



And whatever you do, in word or deed, do

Everything in the Name of the Lord JESUS

giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Minnesota South District Convention

June 9-11, 2022

Concordia University, St. Paul

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Note that most of the campus is located on the northeast corner of Hamline and Marshall Avenues. The Gangelhoff Center (the location for convention worship, devotions, and business) is located on the southwest corner of Hamline and Marshall. Please adjust the directions below accordingly, depending on direction of travel. Daytime parking is available on the streets around campus and in all campus lots.

Driving Directions

From the East

Travel west on I-94, and take exit 239A to Hamline Ave. Turn left (south) on Hamline; go past Concordia Ave. (frontage road).

From the Southeast (Winona/Rochester)

Take US 61 or US 52 north to I-94. Go west on I-94 and take exit 239A to Hamline Ave. Turn left (south) on Hamline; go past Concordia Ave. (frontage road).

From the South

Take I-35 north to the I-35E-35W split. Follow I-35E north to exit 104B for Ayd Mill Rd. Take Ayd Mill to the Hamline Ave. exit. Turn left onto that ramp, and turn right to go north on Hamline.

From the West

Take I-94 east and exit on Snelling Ave. (exit 238). Continue straight on the frontage road (Concordia Ave.) until you reach Hamline Ave. Turn right (south) on Hamline.

From the North (I-35W)

Take I-35W south to MN 280. Follow MN 280 to I-94 east. Merge on to I-94 and move over to the far right lane. Take exit 238 to Snelling Ave. Stay straight on the frontage road (Concordia Ave.), and turn right on Hamline Ave.

From the North (I-35E)

Take I-35E south to I-94 west. Take exit 239A on I-94 to Hamline Ave. Turn left (south) on Hamline; go past Concordia Ave. (frontage road).

From MSP International Airport

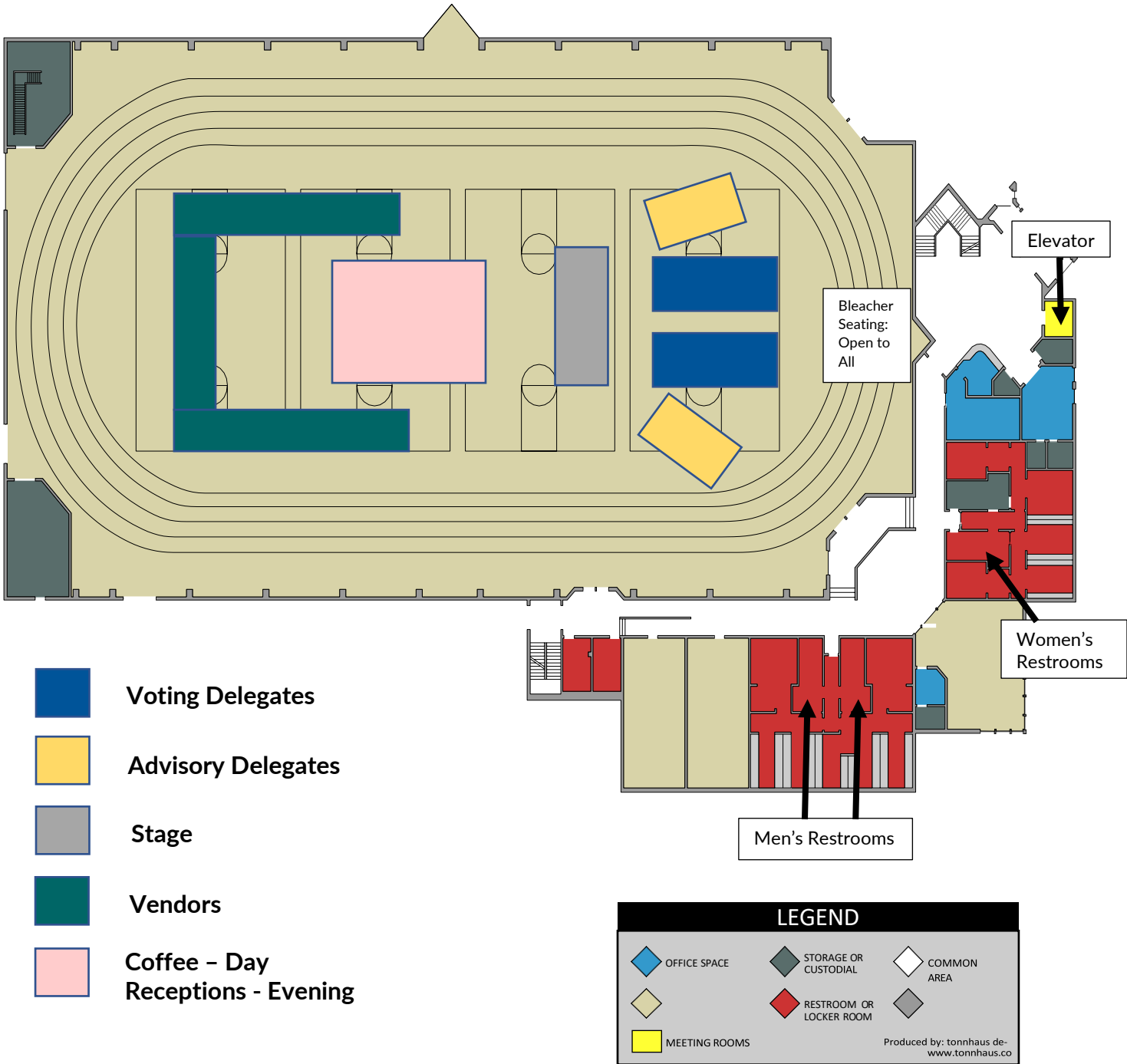
Take Interstate 494 east to I-35E north toward St. Paul. Exit onto Ayd Mill Rd. (exit 104B). Take the Hamline Ave. exit and turn right (north) onto Hamline.

From the Amtrak Station (Union Depot)

Follow Kellogg Blvd. west through downtown St. Paul. Cross over I-35E. The road will curve to the right and cross over I-94. Turn left on St. Anthony Ave. and take the ramp to I-94 west. Take exit 239A to Hamline Ave. Turn left (south) on Hamline and go past Concordia Ave. (frontage road).

Gangelhoff Center Main Level

Convention Floor



Library / Technology Center (LTC)

Interest Centers



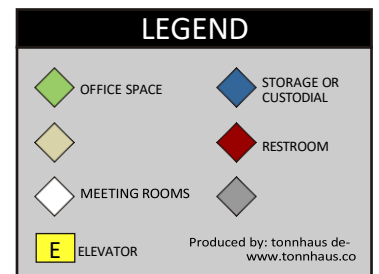
Thursday, June 9, 2022
10:00 am & 11:00 am

Interest Centers (Round 1)

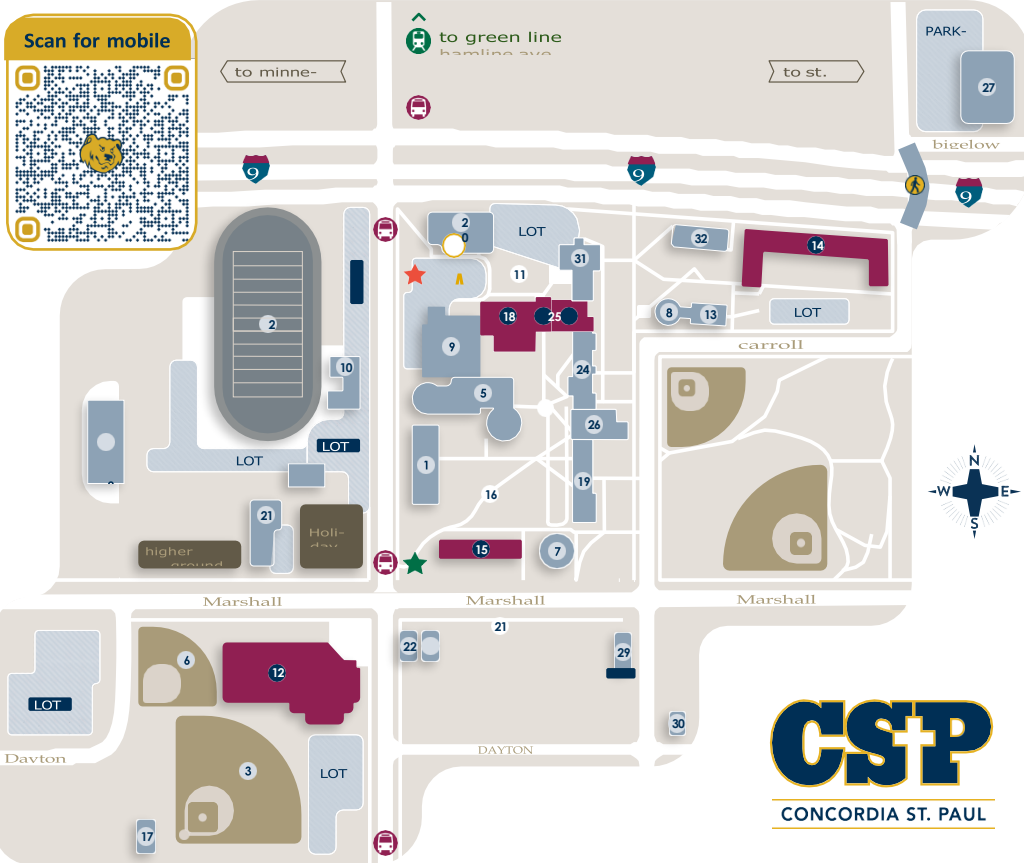
- How a District Convention Works (President Lucas Woodford)
- Multiethnic Church Plants (Dr. William Utech)
- Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson)
- Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz)
- State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens)

Interest Centers (Round 2)

- Multiethnic Church Plants (Dr. William Utech)
- Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson)
- Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz)
- State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens)
- Prison Ministry: Past, Present, and Future (Dr. James Seemann)



Concordia University Campus Map



CAMPUS MAP & DIRECTORY

PARKING

LOT A

Between Lutheran Memorial Center and Winget Student Life Center
Enter from Concordia Ave

LOT B

Between E.M. Pearson Theatre and Lutheran Memorial Center
Enter from Hamline Ave

LOT C

Behind Gangelhoff Center
Enter from Hamline Ave

LOT D – Overnight
West of Gangelhoff Center
Enter from Marshall Ave

LOT E & H – Overnight Next to Fandrei Center
Enter from Hamline Ave

LOT F

In front of Holst Hall
Enter from Carroll Ave

LOT G

Next to Marshall building
Enter from Marshall Ave







DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 94

HEADING EAST

Exit Snelling Avenue and continue on Concordia Ave. Turn right on Hamline Ave. University will be on your left, and Gangelhoff Center will be ahead on the right (near the Holiday Station).

HEADING WEST

Exit Hamline Ave and take a left. Concordia University will be located on your left side once you cross Concordia Ave.

-  **Admissions Office**
Lutheran Memorial Ctr
-  **Green Line**
Hamline Ave Station
-  **Martin Luther Statue**
-  **Pedestrian Bridge**
Connecting Griggs St
-  **Metro Bus Stops**
Route 21
-  **Reformation Bell Tower**

CSP CAMPUS BUILDINGS

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arndt Science Hall 2. Athletics Performance Center 3. Bob Barnes Field 4. Buenger Education Center: Meals 5. Buetow Music Center 6. Carlander Field 7. Concordia Art Center 8. Cross of Christ Fellowship Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. E.M. Pearson Theatre 10. Fandrei Center 11. Frauenschuh Amphitheatre 12. Gangelhoff Center: Registration, convention, worship, vendors, & receptions 13. Graebner Memorial Chapel 14. Holst Hall: Apartment-style resident hall 15. Hyatt Village: Suite-style resident hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16. The Knoll 17. Selby Building 18. Library Technology Center: Interest sessions 19. Luther Hall 20. Lutheran Memorial Center 21. Marshall Building 22. Martha Hall 23. Mary Hall 24. Meyer Hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Pearson Commons: Guest housing check-in, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on June 9 26. Poehler Administration Building 27. Ries Tower 28. Sea Foam Stadium 29. Thompson Hall 30. Treichel House 31. Winget Student Life Center 32. Wollaeger Hall |
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PROPOSED AGENDA

2022 MNS DISTRICT CONVENTION

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)

Thursday, June 9, 2022

AM

- 8:30 Registration (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)
Display Booths Open
Convention Floor Committee Hearings (as needed)
- 10:00 Interest Centers (Round 1)
How a District Convention Works (President Lucas Woodford)
Multiethnic Church Plants (Rev. Dr. William Utech)
Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson)
Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz)
State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens)
- 11:00 Interest Centers (Round 2)
Multiethnic Church Plants (Rev. Dr. William Utech)
Network and Collaboration in Congregations (Dr. Phillip Johnson)
Public Policy Advocacy (Rev. Fred Hinz)
State of Lutheran Education (Mr. Sean Martens)
Prison Ministry: Past, Present, and Future (Dr. James Seemann)

PM

12:00-1:15 **Lunch**

Session 1

- 1:25 Call to Order
- 1:30 Opening Devotion Bible Study 1—Everything **IN THE NAME OF JESUS**, Col. 3:17
(*Rev. Stefan Wismar, Exec. Asst. to the President*)
- 2:20 Welcome and Report: Concordia University - St. Paul
Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President
- 2:35 Constitution and Membership Committee (Rev. Matthew Moss, Chair)
- 2:40 Welcome of New Workers, Congregations, Church Starts, and Schools

- 2:55 Registration, Credentials, and Attendance Committee (Rev. Nicholas Kooi, Chair)
- 3:00 Recognition of Missionaries and Armed Forces Chaplains
Other Recognitions
Prayers (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)
- 3:10 Introduction of Convention Parliamentarian & Reading and Adoption of the Convention Rules (Rev. Rob Franck)
- 3:15 Adoption of the Agenda
- 3:20 Devotion and Bible Study 2—**CLOTHED** in the name of Jesus,
Col. 3:12-14 (**Rev. Vue Lee, Assoc. Pastor, King of Kings, Roseville, MN**)
- 4:05 Greetings
President, LWML (Video)
President, LLL (Video)
Mr. Bob LaCroix, Director, Camp Omega (Video)
Concordia Seminary St. Louis & Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (Video)
Set Apart to Serve (Video)
Kai Larson, LCEF Vice President & Rev. Bart Day, LCEF President & CEO
- 4:50 Prayer Before Meal & Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:00 Opening Service
Host Congregation: St. John's, Chaska, MN
Celebrant/Chaplain: Rev. Greg Snow, Senior Pastor, St. John's Chaska, Convention Chaplain
Preacher: Rev. Nabil Nour, Synod Regional Vice President
Mission Offering: POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach), Bloomington
Memorial Observance of Departed Servants
- 9:00 Reception: Hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul; Vendor Area

Friday, June 10, 2022

AM

- 6:30 Breakfast

Session 2

- 8:00 Devotion and Bible Study 3—**PEACE** in the name of Jesus,
Col. 3:15 (**Dr. Samuel Deressa, Asst. Prof. Religion and Theology, Concordia University St. Paul**)

- 8:45 Registration, Credentials, and Attendance Committee (Rev. Nick Kooi, Chair)
- 8:55 Greetings
New District President, MN North District
Former President Dean Nadasdy, MN South District
- 9:15 Nominations from the Floor
- 9:25 Orientation to the Electronic Response System (Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair, Elections Committee)
- 9:40 Prayer for the Elections (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)
Nominations (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair) and Elections (Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair) Committees
- 11:00 President's Triennium Address
- 11:30 Omnibus Resolutions A-B-C-D
- 11:40 Comments by Elected President
- 11:55 Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)

PM

- Noon Lunch

Session 3

PM

- 1:10 Devotion and Bible Study 4—**WORSHIP** in the name of Jesus, Col. 3:16
(**Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann, Assoc VPAA Faith & Ministry, Religion and Theology, Concordia University St. Paul**)
- 1:55 LCMS President's Report (1)
- 2:55 LCMS President's Report (2) with Q & A
- 3:30 Floor Committee 1: Missions (Rev. Loel Wessel, Chair)
- 4:00 Floor Committee 2: Theology & Church Relations (Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson, Chair)
- 4:30 Nominations (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair) and Elections (Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair) Committees
- 5:00 Floor Committee 3: Church and Culture (Rev. David Mumme, Chair)

- 5:30 Floor Committee 4: Congregational Services (Rev. Dennis Heiden, Chair)
- 5:55 Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)
- 6:00 Dinner
Caucus of Advisory Ministers of Religion – Ordained

Session 4

- 7:30 Nominations (Mr. Christian Preus, Chair) and Elections (Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair) Committees
- 7:55 Floor Committee #5: Administration & Finance (Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Chair)
- 8:25 Floor Committee #6: Worker Wellness (Rev. Tom Evans, Chair)
- 8:55 Prayer and Recess (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain)
- 9:00 Reception (Hosted by MN South District and LCEF)
Greeting of newly elected officers

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Session 5

AM

- 6:30 Breakfast
- 8:00 Devotion and Bible Study 5: **EVERYTHING** in the name of Jesus, Col. 3:17
(*Rev. Stefan Wismar, Exec. Asst. to the President*)
- 8:45 Additional Remaining Floor Committee Resolutions
- 11:00 Ratification of Slate of Circuit Visitors
- 11:10 Report of Election of Advisory Delegates to the 2023 Synodical Convention (Ordained and Commissioned)
- 11:20 Registration and Credentials Committee (Rev. Nicholas Kooi, Chair)
- 11:30 Closing Worship and Installation of Officers (Rev. Greg Snow, Convention Chaplain and Synod Representative)
- 11:55 Adjournment

Daily Prayer for Delegates

O Lord God, Father of Lights and the Foundation of all Wisdom, in the days of the apostles You sent Your Holy Spirit to guide and sustain the gathering of Your Church at Jerusalem. Look mercifully upon us and so bless the delegates to our District convention that, through their deliberations and decisions, Your Church, preserved in the true faith, in godly discipline, and in fervent zeal, may be enabled to move forward in proclaiming the Gospel both near and far. Hear us, in the name of and for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

General Information

Welcome to the 79th convention of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Being part of a large gathering such as this makes it difficult for some (especially those attending for the first time) to feel a personal involvement in all the proceedings. To help you, we share the following information with the hope your participation will be more meaningful and effective.

You have before you the Convention Workbook, or manual. It contains reports from the District board and staff and overtures, also called memorials, to be received and acted upon by the convention. Please read this Workbook carefully so you are well acquainted with the material that will be coming before you as a delegate.

Colossian 3:17 (ESV): *“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* This verse constitutes our theme passage for the 2022 Minnesota South District Convention, “Everything in the Name of Jesus.” The theme offers hope, direction, and confidence all in one. It is an awe-filled statement that testifies to the life we have in our Lord Jesus. There is comfort and power in His name. Placed upon us in Holy Baptism, His name is the Good News that He is ours and we are His. He is at work in us. Everything we do, in word or deed, is done in His presence and, therefore, to be done invoking Him as Lord.

Convention registration will begin on Thursday, June 9 at 9:00 am. The convention will be held in Concordia University, St. Paul’s Gangelhoff Center, located on the corner of Marshall and Hamline Avenues. Campus housing and dining facilities will also be utilized.

We are once again offering one-hour seminars the first morning (sessions at 10:00 am and 11:00 am) for delegates who arrive early. These seminars will be held in the Library Technical Center. This year, Session 1 of convention business will begin promptly at 1:30 pm on Thursday, June 9.

The convention Communion service will begin Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. In that service, church workers who have received the crown of life in the past triennium will be remembered with thanksgiving. The Communion service will also be held in the Gangelhoff Center.

There are two kinds of delegates at the convention: voting and advisory delegates. Each parish is entitled to have two voting delegates, a pastoral vote and a lay vote. Advisory delegates have the privilege of the floor, the right to speak, but do not have the franchise to vote. Advisory delegates include non-

voting pastors, teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Christian Outreach, Directors of Family Life Ministry, Directors of Parish Music, deaconesses, parish assistants, professors, emeritus pastors and teachers, etc.

The seating of the delegates will be arranged to make it convenient for all. Voting delegates will be seated in the center section. Seating in the center section will not be assigned according to circuits and congregations. Advisory delegates will be seated on either side of center (*tables will be set up for the advisory delegates on each side*) toward the front of the convention hall. Guests and visitors will be seated toward the back on either side. We hope this arrangement will not only encourage more advisory members to attend, but that they also may be in a better position to participate.

Part of the work of the convention consists in reviewing the activities of the officers, boards, staff, and committees who have carried on the business of the District during the past triennium. In addition, the convention considers and votes on various resolutions prepared by the floor committees. These resolutions are a response to the various reports and overtures (memorials) and give direction to the District and its congregations in the years ahead. The election of officers, board positions, and the Nominations Committee will also be a part of the agenda.

To facilitate the work of the convention, floor committees have been appointed to do the preliminary work. These floor committees will meet in advance of the convention (on May 7) to prepare the resolutions. These resolutions will be sent to the delegates for reaction and response. Then, on the morning of June 9, the committees will meet again, if necessary, to make any revisions or amendments to their resolutions.

Delegates and others may also appear before the floor committees on June 9 to express their views and concerns. Please make arrangements with the respective chairman to appear before a floor committee. Understand, however, that each committee will have to allow sufficient time to be in executive session to do its work. Each committee must deal with every report and overture assigned to it, recommending that the convention adopt it, amend it, or decline it.

If you wish to speak on the floor of the convention, you are asked to go to one of the microphones, wait to be recognized by the chairman, give your name and the name of the congregation you are representing, and then ask your question or make your comment for or against the issue in question. Each speaker is asked to limit his or her remarks to two minutes. Please do not repeat what someone else has already said.

The convention will also welcome new members who have joined the Synod since the last convention. These include pastors, teachers, DCEs, DCOs, deaconesses, as well as new congregations.

In case you need to be reached for an emergency while staying at the convention, the telephone number at Concordia University is (651) 641-8777. The telephone number at the Gangelhoff Center is (651) 641-8867.

Convention Badges

Convention badges are an important means of identifying a person's standing in the Convention. The badges are color coded to indicate the level of participation, as well as the seating of persons who have been duly registered at the Convention. Convention badges are not transferable. If you should lose your badge, report the loss immediately to the Registration Desk.

Blue

These are the voting delegates: pastors and lay persons elected by the congregations of the District. They have voice and vote. Member congregations, including multiple parishes, are entitled to two voting delegates – one pastor and one lay person. Vacant parishes are entitled to one lay vote, but no pastoral vote.

Gold

These are the advisory delegates: advisory pastors, emeriti pastors, emeriti teachers, active rostered teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Christian Outreach, Deaconesses, Board of Directors, Executive Staff, etc., of the Convention. These participants have voice but no vote.

White

These are specially invited Convention participants. They have neither voice nor vote.

Red

These badges are worn by the working force: press, Convention committee, pages, office staff, etc. They have neither voice nor vote.

Green

These badges are worn by registered guests of the Convention, which include vicars. They do not have voice or vote.

Basic Parliamentary Principles

1. A District Delegate Convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. From time to time, it defines the privileges, the rights, and the duties of the members of the District and sets up or changes the framework of District organization. It hears the reports of its officers, boards, and committees as to what they have done with their constitutional and convention directives and receives and passes on proposals for their future activity.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. Unless specified otherwise, the vote of the majority decides. The will of a District Convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
4. Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. The Convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
5. Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
6. Delegates may always ask for information or clarification.
7. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
8. Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body should be taken knowledgeably.

A Primer on Parliamentary Procedure

PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to insure justice and fairness to all, both the majority and the minority.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, or to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge. The purpose is to make business flow more smoothly and make it easier for everyone. Above all, there should be a spirit of Christian love and trust.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE

The motions or points listed below, 1 through 9, are in order of precedence. In other words: when any of them is pending, you may not introduce one listed below it. You may introduce one that is listed above it.

You want to...	You say...	May speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is vote required? What %?
1. Adjourn	I move we adjourn.	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; Majority
2. Recess	I move we recess.	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; Majority
3. Raise a question of privilege	Question of privilege, Mr. Chairman	Yes	No	No	No	No
4. Lay on the table	I move to table this matter.	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; Majority
5. Previous question	I move the previous question.	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; 2/3
6. Postpone definitely or until a certain time	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; Majority
7. Commit or refer	I move we refer this matter to a committee.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; Majority
8. Amend a motion	I move this be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; Majority
9. Main Motion	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; Majority

The items listed below are general points, proposals, and motions, and they have no order of procedure over one another. You may introduce any one of them at any time, except when a motion to adjourn is pending; a motion to recess is pending; or a question of privilege is pending.

You want to...	You say...	May speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is second required?	Is motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is vote required? What %?
1. Object to error in procedure due to a personal affront	Point of order.	Yes	No	No	No	No
2. Request information	Request information.	Yes, if urgent	No	No	No	No
3. Verify voice vote by a count	I call for division of the house.	No	No	No	No	No, unless someone objects, then majority
4. Object to consider a matter you think improper	I object to consideration of the question.	Yes	No	No	No	Yes; 2/3
5. Take up a matter that has been tabled	I move we take from the table...	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; Majority
6. Reconsider matter already disposed of	I move we reconsider our action relative to...	Yes	Yes	Yes, if original motion was debatable	No	Yes; Majority
7. Consider matter out of scheduled order	I move we suspend rules and consider...	No	Yes	No	No	Yes; 2/3
8. Vote on a ruling of the chair	I appeal the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Yes, if original motion was debatable	No	Yes; Majority

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

In the case of a substitute motion, we shall follow the so-called "Behnken Rule." That is, the convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute motion. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion fails. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or adopt, the original motion is again before the house.

Convention Rules

1. The voting body is composed of the voting members, one pastoral and one lay delegate from each parish. (According to Synodical bylaw 4.2.2, a “parish” is comprised of any accredited single congregation or multi-congregation parish. A multi-congregation “parish” is afforded one pastoral and one lay delegate vote. A temporarily vacant parish is entitled one lay vote. See also District Handbook 4.2.13.3)
2. Voting delegates must wear their badges at all sessions and sit in the section reserved for voting members.
3. In the absence of the voting lay delegate, a properly credentialed and registered alternate lay delegate may become the congregation’s voting delegate.
4. Only members of the voting body may introduce motions and vote. When requesting the floor for making motions or for discussion, a delegate must identify himself/herself by name and the name of the congregation he/she represents in order to be recognized. Convention decorum calls for formal respectful discourse, addressing the chair as “Mr. Chairman” and delegates as “Delegate.”
5. A speaker is limited to two (2) minutes for each issue. No one may speak more than twice to each question unless consent has been given by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates.
6. All reports and resolutions are to be in writing. A copy is to be presented to the secretary at the time they are presented.
7. A motion from the floor must be presented in writing, signed by the maker, if requested by the chairman.
8. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. A member of the Floor Committee presenting the original motion shall also be offered two minutes to speak to the substitute motion. The convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called “Behnken Rule” for dealing with substitute motions.)
9. **So-called “friendly amendments” will not be accepted per Robert’s Rules. Once a motion has been stated by the chair, it is no longer the property of the mover, but of the assembly. Any amendment, “friendly” or otherwise, must be adopted by the full body, either by vote or by unanimous consent, which the chair will facilitate with proper discretion. [This is different from last convention.]**
10. No motion is necessary to accept reports and resolutions of the officers or floor committees.

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11. Voting Delegate Procedures

a. Voting shall ordinarily be accomplished by use of an electronic response system that requires delegates to be in their seats during the times when such voting will occur.

b. In balloting for all elected positions (including that of President and Vice Presidents), the convention will follow Synodical Handbook Bylaw 4.7.3, which reads:

i. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

ii. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive the 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

iii. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

c. Majority = more than half. Plurality = a candidate with the most votes but not a majority.

12. In the case of power outage that require paper ballots, all such ballots are to be destroyed at the end of the convention.

13. Any unfinished item of business or program at the hour set for recess in the convention program is resumed at the following meeting or at a designated time set by the chairman. The chair will have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which, in his judgment, must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.

14. No convention discussions or decisions may be released for publicity purposes while the convention is in session, unless first approved by the President and the Director of Communications.

15. The parliamentary authority is *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (latest edition) unless in conflict with the bylaws of the Minnesota South District and/or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

16. The Parliamentarian interprets the rules and advises on parliamentary procedure when asked to do so.

17. Announcements should be handed to the pages who will deliver them to the Convention Manager. At the Convention Manager's discretion, announcements will be made from the podium; others will be posted on the message board.

18. Electronic equipment, including laptop computers, iPads, tablets, cell phones, smartphones, etc., can be used for convention business within the convention hall, using battery power only. No personal extension cords will be allowed, nor will any extension cords be provided.

1 Use of electronic forms of communication on the floor to persuade or influence voting is
2 strictly prohibited.

3
4 19. These rules may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting
5 body.
6

7 Convention Glossary

8
9 **AD HOC COMMITTEE:** Special committee with a limited assignment and a limited life.

10
11 **ADVISORY DELEGATE:** A certified member of the Convention with the right to speak without vote;
12 however, if appointed to a floor committee, entitled to vote there.

13
14 **AGENDA:** List of items of Convention business “to be done.”

15
16 **ALTERNATE:** A full-time substitute to take the place of a delegate to the Convention, if necessary.

17
18 **AMEND:** To change or modify a resolution or motion.

19
20 **APPEAL:** An appeal from a decision of the chair requires that the decision be referred to the
21 Convention for its immediate decision by a vote.

22
23 **AUDIT:** Official examination and verification of accounts.

24
25 **BYLAW:** A rule of the District ranking immediately below the constitution in authority and above
26 standing rules.

27
28 **CALL THE QUESTION:** See QUESTION

29
30 **CHAIR:** The presiding officer of the Convention, usually the President, or temporarily a Vice President.

31
32 **CONSTITUTION:** The statement of the basic principles and structures of the Synod, the highest
33 continuing authority created by the association of congregations, pastors, and teachers constituting
34 the Synod. The synodical Constitution is also the constitution of all of its Districts.

35
36 **DIVISION OF THE HOUSE:** A vote taken by rising to verify a voice vote at the call of the Chair or at
37 the request of a voting delegate.

38
39 **FLOOR COMMITTEE:** A working group of Convention voting and advisory delegates to whom the
40 processing of a share of Convention business is entrusted for recommendation in turn to the
41 Convention proper.

