



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN

# New pastors, then and now

By Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck  
North Wisconsin District President

This summer our district will welcome four pastoral candidates from the seminary as they begin their parish ministry. Their start may be different from one of our pastors who came from the seminary back in 1861. I recently read about such pastor and thought it was worth sharing. I have quoted and edited the following material from *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.

H.F.C Grupe was born April 6, 1840, in Messenkamp, Hanover, Germany, when his parents emigrated to America and settled in Chicago, Ill., in 1853. He attended Concordia College in St. Louis. He was urged by Dr. Walther (C.F.W. Walther, who was first president of the LCMS) to take the quickest route to ordination by attending the practical seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. — three years earlier than if he continued in St. Louis. He graduated in 1861, at the start of the of Civil War.

In the same year Grupe was ordained and entered upon his arduous duties as itinerant missionary in and around Durand, Pepin County, Wis., his post-office being Mondovi, Buffalo County.

And what a really difficult time this pioneer of our Synod had in reaching Mondovi! With \$20 in his purse, Grupe, now 21 years old, traveled via railroad from Chicago to Prairie du Chien, Wis., where he took a boat up the Mississippi to Alma, which he reached towards night. Mondovi being 25 miles inland without railroad or stagecoach, Grupe was obliged to remain overnight in Alma. The hotelkeeper offered to get Grupe some conveyance next morning, but if he could have had an inkling of what was in store for him in the barroom of this



“Sons” of North Wisconsin District congregations are pictured with Pastor Lueck after they received their vicarage assignments at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on April 23. Jacob Moede (left) of St. Paul, Bonduel, will serve at Village, Ladue, Mo.; and Garrett Anklam (right) of Trinity, Wausau, will serve at St. Mark, Houston.

inn, he would have set out immediately for Mondovi. He had hardly taken a seat in the only available room, when a giant farmer entered and asked for two beers; keeping one for himself, he offered the other glass to Grupe, yelling: “Drink, you d—preacher!” When Grupe refused to comply with the request, the farmer, red with rage, emptied the glass on the floor, asked for two more beers, and, cursing, repeated his offer to Grupe. Before he could refuse a second time, the hotelkeeper very energetically signaled him to accept if he would escape cruel treatment. Grupe took the glass and escaped to the outside from the jeering, drinking crowd that had meantime filled the room. It was 1 a.m. before the barroom was emptied of the drunken crowd and Grupe could creep to bed.

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Those from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who received a pastoral call or vicarage assignment to serve in the North Wisconsin District are pictured with Pastor Lueck. From left, Joshua Kastens, vicar, Pilgrim, Green Bay; Bryce Clayton, associate pastor, Immanuel, Wisconsin Rapids; Jedediah McClellan, associate pastor, Zion Wayside, Greenleaf; Lueck; Grant Thiel, associate pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Greenville; and Justin Brockman, pastor, Zion, Chatham, Mich.



From Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, William Evel was assigned as vicar to Faith, Green Bay

## MESSAGE

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Next morning the surly manager could not, or rather would not, secure a driver to take Grupe to Mondovi; so, loaded with carpetbag filled with books, he began to foot the 25 miles; and although it was a hot July day, he reached Mondovi toward evening. Another five miles brought him to a Lutheran farmer and a willing host. Early next morning the farmer notified as many other farmers as he could reach for miles around to come. At the appointed time 25 adults crowded into the farmer's little room, all happy and thankful for the great privilege of hearing a true Gospel preacher, the first one many of them had heard since landing in America.

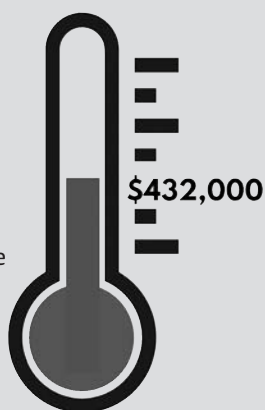
The following Tuesday, Grupe preached in Durand, and the next week found him in Fall Creek, Eau Claire County, where he organized the first congregation. On these trips he frequently met with, and rode through, bands of Indians, all in an excited and dangerous mood.

In January, 1862 Dr. Walther wrote Rev. Grupe urging him to go to Winona, Minn. He accepted that request and was installed in Minnesota in March of 1862 and eventually accepting a call to Decatur, Ill., in 1867. His salary was \$350 a year.

We give thanks for these first pastors and their diligence and resilience to carry out ministry years ago. We pray that God guide and direct our new pastors in their calling. May God bless them.

