



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Don't overlook **HIM** at Christmas

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ... So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **LUKE 2:1, 4-5**

Luke tells us about the young couple who traveled to Bethlehem for the census as Joseph was a descendant of David. We certainly know what happened there — Jesus was born and annually we celebrate this blessed event. Or as Paul put it:

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. **GAL. 4:4-5**

Joseph was there to witness this great event in which people had been waiting to see for centuries. He seems to be a forgotten person. After all, he is not the father of Jesus. But he is always included in our nativity sets. As Matthew wrote:

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

MATT. 1:18

Joseph was the husband of Mary. He was the legal father of Jesus. He was told what we always confess in the Apostles' Creed — “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”

What else do we know about Joseph? “Joseph her husband was faithful to the law” (**MATT. 1:19 NIV**) and proceeded to MARRY MARY (giving us a MERRY Christmas!). He was present when Jesus was born. He listened to the angel who told him to flee to Egypt with his family, and through a dream was told to move to Nazareth when it was safe to return to Israel. We also know he was faithful in taking his family to Jerusalem as he was a worried parent when Jesus was in the temple.

That is it. We hear no more about Joseph.

Mary gets all the headlines. After all, she is blessed and selected of all women to be the mother of Jesus. She is celebrated as a saint on Aug. 15, but there is no day for Joseph. He certainly was betrothed to the right girl, good enough to be the mother of the Messiah. He was a faithful Jew. He did what his government told him to do and he listened and did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. Joseph was a good and faithful husband and father, and yet it appears he is overlooked.

My concern, however, that Jesus is not

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DISTRICT NEWS

Installations



On Sept. 25, **Rev. Corey Harman** was ordained at his home congregation, Redeemer, Marquette, Mich., and also installed as pastor of Trinity, Covington, Mich. Pictured are, from left, Revs. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Bryan Lundquist, David Weber, Chad Ott, Howie Neider, Corey Harman, Aaron Gehrke, Daniel Ondov, Kevin Bender and Matthew Ruesch.

Rev. Chris Schwanz was installed as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Marshfield, on Oct. 9. He is pictured at right with Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, who participated in the service. Pastor Schwanz had previously served as chaplain at Marshfield Medical Center since 2017.



District offers workshops

The annual **Lay Leader Training** event is scheduled for 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at St. Paul, Bonduel. This event is for congregational lay leaders serving on ministry boards and their pastors. Attendees will learn best practices and be better equipped to address the issues that arise in the congregation. Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck and his staff will cover strategy, finances, policy and servant leadership.

The **Team Ministry Workshop** is scheduled for Jan. 31, at St. Mark, Wausau. This event is for ministry teams large and small, including pastor and DCE; pastor and principal; pastor and early childhood director; pastor, principal, EC director, DCE, and business manager; and others depending on your team.

The event will explore the characters and lessons on leadership from the book *Our Iceberg Is Melting*. Part of the day will also include best practice discussions led by teams currently leading organizational change.

Registration for both events is open at nwdlcms.org. Click "Events and Info."

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

overlooked in our worship at Christmas time, that we do not take the CHRIST out of Christmas.

Stores have their toy departments ready to go in October. Decorations are out. Christmas deals are going on. Parties are being planned as soon as Thanksgiving is past. Much is spent buying the right gifts. This year is sometimes called a "preacher's Christmas" as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so there it not the special Christmas Day worship to prepare.

Christmas is all about Jesus and worshipping Him. Jesus is not to be overlooked. Have a blessed Christmas.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

MAY THE BIRTH OF CHRIST FILL YOUR HEART WITH JOY AND PEACE.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
YOUR NWD LCMS TEAM | 2022

LWML

Plans, plans ... and more plans



Getty Images

"If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your future plans."
(Woody Allen)

One minute I was getting ready to attend a zone rally, and the next minute I was struggling to get up from a nasty fall at home. My schedule for the next six weeks changed in the blink of an eye. One of my favorite things to do as a district president is to attend zone rallies, but instead I stayed home to begin the healing process.



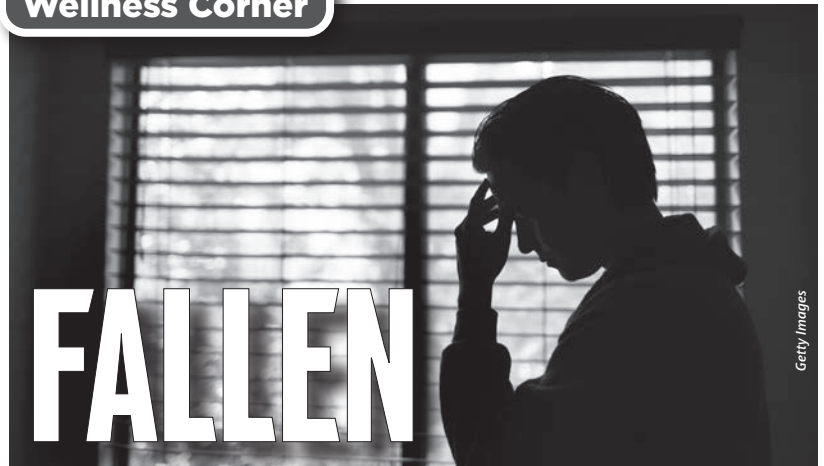
Joan Berquist
LWML District President

God's plan is always best. His plan for my time was changed from what I had thought my plans would be. Instead, as I recovered at home, I experienced among others the gift of healing, the gift of patience, the gift of receiving, the gift of LWML sisters in Christ who helped with the schedule, and the gift of peace.

