

District Resources

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

the Happenings



The President's Message—February 2015

WE AS CHRISTIANS NEED TO BE A PRESENCE

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Recently I went to Washington D.C. and participated for the first time in the 42nd Annual National March for Life. Under sunny skies there was a gathering on the National Mall of various speakers. Afterwards 600,000 of us marched down Constitution Avenue and concluded at the steps of the Supreme Court. Probably the most surprising thing was the majority of those marching were young people.

Part of the experience was also attending the LCMS Life Conference under the theme "It's Your Time to Stand." We heard various speakers; one of them that I really appreciated was Tim Goeglein. He had worked on the staff of President G.W. Bush and is presently the vice-president with FOCUS ON THE FAMILY and a member of an LCMS church. The title of his presentation was "Free to be Faithful."

He began by asking a couple of questions: Where do your rights come from? How do you lose your rights? He stated that our rights come from God, not the government and in this country we will lose our rights if we don't stand up for them. He went on to say that we can't have liberty and freedom without moral excellence in our leaders and our people. Government, regardless of how tolerable it is, cannot improve moral excellence. Moral excellence does not come from above – it wells up from the people.

The Christian church was bold to help abolish slavery and civil rights. The church needs to remain bold in its pro-life effort. As Goeglein stated: "Untruth is coming! It is already here! We have to change the culture and change the law" concerning abortion. The unborn have a right to live.

The President's Message—continued...

Goeglein encouraged those gathered to look at Jesus and see Him as wanting us as Christians and as a Christian church to be bold. Jesus said, "Let your light shine." He concluded by stating: "We need to be a presence." I couldn't agree more!



~Dwayne M. Lueck

Across My Desk: DJ Schult

The below is a devotion posted by Dale Meyer, President of St. Louis Seminary on Monday January 26, 2015. He speaks to engaging our culture, a critical task for our NWD churches.

Congratulations to Coach Mike Krzyzewski on winning his 1000th NCAA Division 1 men's basketball game. Immediately after the game, a Fox Sports reporter asked, "How have you changed over the years you've coached?" "I've changed a lot," Krzyzewski said. "You have to change with the culture of the kids you're privileged to coach."

Himself a Baby Boomer, Krzyzewski in 40 years has coached players from the Baby Boom (1946-1964), Gen-X (1965-1979), and Millennial (1980-2000) generations. He knows that each generation of young people has its own peculiarities. You know it too. They're our generation's children, not our clones.

When church people talk about responding to generational and cultural changes, there are always a dependable few quick to speak but slow to hear (cf. James 1:19) who jump to the conclusion that being sensitive to culture means accommodation to culture. That's not necessarily true. In the 1950's, it took 20 church members a year to reach one person for Jesus Christ. Today it takes 85 (Thom Rainer). That suggests to me the problem isn't accommodation as much as church members' failure to listen. Krzyzewski says it's a privilege to coach young adults and we should consider it a privilege to get out of our old comfort zones and listen to them. "Meet them where they're at, but don't leave them there."



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News and Events



National Lutheran Schools Week

Many schools celebrate NLSW at the end of January or the first week of March. National Lutheran Schools Week provides our national network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools. We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the community. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love!

2015 Deadlines for Notices

The Lutheran Witness deadline for notices is the 20th of the month, two months prior to the publication month. The deadline for the *Reporter* changes each month. [Click here](#) for more information on notice content, deadlines and information regarding these LCMS publications.

Leadership Meetings

Six circuits were visited this winter for annual circuit meetings. The staff from the District Resources team visits each circuit every three years, leading sessions on Healthy Churches, Healthy Boards, Healthy Workers and Healthy Stewardship. The meetings were well attended and evaluations from the events have shown participants felt encouraged, networked and equipped through the meetings.

[Click here for the presentation used at the 2015 Leadership Meetings](#)

The Lutheran Fathers Conference

The Lutheran Fathers Conference is meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 9:30am-3pm, at Zion Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls. It's the day before Ash Wednesday, so, plan ahead so you can enjoy the day. We are studying Martin Luther's *The Bondage of the Will* as translated by J.I. Packer & O.R. Johnston. In November we covered through the middle of page 189, so, please prepare pages 190 through 238, chapter V of *The Bondage of the Will*—although, we may not get through quite all of the chapter. The book's introduction states, "This is the greatest piece of writing that came from Luther's pen." 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 zionlutherancf@charterinternet.com. Please come and join us!



