

# District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

## the Happenings



### In This Issue:

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

## **The President's Message – July 2015**

### **HE'S BY OUR SIDE**

"We confess that You are God and we are not." Those are words that I heard at worship recently and words I need to hear daily. God is God. He reminded Job that He was in control. We need to be reminded of that. As the theme of our convention stated: HE'S BY OUR SIDE.

In a landmark 5-4 ruling June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have a right to marry in any state in America. It certainly has gotten our attention. The reaction is all over the place whether it is on TV, talk radio or the social networks. What has been reassuring is that many of the pastors of the North Wisconsin District have shared encouragement, as well as resources to help God's people deal with this at home or in public. We have that freedom to share our view.

All of this happens as we close in on the 4th of July holiday or Independence Day. John Adams wrote to his wife: "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty" (from Wikipedia). In 1776 it meant freedom from Britain. It meant the opportunity to worship as we please. As citizens of this country we have that freedom. We have the freedom to follow the truths of God's word to guide and lead our lives as His people.

So enjoy heading north during the long weekend or just relaxing at home. But also give thanks to a God who is God and who is still in control of our church and our nation. HE'S BY OUR SIDE.

-Dwayne Lueck

## **Across My Desk: DJ Schult**

### **Strengths Based Leadership**

<http://strengths.gallup.com/110242/About-Book.aspx>

*The NWD-MNS school leaders will be focusing on leading from their strengths during their August retreat to Trego. Your District Resources staff is also completing the strengths inventory and sharing their results as a team. Below is a description of the tool from the Strengths website. If you are looking to develop and steward your unique, God-given gifts, this tool may provide meaningful discovery and support. More can be found on the link above.*

In Strengths Based Leadership, #1 New York Times bestselling author Tom Rath and renowned leadership consultant Barry Conchie reveal the results of this research. Based on their discoveries, the book identifies three keys to being a more effective leader: knowing your strengths and investing in others' strengths, getting people with the right strengths on your team, and understanding and meeting the four basic needs of those who look to you for leadership.

As you read Strengths Based Leadership, you'll hear firsthand accounts from some of the most successful organizational leaders in recent history, from the founder of Teach For America to the president of The Ritz-Carlton, as they discuss how their unique strengths have driven their success. To help you apply your own strengths, you'll have the opportunity to participate in a new leadership version of Gallup's StrengthsFinder program that will provide you with specific strategies for leading with your top five strengths. Each copy of Strengths Based Leadership includes a unique access code to take the StrengthsFinder 2.0 assessment. After you complete the assessment, you will receive a personalized strengths-based leadership guide. The leadership version of the program will also enable you to plot the strengths of your team based on the four domains of leadership strength revealed in the book.



### **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.



## **News and Events**

### **2015 NWD Golf Outing**

[Online registration](#) is now open for the 2015 NWD Church Worker's Golf Outing. Join us on July 20th, 2015 at Trapp River Golf Course in Brokaw for some golf, food, fun and fellowship! If you are interested in sponsoring this event, a separate registration form can be found under the Events and Info Section on our website: [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org).



### **School Leaders Retreat**

The NWD and MNS principals and directors will again retreat to the Thrivent Heartwood Center in Trego, WI this August. Their three-day event will focus on Leading With Strengths, featuring presenter Sister Jo Ann Miller. Ms. Miller runs the Strengths Development Center and was a long-time colleague of researcher Dr. Don Clifton. The event will equip participants to use their strengths in developing the strengths of others for meaningful engagement in life, service and work. Online registration can be found on the NWD website homepage: [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org).

### **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](http://www.nwdlcms.org).

### **Hearts for Jesus**

Ideas for Hearts for Jesus 2016 are due to the District Resources office by August 1. Guidelines can be found here: [http://nwdlcms.org/uploads/Hearts\\_for\\_Jesus\\_guidelines.pdf](http://nwdlcms.org/uploads/Hearts_for_Jesus_guidelines.pdf) and submission forms on the District Resources website at: [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org).