In this season of gift giving, let us count the many gifts that God bestows on us. It is in His time, in His way and according to His plan, especially the gift of our redeeming Savior, Jesus Christ.

As Lutheran Women in Mission we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Wellness Corner



Getty Images

He was a chosen man of God. He was a mighty man in battle. His relationship with God was well established.



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

Then came the first crossroad. Crucial choices had to be made.

King David had not planned to see a beautiful woman bathing (2 SAM. 11:2). Choice one was made — David "inquired about the woman" (3A). This was the first step on the slippery slope of temptation and sin.

David learned her name, and that she was married to a man, Uriah, whom David knew would be on the battlefield (where David should have been). At this "no harm, no foul" intersection David could still have walked away.

The choice to sin was made:

So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him and lay with her. 4A

David ignored God and His Law. There was no innocence in his choice. The sin line was crossed. Sin has consequences. Bathsheba let David know that "I am pregnant" (5). This was a second crossroad. Now the choices were far more complicated. There is no reference of King David turning to

God. There was no confession.

Using his authority as king, David made the choice to bring Uriah home from battle. David's presumption was that Uriah would go home and enjoy intimacy with his wife, and it could be presumed that the child was Uriah's. Solution found, sin covered. Uriah refused to go home for an honorable reason. Why should he have this special privilege while his fellow soldiers remained on the battlefield (11).

A third — and darker — crossroad was now at hand. David made the choice to arrange for Uriah's death in battle and then, after a time of mourning, take Bathsheba as his wife.

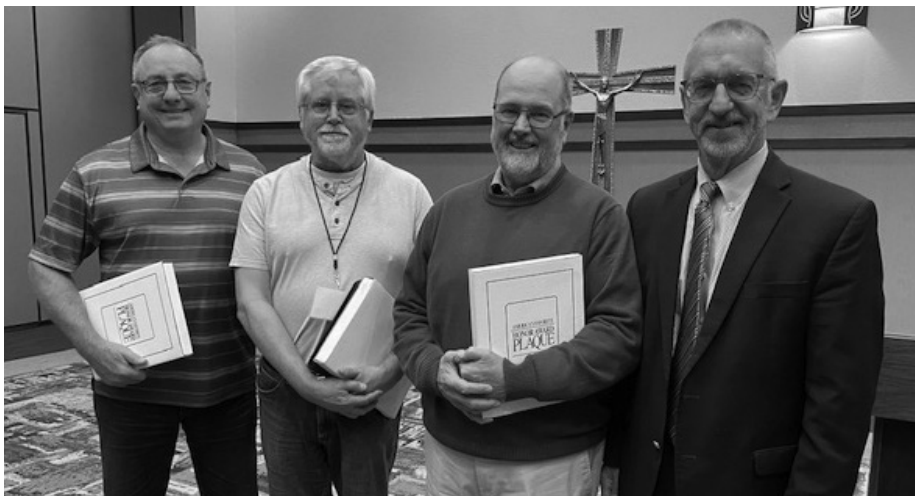
By now David had broken three of God's commandments: You shall not covet; You shall not commit adultery; and You shall not murder. There were three crossroads in which he could have turned to God and prevented further damage. David was now at a fourth crossroad — there was still no confession was heard.

It was now that God intervened. This finally led to a confession, and David heard the words of absolution (12:13). Though the consequences were severe, David's kingdom and life were preserved. The fallen one had been cleansed (Psalm 51).

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

Congrats, pastors!

During the North Wisconsin District Pastors Conference on Oct. 5, three district pastors were recognized for the 40th anniversary of their ordination into the pastoral ministry. Pictured with Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck (right), district president, are, from left, Revs. Mark Benning, Stephen Mueller and Steven Vaudt.



St. Paul celebrates 150 YEARS

On Oct. 2, 1872, 12 families in the Stevens Point area voted to establish a Lutheran church. On Oct. 2, 2022, members and friends of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, celebrated 150 years of ministry.

Nearly 500 people attended the celebration worship at the Holiday Inn Visitor and Convention Center. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and former “Lutheran Hour” speaker, delivered the sermon. Music included a 150th special hymn led by the choirs, as well as selections by the bell choir, praise band, and adult and children’s choirs.

Following the service, Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wiza issued a statement proclaiming, Oct. 2, 2022, as St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Day.

Send news to:

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Hearts For Jesus to support LeadaChild

Many schools, early childhood centers and Sunday schools participate in Hearts For Jesus every February. This school year we are supporting LeadaChild, which is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization.

LeadaChild is dedicated to “sharing the Good News of Jesus’ love to children through Christian education in third-world countries.

“We gather gifts and donations from supporters and use the funds to provide scholarships, school registration, and supplies for children so that they can attend Lutheran schools and after school programs. We also provide professional development for leaders and teachers at our sites, with an emphasis on effective ways to share the Gospel and teach Biblical truths to children.

“Whether our students experience modern classrooms with computers and desks, or are surrounded by woven grass walls, they are hearing about a Heavenly Father who loves them, A Son who has redeemed them from sin, death, and the devil, and a Spirit who fills their hearts with hope and salvation.”



For more information, visit leadachild.org.

For resources to promote the ministry, include a parent’s letter, chapel talks, coloring pages and videos, click the “Resources” link at the top of the page.