## Labor of Love

This image shows actual gifts through April 2024. We celebrate the insight and direction of the North Wisconsin District convention to create this fund to help reduce the educational debt of our district professional church workers. We give thanks for the continued outpouring of gifts from congregations and individuals. Watch the August news for an exciting match opportunity to move us closer to our goal of \$1 million in the final year!



## Have news to share!

Please send submissions to Karol Selle at [selleks@gmail.com](mailto: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.



One morning a bird flew into our kitchen window and was stunned. The little bird, seeking a place to recover, hopped from one place to another on the deck, each time resting for a while. I went outside to see if it was hurt and it surprised me by flying up into a tree. It just needed some time to get its bearings.

Sometimes our work in the LWML can be a little like what that bird went through. We try to accomplish our tasks, but we need to get our bearings and don't quite know where to go. We have great resources in our LWML district Bylaws, Leader Helps and our website.

At [nwdlwml.org](http://nwdlwml.org), go to "Membership" and select "Handbook Resources." Scroll down to find the Bylaws, Lead-



**Joan Berquist**  
LWML District President

er Helps, Rally Guidelines, Convention Guidelines, and current forms posted for your use. You can also access current and past issues of the *Mission Tidings* on our website (click "Newsletter" at the top of the page.)

If you can't find what you are looking for, contact one of our officers for some help. (Phone a friend?) We are very willing to guide you! The Executive Board

contact information is listed in the *Mission Tidings*. We will have elected four new officers at our convention in June; you will want to use the current issue.

Serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2)! As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

## Resources available for encouraging church work careers

In September 2023, *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* debuted a new online resource hub that includes materials curated to help people in your congregation speak to youth about a vocation in the church.

The resources include bulletin printouts, conversation guides, journey maps and essential experiences trackers that were reviewed by LCMS congregations, schools, and even a summer camp to ensure that these resources will be helpful in many contexts. Used together, the journey maps and essential experiences trackers will equip parents and other influential adults with specific suggestions for raising men and women who want to serve in a full-time vocation in the church.

The resources also provide talking points influential adults can use to identify a young person's talents and strengths, and to encourage him or her in their faith and their consideration of church work vocations as they mature. We pray that you will find these resources helpful in your work to recruit and form church workers.

Visit [lcms.org/sas](http://lcms.org/sas) and scroll down for the "Resources" tab.

We continue to pray that the Lord will provide His people with church workers so that all people will hear the Gospel and receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Photos: LCMS/Fritz M. Lumford



# DISTRICT NEWS



## Bible Bowl 2024

Seven teams from four congregations participated in the 14th statewide Bible Bowl, held April 6 at St. Mark's, Wausau. The competition focused on the book of Acts. The event included three teams from St. Paul, Bonduel; two teams from St. John's, Edgar; and one team from St. Martin, Clintonville, and Zion, Mondovi. The teams from St. John's, Edgar, finished first and second. The teams from St. Paul, Bonduel, finished third through fifth.

Individual winners were, from first place through 10th, Colin Pehlke, St. John, Edgar; Vincent Peebles, St. Paul, Bonduel; Ben Hartwig, St. John, Edgar; Christian Pehlke, St. John, Edgar; MacKayla Schreiner, St. John, Edgar; Will Baciak, St. Paul, Bonduel; Nicholas Pehlke, St. John, Edgar; Tanner Osenga, Zion, Mondovi; Gage Anderson, St. Paul, Bonduel; and Katie Shilts, St. Paul, Bonduel.



**Rev. Wes "Bo" Baumeister** was installed as pastor of St. John, Townsend, on April 21. Pictured are, from left (bottom) Vicar Jamie Bauknecht, Good Shepherd, Carndon, and St. John, Laona; Revs. Steven Stoll, Emmanuel, Breed, and Tabor, Mountain; Wes Baumeister; Richard Kelm, St. John, Pickerel; (middle) Rick Buhrke, Zion, Bonduel; Paul Radke, St. Luke, Elcho, and St. Matthew, Deerbrook; Jerome Hahn, emeritus; Donald Engebretson, St. Peter, Antigo; (top) Jarod Fenske, Peace, Antigo; Howie Neider, emeritus; and David Karolus, Peace, Antigo.

## Yahnke to present at Team Ministry Workshop



**Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke**

We are excited to announce that Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke, executive director for Christian Counsel at DOXOLOGY, will lead our Team Ministry Workshop on Jan. 30, 2025, at St. Mark's, Wausau.

Dr. Yahnke is a clinical psychologist who has provided consultation to pastors, principals, teachers and congregations for over three decades.

The four sessions she has prepared for the day will be of value to the individual, with opportunity to discuss and share in teams as well. Please consider attending by yourself or with your team. Registration will open this fall.