42
43 **GENERAL CONSENT:** An informal method of disposing of routine and generally favored proposals by
44 assuming approval of a request unless immediate objection is raised.
45

1 **HANDBOOK:** A manual containing the District or Synodical Articles of Incorporation, Constitution,
2 and Bylaws.
3

4 **IN ORDER:** Correct from a parliamentary standpoint at a given time.
5

6 **LAY ON THE TABLE (TABLE):** See TABLE
7

8 **MAJORITY:** More than half the votes cast. The Synodical Constitution provides: "All matters of
9 doctrine and of conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be
10 decided by a majority vote." This means a majority in all instances except those which involve a
11 proposed constitutional amendment; these require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all votes cast. All
12 elections are determined not by simple plurality but by absolute majority.
13

14 **OUT OF ORDER:** Not correct from a parliamentary standpoint at that particular time.
15

16 **OVERTURE (MEMORIAL):** A recommendation or proposed resolution submitted by a member
17 congregation or other authorized group for consideration by the convention.
18

19 **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** A person designated by the Chair to advise him on the applicability of
20 parliamentary principles and procedures in a given situation.
21

22 **PENDING:** Not yet decided. A pending motion is one that has been stated by the Chair but is not yet
23 disposed of by vote.
24

25 **POINT OF ORDER:** Any delegate may promptly call attention to the fact that the rules of the
26 Convention are seemingly not in force by saying, "I rise to a point of order." Upon hearing the point
27 made, the Chair rules as to its validity.
28

29 **POSTPONE:** To defer action on a question or proposed resolution (1) indefinitely or (2) until a certain
30 specified time.
31

32 **PREAMBLE:** The introductory part of a resolution or report, usually in the form of "whereas"es. The
33 assembly has the right to perfect these since they are part of the resolution when presented together
34 with the "resolved"s.
35

36 **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** The motion calling for the previous question stops all discussion or debate if
37 two-thirds of the voting delegates vote "aye" after a motion has been made and seconded to call for
38 the previous question. When two-thirds of the voting delegates have responded "aye," the Chair must
39 immediately call a vote on the motion pending before the Convention.
40

41 **PRIVILEGED MOTION:** A motion, such as to recess, to fix the time of the next session, and to change
42 the Order of the Day. It takes precedence over all other motions.
43

44 **QUESTION:** A subject or point of debate or a resolution to be voted on.
45

1 **QUORUM:** The fewest number of delegates that can be present and still permit business to be legally
2 transacted. At least one-third of the voting delegates of the District shall constitute a quorum. (Bylaw
3 4.2.14)
4

5 **REPORT:** Usually the formal accounting given by an officer, a board, a commission, or a committee of
6 the discharge of its responsibilities under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, such an
7 accounting to be evaluated by the delegate convention of the Synod.
8

9 **RESCIND:** To annul or to cancel. To undo or reverse a previous decision.
10

11 **RESOLUTION:** A formal proposal submitted previously in writing by a Convention floor committee for
12 action by the Convention.
13

14 **SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT:** When a full paragraph, section, or resolution is dropped and another is
15 inserted in its place. (Behnken Rule)
16

17 **TABLE (LAY ON THE TABLE):** To set aside a motion or a proposed resolution for consideration in the
18 indefinite future. If adopted, it usually kills consideration of and action on the main motion by
19 postponing it without a set time to take it up again. If this is not the intent, the motion should really be
20 not to table, but to postpone to a set time.
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District Leadership

2018-2022 Adjusted Triennium

Board of Directors

President	Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford
First Vice President	Rev. David Mumme, Region 3
Second Vice President	Rev. Tom Evans, Region 1
Third Vice President	Rev. Dennis Heiden, Region 4
Fourth Vice President	Rev. Steven Wheeler, Region 2
Secretary	Rev. Keith Grimm, Region 1
Treasurer	Mr. Rick Marko

Region 1

Ordained Minister	Rev. Christopher Horton
Lay, East Metro North Conference	Mr. Daniel Thao
Lay, East Metro South Conference	Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin

Region 2

Ordained Minister	Rev. Isaac Williams
Lay, West Metro East Conference	Ms. Rosa Summers
Lay, West Metro West Conference	Mr. John Branstad

Region 3

Ordained Minister	Rev. Loel Wessel
Lay, SE MN East Conference	Ms. Sara Sorenson
Lay, SE MN West Conference	Mr. David Kenow

Region 4

Ordained Minister	Rev. Mark Loder
Lay, SW MN East Conference	Mr. Benjamin Hagemann
Lay, SW MN West Conference	Mr. Neal Breitbarth

Ministers of Religion, Commissioned

Mr. Leland Huebner
Mr. Joel Landskroener

5
6
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8

District Committees

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, Rev. Keith Grimm, Mr. Rick Marko

Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors

Mr. Lane Nordquist (Chair), Mr. Sean Martens (District Staff/Advisory starting May 2019), Mr. Rick Marko (Advisory til May 2019)

Policy Committee of the Board of Directors

Rev. Keith Grimm (Chair), Rev. Christopher Horton

Handbook Committee

Dr. Phillip Johnson (Chair), Rev. Keith Grimm, Rev. Christopher Horton

Constitution and By-Law Committee

Rev. Matthew Moss (Chair), Ms. Kristine Hanson, Ms. Kristen Rickaby, Ms. Rosa Summers, Mr. Dan Utter, Rev. Stefan Wismar, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

Endowment Committee

Mr. John Branstad (Chair), Mr. Benjamin Hagemann, Mr. Lane Nordquist, Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Mr. Rick Marko (Advisory)

Camp Omega Board Representatives

Mr. David Kenow, Mr. Robert LaCroix, Mr. Sean Martens (District Staff/Advisory)

Missions Committee

Rev. Mark Biebighauser, Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa, Mr. John Gayed, Rev. James Groleau, Mr. Michael Hagen, Rev. Vue Lee, Ms. Jaclyn Ohmann, Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz, Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson, Rev. Loel Wessel, Rev. Steven Wheeler, Mr. Rick Marko District Staff/Advisory), Rev. Dr. William Utech (District Staff/Advisory)

Finance Committee

Mr. John Branstad (Chair), Mr. Benjamin Hagemann, Rev. David Mumme, Mr. Lane Nordquist, Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Mr. Kai Larson (Advisory), Mr. Rick Marko (Advisory)

Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee

Mr. Joel Landskroener (Chair), Dr. Gary Elsesser, Ms. Lee Ann Evans, Mr. Josh Hoffman, Rev. Kurt Klaus, Ms. Brenda Lovhaug, Mr. Dan Maser, Mr. Sean Martens (District Staff/Advisory)

Congregational Mission Formation Committee

Rev. Dennis Heiden (Chair), Rev. Steven Benson, Rev. Matthew Moss, Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish, Mr. Daniel Thao, Ms. Sue Timmerman, Dr. Phillip Johnson (District Staff/Advisory),

1 **Ministerial Health Committee**

2 Rev. Thomas Evans (Chair), Ms. Sandi Baert, Rev. Matthew Barry, Ms. Heather Hardecopf, Ms. Sara
3 Sorenson, Rev. Richard Steensma, Rev. Stefan Wismar (District Staff/Advisory),
4

5 **Continuing Education Committee**

6 Rev. Christopher Horton (Chair), Mr. Jeffrey Boehlke, Dr. Lynn Gehrke, Mr. Leland Huebner,
7 Rev. LeRoy LaPlant, Rev. Todd Stocker, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
8

9 **Pre-Seminary Interview Committee**

10 Rev. Keith Grimm (Chair), Rev. Grant Bode, Rev. Peter Gueldner, Mrs. Sheila Heiden, Ms. Cynthia
11 Inselmann, Rev. Adam Koglin, Rev. Stefan Wismar (District Staff/Advisory),
12

13 **District Archivist**

14 Open
15
16

17 **District Staff**
18

19 **Executive Staff**

20 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford	District President
21 Rev. Stefan Wismar	Executive Assistant to the President
22 Rev. Dr. William Utech	Assistant to the President, Missions
23 Dr. Phillip Johnson	Assistant to the President, Mission Formation
24 Mr. Sean Martens	Assistant to the President, Education and Commissioned Ministers
25 Mr. Rick Marko	Treasurer
26 Mr. Kai Larson	District Vice President - Lutheran Church Extension Fund

27
28 **Professional Staff**

29 Rev. Fred Hinz	Public Policy Advocate
30 Mrs. Nadine Meyer	Communications Director

31
32 **Support Staff**

33 Mrs. Debbie Borchardt	Administrative Assistant to the President
34 Mrs. Christina Krentz	Administrative Assistant Commissioned Workers Support
35 Mrs. Julie Bigler	Bookkeeper

Convention Floor Committee Members

Convention Arrangements Committee

Mrs. Julie Bigler; julie.bigler@mnsdistrict.org
Mrs. Debbie Borchardt; debbie.borchardt@mnsdistrict.org
Dr. Phillip Johnson; phil.johnson@mnsdistrict.org
Mrs. Nadine Meyer; nadine.meyer@mnsdistrict.org

Nominations Committee

Mr. Christian Preus, Chair; Preus@comcast.net
Rev. Robert Jarvis; pastor@hosannalcms.org
Rev. Kurt Klaus; pastorkurt@messiahonline.org
Rev. Jesse Krusemark; pastorkrusemark@yahoo.com
Mr. Joel Landskroener; joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org; joelpl@hotmail.com
Mr. Bruce Manzey; bruce@manzey.com
Mr. Rick Marko; rick.marko@mnsdistrict.org
Mr. David Rowlands; rowlands11@charter.net
Ms. Holle Spessard; hollejoy@gmail.com
Mrs. Debbie Borchardt (Advisory, District Staff); debbie.borchardt@mnsdistrict.org

Registration, Credentials, and Attendance

Rev. Nick Kooi, Chair; pastornkooi@gmail.com
Rev. Mark Loder; school@stjameshl.org
Mr. Troy Stapek; troystapek@gmail.com
Mrs. Julie Bigler (Advisory, District Staff); julie.bigler@mnsdistrict.org
Mrs. Debbie Borchardt (Advisory, District Staff); debbie.borchardt@mnsdistrict.org

Committee on Elections

Rev. Eric Nelson, Chair; revericnelson@embarqmail.com
Mr. Andrew Cook; cook802.11@outlook.com
Mr. Ben Hageman; Ben@AmericanPressureInc.com
Rev. Christopher Horton; pastorhorton@frontier.com
Ms. Karla Meier; meierfam@gmail.com
Mrs. Debbie Borchardt (Advisory, District Staff); debbie.borchardt@mnsdistrict.org
Dr. Phillip Johnson (Advisory, District Staff); phil.johnson@mnsdistrict.org

Floor Committee 1: Missions

Rev. Loel Wessel, Chair; loelwessel@msn.com
Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich; friedrich@csp.edu
Rev. Ben Griffin; bengriffin04@icloud.com
Mr. Joel Landskroener; joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org
Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller; pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com
Mr. Charles Squires; squir008@msn.com
Rev. Dr. William Utech (Advisory, District Staff); william.utech@mnsdistrict.org

1 **Floor Committee 2: Theology and Church Relations**

2 Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson, Chair; immanuelcms@yahoo.com

3 Mr. Randy Ash; ashrw10@gmail.com

4 Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; abbaldwin217@gmail.com

5 Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann; koschmann@csp.edu

6 Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish; bparrish63@gmail.com

7 Rev. Paul Strawn; pstrawn@ppslp.org

8 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford (Advisory, District Staff); lucas.woodford@mnsdistrict.org

9
10 **Floor Committee 3: Church and Culture**

11 Rev. David Mumme, Chair; pastormumme@gmail.com

12 Mr. Kurt Anderson; anderk@stolaf.edu

13 Rev. Dr. Tim Berner; tim.berner@concordiaacademy.com

14 Rev. Tyler LaGrave; pastor@zionannandale.org

15 Mrs. Natalie Marose; myfriendsccc@gmail.com

16 Rev. Gemechu Olana; g.olana@outlook.com

17 Mr. Pheng Yang; pheng.yang1@gmail.com

18 Rev. Fred Hinz (Advisory, District Staff); fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org

19
20 **Floor Committee 4: Congregational Services**

21 Rev. Dennis Heiden, Chair; pastorDennis@hosanna.church

22 Mr. Wes Deiss; wesley.deiss@gmail.com

23 Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa; deressa@csp.edu

24 Rev. Kurt Klaus; pastorkurt@messiahonline.org

25 Rev. Jesse Krusemark; pastorkrusemark@yahoo.com

26 Ms. Shelly Schwalm; schwalm@csp.edu

27 Rev. Greg Volbrecht; pastorvolbrecht@gmail.com

28 Mr. Sean Martens (Advisory, District Staff); sean.martens@mnsdistrict.org

29
30 **Floor Committee 5: Administration and Finance**

31 Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Chair; pastorjonvollrath@yahoo.com

32 Ms. Victoria Frentz; vfrentz@sbcglobal.net

33 Rev. Paul Krentz; pastork@holymmanuel.org

34 Mr. Dan Maser; dan.maser@trinitywaconia.org

35 Rev. Herbert Mueller III; pastorhcm3@gmail.com

36 Rev. Kevin Oster; revkev@hutchtel.net

37 Mrs. Rosa Summers; rosalinke@gmail.com

38 Mr. Kai Larson (Advisory, District Staff); kai.Larson@lcef.org

39 Mr. Rick Marko (Advisory, District Staff); rick.marko@mnsdistrict.org

40
41 **Floor Committee 6: Worker Wellness**

42 Rev. Thomas Evans, Chair; revemanuel@comcast.net

43 Dcs. Kristine Hanson; khanson@redeemerwayzata.org

44 Ms. Kelly Mack; kelly.mack@concordiaacademy.com

45 Rev. David Markworth; revmarkworth@gmail.com

46 Mr. Lane Nordquist; lanen1950@gmail.com

47 Mr. Kenneth Schumann; shoeleejen@yahoo.com

48 Rev. Stefan Wismar (Advisory, District Staff); stefan.wismar@mnsdistrict.org

Voting Pastoral Delegates

1		
2		
3	Rev. Ryan Alvey	St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington
4	Rev. Christopher Amen	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pipestone
5	Rev. Phil Augustine	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plainview
6	Rev. Jesse Baker	Zion Lutheran Church, Hardwick
7	Rev. John Bennett	St John Lutheran Church - Willow Creek, Vernon Center
8	Rev. Steve Benson	Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, St. Paul
9	Rev. Josh Bernau	St. John Lutheran Church, Norwood Young America
10	Rev. Wayne Bernau	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Courtland
11	Rev. Anthony Bertram	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairmont
12	Rev. Grant Bode	Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Ulm
13	Rev. Daniel Bodin	South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake
14	Rev. Dr. Phil Booe	St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne
15	Rev. Terrill Bramstedt	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elgin
16	Rev. Alan Broadwell	St. John Lutheran Church, Claremont
17	Rev. Daniel Burns	St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Osseo
18	Rev. Jared Cooksey	Christ Lutheran Church, Eagan
19	Rev. Martin Cornes	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
20	Rev. Wade Daul	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairmont
21	Rev. Ted Diedrick	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines
22	Rev. David Domanski	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Afton
23	Rev. Ryan Eden	Redeemer Lutheran Church of Winona, Winona
24	Rev. Shawn Ethridge	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fulda
25	Rev. Tom Evans	Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights
26	Rev. Thomas Fast	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, St. Charles
27	Rev. Steven Ferber	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wayzata
28	Rev. Adam Finney	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Vernon Center
29	Rev. Steven Frenz	Bethany & St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Lake City & Goodhue
30	Rev. Daryl Gehlbach	Prince of Peace - Deaf, Spring Lake Park
31	Rev. Adam Gless	Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer
32	Rev. Karl Grant	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Gibbon
33	Rev. Frances Green	Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington
34	Rev. Kirk Griebel	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna
35	Rev. Keith Grimm	Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake
36	Rev. James Groleau	St. John Lutheran Church, Austin
37	Rev. Peter Gueldner	King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine
38	Rev. Joel Haak	Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester
39	Rev. Jon Haakana	Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Anoka
40	Rev. Kenneth Harste	Samaritan's Hill Lutheran Church, Albertville
41	Rev. Peter Haugen	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chatfield
42	Rev. Dale Hedstrom	Holy Trinity & St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Lakefield
43	Rev. Dennis Heiden	Hosanna & Hosanna Highland Lutheran Churches, Mankato
44	Rev. Timothy Heinecke	New Life Church - Lutheran, Hugo
45	Rev. Adam Hengst	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior
46	Rev. John Henry	Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches, Fairmont & Northrop

1	Rev William Hillyer	Eternal Hope Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park
2	Rev. David Hormann	St. John Lutheran Church, Winsted
3	Rev. Christopher Horton	St. John Lutheran Church, Rosemount
4	Rev. William Hugo	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights
5	Rev. Adam Jacobsen	Trinity Lutheran Church of Sioux Valley, Lakefield
6	Rev. David Jander	Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver
7	Rev. Rob Jarvis	Bethlehem & Hosanna Lutheran Churches, Annandale & Buffalo
8	Rev. James Jobst	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake
9	Rev. Matthew Johnson	St. John's Lutheran Church, Corcoran
10	Rev. Brian Johnston	Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville
11	Rev. Steven Jones	Peace Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale
12	Rev. Dr. William Keller	Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester
13	Rev. James King	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gaylord
14	Rev. Chad Kirchoff	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Hastings
15	Rev. Michael Klatt	St. John Lutheran Church, Elmore
16	Rev. Kurt Klaus	Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville
17	Rev. Brent Klein	Trinity Lutheran Church, Northfield
18	Rev. Nickolas Kooi	Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Paul
19	Rev. Paul Krentz	Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bloomington
20	Rev. James Kroonblawd	Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church, Eagan
21	Rev. Kyle Krueger	Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth
22	Rev. Jesse Krusemark	St. Paul Evangelical & Trinity Lutheran Churches, Hollandale & Waltham
23	Rev. Aaron Kuehn	Christ Victorious Lutheran Church, Chaska
24	Rev. Justin Kumfer	St. John Lutheran Church, Stewartville
25	Rev. Matthew Lane	Peace Lutheran Church, Faribault
26	Rev. Tyler LaGrave	Zion Lutheran Church, Annandale
27	Rev. LeRoy LaPlant	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, North Mankato
28	Rev. David Larson	St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury
29	Rev Vue Lee	King of Kings Lutheran Church, Roseville
30	Rev. Matthew Lehman	Zion Lutheran Church, Albert Lea
31	Rev. Mark Loder	St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake
32	Rev. Travis Loeslie	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morristown
33	Rev. Benjamin Loos	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester
34	Rev. Yia Lor	The Gathering Place - Lutheran Ministries, Arden Hills
35	Rev. Matthew Lorfeld	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Blue Earth
36	Rev. Chad Czischke	Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Houlton
37	Rev. Dean Mahlum	St. John Lutheran Church, New Germany
38	Rev. Elliott Malm	Grace Lutheran Church, Dodge Center
39	Rev. David Markworth	St. John Lutheran Church, Hutchinson
40	Rev. Tim Marshall	Woodbury Lutheran Church - Oak Hill, Woodbury
41	Rev. Michael Mathews	First Lutheran Church, Waldorf
42	Rev. Tyson Mastin	St. John Lutheran Church, Plato
43	Rev. Adam Matheny	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato
44	Rev. Rudolph Maurer Jr.	St. John Lutheran Church, Good Thunder
45	Rev. Craig McCourt	Peace Lutheran Church, Arlington
46	Rev. Brian McQuiggin	River of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter
47	Rev Mark Meier Sr.	Messiah Lutheran Church, La Crescent

1	Rev. John Meyer	Trinity Lutheran Church, Trimont
2	Rev. Michael Michalk	Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mound
3	Rev. Vance Milbrath	Grace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park
4	Rev. Dr. Joshua Miller	Jehovah Lutheran Church, St Paul
5	Rev. Robert Moeller Jr.	Trinity/Our Saviour's/St. John Lutheran, Jasper/Pipestone/Trosky
6	Rev. Richard Moore	St. Martin Lutheran Church, Winona
7	Rev. George Morris	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Watertown
8	Rev. Herbert Mueller III	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Silo, Lewiston
9	Rev. David Mumme	Bethlehem/ St. Peter/Trinity Lutheran Churches, Elysian & Waterville
10	Rev. Eric Nelson	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie
11	Rev. Jon Niebuhr	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe
12	Rev. Jeff Niederstadt	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester
13	Rev. Gemech Olana	Holy Cross & Our Savior Lutheran Churches, Austin & Brownsdale
14	Rev. Kevin Oster	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hutchinson
15	Rev. Juan Palm	Trinity Lutheran Church, Morristown
16	Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Fish Lake, Prior Lake
17	Rev. Joshua Parrish	Redemption Lutheran Church, Bloomington
18	Rev. David Petrich	St. James Lutheran Church, Holland
19	Rev. Brendan Prigge	Victory Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
20	Rev. Andrew Prin	Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul
21	Rev. Eric Rapp	St. Paul & Zion Lutheran Churches, Green Isle
22	Rev. Russell Reed	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton
23	Rev. Russell Reimers	Our Savior & St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Ceylon
24	Rev. Paul Rieger	Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
25	Rev. Matthew Rusert	St. Johns Antrim & Branch Lutheran Churches, Truman & St. James
26	Rev. Paul Sajban	Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Windom
27	Rev. Greg Schlicker	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna
28	Rev. Martin Schoenfeld	Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove
29	Rev. Mark Schreiber	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Worthington
30	Rev. John Schuetz	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jackson
31	Rev. Dan Schultz	Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
32	Rev. Brian Scoles	Our Saviour Lutheran Church, St. Paul
33	Rev. Mark Shockey	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edina
34	Rev. Larry Sipe	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Freedom, Janesville
35	Rev. Greg Snow	St. John Lutheran Church, Chaska
36	Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Hay Creek, Red Wing
37	Rev. Richard Steensma	Messiah Lutheran Church, Mounds View
38	Rev. James Stefanic	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marshall
39	Rev. Thomas Stoebig	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth
40	Rev. Harold Storm	St. John Lutheran Church, Gaylord
41	Rev. Paul Strawn	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Spring Lake Park
42	Rev. John Strickland	St. John Lutheran Church, Atwater
43	Rev. Ken Tatkenhorst	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Silver Creek, Maple Lake
44	Rev. Mark Tewes	Living Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen
45	Rev. Dr. Kevin Tiaden	Berea Lutheran Church, Richfield
46	Rev. Mark Triplett	St. John & St. Mark Lutheran Churches, Rushford
47	Rev. Joel Vano	Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Burnsville

1	Rev. Timothy Vaughan	Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Francis
2	Rev. Eric Voigt	St. John Lutheran Church, Elk River
3	Rev. Greg Volbrecht	Trinity & Salem Lutheran Churches, Lewisville & Madelia
4	Rev. Jonathan Vollrath	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Eyota
5	Rev. Douglas Wanderer	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St Paul
6	Rev. Christopher Weber	St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Paul
7	Rev. Kurt Weber	Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Golden Valley
8	Rev. Loel Wessel	First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley
9	Rev. Steven Wheeler	Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina
10	Rev. Jeffrey Williams	Trinity Lutheran Church, Slayton
11	Rev. Steve Wilson	St. John Lutheran Church, Sherburn
12	Rev. Eric Zacharias	Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne
13	Rev. Tyge Zucker	Concordia Lutheran Church, Red Wing
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Voting Lay Delegates

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2		
3	Mr. Wade Amundson	Woodbury Lutheran Church - Oak Hill, Woodbury
4	Mr. Bill Anderson	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Vernon Center
5	Mr. Kurt Anderson	Trinity Lutheran Church, Northfield
6	Mr. Nicholas Anderson	Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Burnsville
7	Mr. Tedd Arndt	Trinity & Salem Lutheran Churches, Lewisville & Madelia
8	Mr. Howie Arntzen	Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, St. Paul
9	Mr. Craig Ballinger	St. John Lutheran Church, Rosemount
10	Mr. Travis Barclay	St. John Lutheran Church, Plato
11	Mr. Jeff Bartels	Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul
12	Mr. David Bartholomew	Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church, Maple Grove
13	Mr. Rick Bauer	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Afton
14	Ms. Sandy Bauer	Redeemer Lutheran Church of Winona, Winona
15	Mr. Curtis Becher	Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
16	Mr. Don Behrns	First Lutheran Church, Waldorf
17	Mr. Ralph Bents	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Courtland
18	Mr. Harlan Bergemann	St. John Lutheran Church, Good Thunder
19	Mr. Jeff Boehlke	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Watertown
20	Mr. Mark Bonewell	Christ Lutheran Church, Eagan
21	Mr. Howard Brinkman	Peace Lutheran Church, Arlington
22	Mr. Jeff Brockberg	Trinity/Our Saviour's/St. John Lutheran, Jasper/Pipestone/Trosky
23	Mr. John Bruesehoff	Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne
24	Mr. Alan Buckentin	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton
25	Mr. Wallace Buckentin	Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer
26	Mr. Matthew Buns	St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Paul
27	Mr. Andrew Cook	St. John Lutheran Church, Norwood Young America
28	Mr. Keith Cook	South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake
29	Ms. Maggie Dalager-Ericsson	Jehovah Lutheran Church, St Paul
30	Mr. Philippe Deblois	Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth
31	Mr. Dwight Denlinger	Samaritan's Hill Lutheran Church, Albertville
32	Mr. Dan Duden	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Blue Earth
33	Mr. Delmar Ehlers	St. Paul Evangelical & Trinity Lutheran, Hollandale & Waltham
34	Mr. Roger Eickhoff	Trinity Lutheran Church, Morristown
35	Mr. Mark Ellinger	St. John's Lutheran Church, Corcoran
36	Mr. Sam Erdman	Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church, Eagan
37	Mr. Ryan Evans	Christ Victorious Lutheran Church, Chaska
38	Ms. Jo Eversman	River of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter
39	Mrs. Vernone Feyereisen	Victory Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
40	Mr. Tim Fick	St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne
41	Mrs. Stephanie Fisk	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester
42	Mr. Alan Frahm	Messiah Lutheran Church, Mounds View
43	Mr. Joe Freet	First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley
44	Mrs. Victoria Frentz	Bethany & St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Lake City & Goodhue
45	Mr. Dale Gatz	St. John Lutheran Church, Winsted
46	Mr. Paul Gehlbach	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St Paul

1	Mr. David Glauvitz	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Osseo
2	Ms. Lesley Gommels	St John Lutheran Church, Stewartville
3	Mr. Hiram Grimm	Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver
4	Mr. Tim Grotheer	King of Kings Lutheran Church, Roseville
5	Mr. Mike Hagen	Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville
6	Dr. Timothy Hamp	Immanuel, Fairmont
7	Mr. John Hanson	Berea Lutheran Church, Richfield
8	Mr. Paul Hanson	Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Paul
9	Mr. David Hecksel	St. John Lutheran Church, New Germany
10	Mr. Kyle Hemme	Zion Lutheran Church, Hardwick
11	Mr. Daryl Hoewisch	Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches, Fairmont & Northrop
12	Mr. Roger Heimgartner	St. John & St. Mark Lutheran Churches, Rushford
13	Mr. Steve Heinecke	Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Houlton
14	Mr. William Henning	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jackson
15	Mr. Michael Hentges	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake
16	Mr. Timothy Heroff	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester
17	Ms. Ruth Hickey	Faith Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
18	Mr. Paul Hinz	Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington
19	Mr. Daryl Hoewisch	Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches, Fairmont & Northrop
20	Mr. Kris Holian	St. John Lutheran Church, Atwater
21	Mr. Adam Holtz	Grace Lutheran Church, Dodge Center
22	Mr. Larry Hoof	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie
23	Mr. Tony Iverson	Trinity Lutheran Church, Slayton
24	Mr. Jesse Jett	Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Anoka
25	Mr. Dennis Johnson	Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Windom
26	Mr. David Kenow	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna
27	Mr. Brady Kreger	St. John Lutheran Church, Elk River
28	Mrs. Karrie Kikeh	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights
29	Mr. Martin Kirsh	Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Richfield
30	Mr. David Koosman	Bethlehem & Hosanna Lutheran Churches, Annandale & Buffalo
31	Mr. Luke Kranz	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gaylord
32	Ms. Pam Kruse	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pipestone
33	Mr. Paul Kruse	St. John Lutheran Church, Hutchinson
34	Mr. Thad Kusick	St. John Lutheran Church, Austin
35	Mr. Dennis Larson	St. John Lutheran Church, Sherburn
36	Mr. Russell Laue	Our Savior & St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Ceylon
37	Mr. Gary Lenzen Sr	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna
38	Mr. Scott Ludford	St. Martin Lutheran Church, Winona
39	Mr. Bruce Manzey	Living Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen
40	Mr. Roger Martin	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior
41	Mr. Curtis McBride	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chatfield
42	Mr. Tim Meer	Eternal Hope Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park
43	Ms. Karla J Meier	Messiah Lutheran Church, La Crescent
44	Ms. Beverly Mestelle	Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Golden Valley
45	Mr. James Mickow	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, St. Charles
46	Mr. David Miller	Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mound
47	Mr. Peter Minear	Zion Lutheran Church, Annandale

1	Mr. David Minke	Peace Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale
2	Mr. Al Montgomery	St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake
3	Mr. Donald Mueller	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Silver Creek, Maple Lake
4	Mr. Raymond Mussell Jr.	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plainview
5	Mr. Josiah Nelson	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marshall
6	Mr. Lane Nordquist	Hosanna & Hosanna Highland Lutheran Churches, Mankato
7	Mr. Charles Northwick	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairmont
8	Mr. Kris Nyhus	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morristown
9	Mr. Barry Olson	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Freedom, Janesville
10	Mr. Dale Ortloff	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hutchinson
11	Mr. Bradley Ost	Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina
12	Mr. Raymond Paddock	St. John Lutheran Church, Hammond
13	Mr. Roger Panzer	Zion Lutheran Church, Albert Lea
14	Mr. Eric Papke	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe
15	Mr. Scott Paulson	Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights
16	Mr. Arley Pentico	Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester
17	Mr. Lee Peterson	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elgin
18	Ms. Dana Phillips	Concordia Lutheran Church, Red Wing
19	Mr. Roger Quade	Trinity Lutheran Church, Trimont
20	Mr. James Rempp	Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake
21	Mr. Adam Roemer	St John Lutheran Church - Willow Creek, Vernon Center
22	Mr. David Roslansky	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Worthington
23	Mr. Kurt Ross	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wayzata
24	Mr. David Rowlands	Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester
25	Mr. Roger Rucker	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waseca
26	Mr. Leroy Sandbakken	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines
27	Ms. Verlayne Sather	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
28	Mr. Herman Schaekel	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Edina
29	Mr. Arlem Schamber	Holy Cross & Our Savior Lutheran Churches, Austin & Brownsdale
30	Mr. Robert Schaver	St. Paul & Zion Lutheran Churches, Green Isle
31	Mr. Dean Schiller	Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Ulm
32	Mr. James Schmidt	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Spring Lake Park
33	Mr. Judd Schultz	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato
34	Mr. Karl Schultz	St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury
35	Mr. Dean Schulze	St. James Lutheran Church, Holland
36	Mr. David Schumacher	Our Saviour Lutheran Church, St. Paul
37	Mr. Kenneth Schumann	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Fish Lake, Prior Lake
38	Mr. Don Selvig	Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Winnebago
39	Mr. Brad Sorenson	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth
40	Mr. Greg Spatenka	St. John Lutheran Church, Claremont
41	Mr. Glenn Spitzer	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Eyota
42	Mr. Charles Squire	Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bloomington
43	Mr. Troy Stapek	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fulda
44	Mr. Pete Stephan	St. John Lutheran Church, Chaska
45	Mr. Dan Stover	Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
46	Mr. Tom Trahms	Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville
47	Ms. Lisa Uecker	St. John Lutheran Church, Gaylord

