

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



The President's Message – October 2018



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JUST TELL THE TRUTH

When you were growing up you may have remembered a time when your mother said to you, "Look me straight in the eye and tell me the truth." Trust is lost when lies are told and the truth is learned. It is tough to get trust back.

Joseph's brothers lied to their father Jacob and said a wild animal had killed him. Peter lied about knowing Jesus.

As a nation, we have been going through the Supreme Court Justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh hearings. On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard the testimony of Professor Christine Blasey Ford. She told her story and he denied it. Someone is telling the truth and someone is lying.

Why do people lie? According to an online article from *Psychology Today* (1/23/17), "6 Reasons People Lie When They Don't Need To", Dr. Ley gave these six reasons.

1. The lie does matter ... to them.
2. Telling the truth feels like giving up control.
3. They don't want to disappoint you.
4. Lies snowball.
5. It's not a lie to *them*.
6. They *want* it to be true.

Dr. Ley goes on to say there are non-threatening ways to get at the foundations of stress and desperation that often underlie deception. He suggests that you ask the person, "Why is this situation so important to you?" or, "Why do you need me to see this the same way you do?"

Martin Luther in the meaning of the Second Commandment stated: We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Unfortunately, saints and sinners lie. It comes with being a sinner... which we all are. Does that excuse it? No. But it has happened in the past and will continue until the end of time – people will lie.

So what do you do if someone lies to you? Remember Matthew 18. Go talk to them one-on-one. Confront them. If they admit it and ask for forgiveness - forgive them. Jesus had the discussion with Peter that we need to learn to forgive just as Christ has forgiven us. Jesus came to die on the cross to forgive us our sins and we have to learn to forgive one another.

Jesus said, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** – John 14:6 ESV. Jesus was not lying. He is the Savior of the world. Jesus is the truth. He is the only way of salvation. We as Christians have a responsibility to tell the truth about Jesus and what His word tells us. The most important truth is that Jesus is the only way to salvation and Satan will do whatever it takes to deceive people. Satan will lie and lead people astray.

In the end the judiciary committee has to make a decision on who is telling the truth. We need to let the world around us know the truth about Jesus Christ, our faith in Him, and what it means for us. Just tell the truth.

Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, District President

Across My Desk: DJ Schult

The Lutheran Federal Credit Union

Have you heard of the The Lutheran Federal Credit Union? Check out the information below from their website and contact them with any questions.

The Lutheran Federal Credit Union is the exceptional provider of financial solutions and products to members of LCMS congregations and affiliated ministries. We capitalize on the common bond of the LCMS to provide greater awareness of individual and organizational financial management from a Christian perspective. We do this by exemplifying Biblical principles; employing talented, accessible, member-focused staff; and utilizing technology and services that result in a superior customer experience.

The credit union is a way to connect our LCMS membership to each other and be a part of a group.

Our LCMS member's deposits are used to help other LCMS members achieve home ownership (mortgages) and transportation (auto loans). Plus, we offer many more services and daily financial products that are essential to household living.

The credit union replaces secular providers whose profit interests do not benefit the LCMS.

The credit union is a source to cross promote the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to a broader audience. (Cross promote LCEF investment accounts and cross promote LCEF ministry message)

The credit union provides a lower cost option for checking accounts for congregational and LCMS entities (savings puts money back into ministry).

The credit union allows us to expand Roster Church Worker mortgage lending at favorable rates in all 50 states. Currently our church workers are served in only 16 states for mortgage loans by LCEF due to regulatory constraints. Our Rostered Church Workers are underserved in 34 states. The credit union gives equal access to favorable mortgage loans to all Rostered Church Workers.

LutheranFCU offers every banking need you could possibly want. Our established online and mobile banking products can nearly serve all (if not all) of your needs.

LutheranFCU is part of a Co-Op network of Shared Branches and Shared ATM's. This means that you have over 5,000 branch locations for you to conduct your personal LFCU transactions in person, as well as 30,000 ATM's throughout the U.S. for your own personal use. Just look for the coop sign or use our Branch Locator or ATM Locator to find the one closest to you!

We also offer 24 hour banking by phone for free! Call our 1.855.726.9021 number and make transfers, get balances, and pay loans by using touchpad on your phone.

Lastly, we do have actual employees, too! Call us anytime at our headquarters location between 8am - 4:30pm at 314.394.2790 and one of our FANTASTIC LutheranFCU employees will be happy to assist you.



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NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

News and Events

Hearts for Jesus 2019—Camp Luther

This February, our **#HeartsForJesus2019** will be **Filled with the Spirit!** Chapel and Sunday School offerings will be used to purchase new & larger round tables for the new dining hall/Community Center, as part of the current Camp Luther campaign. Sojo & Beemer will be kicking off the challenge with a Facebook Live event during Lutheran Schools Week and will update everyone weekly via social media! We're encouraging every school to share their "fires" on social media and try to win a visit from Sojo & Beemer when they take their Facebook Live on the road! How much money and how big of a fire can we build? A **\$3,000 "Spark," a \$5,000 "Flame", or an \$8,000+ "Bonfire"?** Watch for more information in the way of Chapel Talks/devotions, printables, a promotional video, and display template links to be going "Live" November 1st at www.campluther.com!

