



# DISTRICT NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA



### 'REJOICE IN HIS SALVATION'

Let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation. For, He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I say this because in Is. 25:6-9 we read:

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the



**Rev. Arie Bertsch**  
District President

LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

This Old Testament reading pictures for us the Easter Gospel. I know, it has no cross and does not use "resurrection," but it is all there anyhow. What is pictured

there is heaven.

"In that day," says our text. Well, today is that day. The feast of heaven is prepared! We have been brought into the feast in baptism and by the Word of God! That feast is served in the church by Word and

Sacrament. This is where the feast is to be served; at least until we sit at the table with Jesus in glory.

The mountain of the Lord is the place where His glory dwells. We, the church, are the place where the glory of God dwells among men. The Easter Gospel is His glory! Those who believe in the Easter Gospel have the blessed fruit of faith in His glory! God dwells in each one of you who believes. This is the place where God promised in this prophecy to prepare the feast — and He has prepared it.

Look at the language used to describe it. "Well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined." We all know about how the aged wine is the best! And I still remember my Grandpa grabbing the round bone from the steak and eating the marrow. He would say, "Oh! The marrow's the best part!" I eat the marrow to this day because my Grandpa said it was the best part. The image presented here is of the finest and choicest for the feast. And what could be better than the feast of the Lord's Supper? It is there you receive Him in His true body and blood and, with Him, you also receive everything He has won and, by His grace and promise, everything the heavenly Father has given Him.

This feast is resurrection from the grave for you, not just for Jesus! It is life everlasting beyond sin and all of its effects — no more pain, no more sickness, no more sorrow and no more dying, ever! This feast is the one Jesus spoke of as "The Wedding Feast." The feast is eternal life and salvation. The feast is for you and it began in the church!

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# Happy retirement Ed!



Ed Bean has helped people in the North Dakota District with financial gift planning since 1995. At one time he had worked out of the district office and had his own administrative assistant.

Ed is a native North Dakotan, born, raised, confirmed and married in the Glenburn area. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two sons and a daughter, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In his spare time, Ed loves to fish and has been a guide on fishing trips to Canada. He also has led bus tours to see Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Williamstown, Ky. When COVID restrictions are lifted, he hopes to continue doing both.

Ed officially retired as district director of Biblical Finances on Jan. 31, but he is continuing to work with several families.

Ed says that it doesn't feel like work when you love what you do. He has truly enjoyed the fellowship with all the people he has had the privilege to work with. Even in his retirement, he will be happy to answer your questions. Just call the district office and a message will be forwarded to Ed.

The North Dakota District wishes you well, Ed. May the fish always bite! God be with you.

## MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

One item on the menu of this banquet is the veil that covers the nations. That veil is death, and while it is mentioned on the menu, it is not for you, but for God to swallow it up. God will bring an end to death, thus the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter; for He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

That is another reason why I say that the feast has already begun! God has already swallowed up death. He is risen! He is risen indeed! He put an end to death by putting His Son to death on the cross in your place. Death is all done with! That is the Good News of the Easter Gospel. Jesus has destroyed death. God has swallowed up the covering which rests on all people everywhere. Death is dead for everyone! Death was killed by the death of Life, because Life could not be destroyed by death, and Life rose from the grave on Easter morning. And you have been connected to that death and resurrection in your baptism.

That is why when Christ returns, you will shout for joy saying, "See, this is our God!" This is the salvation that you waited for! This is what the people of old waited for! Your victory is won! Your death has been destroyed. You will rise from your graves. You will have transformed bodies and will rise to eternal life and to a reunion that is joyful and delightful beyond all expression here and now. That is the day when the promise of our text shall be accomplished, "And the LORD God will wipe tears away from all faces." Sorrow will be a thing of the past.

Sin causes death, but it also causes sickness, sorrow, frustration, anger, fear, impatience and despair. All of those fruits of sin will be gone as well. God will remove all of the sources of sorrow



**Life could not be destroyed by death, and Life rose from the grave on Easter morning. And you have been connected to that death and resurrection in your baptism.**



and dismay, and will give you a clear understanding and true joy seeing again those you have loved and lost. But that is not all. You will be you, and they will be them and you will know one another and delight in one another in that day. And that is the day that you will shout for joy, "See, this is our God! This is what we have waited for!"

Isaiah says, "And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth." That reproach is your sin and your dying because of sin, because God created you for eternity with Him. He created you for communion with Him. He created you to live in His love and bask in His glory. He created you to live in thanksgiving and joy because of His great goodness and abundant generosity. Your sins, however, have made that impossible, and you have proven unable to resist sin and rescue yourselves. So God took sin out of the way. He carried it to the cross Himself and killed you in His own Son. And now He makes you alive in Him. And you are forgiven and never to die, except that flesh part and that's only for a time.

That final day is the day that we are still awaiting, when the treasures of our salvation are not hidden from sight, but fully experienced and fully sensed and fully realized! That is the ultimate day of the feast, when you shall relish the feast as you should, as it deserves. And on that day you shall see God and know Him without reservation or doubt or uncertainty. Then you shall shout for joy the words of Isaiah, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

For He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

‘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

**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: “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](https://lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday)
- ▶ Learn about the history of the Reformation: [lutheranreformation.org](https://lutheranreformation.org)



**HERE I STAND SUNDAY**  
**IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT**  
**Jesus**

## Texas District needs our help

As North Dakotans, we know that winter storms and cold can lead to all sorts of issues with plumbing. The Texas District is requesting your prayers as well as help with plumbing supplies and even volunteer work. For more information, visit [txlcms.org/congregations/disaster-relief](http://txlcms.org/congregations/disaster-relief).

Plumbing material needs include:

- ▶ Copper pipe (1/2", 3/4", 1")
- ▶ Copper fittings (1/2", 3/4", 1")
- ▶ PVC pipe (schedule 40 and 80 in 1/2", 3/4", 1")
- ▶ PVC fittings (schedule 40 and 80 in 1/2", 3/4", 1")
- ▶ PEX tubing (1/2", 3/4", 1")

- ▶ Fittings for PEX tubing (1/2", 3/4", 1")
- ▶ Iron pipe ball valves (1/2", 3/4", 1")

If you can help with plumbing supplies, please send them to the Texas District warehouse at Concordia Lutheran Church, Attention: Julie Tucker, 16801 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78258. Even small quantities will help repair homes, schools and churches.

If you would like to donate funds to help churches and church workers, donate at [txlcms.org/donate](http://txlcms.org/donate). One-hundred percent of the funds are used to bless ministries and people in need; there are no administrative costs.

## SUMMER IS COMING!

The brochures should be out, but let us know if you need one. Online registration is available at [shretreat.org](http://shretreat.org). There are a few weekends open for a spring get-together, escape or family reunion. Call or email to reserve your space!

**New this year!** Turtle Mountain Archery Shoot is a fundraising event sponsored by Shepherd's Hill. We will gather on May 8 for an out-

door 300-point bullseye target shoot (5-arrow/12-end) and 300-point 3D shoot (25-target). The cost is \$50 per shooter/\$10 per youth. A pulled pork dinner will be available for \$10 a plate. Target prizes and top score prizes will be awarded in four divisions (youth, adult, senior and traditionalist).

**Rev. Jon Bonine, Executive Director**

- [shretreat.org](http://shretreat.org) • [director@shretreat.org](mailto:director@shretreat.org)
- 701-244-5225



Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND  
APRIL 11(6PM)-13(1PM)  
**Spring Homeschool Retreat**  
\$35/PERSON (\$175 FAMILY MAXIMUM)  
INCLUDES LODGING AND MEALS!  
Bible studies, nature walks, sourdough bread baking, painting, music, and more are being planned for this fun retreat. Connect with other homeschooling families from across North Dakota. Whether you are brand new to homeschooling or a homeschooling veteran we would love for you to join us! There will be opportunities for family time and also adult time. Theology at this retreat is taught from the LCMS perspective.  
To register visit [Shretreat.org](http://Shretreat.org) or call 701-244-5225  
SHRetreat.org | [Director@shretreat.org](mailto:Director@shretreat.org) | [Facebook.com/SHRetreat](https://www.facebook.com/SHRetreat) | 701-244-5225/800-289-2992  
Mark your calendar for the Fall Retreat - September 12-14

COMING SOON!

## Mayfest is April 17

Mayfest '21 will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on April 17 at Martin Luther School in Bismarck.

The fundraising event will be held in the 4H building. The school is located at 413 East Ave. D.

## Life luncheon for pastors is June 9

Dakota Hope Clinic is holding a free luncheon for pastors and their plus-one on June 9 at St. Mark's, Minot, with pro-life speaker Mike Spencer.

For more information about Spencer, visit [projectlifevoice.com/about-mike](http://projectlifevoice.com/about-mike).

For more information on the luncheon, call the Dakota Hope Clinic office at 701-852-4675 or send an email to Nicole at [reception@dakotahope.org](mailto:reception@dakotahope.org).

## Register for Higher Things conference

"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven."  
— John 20:23

"I forgive you" are the three most powerful words in the universe. They don't just change the universe for someone. They change someone's eternity. They change your eternity!

"Forgiven" is the theme for the Higher Things youth conference to be held June 29-July 2 at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

To learn more and register, visit [higherthings.org/2021-forgiven](http://higherthings.org/2021-forgiven).