

**2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**BRINGING CHRIST AND HIS WORD TO PEOPLE**

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

**Prepared By District President Rev. Timothy Shoup**

# From the District President

## **HE HAS GIVEN US AN INHERITANCE THAT WILL NEVER PERISH, SPOIL, OR FADE.**

In 2025 the Lord called home my father. I miss calling him weekly, sometimes daily. My brother and I received an inheritance. Thanks to Dad, my wife and I are catching up on house projects. Money sure is a nice tool, but money can't fix everything. And what it fixes will break again.

Enjoy looking through our 2025 NWD Annual Report to see glimpses of our working together to bring Christ and His Word to people so they receive from our heavenly Father an inheritance different from all others. Jesus worked His entire life having mercy on others, shunning every temptation, and then dying for us to secure the inheritance His Father gives to us in Baptism. Saint Peter proclaims,

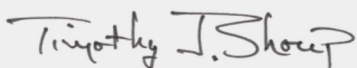
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ... and into an inheritance that will never perish, spoil, or fade, kept in heaven for you who through faith are shielded by God's power" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Your offerings help us serve 212 congregations, 3 high schools, 20 elementary schools, and 25 early childhood centers, all of them bringing Christ and His mercy to their people. Your offerings allow the NWD to have an LCMS campus pastor at Stevens Point and an LCMS chaplain at the veterans' home in King, and much more... mission grants, technology training for teachers, disaster response, and support for current and future pastors, teachers, musicians, deacons, deaconesses, DCEs, DCMs and other professional church workers, as well as Lutheran theological training through colloquy, and ministry zooms for pastors, business managers-treasurers, and early childhood directors.

There's more. PALS (Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support) brings together groups of recent seminary graduates during their first three years of their ministries for worship, study, discussion, and learning. Church Clarity is an LCEF sponsored NWD funded tool to help pastors and lay leaders create ministry plans for their congregations and context. Labor of Love was a campaign to help NWD church workers erase educational debt. Your special offerings with earned interest sent the total to over \$1,000,000. Camp Luther is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, and receives board-based support from the NWD.

For this new year and triennium, we have identified five ministry focus areas outlined in this report to help expand our effort to bring Christ and His Word to people so the "inheritance in Christ that will never perish, spoil, or fade," is received and shared with many unto everlasting joy.

Thank you for your support. I thank the Lord for you, and for the opportunity to work with you. Pray for your pastors and workers in the NWD, that they proclaim the promises of Christ unto everlasting life that are ours in Him.



Rev. Timothy J Shoup  
District President, NWD LCMS



# Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan

## Mission

We bring Christ and His Word to people.

## Vision

- Fostering Lutheran education.
- Building families and children of faith and character.
- Freeing them to live in His image – to serve.
- Revitalizing our congregations.
- Helping them reach the lost.

## Strategic Plan

Each of the above vision statements has strategic goals set by the District President, as well as ministry planning teams recruited and assigned to make them happen.

The initial mission, vision, and strategic plan was approved by the NWD Board of Directors in November of 2025. The ministry planning teams met in December 2025 to collaborate, develop, and prioritize goals and initial action steps. Teams will meet over the next 90 days to begin their work with the intention to report back to the full group in spring of 2026.



# Strategic Plan

## Fostering Lutheran Education

- Champion our existing Lutheran schools and early childhood centers.
- Explore and expand homeschool opportunities.
- Prepare education materials on classical education for potential new starts.
- Plan ways to help congregations foster Lutheran education in their public school families.

## Building Families and Children of Faith and Character

- Communicate to congregations and to fathers how family ministry looks different today than 10–40 years ago.
- Develop simple tools for pilot congregations to help dads form/shape the faith of their children and families.
- Provide family ministry leadership training for pastors and ministry staff.

## Stewardship: Freeing Them to Live in His Image – to Serve

- Broaden the foundation of stewardship to include man's creation in the image of God, his redemption through the cross, and the reality of salvation.
- Broaden the focus of stewardship to include all of life.
- Communicate – preach, teach, write, livestream, blog, and host workshops.

## Revitalization of Congregations

- Sponsor opportunities to participate in the LCEF *Ministry Clarity* process to develop congregational ministry plans.
- Consider supportive partnerships between churches.

## Missions: Helping Them Reach the Lost

- Broadcast current work by our congregations, district, and synod in national and international missions.
- Expand our NWD missions footprint of district supported and individual congregation's missions endeavors.



