



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH WISCONSIN



### ‘I Know that My Redeemer Lives’

I know that my Redeemer lives.  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead.  
He lives, my ever-living Head.

LSB 461

“I know that my Redeemer liveth” are words not only sung in the Easter hymn, but they are also a part of Handel’s Messiah. Those are beautiful words of confession, words of faith stated by Christians worldwide because of a simple statement of the angel to the women on that first Easter morning:

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen” — **Matt. 28:5-6**

Christ rose from the dead. Jesus, by His resurrection, conquered death.

Job first uttered those words. Despite all the suffering and accusations that he faced and endured, Job identifies who is his mediator, his advocate who was to help vindicate



**Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck**  
North Wisconsin District President

him, his Redeemer. That same Redeemer who he looked to is the same Redeemer that we look to plead our sinful case before God. We know that it’s Jesus who was to come into the world to die on the cross, pay for our sin and then rise victorious on that first Easter and conquer death.

For us as Christians, “I know that my Redeemer lives” are words of confession of faith. They are a statement of fact of what you and I believe, that Jesus is alive and well. We believe the words of the angel and know that when we look into that tomb, Jesus is not there, but He is alive. Because of that, we do not have to fear death because our faith in Jesus Christ means everlasting life with Him.

This hymn is by far one my favorites, and if all goes according to plan will be sung at my funeral. I want those attending to know what I believed and that they can be rest assured that everlasting life with Jesus is mine. I am sure of this, just as you are sure of the same thing through your faith in Jesus Christ.

One of the real negatives of the pandemic has been restrictions at funerals. People who have lost loved ones have been unable to gather at church. Many funerals have been nothing more than graveside gatherings for the immediate family. I have even heard that Christians who have passed away were buried without any kind of funeral or graveside service. Family, loved ones ... all who would attend need to hear the comfort of God’s Word, that He will be with them in the time of loss.

See MESSAGE, Page 2

# INSTALLATIONS



**Rev. Steven Stoll was installed as pastor of Tabor Lutheran Church, Mountain, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Breed, on Feb. 6.** Stoll graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2002. His first call was to Trinity, Hinton, Iowa. Pastor Stoll and his wife, Paula, have four adult children and six grandchildren. From left, Revs. Michael Paholke, Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Steven Stoll, Nicholas Buchholz and Steven Haag.

**Rev Craig VanPay was ordained and installed as associate pastor of St. John, Luxemburg, on Jan. 24.** Pastor VanPay, who will focus on high school and young adult ministry, enrolled in the Specific Ministries Pastor Program through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and will finish in August 2022. He has been married to Amy for 26 years and they have three adult children. From left, Revs. Phillip Beukema, Dr. Dwayne Lueck, Craig VanPay and Carl Brewer.



**Rev. Jonathan Cluppert was installed as pastor of First, Rice Lake, on Jan. 31.** As part of the special service, the congregation presented Pastor Cluppert with a shepherd's crook. Upon presenting the crook, the congregation's president said: "We recognize our Triune God as the Shepherd of all. We look to you, Pastor Cluppert, as shepherd of our flock here at First Lutheran and we give you this shepherd's crook to symbolize our trust in you as our shepherd." Cluppert and his wife, Betsy, have three children: Daniel, Christopher, and Kelsey.



## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Scripture is full of examples how the sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob came from great distances to lay away their loved ones. God buried Moses in the valley of Moab. Some wealthy friends of Jesus came boldly to Pilate to request His body for the purpose of giving it a decent and honorable burial. We gather to do the same.

Our funeral is also an opportunity to give witness to our family and friends. Take the time to plan your funeral. Select your Christian hymns that can give a witness to your faith. Every Sunday you confess your faith to all around you at worship, "I believe in God the Father ... and in Jesus Christ ... I believe in the Holy Spirit."

At your funeral, you can share your faith by having the attendees sing, "I know that my Redeemer lives." That is what makes a Christian funeral a time of comfort, knowing that our loved one died believing in Jesus as their Redeemer. Make sure they sing the last verse as well, as these words are a joy!

My Redeemer lives!

Happy Easter.

He lives! All glory to his name!

He lives, my Savior, still the same.

Oh, sweet the joy this sentence gives:

"I know that my Redeemer lives!"  
(LSB 461:8)



## Thank you church workers

Happy Easter!

Many times we can remember what we were doing on a certain day. I'm sure all of us can remember where we were and what we were doing the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

What about last Easter? How did you feel? I know that I felt a little lost not being able to worship and celebrate in person. Some of you may have watched a virtual service with your family. At my church, we were able to drive to church, sit in our vehicles and listen to the service together. There was a feeling of togetherness with our Christian friends. We were not able to celebrate Holy Communion. Perhaps you had a drive-in service and drive-up commu-



**Becky Haltaufderheid**  
LWML District President

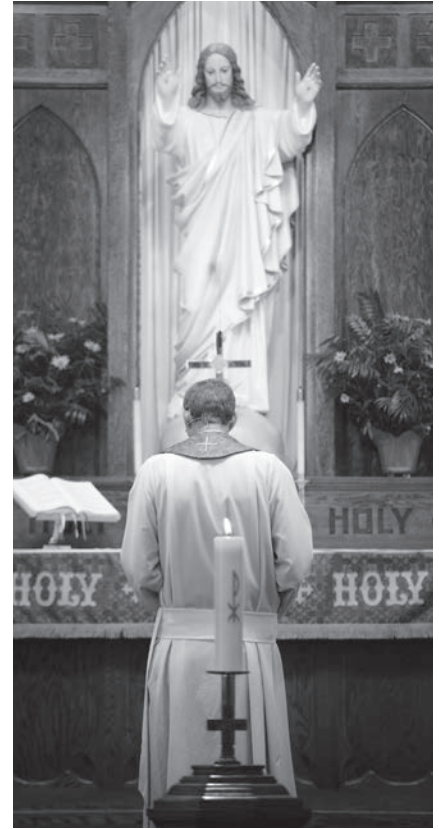
nion. No one could stop us from coming together to celebrate our risen Lord!

