



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

# Peru – our district mission



Vicar Elvis Carrera prays during Divine Service. He will be ordained this summer.



Rev. Walterson Siewert is pictured with his wife, Estefania, and their daughter, Isabella.

In his book *First Christmas*, Rev. Dr. Paul L. Mai-er said this about the Wise Men:

"The safest conclusion is that the Magi of Christmas were Persian. ... Whatever their origin, the visit of the eastern sages was of great significance for later Christianity: the wise men were pagans, not Hebrews, and the fact that gentile magi performed the same adoration as Jewish shepherds symbolized the universal outreach for future Christianity. 'And gentiles shall come to your light,' the prophet Isaiah had written, 'and kings to the brightness of your rising' (Is. 60:3)."

For this reason, the church gives special attention to missions during Epiphany. Jesus came to save *all* people from their sins.

For the past few years, from the mission dollars given by district congregations, the North Wisconsin District has been supporting the LCMS mission work in Lima, Peru.

Leaders from districts and congregations that support the work met in Lima in November for a semi-annual FORO (English translation is "forum"), in which the mission workers share what has taken



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

place and their future plans. Bill Jordan and I represented our district. We heard the reports as well as visited mission sites.

### La Victoria District

Rev. Osmel Soliz, a Lutheran alliance missionary from Bolivia, shared this report:

- ▶ Eight adults and four teenagers were confirmed.
- ▶ One person was baptized and two are pending.
- ▶ In April, the children of Castillo Fuerte, a mercy house run by LCMS missionaries, produced a play about Holy Week at San German Park, with 150 people attending. The cast included 40 children and three moms. Food and fellowship were shared, and new contacts were made. They were also planning a Christmas play.
- ▶ In May, a Mother's Day event was held with 18 women attending. Activities included an art workshop and a talk by a volunteer psychologist. The event ended with Divine Service and most participated.
- ▶ In June, 13 parents attended a Father's Day event.
- ▶ In July, a short-term mission team helped with music lessons for children. More than 70 people attended.
- ▶ An average of 21 children attend Sunday school and worship.

### Los Olivos District

Rev. Walterson Siewert, a Lutheran alliance missionary from Paraguay, joined

See MESSAGE, Page 2

## Congrats!

Rev. Scott Malme, senior pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Green Bay, is the first recipient of the district School Shepherd Award. The award is given to honor a pastor who has provided outstanding encouragement, support and service to his school. The district award was established in 2019 using criteria from the similar process used by National Lutheran School Accreditation. The national award recognizes only one pastor from all the



national schools receiving accreditation that calendar year. The North Wisconsin District's award could recognize multiple district candidates that meet the qualifications.



A meal is served at Castillo Fuerte, a mercy house in Lima that provides a Christian haven for children of the La Victoria District. The children, who would be left to wander the streets, receive mentoring and hear God's Word.

## MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the mission efforts in Peru and was installed while we were there. Among his projects are to find a bigger place for worship and additional rooms to conduct classes for children and fellowship activities. Future plans include activities that reach out into the community.

There are also plans to create a Facebook page and use radio to spread the word of their ministry, with hopes of increasing participation in short-term mission teams in the Los Olivos neighborhood.

Vicar Elvis Carrera is a native of Lima and is helping with ministry in both districts. He will complete his studies at Concordia Reformer Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic this spring and will be ordained on June 28. This is great news for the Peru mission — to have a Peruvian serving as pastor.

### Short-term mission teams

We learned about the importance of short-term mission teams, the difference they make and the need for more teams. We were encouraged to share this when we returned home. So if you or someone you know is interested in forming a team to go to Peru and help with the vital mission work, visit [servenow.lcms.org/opp/park-beautification-team-peru](http://servenow.lcms.org/opp/park-beautification-team-peru).

Please call give me a call if you have further questions.

I was happy to see the progress of this mission by those serving in Lima, and learn of their continued plans for Gospel outreach. The support of our district is very crucial and necessary for this ministry to continue.

