

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



The President's Message – August 2015

THE LOVE OF CHRIST AT WORK IN PERU

Below is an email I recently received from Herb and Markie Burch (the NWD supports their work in Lima, Peru.) They gave me permission to share. I think the email speaks for itself. Please remember them in your prayers!

Dear Dwayne,

Yesterday was a day of miracles! One never knows when our great and glorious God is going to send an emissary to give encouragement. After meeting with the mission team, Herb and I had to call a cab to take us back to Los Olivos. We had large heavy boxes to take north, and we couldn't carry them on the bus.

When the cab arrived, we hopped in and Herb and the driver started to chat. We soon learned that this man lived in the southernmost tip of the city, and now he was taking us to the north. Instead of being disgruntled he was both a cheerful and skillful driver, and the journey got off to a good start.

When he learned that we were missionaries, he got very quiet. He soon asked if there would be pastors who would lose their jobs because of the new law passed by the Supreme Court allowing homosexual marriages. We had to confess that we didn't know. All we could say was that this was a very good question, and we were all wondering about how this decision will impact the future. We then discussed the difficulty of Christians reaching out and showing love to sinners, but not condoning sin-because of course, we are all sinners.

It was at this point that he gave his testimony and told about how Jesus had saved his life. He told of his past transgressions, and then opened his heart and shared how God had transformed him and now blesses him and his entire family. He thanked us profusely for being in Peru, and when we parted, we parted as friends.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE....



In This Issue:

- The President's Message
- Across My Desk: DJ Schult
- News and Events
- Memo from the President's Office
- CPS
- Counselor Corner
- NWD Financial Box Score
- Save the Date!

The President's Message- continued

Later that day we met another taxi driver, and in less than 15 minutes he too had shared his life's story and told us how he learned of the saving grace of Jesus through a visiting Baptist missionary when he was a youth. He said, "It is not easy to leave one's country, home, and children to work as missionaries in a foreign country." Then he added, "Thank you for being here, and thank you for what you are doing."



Herb and I were both teary when we left his car. What a day! I thought you'd like to hear about it.

Love,

Markie and Herb two of your missionaries serving in Lima, Peru.

~Dwayne M. Lueck, District President

Across My Desk: DJ Schult

The following was contributed by Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission. RSTM supports and encourages rural and small town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. If you have a good idea for outreach or a story you'd like to share so that we can share it with others, please email Amy Gerdtz at amy.gerdtz@lcms.org. Learn more about us at www.lcms.org/rstm, by calling our office at 888-463-5127, by email at rstm@lcms.org or "like" us on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm.

RSTM Outreach Planning

Have you ever felt like you missed your chance? Have you ever wondered about the purpose of an event at your congregation or felt like you are just going through the motions when it comes to outreach events? You are not alone! Don't get me wrong here; I am a huge supporter of the annual chicken/chili/ fill-in-the-blank dinner. These are the places where you can get some of the best food and fellowship around. They are great times to celebrate all that the Lord has done in and among His gathered people. If we are already putting effort into these gatherings, why not focus on using these events to reach out to those in our community who may not know the love of Christ? Here are few ways through which we can do just that:

- **Be Strategic** – Often, we do events for decades without much thought. Make plans with outreach as the main goal. Plan out, step by step, how this will be accomplished. Who do you desire to reach? When is the best time to reach them? Where are they? How do we communicate with them? These are just a few questions to get started.



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Across My Desk, continued....



