



DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH DAKOTA



JESUS LIVES

THE SHAME IS GONE

Your sins are forgiven! Jesus' resurrection guarantees it.

Your shame is covered by His tomb-rending life too.

Shame?

We're very accustomed to the message of the forgiveness of sins because of the saving work of Jesus. The covering of our shame isn't something we hear about nearly as often, but it's as certain as the resurrection.

Most people in the world live in a culture of honor and shame, and not in a culture of sin and forgiveness. The Muslim world

is immersed in honor and shame. Arab Muslims believe the West has intentionally humiliated and shamed them throughout history. One reason young Muslims resort to terrorism is to regain honor. Those who adhere to a supercharged race agenda demand that white Americans today should feel shame because of the undeserved privilege we have, historically, at the expense of black Americans.

But aside from all of that, you and I are very aware of shame. We have felt it, perhaps often.

How so? Consider this definition (from Brené Brown's book, *Dare to Lead*):

- ▶ **GUILT** — "I did something bad."
- ▶ **SHAME** — "I am bad."

Guilt says I was speeding and I wrecked the car.

Shame says I'm a bad person because I wrecked the car.

Guilt says I messed up and lost my job.

Shame says I'm a lost cause because I lost my job.

Guilt says I skipped church ... again.

Shame says I'm a terrible person because I skipped church again. (Am I really God's child?)

Do you see the difference? It all involves sin. It all involves the weight of the Law. It all needs the grace of God that speaks to you, dear child of God, that you are highly loved and honored by Him.



Rev. Scott Sailer
District President

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MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Listen to this message of grace:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

— 1 Peter 1:3-7

Now, you have hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At His “revelation” (Second Coming), you will have glory and honor. You will be like Jesus, with a better-than-ever glorious body to live with God and all the saints and angels in the new heaven and new earth, prepared for those who trust God.

But don't you sense the honor even now? Yes, you sin. You're guilty and you feel yourself drifting toward the shame of believing that you're no good; not good enough for God to love you.

But the Spirit of God breaks through with the promise of God:

“Whoever believes in Him will never be put to shame.” — Is. 28:16

The Spirit thereby testifies: Your shame is a lie. You are not “no good.” You're not outside the family of God. Christ is risen. Sin, guilt and shame are covered. By faith, you are incorporated into the once shamed but now honored Christ. You belong to Him!

No shame there. Only honor.

Your servant in Christ

Pastor Scott Sailer

“Not ashamed of the Gospel”

Rom. 1:16; 16:25-27

Peace holds pre-Lenten service

It was very cold (-10 degrees) the morning of Feb. 13, but Peace, Rapid City, did not cancel the LWML prayer service. The hour-long service was led by Rev. David Lindenberg, Peace pastor, with readings done by congregants. Ps. 4:1-8 was prayed responsively, several hymns were sung, including the very fitting “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”:

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”

While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.

Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;

Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!” (v.4)



Call Information

ACCEPTED

- ▶ **Rev. Paul Albers**, Concordia, Vermillion, accepted a call of pastor from Mount Olive, Omaha, Neb., March 8.
- ▶ **Rev. Peter Utecht**, Messiah/Redeemer, Redfield/Doland, accepted a call of pastor from Bethesda, Hot Springs, March 6.
- ▶ **Rev. Wade Harr**, First, Fort Benton, Mont., accepted a call of pastor to Trinity/Zion/Christ, Reliance/Hamill/ Winner, Feb. 26.

PENDING

- ▶ **Rev. Jason Resner**, Faith, Shumway, Ill., received a call of associate pastor from Faith, Sioux Falls, Jan. 21.

- ▶ **Rev. Ray Greenseth**, Messiah/St. Paul/Zion, Murdo/Draper/Presho, received a call as pastor to St. John, Cadott, and St. Peter, Boyd, Wis., Feb. 22.

DECLINED

- ▶ Ken Johnson, Zion/Our Savior, Avon/Springfield, declined a call of pastor from Faith, Sioux Falls, Feb. 3.

VACANCIES

- ▶ Aberdeen, St. Paul (*assistant pastor*)
- ▶ Leola, St. Paul
- ▶ Mitchell, Zion (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Redfield/Doland, Messiah/Redeemer
- ▶ Sioux Falls, Faith (*associate pastor*)
- ▶ Sisseton/Waubay, Emmanuel/Zion
- ▶ Vermillion, Concordia



‘Distinguished’

Palmreuter chosen for educator award

Dr. Kenneth Palmreuter, who has served in Lutheran education for 56 years, has been selected to receive the Lutheran Education Association’s Distinguished Retired Lutheran Educator EncourAGING Award.

