



# PEAKS AND VALLEYS

## DISTRICT NEWS

# We have the answer — a living hope!

**D**o we realize the many opportunities we have every day to share why Jesus is so important, especially as we are in Lent and looking forward to the celebration of Easter?



**Rev. Allen Anderson**  
District President

My devotion last month mentioned that Ash Wednesday was the same day as Valentine's Day. Now as we look forward to Easter, we see that it falls on April 1 — no fooling! Actually, this is great timing in my way of thinking for several reasons, but let me share just one with you.

The opportunity to share what Jesus has done for all humanity is no "April fools" joke. Let's consider the question that all people will face, which is about life after death.

Job's question about life after death has been tantalizing the minds of people, believers and nonbelievers, for generations. Particularly in today's culture, with more and more being classified as "nones" (those who claim no religious affiliation), the question of life after death is no more than an interesting

subject of speculation. Sadly, most conclude that no one can know for sure whether the dead will live again or what comes after death for them.

We have the truth! We know the answer to the question about life after death! The suffering of Job, as well as for Christians today, acknowledges much more is at stake than the speculation of what happens after death. St. Paul clearly tells us in his letter to the church in Corinth:

"If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." — **1 Cor. 15:19**

The resurrection and eternal life that await believers in Christ is "living hope" that sustains them in life and in the hour of death.

Job questioned:

"If a man dies, shall he live again?" — **Job 14:14a**

He later answers his own question and gives to us the first line of that great Easter hymn based on the faith he expressed:

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my



flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!" — **Job 19:25-27**

The death and resurrection of Jesus, our Redeemer, guarantees this. Because He lives, we too shall live with Him. We receive this through the gift of Holy Baptism. We get to share the promises of Jesus with those who are lost, confused and searching, as well as those needing comfort and encouragement.

The words of St. Paul are no joke:

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order

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## Make plans to attend LWML District Convention!

The Utah-Idaho Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) District Convention is approaching fast! It will be held April 27-29 at Grace Lutheran Church and High School in Pocatello, Idaho.

The theme, "Clothed in the Joy of the LORD," is based on Ps. 30:11-12:

"You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!"

Come join us for great Bible study, book reviews and fellowship; to hear from our mission speakers along with a national LWML representative; and — undoubtedly — for chocolate. We will elect new officers and vote on mission grants for the next two years.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in servant events. We will stay at the newly renovated Best Western hotel just down the hill from the church and school. Put it on your calendars now — it will be a great time!



Registration forms and more information are available from your society, or visit [UtahIdahoLWML.org](http://UtahIdahoLWML.org) — go to "Events" at the top of the page and select "2018 District Convention" from the drop-down menu.

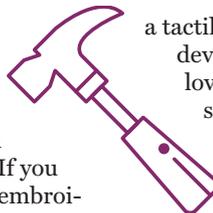
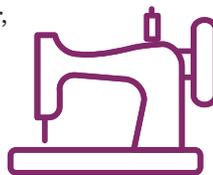
Submitted by Cheryl Brunson,  
VP of Public Relations

## WANTED: Handmade items for Bethesda

Are you crafty? To be more clear, do you like to create handmade items? The Bethesda Auxiliary, an organization that supports the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Communities, is seeking donations of handmade craft items to be used in their fundraising efforts.

Funds raised are used to support the spiritual well-being of people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery, painting, wood crafts, etc., and would be willing to donate some of your handmade items, please contact Dee Paulson at 720-301-2481 or [dplakewood@comcast.net](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net).

Those interested in hosting an Auxiliary craft sale should also contact Dee. It's as simple as welcoming the Auxiliary vol-



unteers and providing them a space to display the crafts.

Bethesda offers another service opportunity for those who like to crochet — needed are prayer cloths, which are a tactile given to people living with developmental disabilities, their loved ones and Bethesda support staff. They help to remind people of God's love for them in Jesus. The crochet instructions are clear and easy to follow — a fun project for your group!

Donations can be brought or mailed to Bethesda Lutheran Communities, 5941 Middlefield Road, Unit 100, Littleton, CO 80123. For more information or to request crochet instructions, please contact DCE Sue Hart at [susan.hart@mailblc.org](mailto:susan.hart@mailblc.org).

## Nurturing the Faith conferences to be held throughout district

The annual, one-day "Nurturing the Faith" conference is designed for pastors, preschool through high school staffs, DCEs, church leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth workers and others who are involved in the ministry of children, youth and adults.

The guest speaker for this year's conference is Ryan Bredow, former Denver Lutheran High School teacher and Admissions and Marketing director. He is currently serving as director of Enrollment and Marketing for the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee, Wis.

Nurturing the Faith conferences will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., on March 5;



Ryan Bredow

in Loveland, Colo., on March 6; in Denver, Colo., on March 8, and in Riverton, Utah, on March 9.

## May issue deadline: March 15



### Send news to Jan Hoener:

- > [communications@rm.lcms.org](mailto:communications@rm.lcms.org)
- > 5446 Knoll Place,  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

## Enjoy family fun at LVR this summer

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) near Woodland Park, Colo., offers some great family ministry opportunities this summer ([lvr.org](http://lvr.org)).