- **Coordinate Your Efforts** – Perhaps one group has always been in charge of putting on a particular dinner. But the evangelism board is looking for a way to reach out. Have these groups get together for the planning process so the bases are covered. Also consider the idea of partnering with other congregations to make something happen that you couldn't on your own. Know your community calendar and try not to schedule your event at the same time as another local school, church, or community event.
- **Be Flexible** – It doesn't have to be exactly the same as it has always been. Small changes in venue or timing can make huge differences in the number of people to whom we can reach out. Work together instead of against one another. As part of the strategic plan, have your goals in mind and have everyone working toward those goals, even if it makes us stretch our comfort zone a little.
- **Be Creative** – Consistency and dependability are wonderful things. Looking forward to a familiar event can add to the charm. However, adding a little creativity to our events will often draw a bigger audience. Change up the menu, have some entertainment, do something different than usual. This will often help create excitement.
- **Get the Word Out** – We often assume when we have hosted an event for many years, that people will automatically know about it. This is fine if you want the same people to attend year after year, but then it doesn't count as an outreach opportunity. Signs, fliers and advertisements are good and should be utilized, but don't stop there. Consider writing an article about your event for the local newspaper. Pick a mission opportunity to support and tell folks why it is a good thing to support. (In doing this, you get to share the reason for the hope you have.) If you have a radio station nearby, see if they have an opportunity for an interview or a story. Above all, invite people! Invite your friends and family like always, but don't stop there! Invite your unchurched neighbors, coworkers, acquaintances and complete strangers. The quickest way to begin a relationship is by making a connection and this provides a great opportunity. If possible, plan to keep a certain number of tickets available to give away to those we so desperately want to reach.



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Across My Desk, continued....

- **Be Welcoming** – Once you get the event planned and orchestrated, make sure everyone who attends feels welcome. Greeters should be ready to welcome, help with directions, get guests anything they need, and introduce them to others who are present. Don't let them sit in a corner by themselves, but rather integrate them into the crowd.
- **Share God's Word** – Don't stop with food and fellowship. Use the event to plant seeds, tell the story, and/or share your own faith. It isn't a bait and switch scenario, just an honest way to take advantage of the fact that you have them there. Be creative. This could be through educating folks on the reason you are there, the reason for the event, or through the entertainment.
- **Follow Up** – Now that you had the event and made connections, don't let it end there. Take the connections that you made and follow-up. A call, note or visit can go a long way! Invite them to future events. You don't have to be pushy, just concerned about maintaining and furthering that relationship. Who knows what may come of it!

This is certainly just a quick primer for Outreach Event Planning. If you would like help planning your event, coming up with ideas for new events, or making an existing event into an outreach-focused event, please contact our office and we'd be glad to help!



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News and Events



NWD Mission Mini Grants

The NWD has created a grant opportunity for churches wanting to do local witness and mercy outreach. The simple, streamlined application is available on the Financial Resources page of the District Resources website at http://nwdlcms.org/uploads/NWD_Mini-Grant_Application.pdf . Call DJ with any questions.

Early Childhood Conference

The annual NWD Early Childhood Conference will be held on August 7 at St. Paul Bonduel, gathering together early childhood teachers and directors under the theme "Hope Overflowing". The event will include excellent sectionals and outstanding presenter Jan Struck. Online registration can be found on the NWD website homepage at: www.nwdlcms.org.

Christian Caregiving: Summer 2015 Conference Dates

This is a professional development conference for registered nurses, clergy and others interested in parish nursing and congregational health ministries. All classes will be held on Tuesdays at the Administrative Conference Room in the Sheboygan Aurora Clinic. [Click here](#) for more information, session dates and registration.

A Note from DJ– Christmas Services

I have two outstanding retired LCMS educators who are promoting their Children's Christmas Services through their new publishing company. Why do I love these services? I have seen them all and have worn the goosebumps that come with a church full of students and parents celebrating the birth and resurrection of Jesus at Christmas time. Please share with your schools and Sunday schools as appropriate. [Click here for a link to more information and contacts.](#)

The Lutheran Fathers Conference-Tuesday, August 18, 2015

The Lutheran Fathers Conference is meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 9:30AM to about 3PM, at Zion Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls. We are studying Martin Luther's The Bondage of the Will as translated by J.I. Packer & O.R. Johnston. In May we covered through the bottom of page 219, so, please prepare pages 220 through 255, the remainder of chapter V and sections i through iv of chapter VI of The Bondage of the Will—although, we may not get through quite all of the material. The book's cover states, "The Bondage of the Will is fundamental to an understanding of the primary doctrines of the Reformation." It has been a great study from the greatest of the Lutheran Fathers. There is no cost and prior attendance is not required. These meetings are open to all pastors, laymen, and laywomen. If you have questions or need directions, please contact the church office at 715-723-6380 or zionlutheranfc@charterinternet.com. Please come and join us!



NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

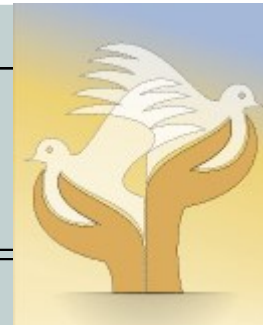
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News and Events

Save the Date! NWD Retirement Workshop

Mark your calendars for Oct. 16 & 17th for the NWD Retirement Workshop to be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Wausau. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. More details to follow!



Mobilizing the Mission of God– A Mission Convocation

"A joint effort of the SWD and NWD to mobilize pastors and people for mission." September 10, 2015 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wausau. Registration for this one-day event can be made by contacting Lori at the District Office: lori@nwdlcms.org, or 715-845-8241. For more information please [follow this link](#).

St. John – Kellner Helps Provide Gifts for Veterans at King Home

Following the service on Sunday, July 19, St. John congregation presented a check in the amount of \$1000.00 to Mr. Ronald Miller, Wood County Commander – American Legion, which was raised by members through door collections received throughout the month of May, culminating with our 2nd Annual Memorial Day Weekend services. The funds will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the many veterans who are residents at the King Veterans Home. Participating in the presentation are (l-r): Pastor Kevin Ader, Bill Coley, Elder and Memorial Day Weekend project organizer, Ronald Miller, Gene Timm, Elder and Memorial Day Weekend project organizer, and Craig Timm, congregational chairman.



SAVE THE DATE! Adult Gathering

Oct. 20, 2015 at Mount Olive in Weston, WI. Featuring Rev. Dr. Paul Maier as the keynote speaker with the topic "Islam and Christianity". Topics include: "The Life of Muhammad", "Islam's Expansion as State and Culture", "Beliefs and Practices in Islam" and "Fanaticism in Islam and its Future". Watch the District Resources website: www.nwdlcms.org under the Events and Info section on our homepage for more information and registration as it becomes available!

2015 National R&STM Conference

Now is the perfect time to register for the November 5-7 National Rural and Small Town Mission Conference held at the Kansas City Airport Marriot Hotel! This conference is meant for anyone interested in rural or small-town areas. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

Retired Pastors, Wives & Widows Retreat

Save the Date! Oct. 6-7, 2015 at the Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel in Waupaca, WI. Watch for registration information to arrive in your mailbox by late August, or call (414)464-8100 ext. 11 for more information. Hope to see you there!



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Memorandum from the President's Office



DATE: July 15, 2015

TO: NWD—LCMS Pastors

FROM: Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, President
North Wisconsin District

RE: Circuit Changes

This is to notify you of the following changes of our Circuit structure. The below changes are effective **IMMEDIATELY.**

- Trinity Lutheran Church of Bergland, Michigan has been moved from Circuit 02 to Circuit 01.
- Grace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church both of Bear Creek, Wisconsin have been moved from Circuit 18 to Circuit 12.

As a result of Convention Resolution 15-10, Circuits 20 and 15 were to combine to create one circuit. As a result of this resolution, they were to elect a new Circuit Visitor; Rev. Dennis Voss has been elected as the new Circuit Visitor for the new Circuit 15.

- The below listed congregations were in Circuit 20 (which no longer exists) and are now part of Circuit 15:
 - ◊ St. John—Durand—Rev. Daniel Pfaffe
 - ◊ St. Paul (S360 Sand Rd)—Mondovi—Rev. Daniel Pfaffe
 - ◊ St. Paul (W1143 County Road A)—Mondovi—Rev. Daniel Pfaffe
 - ◊ Immanuel—Plum City—Rev. Daniel Pfaffe
 - ◊ Zion—Eleva—Rev. Timothy Moe
 - ◊ Trinity—Gilmanton—Rev. Paul Woebbeking
 - ◊ Zion—Mondovi—Rev. Paul Woebbeking
 - ◊ St. Peter—Osseo—Rev. Dennis Voss
 - ◊ St. Paul—Osseo—Rev. Dennis Voss

If you have any questions regarding this information, please let us know.