Here we are, one year later! Thank you Lord for keeping us safe. Thank you to our district president, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, for his leadership to help and guide each of our pastors and congregations so we could remain safe and healthy. Thank you to our pastors and church workers who held virtual church services, Bible studies, daily devotions and prayer services to continue to minister to us during this pandemic.

Don't forget to thank your pastor. I am sure your pastor, like ours, Rev. Dr. Chris Jackson, helped all of us remain calm and trust in our almighty God that He is in control and this pandemic was in His plans all along.

Thank you to our district LWML pastoral counselors, Revs. Doug Reinders and Larry Yaw, for their guidance, prayers

See LWML, Page 4



## The Counseling CONNECTION

### For such a (challenge) as this

Queen Esther faced a daunting challenge. The mission before her could prove to be her last. Yet, as her uncle reminded her, God had called her for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14b). The mission would be fulfilled.

That phrase, "for such a time as this," has broader application. For those who are called, there are those times when they need to remind themselves that God does the calling, in His timing. Our sovereign God doesn't make mistakes.

Here is a "reality check." We have all



**Rev. Dan Kohn**  
District Counselor

been called "for such a time as this." The circumstances that surround us today are well known by God. All are a part of His sovereign "big-picture" plan. This is not a time of defeat.

God is well aware of our individual abilities and limitations. He is fully familiar with our gifts and opportunities — the "doors" He is opening.

Our lives have meaning and purpose. Our lives will face the "tribulation," of which Jesus reminded His first disciples (John 16:33b). But He also reminded them that He was the ultimate Victor!

It goes without saying that the current pandemic is such a "tribulation." In anticipation God has equipped us. Fulfillment of our servant role is possible through His Spirit's work within us.

We dare not forget the spiritual battle that is also present "for such a time (challenge) as this." Satan will work to distract us. Reminders of our inadequacy and questions regarding God's trustworthiness are common sinister strategies.

At a deeper level there can be the onset of depression. There can be the contemplation of giving up one's work.

We can find ourselves in the "wilderness of the overwhelmed" like Elijah (1 Kings 19:4). At such a time we need to recall the "rest of the story." God still had a plan for His prophet (v. 15-16). We need to hear God's reminder we are not alone in the work before us (v. 18).

Yes, we all have been called for "such a time (challenge) as this." Together we stand courageous and energized.

We go forth with the battle cry of David, as he stood before the giant Goliath—"The battle is the Lord's" (1 Sam. 17:47)!

Contact me at [revkohn@gmail.com](mailto:revkohn@gmail.com) or 715 610-2400



## Conventions postponed

The congregations of the LCMS have approved, by over 90 percent, a proposal to extend the current 2019–2022 triennium, pushing the Synod’s previously scheduled 2022 national convention to 2023 and extending the timeline for districts that wish to delay their conventions from 2021 into 2022. More than 63 percent of Synod congregations voted.

As a result, the North Wisconsin District (NWD) Board of Directors has voted to delay the district convention that was planned for this June. The rescheduled triennial NWD convention will be held June 5-6, 2022. Revised timelines and details will be communicated in the coming weeks and made available at [nwdlcms.org](http://nwdlcms.org).

## Help available for church-work students

If you are a student at an LCMS university or seminary preparing for full-time church work, it is time to apply for the annual District Church Worker Grant. Many generous donors have contributed to this fund, supported by endowments and annual gifts from people who love professional church work students. All details can be found at [nwdlcms.org/financial](http://nwdlcms.org/financial).

## LWML

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and leadership as we worked our way through this pandemic holding our meetings and convention online. Praise be to God for their willingness to serve in the LWML.

As we celebrate Easter this year, my prayer is that we are able to be together, that together we sing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” and “Jesus Christ is Risen Today,” that together as one congregation we hear the words of the angel:

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen as he said.” — **Matt. 28:5-6**

Enjoy your Easter together with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

The LWML Board of Directors approved a new mission statement, the first since 1988. It states: “As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.”

This new mission statement contains the core values of the LWML. All who read this will know we are Christian women who are in God’s Word, focused on missions, embrace diversity and are called and equipped by God to serve others.

May you be blessed as you serve the Lord with gladness in all you do.

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! — **Ps. 100:2**

Blessed to serve joyfully!



## LCMS to celebrate ‘Here I Stand’ Sunday

**O**N APRIL 18, 1521, three and a half years after he nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Martin Luther made his historic stand at the Diet (official meeting) in the German city of Worms (pronounced “Vorms”).

Accused of fostering heresy, he was directed by Charles V and other leaders to recant his teaching about the pure Gospel or face death.

As recounted in his collected works, Luther concluded his statement to the Diet with the words: “I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen” (LW 32:112–13).

On April 18, 2021, the Synod will commemorate the 500th anniversary of Luther’s defiant defense of the pure Gospel by observing “Here I Stand” Sunday, as called for by the adoption of Resolution 4–09 at the 2019 Synod convention.

Congregations and individual contributors may also anticipate further Synod communications on how they might participate in the gathering of a Synodwide thank offering, as called for in Res. 4–09, as part of the anniversary celebration.

- Find resources and ideas for celebrating: [lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday](http://lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday)
- Learn about the history of the Reformation: [lutheran-reformation.org](http://lutheran-reformation.org)