**Family Work Weekend (May 18-20):** This free weekend is designed for you to enjoy LVR while working with the staff to get camp ready for the summer season.

**Father/Son Adventure (June 22-24):** It's a guy thing! Lessons on fly fishing,

climbing/rappelling, zip line and many other adventures await in this awesome weekend. Toss the smart phone and enjoy (for kids ages 6-16).

**Mother/Daughter Horse Adventure (July 13-15):** Retreat to the mountains to get away for some quality time. Every daughter needs her mother to listen to and share with her. Enjoy working with horses and other amazing camp ac-

tivities designed for you to connect with your daughter (for kids ages 6-16).

**The Great Rocky Mountain Campout (Aug. 31-Sept. 3):** Be a part of an LVR family tradition or make it a part of your family ministry. LVR staff will provide programming for adults, youth and children. Families, couples, singles, working or retired — everyone is welcome! Activities include hiking up Cedar Mountain, climbing and rappelling, crafts, fishing, Sunday cookout and more.

## MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the



death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

— Rom. 6:3-11

Dear Lord, continue to fill us with the living hope that you are the Resurrection and the Life! Brothers and sisters, have a blessed Easter!

**In Christ's love and service,  
The Rev. Allen Anderson**

“Be still, and know that I am God.”  
Ps. 46:10

# THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE, BUT THE WORLD IS COMPLEX.

How do we share the Good News of Jesus in today's world?

*Every One His Witness™*  
equips Lutherans to witness.

1 Complete the core module kit available through CPH.

2 Visit the website: [everyonehiswitness.org](http://everyonehiswitness.org) to explore the vast array of resources available.



**EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS**  
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod  
Witness & Outreach Ministry

[lcms.org/witness-outreach](http://lcms.org/witness-outreach)  
 LCMSE1HW

How will **YOUth** serve this summer?

Find upcoming Servant Event opportunities and resources for youth at [lcms.org/servantevents](http://lcms.org/servantevents).




 LCMSServantEvents

## Good news from Navajo

In 2018, the ministry focus at the Navajo mission in Navajo, N.M., remains the same — make disciples by baptizing and teaching. In December and January, the Navajo celebrated five baptisms. The Word of God is being proclaimed and the result is disciples.

In November, six youth participated in a confirmation retreat in Moab, Utah, where all enjoyed being in the Word in a beautiful corner of God's creation. In December, Lutheran Indian Ministries staff members Rick McCafferty and Clair Kee visited and helped Navajo people as they continued their healing journey. Twelve adults attended the five-day session and experienced the healing the Lord works in lives of those who have been

traumatized by abusive behavior.

At Christmas, the children participated in a Christmas program and confirmands distributed Christmas boxes filled with food staples to needy members of the community. The Christmas Eve service doubled in attendance from the year before. In addition, the entire group enjoyed a wonderful meal that had been prepared by a new member. It was a great way to celebrate the gift of life and salvation that God has given us in His Son.

Navajo will be blessed this summer with two college-student interns. They will help with summer activities such as vacation Bible school, camping trips and student outreach.



The Rev. Tim Norton baptizes a Navajo youth, whom he has taught in confirmation.

## Shortened Luther movie now on Netflix

A one-hour version of “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World” is now available on Netflix ([netflix.com](http://netflix.com)), the popular streaming service, and will be offered for two years. The full-length film premiered last year.

“We worked hard to retain the theological core of the film in the Netflix edition,” said



Mike Trinklein, the film's producer.

“Netflix is very selective, adding just 50 new programs in January,” he noted. “Martin Luther’ is one of just two documentaries to be added.”

Funded by Thrivent Financial, the film dramatizes the events that shaped Luther and examines the questions he wrestled with.

Included are insights and commentary from LCMS theologians and historians.

Because Netflix “watches viewership levels closely ... if ‘Martin Luther’ does well, it could lead to similarly themed productions going forward,” Trinklein said. The streaming service also reaches audiences worldwide, providing programs with subtitles in a range of languages.

## DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

### Calls accepted

- ▶ **The Rev. Andrew Farhat**, St. Paul, Roseburg, Ore., to St. John's, Denver, Colo., campus pastor
- ▶ **The Rev. Thomas Henkes**, emeritus, Mesa, Ariz., to Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz.



### Calls extended

- ▶ Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo., to **the Rev. Mark Nierman**, Mount Olive, Loveland, Colo.

### Change of status

- ▶ **Linda Olsen**, Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, Colo., to emeritus
- ▶ **The Rev. Karl Wright**, Trinity, Alamosa, Colo., senior pastor to candidate status



**A DVD of the full version** is available for \$17.92 from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and \$19.99 from [shop.pbs.org](http://shop.pbs.org). Shipping charges may apply.



Also available is a **six-week Bible-study package** with discussion topics, handouts, related readings and leader guides — as well as a DVD of the full-length film — for \$75 from [NewLutherMovie.com](http://NewLutherMovie.com).



**For more information** about “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World,” visit [NewLutherMovie.com](http://NewLutherMovie.com).