1	Mr. Matthew Van Etten	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Silo, Lewiston
2	Ms. Lisa Veith	St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington
3	Mr. Virgil Vollbrecht	Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hamburg
4	Mr. Wayne Voth	Immanuel Lutheran Church - Hay Creek, Red Wing
5	Mr. David Wallner	New Life Church - Lutheran, Hugo
6	Mr. Bryan Whitney	Peace Lutheran Church, Faribault
7	Mr. Corey Wiederhoeft	St. Johns Antrim & Branch Lutheran Churches, Truman & St. James
8	Mr. Donald Williams	Holy Trinity & St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Lakefield
9	Mr. Pheng Yang	The Gathering Place - Lutheran Ministries, Arden Hills
10	Mr. Bob Wilson	Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove
11	Mr. Bradley Wilson	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, North Mankato
12	Mr. Greg Witry	Grace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park
13	Mr. Adam Wolff	Trinity Lutheran Church of Sioux Valley, Lakefield
14	Ms. Lynn Worden	King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine
15	Mr. Nelson Wyatt	Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Francis
16	Mr. Tony Zierke	St. John Lutheran Church, Elmore

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1 **Recognitions**
2 **Church Anniversaries 2019-2022**
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4 **150 YEARS**

5 2019 (founded in 1869)

6 St. John Lutheran Church – Willow Creek, Vernon Center
7

8 2020 (founded in 1870)

9 St. John Lutheran Church, Good Thunder
10 Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
11

12 2021 (founded in 1871)

13 St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake
14 St. John Lutheran Church, Atwater
15 St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie
16 Zion Lutheran Church, Green Isle
17

18 2022 (founded in 1872)

19 Trinity Lutheran Church – Wilton, Waseca
20 St. John Lutheran Church, Winsted
21

22 **125 YEARS**

23 2019 (founded in 1894)

24 St. John Lutheran Church, Rushmore
25 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elgin
26 Trinity Lutheran Church, Jasper
27

28 2020 (founded in 1895)

29 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton
30 St. John Lutheran Church, Hammond
31

32 2021 (founded in 1896)

33 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakefield
34

35 2022 (founded in 1897)

36 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairmont
37 St. John Lutheran Church, Sargeant
38 Zion Lutheran Church, Springfield
39

40 **75 YEARS**

41 2019 (founded in 1944)

42 Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester
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INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS

Rev. Dr. Gordon Bynum | St. Timothy Society, RSO
Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz | Mayo Clinic, Rochester
Rev. Joel Sund | Brighton Hospice, St. Louis Park
Rev. Thomas Volker | Presbyterian Homes Founder Ridge, Bloomington
Rev. Aaron Unseth | Mercy Hospital, Coon Rapids
Rev. Dr. Jared Yogerst | Providence Place, Minneapolis & Minnesota Children's Hospital, Minneapolis

MAXIMUM CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF SERVICE ON DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Rosa Summers

RETIRED / DEPARTED DISTRICT STAFF

Gae Ash | Administrative Assistant for Schools and Commissioned Ministers (retired)
Deb Connolly | District President Administrative Assistant (retired)
Ms. Sarabeth Marcello | Communications Director
Mr. Rick Marko | Business Manager (retired)
Mr. Billy Schultz | Communications Director
Rev. Robert Schulze | Executive Assistant to the President (retired)

2018 OUTSTANDING LUTHERAN EDUCATOR AWARD

Bruce Urban | Concordia Academy, Roseville

2021 OUTSTANDING LUTHERAN EDUCATOR AWARDS

Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher
Kimberly Link | St. Michael's Lutheran Preschool, Bloomington

Outstanding Elementary Teacher
Julie Herrmann | St. John's Lutheran School, Chaska

Outstanding High School Teacher
David Lane | Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer

Outstanding Administrator/Principal
Tim Berner | Concordia Academy, Roseville

1 Outstanding DCE/DCO/Deaconess
2 Melanie Appelquist | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines
3

4 Outstanding School Shepherd
5 Rev. LeRoy LaPlant | Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, North Mankato
6
7

8 Acknowledgements

9

10 The preparations necessary to plan, develop, coordinate, and successfully complete a District Conven-
11 tion are overwhelming. We wish to offer our deep thanks and appreciation to the following individuals
12 and groups who have helped to make our convention possible:
13

14 MNS District Staff

15 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford District President
16 Rev. Stefan Wismar Executive Assistant to the President
17 Rev. Dr. William Utech Assistant to the President, Missions
18 Dr. Phillip Johnson Convention Co-Chair; Assistant to the President, Mission Formation
19 Mr. Sean Martens Assistant to the President, Education & Commissioned Ministers
20 Mr. Kai Larson District Vice President - Lutheran Church Extension Fund
21 Mr. Rick Marko Treasurer
22 Rev. Fred Hinz Public Policy Advocate
23 Mrs. Nadine Meyer Communications Director
24 Mrs. Debbie Borchardt Convention Co-Chair; Administrative Assistant to the President
25 Mrs. Christina Krentz Administrative Assistant Commissioned Workers Support
26 Mrs. Julie Bigler Bookkeeper
27

28 Bible Study Leaders

29 Rev. Stefan Wismar Executive Assistant to the President
30 Rev. Vue Lee Pastor, King of Kings, Roseville
31 Dr. Samuel Deressa Asst. Prof. Religion and Theology, Concordia University St. Paul
32 Dr. Mark Koschmann Assoc. VPAA Faith & Ministry, Religion and Theology, Concordia University
33 St. Paul
34

35 Convention Chaplain

Rev. Gregory Snow; Senior Pastor; St. John's, Chaska

37 Host Congregation

St. John's Lutheran Church; Chaska, MN

39 Music Director

Julie Pallas

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1	Pages	
2	Deb Connolly	St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington
3	Matthew Frenz	Bethany Lutheran Church, Lake City
4	Natalie Marose	Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bloomington
5	Martin Miller	Jehovah Lutheran Church, St. Paul
6	Lori Utech	Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford
7	Haley Van Winkle	First Lutheran Church, Waldorf
8	Pauline Wiemann	Peace Lutheran Church, Arlington
9		
10	Convention Logo	Mr. Chris Roth
11		
12	Minnesota South LCEF	Bags and folders for the delegates; Friday evening reception
13		
14	Congregations participating in Coins for Christ Offering:	Designated to People of the Book Lutheran
15		Outreach (POBLO) Twin Cities; Nader & Georgette Alaraj, Missionaries
16		
17	Voting System	Padgett Voting
18		
19	Technology	Edward Coutu, Audio Logic
20		
21	Concordia University Staff	
22	Ms. Jennifer Sila	Accommodations
23	Sodexo Campus Services	Food Service
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CONVENTION REPORTS

Report of the President

- 1. Extended Triennium.** My first term of office was filled with many unexpected occurrences that provided the opportunity for the name of Christ to be boldly proclaimed and regularly called upon in prayer and praise. I began my term in September of 2018 onboarding to the position over the next year. Then a pandemic struck, which was coupled by the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis Police officer and subsequent destructive rioting in Minneapolis. The pandemic prompted a Synodical vote to postpone the Synodical convention for a year, which meant district conventions would likewise be postponed and the triennium therefore extended. The MN South district convention is thus being held in June of 2022 rather than June of 2021. Much has transpired in our district over these four years. Despite all the chaos and unrest of these years, the congregations and church workers of our district have tirelessly worked to share the Good News of Christ with the lost and found people of this district. I am so proud of you all! Thank you for your labor in the Lord.
- 2. Love the Lord, Love People, Love our Lutheran Theology.** This threefold phrase is the vision I endeavored to share with the district for our mission and ministry together. The Lord Jesus Christ is at the center of our life together. We love Him because He first loved us. We receive grace and mercy from Him, most regularly through the Divine service, which forgives and frees, renews and refreshes, disciples and disperses us out into our daily vocations of life to love and serve others in the name of Christ. As the two great commands of Christ instruct, we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, and then our neighbors as ourselves. This includes both the lost and the found. Lutherans do this with a robust confession of truth at the center of this love that guides us in our life together. Every pastor, congregation, and church worker in our District jointly pledge to faithfully uphold the teachings of Holy Scripture, as well as our Lutheran Confessions as faithful exhibitions of the doctrine taught in God's Word. We do this not simply because we know them to be true and right but because they are full of light and life, directing the Holy Christian Church and her passion for both the lost and found. Especially in our time of moral confusion and religious pluralism when truth is often pitted against love, doctrinal integrity is important. Precisely because we love Jesus and love the people for whom He died; we also love our Lutheran theology because the shed blood of Christ for the justification of the sinner is at the center of it all (Apology IV). It is the solid foundation of our life and mission together for the sake of the blood-bought souls of this world.
- 3. Pastoral Approach: Bridging the Divide.** My desire as District President has been to take a pastoral and teaching approach to my ecclesiastical supervision responsibilities. The MN South District is full of wonderful church workers, congregations, schools, and childcare centers. However, there is a longstanding division within the district between two respective ministry perspectives. These two viewpoints are often reduced to the pejorative monikers of "missional" and "confessional," which are unfortunately portrayed as opposites to each other. My goal has been to bridge the two perspectives through a pastoral approach, especially since they are not truly opposed to each other. In fact, the LCMS has always been a church body with a robust confession of the faith and an equally robust missionary impulse. Seeking the lost and serving

1 the found both with the means of grace goes to the heart of who we are. Using the above
2 threefold emphasis, my endeavor has been to pastorally lead the district through regular com-
3 munication, publication, and invitation to collegial and fraternal dialogue about our mission and
4 ministry. Where differences remain, I encourage more light and less heat as we walk together
5 under Christ, while remaining vigorous in our care of both the lost and the found.
6

7 **4. Governance: Praesidium and Board of Directors (BOD).** The District President is assisted by
8 the other elected officials of the district in the governance of the district. This includes the four
9 regional Vice Presidents. First Vice President, Rev. David Mumme and Second Vice President,
10 Rev. Tom Evans have been serving since the beginning of this term. Third Vice President, Rev.
11 Harold Storm stepped down midterm for health reasons and was replaced by the corresponding
12 elected regional pastoral representative to the BOD, Rev. Dennis Heiden. Similarly, Rev. Dr.
13 Brent Parrish began the term serving as Fourth Vice President but stepped down midterm
14 when he was elected to the Concordia University, St. Paul Board of Regents at the 2019 Synod-
15 ical Convention. He was likewise replaced by the corresponding regional pastoral representa-
16 tive to the BOD, Rev. Steve Wheeler. (Each of the regional pastoral representative vacancies
17 were then replaced by board appointments of eligible pastors from those respective regions.)
18 Together these Vice Presidents with the District President make up the Praesidium. They meet
19 with me quarterly and assist with various official acts on my behalf. District Secretary, Rev.
20 Keith Grimm, (who submitted a report on behalf of the BOD) is the other elected officer of the
21 district, while the treasurer, Rick Marko, is appointed by the BOD, and who continues to pro-
22 vide sound management of the district's finances. His reports to the Board of Directors and the
23 district continue to be clear and transparent, regularly receiving near perfect annual audit re-
24 ports. The governing board of the district is comprised of elected lay men and women, commis-
25 sioned men and women, and ordained men from the four regions of the district. The board has
26 fiduciary oversight of the property and finances of the district, while the District President is
27 responsible for day-to-day operations. The board governs through a policy-based board manual
28 and district handbook (bylaws), which are all subject to the Synodical handbook.
29

30 **5. Office of the President**

31 **a. Pastoral Approach: Soul Care and Teaching.** This has been a primary emphasis of mine
32 across the district. Pastors and pastor's wives need pastoral care, as do all our church
33 workers. My endeavor has been to provide this through face-to-face meetings, verbal,
34 and written communication. When the pandemic hit, these communication modes be-
35 came especially important to help lead with the light of Christ in the face of a tumultuous
36 time. It also required making some very difficult leadership decisions on short notice in
37 the face of government executive orders that were unfairly marginalizing our church
38 workers and houses of worship while showing favoritism to the retail sector. During the
39 pandemic and the parallel civil and racial unrest stemming from the death of George
40 Floyd, I endeavored to write and publish regular pastoral letters and other various mate-
41 rials to help pastors, church workers, and congregations make their way through the
42 many challenges facing our times. These included:

43
44 i. A public paper on the ordinance and institution of the Lord's Supper and online com-
45 munion: [The Ordinance and Institution of the Lord's Supper](#): A Fraternal Discussion
46 about Online Home Communion
47

1 ii. A multiethnic summit and video series on racial conversations about ministry.

2 [Introduction - Engaged in Mission Interview Series](#)

3 [Meet Alfrieda Baldwin](#) - Micro-schools, racial unrest

4 [Meet Nader Alaraj](#) - Immigrant ministry

5 [Meet Rev. Johnny Vang](#) - Bi-vocational pastor, becoming multi-ethnic

6 [Meet Jeanetta Cooper](#) - Christian education, racial unrest

7 [Meet Dan & Kia Thao](#) - Hmong ministry, engaging young people

8 [Meet Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa](#) - Multi-ethnic ministries

9 [Meet Rev. Vue Lee](#) - Hmong and multi-ethnic ministries

10 [Meet Vicar Jorge Gomez](#) - Hispanic ministry

11
12 iii. A published public monograph of Critical Race Theory and Social Justice and the im-
13 portance of pastoral care in the face of racism and extreme ideologies:

14 [https://www.doxology.us/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/dox_2021_woodford_crt fi-
15 nal2.pdf](https://www.doxology.us/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/dox_2021_woodford_crt_final2.pdf)

16
17 iv. A published book I co-authored on pastoral leadership: *Pastoral Leadership: For the*
18 *Care of Souls*. Lexham press: [https://blog.lexhampress.com/2021/10/14/pastoral-leader-
20 ship-an-interview-with-harold-senkbeil-and-lucas-woodford/](https://blog.lexhampress.com/2021/10/14/pastoral-leader-
19 ship-an-interview-with-harold-senkbeil-and-lucas-woodford/)

21 These resources were meant to be tools and helps that express not only what we are
22 morally against, but what we stand *for* and the importance of robustly making this clear.
23 Through it all, I am proud of the church workers of the MN South. They have been under
24 tremendous pressure and workloads throughout the pandemic and have performed ad-
25 mirably. I thank the Lord for their faith and their service to the congregations, schools,
26 and childcare centers of the district.

27
28 **b. Executive Assistants:** There are four (out of a possible five) full-time assistants to the
29 District President. Each are directly responsible to the District President. These execu-
30 tives are each given an area of emphasis to assist me in serving the district. Rev. Stefan
31 Wismar serves as the Executive Assistant to the President. He assists with worker well-
32 ness, facilitating congregational conflict resolution and reconciliation, is our PALS facilita-
33 tor, the staff liaison to the Constitution Committee and Ministerial Health Committee,
34 and shadows the District President to catch the overflow of situations needing attention.
35 Rev. Dr. William Utech serves as the Executive Assistant for Missions and focuses on
36 new mission starts, multiethnic mission endeavors, facilitating international mission ex-
37 periences and partnerships with congregations, and is the staff liaison to the District
38 Missions Committee and LINC Twin Cities. Dr. Phil Johnson serves as the Executive As-
39 sistant for Mission Formation. He is the staff liaison for the Mission Formation commit-
40 tee as well as the Policy/Handbook Committee. He focuses on congregational renewal,
41 the Synod's ReVitality program, facilitates pastoral learning communities, and assists
42 with congregational conflict and reconciliation. He works to involve pastors and their
43 congregations in a process which leads to stronger connections between their church
44 and community and between individual Christians and the unchurched. Mr. Sean Martins
45 serves as the Executive Assistant for Education and Commissioned Workers. He works
46 with all our commissioned workers of the district, serving all our childcare centers, grade
47 schools, and high schools and is the staff liaison for the Education Committee. His visits

to early childhood centers, schools, and administrators bring encouragement and helpful consultation, especially as it relates to accreditation. We also have a part-time Public Policy professional, Rev. Fred Hinz, who leads our Public Policy Committee and addresses the current issues of government policy that impacts three general areas: 1) marriage, sexuality, and family/parental choice in education, 2) beginning and end of life issues, and 3) religious liberty.

c. Staff: Departures and New Hires/Calls Accepted

Departures

- Gae Ash retired in 2018 (Admin Assistant Schools and Commissioned Ministers)
- Billy Schulz departed for another job in Oct. 2018 (Communications Director)
- Rev. Bob Schulz retired in 2019 (Executive Assistant to the president)
- Rick Marko retired as Business Manager in 2020 (but is retained as *Treasurer)
- Deb Connolly retired in 2021 (Administrative Assistant to the president)
- Sarabeth Marcello departed for another job in 2021 (Communications Director)

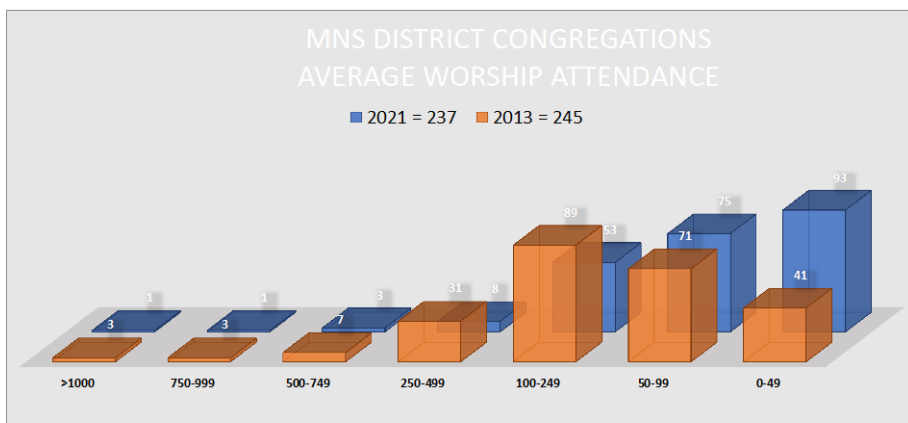
*Business manager and HR responsibilities distributed among existing staff on an interim basis for cost savings.

New Hires

- Sarabeth Marcello hired in 2018 (Commissioned Minister Support, later Communications Director)
- Rev. Stefan Wismar was called in 2019 (Executive Assistant to the president)
- Mrs. Debbie Borchardt hired in 2019 (Receptionist, later Commissioned Minister Support, later Administrative Assistant to the District President)
- Mrs. Christina Krenz hired in 2021 (Commissioned Worker Support)
- Mrs. Nadine Meyer hired 2022 (Communications Director)

6. Challenges and Opportunities. There are numerous challenges and opportunities for us in our district ministry. Three identified recurring challenges among our churches include: 1) declining worship attendance; 2) aging membership (fewer children, youth, and young adults); and 3) increasingly inadequate financial resources (see graph below from information provided by LCMS annual reporting). These were all exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

Worship Attendance Trends – 2013 to 2021



1 Likewise, a secular culture increasingly hostile to the church also continues to confront us.
2 Threats undermining the nuclear family, marriage and sexuality, and biological human identity
3 continue to be foisted upon our culture. It is nothing new in the history of the church, but it is
4 new to us. I have authored a published journal article on the importance of our congregations
5 and schools being intentional about reclaiming family and sexual virtue as things we must stand
6 for and promote: [https://www.doxology.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Reclaiming-Family-](https://www.doxology.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Reclaiming-Family-and-Sexual-Virtue-Seelsorger-Vol-5.pdf)
7 [and-Sexual-Virtue-Seelsorger-Vol-5.pdf](https://www.doxology.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Reclaiming-Family-and-Sexual-Virtue-Seelsorger-Vol-5.pdf)
8

9 Additional challenges: During the past four years I have had to sign off on closing 12 congrega-
10 tions, including three young church plants, nearly six times the rate of closures from the previ-
11 ous two trienniums.

- 12 1. Genesis Missional, Minneapolis on 6/30/2018
- 13 2. Trinity, Elmore on 11/4/2018
- 14 3. Family of Christ, Rochester on 10/31/2019
- 15 4. The WHEREhouse, St. Paul on 5/6/2020
- 16 5. St. Peter, Easton on 8/15/2020
- 17 6. Immanuel -Kimball Township, Alpha on 10/29/2020
- 18 7. Concordia, South St. Paul on 8/24/2021
- 19 8. Mt. Zion, Minneapolis on 6/28/2021
- 20 9. Zion, Lewisville on 1/11/2021
- 21 10. Fairview, Minnetonka on 7/12/2021
- 22 11. Remedy, Oakdale on 8/02/2021
- 23 12. St. John (Rapidan), Mankato on 11/22/2021

24
25 The racial and civil unrest, along with the cultural fascination with Critical Race Theory, have
26 also added layers of challenges for our churches to address. Yet, these were opportunities to let
27 the light of Christ shine in the darkness. Our Lord promises that the gates of Hell will not pre-
28 vail against His church (Matt. 16:18). Yet, that did not mean we could sit back on our laurels as
29 the above twelve closed congregations demonstrate. To that end, I witnessed some tremen-
30 dous outreach among our congregations during the height of the pandemic. Many of our Lu-
31 theran grade schools also remained opened and welcomed new students despite the tremen-
32 dous workload and safety accommodations they were required to undertake. These were shin-
33 ing examples of how the Holy Christian Church is a beacon of hope in challenging times. Like-
34 wise, in the face of great civil unrest and racial strife, there were many who stepped forward to
35 facilitate important conversations seasoned with the hope of Christ and challenged us to action.
36 This includes how Christians must decry all racism as wrong and sinful, while also standing firm
37 against unbiblical reactionary ideologies. Likewise, in the moral revolution regarding sexuality,
38 transgenderism, and abortion, our congregations continued to stand for the family, biblical mar-
39 riage and God-created sexuality; for our God-created human identity; and for the protection of
40 the unborn. This is not a time for the church to be bashful! We have a bold confession of faith
41 and profound love for our neighbor that will bring the hope of Christ to a hurting world. We
42 reach out to our communities. We listen to our neighbors. We stretch ourselves to understand
43 different ethnicities and cultures and see things from another's perspective, even as we are all
44 made one in Christ, under His Lordship, and in the truth of His eternal Word. Let's continue to
45 seize the opportunity!

Report of the Board of Directors

Our Mission Statement

(Adopted September 2015)

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

Our Promise to Those We Serve

(Adopted September 2015)

Rooted in the Scriptures and growing in a relationship of mutual trust and Christian love, we promise to equip, support, and encourage you in your ministries, joyfully serving together to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Objective

(Adopted September 2018)

Love the Lord, love people, love our Lutheran theology.

Our 2018 - 2021 Initiatives

(Adopted September 2018)

These eleven initiatives were adopted to guide the Board of Directors and the District Executive Staff throughout the triennium:

1. **Rooted in the Word.** To move toward more excellent preaching, teaching, hearing, and understanding of the Word (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
2. **Visitation, listening, and encouragement.** To be present with our circuits, congregations, schools, and workers to encourage them, thank them, and give attention to the joys and challenges they are experiencing (Galatians 6:2,10).
3. **Oneness.** To nurture our growing unity, concord, and harmony (Ephesians 4:1-6).
4. **Outreach ministries.** To encourage and support congregations and individuals in refreshing existing and developing new outreach ministries in their communities (1 Peter 2:9).
5. **Church planting.** To encourage congregation involvement in church planting by supporting church planters in their efforts, by becoming mother congregations, and by participating in the New Church Incubator (Luke 19:10-27).
6. **Networking and collaboration.** To develop and encourage cooperative ministry partnerships and resource sharing (Philippians 4:8-9).
7. **Schools and early childhood centers.** To strengthen our existing schools and early childhood centers and expand education ministries (Matthew 19:14).
8. **Campus ministry.** To encourage congregations toward greater evangelistic activity and efforts among college and university students (Psalm 78:1-7).
9. **Public policy advocacy.** To advocate for scriptural truth and provide resources in the following areas of public policy: marriage and sexuality, sanctity of life, religious freedom, and parental choice in education (Matthew 22:21).

1 10. **Wellness.** To provide resources that promote wellness among church workers, their families,
2 and congregations (Mark 12:30-31).

3
4 11. **Professional conduct.** To hold one another accountable for conduct worthy of the Gospel of
5 Christ (Philippians 1:27).

6 7 **Board Membership**

8 There were a few changes among the elected members of the Board of Directors during this trien-
9 nium. Those currently serving are:

10
11 President Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

12
13 1st Vice President Rev. David Mumme

14 2nd Vice President Rev. Thomas Evans

15 3rd Vice President Rev. Dennis Heiden

16 4th Vice President Rev. Steven Wheeler

17
18 Secretary Rev. Keith Grimm

19 Treasurer Mr. Rick Marko

20 21 Region 1

22 Ordained Minister Rev. Christopher Horton

23 Lay, East Metro North Conference Mr. Daniel Thao

24 Lay, East Metro South Conference Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin

25 26 Region 2

27 Ordained Minister Rev. Isaac Williams

28 Lay, West Metro East Conference Mrs. Rosa Summers

29 Lay, West Metro West Conference Mr. John Branstad

30 31 Region 3

32 Ordained Minister Rev. Loel Wessel

33 Lay, SE Minnesota East Conference Mrs. Sara Sorenson

34 Lay, SE Minnesota West Conference Mr. Dave Kenow

35 36 Region 4

37 Ordained Minister Rev. Mark Loder

38 Lay, SW Minnesota East Conference Mr. Benjamin Hagemann

39 Lay, SW Minnesota West Conference Vacant

40
41 Minister of Religion Commissioned Mr. Leland Huebner

42 Minister of Religion Commissioned Mr. Joel Landskroener

43 44 **Board of Director changes during this triennium were as follows:**

- 45 • Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish was elected at the Synod Convention to serve on the Board of Regents
46 at Concordia University St. Paul and was no longer eligible to serve as the Region 2 Vice Presi-
47 dent. The Board of Directors elected Rev. Steve Wheeler, who was serving as the "Region 2

1 Ordained Minister,” to become the Region 2 Vice President at their meeting on September 10,
2 2019.

- 3 • The Board of Directors elected Rev. Isaac Williams to fill Rev. Steve Wheeler’s former position
4 on the Board as “Region 2 Ordained Minister” at their meeting on September 10, 2019.
- 5 • Dr. Gary Elsesser asked for his peaceful release as the Lay Representative for the East Metro
6 South Conference due to his impending move out of state. The Board of Directors elected Ms.
7 Alfrieda Baldwin to fill this position at their meeting on September 22, 2020.
- 8 • Rev. Harold Storm, Region 4 Vice President, stepped down from his office for health reasons on
9 October 31, 2020. The Board of Directors elected Rev. Dennis Heiden, who was serving as the
10 “Region 4 Ordained Minister,” to become the Region 4 Vice President at their meeting on De-
11 cember 1, 2020.
- 12 • The Board of Directors elected Rev. Mark Loder to fill Rev. Dennis Heiden’s former position on
13 the Board as “Region 4 Ordained Minister” at their meeting on February 20, 2021.
- 14 • Mr. Neil Breitbarth, Lay Representative for “Region 4 Southwest Minnesota West Conference”
15 was called to glory on March 18, 2022.

16 **Meetings**

17 The Minnesota South District Board of Directors held sixteen regular quarterly meetings (six of them
18 online during the pandemic) during the 2018-2022 extended triennium.
19
20

21 **Staff: Departures and New Hires/Calls Accepted**

22 **Departures**

- 23 • Gae Ash retired in 2018 (Administrative Assistant Schools and Commissioned Ministers)
- 24 • Billy Schulz departed for another job in Oct. 2018 (Communications Director)
- 25 • Rev. Bob Schulz retired in 2019 (Executive Assistant to the President)
- 26 • Rick Marko retired as Business Manager in 2020 (but is retained as *Treasurer)
- 27 • Deb Connolly retired in 2021 (Administrative Assistant to the President)
- 28 • Sarabeth Marcello departed for another job in 2021 (Communications Director)

29 *Business manager and HR responsibilities distributed among existing staff on an interim basis for cost savings.

30 **New Hires**

- 31 • Sarabeth Marcello hired in 2018 (Commissioned Minister Support, Later Communications Di-
32 rector)
- 33 • Rev. Stefan Wismar was called in 2019 (Executive Assistant to the president)
- 34 • Mrs. Debbie Borchardt hired in 2019 (Receptionist, later Commissioned Minister Support, later
35 Administrative Assistant to the District President)
- 36 • Mrs. Christina Krenz hired in 2021 (Commissioned Worker Support)
- 37 • Mrs. Nadine Meyer hired 2022 (Communications Director)

38 **The Current Executive Staff for the Minnesota South District**

- 39 • Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, District President
- 40 • Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the President
- 41 • Rev. Dr. William Utech, Assistant to the President, Missions
- 42 • Dr. Phillip Johnson, Assistant to the President, Mission Formation
- 43 • Mr. Sean Martens, Assistant to the President, Education & Commissioned Ministers
- 44 • Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer

- Mr. Kai Larson, District Vice President – Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The Current Professional Staff for the Minnesota South District

- Rev. Fred Hinz, Public Policy Advocate
- Nadine Meyer, Communications Director

The Current Support Staff for the Minnesota South District

- Debbie Borchardt, Administrative Assistant to the President
- Christina Krentz, Administrative Assistant Commissioned Workers Support
- Julie Bigler, Bookkeeper

Constitution and Bylaws

The Board approved the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and/or Bylaw changes for the following congregations from September 2018 through February 2022:

- The Gathering Place Lutheran Church, Arden Hills
- New Life Church – LCMS, Hugo
- Good Shepherd Lutheran High School, Elk River
- Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakefield
- St. John Lutheran Church, Atwater
- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior
- St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lakefield
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hollandale
- The Remedy Lutheran Church, Oakdale
- St. Peter Lutheran Church, Edina,
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Northfield
- St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Osseo
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Waseca (Wilton)
- First Lutheran Church, Waldorf
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Spring Lake Park
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waseca
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe
- Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester

Other Items

- President Woodford’s three initiatives during the triennium were as follows:
 - ***In the Word*** – Our goal is to have 20% of communicant members in District congregations in a Bible study.
 - ***Ministry Partnerships*** – The District hopes to further develop networking, sharing resources and collaboration between congregations in both rural and urban areas. Forty percent of our congregations currently worship less than 50 people per weekend. What can we do to encourage partnerships?

1 **Congregational Support**

2 The District relies on donations from its member congregations for a significant portion of its support.
3 As shown in the Statement of Activities, support from District congregations totaled \$2,177,797,
4 \$2,061,066, \$2,044,574, and \$2,064,754 for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2020, 2019, and
5 2018, respectively.

6 The number of District congregations supporting the District mission and the range of gifts supporting
7 the District by year were:

8 2021 - 194 of 235 total congregations (83%), gifts ranged from \$25 to \$122,000

9 2020 - 196 of 243 total congregations (81%), gifts ranged from \$30 to \$124,000

10 2019 - 197 of 243 total congregations (81%), gifts ranged from \$16 to \$129,000

11 2018 - 202 of 245 total congregations (82%), gifts ranged from \$55 to \$121,000

12
13 **Property Acquisitions/Divestitures**

14 In October 2020, the District executed an agreement to gift ownership of the Camp Omega property
15 in Waterville, MN to Camp Omega, Inc. The net book value of the property on the date of the gift was
16 \$279,096, which was reflected in the 2020 Statement of Activities as a loss on the transfer of prop-
17 erty.

18
19 **COVID-19 Response and Related Activities**

20 As a result of the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in the United States, multiple businesses across
21 a wide range of industries were being disrupted through mandatory and voluntary closings. The ex-
22 tent of the impact of COVID-19 on our operational and financial performance depended on certain
23 developments including the duration and spread of the outbreak, as well as its impact on our member
24 congregations, donors, employees, and vendors, all of which were uncertain and could not be pre-
25 dicted. The District made several modifications to its operations to account for potential financial im-
26 pacts, including participation in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and reduction of various
27 budget expenses.