### **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!

### **NWD-Concordia Professional Development Partnership**

NWD schools have been asking the question, "What can we do better together than we can do apart?" Answers have led to new supports for NWD schools, including curriculum mapping technology at a reduced cost and a collaborative professional development for teachers and principals. Year one will focus on three sessions that overview best practice school leadership in the areas of: Supervision of Instruction, Literacy, and Collecting/Using Data to Meet Student Needs. Sessions will happen in the NWD offices and have credit options available. Year two may include shared development days where schools located near each other can offer grade-level curriculums and specific collaborative events. Please pray for this new adventure to make a difference in the lives of school leaders and the families they serve.



## **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.



## **News and Events**

### **Christian Caregiving: Summer 2015 Conference Dates**

A professional development conference is being offered for registered nurses, clergy and others interested in parish nursing and congregational health ministries. The conference dates will be held in the Administrative Conference Room at the Sheboygan Aurora Clinic on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. [Download this printable brochure](#) for more information and conference dates offered this summer.



### **Church Vocations Weekend**

Attention high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are considering full-time church work: you are invited to Concordia University Wisconsin's Church Vocations Weekend! Come spend some time on campus and get to know professors and students, experience student life at the campus located on beautiful Lake Michigan and hear from students who are involved in CUW's campus ministries. For event info visit: [www.cuw.edu/churchvocations](http://www.cuw.edu/churchvocations) or call (262)243-4300 or (888)628-9472.

### **National Youth Gathering 2016**

Recently a letter was sent to all congregations regarding leadership support for the 2016 NYG in New Orleans. Mike Henning is the Director of Youth Ministry at Faith Lutheran in Appleton and serves as the District Coordinator for the 2016 Nation Youth Gathering being held July 16-20, 2016. Mike is the liaison between the congregations of our District and the National Youth Gathering team located in the Synod offices in St. Louis. He encourages your congregational PAL, the main person from your congregation that is responsible for the organization and planning of all things associated with the National Gathering, to contact him with questions and provide your contact information. A great source for information is the official National Youth Gathering website: [www.lcmessaging.com](http://www.lcmessaging.com). Contact Mike at (920)739-9191 or [mike.henning@faithfv.org](mailto:mike.henning@faithfv.org).

### **LOST AND FOUND Farewell Tour**

August 22nd at Shepherd of the Hills, Greenville. LOST AND FOUND concerts involve the audiences. Michael and George developed an interactive style as they toured through the United States. On their first tour, LOST AND FOUND traveled from New York to St. Louis, to Miami, to San Diego, to Seattle and back to New York on BICYCLES. During those 340 days, they sang more than 260 times at schools, camps, churches, and colleges. With no support vehicle and no particular training regimen, the year truly proved to be a journey of faith. To this day, their concerts include stories of their lives and travels, along with their songs. The concerts are like having Michael and George over to your living room for conversation, and the music is more like dialogue than presentation. For more information, contact Shepherd of the Hills at 920-757-5722 or [office@shepherdhills.org](mailto:office@shepherdhills.org).



### **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.





## **Convention Corner**

Below are links to many of the post-Convention resources you or your ministry may be interested in:

- ◇ [\*\*NWD 2015 Convention Webpage\*\*](#)
- ◇ [\*\*2015 Election Results \(with Circuit Visitors\)\*\*](#)
- ◇ [\*\*2015 Convention Summary\*\*](#)
- ◇ [\*\*NWD Convention Video\*\*](#)
- ◇ [\*\*Convention Audio Clips \(by sessions\)\*\*](#)



## **Convention Offering**

The District Board of Directors approved the Convention Offering of \$ 2675.25 to go to:

- ◆ Mission Work in Peru
  - ◆ Funds to help pay for requests from church workers in need of assistance
- (The offering will be split in half for each category.)*