Dr. Palmreuter and his wife, Martha, live in Rapid City, where they are members of Zion Lutheran Church. He officially retired in 2002, having most recently served as executive director/principal for the Colorado Lutheran High School Association. Since that time, he has served as an interim prin-



Martha and Dr. Kenneth Palmreuter

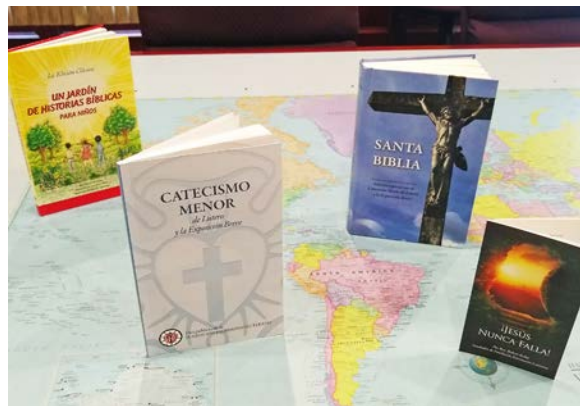
cipal in various locations. For the last several years, he has been the interim administrator at Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs, which has earned National Lutheran School Accreditation with his help. He also helped open a before- and after-school program.

Dr. Palmreuter graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education from Concor-

dia University Chicago and a masters in elementary school administration and supervision from the University of Michigan. He was previously honored with a Doctor of Laws from Concordia University Nebraska and named Administrator of the Year in the LCMS Rocky Mountain District.

One of Ken’s colleagues sums up the case for his selection: “He is a true leader and a man who is always looking for ways to support the mission of our Lord and improve the work being done in the church. Ken is a faithful and loving man of God who continues to teach and encourage in Bible study and in worship. He is a Christian man of the highest quality and is a blessing to the church of Jesus Christ in his faithfulness, capabilities, love and zeal.”

Congratulations to Dr. Palmreuter for a well-deserved honor.



Free Spanish resources available from LHF

Great news! Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), an LCMS Recognized Service organization, has a variety of new Spanish resources available for free, including *Luther’s Small Catechism*, *The Bible with Small Catechism* (combined volume), *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories* and *Jesus Never Fails* devotional tract.

These materials are available to any mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Spanish-speaking neighbors. To order, contact LHF at info@LHFmissions.org or 800-554-0723.

CSP offers tuition guarantee for church work students

Beginning in Fall 2021, full-time students at Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), St. Paul, Minn., who pursue a course of study leading to a degree in church work will pay no more than \$6,000 in tuition each academic year. The new guaranteed rate is available for all incoming and current full-time church work students enrolled in any of the following CSP programs:

- ▶ Director of Christian Education
- ▶ Director of Christian Outreach

- ▶ Director of Parish Music
- ▶ Lutheran Classroom Teacher
- ▶ Pre-Deaconess
- ▶ Pre-Seminary

Scholarships and grants from a student’s home congregation, LCMS district and local community may be stacked on top of this guarantee to further reduce the cost of tuition and living expenses.

For more information, visit csp.edu.

Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Vonda Sturzenbecher
 ▶ vsturzenbecher@yahoo.com
 ▶ 8605 Woodland Dr.
 Black Hawk, SD 57718

The deadline for the June-July issue is April 15.

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



ARE YOU READY?

"Running the Race...Looking to Jesus" is the theme of the 39th Biennial LWML Convention, to be held June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky. The theme is based on Heb. 12:1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

I know that, whether you are there in person or virtually, the convention will help us celebrate our salvation through Jesus Christ, to focus on Him through Bible studies and song, and to share His grace with others as we witness and fund mission grants. All of you veterans of past conventions know that this is a mountain-top experience. I hope that there will be several first-time attendees from South Dakota.

There are so many activities planned for us, including Servant Connections, Photo Finish Mission Walk, Bible studies, Mites in Action speakers, worship services and opportunities to have fun and fellowship with your friends. If you want to visit Lexington attractions, there are pre- and post-convention tours planned to places such as Ark Encounter and Creation Museum.

If you want to ride the district bus to the convention, register online. Visit sdlwml.org, scroll to "Events" and click the "LWML Convention" link.

