

December 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The old adage goes, “Everything has been said, but not everyone has said it.” That is true in many places including the Church. You have received several letters concerning the postponing of the LCMS Convention from 2022 to 2023 due to Covid-19. The letters have come from President Matthew Harrison and on behalf of the Council of Presidents by COP Chairman, Rev. David Maier. There is also a letter from Rev. Michael Kumm who is the Chairman of the LCMS Board of Directors.

I wholeheartedly concur with the unanimous decision of the Council of Presidents moving the window of District Conventions from 2021 to 2022. This proposal makes the most sense for the NID and the whole LCMS. In these times of uncertainty and division, finding ways to come together for all the best a convention brings and building up the Body of Christ will be good and proper for the Lord’s Church. Planning a convention takes many months (actually over a year) and we have no idea if or how a convention could occur.

Our focus remains on the gifts the Lord gives and the opportunities we have to serve Christ, the Church, and our neighbor. All we do is a joyful response to what we have been given by the Christ who has given His all for us. This Gospel remains our treasure and our power. (Romans 1:16) In these days, and every day, we are confident in Christ and His promises.

My encouragement is that our NID congregational leadership ratify the request made by our church leaders in the electronic vote. Please note that this electronic vote is due by February 15, 2021. A congregation can speak through its Voters Assembly, Congregational Assembly, but also Church Council, Board of Directors, or lay leadership group. If you have any questions on this, please contact my office, [president@nidlcms.org](mailto:president@nidlcms.org) or (708) 223-3101.

Thank you all for your faithful and Christ-proclaiming service.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Dr Allan R. Buss