



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Sent to Serve

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (MATT. 20:28).



Lutheran author Jane L. Fryar wrote *Servant Leadership* (CPH, 2001) and listed five values of servant leaders.

Servant leaders:

- ▶ Place a premium on service;
- ▶ Want each follower to live a life of significance and purpose;
- ▶ Value the freedom and dignity of the individual;
- ▶ Want followers fully to develop their gifts and abilities; and
- ▶ Value wholeness and growth for their followers and themselves.

Why do I bring up servant leadership? Because I believe it describes the educators, teachers, teacher assistants and day-care workers who daily educate, watch over and care for our children. By tutoring and carrying out lesson plans with specific planned outcomes and achievements, they have the joy of seeing students learn and grow.

The National Lutheran Schools Week theme, “Sent to Serve,” certainly aligns



Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President

with servant leaders. It is a special week for our schools to celebrate their unique place in teaching not only the three Rs, but also in being a safe place in our culture to share about the love of Jesus Christ and what He did to secure our eternal future.

Our Lutheran schools are important. Martin Luther had this to say about Christian education:

I would like to know where we are going to get pastors, school-teachers and sacristans three years from now if we do nothing about this.

Our Lutheran schools are doing something about this by teaching our children to be servants for our Lord.

During this time of the coronavirus, we have heard about people serving on the front lines. We certainly are thankful for those serving in the medical field. However, I do not want you to forget our teachers, who have really had to

deal with a lot of difficult situations. It started with learning to teach online and then dealing with going back to school with all the new safety precautions. It meant teaching not only in the classroom, but also teaching online those students who remained home. These teachers, too, have been essential — they have been true servants.

“Sent to Serve” are not merely words on a banner or just a theme, they are words that describe all of our church workers who serve their Lord. They came to serve ... and not be served.

Jesus was humble. Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. Jesus humbled Himself to become human and be born in humble surroundings, and eventually die on the cross and “give His life as a ransom for many.” He was the true, ultimate servant, as Isaiah describes in chapter 53.

Fryar quoted Robert Russel, who had this to say about servant leadership:

Servant leaders seek not to be

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Rebuilding in Iowa

On Aug. 10, Iowa was hit with an inland hurricane known as a derecho. Outside of a trained meteorologist, no one was familiar with such a storm system. In the days following the storm, residents of Cedar Rapids worked without electricity and cellular phone service to clear driveways and roads of thousands of broken trees. And, although the roads and driveways were reopened, the need for help was still great.

That is why a small team of students from Peace Lutheran Campus Center headed to Cedar Rapids in October. Although their time in Iowa was relatively short, the impact was great. The days were warm with plenty of sunshine and a generous amount of wind to keep the teams cool. The team, in partnership with King of Kings Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, worked at several locations.

The group from Peace left with the intention to help the community recover from the devastating storm, but little did they know that they would be blessed with an opportunity to strengthen their own sense of community as they lived their lives together in Christ while working and serving those in need in Iowa. The community of faith among the students was built stronger with every cut of a saw.

It is the same with the love of Christ. Through His church, acting as the hands and feet of Jesus, the community of believers at Peace Lutheran Campus Center reaches out to all people with mercy and compassion. Not only is this what we are called to do as followers of Jesus, but by the power of the Holy Spirit this service is used to help build up the body of Christ. The trip to Iowa gave evidence of how this is most certainly true.

MESSAGE

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served, but rather to serve. They view leadership positions as opportunities to help support and aid other people. Servant leaders visibly model appropriate behavior and function as effective teachers.

That is truly the definition of our teachers. We give them thanks for what they do for our children.

National Lutheran Schools Week is celebrated at different times in our schools and districts. Whenever it takes place, I hope you take the time to encourage and support all the activities that will be celebrated by the children in new ways this year. Take time to say *thank you* to the true servant leaders who have been called to serve. They are essential!

Jesus is love!

During the pandemic, love has been shown many times. We all saw love for family with drive-by greetings, visits at windows and many unique ways of helping others celebrate birthdays and weddings. We saw love for caretakers and medical staff in cities all over the United States, calling them our heroes. Love of Jesus and prayers of thanksgiving were shown many times.



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

We also saw when love for Jesus was not so evident during protests, racial unrest and destruction of property. Jesus' love did not always shine through, but His love for us never ended:

For I am sure that neither death nor

life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Rom. 8:38-39

Jesus' love is shown to us as we read His Holy Word. There are many people, in the United States and all over the world, who do not know about Jesus' love for them.

