



FAITH Connect

March 1, 2021

"The Ultimate Makeover"

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Scripture says in Christ we are a new creation. The question is, are we?

Take a look at your life: an honest look. Are you truly happy? Do you feel blessed? Has your life been filled with blessings and joy? Do you have peace? Most people would confess their lives have been less than perfect -- or anything close to it.

If you doubt the validity of that statement, go to the library. Visit a bookstore. There you will find countless volumes telling you how to be successful as a parent, a spouse, or a lover. You will find books on how to be a good manager, a good employer, a good employee. There is no aspect of your life where someone isn't telling you how you can do better and be better.

With all of this advice, you would think the world would be at peace, we would be content, and our homes would be happy. In truth, discontent, disharmony, discouragement, and despondency are still featured on the menu for daily living.

Scripture says if you are in Christ you are a new creation.

Are you?

Were you content and happy yesterday? Will you be at peace tomorrow? I grant the world can offer an education that will make you smarter. It can offer you great career opportunities which have the potential of making you wealthier. Without the cross, you can buy a nice home which will offer some creature comforts, but only the cross of Christ can offer you a way to have your heart, soul, and mind recreated by the gift of God's salvation which comes to us through Christ Jesus the

Lord.

Only the cross can dispel the old, destroy the sin, and create a new life of joy in this world and the next. My friend, look in the Bible's New Testament, and you will find countless people -- regular, everyday people -- whose lives were transformed, made infinitely better because of a contact with and belief in the Christ.

1. There is the Gergesene demoniac who lived naked, alone, and wandered in the cemetery of his town. Jesus cast out his demons and made him a new creation, a man who would be a living witness to the new life Jesus had given him (see Mark 5: 2-20).

2. Then there was the blind man of John 9 who not only received his sight, but also found a Savior. He became a new creation.

3. There was a leper, one of ten, whom Christ recreated. His body was healed, most certainly, but he also found in his thanksgiving, a healing for his soul. For that leper, the old had gone, the new had come.

4. Should we talk about the thief who hung next to Jesus on the cross? Even as he was dying, Jesus made him a new creation, a new man.

5. How about Paul, the apostle? Once Saul, the murderer, Jesus erased the old name, the old mindset, the old ways, and created within him something new.

In Jesus, we, like them, can also be made new.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, for Your gift of forgiveness and eternal life which has transformed me, I give thanks. May others also experience the phoenix of a new life in You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,
Pastor Ken Klaus

<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp?date=20180817>



LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION DELAYED FOR ONE YEAR TO 2023

In a letter from December 7, 2020, under the provision of Article XI B 8 of the Synod Constitution, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison submitted the following question to a vote of the Synod’s member congregations:

Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019–2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023? [Thereafter, the triennium cycle will continue forward from 2023 in three-year increments, as before (i.e., with district conventions held in 2025, 2028, etc., and Synod conventions held in 2026, 2029, etc.).] **Vote: Yes or No.**

The Office of the Secretary, assisted by the LCMS Department of Rosters, Statistics and Research Services and the LCMS Technology Application Group, facilitated an electronic vote on this question, opening January 1, 2021, and closing at the end of the day on February 15 (11:59 p.m. Central Time).

More than the required one-fourth (63.32%) of the Synod’s member congregations registered a vote, and the majority (90.67%) of votes cast favored adoption. The stated extension of the 2019–2022 triennium by a year, allowing district conventions to take place in either 2021 or 2022 and deferring the national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023, is therefore adopted.

The President’s letter (www.lcms.org/delay-vote-letter) and FAQ (www.lcms.org/delay-vote-faqs) explain the consequences of this deferral. The national Synod office is working urgently to make arrangements for the next regular convention of the Synod to convene in the summer of 2023 and will keep the Synod apprised as plans are finalized.

Congregations are advised to watch closely for communications from their districts regarding their plans to meet, either in 2021 or 2022, and to pay attention to pre-convention schedules that may be in flux.

The member congregations of the Synod and all who facilitated their voting are to be thanked for their urgent and diligent attention to this question, on account of which it was able to be decided not only by a majority of the votes cast but by a majority of the member congregations. We pray that the additional year it allows will bear rich fruit in the churchly deliberative assemblies of the districts and the Synod.

John W. Sias
Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

lcms.org/convention

Birthdays this Week

- Cindy Esala Mar 2
- Andy Goble Mar 2
- Jacob Petz Mar 3
- Tracey Pierce Mar 3
- Nancy Larson Mar 4
- Rick Rodgers Mar 6
- Pam Turner Mar 7



M = member

- * Frank Landry (M) was called home, please keep the Landry Family in your prayers.
- * Bruce Canfield (M) for continued strength & healing
- * Engelbrecht family for the passing of Donna’s father
- * Stephanie Kuntz for Strength and Healing
- * Angela Edwards for Health and Healing
- * Clare Callihan for Health and Healing