmas story: "Fear not!" It worked for them! It can work for you. Have a blessed 2022!

Have no fear, little flock;

Have no fear, little flock,

For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;

Have no fear, little flock! (**LSB #735, v. 1**)

## 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.