Interested in hearing firsthand about the Lima mission? Call me and I would be happy to set up a time to talk about it. If you would like to make a contribution directly to help support this mission work, you may send a check to the North Wisconsin District. Please write "PERU" in the memo line.

Jesus came for the shepherds, the wise men, you and me — and those in Lima. Please keep the mission workers in Peru in your prayers, that God would bless their efforts to share the love of Jesus. Have a blessed Epiphany!



Under the theme *Joyfully Lutheran*, National Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 26-Feb. 1. The week provides nearly 2,000 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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. National Lutheran Schools Week gives an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.



Download free resources at  
**lcms.org/  
lutheranschoolsweek**

# Check your vision

Happy New Year!

It's 2020 — I think of eyesight as I look at the combination of numbers. Many of us wish we had 20/20 vision. As I searched for the word "sight" on my Bible app, it appears 150 times throughout the Bible. After the fall of man, we read in Gen. 6:11:

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight."

Continuing through the Bible, we read about the sight of cities, family members and the Israelites, and how people of the Old Testament were seen in God's sight. Moving into the New Testament, we read many times on Jesus restoring sight



**Becky Haltaufderheid**  
LWML District President

to the blind and opening the spiritual eyesight of many people as He performed miracles among them.

The North Wisconsin District LWML holds onto this theme as the convention committee plans the 38th Biennial Convention, to be held June 14-16 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay. The theme is "Jesus Be My Vision," based on 2 Cor. 5:7: "Walk by faith, not by sight." When we walk without having our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, our sight is not clear and we stumble and fall. By fixing our eyes on Jesus, our vision is 20/20.



The convention committee has been working diligently.

- ▶ Past LWML President Linda Reiser will be our keynote and luncheon speaker.
- ▶ Schawn Starfeldt of Greenville is excited to serve as our Bible study leader.

- ▶ Tim Young Eagle of Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM) will be the Mites in Motion speaker and will share how our mission grant has impacted the people of LIM.
- ▶ Deacon Bob and Deon Prue from Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministry in Kansas will be back to tell us more about their work with LIM.
- ▶ Mission speakers Cynthia Khan and Joy Markus of POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) will share on their mission work with Muslims who have converted to Christianity. They will also share about POBLO's work with ESL programs in the United States, including two locations in the Milwaukee.

I am excited to invite you to convention this summer. You can find more information in the 2020 Winter edition of *Mission Tidings* or by visiting [nwldwml.org](http://nwldwml.org). I'm hoping to see you in Green Bay!

May you be blessed this year with 20/20 vision as you fix your eyes on Jesus and walk with Him in faith.

Blessed to serve!

## The Counseling CONNECTION

### Wall builder(s)

His background was obscure. We find him as an exile in a foreign land. He is the recipient of bad news regarding his home city. Nehemiah learned that the walls of Jerusalem were "broken down" (Neh. 1:3b). There is great shame over the condition of this once-great city.



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

Nehemiah takes action. He begins with prayer to God (1:4-11a). He now finds the courage to speak to the foreign king, whom he serves under as a cupbearer (1:11b). He gains approval and support to return and do this work (Neh. 2:1-8). Nehemiah's first task back in Jerusalem

is to survey the condition of the walls (2:11-16). Then he assembled the Jewish leaders in the city and called them to action:

"Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." — **Neh. 2:17b**

This was the necessary rallying cry that spurred the Jews to action. The work began in earnest. An opposition force was challenged, and the rebuilding continued.

This story is one of glorious victory. Under God's provision and protection, and the persistent work of the joined people, the wall was rebuilt in 52 days (Neh. 6:15)! The naysayers were silenced and the sound of celebration was heard!

Now we consider this context. Ministry can be filled with challenges. The "walls" can seem daunting. The work can seem overwhelming.

What is needed is a rallying cry that inspires shared effort. What is needed is one to "stand in the gap" and be the courageous, persistent leader who helps maintain momentum and challenge any opponents.

What stands behind it all is faith in what God desires to accomplish through human means. This is "faith (in) the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). This is trust in our God, who excels in the midst of challenge!