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News and Events

New(er) Teachers

After numerous school visits, the teachers and principals of the NWD asked for more opportunities for teachers to network. Follow-up with newer teachers showed significant struggles in transitioning through the pressures of full-time ministry as a new teacher. A newer teacher gathering was held for the first time to encourage, network and equip these young teachers. Former Lutheran School teacher and current public school central office staff Thom Hahn led the day with sessions on the elements teachers most often struggle through. Thirty year Trinity Wausau teacher and mentor Gina Maroszek also presented and served as a resource for the day.



Healthy Church with District Support

Peace Antigo recently gathered over 50 of their church leadership and staff for a Saturday to review their commitment to their mission and explore how to best operate in their current governance model. Leaders discussed roles, policy, monitoring and best practice tools. Hats off to their commitment to ministry and making a difference for the Lord in Antigo.

Spirit of Life recently gathered their key leaders for a strategic planning day. The group spent a full day developing all the elements of a healthy strategic plan and are now busy communicating and implementing the plan.

2015 State Wide Bible Bowl

Saturday, March 28th 2015, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bonduel. This is a great way for youth to study the word of God on their own or in groups. For more information, registration and other details of the event, visit our website:

http://www.nwdlcms.org/Youth_Ministry.html

Hearts for Jesus

Colegio NOE is our focus, located in Peru. This school needs student scholarships and a cement block bathroom. How will your church help? Check out these resources to promote the program, including a PowerPoint with notes, video of the school, and general Peru Missions video, all found on the District Resources homepage at www.nwdlcms.org

Teens Standing Strong Training

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship Teen Leadership Training is the annual leadership development training for Lutheran youth representing their LCMS Districts and/or congregation. The LYF Executive Board provides the leadership for their peers at the training held annually in March. Check out the website for details and to register your youth:

<http://www.lcms.org/lutheranyouthfellowship>



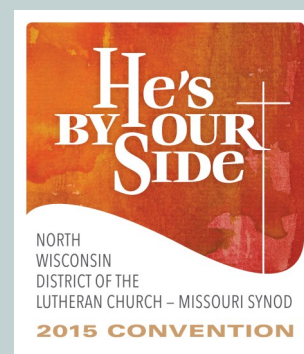
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Convention Corner

By now you should have received your forms for the North Wisconsin District 2015 Convention. If not, please contact Lori at: lori@nwdlcms.org or 715-854-8241 ext. 103. [Here is a link on our website for important Convention Forms.](#)



Convention Video

The NWD is creating a short "Celebration of Ministry" video for the convention and could use your help:

1. Use your smartphone to capture an image or video...

- Turn the camera sideways to LANDSCAPE
- Support the device on something so it is stable
- Leave a few seconds dead space on each end of the clip
- Mix clips/pics with group shots and face shots

2. Send images of ministry, specifically what these look like...

- Healthy Workers
- Healthy Churches
- Missions

3. Submit your images...

- All pictures and short video files can be emailed to **dj@nwdlcms.org**
- Send pics in hi-resolution, as LARGE or original file size. File size may limit to 1 or 2 per email.
- Short 10 second video clips can be emailed or send DJ the link to your YouTube channel/website
- Name the file with your church name and the event

We won't be able to use all clips, but are hoping for content from all circuits.
Deadline for submission is March 1, 2015!



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District Resources Photo Booth



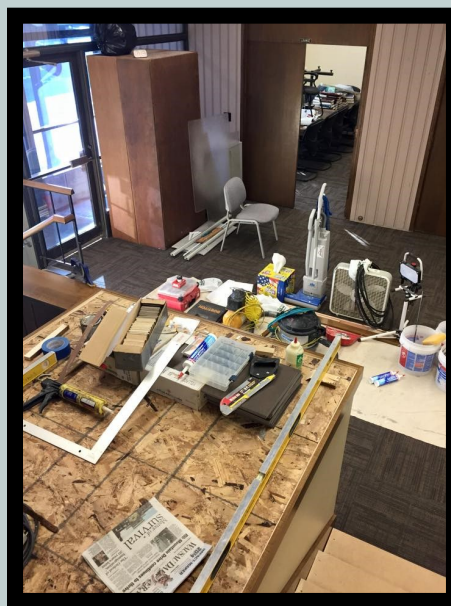
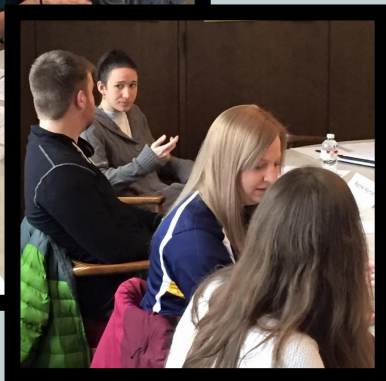
Ordination for Vicar Balk at Mount Olive, Weston on December 21, 2014.