If you have not registered for the convention, visit lwml.org/2021-convention or check out the winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for the form.

I hope to see you in Lexington with your LWML sisters from across the country.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Heading to convention...

The South Dakota District is sending two Young Women Representatives to the LWML convention in Lexington, Ky. They are **Elizabeth Schmidt**, a member of Faith, Sioux Falls, and **Janelle Lafrentz** of Our Redeemer, Sioux Falls. They will be inspired to grow in their faith in Christ and learn how they can use their talents to further the mission of LWML.

Another great blessing is to send **Brooke Aker** as the district's Heart 2 Heart (H2H) Sister Leader trainee. The H2H program motivates, equips, challenges and provides mentoring opportunities for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world and grow in relationships with other women. Brooke will learn ways to connect with all our sisters in Christ and then take this education to groups in South Dakota.

These ladies will have a joyful experience of "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."

Pandemic creates greater need

The pandemic has slowed us down a bit here at the South Dakota Orphan Grain Train branch in Milbank.

We send 12 to 14 pallets every five to six weeks to the distribution headquarters in Norfolk, Neb. Each pallet consists of 36 boxes, which contain donations of clothing, quilts, shoes, hygiene items, layettes, mercy (hygiene) kits, school kits and supplies, household linens and kitchen items, toys and Bibles. We are getting several used bicycles, which are refurbished and also very welcome.

The needs are great throughout the world, so a group is continuing to send a shipment of pallets to Norfolk.

The Mercy Meals site here has not been open since the work to pack meals requires people to be in close proximity. Our packing crew did help the Mercy Meals group fill a pallet so that it could be shipped. Right now, hunger is ram-

tant and food is needed. An automated system has been developed at Norfolk and they are able to pack about 18,000 meals a week.

There are several volunteers continuing to work at home, mending or making quilts, pillowcase dresses, sleeping mats and knitted caps and scarves. One lady from the Ortonville, Minn., area recently finished her 1000th cap!

We have donated money to a feeding program at Norfolk, and our local food bank and school system (for masks and sanitizers).

A side benefit for the volunteers at the warehouse is being able to get out and see others during these days of restrictions. Our work blesses others and we are blessed by working together for the good of others.

To God be the Glory!

**Coordinators Mae Seeger,
Joyce Kasuske and
Jeanette Stensland**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Certy Images

THE END OF THE ROAD

The road to the cross through Lent is a solemn one. It is a journey that invites us to consider the pain we cause for one another, which is never a pleasant experience. By the time our Good Friday services are over, we are often so full of yearning for a good word that it hurts.

In the best of times, Lent can leave us emotionally drained and even physically exhausted, and we all know that we have not been in the best of times. Disease, riots, injustice, insurrection and mistrust all mark the year we just experienced.

And throughout Lent we are drawn once again to watch helplessly as Jesus makes His way to the cross. We are left to cry out in confession and repentance, to plead for forgiveness for the pain we have caused. Then at the end of the road is the cross, that terrible cross, where Jesus painfully dies.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

I am not saying there is no Gospel preached during Lent. There is and there always should be, but the focus of Lent often draws us to dwell on the difficulties of our own sins and shortcomings. But it is precisely because of our sins and helplessness to do anything about them that Jesus came to earth, Word in flesh, to walk the long, arduous road to the cross.

He walked the road and endured the shame so that you would have life. Christ walked the road to the cross willingly to proclaim His victory over all things, even death. He did this so you would know His victory, so you could know His life. Our Savior walked this road for you to see that in Him is the end of sin, of pain, of strife and even of death. He walked the road so that those of you who are overwhelmed by the bitter happenings of this world could see the end and see that — through Christ — the end is joyous.

Just as Lent ends in the joyous proclamation of Easter that Jesus is risen, so the end of all who believe in Jesus and trust in His work is the resurrection of all flesh and heaven. Be at peace, the end of the road is near.

MILBANK ZONE report

Love the LORD, all you his saints!
The LORD preserves the faithful.
— Ps. 31:23a

This promise has been our assurance during the pandemic. We can remain faithful in God's Word and work regardless of where or how or if we meet. The ladies in the Milbank Zone have met safely among their own congrega-



tions, but we have had no zone activities in the past year.

The Milbank ladies have faithfully packed items for Orphan Grain Train.

We praise God for their dedication so that others can benefit from shipments of clothing, quilts, layettes and hygiene kits.