We are sustained in the midst of it all by the words of Paul, who endured a multitude of human challenges in his work for Christ (2 Cor. 11:23-31). We can be inspired by his encouragement:

"And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." — **Gal. 6:9**

Here is a pivotal question: What can you accomplish in 52 days with God's help?

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

## Trinity students in mission



Since 2015, students at Trinity Lutheran School, Wausau, have supported schools in Nicaragua. The schools are in communities that have no electricity, running water, indoor plumbing and roads. Francisco Oporta grew up in one of these communities before attending Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. A former teacher in Nicaragua, today Francisco works with non-profit organizations overseeing these schools that have no books and supplies.

For two years, Trinity students gave their chapel offerings to support Francisco's endeavors. Both students and congregation members donated new and used school supplies and sporting equipment. Francisco was able to purchase textbooks, religious books, library books and other resources. The Nicaraguan schools receive little support from the gov-

ernment, but daily instruction can include devotions, Bible time and prayers.

Over the last three years, the Trinity children decided to have a "Penny War." During this time, students were challenged to raise money for textbooks, library books, Bibles, dictionaries and white boards. Other projects included a new roof for a

school, five new latrines and chair repairs.

In the last five years, Trinity has touched the lives of 1,600 students in 37 schools. They have gotten to know Francisco and his wife, Katherine. They have lifted them up in prayer as Nicaragua is going through political and economic unrest. Trinity has been a blessing to these schools in Nicaragua.

— Submitted by Adele Bluhm, Trinity member and retired teacher. Adele and Don met Francisco through an International Student Ministry (ISM, Inc.). For more information about this mission, contact Don and Adele Bluhm at [adbbluhm70@gmail.com](mailto:adbbluhm70@gmail.com).



Students in Nicaragua are very appreciative of the support from Trinity, Wausau students.

## CAMP LUTHER

### Time to register!

2020 Camp Luther Summer Camp registration opened Jan. 1! Learn more about all the programs offered and register at [campluther.com/summercamp](http://campluther.com/summercamp).

Following are highlights of new programs for 2020, check them out!

#### Fourth of July Family Camp | July 3-5

Bring the entire family to celebrate July 4, Northwoods style! Enjoy an incredible weekend with activities like kayaking, Ga Ga ball, swimming, cooking out and campfire devotions. In addition, enjoy a fun-filled parade in Three Lakes and a fireworks display on Saturday night. Housing is in the Retreat Center. Register by going to [campluther.com/family](http://campluther.com/family). [All Ages; \$100 (adult); \$80 (age 13-17); \$60 (age 5-12); free (age 0-4); \$400 maximum cost/family]

#### Trailblazer Specialty Camps

All of the Trailblazer fun, but these camps add an exciting activity. Specialty camps run concurrently with our youth camp programs and campers will still participate in all their favorite youth camp activities throughout the week. Housing is in the Retreat Center. (Grades 6-8, \$475)

#### Guitar | July 5-10

Learn how to play the guitar (or build your skills if you've been playing a while).

#### Ropes Course Adventure | July 5-10

Explore Camp Luther's ropes course and zip line with your group, ending the week with an off-site high ropes adventure.

#### Rockets and Robots | July 5-10

Use your ingenuity and mad scientist skills to build your own rocket and robot. What could be more awesome!?

#### MasterCRAFTS | July 5-10

Put your creativity to work in a week filled with the best arts and crafting.

#### Sailing | July 26-31

It's adventure on the high seas as you learn to sail the waters of Range Line Lake in our fleet of Sunfish sailboats.

#### Photography | July 26-31

Spend the week with your camera in hand, building your photography skills and capturing awesome pictures!

#### Survivor | July 26-31

Learn about fire building, outdoor cooking, shelter construction, off-trail navigation, and other wilderness skills as you have a blast trying to survive in the woods.

#### Raft Quest | July 5-10, July 26-31

Starts and ends at Camp Luther, but takes the adventure up a notch by spending three days off-site, rafting the Peshtigo River and participating in other adventure experiences guided by staff from Wildman's Whitewater Ranch. Get ready for whitewater rafting, climbing the alpine tower, and more! (Grades 7-9, \$500)