28
29 PPP Loan – In April 2020, the District received an unsecured loan in the amount of \$261,000 under
30 the PPP established by the Coronavirus Act, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from a Small
31 Business Administration (SBA) approved partner. The loan obligation was legally released by the SBA
32 in November 2020, at which time the District recognized in the 2020 Statement of Activities a
33 \$261,785 gain on the forgiveness of debt, which included principal of \$261,000 and accrued interest
34 of \$785.

35
36 Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 Response Initiative – As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded in 2020, many
37 church workers found themselves with immediate unmet financial needs stemming from the spread of
38 the pandemic. The District, in partnership with Synod and LCEF, delivered mercy and human care in
39 the form of benevolent support to church workers within the District through the Synod's Soldiers of
40 the Cross COVID-19 Response Initiative program. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the
41 District received \$126,340 from the Synod for this program and distributed grants of \$152,450 to
42 meet the needs of impacted District church workers.

43
44 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Loan Approvals:**

45 The District Finance Committee approves all LCEF loans in the Minnesota South District. Loan approv-
46 als for the past triennium were as follows:

LCEF Fiscal Year (July 01 - June 30)	Number of Loans	New Loan Dollars	Renewal Loan Dollars	Total Loan Dollars (Amount)
2019 (07/01/18 - 06/30/19)	13	\$11,405,000	\$0	\$11,405,000
2020 (07/01/19 - 06/30/20)	11	\$585,500	\$0	\$585,500
2021 (07/01/20 - 06/30/21)	18	\$4,380,999	\$3,094,628	\$7,475,627
2022 - to date (07/01/21 - 03/31/22)	8	\$1,219,029	\$4,548,491	\$5,767,520

The Minnesota South District LCEF loan portfolio, as of the 03/31/22 LCEF Schedule of Loans Receivable Report consists of 85 loans with a combined principal balance of \$45,042,971.

Report of the Nominations Committee

The Committee on Nominations consists of four pastors, four laypersons, and one commissioned minister elected by the 2018 District Convention. These members are: Pr. Anders Davidson; Pr. Rob Jarvis; Pr. Kurt Klaus; Pr. Jesse Krusemark; Bruce Manzey; Christian Preus; David Rowlands; Holle Spesard; and Joel Landskroener (commissioned member). Debbie Borchardt served as liaison from the District staff.

The Committee was called together for its first meeting by President Woodford on August 13, 2020. Pastor Loel Wessel, chairman of the 2018 Committee, was also in attendance to give guidance for our work. Selected as officers for the committee were Mr. Christian Preus, Chairman; Mr. Bruce Manzey, Vice-Chairman; and Pr. Rob Jarvis, Secretary. The Committee held subsequent meetings at the District office, with some attending via Zoom, on November 16, 2020; August 24, 2021; February 8, 2022; and February 15, 2022.

The Committee solicited and received suggestions for the positions of District Secretary; Concordia University, St. Paul Board of Regents; 2025 District Committee on Nominations; and the Nominating Committee for the Synod Convention (2023). Suggestions were received from 23 pastors and congregations. For most positions, all individuals suggested are included on the ballot, if the nominee consented. For some elected positions (Board of Regents ordained and commissioned), there were multiple suggestions for the position. For these positions, the Committee made a judgment as to the individuals to nominate and include on the ballot. For other positions (District Nominating Committee), there were relatively few suggestions for the number of positions and the Committee was not able to place at least 2 names in nomination for the position. All who were nominated were contacted to see if they would be willing to stand for election. All who are willing are on the ballot.

The following is the complete list of suggestions received (as per District Handbook 4.2.15.6h), other than those who expressly declined upon being advised they were suggested or were ineligible to serve. We take the liberty of not including their full addresses at this point.

1 **District Secretary**

2 Rev. Keith Grimm (Family of Christ, Ham Lake); Rev. Matthew Johnson (St. Johns, Corcoran)

3 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Ordained)**

4 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson (Glory of Christ, Plymouth) and Rev. William Otte (Trinity, Rochester)

5 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Commissioned)**

6 Open

7 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Lay)**

8 James Anderson (Holy Cross, Prior Lake); Rosa Summers (Glory of Christ, Plymouth); and Lori Utech
9 (Trinity, Medford)

10 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Ordained)**

11 Rev. Kyle Krueger (Glory of Christ, Plymouth); Rev. Eric Nelson (St. Paul, Lester Prairie); and Rev. Jon
12 Niebuhr (Good Shepherd, Glencoe)

14 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Commissioned)**

15 Open

17 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Lay)**

18 David Koosman (Bethlehem, Annandale); Glen Meints (University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis); and
19 Bill Summers (Glory of Christ, Plymouth)

21 **Synod Nominations Committee for 2023 Synodical Convention (Lay)**

22 Dave Kenow (Good Shepherd, Owatonna) and Christian Preus (Glory of Christ, Plymouth)

24 The following is the complete list of the Committee’s nominations from those suggested received (as
25 per District Handbook 4.2.15.6h), other than those who declined the nomination. We take the liberty
26 of not including their full addresses at this point.

28 **District Secretary**

29 Rev. Keith Grimm (Family of Christ, Ham Lake); Rev. Matthew Johnson (St. Johns, Corcoran)

30 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Ordained)**

31 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson (Glory of Christ, Plymouth) and Rev. William Otte (Trinity, Rochester)

32 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Commissioned)**

33 Open

34 **Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul (Lay)**

35 James Anderson (Holy Cross, Prior Lake); Rosa Summers (Glory of Christ, Plymouth); and Lori Utech
36 (Trinity, Medford)

38 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Ordained)**

39 Rev. Kyle Krueger (Glory of Christ, Plymouth); Rev. Eric Nelson (St. Paul, Lester Prairie); and Rev. Jon
40 Niebuhr (Good Shepherd, Glencoe)

42 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Commissioned)**

43 Open

1 **2025 District Convention Nominations Committee (Lay)**

2 David Koosman (Bethlehem, Annandale), Glen Meints (University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis); and
3 Bill Summers (Glory of Christ, Plymouth)

4
5 **Synod Nominations Committee for 2023 Synodical Convention (Lay)**

6 Dave Kenow (Good Shepherd, Owatonna) and Christian Preus (Glory of Christ, Plymouth)

7
8 Valid nominations for District President and Regional Vice Presidents were received from 28 congregations. District Secretary, Rev. Keith Grimm, and Committee Chairman, Mr. Christian Preus, tabulated nominations on March 1, 2022 (as per District Handbook 4.2.15.2d) and report the following names of
9 clergymen who received at least five nominating votes for the office of President or Regional Vice
10 President.
11

12
13
14 **President**

15 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford (Trinity Lutheran, Farmington); Rev. Thomas Evans (Emanuel, Inver Grove
16 Heights)

17
18 Since the District Handbook mandates that the slate for President and Vice President shall be the
19 three clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating forms, the following men are
20 also included on the ballot for President and Vice President:

21
22 **President**

23 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford (Trinity Lutheran, Farmington); Rev. Thomas Evans (Emanuel, Inver Grove
24 Heights); and Rev. Kurt Klaus (Messiah, Lakeville)

25
26 **Vice President**

27 **Region 1 – East Metro:** Rev. Thomas Evans (Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights); Rev. Todd Stocker (Wood-
28 bury); and Rev. Tim Vaughn (Trinity, Oak Grove)

29 **Region 2 – West Metro:** Rev. David Kind (University, Minneapolis); Rev. Steve Wheeler (Cross View,
30 Edina)

31 **Region 3 – Southeastern Minnesota:** Rev. David Mumme (Trinity, Waterville); Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz
32 (Trinity, Rochester); Rev. Jonathan Vollrath (Our Savior's, Eyota)

33 **Region 4 – Southwest Minnesota:** Rev. Mark Loder (St. James, Howard Lake) and Rev. Eric Nelson (St.
34 Paul, Lester Prairie)

35
36 The slate for Board of Directors includes the names of all those who received valid nominations from
37 the congregations of the District and indicated they are willing to serve if elected.

38
39 The Committee on Nominations expresses our thanks to President Woodford, Pastor Wessel, Debbie
40 Borchardt, Nadine Meyer, and to all who participated in the nomination process.

41
42 Mr. Christian Preus, Chairman
43 Committee on Nominations
44

Report of the Missions Committee

In Luke 15:1-10, we read this...

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins^[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Now then, we all know that nobody, but nobody, does that... It's insanity. If you lose 1% of your holdings, you don't risk losing the other 99% of your holdings to get it back. By leaving the 99 sheep on their own, you risk them roaming off, being stolen, or being killed and eaten by a wolf. Nobody leaves the 99!

Or, what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Nobody does that either!

You don't call friends and neighbors together for a celebration only to spend more money feeding and entertaining them than what you found was worth. For goodness' sake, why even bother looking for the coin at all, if you're just going to blow more money anyway? It's insanity. Nobody does that!

Except Jesus.

Jesus does that. Jesus leaves the 99 to search for the lost. Jesus sweeps the house and then throws a party when the lost are found. It's totally and thoroughly insane. And yet, that's why the Gospel is such Good News.

When a soul is lost, that soul is missed, longed after, and not only worth the search party, but worth the celebration-party when the soul is brought back into the fold. "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

And this is what happened to all of us! This is what happened **FOR** all of us!

1 The day that you were baptized... The day you came to faith... There was a hooping and a hollering go-
2 ing on in heaven because of YOU! Because you, the lost sheep, had been found... Because YOU the
3 lost coin had been located... Because YOU the lost sinner had been saved!

4
5 God put the rest of His holdings at risk... God devoted His divine time and attention... God even put
6 the life of his Son on the line... in order to seek you out and save you, because He is all about “seeking
7 and saving the lost.” And make no mistake about it, dear reader, we once were lost, but now are found,
8 were blind, but now we see...

9
10 That’s the kind of God that God is. That’s the kind of Savior He sends. That’s the undeserved gift that
11 we’ve all been given... “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see...”

12
13 And that’s the really cool thing about these two parables... When I read them, I can’t help reading my-
14 self into the story as the lost sheep, I can’t help reading myself into the story as the lost coin. I am the
15 lost one. I am the obstinate sheep that wandered off. I am the coin that slipped out of the pocket and
16 into the pillowy cushions of the couch...

17
18 But this story was told to a group of religious insiders who fancied themselves as the 99 sheep who
19 never wandered off – who thought of themselves as the nine coins that never got lost. They are the
20 respectable ones. They are the devout ones. They are the so-called “righteous ones” who honestly be-
21 lieve that they “do not need to repent.” These religious insiders aren’t impressed by a God who spends
22 all His time going after the sinner, instead they expect that God should be spending His time with
23 them. That is, with the well-behaved ones, who seemingly never left His side.

24
25 And, make no mistake about it, they are scandalized by these parables. They are incredulous. They are
26 actually enraged at the idea of a God who leaves the 99 behind, just to find the one, or who throws a
27 two-coin party after a one-coin find. That just doesn’t make sense to them. It’s bad economics, it’s a
28 bad business model, and it has no place in the church!

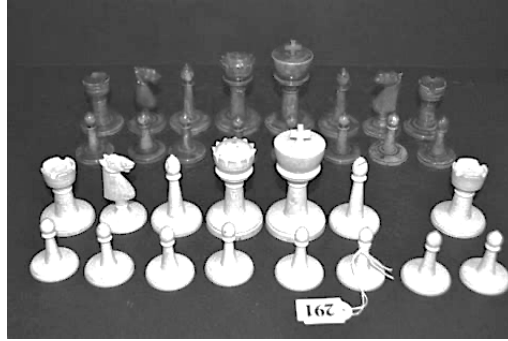
29
30 But for the lost sheep, and for the lost coin, and for the lost sinner, all this is really, really, really Good
31 News. Our God is the God of the lost. Our Savior is a Savior who came to seek and to save the lost...
32 He’s kind of obsessive that way! So, these two parables teach us that God’s economy is different from
33 ours, and that He’s not concerned so much about the bottom line as He is about having missing pieces
34 and incomplete sets restored to their full size and completeness...

35
36 Perhaps a few pictures will give us all better understanding what Jesus is getting at...



1 For many of us, this kind of stuff (see above) really bothers us... It's a perfectly good puzzle, but the
2 problem is that it isn't perfect anymore. It's lost its wholeness, its fullness, its completeness, and it
3 can't get any of that back until the missing piece is found.

4
5 Likewise (see below) it really doesn't matter that 31 of the 32 chess pieces are present and accounted
6 for. The fact is that you cannot play a proper game of chess when even just one of them is missing.
7 The lost piece ruins the set, and if the set is to be salvaged, the lost piece must be found!
8



9
10

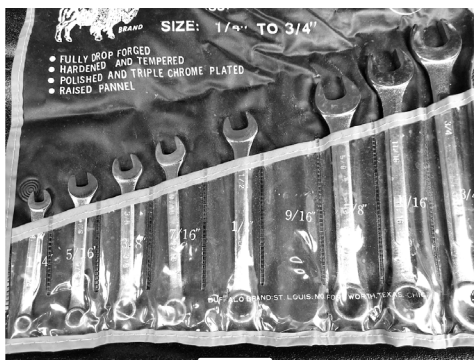
11 Much the same can be said about the Tea Set for two that only serves one (see below). That set can't
12 be EVERYTHING that it was designed and created to do and be until that lost cup is found and
13 brought back into the set.
14



15

16

17 And now, getting even closer to home, we have the kind of thing that drives many of us absolutely
18 wild.



19

20 We HATE when this happens. We purchased that wrench set so that we'd have one of just about
21 every size we'd ever need, and then what happened? The 9/16-inch wrench goes missing, and many

1 of us just cannot rest until we've retraced our steps and turned over tool box trays and rummaged
2 through drawers until we find it and get it back.

3
4 Many of us are a little OCD that way. We have a touch of the Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder that
5 keeps us from getting over losses like this ... that keeps us from moving on and just buying a new
6 wrench... that keeps us from being able to rest or relax until the set of wrenches is made whole, and is
7 a complete set once again!

8 Reading Luke 15:1-10, it would seem that the God we worship is a bit OCD Himself. He is completely
9 obsessed with people! People He created. People His only-begotten Son died for. People that He
10 wants to spend eternity with. We worship a God who is obsessed about people, because they are the
11 people that He saved to be sons and daughters of the King, and brothers and sisters in Christ, and it is
12 His compulsion that not a single one of them should be lost. "God so loved the world!" This is why Je-
13 sus "welcomes sinners and eats with them."

14
15 "This man," the Pharisees and teachers of the law muttered about Jesus, "This man welcomes sinners
16 and eats with them." You see, the very people that the religious insiders avoided... the very people the
17 religious insiders believed were unfit... the very people the religious insiders tried to keep out and
18 worked to keep down... these ne'er do wells, these misfits, these impious and impure sinners, THESE,
19 dear reader, are the very people that Jesus made a point of hanging out with. And WHY? Because it is
20 not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. It is not the righteous who need a Savior, but the sin-
21 ners. It is not the ninety-nine in the open country who need to be found, but the one who is the least
22 and last and lonely and lost.

23
24 And if Jesus got in trouble with the religious people for pursuing *that* one... for spending time with *that*
25 one... for welcoming in *that* one, then shouldn't His church be known for doing the same thing?
26 Shouldn't the followers of Jesus be known for following Jesus? For acting like Him? For imitating Him?
27 Shouldn't we be known for loving like Him?

28
29 Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. We know this, because each and every one of us has,
30 through baptism, through the Lord's Supper, through confession and absolution, through the mutual
31 conversation and consolation of the saints that is part and parcel of our worshipping communities...
32 we have, the whole lot of us, received the person and work of Jesus for us and for our salvation over
33 and over and over again. We know that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them because He's wel-
34 comed us! ...into His presence ...into His family ...into His heart...

35
36 The followers of Jesus are the people who are following Jesus. And not just to the cross. But to the
37 fields and the valleys and the mountains, looking through the scrub brush for a well-loved and well-
38 lost sheep. We're the ones who are to be pulling the world's refrigerators away from walls in order to
39 find the long-lost treasures underneath, because they are so precious to God.

40
41 Wouldn't it be great if people accused us of welcoming sinners and eating with them? Because nobody
42 does that. Except Jesus. And those who follow Him.

43
44 With this in mind, your Missions Committee has been busy and invested in the tasks of encouraging
45 and supporting the implementation of new ministries and the planting of new churches that welcome
46 sinners into Christ's Kingdom. These actions and activities have, under the Spirit's guidance and bless-
47 ing, resulted in the following outreach accomplishments...

1 • Lutheran Intracity Network Coalition of the Twin Cities (LINC TC), under the leadership of
2 Rev. Ben Griffin, is a strategic partner with the Minnesota South District in identifying and rais-
3 ing up new missionaries, new ministry leaders, and new church planters from among, and for,
4 the sizeable non-Anglo, ethnic populations found throughout the Metro area, as well as in the
5 other large population centers of our district. As these leaders display both faithfulness and
6 fruitfulness in discipling others, the best and most qualified of them are prepared and sent to
7 Concordia Seminary to participate in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program, or the Ethnic
8 Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program, or The Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) pro-
9 gram, or the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) program wherein they are schooled and
10 formed for pastoral ministry. As some of our Anglo congregations find themselves getting
11 smaller, partnering with one of our immigrant congregations has become an attractive alterna-
12 tive to closing doors and selling off property and buildings.

13
14 • Vicar Matthew Cephus, an immigrant church planter from Liberia, had already planted a new
15 church named Royal Family, when he became aware of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
16 and our doctrinal and confessional stance. Since then, he has been working with the Minnesota
17 South District and LINC Twin Cities, and is now enrolled in Concordia Seminary’s Ethnic Immi-
18 grant Institute of Theology. He will graduate from that program in approximately two years. As
19 he completes his studies, he is also facilitating a partnership between his congregation, Royal
20 Family, and Christ Victorious Lutheran Church of Chaska. Together the two congregations are
21 planning to pool their people resources so that they can relaunch Royal Family as a truly multi-
22 ethnic congregation in Minneapolis at a time when the greater Metro area needs to see Chris-
23 tians from multiple races and ethnic backgrounds worshipping Jesus together and serving their
24 surrounding neighborhood. A third partner in this undertaking is Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of
25 Minneapolis. Gloria Dei is graciously allowing Royal Family to meet in their building, and Gloria
26 Dei’s Pastor, Martin Cornes, is closely working with Vicar Cephus in order to engage that
27 Northeast Minneapolis community with the Gospel. Our district is supporting this multi-ethnic
28 replant with monies that comes out of its New Church Incubator fund.

29
30 • The district partnered with Woodbury Lutheran in conjunction with Concordia Lutheran
31 Church in South St. Paul during the summer of 2021 when Concordia voted to close, and
32 Woodbury agreed to assume the building and debt of Concordia. After a period of renovating
33 the building and exploring how to bless the surrounding community, Woodbury Lutheran
34 opened its Wakota Ridge site this past fall, and is currently serving and blessing close to 150
35 worshippers every weekend. We give thanks for the labor and ministry that continues at this
36 location!

37
38 • People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) is not only serving with our congregations in
39 the Rochester area, but also in the Bloomington area. Missionaries John and Maryam Gayad
40 work with congregations and volunteers in Rochester to teach ESL classes, cooking classes,
41 sewing classes, and provide some transportation and emergency food and clothing services to
42 new immigrants in general, and Muslim immigrants in particular, in order to build relationships
43 within which a compelling witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ can be both given
44 and heard. Missionaries Nader and Georgette Alaraj carry out the same kind of ministry in the
45 Metro Southwest Suburban area. POBLO, Bloomington has been designated as the recipient of
46 the mission offering that will be collected during our district convention.

1 • Central American Lutheran Mission Society (CALMS) is another one of our strategic partners
2 in getting our people intentionally engaged in the mission of God. CALMS makes it possible for
3 teams of missionaries from rural and small-town congregations to get involved on the interna-
4 tional mission field, and thus become more intentionally engaged in the mission of God. And, as
5 is usually the case, once God's people get the experience of being and doing what they were
6 created and saved to be and do, they want to do more! The new lessons and behaviors they
7 learn in Central America are brought back to their local mission field and the Good News about
8 Jesus is more effectively spread there through their words and deeds.

9
10 • ReDO Fitness Center is located in the lower level of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
11 in Hastings. It is a state-of-the-art work out facility that was made possible when the congrega-
12 tion rehabbed its old fellowship hall (even giving up the church kitchen in the process!) to make
13 room for this amazing outreach effort. In the five years since it's opened, ReDO already has ap-
14 proximately 2400 members, and THAT, quite amazingly, is 10% of the population of Hastings!
15 This is a huge pool of people from which the congregation might "fish for people." Pastor Chad
16 Kirchoff and his committed volunteers work hard to disciple the fitness crowd that crowds the
17 workout facility, and in the process are weekly experiencing God's abundant and surprising
18 blessings. God willing, other congregations in our district will also soon invest in this kind of
19 outreach methodology in their own communities!

20
21 • Holy Cross, Austin and Our Savior, Brownsdale became a dual parish in 2018 and immediately
22 called Pastor Gemechu Olana to be their new pastor. Pastor Olana is Ethiopian, by birth, and is
23 supported by these congregations and our district to reach out to the very diverse population
24 of Austin with the gospel. Of the 52 countries that are found on the continent of Africa, 50 of
25 them are represented in the population of Austin. It is, in other words, a ripe harvest field for
26 our people to work in!

27
28 • Vicar Daniel Thao is a student in Concordia Seminary's Cross-Cultural Ministry Center
29 (CCMC). This is a program of ministerial formation that is operated by Concordia University in
30 Irvine, California. Vicar Thao is planting a new church that is focused on reaching out to 1.5
31 and 2.0 generation Hmong people. Cornerstone Light of Life Lutheran Church currently meets
32 every Sunday morning on the campus of Concordia University, St. Paul and is already working
33 toward finding a more permanent location in the northeast quadrant of the Metro area.

34
35 • Vicar Jorge Gomez is a student in Concordia Seminary's Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS).
36 He is working at New Creation, Shakopee to serve the Anglo congregation already there, and to
37 reach out to the large Hispanic population found in that city. The hope and prayer is that New
38 Creation becomes a multiethnic congregation under Jorge's leadership.

39
40 • Pastor Gatluk Reat of the Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Southern Minnesota
41 works with Sudanese immigrants throughout the southern part of our district by preaching,
42 teaching and evangelizing from within this particular people group.

43
44 • Mrs. Alfrieda Baldwin is the Founder and Head of School at Laurel Community School located
45 at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church. Alfrieda is one of the first among us to see how Christian
46 micro-schools (an updated version of the old one-room school house) can bless children and
47 families who have been let down by, and are disappointed with, the public school system.

1 Laurel Community School is the first of what we hope are numerous such Christian micro-
2 schools scattered across the Metro area.

3
4 • Dr. James Seemann is a volunteer who serves as our district's prison ministry coordinator. He
5 reports that state prisons are still locked down because of COVID. Visiting prisoners is still not
6 allowed. We have used the time instead to develop a meaningful post prison ministry, build-
7 ing relationships with the faith based halfway houses such as Damascus Way, Freedom Works,
8 and Team Renewed. This year we worked in cooperation with many chapters of the LWML gift-
9 ing the houses with Bibles, quilts, hygiene supplies and the like. Dr. Seemann has also worked
10 with a special committee to draft a prison ministry mission statement for our Synod. We have
11 also recently received a small grant from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to stipend minis-
12 terial visitation when the prisons open again.

13
14 Our entire Minnesota South District is a ripe mission field. According to The Association of Religious
15 Data Archives and 2015 census data, there are well over 1.75 million *unclaimed* people (that is, people
16 who have *no religious affiliation* whatsoever) living throughout the 39 counties that comprise our dis-
17 trict. In addition to this, almost one-third of the entire population of our state is comprised of people
18 of non-Anglo descent, many of whom are recent immigrants and refugees to our country. All of these
19 people—the unclaimed, the immigrants, the refugees—they all need to be told about the person and
20 work of Jesus in ways that they can actually hear. If we are to be found faithful stewards of the Gospel
21 and all its gifts, then our pastors, our leaders, our congregations, and our people all need become more
22 intentionally engaged in this mission field!

23
24 Scripture makes clear that the followers of Jesus are the people who are following Jesus. And not just
25 to the cross. But to the fields and the valleys and the mountains, looking through the scrub brush for a
26 well-loved and well-lost sheep. We are the ones who are to be pulling the world's refrigerators away
27 from walls in order to find the long-lost treasures underneath, because they are so precious to God.

28
29 We are genuinely grateful for each and every one of our missionaries, our congregations, and our
30 leaders who are intentionally engaged in the mission of God in this way, as together we partner with
31 our Lord in His family business of seeking and saving the lost.

32
33 Likewise, we are also thankful to God for those who have served faithfully on the Missions Committee
34 this past triennium: Mrs. Gale Baumgard, Rev. Mark Biebighauser (Committee Secretary), Rev. Thomas
35 Braun, Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa, Mr. John Gayad, Rev. James Groleau, Mr. Michael Hagen, Rev. Vue
36 Lee, Mr. Chuhu Lo, Mrs. Jackie Ohlmann, Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz, Rev. Dr. Lowell Sorenson, Rev. Loel
37 Wessel, Rev. Steven Wheeler (Committee Chairman), Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, and Rev. Dr.
38 William Utech, Assistant to the President for Missions, who serves as Executive Staff for the Commit-
39 tee.

40 41 42 **Report of the Congregational Mission Formation Committee**

43
44 Gratitude is powerful. A life of gratitude is a life focused on the gifts we have been given. Gratitude
45 invites us to see all we have as a gift from our Heavenly Father so that **“whatever you do, in word or
46 deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”**
47 **Gratitude to God is at the heart of our district's congregational mission formation efforts.**

1 The past four years have brought many changes. Leaders in our MNS District have had to consider
2 different ways to best minister to the people of God, and congregations have been challenged to dis-
3 cover new ways to connect with their communities. While each situation is unique we have learned
4 some very important lessons about congregational mission formation and how to carry it forward into
5 the next triennium. What have we learned?
6

7 In the years since our last convention Missional Learning Communities in our district have remained
8 strong. Even during the times when these small groups of pastors had to meet online their shared
9 sense of missional purpose provided much needed strength, support, encouragement and accountabil-
10 ity to their mission-focused efforts.
11

12 Relationships were also formed and fostered as many congregational leaders gathered at two very
13 special District Leadership Summits. Nearly 100 congregations sent representatives to explore
14 “Hinges – Opening Doors to your Community” in 2019 and “Built on The Rock – The Healthy Congre-
15 gation” in 2020. At both events congregational leaders joined in a shared desire to learn new ways to
16 extend the Kingdom of God in their communities.
17

18 Partnerships were critical to the growing number of congregations that joined efforts for the sake of
19 the kingdom. Some congregations chose to merge, creating a single congregation with two or more
20 physical locations. Other congregations formed “two churches – one mission” partnerships when a
21 small or struggling congregation invited a sister congregation to provide coaching and resources to
22 strengthen and guide their mission and ministry efforts.
23

24 The MNS District partnered with 18 congregations to help send leadership teams to the Best Practices
25 for Ministry or LCMS Rural and Small-Town Ministry Conferences. These congregational teams joined
26 hundreds of others from MNS District congregations seeking inspiration as they develop plans for new
27 ministry efforts to reach out beyond the walls of their congregation to the people in the surrounding
28 community. These learning experiences extended even further as other congregation leaders learned
29 what these congregations were doing and were inspired to launch similar ministries in their own com-
30 munity.
31

32 We also learned that there are opportunities for partnership in the midst of the most difficult circum-
33 stances. More often than in any previous triennium we walked alongside congregations who, after
34 years of faithful service, made the difficult choice to disband. The Mission Formation Legacy Fund was
35 established to receive the assets of congregations that make the choice to close and, in doing so, pro-
36 vide an opportunity to pass on to future generations a legacy of great significance. This MNS District
37 fund is a resource for congregations who see new opportunities to reach out into their community but
38 lack some key resources. The money gathered in this fund is not held as an endowment, but granted
39 to congregations as a mechanism to directly bless their outreach efforts.
40

41 During this past triennium many congregations partnered with the MNS District, LCMS ReVitality, Lu-
42 theran Church Extension Fund and other mission-focused organizations to explore what their next
43 steps in Congregational Mission Formation might be. These organizations and resources provided
44 much-needed guidance, coaching and programing. We have learned that in the coming years congre-
45 gations of the MNS District will need more than programs.
46

1 Building on what we have learned we will assist leaders in every congregation to discover and articu-
2 late their shared sense of purpose, their “why”. We will continue to raise up and “cultivate leaders
3 who are intentionally engaged in the mission of God”. Finally, we work alongside congregations to fos-
4 ter, identify and celebrate partnerships and the value they add to the ongoing process of congrega-
5 tional mission formation in our MNS District.
6

7 **Report of the Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee**

8 **Committee Chair:** Joel Landskroener
9

10 **Committee Members:** *Dr. Gary Elsesser, *Ms. Lee Ann Evans, Mr. Josh Hoffman, Rev. Kurt Klaus, Ms.
11 Brenda Lovhaug, and Mr. Dan Maser

12 *Did not serve for the entire term
13

14 **District Office Staff Member:** Sean Martens, Assistant to the President, Education and Commissioned
15 Ministers

16 The Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee welcomes the opportunity to report on the ac-
17 tivities of the committee and the significant changes the committee has observed in education minis-
18 tries in the Minnesota South District Ministries since the last convention.
19

20 Here are the highlights of the multiple efforts the Schools and Commissioned Ministers committee
21 supported under the district’s mission, “*Cultivating leaders engaged in the mission of God.*”
22

23 **School Marketing & Enrollment Summit (2018)** – Expert Speaker Jim Mackenzie gave a day-long
24 workshop on the entire marketing and enrollment process.
25

26 **“Excellence in Teaching Staff” Administrator Training (2019)** - full day workshop on the evaluation,
27 assessment, and support of teaching staff to develop a unified culture of a school and expectation
28 of a school staff.
29

30 **Early Childhood Conference (Yearly)** – organized by Early Childhood directors of our district, this
31 conference was a two-day conference at Concordia University in 2019 and 2020 (second day can-
32 celled due to snow), cancelled due to COVID in 2021, and a virtual conference in 2022.
33

34 **TEC21 (ongoing, two locations)** – The TEC21 Workshop Program's purpose is to provide teachers
35 the opportunity to grow as life-long learners in their effective use of technology in the classroom.
36 The Program's design brings educators together at two locations in the district to connect with one
37 another, to share best practices, and to create. Through the program, teachers discover, acquire
38 and develop practical classroom applications including lessons, project-based learning activities and
39 supplemental web/digital resources.
40

41 **Fall Education Conference (“Loved to Love” in 2018, “Deeper Understanding in 2021)** Several
42 cost-saving changes to the traditional fall MEA conferences were implemented including moving
43 away from the Mankato Convention Center to a Lutheran ministry location (Mayer Lutheran High
44 School), and the elimination of the multiple years of service plaques so the conference could re-
45 duce expenses and prices.