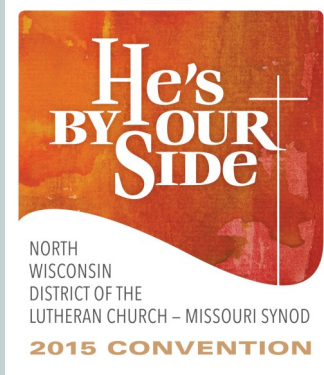


## **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.



## Scenes from Convention

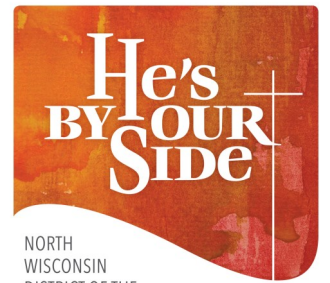


## NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.







NORTH  
WISCONSIN  
DISTRICT OF THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD  
**2015 CONVENTION**

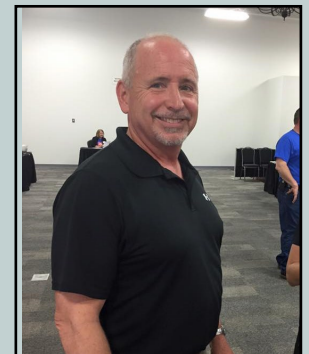
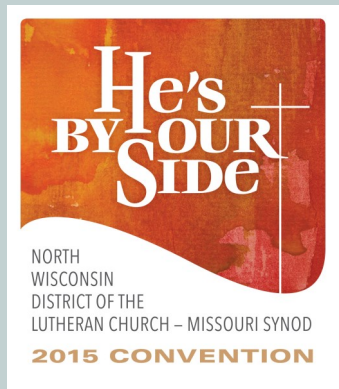
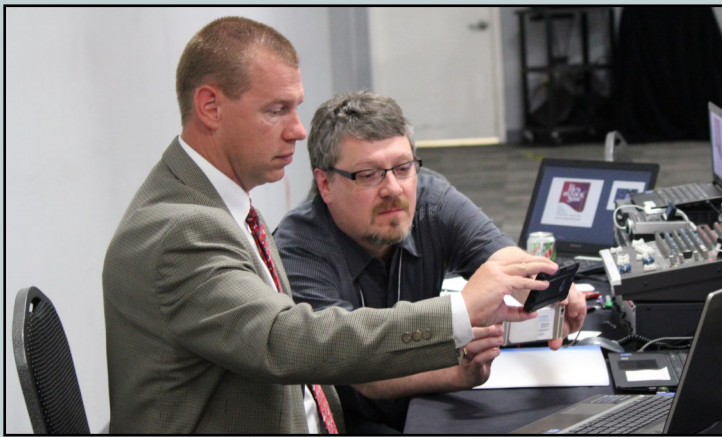


## NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.







## NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.





## **Concordia Plan Services**

### **Become a better healthcare consumer with Clear Savings**

When you shop at Target or Walmart, you go in with a list of what you need to purchase and as many coupons available for the items you want to buy. You know the items that you'll only buy in brand name and items that are okay in generic brands. You do your homework and come in either under or at budget. You're a smart shopper, a wise consumer.

So how do you shop for your and your family's healthcare needs? Do you know the doctors in your area that specialize in the treatment or surgery that you need? Do you know how skilled they are? How much do they charge in comparison to what other doctors who perform this treatment or surgery charge?

The Concordia Health Plan (CHP) has a tool that will make it much easier for you to compare quality, cost, and convenience for medical services and prescriptions – the Clear Savings tool.

The Clear Savings online tool helps you find the information you need and educates you about being a better shopper for health care. You can easily access cost information for more than 300 procedures, including office visits, laboratory tests, diagnostic imaging, and common outpatient and inpatient procedures. The tool allows you to compare healthcare providers on cost and quality, and receive straightforward explanations of treatments and services. It can even compare the cost of prescriptions.

And with the Clear Savings tool, you get a fresh approach to benefit education through Healthcare University and helpful saving tips with Ways to Save Alerts.

The Clear Savings tool is available to CHP members\* starting July 1. Be watching for additional information coming soon. Visit **[mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia](http://mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia)** to enroll.

\*Not available to CHP members in Cigna HMO options or in Medicare supplemental coverage



### **Online care tool brings a doctor to you!**

Adding to the value of the Concordia Health Plan (CHP) is an online care tool which is the fastest, easiest way to see a doctor from the comfort of your home or wherever you may be.

The online care tool, available through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, makes it easy for you to manage your own health by using your computer, smartphone, or tablet to receive care for a host of common illnesses like colds, flu, bladder infections, skin issues, sports injuries, and more. U.S. board-certified doctors use video visits to diagnose health issues and provide an effective treatment plan, including prescriptions if appropriate. 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. By using the online care tool, you won't spend hours waiting to be seen at an urgent care center. On average, the online care tool will have you connected with a doctor within three to five minutes.