Grants to Future Church Workers Celebrated

Check out this thank you from future church worker and NWD Student Grant recipient Bennett Reisler:

I am writing to you and those donors involved with supporting the Student Grant Award in order to express my sincere gratitude. I am truly thankful and humbled to have been given such an award, and am fully invested in the pursuit of full-time church work. As the son of two teachers (one being a Lutheran educator) and as a summer staff member working at Camp Luther this past summer, I have truly grown to know the joy of working with youth and telling them about Jesus. I have a sincere appreciation for those involved with ministry and feel that our country needs more leaders for Christ - that is why I want to go into the profession myself. I pray that one day I can lead others closer to Christ, as I experienced and was led in a Lutheran school as a student.

I deeply thank all who were involved in awarding the money for their care/support for the church work ministry, and for having confidence in me and supporting me in my work towards becoming a full-time church worker. Thank you all so much - I feel truly blessed.

Mission Mini-Grants Still Available

Looking for some extra financial resources for a meaningful outreach event at your church? NWD Mission Mini Grants are still available, providing \$200-\$1,500 to support your witness and mercy outreach. Schools, churches, youth groups, and early childhood centers can apply, but only one application per church body per year will be awarded and the application must come from the pastor. Our friends in Faith Marinette used the funds to help invite others as part of their 50th year of ministry. Program details and application form can be found on the homepage of the District Resources website at nwdlcms.org. Contact DJ with questions at dj@nwdlcms.org.

October Gathering's Abound!

October is a busy month, with Principals & New Teachers all getting together to be encouraged, networked and equipped for ministry. Add to that the annual pre-retirement workshop, the upcoming Office Support Staff Gathering, and the annual Adult Gathering, and you can find your District Resources staff very busy to help meet the needs of those serving in our church and school ministries.



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News and Events

Is Your Retirement On Track?

The North Wisconsin District and Concordia Plan Services are offering you an opportunity to attend a pre-retirement workshop! This workshop is designed to help you as you plan for that very important transition in your life: RETIREMENT! Start learning what you'll need to know about making plans for your future. Join us on Friday, October 19th from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at the District Office. Visit our [homepage](#) for registration details.

Office Support Staff Gathering

Office personnel are an integral part of ministry. They are often behind the scenes handling the details making sure things run smoothly and are communicated with the congregation and staff. The NWD is planning a gathering to encourage, network & equip these amazing servants on Tuesday, October 23rd. This event will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran, Wausau. -[Registration link available under Events & Information on our homepage](#)

Adult Gathering

It's not too late to register for the annual NWD Adult Gathering being held on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Join us at Mount Olive Lutheran, Weston. Our presenter will be Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, former president, Minnesota South District. -[Links to the brochure and on-line registration are available on our homepage.](#)

North and South WI State Teachers Conference

Most of the Lutheran school teachers in both North and South WI attend their state conference every three years. The event is held again on November 1-2, 2018 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in WI Dells under the theme "Overcome" from 1 John 5:2-5, *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* Keynote speakers will include David Cooks, Rev. Jeff Schrank and Ted Neitzke. New this year will be a separate high school track to better meet the needs of those teachers and built-in time for grade level/content level sharing to better meet the needs of all educators. Pray for those serving in your Lutheran schools, that they would be encouraged for ministry through this professional conference. -[Registration Link](#)

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) National Conference

Registration is open for the 2018 LCMS RSTM National Conference, to be held Nov. 8–10 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Hilton Kansas City Airport. Under the theme "Have No Fear," the conference will address the blessings and challenges facing contemporary rural and small-town congregations. The theme verse for the conference is Matt. 19:26: "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." The RSTM conference is open to anyone who serves, resides or has an interest in rural or small-town areas, with topics and resources specifically suited to the rural and small-town mission field. Congregations will be encouraged to become healthy churches, eager to bear witness for Christ, show mercy to those in need and develop a robust life together with fellow members. For all the details visit lcms.org/rstm or contact RSTM Coordinator Amy Gerdt at 888-463-5127.



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News and Events

Save the Date—Lay Leader Training 2019

A new approach is being taken with NWD annual lay leadership training. Stay tuned for more details but mark your calendars now for January 29, 6-8 p.m. This event will be targeted to leaders and will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, 501 Stewart Ave., Wausau.

Bible Bowl 2019

The details for Bible Bowl 2019 are complete and posted to the NWD website under the tabs [Missions/Youth Ministry](#). You will see links to videos of last year's event, plus detailed links to registration, information and more. Please contact Pastor Palmer, listed on the page, with any questions. The link for the information is <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>

2019 National Youth Gathering

Minneapolis, MN - US Bank Stadium, July 11-15, 2019! Looking for updates about the already planned District Event for the NYG? Want to sign-up on the Facebook group page to stay connected with your NWD NYG coordinators, Samantha and Tara? Check out important updates on the [NWD website under the tab Missions/Youth Ministry](#) or directly at <http://www.nwdlcms.org/youth-ministry.html>.