1 **Minnesota Licensure Renewal Course Library** To maintain a Tier 3 or Tier 4 teaching license, Min-
2 nesota teachers are required to document their Continuing Education (CEU) hours of training.
3 There are six mandatory courses required within the CEU hours that when offered by secular in-
4 structors are prejudiced against Christian instruction. The district has begun to create a Licensure
5 Renewal Course Library led by Lutheran instructors who are specialists in their field and have been
6 asked to teach the required state standard from a Lutheran-Christian world view.
7

8 **School Leadership Development (SLED)** – This Synod program addresses the shortage of leaders
9 for our schools. District Education Executives identify and nominate potential future school lead-
10 ers to Synod, and Synod selects the 25-35 future leaders that are selected to the program. The
11 MNS district has nominated 26 educators over the last 4 years and Synod has accepted 16 into the
12 program over that timeframe.
13

14 **Colloquy Support** – The district provides support to colloquy students on a first-come, first-served
15 basis. The Schools and Commission Ministers increased the amount of support from \$200 to \$250
16 dollars per course. The increase makes the district contribution approximately 1/3 of the cost per
17 CUEnet Course. It would be the desire of the committee that the congregation also fund 1/3 of
18 the cost, making an equal three-way partnership in funding the worker’s colloquy education.
19

20 **Principal 360** –Principal 360 develops and equips a network of Lutheran school principals as vi-
21 sionary educational thought leaders, skilled at crafting and implementing a customized, compre-
22 hensive, strategic plan for their school. This intensive 11-month leadership development program
23 is composed of five courses led by acclaimed Lutheran instructors from across the country via a
24 combination of in-person and online learning. The district partially supported the first cohort of 5
25 Minnesota principals to be Principal 360 certified.
26

27 When the *To All Generations (TAG)* education-ministry focused fund appeal was celebrated at the last
28 District Convention, we were ending the intentional public campaign seeking donors. Since that time,
29 TAG continues to leave a lasting legacy in the Minnesota South District. Donors that pledged funds
30 over multiple years have continued to provide TAG funds. New, unsolicited, donors have come for-
31 ward with donations. The committee awarded grants to Messiah Mounds View (2019), Immanuel, Silo
32 (2019), Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mound (2020), and recently approved \$18,000 for the Grassroots
33 Advocacy for Greater Parental Choice in Education (2022).
34

35 When the COVID shutdown occurred the education ministries of the district pivoted to serve in new
36 ways when they were allowed. Unified with the non-public schools across the state, the K-12 Lu-
37 theran schools opened the 2020-2021 school year committed to be safe places. They also agreed in-
38 person learning was generally a better instructional model and the goal as much as possible. Nearly all
39 schools utilized PPP loans and other available relief programs. Overall the early childhood education
40 ministries and workers were impacted the greatest by the COVID pandemic. The Schools and Com-
41 missioned Ministers Committee thanks the following COVID efforts coordinated by district staff:

- 42 • Providing virtual conferencing and email list-serve groups for the administrator and Director
43 groups. In many ways, this actually brought the groups together for more meetings and (in
44 some ways) closer than ever before.
- 45 • The sharing of ever-changing state COVID rules and regulations and federal mandates as they
46 apply to schools and early childhood centers.

- The great number of Soldiers of the Cross Grants awarded to early childhood workers impacted by COVID.
- The \$2000 synod grant towards the restorative wellness webinars for commissioned ministers (Feb 2021).
- The Concordia Plans support for the Wellness Workshops by Darrell Zimmer (November 2021).
- The gift of a Pocket Prayers for Teachers from the district office for every school.

The committee notes there are three significant statistical shifts taking place in Lutheran education that could have lasting impact to the Minnesota South District. First of all is the changing nature of our education workforce. Overall, 38% of the teachers in the MNS district are Synodically rostered (Early childhood through High School). The 2022 class is anticipated to have only 88 graduates available for placement from all of the Concordia’s combined, the first time that number is under one hundred in anyone’s memory. The teacher shortage is a public school as well as a Lutheran education issue; the Minnesota Department of Education is starting a Teacher Recruitment effort. At the early childhood level, our centers and pre-schools are challenged to hire staff who are Christian: “Lutheran,” “LCMS,” and “rostered” are becoming the exception for many.

Triennium Statistics (from Synodical Statistical reports):

Education Program	**Number of schools	*Enrollment Change from 2018-19 to 2021-22	Enrollment Change in the Last year (2020-21 to 2021-22)
Early Childhood Programs	43	-9.5%	+15%
Elementary (K-8)	35	+23.2%	+13%
High School (9-12)	4	+11.3%	+15%
Totals	82	+5.2%	+14%

*Data from annual Synodical Statistical reports with 100% of schools reporting fall school year data.

**Two elementary and 3 EC programs closed over the triennium. Two new EC’s Opened.

Secondly, COVID has changed the enrollment trend in many of our schools (see the chart above). Furthermore, our district schools reported they turned away students this year due to full classes, lack of space, or lack of teachers or staff. Although the early childhood programs seem to be lagging behind the growth of the Elementary and High Schools, many seem to be experiencing staffing issues that are preventing growth.

School Faith Profile 2021-2022:

	Early Childhood	Elementary	High School
Member	16%	35%	67%
Other LCMS	5%	12%	5%
Other Lutheran	14%	9%	5%
Non-Lutheran Christian?	33%	32%	16%
No Church	32%	13%	8%

School Faith Profile Change in one year:

	EC in 2020	EC in 2021
Member	16%	16%
Other LCMS	5%	5%
Other Lutheran	15%	14%
Non-Lutheran Christian?	40%	33%
No Church	24%	32%

The final statistical trend is that the students coming into our Lutheran schools are not so Lutheran anymore. Many of the student families, almost 1/3 of the students in Early Childhood education, claim they have no church connection. This is a growing opportunity for evangelism outreach by the congregations that operate education ministries and realize the changing nature of the above three realities. Since the last convention, MNS district schools reported that 246 school-aged students became baptized and 153 school families joined LCMS congregations.

The Committee notes there has been significant disorder with the district office staff assigned to work with Schools and Commissioned Ministers. Gae Ash retired in the summer of 2018 and Sarabeth Marcello was contracted in her place. In 2019, Sarabeth Marcello was re-designated as 50% schools and commissioned ministers and 50% communications. At the beginning of 2020, Debbie Borchardt was hired to become the Commissioned Minister Support position. Early in the pandemic, due to concerns over potential income loss, an additional office restructuring impacted Schools and Commissioned Minister District personnel. Rather than replacing the retiring Rick Marko, Rick decided he would remain as treasurer in a part-time capacity and assign some of his duties among the staff. The Commissioned Minister Support position picked up the additional duties of facility manager and information technology manager. The Assistant to the President for Schools and Commissioned Ministers (Sean Martens) was assigned the Personnel Manager duties of the office. When Debra Connolly retired during the summer of 2021, Debbie Borchardt became the administrative assistant to the District President. Christina Krentz was contracted as the Commissioned Minister Support. The Committee expresses concern over the 6 different job descriptions and high turnover in the position with 4 different people serving the Schools and Commissioned Minister Support position over the last 5 years.

Commissioned Minister by Type and Status, 2022

	Active	Candidate	Emeritus	Total	Change
Teacher	253	55	181	489	+1%
DCE	45	9	6	60	+2%
***DCM	2	2	1	5	
DCO	1	6	3	10	-9%
DEAC	5	3	4	12	+9%
Teach/DCE	5	1	9	15	0%
DPM	5			5	+25%
Total	316	76	204	596	+2%
Change	+2%	-24%	+17%	+2%	

***This Classification did not exist in 2018

Report of the Ministerial Health Committee

Thank you to the members of the Ministerial Health Committee who have served this triennium: Rev. Tom Evans (Chair), Rev. Timothy Lamkin, Rev. Matthew Barry, Rev. Richard Steensma, Mrs. Darlene Lind, Mrs. Sara Sorenson, Mrs. Heather Hardecopf, Mrs. Sandra Baert, Rev. Stefan Wismar (Staff/Advisory), and to the former staff/advisory member, Rev. Bob Schulze.

The Ministerial Health Committee's work is reflected in the District's Initiatives, "*To Encourage Congregations in the Support of Church Workers and To Equip Congregations to Care for their Church Workers and Families,*" and in the duties of Rev. Stefan Wismar, the Executive Assistant to the District President.

Here are highlights of the committee's work this past triennium:

Counselor Referral List: is maintained to provide workers and congregations guidance in selecting a Christian counselor.

New Worker Orientation: an annual event that gathers all new workers and spouses for a day, introducing them to District staff and resources and to one another.

Pre-Retirement Workshops: an annual event with Concordia Plan Services plus a financial counselor to assist church workers to consider and plan for their retirement, making use of all the resources available to them.

Parish Nurse Coordinator: our coordinator is available to assist and advise congregations and Parish Nurses, and to promote Congregation Health Ministries.

PALS (Post-seminary Applied Learning and Support): all recent graduates who have taken their first call in the MN South District are encouraged to participate in the PALS program. This is a three-year program that supports young pastors as they begin their ministry.

Pastors Wives Retreat: provides valuable support and encouragement for wives of pastors in their challenging and rewarding role.

Mentor Program: This was a new program in which 9 retired pastors in the district were trained to work one-on-one with pastors to help them think through ministry struggles toward biblically wise solutions.

Financial Incentives: provided to workers for training, support, and encouragement in their ministry. Stipends are given to attend Classic Doxology, Grace Place Congregational Wellness Retreats, Grace Place Classic Couples Retreats, and Shepherds Canyon Retreats.

Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 Amplified Grant: Administered a grant on behalf of LCEF, LCMS and MNS District to distribute one time grants up to \$2000 to help church workers affected by the initial economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partnering with Concordia Plan Services and Vitality: using the best of our synodical resources to promote and maintain church worker wellness.

1 **Church Worker Support Teams:** Encouraged congregations to develop church worker support teams
2 through Circuit Convocations. [This effort was cut short by COVID-19 pandemic.]
3

4 **LERT (Lutheran Early Response Training):** working with Synod's Disaster Response personnel to raise up
5 and train members of congregations to respond to crises both large and small. *At this point this is an*
6 *aspirational goal that needs more work to make it happen in an effective way.*

7 **Church Worker Children's Retreat:** The committee partnered with Camp Omega to create a one-week
8 camp experience specifically designed to give opportunity for the children of church worker's to have
9 a fun place in which to discuss the struggles of being a PK, TK, etc.
10
11

12 Report of the Continuing Education Committee

13
14 The Continuing Education Committee is an "as needed" committee. Those serving through the trien-
15 nium were: Jeff Boehlke, Lynn Gehrke, Rev. Christopher Horton (Chair), Leland Huebner, Rev. LeRoy
16 LaPlant, Rev. Todd Stocker, and Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford.

17
18 At the 2018 convention several resolutions were passed which emphasized the importance of growing
19 in our knowledge and ability with God's Word (i.e. Res. 3-03, 3-06A, 3-07, 3-08, 3-11, 6-03). To ad-
20 dress these resolutions, the District, through its President and Board of Directors, adopted an initiative
21 to be "Rooted in the Word," which functionally meant working "to move toward more excellent
22 preaching, teaching, hearing, and understanding of the Word" (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
23

24 In connection with this initiative, this committee was asked to find ways to provide opportunities for
25 pastors to have access to seminary-level exegetical Continuing Education classes nearby. Upon
26 investigation, this task proved to be one of encouraging local congregations to host such events,
27 rather than directly organizing them. COVID, of course, has dramatically affected these opportunities,
28 but we're glad to see they are returning.
29
30

31 Report of the Public Policy Advocate

32
33 The Minnesota South District has been actively engaged in public policy advocacy for eight years. As it
34 has from its inception, our efforts are guided by the witness of the Scriptures, the official actions of
35 the Synod and District and our understanding of how Church and State properly relate to each other
36 as set out in our doctrine of the Two Kingdoms. Consistent with our heritage in this field, we continue
37 to emphasize the need for our individual members to be good, active stewards of their citizenship by
38 being engaged in their local communities and in the political process.
39

40 To encourage such active citizenship, we have directed the majority of our efforts at keeping pastors
41 updated on the issues of the day, so that they, in turn, can be helpful to their members as they en-
42 deavor to understand and respond to these issues from an explicitly Christian perspective. To a lesser
43 degree our efforts have been focused on actively participating in the political process on behalf of the
44 Church and its members. Some of this engagement is done through direct personal contact with legis-
45 lators and other elected officials; however, the bulk of this work is accomplished by entering into coali-
46 tions with persons and organizations that share a similar view on the particular policy in question. In

1 that vein, we continue to be active in two particular coalitions which we were instrumental in founding
2 and in which we continue to be active in governing. These include the coalition known as OAK (Op-
3 portunity for All Kids), which advocates for greater religious liberty through the empowerment of par-
4 ents in the educational lives of their children, and The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare, which
5 opposes the legalization of physician-assisted suicide and for better palliative care.

6
7 A few of the specific activities we've been involved in recently include:

- 8 • Participation in the Church Ambassador Network (an initiative of the Minnesota Family
9 Council) which provides pastors with the opportunity to offer non-partisan, non-issue ori-
10 ented pastoral care to all legislators.
- 11 • Convening of quarterly meetings of the Public Policy Committee to help guide our District
12 efforts.
- 13 • Challenging some aspects of the COVID 19 lockdowns when churches were treated in ineq-
14 uitable ways relative to other parts of our society and were categorized as "non-essential."
- 15 • Developing new strategies related to the issue of abortion as we anticipate a new cultural
16 dynamic after the coming Dobbs decision by the Supreme Court this summer.
- 17 • Helping members become more aware of the dangers inherent in some of the ascendant new
18 Marxist-inspired political views which stand in direct contradiction to our Christian faith.
- 19 • Advocating for new forms of parental empowerment in education and especially for Educa-
20 tion Savings Accounts (ESAs) which would give parents direct control of the dollars the State
21 allocates for all children and allowing them to access either a secular or religiously based
22 school of their choosing.
- 23 • Continuing to guard against legislative and executive efforts to restrict free speech in matters
24 of counseling related to sexuality and against efforts to mandate Comprehensive Sex Educa-
25 tion (CSE) in our schools, which would introduce our children to radical, anti-Biblical sexual
26 teachings from Kindergarten through high school.

27
28 As we look forward to the 2022-2025 Triennium, I anticipate we will continue to be engaged, not only
29 in those issues we have been in the past, but in a variety of new issues that will inevitably arise as our
30 culture moves further and further from its Judeo-Christian roots. As a variety of alien ideologies gain
31 traction, the challenges both to our political culture and our religious culture are likely to become more
32 intense, threatening both our ability to freely proclaim the Gospel in the public square, and our ability
33 to ground our own children in the Christian faith. To the degree God gives us opportunity and insight,
34 our public policy efforts will continue to be aimed at moving public opinion and public policy in God-
35 pleasing directions to the temporal and eternal benefit of both our neighbors and ourselves.

36
37 Rev Fredric Hinz
38 Public Policy Advocate
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

OVERTURES

Overtures: Missions (Floor Committee 1)

Overtures: Theology & Church Relations (Floor Committee 2)

OVERTURE 2-01

To Reject the Practice of So-Called “Internet Communion”

WHEREAS, the Sacrament of the Altar is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink (*Small Catechism* 30); and

WHEREAS, the Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23- 25); and

WHEREAS, during the Covid-19 lockdowns beginning in March 2020, some pastors and congregations of the LCMS chose to materialize an innovation which they labeled “Internet Communion”; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS holds to the biblical practice of closed communion (1 Corinthians 11:28-30) for the benefit of all those who receive Christ’s true Body and Blood in this sacrament, and “Internet Communion” renders the pastor incapable of knowing who might be following along from a remote location and thereby participating in this unbiblical practice (1 Corinthians 4:1-2); and

WHEREAS, these considerations all point to the introduction of doubt where there should be clarity and confidence in the sacrament (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26; AC XIII); and

WHEREAS, the practice of so-called “Internet Communion” disregards the necessity of the body of Christ gathering together physically (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:33; Hebrews 10:23-25); and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the LCMS initially issued an opinion titled “*Communion and Covid-19*” and then later released “*One Little Word Can Fell Him: Addendum to Communion and Covid-19*”; and

WHEREAS, the opinions of the CTCR, on the basis of God’s Word, properly confess the true doctrine and practice of the Lord’s Supper, and reject the practice of so-called “Internet Communion”; therefore, be it

1 Resolved, That the MN South District, on the basis of God’s Word, reject and condemn the irre-
2 sponsible and unfaithful practice of so-called “Internet Communion” as contrary to the
3 Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it finally

4
5 Resolved, That the MN South District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to reject and con-
6 demn the practice of so-called “Internet Communion” as contrary to the Word of God
7 and the Lutheran Confessions and accept the CTCR opinions “*Communion and Covid-19*”
8 and “*One Little Word Can Fell Him: Addendum to Communion and Covid-19.*”
9

10 Submitted by NW Suburban Circuit on 01/22/2022

11
12 **OVERTURE 2-02**

13 **To Encourage Proper Pastoral Oversight in Administration of the Lord’s Supper**
14 **through Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors**
15

16 WHEREAS, the Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to exercise com-
17 munion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthe-
21 ans 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stew-
22 ardship; and
23

24 WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord’s Supper with divisions
25 among them (1 Corinthians 11:17-18); and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission
28 on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord’s Supper: Basics of Biblical and
29 Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1999); and
30

31 WHEREAS, concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for
32 resolution; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence, while
35 neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the bib-
36 lical and confessional position of the Synod; and
37

38 WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 have introduced aberrant practices including
39 the unbiblical and invalid attempts to consecrate the elements over the Internet (“online
40 communion”); and
41

42 WHEREAS, the improper administration of the Sacraments is truly dangerous to the individual recipi-
43 ent, the congregation in which this takes place, and to the pastor(s) who so administer
44 the holy elements of Christ’s body and blood (1 Corinthians 11:27-32); and

45
46 WHEREAS, individual pastors and congregations not maintaining the proper biblical and confessional
47 administration of the Sacrament have a detrimental effect upon the ministry of local

1 pastors and congregations by causing discord, conflict, and confusion among those striv-
2 ing for faithfulness to our confessional teachings and agreed upon practices as well as in
3 the ministerium as a whole; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to “supervise the
6 doctrine, the life, and the official administration of the ordained or commissioned minis-
7 ters who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision” (By-
8 law 4.4.5); and
9

10 WHEREAS, it is stated in the Bylaws of the Synod that the district president is to “seek to bring
11 about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod’s objectives as ex-
12 pressed in Article 111 of its Constitution (Bylaw 4.4.4 [b]); and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to “[s]ee to it that all
15 resolutions of Synod which concern the districts are made known to the districts and are
16 carried out by them” (Constitution Article XI I 9 A; along with Bylaw 1.3.6); and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Synod state that “he shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical
19 manner” (Bylaw 4.4.4 [c]) and “come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly
20 advisor (Bylaw 4.4.4 [d]); and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Synod, in its 2013 Convention, passed Resolution 4-10, ‘To Encourage Proper Over-
23 sight in the Administration of the Lord’s Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical Supervi-
24 sors’; therefore, be it
25

26 *Resolved,* That during this next triennium the MN South District president (or his representative)
27 address each district congregation’s administration of the Lord’s Supper in his official vis-
28 itations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the Synod’s position on “closed
29 communion” and the necessity of consecrating and administering the Lord’s Supper in-
30 person; and be it further
31

32 *Resolved,* That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and the Lutheran
33 Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of bringing about
34 harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the Lord’s Supper; and be it
35 further
36

37 *Resolved,* That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his visitation regarding
38 proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days before the 2025 district
39 convention; and be it finally
40

41 *Resolved,* That the MN South District convention memorialize the 2023 Synod Convention to take
42 up this overture and that the president of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district
43 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as de-
44 tailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in accord
45 with Constitution Article XI I 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of
46 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the president of the Synod no

1 less than 90 days before the 2026 convention so that the president of the Synod can
2 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.
3

4 *Submitted by NW Suburban Circuit on 01/22/2022*
5

6 **OVERTURE 2-03**

7 **To Develop Further Depth and Theological Oversight in the**
8 **Training of Pastors from Immigrant Communities**
9

10 WHEREAS, despite an eagerness to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to communities in the
11 MN South District where we have seen an influx of ethnic immigrants, we will want to
12 make sure the men that serve them are
13

14 WHEREAS, the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program was established by 2007 Resolution 5-01B;
15 and
16

17 WHEREAS, the theological education of Specific ministry pastors is formed in part by and for a “spe-
18 cific ministry context (Bylaw 2.13.1);” and
19

20 WHEREAS, theological supervision during the education process is essential for the confidence of
21 those served and the Church at large that the ministry will begin and continue to be con-
22 ducted in a manner consistent with the Holy Scriptures and an unconditional subscrip-
23 tion to the Lutheran Confessions, and
24

25 WHEREAS, the LCMS has provided several different ethnic distance theological education programs
26 which lead to ordination, such as EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology), CMC
27 (Cross-Cultural Ministry Center) and CHS (Center for Hispanic Studies) which follow the
28 SMP model; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the theological oversight provided for the training of a man in an ethnic, distance theo-
31 logical education is mostly limited to the president of the particular seminary providing
32 the education, a regularly ordained pastor of our synod as the supervisor, and by exten-
33 sion, the circuit visitor and district president; and
34

35 WHEREAS, because a man in ethnic distance theological education has followed the SMP model and
36 has not, in essence, left his cultural context; and
37

38 WHEREAS, a student in such an education requires a translation of his education to his cultural con-
39 text in order to be able to assure that the ministry he will conduct will be in a manner
40 consistent with the Holy Scriptures and an unconditional subscription to the Lutheran
41 Confessions, a challenge not faced by a student in the regular SMP program; therefore,
42 be it
43

44 *Resolved,* That in addition to the rigorous requirements expected of an SMP student (Bylaw
45 2.13.1), the MN South District create oversight committees of two district vice presi-
46 dents (one from the student’s region) and two pastors (chosen by each of the vice presi-
47 dents, but other than the supervising pastor) that would monitor and help the training of

1 each student by meeting with him twice a year, for a total of four visits before the final
2 certification process; and be it further
3

4 *Resolved,* That the MN South District ensures that the rigorous requirements expected of an SMP
5 student also apply to students of ethnic distance education programs, including basic
6 theological proficiency before admission to the program and the final certification by
7 seminary faculty, and be it finally
8

9 *Resolved,* The MN South District in convention memorializes the synod to adopt a similar resolu-
10 tion when it meets in 2023, encouraging all districts to consider doing the same or some-
11 thing similar.
12

13 *Submitted by Hosanna Lutheran Church, Buffalo, Minnesota on 03/06/2022*
14

15 **OVERTURE 2-04**

16 **To Encourage and Support Existing Learning-In-Ministry, 17 Non-Residential, Distance Programs Leading to Ordination** 18

19 WHEREAS, Jesus said, "The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to
20 the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38); and
21

22 WHEREAS, Jesus set an example of what a robust theological education looks like by teaching his
23 disciples theology while they were, at the exact same time, engaged in real-world, real-
24 time, hands-on ministry with him; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul educated and raised up new pastors and leaders by inviting them to join
27 him and assist him and work alongside him in real-world, real-time, hands-on ministry;
28 and
29

30 WHEREAS, God is bringing thousands of new immigrants to our communities and thereby providing
31 our congregations with new and vast harvest fields; and
32

33 WHEREAS, our Minnesota South District pastors and congregations are identifying new potential
34 pastoral leaders in and among these immigrant, non-Anglo communities; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the pool of men who are interested in and gifted for pastoral ministry and who are, at
37 the same time, able to give up jobs, sell homes, and relocate their spouse and children to
38 either St. Louis, Missouri or Ft. Wayne, Indiana continues to get smaller; and
39

40 WHEREAS, our synodical seminaries have established a successful track record of providing distance
41 theological education through the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP), Ethnic Immigrant Insti-
42 tute of Theology (EIT), Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) and Center for Hispanic
43 Studies (CHS) programs; and
44

45 WHEREAS, these non-residential, learning-in-ministry seminary programs support our district and its
46 congregations in our joint efforts to cultivate leaders who are intentionally engaged in
47 the mission of God; and

1 WHEREAS, an unintended consequence of synod promoting residential seminary education as the
2 preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral ministry (2019 LCMS Resolution
3 6-02) is that non-residential, immigrant students receive, proportionally, a lower percent-
4 age of tuition aid from the seminary to cover the costs of their academic programs than
5 do residential students; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the demographics of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod reveal a reduced pool of men
8 to recruit for the ministry, which is estimated to result in a 50 percent reduction in the
9 number of active pastors by 2032; therefore, be it
10

11 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District in convention give thanks for the new pastors and
12 leaders that God has been, and still is, raising up among us from our immigrant, non-
13 Anglo communities, and be it further
14

15 *Resolved,* That the District in convention encourage its pastors, leaders, and congregations to
16 continue to cultivate, from our immigrant, non-Anglo communities, new leaders who are
17 intentionally engaged in the mission of God, and be it further
18

19 *Resolved,* That the District in convention encourage the seminaries to maintain and strengthen
20 their non-residential, learning-in-ministry, distance programs, and be it further
21

22 *Resolved,* That the District in convention encourage the seminaries to award financial aid equitably
23 to their non-residential, learning-in-ministry students, and be it finally
24

25 *Resolved,* That the District hereby memorializes The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to adopt
26 this, or similar resolutions, at its next convention.
27

28 *Submitted by St. John Lutheran Church, Winsted, Minnesota on 01/18/2022*

29 *Submitted by North Carver Circuit Forum on 02/08/2022*
30

31 **Overtures: Church & Culture (Floor Committee 3)**

32 **OVERTURE 3-01**

34 **To Commend the Minnesota-South District of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod and its Public**
35 **Policy Board to address the issues of racism, immigration, and human dignity; and to encourage and**
36 **strengthen all ministers of that same District to reject the sin of racism in all its forms**

37
38 WHEREAS, Our Triune God has created all humanity in His own image as unique in all creation
39 and all human beings have been given equal worth and dignity by God our Creator;
40 and
41

42 WHEREAS, We are prohibited by our God from taking human life and commanded by Him in the
43 same commandment to protect and uphold our neighbor's life and to assist him in
44 his bodily needs regardless of his ethnic, linguistic, or national origin; and
45

1 WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has given His life for all humans; and Our Lord has
2 commanded us to preach His Gospel to all peoples; and
3
4 WHEREAS, We are united in Christ as one people from many ethnicities and languages through
5 our common baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and shall stand
6 together as God's people from all nations before the throne of God and the Lamb;
7 and
8
9 WHEREAS, We are compelled to reject the sin of racism and its Darwinian origins as contrary to
10 the doctrine of creation and anti-Christ; and
11
12 WHEREAS, The sin of racism takes many rampant forms within our society in this evil age among
13 unbelievers and believers alike; and
14
15 WHEREAS, Many pastors in our District long for aid and resources from their District in teaching
16 their congregation regarding issues of race, ethnicity, and prejudice in our society to-
17 day; and
18
19 WHEREAS, Our Synodical President, the CTCR, and the Black Clergy Caucus of our Synod have
20 extensive resources that can aid us in a localized discussion of the issues of racism,
21 immigration, and human dignity; therefore be it
22
23 *Resolved,* That the Public Policy Board of the Minnesota-South District of the Lutheran
24 Church-Missouri Synod be heartily commended to include issues of race, immigra-
25 tion, and human dignity within its purview of issues advised upon; and be it further
26
27 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota-South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod provide
28 localized resources for ordained and commissioned ministers to address these issues
29 in their local forms; and be it further
30
31 *Resolved,* That all ordained and commissioned ministers in the same District are encouraged
32 and strengthened to reject publicly the sin of racism in all of its forms; and be it
33 further
34
35 *Resolved,* That all in our District be commended to support strongly the specific ethnic minis-
36 tries in our District in fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission; and be it further
37
38 *Resolved,* That pastors of our District be commended to study afresh in their circuit meetings
39 the CTCR documents "Racism and the Church" and "Immigrants Among Us: A
40 Lutheran Framework for Addressing Immigration Issues"; and be it further
41
42 *Resolved,* That our District and its leaders continually publicly condemn the sin of racism as has
43 our Synod at its 2019 convention; and be it finally
44
45 *Resolved,* That the assembly here voice its anticipation of the time to come when we and
46 peoples from all ethnicities, tribes, nations, and languages shall all stand before the

1 heavenly throne, giving praise to God and unto Christ the Lamb forevermore by
2 rising and joining together in singing the common doxology.
3

4 Submitted by Jehovah Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota on 01/26/2022
5

6 **OVERTURE 3-02**

7 **To reject Critical Race Theory and its world view in the Church**
8

9 WHEREAS, God has created all people and they are blood related going back to our mutual fathers,
10 Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been
11 equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each
12 other; (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 10, Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23); and
13

14 WHEREAS, the academic discipline of critical theory and its progeny, such as Critical Race Theory,
15 threatens the Christian worldview and has been adopted by many Christian confession
16 as an expression of the "love of God", even though its tenets are irreconcilable with Holy
17 Scripture; and
18

19 WHEREAS, critical theory, when applied to theology, frequently denies the sufficiency of Christ's
20 death to forgive all people, claiming forgiveness is impossible for certain people based on
21 race, and heretically presents the teachings of Jesus as if it were social gospel; and
22

23 WHEREAS, God desires that all people of every nation and ethnicity be baptized, believe in Him and
24 be saved (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16-17, John 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:3-6); and
25

26 WHEREAS, God's Word says, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall
27 love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are
28 committing sin and are convicted by the law of the transgressors" (James 2:8-9); and
29

30 WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention has passed resolutions in past conventions repudiating all
31 racism, for example 1992 Res. 3-03, see also 2019 Res. 11-04A; therefore, be it
32

33 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District confess that there is one human family, descended
34 from Adam and Noah, and that God's desire is for all people to be saved and to come to
35 the knowledge of the truth; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District call upon all her members to love their neighbors as
38 themselves, and to seek to live in peace and harmony with all people by proclaiming that
39 Jesus is Lord, and bringing forth the fruits of faith in serving the neighbor; and be it
40 further
41

42 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to Scrip-
43 ture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues
44 equality of outcome ("equity") between racial groups, which requires treating individuals
45 unequally based on race; and be it further

1 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and
2 theological language that support the world view of CRT in a positive manner, and be it
3 further;
4

5 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District reject any doctrine, such as that proposed by CRT,
6 that teaches that an individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or
7 unconsciously, because of his or her race, ancestry, or nationality; and be it finally
8

9 *Resolved,* That the Minnesota South District submit this resolution as an overture to the 2023
10 LCMS convention.
11

12 *Submitted by the Litchfield Circuit Forum on 03/10/2022*
13

14 **OVERTURE 3-03**

15 **To Reject Critical Race Theory and its Worldview in the Church**

16
17 WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory (CRT), according to Britannica online (accessed 9/27/2020)
18 is "the view that the law and legal institutions are inherently racist and that race
19 itself, instead of being biologically grounded and natural, is a socially constructed
20 concept that is used by white people to further their economic and political inter-
21 ests at the expense of people of color.