President Lueck talking at the Circuit Leadership Development Meeting held at Peace, Park Falls.



DJ Schult hosted a New(er) Teacher Gathering on January 16 at the District Office. A great day for networking and equipping new teachers in the District!



Changes are happening at the District offices! It's been a hectic and noisy month, but we are excited about the way things are turning out!



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Concordia Plan Services

Redesigned Website Launches Next Week

We are excited to launch the redesign of our public website at **www.ConcordiaPlans.org**.

Early next week, you'll notice a new look, layout, and navigation structure on our site. We've cut down the size of the website tremendously – from about 800 pages to less than 50! By consolidating content, adding relevant resources on each page, and keeping our customers' feedback in mind, the site will be easy to navigate and uncluttered.

As an employer, you'll be able to find most of the resources and information you need under our new Ministry Resources section. Visit our site next week and see how it's changed!

Reporting the Cost of CHP on Workers' Form W-2s

Concordia Plan Services (CPS) wants to remind employers* in the Concordia Health Plan (CHP) they are still exempt from the IRS requirement of having to report the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage on each worker's Form W-2.

On March 29, 2011, the IRS released Notice 2011-28 exempting employers that provide coverage through a self-funded church health plan, such as the CHP, from the requirement to report the cost of health coverage. (Other W-2 reporting obligations continue to apply.) This exemption was reaffirmed in IRS Notice 2012-9.

The IRS notice suggests that some of the exemptions provided may be transitional. However, CPS will continue to monitor IRS guidance and share information with you as it becomes available. The IRS has stated it will provide at least a six-month notice if a determination is made requiring employers with denominational plans to start reporting this information on Form W-2s.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod employers that offer health plans other than the CHP may not be eligible for the exemption from reporting the cost of health coverage, and should check with their health plan carrier or review IRS Notice 2012-9 to determine whether an exemption is applicable.*



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Counselor Corner

ADDRESSING ANGER

Anger is a real and common emotion. It is often defended by such statements as "Jerry has a short-fuse," or, "Sometimes Jim just blows up!" However, understanding anger is not that simple.

Oftentimes, anger is a secondary emotion. Unresolved restlessness and fear often precede the expression of anger. It is these underlying issues that need attention in order to effectively address the anger. Some of the other triggering, "dark" emotions can be guilt, shame, and loneliness.

By way of example, we can picture anger as molten lava in a volcano. The underlying heat source below the lava triggers the "anger flow" when these forces get heated up. If a person fears inadequacy, but this is not addressed, the outcome can be the expression of anger. The anger is a visible force, but its source is hidden, yet powerful.

Another common cause for anger is when a person's expectations do not match reality. Said differently, the distance between one's expectations and reality defines the intensity of the anger. Words like "frustration" are also used to define this experience.

From a spiritual perspective, anger is evidence of a lack of self control (the latter being a "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23)). In this same section, the apostle Paul lists anger under the "works of the flesh" (vss. 19-20). Yes, anger is a spiritual issue, in addition to its emotional side. Paul goes on to say this in his letter to the Ephesians—

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." (26-27)

The apostle James shares this reality, "for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires" (1:20). The author is quick to point to the remedy, in meekness the individual is to allow the word of God to be implanted (vs. 21).

God is well aware of our potential for anger. He shares this emotion, but always with controlled righteousness. Through His Spirit, we too can address the anger within us, and be victorious—all to God's glory. Willingness to confess the full nature of one's inner battles is also a vital tool in this spiritual victory.

Pastor Dan Kohn
District Counselor
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NWD Financial Box Score

January Offering	\$15,900.13
January Budget	\$32,130.00
Year-to-date total offerings	\$15,900.13
Year-to-date budget	\$32,130.00



SAVE THE DATE!

WCRIS 2015 Conference	Feb. 6	Madison
Principals Academy	Feb. 10	NWD Office
2015 Bible Bowl	March 28	St. Paul Bonduel
Principals Academy	April 9	NWD Office
NWD Early Childhood Director Academy	April 24	Trinity, Wausau
NWD Convention	June 7-8	Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center, Wausau

North Wisconsin District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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