The ladies from Revillo have made thousands of masks for distribution around the state. Ladies from Wilmot, Sisseton and Watertown also provide for their community food banks, shelters and wherever else there is need.

Let's keep our eyes focused on ways to "Serve the Lord with Gladness!"

Susan Magedanz
Milbank Zone President

‘Yes, I renounce them’

By Rev. Chris Navurskis
Life Coordinator,
South Dakota
District



In the orders of service that we use for Holy Baptism and confirmation, the pastor asks two questions:

- Do you renounce the devil?
- Do you renounce all his works?

The corresponding Christian responses are: “Yes, I do” and “Yes, I renounce them.”

In the comfort of the sanctuary, in the presence of friends and family at your home church, these questions have a non-threatening tone and are usually answered without hesitation in a strong voice. Still, the verbal response alone does not fulfill the substance demanded by the question.

The moment of the questioning is one of a sacred confession.

The confession is one moment in an unfolding life of witness. As one collect prayer that we use says, the moment of confessing the faith marks one move of the Word as it passes “from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life as (the Lord) has promised.” In other words, one renounces the devil and all of his works and his ways with actions as well as words.

We renounce the devil by the TV shows and movies we turn on or turn off. We renounce the devil by the items we consume online, and the items we block. We renounce the devil’s works by the love we give to our family and spouse and the boundaries we maintain to protect what the Lord has given.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

—“
We proclaim, in opposition to the pro-choice movement, that Jesus has come that we “may have life, and have it to the full.” Every single one of us.
—”

We defeat the devil by loving those who persecute and harm us, and unwind his schemes as we sacrifice our own time and treasures for the sake of those who have nothing. We make our confession of Christ and renunciation of Satan by the places our feet go, the works our hands do and the tasks that occupy our mind and all our senses. Though we don’t often meet him face to face, Satan challenges us in our walk with Christ day to day.

However, in our work to protect and uplift the unborn, we have seen the direct challenges of the devil quite clearly. Back in December, the *Houston Chronicle* generated an article about billboards sponsored by the Satanic

Temple in Houston. The billboards read, “Abortions Save Lives.” The message is based on their proclamation that, “Pregnancy complications are the sixth most common cause of death

among women ages 20 to 34.” The group further insists that many laws regulating abortion access infringe on their “religious rights.” Dear Christian friends, if ever you needed occasion to renounce abortion, this would suffice.

The Christian church has not been bashful about calling abortion evil and condemning the practice. We know from the Word of God that the Lord alone is the author of life and the creator of heaven and earth. We know that Jesus Himself said that Satan “comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy” (John 10:10). Therefore, it is plain to see that we renounce abortion as a matter of our confession of Christ. We proclaim, in opposition to the pro-choice movement, that Jesus has come that we “may have life, and have it to the full.” Every single one of us.

Having been given life, and renouncing the devil and all of his works and all of his ways, will you join the movement to undo the work of the devil in abortion? If you have not already, will you join Lutherans For Life?

Please visit lutheransforlife.org or call 888-364-LIFE today.

Proclaiming LIFE

On Jan. 31, Lutherans from throughout South Dakota met in Pierre to join South Dakota Right to Life and Lutherans For Life of South Dakota for the 2021 Life March.

Those who participated made their voices heard for all life, from conception to natural death. It was a beautiful day that drew out hundreds of people.

After the march, participants sat at the State Capitol and listened to speakers that included Gov. Kristi Noem, and Josh Haeder, state treasurer. Many young people were also present to live their voices in affirming that every life is precious in the eyes of God and should be treated as such.



‘I cannot do otherwise ... may God help me.’



“Luther at the Diet of Worms” by Anton von Werner. © Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 and used with permission.

LCMS to celebrate ‘Here I Stand’ Sunday

ON 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: “Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“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. The resolution reads, in part:

“WHEREAS, Scripture gives us encouragement with these words: ‘Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful’ (Heb. 10:23) ... therefore be it Resolved, That April 18, 2021, be declared ‘Here I Stand’ Sunday throughout The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, its districts,

circuits, and congregations ... and be it finally Resolved, That our churches and people be encouraged to spend time in prayer, asking the Lord to continue to bless the proclamation of the Gospel.”

Congregations and individual contributors have also received 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
- ▶ Learn about the history of the Reformation: lutheranreformation.org



HERE I STAND SUNDAY
IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT
Jesus