22 According to Critical Race Theory (CRT), racial inequality emerges from the social,
23 economic, and legal differences to poverty and criminality in many minority com-
24 munities. The CRT movement officially organized itself in 1989, at the first an-
25 nual Workshop on Critical Race Theory, though its intellectual origins go back
26 much further, to the 1960's and '70's. The launch of the CRT movement marked
27 its separation from critical legal studies (CLS), an offshoot of critical theory that
28 examined how the law and legal institutions function to perpetuate oppression
29 and exploitation. However, instead of drawing theories of social organization and
30 individual behavior from continental European thinkers such as G.W.F. Hegel,
31 Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud, as CLS and feminist jurisprudence had done, CRT
32 was inspired by figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Malcolm
33 X, the Black Panthers, and Frantz Fanon. Critical race theory advanced theoretic-
34 al understandings of the law, politics, and American sociology that focused on
35 the efforts of white people (Euro-Americans) to maintain their historical ad-
36 vantages over people of color. CRT has spread beyond the confines of legal stud-
37 ies to many other fields, notably women's and gender studies, education, Ameri-
38 can studies, and sociology. CRT spin-off movements formed by Asian American,
39 Latinx, and LGBTQ scholars have also taken hold"; and
40

41 WHEREAS, The summary of this philosophical and sociological worldview can be restated as:
42 the world is divided into two groups-the "oppressors" (white) and the "op-
43 pressed" (nonwhite). The "oppressors" are guilty of racism because of their white-
44 ness, regardless of actual guilt of racist thoughts, words, and deeds; that this
45 racism is woven into the fabric of America (Ibrahim Kendi, "Stamped From the
46 Beginning...") and all its institutions, churches, language, and social structures; can
47 only be healed by dismantling the systems and structures, that white people all

1 repent of their collective and individual racism, and become active "anti-racists"
2 (Ibrahim Kendi); and
3

4 WHEREAS, CRT believes racism is present in every aspect of life, every relationship, and every
5 interaction and therefore has its advocates look for it everywhere, relies upon
6 "interest convergence" (white people only give black people opportunities and
7 freedoms when it is also in their own interests) and therefore doesn't trust any at-
8 tempt to make racism better. CRT believes that the oppressed are owed repara-
9 tions of various kinds, yet there is no quantifiable amount that could ever satisfy its
10 demands and often threatens force to achieve it; CRT is against free societies and
11 wants to dismantle them and replace them with something its own advocates con-
12 trol; CRT believes science, reason, and evidence are a "white" way of knowing and that
13 storytelling and lived experience is a "black" alternative, which hurts everyone, espe-
14 cially black people; CRT rejects all alternatives, like colorblindness, as forms of racism;
15 CRT teaches that anyone who disagrees with it must do so for racist and white su-
16 premacist reasons, even if those people are black, often referring to them as "Uncle
17 Toms" and "Coons"; and
18

19 WHEREAS, CRT is a form of religion and belief system that demands total obedience and
20 acceptance, and adopts and misuses Scriptural terminologies, for example, "Racism is
21 America's original sin"; and
22

23 WHEREAS, When CRT teaching enters the language of theology and church relations it confuses
24 what is "original sin" and "actual sin"; furthermore it confuses civil righteousness and
25 righteousness before God. It confuses legal justice and perceived injustice. It does not
26 find its solution in Scriptural terminology and mutual repentance and forgiveness, but
27 rather, in terms of one way repentance and ongoing penance for being born with a par-
28 ticular color of skin; and
29

30 WHEREAS, CRT in its desire to destroy the systems and structures of government in the secular
31 realm and within the church is a breaking of the Fourth Commandment and rebellion
32 against God; in the sense that violence is often threatened and used against those who
33 disagree, it is a breaking of the Fifth Commandment; as it often calls out for reparations
34 and is covetous of those whom they believe are "privileged" it encourages the breaking
35 of the Ninth and Tenth Commandments; as this rhetoric often does not condemn but
36 rather could encourage looting, it a breaking of the Seventh Commandment; as it ac-
37 cuses all white people of racism, as it accuses all police and governmental systems of
38 systemic racism, and will-and often does-put the worst construction on law enforce-
39 ment, the justice system, governmental entities, and individuals based on their color,
40 their vocation, and their economic situation it encourages the breaking of the Eighth
41 Commandment; CRT ultimately makes race, identity, and humanism gods and activism
42 worship, thereby breaking the first three commandments; and
43

44 WHEREAS, The logical conclusion of CRT is that black people cannot be affirmed nor be successful
45 without the abasement and activism of white people; and that white people will forever
46 be racist and that all non-white people will never become whole without vengeance

1 upon white people, showing that CRT is itself a racist worldview (the notion that some
2 races are inherently superior to others); and

3
4 WHEREAS, CRT creates division and magnifies it and its solutions do not come from Christ but
5 rather come from a spirit of anger, bitterness, and slander (and can only produce more
6 of the same); and

7
8 WHEREAS, CRT has become taught as factual in schools of higher learning, high schools, grade
9 schools, and seminaries throughout the country; and

10
11 WHEREAS, CRT is one of the driving forces behind the Black Lives Matter, Inc. message not only of
12 protest, but of inciting riots and destruction; and

13
14 WHEREAS, We still recognize that racism, misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world
15 and in the Church; and

16
17 WHEREAS, The LCMS in convention has passed resolutions repudiating all racism, for example
18 1992 Res. 3-03, see also 2019 Res. 11-04a; and

19
20 WHEREAS, God has created all people, and all people are also blood related going back to our
21 mutual parents of both Adam and Eve and Noah and his wife, but now have been
22 also equally redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to
23 each other; therefore, be it

24
25 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in convention reaffirm the Synod's repudiation of all
26 racism; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in convention reject the worldview of CRT as being
29 contrary to Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and rec-
30 onciliation and also reject any organization's involvement in movements, petitions
31 and all theological language that presents CRT in a positive manner; and be it fur-
32 ther

33
34 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in convention encourage its members to continue
35 speaking against various sins that cause troubles in society (such as sex outside of
36 Biblical marriage, alcoholism, drug use, physical and sexual abuse, abortion and the
37 like), fighting for justice and mercy as we walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8), applying
38 biblical truth to all areas of life, opposing oppression when it is encouraged and point-
39 ing people to Jesus, the ultimate uniter; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved,* That we as members of the MN South District, its pastors and lay leaders, strive to
42 clarify the language of sin and righteousness as we live out our vocations in society
43 with our brothers and sisters in Christ of all ethnic backgrounds; and be it finally

44
45 *Resolved,* That the MN South District send this resolution to the Synod as it gathers at its
46 2023 Convention to do similarly.

47
48 *Submitted by the NW Suburban Circuit Forum on 03/10/2022*

1 **OVERTURE 3-04**

2 **To Reject Any Involvement by “Lutherans for Racial Justice” and All Other Organizations, Move-**
3 **ments, and Petitions that Promote Critical Race Theory (CRT)**

4
5 WHEREAS, ongoing racial problems still exist in our country; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory (CRT) aims to resolve the ongoing racial problems by considering
8 racism as America’s original sin and states that America was built on racism and white-
9 ness which CRT calls systemic racism; in other words, racism is woven into the fabric of
10 all Western governments, churches, and societal structures; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the organization Lutheran for Racial Justice (LRJ) is an organization striving for “racial
13 reconciliation and reform within the congregations and communities of the Lutheran
14 Church-Missouri Synod” (<https://lutheransforracialjustice.com/about-us>, accessed Sep-
15 tember 25, 2020); and

16
17 WHEREAS, LRJ encourages LCMS pastors and laity to emphasize social activism over Law and Gos-
18 pel proclamation that finds reconciliation in Christ who has died for original sin and all
19 actual sins; and

20
21 WHEREAS, LRJ relies heavily upon the 1966 movie “A Time for Burning,” a movie that embraces so-
22 cial justice theory coming not from a Biblically-based understanding of race and reconcil-
23 iation but from a worldly critical race theoretical basis; and

24
25 WHEREAS, LRJ promotes “Race+ Justice Essentials,” a non-Lutheran resource that “makes for a
26 great starter guide on everything from systemic racism to why race is a social construct”
27 (<https://lutheransforracialjustice.com/church-resources>, accessed September 27, 2020);
28 and

29
30 WHEREAS, LRJ uses resources and language of CRT terminology, demonstrated, for example, in this
31 August 28, 2020 Facebook post: “Dear Church, systemic racial injustice is real and -
32 whether by our actions or our silence - we have been complicit. Let us repent, let us live
33 in the forgiveness of Jesus, and let us faithfully pursue racial equality, racial justice, rec-
34 onciliation, and healing.”
35 (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=591875158151134&extid=T1zstrTVbr3x6gnh>,
36 accessed September 25, 2020); therefore, be it

37
38 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in Convention affirm the Synod’s repudiation of all racism;
39 and be it further

40
41 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in Convention reject Lutherans for Racial Justice’s past use
42 of central assumptions and principles of CRT and its resulting conclusions; and be it
43 further

44
45 *Resolved,* That the MN South District in Convention otherwise commend Lutherans for Racial Jus-
46 tice as they pursue the stated goals to improve racial equity, racial justice, reconciliation
47 and healing; and be it further

1 *Resolved,* That members, congregations, and schools of the MN South District endeavor as mem-
2 bers of the body of Christ, regardless of our earthly race, sex, or vocation, to prayerfully
3 strive to live together “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” as
4 St. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4; and be it finally
5

6 *Resolved,* That the MN South District memorialize the Synod as it gathers at its 2023 Convention
7 to do similarly.
8

9 *Submitted by NW Suburban Circuit 11/14/2020*
10

11 **Overtures: Congregational Services (Floor Committee 4)**

12 **OVERTURE 4-01**

13 **To provide ongoing support for older adult ministry through S.A.G.E.S.**

14 *WHEREAS,* the Minnesota South District began and budgeted intentional older adult ministry in
15 1986 through a subcommittee of the District Social Ministry Committee; and
16

17 *WHEREAS,* the Older Adult Ministry Subcommittee created S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive Growing Ever
18 Serving) older adult organization; and
19

20 *WHEREAS,* the Minnesota South District at its 1991 District Convention formally recognized
21 S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving) as the official older adult organization of
22 the Minnesota South District; and
23

24 *WHEREAS,* a stated purpose of S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving) is to assist congrega-
25 tions to begin and to sustain ministry to, with, and for older adults; and
26

27 *WHEREAS,* following the restructuring of ministry committees within the Minnesota South District
28 (Social Ministry came under the umbrella of Congregational Services), S.A.G.E.S. (Saints
29 Alive Growing Ever Serving) received temporary budget and administrative support;
30 therefore, be it
31

32 *Resolved,* That Our Savior’s Lutheran Church requests the Minnesota South District in convention
33 vote to provide annual support, both financial and administrative, for older adult ministry
34 through S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving).
35
36
37

38 *Submitted by:*

39 *Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Eyota, Minnesota on 01/30/2022;*

40 *Peace Lutheran Church, Arlington, Minnesota on 01/30/2022;*

41 *Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota on 02/20/2022;*

42 *South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota on 02/22/2022;*

43 *St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury, Minnesota on 02/24/2022; and*

44 *Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota on 02/27/2022*
45
46

Overtures: Administration & Finance (Floor Committee 5)

OVERTURE 5-01

To Amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota South District

- WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 2019 made amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (2016 Res. 9-02a, 2019 Res. 9-05) which necessitated changes to the MNS District Bylaws; and
- WHEREAS, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) suggested other clarification and updates to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and
- WHEREAS, the district Handbook Committee desired to clarify language in other places; and
- WHEREAS, the MNS District Board of Directors has reviewed and approved changes to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and
- WHEREAS, the Synodical Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has reviewed the entire Minnesota South District Handbook, and approved and recommended changes as required in Minnesota South District Bylaw 7.2(c); and
- WHEREAS, all changes to the MNS District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws require a favorable simple majority vote of delegates at a regular or special meeting of the District; therefore, be it
- Resolved,* That the following proposed changes to the MNS District Handbook be approved by majority vote of delegates at this convention.

2018 District Handbook	2018 District Handbook	<i>Rationale</i>
Articles of Incorporation Article II <i>Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</i> b) It submits to the authority of the Synod and the Synod's conventions.	Articles of Incorporation Article II <i>Section 2. The Relationship between Synod and District</i> b) It submits to the authority of the Synod and the Synod's conventions. <u>The constitution of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is also the constitution of the Minnesota South District. The Bylaws of the Synod shall be the</u>	1 <i>Clarifies the hierarchy of by-laws within the District handbook and reflects Synod constitution, Article X/1.2 and Bylaw 1.5.3.6(a)</i>

<p>that are served by one called pastor who is serving said parish on a permanently called basis.</p>	<p>that are served by one called pastor who is serving said parish on a permanently called basis. <u>the total number of congregations regularly cared for (served) by a pastor or pastors, as further defined in the Bylaws of the Synod.</u></p>	
<p>Article III Section 2. Meetings <i>(First sentence only)</i> a) This Corporation shall hold a regular meeting at which time it shall elect successors for directors and officers elected by the members whose terms have expired or whose terms expire at the annual meeting.</p>	<p>Article III Section 2. Meetings <i>(First sentence only)</i> a) This Corporation shall hold a regular meeting at which time it shall elect successors for directors and officers elected by the members whose terms have expired or whose terms expire at the annual <u>regular</u> meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CCM - suggested change of wording from "Annual" meeting to "regular" meeting to better reflect Synod bylaw 3.12.2(a).</i></p>
<p>BYLAWS CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and one other officer of the newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign all those documents deemed necessary by the district in order to</p>	<p>BYLAWS CHAPTER 2: MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and one other officer <u>secretary</u> of the newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign all those documents deemed necessary by the district in order</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>New wording designates the secretary of the congregation as the cosignatory of the constitution in keeping with Synod bylaw 2.3.1(b)</i></p>

<p>memorialize the congregation's membership. In recognition of the importance of this event, the district president shall encourage the newly admitted member congregation to conduct a special worship service in which the signing takes place.</p> <p>b) A copy of the signed documents shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the board of directors of the district shall, among other things, be reported to the other members of the district at the next regular meeting of the district. The signatures to those documents contemplated by this section of the bylaws on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the district president, and the year in which the congregation is formally received into membership shall be duly noted.</p> <p>2.20.4 Voting Members</p> <p>All organized congregations that have joined the synod hold voting</p>	<p>to memorialize the congregation's membership. In recognition of the importance of this event, the district president shall encourage the newly admitted member congregation to conduct a special worship service in which the signing takes place.</p> <p>b) A copy of the signed documents shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the board of directors of the district shall, among other things, be reported to the other members of the district at the next regular meeting of the district. <u>next regularly scheduled district convention.</u> The signatures to those documents contemplated by this section of the bylaws on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the district president <u>secretary</u>, and the year in which the congregation is formally received into membership shall be duly noted.</p> <p>2.20.4 Voting Members <u>Accrediting of Delegates</u></p> <p>All organized congregations that have joined the synod hold voting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Change in wording reflects changes already noted in previous comments 4 and 5.</i></p>
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<p>membership. At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one called pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.</p>	<p>membership. At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one called pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. and are entitled two votes (one ordained minister and one lay person). To be accredited to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials, provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing them to the District office at a date determined by the District or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the District convention. Multi-congregation parishes (comprising those congregations regularly cared for (served) by a pastor or pastors, as further defined in the Synod Bylaws) are represented at the District convention by one pastoral delegate (if not vacant) and one voting delegate, plus advisory lay delegates for each congregation that</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p><i>The removal of 2018 Bylaw 2.20.5 (see note #9 Below) and the reorganization of Chapter 2 topic Chapter 2 has dramatically changed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p><i>New wording better reflects Synod Bylaw 4.2.2</i></p>
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<p>2.20.5 Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p>	<p><u>does not supply the lay voting delegate.</u></p> <p>2.20.5 <u>6</u> Advisory Members <u>Delegates</u></p> <p>Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p><u>All non-voting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod within the District shall, unless they present a valid excuse, serve as advisory delegates.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CCM Opinion “2.20.5 may best be omitted. Synod Bylaws provide at length for this feature in the context of ecclesiastical supervision.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Synod Bylaw 1.5.7.1</i></p>
<p>2.20.6 Duties of Members</p> <p>Every congregation and individual member of the district shall, in accordance with vocation, ability, and means, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the district and ministries of the LCMS by word, deed, and financial support.</p>	<p>2.20.6 <u>4</u> Duties of Members</p> <p>Every congregation and individual member of the district shall, in accordance with vocation, ability, and means, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the district and ministries of the LCMS by word, deed, and financial support.</p>	
<p>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members of the district shall attend regular meetings of the district. They shall not be elected by any congregation of the LCMS as a lay delegate, nor</p>	<p>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Delegates</p> <p>Advisory members of the district shall attend regular meetings of the district. They shall not be elected by any congregation of the LCMS as a lay delegate, nor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Changes to wording pertaining to Advisory Members and Advisory Delegates better reflect Synod Bylaws 3.1.3 Non-voting Advisory Delegates</i></p>

<p>shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members An individual member of the district may be placed on restricted status by the district president, following the applicable procedures and provisions set forth in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p>CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES <i>(final paragraph of this section)</i> The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the secretary of the district before the announced registration deadline to the secretary of the LCMS on the registration forms provided by the secretary of the LCMS. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.</p>	<p>shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members An individual member of the district may be placed on restricted status by the district president, following the applicable procedures and provisions set forth in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p>CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES <i>(final paragraph of this section)</i> The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the secretary of the district before the announced registration deadline to the secretary of the LCMS on the registration forms provided by the secretary of the LCMS <u>latter</u>. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CCM Suggestion: “Synod Bylaws provide at length for this feature in the context of ecclesiastical supervision.” Synod Bylaw 2.13.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Second use of “secretary of the LCMS” was deemed redundant and changed to “latter.”</p>
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<p>CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings</p> <p>b) Special meetings of the district may be called by the district president, he having previously obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district after having informed them and the president of the synod the purpose of the intended special session.</p> <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures</p> <p>All memorials or other like overtures to the district convention which, at the discretion of the praesidium are to appear in print, shall be submitted in triplicate to the district president at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the district convention.</p> <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents</p> <p>a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate</p>	<p>CHAPTER 4: DISTRICT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings</p> <p>b) Special meetings <u>sessions</u> of the district may be called by the district president, he having previously obtained <u>with the consent</u> of at least a majority of the voting members of the district after having informed them and the president of the synod the purpose of the intended special session.</p> <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures</p> <p>All memorials or other like overtures to the district convention which, at the discretion of the praesidium are to appear in print, shall be submitted in triplicate to the district president at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the district convention.</p> <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents</p> <p>a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman <u>ordained minister</u> from the clergy roster of the Synod</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Use of term "sessions" replaced "meetings" to reflect wording of Synod Bylaws (i.e. 3.1.2.2) and other wording changed for clarity</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The president of the district may disapprove publication of only those overtures that fall in the categories described in Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wording more clearly reflects Synod Bylaws 3.12.2.</i></p>
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for president and one clergyman who is on the district roster from its region as a vice-president. If elected, nominees shall be members of member congregations of the district upon assuming office and during the entire course of their tenures.

g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

4.2.15.4 Board of Directors

a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the district shall send nominating forms to all voting

as a candidate for president and one ~~clergyman~~ ~~who is on the district roster~~ ordained minister with membership in a congregation from its region as a vice-president. If elected, nominees shall be members of member congregations of the District (and, if elected to a regional office, of the respective region) upon assuming office and during the entire course of their tenures.

g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms, as well as any floor nominees, for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. ~~Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.~~

4.2.15.4 Board of Directors

a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the district shall send nominating forms to all voting

16
New wording is consistent with Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.7

congregations of the district requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from their conference, and up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the board of directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the president and secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the secretary of the district not later than four months and ten days prior to the district convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the secretary to the elections committee which must place the names of at least two candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position shall be listed alphabetically. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

congregations of the district requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from their conference, and up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the board of directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the president and secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the secretary of the district not later than four months and ten days prior to the district convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the secretary to the elections committee which must place the names of at least two candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position, as well as any floor nominees, shall be listed alphabetically. ~~Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.~~

17

Similar to comment 16 above 16 new wording is consistent with Synod By-law 3.12.3.7

<p>4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations</p> <p>e) This committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations of the district the names of potential nominees for the offices of district secretary, committee for district convention nominations, LCMS Committee For Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. This committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names. Persons elected or appointed to the board of regents shall meet qualifications as spelled out in Synod Bylaws 3.10.6.2 [7-8], and 3.12.3.7 (c).</p> <p>i) The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.</p> <p>4.4.10 Minnesota South District President</p> <p>a) The district president, in accordance with the</p>	<p>4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations</p> <p>e) This committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations of the district the names of potential nominees for the offices of district secretary, committee for district convention nominations, LCMS Committee For Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. This committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names. Persons elected or appointed to the board of regents shall meet qualifications as spelled out in Synod Bylaws 3.10.6.2 [7-8],and 3.12.3.7 (c).</p> <p>i) The <u>District</u> Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.</p> <p>4.4.10 Minnesota South District President</p> <p>a) The district president, in accordance with the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Second referenced Synod Bylaw 3.12.3. 7 (c) was removed because it does not apply to elections at the district level.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Clarification that this paragraph is speaking to the MNS District committee, not the committee for Synodical elections.</i></p>
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<p>governing documents of the LCMS and in addition to the duties set forth in the articles of incorporation, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the district, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the district. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the district, advise the congregations of the district as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the vice - presidents and circuit visitors to assist him.</p>	<p>governing documents of the LCMS and in addition to the duties set forth in the articles of incorporation, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the district, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the district. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the district, <u>visit and</u> advise the congregations of the district as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the vice - presidents and circuit visitors to assist him.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 <i>Addition of "visit and" advise added to better reflect Synod Bylaw 4.4.4.</i></p>
<p>4.4.11 Vice-presidents a) Vice-presidents shall be elected one for each of the regions of the district:</p>	<p>4.4.11 Vice-presidents a) Vice-presidents shall be elected one for each of the regions of the district: <u>are elected ordained ministers with membership in a congregation within each of these regions of the District:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21 <i>First sentence of paragraph amended to better reflect wording of Synod Bylaw 3.3.2.</i></p>

4.5.5 Personnel

The board of directors shall consist of the district officers (president, vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer), one ordained minister from each of the four regions, one lay person from each of the eight conferences, and two commissioned ministers of congregations or parishes in the district elected at large.

4.5. 7 Organization

d) The executive committee shall consist of the district president, the secretary of the district, the district treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the president and ratified by the board of directors.

The executive committee shall act in matters referred to it by the board of directors. All actions of this committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the board of directors for review and ratification if ratification is deemed necessary.

4.5.5 Personnel

The board of directors shall consist of the district officers (president, vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer), one ordained minister ~~from~~ with membership in a congregation of each of the four regions, one lay person ~~from~~ with membership in a congregation of each of the eight conferences, and two commissioned ministers ~~of~~ with membership in the District and in congregations or parishes in the district elected at large.

4.5. 7 Organization

d) The executive committee shall consist of the District President, the secretary of the District, the District treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the District President and ratified by the board of directors.

The Executive committee may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the board of directors. nor may they overturn actions of the board of directors.

22

Similar to 21 above the wording was changed to avoid confusion and clarify intent.

23

A paragraph was added to reflect Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.2 (a).

<p>4.5.16 Removal from Office All officers of the district, full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains, and others under the immediate direction of the board of directors may be suspended and removed from office by the board of directors for cause. The following are considered cause for removal from office of an officer of the district pursuant to this bylaw, but not from membership in the Synod:</p>	<p>The executive committee shall act in matters referred to it by the board of directors. All actions of this committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the board of directors for review and ratification if ratification is deemed necessary.</p> <p>4.5.16 Removal from Office All officers of the district, full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains, and others under the immediate direction of the board of directors may be suspended and removed from office by the board of directors for cause. The following are considered cause for removal from office of an officer of the district pursuant to this bylaw, but not from membership in the Synod:</p> <p><u>4.11.3.3 Board of Regents for Concordia University St. Paul</u></p> <p><u>Members of the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul elected at the District convention are comprised of one ordained minister, one lay member</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Full time assistants to the president and chaplains do not fall under the immediate supervision of the Board of Directors. New wording in 4.5.16 -4.5.16.1 better reflects Synod Bylaws 1.5.7 - 1.5.7.1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Paragraph added to clearly reflect the role of the District in regards to Concordia University St. Paul Board of</i></p>
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	<p><u>and one commissioned minister. Regent members elected by the District take office at the close of the convention at which elected.</u></p> <p>CHAPTER 7: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS</p> <p><u>7.3 District Compliance to Synod Constitution and Bylaw Changes</u></p> <p><u>When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the District board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the District secretary and shall be reviewed and approved in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.</u></p>	<p>Regents elections and synod bylaw 3.2.4(a) and 3.10.6.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p><i>New paragraph to clearly delineate relationship of MNS District guiding documents to those of the LCMS</i></p>
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Submitted by MN South District - LCMS, Board of Directors, Burnsville, Minnesota on 03/08/2022

OVERTURE 5-02

To Reduce Redundancy

WHEREAS, the District President is encouraged to “call upon the vice-presidents and circuit visitors to assist him” in the discharge of his duties, By-Law 4.4.10 a); and

WHEREAS, the District has Circuit Visitors whose specific duties and responsibilities include assisting the District President in the discharge of his duties, By-Law 5.5.1; and

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors provides both guidance and supervision in the duties and respon-
2 sibilities of the District President, By-Law 4.5.11; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has standing committees whose purview includes, but is not lim-
5 ited to, missions, schools, mission formation, By-Law 4.5.7; and WHEREAS,
6

7 WHEREAS, the District President, Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, and the Directors are all elected
8 and therefore directly accountable to the congregations of the District; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the Executive Assistants are not elected and instead are directly accountable to the Dis-
11 trict President; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Executive Assistants significantly increase the costs to the congregations of the Dis-
14 trict; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Executive Assistants are well-qualified and our Lord Jesus asks us to pray for labor-
17 ers to go into the harvest, and there are active vacancies within the District and further
18 abroad; therefore, be it
19

20 *Resolved,* That By-Law 4.11.3.1 be amended as follows, ~~4.11.3.1 Assistants to the President The~~
21 ~~president shall appoint assistants to the president (the number of which shall be deter-~~
22 ~~mined by the district convention), write job descriptions for the assistants and reassign~~
23 ~~duties to the assistants as the need indicates all subject to ratification by the board of~~
24 ~~directors. Called workers shall be called by the board of directors, on behalf of the dis-~~
25 ~~trict, in accordance with the standards of the LCMS. The term of office shall continue~~
26 ~~until the office or term of office is terminated by the district president, which shall be~~
27 ~~subject to ratification by the board of directors. Termination of called workers must be in~~
28 ~~accordance with LCMS guidelines regarding the calling of church workers; and be it~~
29 ~~further~~
30

31 *Resolved,* That By-Law 4.11.3.2 be amended as follows, ~~4.11.3.2 Duties of the Assistants to the~~
32 ~~President The assistants to the president shall be responsible to the president of the dis-~~
33 ~~trict. They shall perform such duties and work in such areas as are assigned to them and~~
34 ~~for which they have been appointed by the district president; and be it further~~
35

36 *Resolved,* That By-Law 4.5.14 be amended as follows, If any officer or director of the district, ~~or if~~
37 ~~any assistant to the president of the district shall:~~ (a) make a commitment whereby the
38 district is obligated to provide services or pay fees to a third party, or (b) establish or
39 change district policies, or (c) make formal recommendations of decisions for or on be-
40 half of the district, in each instance without the advanced authorization regarding the
41 same of the board of directors, then such action or actions by any officer, director or as-
42 sistant to the president shall not be binding upon the district or its board of directors.;
43 and be it further
44

45 *Resolved,* That By-Law 4.5.16 be amended as follows, All officers of the district, ~~full-time assistants~~
46 ~~to the district president, chaplains, and others under the immediate direction of the~~
47 board of directors may be suspended and removed from office by the board of directors

1 for cause. The following are considered cause for removal from office of an officer of the
2 district pursuant to this bylaw, but not from membership in the Synod; and be it further
3

4 *Resolved,* That By-Law 4.5.18.2.4 a) be amended as follows, All applications for subsidy for all, or
5 for any part, of a program shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution and
6 on forms provided by the board of directors. The board of directors, ~~through the assis-~~
7 ~~tant to the president for missions,~~ shall make investigation, and no loan or subsidy for
8 the entire, or for any part, of the program shall be granted unless a congregation or par-
9 ish has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds to the satisfaction of the
10 board of directors; and be it finally
11

12 *Resolved,* That Circuit Visitors be encouraged to draw upon the District Treasury, as granted under
13 By-Law 5.5.1, for the additional time spent in assisting the District President in carrying
14 out his duties.
15

16 *Submitted by Salem and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Madelia, Minnesota on 02/27/2022*
17

18 **OVERTURE 5-03**

19 **To Offer Clarity & Simplicity**

20
21 WHEREAS, it aids our life together as members in the District to have clear and concise language in
22 the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws; therefore, be it
23

24 *Resolved,* That The Articles of Incorporation, Article I, Section 2, a) be amended, as follows, The
25 general purposes of this Corporation shall be: a) To provide services and assistance to
26 those congregations of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, (herein from
27 time to time "the LCMS or "the Synod) located within the territorial limits of this Corpo-
28 ration in ~~furtherance of their respective corporate and spiritual missions,~~ support of the
29 Ministry of the Gospel including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the process
30 of calling those church workers ordained or otherwise in or by the LCMS; and be it fur-
31 ther
32

33 *Resolved,* That The Articles of Incorporation, Article I, Section 2, c) be amended as follows, ~~€} To~~
34 ~~facilitate the development of mission focused leaders and congregations within the terri-~~
35 ~~torial limits of the Corporation.;~~ and be it finally
36

37 *Resolved,* That The Articles of Incorporation, Article III, Section 3, d) 6) be amended, as follows, 6)
38 ~~To facilitate the development of mission focused leaders and congregations~~ To support
39 of the Ministry of the Gospel within the territorial limits of the Corporation.
40

41 *Submitted by Salem and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Madelia, Minnesota on 02/27/2022*
42
43
44
45
46
47

1 **OVERTURE 5-04**

2 **To Decrease Minnesota South District giving**
3 **to the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.**

4
5 WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District (MSD) gives 50% of general income to the Lutheran
6 Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) ; and
7

8 WHEREAS, with the Covid 19 Pandemic our congregations are experiencing lower offerings; and
9

10 WHEREAS, with unprecedented inflation at this time which also affects our members tithes in which
11 they can give to their local church; and
12

13 WHEREAS, all of this impacts our congregations in the District and their tithe to the MSD; and
14

15 WHEREAS, this impacts the work we can do as a District;
16

17 *Resolved,* That we cut our giving to the LCMS to 35% (thirty-five) from 50% (fifty) of our general
18 income; and be it further
19

20 *Resolved,* That at the next Convention of MSD they revisit this to see if this percentage should
21 stay or be changed.
22

23 *Submitted by Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota on 02/20/2022*
24

25 **OVERTURE 5-05**

26 **To Continue Sharing Gifts on a 50%/50% Basis**
27 **with the Synod with Clarification.**

28
29 WHEREAS, God has always provided for the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Mis-
30 souri Synod "District"; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the 2000 District Convention (Resolution 3-01) directed the District to split all general
33 receipts 50%/50% with Synod (changing from 65% Synod /35% District with about \$2.0
34 million going to the synod in 2000 and about \$0.8 million in 2021); and
35

36 WHEREAS, the resolutions of the convention and practical application of those resolutions need
37 clarification; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the District both works in general bureaucratic and ecclesiastical ways and also in spe-
40 cific ways (To All Generations, mission starts, subsidizing missions, holding a convention,
41 etc.); and
42

43 WHEREAS, donors to the district interested in the work of the local church are not always aware of
44 the 50/50 split and have expressed an interest in keeping their gifts local; and
45

46 WHEREAS, the district would like to provide transparency to donors regarding their generosity;
47 therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved,* That all funds from congregations that come to the District be split 50/50 with Synod
 2 unless specifically designated for a particular fund or purpose; and be it further
 3
- 4 *Resolved,* That any unrestricted funds that come in as gifts to the District are split 50%/50% with
 5 Synod unless designated in the same groups as above or to another purpose as identified
 6 by the donor and approved by the Board of Directors; and be it further
 7
- 8 *Resolved,* Where the intent of a donor in a non-designated gift is not clearly indicated that the ma-
 9 ter of retaining or splitting be reserved to the Board of Directors; and be it finally
 10
- 11 *Resolved,* That any profits from investments of District funds be retained 100% by the District.
 12
- 13 *Submitted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota, Minnesota on 01/30/2022*
 14

15 **OVERTURE 5-06**

16 **To Commend Camp Omega for Excellence in Ministry**
 17 **with Perpetual Financial Support**
 18

- 19 WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District (hereinafter referred to also as the District) of the Lutheran
 20 Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS) designated Camp Omega as [a] mission of the District
 21 at its regular board meeting on August 14, 2020; and
 22
- 23 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District decided that the District would continue to finan-
 24 cially support Camp Omega as the District would "see fit" on August 14, 2020; and
 25
- 26 WHEREAS, the District has had a history to financially support the mission of Camp Omega for over
 27 fifty years; and
 28
- 29 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District had voted to provide \$20,000 annually for a lim-
 30 ited liability company to manage Camp Omega's property on February 8, 2020; and
 31
- 32 WHEREAS, the District no longer had need of such limited liability company and dissolved it; and
 33
- 34 WHEREAS, the regular convention of the Minnesota South - District (LC-MS) can guarantee District
 35 financial support for Camp Omega; and
 36
- 37 WHEREAS, there are have been recent and ongoing budget cuts to the District budget, including
 38 missions; therefore, be it
 39
- 40 *Resolved,* the Minnesota South District (LC-MS) provide annual financial support to Camp Omega
 41 as an officially designated mission of the District; and be it
 42
- 43 *Resolved,* Camp Omega is to be given a minimum amount of \$20,000 annually by the District; and
 44 be it finally
 45
- 46 *Resolved,* the Board of Directors can deny an annual gift if they deem Camp Omega not to be in
 47 good standing and/or the District risks insolvency.

