



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN



# ‘SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE’



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

**I**t amazes me that the only two names mentioned in the creeds besides the godhead are Mary and Pontius Pilate. And yet week after week we mention both of them when confessing what we believe. Mary makes sense. So why is Pilate mentioned? Because he was the one with the authority to pull the trigger on what had to happen — Jesus dying to pay for our sins.

Who was Pilate? He was the Roman governor of Judea (26-36 A.D.). The study notes for Luke 23:1 of *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)* state: “Chief Roman administrator, who alone could authorize capital punishment.” He was in Jerusalem because of the crowds that arrived to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate happened to be there when all of the activity surrounding Jesus was taking place. (For more information about Pilate, read the study note for John 18:29 on Page 1,819 in *TLSB*.)

The Jewish Council condemned Jesus for blasphemy and wanted to kill Him, but they did not have the authority. So they took Jesus to Pilate to have Him sentenced to death even though the charge of blasphemy would not mean anything to Pilate, a Gentile. To get Pilate’s attention, the charges were made political. Jesus had said He wanted to be king. That would be treason and get Pilate’s attention. Pilate talked with Jesus and stated, “I find no guilt in this man” (LUKE 23:4).

Pilate was correct Jesus was guilty of nothing. We know that Jesus did not sin. We also know that someone had to pay for our sins, and that is what Jesus came to do as the Messiah, the Anointed One. Someone had to pay. Unfortunately, the only payment for our sins that the heavenly Father would accept was the blood of His Son. Isaiah summed it up:

“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; ... with His stripes we are healed.” ISAIAH 53:5

You may run into people who would say that Pontius Pilate was the one guilty of crucifying Jesus. That is not true. The responsibility of Jesus’s death lies on all human beings by virtue of their participation in the sin of Adam. The apostle Paul wrote:

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. ROMANS 5:12

Jesus may have suffered under Pontius

See MESSAGE, Page 4

## Disaster Response Sunday is April 30

Natural disasters are nothing new. Whether we are simply more aware of them, or if they really are more frequent, disasters have become almost routine. Since Lutheran Emergency Response Training (LERT) began in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, it seems we have experienced an unprecedented number of storms. Many of our members and congregations willingly have become Jesus' hands and feet to those who need the loving presence of our Lord during tragic events. By God's grace, we partner with our fellow LCMS brothers and sisters from around the country to impact lives with the love of Jesus while helping to pick up the pieces after such devastation.

April 30 is North Wisconsin District Disaster Response Sunday. Building awareness of this critical ministry is our priority. The district has a Disaster Response coordinator, Rev. Andy Weden, who serves at Peace Campus Center, Stevens Point. Pastor Weden serves as our liaison to LCMS Disaster Response. This role provides him a deep understanding of the support and services the

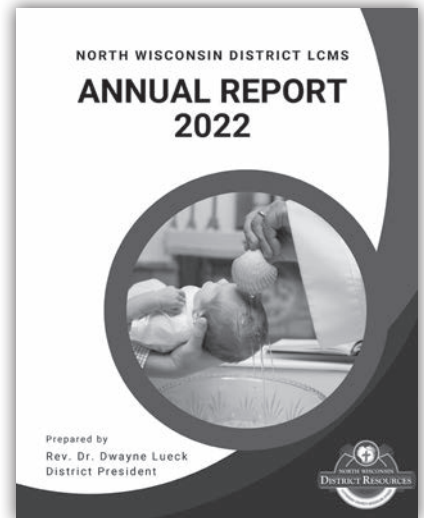
LCMS can provide to disaster areas and to those looking to serve. His role is to help our congregations with training, networking and support, when possible.

Disaster Response Sunday also allows members of the North Wisconsin District to financially support this mercy ministry. When special equipment might be needed and a coordinated response is required, your gifts provide training, support and networking.

Your gifts for district Disaster Response provide a resource that is instantly available when disaster strikes.

What can you do?

- ▶ Pray for people suffering through disasters.
- ▶ Consider your congregation's plan to serve those in need and call Pastor Weden for training and support at 715-345-6510.
- ▶ Donate to NWD Disaster Response. Visit [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org) and click "GIVE NOW." Or mail to NWD LCMS, 3103 Seymour Lane, Wausau, WI 54401
- ▶ Visit [nwdlcms.org/disaster-response.html](http://nwdlcms.org/disaster-response.html) for resources.



## 2022 REPORT AVAILABLE

The North Wisconsin District LCMS *Annual Report 2022* is now available and includes a thank you letter from Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, district president; an overview of the ministry support achieved through congregational gifts; and an introduction to the two-year Labor of Love Million Dollar Campaign.

Find the report at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org). Go to "About Us" and select "Board of Directors" from the drop-down menu.

# North WI District DISASTER RESPONSE SUNDAY

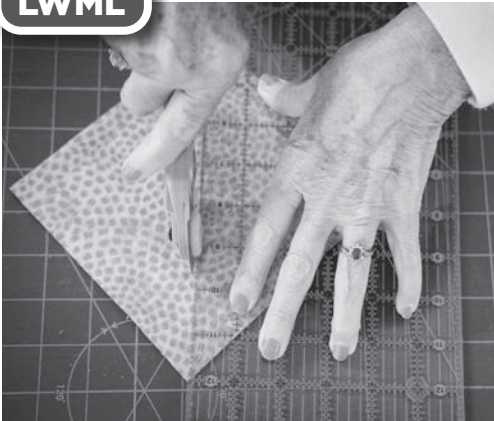
• TRAIN

• SUPPORT

• NETWORK



LWML



## Thank you quilters!

In early spring several years ago I was walking our dogs and noticed some trash under a bush. It bugged me that what appeared to be a wrapper was so carelessly discarded. So I bent over and retrieved it. It wasn't a wrapper, but a \$100 bill. I chuckled to myself and thought, is it real? It turned out that yes, it was real, something that I had thought was trash had a legitimate value. Now, what to do with it?



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District  
President

Since the bush was on the border between the church and the parsonage, who did this windfall belong to? We decided to give it to the Trinity Ladies Guild so they could purchase batting for a quilting project. Something that was assumed to be trash was turned into many quilts, which were shared with those in need around the world through Orphan Grain Train!

The Trinity Ladies Guild holds quilting workdays two to three times per month, often using scrap material. They donate more than 100 quilts a year. There are many other LWML groups in the North Wisconsin District that donate their time and talents on projects that show their love of Jesus to others. We thank God for all of them!

The LWML's 40th Biennial Convention will be held June 22-25 in Milwaukee. Mission speakers, Christian humor, fellowship, worship and business will be on the agenda. Sign up today to "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" with Lutheran Women in Mission. Register at [lwml.org/2023-convention](http://lwml.org/2023-convention).

## Schultz wins LEA award

John Schultz, recently retired principal from Pilgrim Lutheran School, Green Bay, was selected to receive the Lutheran Educations Association's Distinguished Retired Lutheran Educator EncourAGING Award.



Green Bay community. He helped with the congregation's Thanksgiving food distribution program by donating, collecting, sorting and driving. He volunteers by helping Pilgrim students who ring bells for the Salvation Army throughout the city of

Green Bay. Schultz drives students to their locations and supervising their activities at each site.

Well done, Mr. Schultz!

Well done, Mr. Schultz!

## CHURCH WORK STUDENTS: Apply for financial aid

This annual grant to college students pursuing professional church work is making a difference. The purpose of the student aid fund is to make it possible for young men and women — lacking in financial resources but who have the desire and ability for church work — to train for full-time service.



teacher, deaconess, parish worker, DCE, music director or other full-time vocation.

District financial support is available to all college and seminary students who are attending an LCMS university or seminary preparing to become pastor,

A new application must be filed each year. Students simply need to contact the school's financial aid office to get the district financial aid application and return it to their school before May 15.

The form and other information can also be found at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org). Go to the "Financial" tab and select "NWD Resources" from the dropdown menu. From there, scroll down to "Financial Aid."

## Helping church workers a 'Labor of Love'

Did you know that \$30,000 was granted to 14 district professional church workers to help reduce their educational debt? That is just this year! Thirty-nine gifts totaling over \$80,000 have been given over the previous three years!

The average educational debt of an applicant is over \$40,000. Delegates

to the North Wisconsin District Convention last June voted to create the Labor of Love campaign to be able to meet this need well into the future. We celebrate their wisdom to care for our church workers.

Watch for more information about the million-dollar Labor of Love campaign later this summer.



# WANTED: Future church workers

## SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



*Set Apart to Serve* is the intentional effort of the LCMS to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return.

Your congregation can help spread the word about this effort and point interested future workers in the right direction by sharing information about the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative within your congregation. To download bulletin inserts and presentation inserts, and to learn more about the initiative, visit [lcms.org/sas](http://lcms.org/sas).



## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Pilate, but our sin put Jesus on the cross. He suffered hell on the cross so we could be forgiven. That is a good reason to call it Good Friday.

Lent is a time for prayer and looking at our sins. We repent of our sins and look to the promise of God's mercy and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. It is a time to think of what Jesus did for the salvation of all people. He took on human flesh and allowed Himself to be hung on a cross to suffer and die for our sins. We put Him there. He did what He came to do. He paid for our sins. Then comes the ultimate joy when we celebrate His victory by His rising from

the dead that first Easter. We sure are blessed.

Pilate certainly gets a lot of air time — every week at worship. He was a part of the trial that would become the central event in history. The decision of Pilate to allow Jesus to be crucified has worked out well for all who believe in Jesus as their Savior. It worked out just as God had planned! Thank God!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I  
deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant  
to me Thy grace. *LSB 450 V3*

## Share your news with us!



We are always in need of more submissions for the North Wisconsin District insert of *The Lutheran Witness*. They help 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, conferences, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

**Submissions for the June-July issue are needed by April 15.**

**Send submissions to Karol Selle:**

- ▶ [selleks@gmail.com](mailto:selleks@gmail.com)
- ▶ 3177 State Hwy. 66  
Rosholt, WI 54473