# Ministry Highlights

## Labor of Love

Labor of Love raised over \$1 million in the campaign to reduce the educational debt of individual professional church workers. \$50,000 was distributed this year.

## Colloquy

Almost \$20,000 was provided to eight workers to support their effort to become called workers through the Concordia University System.

## Peace Campus

The NWD LCMS sponsors an LCMS pastor at Peace Campus Center at UW Stevens Point. The NWD owns the building used as a meeting place and worship center.

## Camp Luther

The NWD LCMS provided \$90,000 for our ministry at Camp Luther. The NWD LCMS works closely with an executive director who carries out the day to day camp operations.

## King Veterans Home

The NWD LCMS continues to fully support an LCMS full-time chaplain who serves over 300 residents at this state-owned and operated facility.

## Church Worker Grants

The NWD LCMS distributes over \$100,000 annually for future church workers, provided from endowed gifts. \$180,000 was provided to 27 workers in 2025.

## Mission Grants

Over \$40,000 was distributed to 30 congregations during the mission grant cycle for 2025. The purpose of these gifts is to bring Christ and His Word to people.

## Campus Ministry

The NWD LCMS expanded its support of campus ministry in 2025 by extending small grants to churches doing campus ministry for college students.

## Peru

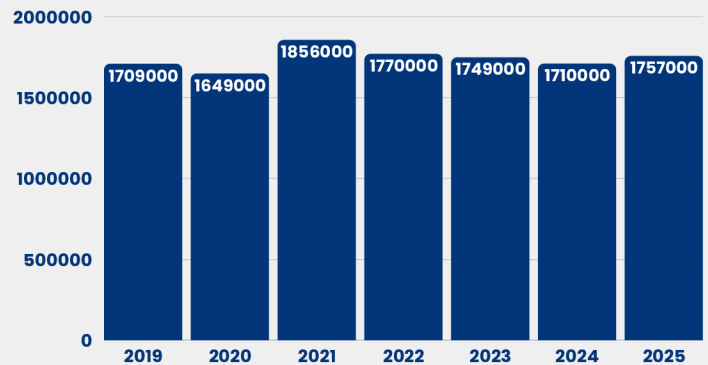
The NWD LCMS continues to support the LCMS presence in Peru with an annual gift of over \$30,000 and by serving on the ministry FORO that meets twice a year for strategy and partnership.



# Financials

The NWD LCMS ended 2025 in the black with a small reserve thanks to faithful congregational giving, multiple special gifts, and careful use of funds received. A conservative budget has again been prepared for 2026 and approved by the NWD Board of Directors. This budget supports many past programs as well as funding for the new triennial strategic plan.

**Congregational Giving**  
2019–2025



**Congregational Giving in 2025**  
**\$1,757,000**

**Additional Special Gifts**  
**\$110,000 (2025)**  
**\$ 80,000 (2024)**  
**\$ 57,000 (2023)**

## A Closer Look...

### Synodical Support

35%

35% of each congregational dollar received is sent to Synod in support of LCMS regional and world missions and operations.

### NWD Operations

35%

35% of each congregational dollar received supports NWD operations: the staffing that provides training and equipping, ministry support, resource development and delivery, scholarship and grant administration, and more.

### NWD Missions

25%

25% of each congregational dollar received supports NWD Missions, including Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Disaster Response, French African Ministries, King Veterans Home and Peru.

### Camp Luther

5%

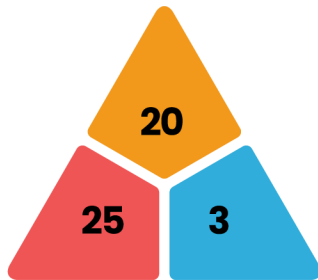
5% of each congregational dollar received supports Camp Luther operations and ministry in Three Lakes, WI.

## District Statistics



### NWD Churches

212 Congregations  
81,000 Baptized Members



### Schools

20 Elementary Schools  
3 High Schools  
25 Stand Alone  
Preschool-Childcare  
Centers

163

189

### Called Workers

163 Ordained  
189 Commissioned\*

*Commissioned* are non-ordained, rostered workers, including: Deaconesses, Teachers, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs), Directors of Christian Outreach (DCOs), Directors of Parish Music, Directors of Family Life Ministry, and Directors of Church Ministries.



# THANK YOU



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**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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