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Concordia Plan Services



Better Healthcare Consumers Equal Healthier Members, Lower Healthcare Costs

Concordia Plan Services wants to help members get healthy, stay healthy, and become better consumers of healthcare. Working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and Cigna, we've put into place personal health tools that make it easier and more convenient for Concordia Health Plan (CHP) members to focus on their health and to be smart healthcare consumers.

Concordia Total Health Team (*Coming September 1!*)

This team is all about working with CHP members to get them healthy and to help them stay healthy. A dedicated team of healthcare specialists – including nurses, coaches, dietitians, clinicians, and counselors – will be available to listen, understand members' needs, and help find solutions to health concerns.

Clear Savings (*mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia*)

Shop your healthcare options by accessing cost and quality of care information for more than 300 medical procedures. You can search to find hospitals and medical facilities near you that provide what you need. Also, expand your knowledge of health care at Healthcare University. Don't forget to sign up for Ways to Save Alerts – monthly emails or text messages about savings opportunities related to prescriptions or medical services.

Online Care (*mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia*)

The fastest, easiest way to see a doctor from the comfort of your home or wherever you may be! Use your computer, smartphone, or tablet to receive care from a healthcare provider for a host of common illnesses like colds, flu, and more. The most you will pay for an online care visit is \$40. And, as a CHP member, you may even pay less depending on the specific copay and benefit plan structure of your CHP option.



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Counselor Corner

THE EMOTIONAL PASTOR

When God created mankind they were destined to be emotional beings. Said differently, God didn't create stoics.

Pastors are also emotive beings. They have the capacity for a full spectrum of emotions—from "light" to "dark." It is not wise for pastors to deny this reality.

Pastors are more likely known for love and joy. It is expected that they will express these emotions, tied to their Biblical roots. Yet, the "dark" emotions are also found in the Bible. Even chosen leaders like Elijah, David, Jeremiah and Peter were subject to fear, despair and anger. Why would modern-day pastors presume themselves exempt from these emotions?

On this "dark"-side we find pastors dealing with anger, fear, and guilt. These emotions are fueled by the dynamics of ministry such as:

- ♦ A perceived or real lack-of support from members.
- ♦ The endless duties and responsibilities of parish ministry.
- ♦ The expectation that the pastor is infallible-he always has to be performing at 100 percent.
- ♦ Limited friends, or support system.

Each of the above is a potential stressor that has human impact. If a pastor attempts to ignore or "stuff" the related emotions, he does himself no favor. Accumulated, negative emotions can prove toxic and diminish ministry vitality.

In God's plan, such real emotions are meant to be addressed and expressed. Here is where a confidant, or support group can be very beneficial. Jesus' words have application here—"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

To assist in this expression, consider these opening lines: "My name is Pastor_____, I and I am an emotional being. The emotions I struggle with most often are _____ and _____." Now room has been given to find freedom and hope as toxic emotions are addressed.

If you would like help forming a support group of pastors, please contact me: (715)610-2400; or revkohn@gmail.com.

Pastor Dan Kohn, District Counselor



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NWD Financial Box Score



July Offering	\$179,947.77
July Budget	\$185,220.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$942,560.19
Year-to-date budget	\$1,048,320.00

SAVE THE DATE!		
NWD/MNS Principal & Director Retreat	August 3-5	Trego, WI
NWD Early Childhood Conference	August 7	St. Paul, Bonduel WI
New Worker Orientation	Aug. 13	Rib Mountain Lutheran Church, Wausau
Retired Pastors, Wives and Widows Retreat	Oct. 6&7	Best Western Grand Seasons, Waupaca WI
Retirement Workshop	Oct. 16&17	St. Mark's, Wausau
NWD Adult Gathering	Oct. 20	Mt. Olive, Weston

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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