2
3
4 **Overtures: Ministerial Health (Floor Committee 6)**

5
6 **OVERTURE 6-01**

7 **To give thanks and praise to our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the faithful and**
8 **persevering service of all of our church workers in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.**

9
10 WHEREAS, St. Peter encourages you to rejoice at being born again to a living hope through the res-
11 urrection of Jesus Christ even though, "for a little while, if necessary, you have been
12 grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious
13 than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise in
14 glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ," (I Pt. 1:6-7); and

15
16 WHEREAS, the pandemic has created such a trial for all of our church workers that has tested and
17 proven the genuineness of their faith and whose persevering service is most certainly
18 more precious than gold; be it

19
20 *Resolved,* That their faithful and persevering service result in praise in glory and honor not only at
21 the revelation of Jesus Christ but now as the convention sings the *Doxology*.

22
23 *Submitted by the Committee on Ministerial Health, Burnsville, Minnesota on 02/19/2022*

24
25 **OVERTURE 6-02**

26 **To give thanks and praise to our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the faithful and persevering**
27 **service of all of our frontline workers in our communities in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.**

28
29 WHEREAS, the Word of God counsels us that if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort
30 from love then, "in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of
31 you look not only to his own interests, but also the interests of others." (Philippians 2:1-
32 4); and

33
34 WHEREAS, countless frontline workers have done that very thing by risking their own health in ful-
35 filling that calling by putting the well-being of others ahead of their own; be it

36
37 *Resolved,* that MN South District Convention give thanks and praise for their sacrificial service on
38 behalf of their neighbor by lifting them up with a word of prayer,

39
40 "Lord Jesus, You are the heavenly Physician who is able to give health to the body,
41 wholesomeness to the mind, and peace to the soul. Conduct Your ministry of mercy in all
42 the hospitals and nursing homes of our communities, and grant Your healing to the dis-
43 tressed. Give patience, wisdom and perseverance to all of our frontline workers as they
44 minister to those in need. Grant each of these workers a special measure of Your love
45 and understanding toward those that are frightened and in pain. Lord Jesus Christ we
46 call on you to be present according to your Word in every place to hold up those who

1 work to bring mercy and healing care at great risk to themselves. When they are weary
2 and tired of serving, when the burden has become too heavy may they accept Your invi-
3 tation to come to you, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light, and find rest for
4 their souls. In Your name we pray, Amen.” (Adapted from a prayer for Workers in Hospi-
5 tals and Nursing Homes, *My Prayer Book*, p. 173-174)
6

7 *Submitted by the Committee on Ministerial Health, Burnsville, Minnesota on 02/19/2022*
8

9 **OVERTURE 6-03**

10 **To encourage Parish Leadership to support their church workers**
11 **through the many resources available to them for mental health care.**
12

13 WHEREAS, the pastors are usually the gatekeepers of the information that is passed along to their
14 leadership; and
15

16 WHEREAS, after the last two years has been very difficult for all workers and has taken a toll upon
17 their mental wellness; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the God of our Church has provided many resources and gifted health care worker to
20 minister to God’s servants, therefore be it
21

22 *Resolved,* That the MSD set up a webinar that we can educate church leadership on the mental
23 health care available for their workers; and be it further
24

25 *Resolved,* that this webinar include representatives from a multitude of caregivers; and be it finally
26

27 *Resolved,* that this webinar be recorded to show to Parish leadership at a convenient time for
28 them. Leadership to include parish council, elders, parish nurse, and leaders who have a
29 heart for the workers.
30

31 *Submitted by the Committee on Ministerial Health, Burnsville, Minnesota on 02/19/2022*
32
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40

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

Names are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. Unless otherwise indicated, delegates will vote for one individual for each position listed.

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT PRESIDENT (elect one)

Rev. Thomas L. Evans

Rev. Kurt R. Klaus

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I (elect one)

Rev. Thomas L. Evans

Rev. Todd D. Stocker

Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II (elect one)

Rev. David A. Kind

Rev. Steven J. Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III (elect one)

Rev. David C. Mumme

Rev. Nathaniel R. Schwartz

Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV (elect one)

Rev. Mark S. Loder

Rev. Eric M. Nelson

DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one)

Rev. Keith H. Grimm

Rev. Matthew P. Johnson

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I (elect one)

Rev. Christopher P. Horton

Rev. Kurt R. Klaus

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II (elect one)

OPEN

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III (elect one)

Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.

Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath

Rev. Loel A. Wessel

1 ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV (elect one)
2 Rev. Eric M. Nelson

3
4 COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)
5 Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich
6 Mr. Joel Landskroener

7
8 LAY, EAST METRO NORTH (elect one)
9 OPEN

10
11 LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH (elect one)
12 OPEN

13
14 LAY, WEST METRO EAST (elect one)
15 OPEN

16
17 LAY, WEST METRO WEST (elect one)
18 OPEN

19
20 LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)
21 Ms. Sara Sorenson

22
23 LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)
24 OPEN

25
26 LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)
27 Mr. David Koosman

28
29 LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)
30 OPEN

31
32
33 **BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL**

34
35 ORDAINED MINISTER (elect one)
36 Rev. Jeremiah D. Johnson
37 Rev. William H. Otte

38
39 COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)
40 OPEN

41
42 LAY MEMBER (elect TWO)
43 Mr. James Anderson
44 Mrs. Rosa Summers
45 Mrs. Lori L. Utech
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2025 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)

Rev. Kyle D. Krueger

Rev. Eric M. Nelson

Rev. Jon Niebuhr

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)

OPEN

LAY MEMBER (elect four)

Mr. David Koosman

Mr. Glen Meints

Mr. Bill Summers

SYNOD NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Dave Kenow

Mr. Christian Preus

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Names are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. Unless otherwise indicated, delegates will vote for one individual for each position listed.

Each candidate has been asked to answer the following two questions that are simply numbered 1 and 2 in the biographical section:

1. Please make a statement of personal commitment to the Word of God as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions.
2. Please make a statement about the contribution you would expect to make to the District and/or Synod if elected.

In transcribing the following material for publication, every attempt was made to reflect accurately what was submitted. No spelling or grammatical corrections have been made.

District

DISTRICT PRESIDENT (elect one)

**Rev. Thomas L. Evans; Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights; Senior Pastor
3129 Alden Pond Lane, Eagan**

Parish: Senior Pastor
District: 2nd Vice President 2018 – Present, Chairman of Registration-District Convention 2006 – 2018, Circuit Counselor 2000 – 2006 Suburban Lakes Circuit, Board of Communications, Presidents Conference Committee, Mentor for District
Synod: Board of Regents, Concordia University, St. Paul. 2006 – 2015 Eight years as the Vice Chair Board of Regents.

1. I grew up in a strong, faithful family, baptized into Christ as an infant, confirmed into the faith at the age of 14. Grew in my faith as I was attending Concordia University in St. Paul, and then pastoral formation at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Then 33 years ago in the month of June I was ordained into the office of the holy ministry. As I made my ordination vow before family, friends and God, I professed that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. I also confessed that the three Ecumenical Creeds are faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and I rejected all the errors they condemn. Finally, I confessed that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, Authority and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord, as these are contained in the Book of Concord are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith.

1 My ordination vow and my commitment to preach, teach, confess, and live according to God's
2 Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit has grown stronger over the years. God's Word has both
3 confronted and comforted me. Through it I've felt the sting of my sin that has caused me again
4 and again to repent of my sin, original and actual. Through it, I have received again and again
5 the Good News of God's unmerited grace and forgiveness for me through the all atoning sacri-
6 fice of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Finally, through it I am reminded each day that the
7 Holy Spirit lives in me and that God, my heavenly Father, gives me opportunity to serve Him
8 and those He has called me to serve in response to His great love for me. Thus, every day is a
9 day to give glory to Him and thanksgiving of all that He has done for me.

- 10
11 2. The last two years have been anything *but normal*. Covid, social disruption, racial unrest and so-
12 cial Marxism have sought to tear apart the fabric of our society, turn neighbor against neighbor,
13 and challenge the Church's proclamation of Law and Gospel and undermine our confessional
14 identity. Our congregations and workers have been challenged perhaps like never before.

15
16 Covid has challenged the way we go about "being" church, from our need for gathering in fel-
17 lowship and worship to our ability to remain in physical contact with each other. It is imperative
18 that we look at what we have learned from this. How do we understand worship within our re-
19 spective ministry contexts? What have we learned about our congregations and ourselves as
20 we worshipped in-person, on line, socially distanced, indoors and outdoors? Is online worship
21 here to stay? If it is, how will we ensure that we are faithfully and confessionally engaged in
22 Word and Sacrament ministry within our congregations? Have our children been permanently
23 re-wired to learn differently? If so, this will have a profound impact on our congregational edu-
24 cation ministries at every level: Sunday school, parochial school, confirmation instruction and
25 adult Bible classes. We need to learn best practices from one another. We need to encourage
26 Concordia Publishing House to provide resources that can help us preserve our Lutheran ethos
27 as we deliver Christian education to every age group within our congregations.

28
29 The challenges before us are immense: one size does not fit all. From the rural to suburban to
30 the urban contexts of our District, we still need to have resources that engage the youth and
31 adults regardless of the unique circumstances in which they work, live, and study. As we do so,
32 it is important to evaluate what has and what has not worked. The Minnesota South District
33 has the distinct privilege of serving as a resource and partner to its congregations, schools and
34 workers.

35
36 Congregational visitation is a crucial element of the District's service to its workers and congre-
37 gations. To strengthen that aspect of our life together, congregational and church worker visita-
38 tion would be my top priority. As District President I would lead by personal example and
39 would empower and enable District staff to visit churches on Sunday mornings and our workers
40 and schools throughout the week. In addition, I would work closely with District vice presidents
41 and circuit visitors to double down on our care for and support of the congregations and work-
42 ers of the District. Visitation provides tremendous opportunities to listen to and learn from our
43 congregations and workers. It is also a wonderful opportunity to communicate the District's
44 mission and strategic plan to its congregations and workers. I believe it is important for the Dis-
45 trict President to meet with circuits to hear about their joys and pains. This is where, after serv-
46 ing in many different congregational settings during the past 33 years, I have the experience
47 and expertise to relate to all of the workers and congregations of our District. I do not have all

1 the answers! However, I seek first to listen and to prayerfully care for and communicate to our
2 congregations, schools, and workers that they are cared for and valued. Whether large or small,
3 urban, suburban, or rural, all congregations and workers matter in the Kingdom of God!
4

5 Social unrest, racial tension and social Marxism have torn the fabric of the family and the
6 church. Social Marxism tenants seek to dissolve families, pit persons against each other, and
7 tear down faith communities. Encouraging and providing resources to our congregations to help
8 them build stronger families and faith communities is a second priority for me if I am elected to
9 serve as your District President. It is important that we never lose focus on Word and Sacra-
10 ment ministry. Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. These three core tenants of our Lu-
11 theran theology and identity remind us that it is in Jesus Christ alone we live and serve out the
12 vocations to which we are called. My ministry has always focused on Word and Sacrament. If
13 Covid and recent social unrest and racial tension we've experienced has taught me anything, it
14 is how important and essential Christian community, proclamation of the Word and celebration
15 of the Sacraments are to us as God's people.
16

17 The next triennium presents many questions as to how we will proclaim and practice the love of
18 Christ to our people and to reach out to others. What is effective and what is not? We, as a Dis-
19 trict, need to celebrate the unique mosaic of congregations and workers we are. We are
20 uniquely positioned within our church body to reach countless ethnic groups in our midst. Our
21 mission field is both "over there" and right here in our own backyards. What a joy it is to be a
22 part of the worldwide confessional Lutheran outreach with the entire Lutheran Church-Mis-
23 souri Synod, while at the same time seizing numerous mission fields in our own backyard. It is in
24 the words of the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, a
25 great time to be the church.
26

27 To do so the LCMS needs more workers to combat its growing shortage of full-time workers.
28 How we work together to raise up more future pastors, teachers, and other commissioned min-
29 isters of the Gospel is not only important for our own district, but also for the entire Synod.
30 How can we enhance our focus on mission fields here in Minnesota? This is such an exciting
31 time. On one hand, we need to be committed to helping and resourcing our rural and small
32 town congregations. They are mission outposts! On the other hand, our suburban and urban
33 ministries in and around the Twin Cities have different needs of ministry. There are many, many
34 opportunities to reach out and minister to new immigrants, to unchurched people, and to those
35 who are de-churched or delinquent even as we tend the flocks of faithful congregants. While
36 maintaining our Lutheran liturgical structure, there is great freedom to implement a variety of
37 styles through which the Word of God is proclaimed.
38

39 The cultural tapestry that is the Minnesota South District gives us a glimpse of the breadth and
40 depth of the world "God so loved." Where do we begin? We start at the foot of Christ's cross
41 confessing our sin and need for a Savior. We start wherever God has placed us by loving all and
42 building relationships where we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed. As
43 we do so, we celebrate together with each other giving praise and thanks to our Savior, all the
44 while speaking the truth in love to one another and the masses that surround us.
45

46 There are also structural and financial questions before us. As I served as a 2nd Vice President
47 for the last four years, I've learned a great deal. I continue to be amazed and humbled by the

1 many ways in which God continues to bless the congregations, workers, and ministries of our
2 District. Yet questions remain. They include but are not limited to: Is our District properly struc-
3 tured, staffed; and mobilized to serve the churches with the challenges that are before us? How
4 will inflation and increasing cost for salaries, service and outreach impact the work of the Dis-
5 trict? What difficult decisions will the Board of Directors need to consider? What should our
6 structure look like? How will our congregations continue to fund the work of the District? Are
7 there new opportunities for ministry that we can explore with adjacent LCMS districts? Is our
8 District budget too large or too small? How will we prioritize the resources we have been given
9 to steward? How does our budgeting reflect the District's ministry priorities? I pray daily that
10 God will use the leadership of the District to envision and then fulfill a vision that is faithful to
11 our mission of "Cultivating leaders who are intentionally engaged in the mission of God."
12

13 I have been humbled by the many nominations I have received to serve in this office. The Of-
14 fice of District President is an office of service. Because I have served as a pastor in the District
15 for 28 years, many of you know or know of me. However, many of you do not know me. I am a
16 sinner saved by the forgiving love of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross, the husband of LeeAnn,
17 father of Ryan, (Laurie) Tyler, (Lindsey) and Mychael (Britta) and grandfather of Vincent, Grant,
18 Everlee, Weston, and Cooper. God saw fit to call me into the ministry of Word and Sacrament,
19 though like St. Paul, I am the least of these. By His grace and the help of others I have over-
20 come what many would suggest are debilitating handicaps: being left-handed, dyslexic, and
21 ADHD. Yet God has chosen to use these thorns in my flesh to draw me closer to Him, use the
22 many gifts he has given me, including a love for His Word, His people, and the ministries to
23 which He has called me. Based upon the Clifton Strengths Finder assessment tool, my top five
24 strengths are: activator, ideation, strategic, significance, and adaptability. It is helpful for me to
25 understand my strengths, to leverage my ability to focus on the big picture while surrounding
26 myself with people who have complementary strengths that, when combined with mine, create
27 a cohesive, strong, and effective team. Working together we forward God's kingdom no matter
28 where he may call me.
29

30 I pray that what I have outlined for you conveys the ministry desires that are upon my heart. If I
31 have learned anything from 33 years as a parish pastor, it is that people need to be loved and
32 need to be heard. I strive to do the best I can, remembering to love all of God's people and
33 share Jesus Christ with all, in word and deed. The work of a District President is both challeng-
34 ing and exhilarating. If elected to this position, I will work to increase our unity, remember and
35 pray for each worker and every parish and their joys, needs, and problems. I will ask how the
36 District and I can help and serve. Through Word and Sacrament, we boldly confess Jesus Christ
37 as the one and only Savior of the world; minister to those whom God has called us and we go
38 forth into the mission fields to which He has called us.
39

40 **Rev. Kurt R. Klaus; Messiah, Lakeville; Senior Pastor**
41 **18125 Dunbury Avenue, Farmington**

42 Parish: Mission Pastor at Child of God Lutheran Church and School in St. Peters, MO
43 Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church and School in Mounds View, MN
44 Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN (current)

45 District: Previously I have served as a Missional Learning Group Facilitator for the MN South
46 District and as a member of the District Convention's Nominations Committee. I am

1 currently serving as a member of the Commissioned Minister's Board and as the Circuit
2 Visitor of the South East Suburban Circuit.

3 Synod:

4 Served as a Lutheran middle school and high school teacher at Orlando Lutheran Acad-
5 emy, Orlando FL; Authored and presented CPH's first video Bible study series, "Engage";
6 Presented the Lutheran Hour Ministries video Bible studies, "Facing Disaster Like A
7 Man" and "Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood"; It has also been my privilege to have
8 served as Chaplain to the O'Fallon, MO Police Dept., as an LWML Zone Pastoral Advisor,
9 and as the MN South LLL Pastoral Adviser.

- 10
- 11 1. We live in a time of history where truth is seen as relative and constantly changing. In the midst
12 of all that uncertainty, Scripture is the unwavering source of truth. It says who we are and
13 where we came from. It is the norm of our lives and our behavior, but most importantly, from
14 beginning to end, it points to our sinful condition and to the Savior who rescued us from that
15 sin. That is why I believe and teach that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the
16 source of doctrine in the church. I also believe that the Confessions are a true and correct expo-
17 sition of God's Word. Ideas, preachers, and trends may come and go, but God's word remains
18 true and trustworthy forever.
 - 19 2. Years ago, it was quite common in the LCMS to see several friends allow their names to stand
20 in an election for the same position. While they may have had differing opinions, and they most
21 certainly had unique gifts of the Spirit, they respected the integrity and faithfulness of the other
22 candidates. It was an attitude of respect which was present before, during, and after the elec-
23 tion. It was an attitude which the Holy Spirit used to accomplish great things.

24

25 As I began putting together my answers to these questions I became aware of how blessed I am
26 to have been asked to have my name stand on the ballot with two pastors whom I greatly re-
27 spect and can call my friends. That understanding made this last question much easier to an-
28 swer. Instead of trying to point out "their flaws" and proclaim "my strengths," I am free to an-
29 swer by explaining how the Triune God has used me in the past and might use me in the future.

30

31 My first call was to be a Lutheran school teacher at a school which never had enough money
32 for the necessities. I was blessed to work with other teachers and administrators to find crea-
33 tive ways to make sure education not only happened but that it excelled and that Christ was
34 proclaimed through it all. When I was called as a mission pastor to a church being born out of a
35 Lutheran school, I quickly found out that a new mission church in the middle of the circuit was
36 not seen as a blessing but instead as a sheep stealing threat. Amid the fear and worry, the Lord
37 worked and a great deal of joy came from finding new and exciting ways to reach out, not as a
38 lone pastor and congregation, but as a team with the circuit, the district and the LCEF. Later on
39 I had the chance to be a facilitator for one of the Missional Learning Communities of the MN
40 South District. These groups drew together pastors that wanted to brainstorm ideas on how to
41 share Christ better in their context. The position was the most rewarding when the group of
42 pastors and congregations moved past how they could do evangelism in isolation and instead
43 eagerly began to work together and share resources with other churches and pastors in the
44 Lord's mission.

45

46 So, to the question, what is "the contribution you would expect to make to the Minnesota
47 South District and/or Synod?" I think my answer must be a continuation of what I have just

1 expressed in the previous paragraphs. I believe with all my heart that pastors and congregations
2 have the ability to respect and support each other, AND when they do, the pastors, the congregations
3 and the Church at large, will be blessed. When we see Satan and his lies as the enemy,
4 instead of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord does truly energizing things. It is
5 my desire to use my history of working with pastors and congregations to create something
6 greater together than what we could do alone.
7

8 **Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; MN South District President; Trinity, Farmington, Associate Pastor**
9 **4517 199th Street W, Farmington**

10 Parish: Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington MN, 2020-present
11 Senior Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Mayer MN, 2005-2018
12 Associate Pastor, Director of Christian Life, First Immanuel, Cedarburg WI, 2003-2005
13 District: District President, 2018-present; District 2nd Vice-President, 2015-2018; District Board
14 of Directors, 2012-2015; Carver North Circuit Counselor (Visitor), 2009-2012; Mayer
15 Lutheran High School Board of Directors, 2006-2007; Chair, Continuing Education
16 Committee, 2012-2015; Chair, Ministerial Health Committee, 2015-2018.
17 Synod: LCMS Council of Presidents, 2018-present; Board of Regents, Concordia University, St.
18 Paul, MN, 2016-present; Synod Koinonia Think Tank, 2015–2016; Synod Task Force on
19 God’s Gift of Sexuality 2015–present, Writer for The Lutheran Witness, and Synod’s
20 Blog 2015- 2017; Writer of Synod circuit studies & study guide response to “13 Reasons
21 Why”; Adjunct Professor, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. Collegium Fel-
22 low for DOXOLOGY, (RSO of the LCMS) 2014-present.
23

- 24
- 25 1. I believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of
26 God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. I also believe that the Confessions of the
27 Evangelical Lutheran Church, (the Book of Concord) are a true exhibition of Holy Scripture and
28 correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. As a lifelong LCMS mem-
29 ber, I rejoice in these historic biblical teachings and, as stated in my ordination vows, I pledge to
30 uphold them accordingly. In these confusing times, I think it’s especially important to be clear
31 about what we believe, teach, and confess, while remaining consistently compassionate toward
32 all people for whom our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose.
 - 33 2. The church is in decline and that has many worried. Alarms are sounding all around us. Our sex-
34 ually explicit culture is a mess, the family unit is threatened day by day, and our God created
35 human identity is being questioned. Many are asking, “What are we going to do?” I’m convinced
36 that amid these challenging days, it is a great time to be a Christian. I’m convinced that now is a
37 great time to raise a family. And I am utterly convinced that now is a great time to unabashedly
38 share the Good News of Jesus Christ! Our Lord Himself promises that even “the gates of Hell
39 will not prevail” against His Church (Matt. 16:18.) We have the light of Christ to lead us forward
40 and cheer our hearts!
41

42 The MN South District is situated among a vast diversity of people and cultures—rural and inner
43 city, suburban and small town, multi-ethnic and intergenerational. All are full of sinners who
44 need the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ. Opportunities to share the Gospel are all around.
45 To be sure, many people are lost, some are afraid, others are confused, and many simply don’t
46 care. Yet, despite the age or culture we live in, as Evangelical confessional Lutherans we are not

1 ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who be-
2 lieves (Rom. 1:16).
3

4 My desire is that believers and unbelievers alike hear the Good News of the Gospel, that the
5 congregations, schools, and all the church workers of our District and Synod remain passionate
6 about the salvation of souls and the ongoing care of souls, both the lost and the found. In these
7 increasingly secular times, I desire to support and nurture compassionate and faithful pastors,
8 church planters and missionaries, church workers, and teachers who will unabashedly stand
9 upon the truth of God's Word for the sake of the Gospel and the growth of God's kingdom.
10 Likewise, my desire is to enthusiastically equip and support the congregations and schools of
11 our District and Synod with theologically rich and vibrant resources for the faithful preaching
12 and teaching of the Word and the joyful administration of the sacraments.
13

14 My approach is to love the Lord, love people, and love our Lutheran theology. Where differ-
15 ences may remain among us, I hope to bring more light and less heat, and be a voice of reason
16 that speaks with compassion and understanding, as together we consider what it means to be a
17 Christ centered 21st century confessional Lutheran church "who desires all people to be saved
18 and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).
19

20 VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I (elect one)

21

22 Rev. Thomas L. Evans; Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights; Senior Pastor

23 3129 Alden Pond Lane, Eagan

24 Parish: Senior Pastor

25 District: 2nd Vice President 2018 - Present; Chairman of Registration-District Convention 2006
26 - 2018; Circuit Counselor 2000 - 2006 Suburban Lakes Circuit; Board of Communica-
27 tions; Presidents Conference Committee; Mentor for District

28 Synod: Board of Regents, Concordia University, St. Paul. 2006 - 2015
29

- 30 1. Almost 33 years ago to the date of this convention I made a vow before family, friends, and
31 God, proclaiming the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and inerrant Word of God. I
32 will hold to and continue to proclaim God's Word as the sole source for our salvation for our
33 world today.
34
- 35 2. I would continue to approach the office of VP as I have for the last three years, with a servant's
36 heart, supporting the President in various functions as called upon. God has gifted me with 33
37 years in the Pastoral ministry, and I can use my experience to help those within my Region and
38 the District. It would be an honor to continue to walk alongside the District in this role, doing
39 so in a professional manner, serving surrounded in the love and grace of God.
40

41 Rev. Todd D. Stocker; Woodbury Lutheran, Woodbury; Pastor

42 6900 Stratford Draw, Woodbury

43 Parish: All roles. A 20+ year Parish Pastor, Campus Chaplain (all levels), Leader, Church Planter,
44 and Worship Leader

45 District: On occasion, I've been asked to meet with a Pastor or church leader for executive
46 coaching.

47 Synod: Same as above. Helped with the 2017 National Youth Gathering.

- 1 1. I believe the Word of God to be the true, inerrant voice of our Heavenly Father, through which
2 we hear the beautiful declaration of the forgiveness of our sin in and through Jesus Christ. As I
3 vowed at my ordination, I am and always be committed to His Word and ascribe to the tradi-
4 tional documents of our faith (e.g. large/small catechism, historical Creeds, etc.).
5
- 6 2. Serving on different levels within my church-work and ministry career, I hope to bring perspec-
7 tive, leadership, support, and guidance as I serve those who also serve the Lord. As a mission-
8 oriented person, I hope to shed light on current trends in culture and how we can be both con-
9 fessional and missional as we seek to make disciples of all nations.

11 **Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan; Trinity Lutheran Church & School, St. Francis; Pastor**
12 **22830 Zion Parkway NW, Oak Grove**

13 Parish: Janitor, Associate Pastor, Senior Pastor

14 District:

15 Synod: Circuit Visitor in MN North District; Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention; District
16 Floor Committee on Doctrine and Practice; District Convention Planning Committee;
17 District Capital Campaign Committee
18

- 19 1. I am fully committed to the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the only rule
20 and norm for doctrine and life, as I vowed at my ordination and every time I have been installed
21 in a new office within Christ's Church. God's Word has from infancy and continues daily to form
22 and fill my life in all of my vocations as a Christian man, a husband, a father and grandfather,
23 and not least as a parish pastor.
24
- 25 2. I will, by the grace of God, contribute according to my abilities in whatever roles or tasks I am
26 asked to perform.

27 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II (elect one)**
28

29
30 **Rev. David A. Kind; University Lutheran Chapel; Sole Pastor**
31 **11705 Arnold Palmer Trail NE, Blaine**

32 Parish: Sole Pastor, 2001-present; Congregational President, 1992; Christian Service Chair,
33 1991; Liturgical Assistant, 1990-92

34 District: District Convention Nominations Committee, 2006-2009; District Convention Missions
35 Floor Committee, 2015; District Campus Ministry Subcommittee, 2016-2018; LWML
36 Zone Advisor, 1998-1999

37 Synod: Board of Regents, Concordia St. Paul, 2015-2019; Doctrinal Reviewer, Concordia
38 Publishing House; Board of Directors, Higher Things (RSO), 2008-2012; LCMS Campus
39 Ministry Task Force
40

- 41 1. I am absolutely committed to the Word of God, i.e. the Holy Scriptures, recognizing and teach-
42 ing that the Scriptures are inspired by God, and are therefore His infallible and inerrant Word. I
43 am firmly committed to the Lutheran Confessions because (quia) they correctly teach and con-
44 fess the doctrine found in the Holy Scriptures. I am also committed to pursuing and upholding
45 the historic practices of the Church that are in accord with the Scriptures and Confessions, and
46 reject all practices as are contrary to them or that would introduce false doctrine or beliefs into

1 our congregations. Faith requires that one's adherence to God's Word and Truth not be limited
2 to a paper confession, but that it be put into practice.
3

- 4 2. I would, by the grace of God, and to the best of my abilities, work diligently for the good of the
5 congregations of our District, for the spread of the Gospel among our people and communities,
6 and for faithfulness to Lutheran doctrine and practices. As a long time campus pastor who
7 works on a campus with both American and foreign students I would bring a love for faithful
8 mission work and for all who seek wisdom and truth.
9

10 **Rev. Steven J. Wheeler; Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina; Senior Pastor**
11 **9633 Xerxes Circle S, Bloomington**

12 Parish: I have served as the senior pastor at Cross View since 2004.

13 District: I have served on the Missions Board of the MN South District since 2016; I have served
14 as the chair of the Missions Board since I was elected to the MN South Board of direc-
15 tors; I was elected to the MNS Board of Directors at the 78th Convention of the MNS
16 District; I have served as the 4th Vice President of the MNS District since Brent Parish
17 was elected to the BOD at CSP.