Deaf Ministry Videos

Did you know the Deaf Ministry in North Wisconsin has their worship serviced archived and available online? Go to their ministry page on the North Wisconsin District website at www.nwdlcms.org, click Missions, and choose Deaf Ministry to find a link to their YouTube channel that lists multiple services.

Rostered Church Workers - Called to Glory

- Rev. Carl Ehrfurth, 91, Green Bay. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenbaypressgazette/obituary.aspx?n=carl-ehrfurth&pid=190374516&fhid=14017>
- Rev. Elfred Theodore "E. T." Keller, 91, West Salem. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/reverendelfred-keller-obituary?pid=190201547>

LCMS News

- Did you know the **LCMS Reporter** is the official newspaper of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod? -[Check it out on-line](#).
- The **Lutheran Witness** magazine interprets the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. -[Read More](#).
- You may also access the Lutheran Witness supplement, District News—North Wisconsin, from our [NWD Publications page](#) along with the **NWD newsletters**.



Ministry Corner

Topic: State of WI School Safety Grants

By: Dr. Karen Bahn, Principal, Immanuel Lutheran School Marshfield

What is the School Safety Grant?

The State of Wisconsin through the Department of Justice created a \$100 million grant to help schools become safer for their students and families. 735 schools and school districts, made up of 97% of public schools and approximately 40% of private schools statewide, applied for the first round of funds, and all are expected to receive grant funding, including many NWD Lutheran schools.

What “strings” are attached to the money?

The requirements attached to the grant is that all teaching staff must have 3 hours of trauma training before the end of this school year and that proof can be given to the state that the funds were used for security purposes as written in the grant. There also are required reports that must be sent in with specific deadlines. These reports keep schools accountable in getting the safety and security measures completed in a timely manner.

How much were you awarded and how will you use it?

We received \$19,278 and we are using it to install cameras and a monitoring system, key fobs and card readers for doors, and installation costs. As of now, the camera system has been installed and the door system should be completed in the next few weeks.

Anything else to share regarding the grant?

God definitely provided a way for smaller schools like ours to get the funding for the equipment we needed to keep our school safe. Our church and school have been working actively through its safety committee to find ways to attain the funds and equipment needed to install the best safety and security measures for our building. This grant allowed us to move substantially forward in our safety endeavors.



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Counselor Corner

THE RACE

It is an endeavor that involves more than mere muscle. Two other elements are pivotal—mind and motivation. These are the “three “M’s” of the “race.”

The same can be said of the ministry “race”...the one the apostle Paul frequently referenced regarding his work for Christ. Reflect on these select verses—spoken at “mid-stride” and at the “finish line”--

““However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may *finish the race* and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.””
(Acts 20:24, NIV) (*Italics added*)

“I have fought the good fight, I have *finished the race*, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8a, NIV) (*Italics added*)

There is a “race” set before each professional church worker. There is a need for “muscle” (physical endurance in the midst of the strain)...for “mind” (mental alertness and responsiveness)...and for “motivation” (the unending passion to finish well for Christ).

All three elements are vital as the “race” is a marathon vs. a sprint. There is a need to remember that the Holy Spirit is the Coach offering guidance and support.

The writer of Hebrews also references the “race.” Following his expose’ on the “faith heroes” he goes on to offer these words of added encouragement—

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us *run with perseverance the race marked out for us*. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (12:1-3) (*Italics added*)

We are called “for such a time as this.” The call is for today—to fulfill Christ’s mission plan. The Spirit will supply what is needed to finish the race set before us! Stand tall...finish well!

Pastor Dan Kohn
District Counselor
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P.S. Check out the [“Wholeness” section on the District website](#).



Rural & Small Town Mission

The current issue of Reaching Rural America for Christ is available at <https://blogs.lcms.org/tag/reaching-rural-america-for-christ/>. Check out the article... "Ministry to Inactives – It's a Matter of Perspective".

The newsletter is filled with enriching articles, resources, and information about ongoing Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events, Engaging Your Community (EYC) events and free monthly webinars.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. Learn more about RSTM at lcms.org/rstm or by calling 888-463-5127. "Like" us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/lcmsrstm.



- ⇒ Check out the [CPS website](#) for a wealth of information or head right to the '[Blog & News](#)' section for their latest articles!
- ⇒ Visit the NWD website for a CPS corner listing the main contacts for churches using CPS, as well as links to the most important news and answers found on the CPS website. Bookmark it so you have it! <http://www.nwdlcms.org/concordia-plan-services.html>

NWD Financial Box Score

September 2018

September Offering	\$103,705.26
September Budget	\$121,500.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$1,148,157.49
Year-to-date budget	\$1,194,375.00

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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