So the next time you're dealing with the flu or a skin irritation try the online care tool. Online care is available in 45 states and in Washington, D.C. Visit **[mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia](http://mybluecrossmn.com/Concordia)** to enroll, see a doctor, and find out if you are in a state (when an illness occurs) that is eligible to participate.

### **Treat hearing loss sooner rather than later**

Hearing issues can be easily addressed with early intervention, proper diagnosis, and hearing devices, so don't ignore hearing difficulty or loss. Promote better hearing by using your benefits!

As a member of the Concordia Health Plan (CHP), you have access to discounted costs for hearing exams, hearing devices, and other hearing related products. You and your enrolled dependents can receive these discounts through CignaPlus Savings, HearUSA, and VSP. For more information, click on Who We Are and Service Providers to find out the discounts they each offer on hearing exams and products.

Visit the Better Hearing Institute ([betterhearing.org](http://betterhearing.org)) to find out ways you can promote healthy hearing.



## **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.



## **Counselor Corner**

### **THE "M&M" VICTORY**

There is a battle taking place. The assault is on two fronts. Satan the savage strategist planned it this way for the sake of destruction (1 Peter 5:8). In pastoral ministry the fronts being referred to are—"Ministry" and "Marriage." Both are priority positions from a Godly perspective. The "overseer" must "manage his own family well" (Timothy 3:4a).



Both "M's" are filled with complexity and daily choices. Each involves spiritual, emotional and relational dynamics. Though both can be a rich source of purpose and fulfillment (God's plan); each can also deflate the vitality of a pastor who is called to fight on both fronts (Satan's desire).

From a spiritual perspective, Satan places two "targets" on the back of each pastor. Since God established the "institutions" (marriage and the church), the devil has a desire to destroy both. And Satan wants to take as many "victims" as he can in his attacks in both arenas, starting with the spiritual leader.

Now that we have at least a partial understanding of the "battle", let's focus on God's victory plan for pastors. This celebration of success has a key ingredient. This is "resiliency": the renewable "bounce" in the battle. Here we find two other dynamics that are vital: boundaries and balance. A necessary starting point is to recognize God's outline for pastoral ministry. Through Paul (who certainly was exposed to the strains of ministry), God gave these "boundaries" for pastoral ministry:

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to measure the stature of the fullness of Christ."  
(Ephesians 4:11-13)

What is fascinating to note from these verses is both what is, and what is not, the responsibility of a pastor. Why would a pastor expect to exceed the plan of God? Or, in light of "resiliency"—let God's plan prevail for success! The application of "balance" is to view a pastor's life from a holistic perspective. A pastor needs to be diligent and persistent in maintaining wellbeing in all these life areas: recreational, vocational, emotional, physical, financial, and intellectual. This is pleasing to God; a part of His "resiliency" plan. In "balance" is in awareness of God's plan for each area of life. In G-O-D (Good Ordery Direction) it all comes together! In Him, and His plan—is victory for pastors!

**Pastor Dan Kohn, District Counselor**  
**revkohn@gmail.com (715) 610-2400**



### **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.





## NWD Financial Box Score



June Offering	\$131,083.40
June Budget	\$154,350.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$762,612.42
Year-to-date budget	\$863,100.00

SAVE THE DATE!		
<b>2015 NWD Golf Outing</b>	July 20	Trapp River Golf Course, Brokaw WI
<b>NWD/MNS Principal &amp; Director Retreat</b>	August 3-5	Trego, WI
<b>NWD Early Childhood Conference</b>	August 7	St. Paul, Bonduel WI
<b>Retired Pastors, Wives and Widows Retreat</b>	Oct. 6&7	Best Western Grand Seasons, Waupaca WI

## **North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

3103 Seymour Lane

Wausau, WI 54401

715-845-8241 | [www.nwdlcms.org](http://www.nwdlcms.org) | [www.facebook.com/nwdlcms](https://www.facebook.com/nwdlcms)



### **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

Promoting healthy churches, healthy workers, and missions outreach  
by encouraging, networking and equipping local leaders.