Let me showcase two Mission Grants LWML has chosen to fund:

In our district, "Introducing Muslims to the Savior" (\$7,500) was selected for the 2020-22 biennium. Lutheran Heritage Foundation has been supplying religious materials for church leaders and missionaries to share with Muslims all over the world. This material is produced in their own language to help introduce Muslims to Jesus' saving love for them.

Do you have a copy of "A Child's Garden of Bible Stories"? This is one of the books published in the Kazakh language to strengthen the faith of new believers and to introduce non-believers to Jesus. As you fill your mite box

this month, remember all the copies of this book you will have been able to give to Kazakh adults and children.

Nationally, "Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities" (\$100,000) was selected for the 2019-21 biennium. In the United States, there are many devoted first-generation full-time immigrants serving in the ministry field, reaching out to their ethnic communities to make Christ known. These church workers are attending the Center for Hispanic Studies and/or the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, both at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Most of these students work two and three jobs to help support their families as they go to great lengths to study and share the love of Jesus. This grant would help fund their educational costs. The 2019-21 national biennium ends on March 31. As you put your offerings in your mite box this month, think of all the people who will hear about the love of Jesus from these church workers.

God bless you this month as you share the love of Jesus with everyone you meet!

Blessed to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

The Counseling CONNECTION

The delegation plan

God is in the people business. He chooses and equips people for His kingdom work. This we learn through His Word.

God's choices often exceed human understanding. A frequent pattern is the choice of ordinary people for extraordinary work. This still applies today.

Having just gone through the Advent/Christmas season, we do well to



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

consider who were key players in this fulfilled "Love Story." We find a humble, obscure couple from the "hick" town of Nazareth along with smelly, lower-class shepherds. And the main character was a fragile, human baby.

We need to also include the Holy Spirit, who played a major role in regard to the virgin birth. This Spirit had far more to do in God's holy plan as we will uncover.

What God could have done single handedly, He chose to do through a handful of "least likely" people. All were essential in God's kingdom plan. It was a "team effort" aided by the Holy Spirit.

A further example was Jesus' choice of disciples. None had a pedigree of worth. Yet these would be the leaders in His church. Again, we find the "team" pattern being used. Each held a vital role in Christ's growing church.

So we come to the church as a "body" of believers (1 Cor. 12:12). Paul makes it clear: "For the body does not consist of one member but of many" (14). Each is called ... each is gifted to serve a vital role (15-30).

We again find the main Power Source who is often overlooked — the Spirit of Christ. He is the One who brings people to faith and equips them to serve.

Amidst the many who are gifted are those called to be "shepherds (pastors) and teachers" (Eph. 4:11b). Their select role is clearly defined: "...to equip the

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St. Paul's, Amherst, celebrates 160 years

Rev. Loren Zell, interim pastor at St. Paul's, Amherst, is pictured with member Kelly McBride, who put together events for Pastor Appreciation Month.



Founded in 1860, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amherst, marked its 160th anniversary on Nov. 1. It is the oldest Lutheran church in the North Wisconsin District.

Many of the first churchgoers were involved in agriculture and spoke German as their first language. When the church first started, it was served by a circuit rider who traveled from church to church. The pastor would come to Amherst on Sunday afternoons for worship and confirmation instruction. Such services were held at people's homes until the first church was dedicated in 1880.

The present brick building that still stands at 203 Grant Street today was dedicated in

1913. Additions were built in 1953 and 1989. Updates to the basement fellowship hall were completed just in time for the 160th anniversary.

The church continues to serve under the mission of "Reaching Up and Reaching Out."

As part of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, the congregation celebrated each Sunday with refreshments and fellowship to honor Interim Pastor Rev. Loren Zell. Kelly McBride chaired the events and added cake to the final celebration. Pastor Zell was honored with numerous gifts of appreciation as he served the congregation each Sunday with two services and with Bible study on Sunday and Wednesday.



Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District *Lutheran Witness* insert. Why should you send them in? It helps remind us of what God is doing around the district. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ's church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men's or women's group, servant events, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. We understand the church looks different these days, but please share with us how your church is still engaged in ministry and what your life together currently looks like.

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at 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.

KINGDOM

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saints for works of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (12-13).

There is a pattern here that follows that of God Himself. There is a delegation of responsibility in the fulfillment of His kingdom work. God the Spirit partners with chosen people (often ordinary) to accomplish the assigned service.

Together as a team, we fulfill God's kingdom work. We are not called to do this work alone, but through gifted, fellow workers. Success is a shared experience!

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