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January 30, 2021

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
6 Browns Court
Mankato, MN 56001

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations, I express our sincere condolences upon hearing of the sudden death of President John Moldstad. Our prayers go out for all of you, and especially for Mrs. Moldstad and all of her family. Our shock upon hearing this news certainly pales in comparison to yours. Yet our hope and confidence is the same. We pray that the certainty of Christ's resurrection, which guarantees the resurrection of all who believe in him, will fill your hearts with comfort and peace, even during this time of grief.

We give thanks to God that in Holy Baptism, President Moldstad was crucified, buried, and raised with Christ. We rejoice that the message he so faithfully proclaimed is true: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, lived, died, and rose again for the salvation of all people, President Moldstad included. We give thanks for the many years of service President Moldstad rendered to our Savior and his people both in the parish and as synod president. We will miss his sense of humor, which brought joy to all who knew him.

With you, we grieve. But we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. Therefore, we also believe that Jesus will return. And when he returns, he will bring John and all his people with him to join us in a heavenly reunion that has no end. May our Savior comfort you with that hope and lead you to rejoice that because Jesus lives, President Moldstad also lives even now. For all who live and believe in Jesus never die.

God be with you all as you go through this time of grief and transition. Know that our Lord, who holds President Moldstad securely in his loving arms, also holds you. Our Lord's mercies remain new every morning. Great is his faithfulness to all of his promises.

In Christ, our risen Savior,

Steven L. Lange

on behalf of the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations