



DISTRICT NEWS

NORTH WISCONSIN

Thank you, Chaplain Wayne!

On May 11, Chaplain Wayne Schwanke emailed me these words: “Four months from today (September 11) will be my final day at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. Saturday, May 2, was the 17th anniversary of my coming to King.”

Pastor Schwanke is a central Wisconsin native — born in Portage, raised on a farm in the Westfield area — and a UWSP graduate. He began in ministry by serving as pastor to the deaf in the South Wisconsin District, followed by serving as a chaplain at Ravenwood Lutheran Village in Maryland before he and his wife, Eileen, moved to the Waupaca area in 2003.

He is the fifth chaplain that has served in this position at the state-run facility for the district. The others who served before him were Rev. A. Wokenhauer, Rev. Ronald Goetsch, Rev. John Schmidt and Rev. Ed Kletzien. The residents of King have been blessed by their presence. This position is funded through the district.

One of Chaplain Wayne’s colleagues at King, Douglas Wamack, summed up his ministry:

“Chaplain Schwanke, commonly known here as Chaplain Wayne, has made impressions that will last beyond a lifetime to those he has served compassionately for many years. His influence on the Spiritual Care department at King is beyond measure. His presence and dedication to his calling is felt daily as he shared Good News and hope to those who seek the eternal blessings of spiritual connections.”

Presently at King, there are over 500 residents and about a third of them are Lutheran. Chaplain Wayne has been leading worship every Sunday in three different locations and a Tuesday-morning worship along with Bible studies. During the week he has been chaplain to aging veterans and families, visited those who are hospitalized and conducted many funerals.



Rev. Dwayne Lueck
North Wisconsin District President



Chaplain Wayne spends time with Ann Capizzi, the wife of Angelo Capizzi, a World War II U.S. Army veteran and staff sergeant.

One of his prize collections is a 1953 tractor, an International Farmall Super H that has been in his family since he was born. He had it restored and over the years has brought it to the home, brining back many memories for the veterans. In the past few years, he added to his ministry by bringing along his own comfort dog, Riley.

“You wouldn’t believe how much the residents love it when I bring him into their room and they can pet him,” Chaplain

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Deaf congregation answers call for masks

Thank you to Rib Mountain Deaf Lutheran Church (RMDLC) mask-maker team, which helped make more than 240 cloth face masks for donation. The face masks were shipped to the Atlantic District.

The team's goal is to "Serve the Lord with gladness" (Ps. 100:2). Go RMDLC Face Mask Warriors!

Contact info: *NWD Deaf Ministry* through Facebook Messenger or send an email to nwddeafministry@gmail.com



Pictured are, from left, Kathy Lutzke, Wendy Hughes and Anh Stieve.

Mission grants total \$18,000

The North Wisconsin District Board of Directors selected nine ministries to receive mission grants. The purpose of the grant is to encourage and support outreach and evangelism and to make known the Gospel to those who aren't Christian or don't attend a church.

Those receiving partial funding were Our Redeemer, Eau Claire; St. Luke's Preschool, Wisconsin Rapids; St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Bonduel; Hmong Lutheran Church, Eau Claire and Wausau; St. John Lutheran Church and School, Merrill; Peace, Eau Claire; Beautiful Savior, Plover; Wolf River Lutheran High School, Shawano; and Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Wisconsin Rapids.

District website offers support

The North Wisconsin District website (nwdlcms.org) has many church, school and finance resources as well as event registrations, calendars and more.

Newsletters are also archived. To receive one or more of the monthly newsletters (*District Happenings*, *Church Happenings*, *Finance Happenings*, *School Happenings* and *Growing in Faith* devotions), sign up on the "About Us/Publications" tab. We are happy to set you up — call the district office (715-845-8241) and ask for DJ or Sandie.

Highlights of ministry posts from around the district are added each week to our Facebook page at facebook.com/nwdlcms.

MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Wayne says, "They love Riley."

It has been my privilege to know and work with Chaplain Wayne over the years. I have come to appreciate his true caring and compassionate heart for those he has served. He has been faithful to his calling at the home as well as being active with his fellow clergy in the Appleton Circuit.

So the new chapter in his life begins in September. He has no big plans. He has a two-year-old grandson, Milo, he can spoil. Other than that, he is looking to relax for now.

We give thanks for Chaplain Wayne's years of ministry to God's people at King. We pray God blesses Chaplain Wayne and Eileen with many more years in their new journey together.



Chaplain Wayne is pictured with Gary Schwersinske, who has lived at the veteran's home in King since 2009. He is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam.



Rev. Benjamin Schroeder has accepted the call to serve as the next chaplain at Wisconsin Veteran's Home in King. He will begin serving on Oct. 1.

COVID-19 can't stop LWML!

The coronavirus pandemic has canceled many events this summer, but it hasn't stopped the North Wisconsin District LWML. Yes, it halted our convention gathering, but we still conducted our convention business. Our theme was "Jesus Be My Vision," based on 2 Cor. 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."



Becky Haltaufderheid
LWML District President

Jesus certainly was our vision as we walked by faith through this unique convention process. There were 193 delegates who were involved in an online discussion, making motions and seconding them. This was a unique experience, and I wish everyone could have been involved in watching and commenting on this way of doing business. Although we weren't all together physically, we were together virtually.

Our coming together for the convention was supposed to be on June 14, but instead we had completed our discussion and began electronic voting on June 15 using ElectionBuddy. This worked so well for our district and was easy for the ladies to maneuver through.

The delegates approved a \$110,000 Mission Grant goal and selected nine totally funded grants and two partially funded grants for the 2020-22 biennium. We have faith that God will provide and that we will be able to fund each of these mission grants. Praise be to God!

Elections were held and the following were elected: Joan Berquist, First Vice-President; Sharon Kautzman, Financial Secretary; Kaye Schwalenberg, Recording Secretary; Deborah Young, Mission Grants Director; and Rev. Larry Yaw, Pastoral Counselor. I look forward to working with our board for the next two years.

Were you able to watch our convention? Although it was shortened, we were still

able to worship, sing with Wendysue Fluegge, listen to mission speakers and receive the election results. It was fun to bring the convention to you in the comfort and safety of your own homes. I pray you were blessed as much as I was.

Fall Retreat

Our Fall Retreat plans at Camp Luther continue to move forward. We pray we are able to be together once again. Sharon Hanke has planned a great retreat. I hope to see you there. We all may look a little different sporting our masks, but we will be gathered together in God's Word.

We could not have a mission walk this summer, but why not have one at Camp Luther during the Fall Retreat! I'm sure many of you have your mission T-shirts from past conventions. Pick out your favorite T-shirt and bring it along to our mission walk. It will be fun to see all the different colors and themes displayed.

Gather your mission walk mite offerings now. I hope to walk with you as we all walk by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and focus our eyes on Him.

I am so blessed to serve at this time.

The Counseling CONNECTION

COPE WITH HOPE

He is the Bible poster child on coping. His story shares lessons on this human process centered on hope.

Here is a brief synopsis of this man's story:

He grew up in a large, dysfunctional family where he was the favored one. His multi-colored robe was only one of the reasons for the jealousy and desire for revenge by his brothers. He went from favored child to slave. He was falsely accused of a crime. Now he became a prisoner. He befriended a fel-



Rev. Dan Kohn
District Counselor

low inmate, who forgot a promise made to aid in the former's release. More jail time ensued. Through it all he maintained integrity.

Finally, after years of unfair circumstances, the man was given a position that was second only to Pharaoh. He became the most respected man in the land and a rescuer for many.

From his position of power, he had the chance to rule over his family. He chose forgiveness and grace instead. He did it as he reflected on what God had done for him — brought good.

Likely you have guessed this man's name. He is Joseph from Genesis 37-50.

Now let's glean the lessons from Joseph's life story:

1. Life can be remarkable unfair, sometimes unfathomable. But

there is trust that God is working behind the scenes for good.

2. The focus is not on life circumstances, but on how one responds to them. This echoes a quote by Chuck Swindoll: "Life is 10 percent what happens to us, and 90 percent how we respond to it."
3. One can maintain faith in God even when life doesn't make sense. It is trust in what is unseen yet still believed (Heb. 11:1).
4. Seize every opportunity to do good even in the midst of disappointment and detours.
5. Never let go of the hope that God's "big picture" will prevail!
6. Be a personal ambassador of grace, even toward offenders.

When God remains the central focus, coping and hoping are interwoven. Trust that G-O-D will prevail as Good Orderly Direction!

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

PEACE CAMPUS CENTER

A faith-strengthening experience

By **Mattea Schlender**
Brillion

So many things about going to college are uncertain and new for me. It was scary and quite anxiety provoking. Leaving the place I had grown up my whole life and where I was comfortable made me uneasy.

Thankfully, I had a solid foundation in my identity as a Christian to lean on. I knew that even though everything was seemingly changing, one thing would not — Jesus and His love for me. That’s why I knew one of the first things I had to do when I got to college was to find a community that also knew that truth. Thankfully, I found Peace Lutheran Campus Center.

At first, I kept a safe distance from truly buying into and fully participating at Peace. After all, I was still shy, scared and nervous! Slowly but surely, I finally began becoming more involved, attending service regularly and attending more and more events. Everything changed after winter break my sophomore year. I took a huge leap of faith and decided to go on a mission trip to Texas with the Peace community. I am so glad God lead me to that decision. I can honestly say that trip is probably something that I will look back on as



life-changing.

Since that life-changing decision, I have been blessed by Peace in many ways. I have met people who have the same values and ideals as I do. I have been abundantly blessed by Pastor Andy (Weden) and his family’s servant hearts that go above and beyond to serve, pray for and help us navigate the college experience as young Christians.

But as I alluded to before, the biggest blessing Peace has given me is the opportunity to go on mission trips. I have learned so much on these trips. I’ve learned skills I never imagined I would, such as putting up drywall or working on tree removal. Besides these skills, I have grown as a person on these trips. I have developed friendships on these trips that will last long beyond our time in college. My relationship with God has been challenged and strengthened beyond words on these service trips. There is something about serving others as Jesus served that strengthens and takes your faith to a new level.

As my college experience comes to an end, I’ve been reflecting more and more on how I have grown and changed since my freshman year. I am no longer uncertain, scared or anxious. I am more certain than ever of the love of God our Father and His Son. I am confident in who I am as a person and as a Christian. I do still worry occasionally I’ll admit, but now have strengthened faith that everything will turn out OK.

Peace has played a major role in these changes. Peace has allowed me to be comfortable with the uncomfortable, and that is something that I will be grateful for the rest of my life.

New ‘Chapel Talks’ NOW AVAILABLE

LCMS School Ministry has released this year’s “Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools,” an annual resource provided for Lutheran schools to use as an outline for weekly school chapel. Under the theme “Sent to Serve,” the 2020–21 “Chapel Talks” contains 43 devotions — one for each week of the school year — plus services for the beginning and ending of the school year and for Christmas.

Each devotion has three parts, presented as a “menu” of appetizer, main course and dessert. The “appetizer” presents an illustration or object lesson to introduce the

week’s devotion. The “main course” explores the Scripture reading of the week, with an emphasis on Law and Gospel. After the “main course” comes a prayer and a “dessert” consisting of additional resources such as catechism readings or school activities.

Available for free download at luthed.org/chapel-talks or lcms.org/schools



A print version may be purchased for \$9.99 plus shipping at amazon.com