18 Synod: I have served the LCMS as an associate pastor in Lakewood, CO from 1995-2004. I
19 have served at Cross View in Edina, MN from 2004 to the present.
20

- 21 1. I have a strong and unwavering commitment to the Word of God as set forth in the Lutheran
22 Confessions. I count it a true privilege and honor to serve our Lord and His church in the LCMS.
23
24 2. I prayerfully pledge to do my best with the gifts and abilities that God has entrusted to me to
25 provide leadership that is aligned and supports the clear teachings of God's Word and our Lu-
26 theran Confessions. With that said, I also prayerfully pledge to do my best to help our district to
27 carry out its mission to our churches, our community, and to the world around us as Christ sets
28 forth in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.
29

30 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III (elect one)**
31

32 **Rev. David C. Mumme; Trinity, Waterville; Sole Pastor**
33 **415 Lake Street W, Waterville**

34 Pastor: I served as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Marseilles, Illinois from 1997 until
35 2003. I have served as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Waterville, Minnesota
36 since 2003.

37 District: I have served two terms as a Vice President of the Minnesota South District, represent-
38 ing Region 3 (2015-2018, 2018-2022). As a Vice President I have had the privilege of
39 ordaining and installing pastors, of chairing a district floor committee, and of helping to
40 plan and chair district conferences. In 2009 served on the Nominations Committee for
41 the Minnesota South District Convention.

42 Synod: Three times I have served as a pastoral delegate to Synod Conventions (2001, 2016,
43 and 2019). In 2016 I served on one of the synod convention floor committees.
44

- 45 1. I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only in-
46 fallible rule of faith and practice. I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the
47 Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, because they are in accord with the Word of

1 God. I also reject all the errors they condemn. I believe and confess the Unaltered Augsburg
2 Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of
3 the Evangelical Lutheran Church. I believe and confess the Apology of the Augsburg Confes-
4 sion, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on
5 the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord to be in agreement with this
6 one scriptural faith.
7

- 8 2. I consider it a great honor and privilege to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. If
9 reelected, I will strive to carry out my duties and responsibilities faithfully for and on behalf of
10 my brothers and sisters in Christ in the Minnesota South District. As the sole pastor of a mid-
11 sized congregation in small-town Minnesota, I understand both the opportunities and the chal-
12 lenges that many of the congregations and pastors of our district face. With the strength God
13 provides, I will work with our District President, Vice Presidents, Board of Directors, Staff, and
14 Committees to strengthen our public witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our district and
15 world, to expand our opportunities to show Christ's love and mercy to those who are in need
16 locally and globally, and to strengthen our fellowship and life together in the Minnesota South
17 District.
18

19 **Rev. Nathaniel R. Schwartz; Trinity, Rochester; Senior Pastor**
20 **1010 Double Eagle Avenue SE, Rochester**

- 21 Pastor: Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN (2014-present)
22 Senior Pastor, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, Missouri (1994-2014)
23 Sole Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lexington, IL (1990-1994)
24 District: Member of District Missions Committee (2018 -present); Serving on organizing commit-
25 tee for Anywaa Lutheran Mission, Rochester/SE Minnesota (January 2022-present);
26 Two Churches - One Mission, serving Mount Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron, Minneso-
27 ta (2019 - present); Served on Circuit committee supporting People of the Book Luther-
28 an Outreach (POBLO) - Rochester (2016 -2020).
29 Synod: Regional Vice-President, English District (2009 -2014); Missions Committee Chairman,
30 English District (2012 -2014); St. Louis Circuit Counselor, English District (1999 -2009);
31 Delegate, Synodical Convention (1997).
32

- 33 1. At my ordination, I solemnly promised that I would perform the duties of the Office of the Holy
34 Ministry in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and that all my teaching
35 and my administration of the sacraments would be in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and
36 the Lutheran Confessions. I believe the Bible is the Word of God. It is the sole source and norm
37 of truth and the only guide for faith and life. I daily seek to keep those solemn vows.
38

39 I faithfully conduct my ministry in accordance with the doctrine and practice set forth by the
40 Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. I am committed to boldly proclaiming the truth of God's
41 Holy Word and partnering with the people of God in order to make an eternal difference in
42 people's lives for Jesus Christ. I am a Christ-centered, people-sensitive pastor. I strive to
43 properly divide Law and Gospel as I carry out ministry to the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.
44

- 45 2. As a Regional Vice-President I would encourage the pastors and congregations of the Minne-
46 sota South District to put aside negativity and discouragement concerning ministry in our in-
47 creasingly post-Christian culture. God's message to us is the same one he shared with Joshua,

1 **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your**
2 **God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9)**
3

4 It is time for all of our congregations to develop strategic ministry plans to move forward in in-
5 tentively seeking to reach our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is important for
6 more of our “thriving congregations” to come alongside struggling sister congregations and help
7 them identify community needs and discover new ways to effectively reach more of the
8 de-churched and unchurched with the Gospel. Many congregations in our district are struggling
9 as a result of the isolation caused by the pandemic, and need to refocus and be reenergized to
10 engage the community they serve for Christ and to reach growing numbers of inactive mem-
11 bers through Word and Sacrament ministry. This is the leadership I would seek to provide if
12 elected to serve as a Regional Vice-President. I am humbled and honored to have been nomi-
13 nated.
14

15 *The Convention Nominations Committee invites you to provide any additional information regarding your aptitude or*
16 *experience relative to this position.*
17

18 I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska in 1985,
19 received my Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1989, and my
20 Masters of Sacred Theology (STA1) from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1995. I served on
21 the Board of Directors of the English District in my role as Regional Vice President for five
22 years (2009-2014).
23

24 **Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath; Our Savior’s, Eyota; Pastor**
25 **237 Pearl Street S, Dover**

26 **Pastor:** I have been honored to serve in the following parish settings:

27 Pastor. Centennial Lutheran Church, Henderson MN. 1998-2004.

28 Vacancy pastor. St. John’s Lutheran Church, Arlington MN. 2001-2004.

29 Pastor. Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Eyota, MN. 2004 – Present.

30 I have also been blessed to enjoy the Lord’s blessings and labors in the following posi-
31 tions in the parish setting. Fire Department Chaplain, Henderson MN; Chamber of Com-
32 merce, Henderson MN; Lutherans for Life, Rochester Chapter (founding member); Fire
33 Department Chaplain, Eyota MN; Eyota Ambulance Department, member of the board
34 of directors; Pastoral Advisory Team. Rochester International Friendship Center.

35 **District:** I have also had the great privilege to serve in the following roles in our district: LWML
36 Regional Pastoral Counselor, Minnesota South District; LWML Board of Directors, Pas-
37 toral Counselor, Minnesota South District; LWML International Convention, District Pas-
38 toral Delegate; Minnesota South District LCMS, Mission Committee (member recording
39 secretary); Minnesota South District LCMS, Finance Committee (member, chair); Minne-
40 sota South District LCMS, Endowment Committee (member); Minnesota South District
41 LCMS, Board of Directors (regional ordained member); Minnesota South District LCMS,
42 Administration and Finance Convention Standing Committee (member, secretary); Camp
43 Omega Board of Directors (member, treasurer); I have also worked with many wonderful
44 souls for the establishment of an International Friendship Center in the Cities. To advo-
45 cate for this mission in our District, I serve on the POBLO International Board of Direc-
46 tors and its endowment committee.

47 **Synod:** I have had the great honor to serve in the following roles in our beloved synod: LCMS
48 Synodical Convention, Pastoral Delegate, Rochester Circuit; Special Synodical

1 Conference / Training: Lutheran Disaster Response, District Attendee and Representa-
2 tive; Special Synodical Conference / Training: Stewardship Advocacy, District Attendee
3 and Representative; Author for the LWML Quarterly and Portals of Prayer.
4

- 5 1. I boldly confess that the Word of God is the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God. I love,
6 embrace, boldly confess, and faithfully teach the Lutheran Confessions as true to the Word of
7 God.
8
- 9 2. In humility, we can acknowledge and praise the Triune Lord for the gifts that He has given us. I
10 am humbled to acknowledge that the Lord has given the gifts of leadership, team work, initiat-
11 ing new projects and managing them, administration, and effective counsel for difficult situa-
12 tions. I pray to be faithful with these talents until my faith becomes sight.
13

14 I have served on the Board of Director's for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach for over ten
15 years and have seen its ministries grow, flourish, and expand across the nation. We developed a
16 model to build relationships and trust. Within these walls, the Gospel, Word and Spirit were
17 shared. Consequently, faith was instilled, and many souls have been saved. I have been directly
18 involved in the start-up of new international friendship centers working with many pastors,
19 members, and congregations.
20

21 I have served on the District's mission committee and finance committees. I have been blessed
22 to see and to understand what is effective in mission with our current demographics and the
23 faithful use of district money. When Camp Omega was gifted their property from the District, I
24 embraced the challenge to help rewrite and revise the by-laws while working with others. I wel-
25 comed the challenge to work with others to help secure effective new leadership for a camp
26 that has a future with many and various opportunities.
27

28 In my parish, I loved the challenge to help the congregation build a new church when the old
29 building was a hindrance to His ministry. I worked with others to gather enough information
30 and resources for the congregation to achieve consensus without division.
31

32 I loved the opportunity to equip and involve new souls who might think the only gifts that they
33 have to offer Christ and His Church are financial. I love to bring them on board with common
34 goals, and then to equip and encourage them to be an active part of the outcome with my grati-
35 tude and continued support.
36

37 We have great challenges and we need not have a spirit of timidity. Minnesota has never been
38 more ethnically diverse, and we have many effective means for outreach that are proven effec-
39 tive without being high cost. We see a District that is cutting its mission budget. We can com-
40 municate more effectively and empower congregations to develop new ways to build relation-
41 ships with those in their community then to draw them into the life giving Word and Spirit. And
42 this need not involve raising a lot of money.
43

44 We see the lowest retention of children and youth in our Minnesota churches compared to any
45 other time, and it's getting worse. However, we have new ways to encourage retention as we
46 rely upon the Word and Spirit with parents and families included as "primary disciplers".
47

1 Many of our members and workers are discouraged, especially these last few years. We have
2 such an awesome privilege to encourage them, to lift them up, and to assist them. Parishes are
3 the front lines for effective service and the sharing the Word, not District or Synod. District and
4 Synod aren't going to personally serve your community or build relationships in your commu-
5 nity to bring them to Christ. We need to encourage and lovingly lift up those who are doing the
6 front line work, but are weary and worn in this fallen world, culture, and time.
7

8 Together, we can pray and seek answers to these challenges, see what works, refine the solu-
9 tions even more, and replicate the successes with those who are also affected by these chal-
10 lenges. This has been my experience and what I could bring to the table.
11

12 I love a challenge, because the Holy Father, Holy Son, and Holy Spirit are faithful and the Triune
13 Lord has always had a plan for this time and place to which He has called us. And He has called
14 us to be faithful.
15

16 **VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV (elect one)**

17
18 **Rev. Mark S. Loder; St. James Lutheran Church & School, Howard Lake; Pastor & School Administra-**
19 **tor; PO Box 680, Howard Lake**

20 Pastor: Senior Pastor and School Administrator.

21 District: I have served as Circuit Visitor for both Carver North and Litchfield circuits and currently
22 on the District Board of Directors.

23 Synod: I serve as a Synod Reconciler as well as on reconciliation teams with Ambassadors of
24 Reconciliation at various congregations in the Synod.
25

- 26 1. As I professed in my ordination vows, I believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and
27 New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and prac-
28 tice. I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds as faithful testimonies to the truth of
29 the Holy Scriptures, and reject all errors they condemn. Further, I preach, teach, and confess
30 the confessions of the Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord.
31
- 32 2. If elected to this office, I would expect to contribute faithful service to the district through bibli-
33 cal and confessional dialogue and decision making. I see a need within the Church to explore
34 and provide applicable dialogue upon topics that directly impact the challenges and joys of min-
35 istry. Certainly some issues may be difficult to address, but in faith we must do so that we may
36 continue to be a faithful church. At the heart of my service to the district is the question, "What
37 makes us who we are? What does it mean to be Lutheran? What does it mean to be faithful?"
38 We've got a rich history that answers such. Let's stand on it!
39

40 **Rev. Eric M. Nelson; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie; Minister**
41 **118 Maple Street N., PO Box 902, Lester Prairie**

42 Pastor: I have served as the pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran since July of 2004

43 District: District Convention Floor Committee; Nominations Committee; LWML District Counsel-
44 or

45 Synod: Pastoral Delegate to the 2010 Convention of Synod
46

- 1 1. I firmly believe that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. Its central message is
2 the salvation for sinners by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. As the Word of God, it serves as the
3 rule and norm for doctrine and practice. I am also firmly committed to the Lutheran Confessions
4 because they are a faithful and true exposition of the Word of God. Centered on Christ, the Lu-
5 theran Confession provide a clear and reliable explanation of what I am to teach, believe, and
6 confess.
7
- 8 2. I would use the gifts, experiences, and abilities God has given to me to work with the Board of
9 Directors and faithfully serve the District. With the help of God, I would support the congrega-
10 tions; schools, and organizations of the Minnesota South District in their work to shine the light
11 of the Gospel. This light of truth, mercy, love, and forgiveness is what a world lost in darkness
12 needs. Our society is plagued by emptiness, depression, anxiety, loneliness, broken homes, and
13 a lack of true meaning. It has no answer to the fundamental questions of life. It leaves truth up
14 for grabs. It can't even provide an identity. Because we proclaim Christ, we have answers. We
15 have truth. We have an identity. I would work so that our District would continue to be a bold
16 witness for our Lord.
17

18 **DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one)**

20 **Rev. Keith H. Grimm; Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake; Senior Pastor** 21 **15384 Wintergreen Street NW, Andover**

- 22 Pastor: I served as Pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Watertown, Minnesota, from June
23 1991 to April 1999. I served as Senior Pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in
24 La Vista, Nebraska, from April 1999 through June 2015. I am currently serving as Senior
25 Pastor of Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Ham Lake, Minnesota since June 2015. I
26 have served in pastoral ministry for 31 years.
- 27 District: I served as the devotional leader for the Minnesota South District Pastors Conference in
28 October 2016. I currently lead a District Pastors Learning Community since 2018. I cur-
29 rently serve as the District Secretary (elected June 2018) and chair the District Pre-Semi-
30 nary Interview Committee.
- 31 Synod: I was the national pastoral advisor for the International Lutheran Laymen's League
32 (2008-2012). I served on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Nebraska (Sep-
33 tember 2010 through June 2018). I currently serve as a mentor for participants in Pasto-
34 ral Leadership Institute (PLI) since 2014.
35

- 36 1. At my ordination I took an oath to uphold and defend my commitment to the doctrine and
37 practice of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I believe the Old and New Testaments to be
38 the inspired and inerrant Word of God. I believe the Lutheran Confessions are also in full agree-
39 ment with this one scriptural faith. I perform my daily pastoral duties in full accordance with
40 them.
41
- 42 2. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the Lord and the people of the Minnesota South
43 District as Secretary for the past four years. I have experience and wisdom in the areas of ad-
44 ministration, leadership, missions and stewardship. I have served on several Synod, District and
45 community boards throughout my ministry. I enjoy working with teams in carrying out Christ's
46 mission and serving for God's glory.
47

1 **Rev. Matthew P. Johnson; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Corcoran; Associate Pastor**
2 **9139 Brockton Lane, Hamel**
3

4 Pastor: I have been an assistant/associate pastor at St. John's as my first call out of the seminary
5 beginning June of 2003. Within that role I have coordinated Sunday School, acolytes,
6 processional, junior high youth, and our congregation's 150th Anniversary Committee.
7 District: I was appointed to complete a term on the LWML MN South district board of directors.
8 Within that role I was appointed to their mission committee overseeing grant requests
9 for consideration at the LWML district convention. Over the last seven years - a bonus
10 Covid year - I have served our circuit as circuit visitor and have been privileged to work
11 with eight call committees, seeking to represent my brother pastors, and further the
12 unity of doctrine and practice in our area.
13 Synod: Though I have not served the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod I have been involved
14 with a Recognized Service Organization of the Synod founded within our own district,
15 Wittenberg Academy, currently as board chairman. We are an accredited online classical
16 and confessional Lutheran high school.
17

- 18 1. The lifelong training I have received in these God-given authorities within the life of various
19 Synod congregations, Lutheran grade school, high school, Concordia University (Seward), Con-
20 cordia Theological Seminary (Ft. Wayne), and Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) I value highly. In-
21 struction and guidance in the way of truth makes for godly concord when it originates from the
22 divine source and norm and the unassailable Symbols of the Lutheran Church. The key, how-
23 ever, that I have found in nineteen years of ministry and teaching, comes in the actual use and
24 constant application of these treasures. I am willing to be corrected - and to correct others - on
25 the basis of these norms. I would think that this forthright biblical/confessional mindset is like-
26 wise vital for ecclesiastical leadership and is, in fact, the first order of business that informs and
27 permeates the spiritual and temporal decisions that are made on behalf of the district.
28
- 29 2. The elected position that I have not sought, but have nevertheless been nominated for, is that
30 of district secretary. I would expect of myself collegiality in working with the other elected of-
31 ficers of the district, including the Presidium and other members of the Board of Directors. My
32 contribution, in light of my role, would be to foster clarity of communication and helpful distri-
33 bution of information among district leadership and from them out into the entire district with
34 its various entities of congregations, schools, church workers, lay leaders, and other supportive
35 organizations.
36
37

38 **District Board of Directors**

39 **ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I (elect one)**

40 **Rev. Christopher P. Horton; St. John Lutheran Church, Rosemount; Pastor**
41 **14385 Blaine Avenue E, Rosemount**

42 Pastor:

43 District:

44 Synod: I have served simply as a parish pastor, who seeks to preach and teach faithfully to the
45 young and older so that we may continue to walk together rejoicing in the gospel.
46
47

1 1. So that I may not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine, I hold to the prophetic and apos-
2 tolic scriptures as the true, inerrant, authoritative word of God, which is the only hope for sin-
3 ners.
4

5 So that this hope may not be clouded, I further hold the Lutheran symbols in the Book
6 of Concord to be faithfully drawn from these scriptures and therefore a true and correct
7 exposition of God's word.
8

9 2. In 2015 when my name was put forward I said that I had no grand vision or hopes of what I
10 might contribute, and that continues to be true. I do not seek the position because I want to do
11 something with it. I desire simply to do the job faithfully and diligently if I am elected to serve.
12 The officers of the District bear a great and serious responsibility on behalf of the congregations
13 of this district. There are tremendous and exciting opportunities, but also serious challenges that
14 our brothers and sisters in Christ face. Deliberating about these challenges and opportunities re-
15 quires both energy and sober reflection. Nevertheless, Jesus will provide for His church. There is
16 nothing that I would bring that He wouldn't provide through someone else.
17

18 **Rev. Kurt R. Klaus; Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville; Senior Pastor**
19 **18125 Dunbury Avenue, Farmington**

20 Pastor: I have served as:

- 21 - Mission Pastor at Child of God Lutheran Church and School in St. Peters, MO
- 22 - Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church and School in Mounds View, MN
- 23 - Senior Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN (current)

24 District: Previously I have served as a Missional Learning Group Facilitator for the MN South
25 District and as a member of the District Convention's Nominations Committee.
26 I am currently serving as a member of the Schools and Commissioned Minister's Board
27 and as the Circuit Visitor of the South East Suburban Circuit.

28 Synod: - Served as a Lutheran middle school and high school teacher at Orlando Lutheran
29 Academy, Orlando FL.
30 - Authored and presented CPH's first video Bible study series, "Engage."
31 - Presented the Lutheran Hour Ministries video Bible studies, "Facing Disaster Like A
32 Man" and "Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood."
33 - It has also been my privilege to have served as Chaplain to the O'Fallon, MO Police
34 Dept., as an LWML Zone Pastoral Advisor, and as the MN South LLL Pastoral Adviser.
35

36 1. We live in a time of history where truth is seen as relative and constantly changing. In the midst
37 of all that uncertainty, Scripture is the unwavering source of truth. It says who we are and
38 where we came from. It is the norm of our lives and our behavior, but most importantly, from
39 beginning to end, it points to our sinful condition and to the Savior who rescued us from that
40 sin. That is why I believe and teach that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the
41 source of doctrine in the church. I also believe that the Confessions are a true and correct expo-
42 sition of God's Word. Ideas, preachers, and trends may come and go, but God's word remains
43 true and trustworthy forever.
44

45 2. The Lord has blessed me with certain gifts and abilities and He has called me to use them to His
46 glory, the service of the church and to help my fellow neighbor. That is why, if elected, I plan to
47 continue to use those gifts to bless, uplift and encourage those I serve.

1 **ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II (elect one)**

2 Open

3
4 **ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III (elect one)**

5
6 **Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.; Messiah & Grace Lutheran Churches, LaCrescent; Pastor**
7 **806 Cedar Drive, Unit A, LaCrescent**
8

9 Pastor: Pastor, OGT, LLL

10 District: New to MN in 2019 so I have only represented the congregations I serve at confer-
11 ences.

12 Synod: Ordained in 1994 in Iowa East, Served in South Wisconsin 2000-2019 including 1 term
13 on the BoD and 3 terms as a vice-president
14

- 15 1. The Word of God is inerrant, infallible and the highest authority since God cannot lie. It is our
16 guide in all matters of life and faith.
17
18 2. Having experience on another BoD in nearby Wisconsin and being new to our District, I would
19 bring a fresh perspective and a voice of reason in service to our Lord and our congregations.
20

21 **Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota**
22 **237 Pearl Street S, Dover**

23 Pastor: I have been honored to serve in the following parish settings:

24 Pastor. Centennial Lutheran Church, Henderson MN. 1998-2004.

25 Vacancy pastor. St. John's Lutheran Church, Arlington MN. 2001-2004.

26 Pastor. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota, MN. 2004 - Present.

27 I have also been blessed to enjoy the Lord's blessings and labors in the following
28 positions in the parish setting.

29 - Fire Department Chaplin, Henderson MN.

30 - Chamber of Commerce, Henderson MN.

31 - Lutherans for Life, Rochester Chapter (founding member).

32 - Fire Department Chaplin, Eyota MN.

33 - Eyota Ambulance Department, member of the board of directors.

34 - Pastoral Advisory Team. Rochester International Friendship Center.

35 District: I have also had the great privilege to serve in the following roles in our district:

36 - LWML Regional Pastoral Counselor, Minnesota South District.

37 - LWML Board of Directors, Pastoral Counselor, Minnesota South District.

38 - L WML International Convention, District Pastoral Delegate.

39 - Minnesota South District LCMS, Mission Committee (member, recording secretary).

40 - Minnesota South District LCMS, Finance Committee (member, chair).

41 - Minnesota South District LCMS, Endowment Committee (member).

42 - Minnesota South District LCMS, Board of Directors (regional ordained member).

43 - Minnesota South District LCMS, Administration and Finance Convention Standing
44 Committee (member, secretary).

45 - Camp Omega Board of Directors (member, treasurer).

46 I have also worked with many wonderful souls for the establishment of an International

1 Friendship Center in the Cities. To advocate for this mission in our District, I serve on
2 the POBLO International Board of Directors and its endowment committee.

3 Synod: I have had the great honor to serve in the following roles in our beloved synod:

4 - LCMS Synodical Convention, Pastoral Delegate, Rochester Circuit.

5 - Special Synodical Conference / Training: Lutheran Disaster Response, District Attendee
6 and Representative.

7 - Special Synodical Conference / Training: Stewardship Advocacy, District Attendee and
8 Representative.

9 - Author for the L WML Quarterly and Portals of Prayer.

- 10
- 11 1. I boldly confess that the Word of God is the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God. I love,
12 embrace, boldly confess, and faithfully teach the Lutheran Confessions as faithful, true, and as a
13 great treasure for the Church and the world.
14
 - 15 2. In humility, we can acknowledge and praise the Triune Lord for the gifts that He has given us. I
16 am humbled to acknowledge that the Lord has given myself the gifts of communication, leader-
17 ship, teamwork, initiating new projects, administration, and effective counsel for difficult situa-
18 tions. I pray to be faithful with these talents until my faith becomes sight.
19

20 I have served on the Board of Director's for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach for fifteen
21 years and have seen its ministries grow, flourish, and expand across the nation. I worked with
22 international friendship centers to develop a successful model to build relationships and trust.
23 Within these walls, the Gospel, Word and Spirit are shared, faith is instilled, and many souls are
24 being saved. I have been directly involved to start up new international friendship centers
25 working with many pastors, members, and congregations here in Minnesota and Ohio. While
26 many think we need to shrink the missions budget, I know many people will support effective
27 missions that actually bring Muslims and internationals to the font and then become active and
28 zealous witnesses in our LC-MS congregations.
29

30 When Camp Omega was gifted their property from the District, I loved the challenge to help
31 rewrite and revise the by-laws. I embraced the challenge to help to secure effective new leader-
32 ship for the board of directors. And again, I embrace the upcoming opportunities to promote
33 the new retreat center.
34

35 In my parish, I embraced the challenge to help the congregation build a new church when the
36 old building was a hindrance to our ministry. I loved working with others to gather enough in-
37 formation for the congregation to achieve overwhelming consensus without division.
38

39 I loved the opportunity to equip and involve new souls who only think the only gifts that they
40 have to offer Christ and His Church are financial. I love to bring them on board with common
41 visions and goals and then to equip and encourage them to be an active part of the outcome
42 with my gratitude and continued support. This has been realized at a congregation level with
43 outstanding programs and the international friendship centers. We are at a point of great chal-
44 lenges. Minnesota has never been more ethnically diverse, AND we have many effective means
45 of outreach that are proven effective without being high cost. We see a District that is cutting
46 its mission budget, but we can communicate more effectively and empower congregations to
47 develop new ways to build relationships with those in their community and then to draw them

1 into the life-giving Word and Spirit. And this need not involve raising a lot of money. We see
2 the lowest retention of children and youth in our Minnesota churches compared to any other
3 time, and it's getting worse. However, we have new ways to encourage retention relying on the
4 Word and Spirit with parents and families included as primary disciplers. I have created a work-
5 book that equips parents and children to be in the Word together praying over it. And this has
6 had success to garner greater retention of youth with an emphasis on continued fellowship
7 with other believers in the Word. And our members and workers are discouraged, especially
8 these last few years. We have such an awesome privilege to encourage them, to lift them up,
9 and to assist them. Parishes are the front lines for effective service and sharing the Word, not
10 District or Synod. District and Synod aren't going to invite your community to your church and
11 build relationships with them. All the more we need to encourage and lovingly lift up those who
12 are doing the effective work, but are weary and worn in this fallen world, culture, and time.
13

14 Together, we can pray and seek answers to the challenges, see what works, refine it even more,
15 and replicate the successes with those also affected by these challenges. I love a challenge, be-
16 cause our Triune Lord is faithful and He has always had a plan for this time and this place to
17 which we are called.
18

19 **Rev. Loel A. Wessel; First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, Pastor**
20 **503 West Fremont Street, Spring Valley**

21 **Pastor:** Associate Pastor (St. John - Corcoran, 1993-2002); Sole Pastor (Zion - St. Francis - MNN
22 District, 2002-2005); Sole Pastor (Zion - St. Francis - MNN District, 2002-2005)
23 **District:** Circuit Counselor/Visitor (Hennepin North 2000-2001, Austin 2014-2018); Ministerial
24 Health Committee (2006-2009, 2012-2015); Nominations Committee chairman (2018
25 District convention); Board of Directors (2018-present), Missions Committee (2018-pre-
26 sent); Pastoral Counselor for MNS District LWML (2014-2018)
27 **Synod:** Convention Delegate (St. Louis 1998, Houston 2010); Hymnal Introduction Workshop
28 Leader (Winona, Bloomington, Faribault), 2006
29

- 30
- 31 1. In my ordination vows I promised that all my preaching, teaching, and administration of the Sac-
32 raments will be in conformity with Holy Scriptures and these Confessions and that, the Lord
33 helping me, I will honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life. God has
34 blessed and God has been merciful to me, a sinner. By the grace of God, through His Word and
35 Spirit, I will continue to be faithful to Christ and His Church in the holy office which has been
36 entrusted to me.
 - 37 2. The Minnesota South District has been my home for over 55 years. I've lived and worked in
38 three of the four regions of our District. I'm acquainted with the work of our church in rural,
39 small town, suburban, and urban Minnesota. I bring this big-picture view to the table. In my de-
40 cision-making I seek to unite our District in both the confession and the mission to which Christ
41 has called us: "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the
42 dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all na-
43 tions, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)
44
45
46
47

1 **ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV (elect one)**

2
3 **Rev. Eric M. Nelson; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie,**
4 **118 Maple Street N, Lester Prairie**

5 Pastor: I have served as the pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran since July of 2004 District:
6 District Convention Floor Committee; Nominations Committee; LWML District Counselor.
7

8 Synod: Pastoral Delegate to the 2010 Convention of Synod
9

- 10 1. I firmly believe that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. Its central message is
11 the salvation for sinners by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. As the Word of God, it serves as the
12 rule and norm for doctrine and practice. I am also firmly committed to the Lutheran Confessions
13 because they are a faithful and true exposition of the Word of God. Centered on Christ, the Lu-
14 theran Confession provide a clear and reliable explanation of what I am to teach, believe, and
15 confess.
16
- 17 2. I would use the gifts, experiences, and abilities God has given to me to work with the Board of
18 Directors and faithfully serve the District. With the help of God, I would support the congrega-
19 tions, schools, and organizations of the Minnesota South District in their work to shine the light
20 of the Gospel. This light of truth, mercy, love, and forgiveness is what a world lost in darkness
21 needs. Our society is plagued by emptiness, depression, anxiety, loneliness, broken homes, and
22 a lack of true meaning. It has no answers for the fundamental questions of life. It leaves truth
23 up for grabs. It can't even provide an identity. Because we proclaim Christ, we have answers.
24 We have truth. We have an identity. I would work so that our District would continue to be a
25 bold witness for our Lord.
26

27 **COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)**

28
29 **Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich; Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville; Director of Christian Education**
30 **16254 Harvard Drive, Lakeville**

31 Parish: Boys Football Coach and Girls Basketball Coach-St. Paul Lutheran Napoleon, Ohio;
32 Director of Christian Education at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio;
33 Director of Christian Education at Messiah Lutheran, Lakeville, MN; Congregational
34 Thrivent Representative

35 District: 2012 District Nomination Committee Chairman

36 Synod: Ohio District Youth Board (2000-2006) Ohio District Board of Directors (2003-2006);
37 Concordia St. Paul Board of Regents (01-07), Chair (07) CSP Council of President Repre-
38 sentative; Concordia St. Paul Advancement Team (07-10); 2022 National Youth Gather-
39 ing Planner
40

- 41 1. I believe that the Word of God is the true and inerrant word of God. I acknowledge the teach-
42 ings of the Lutheran Confessions as the true exposition of the teaching of God in the Holy
43 Scriptures.
44
- 45 2. The District's mission is to "cultivate leaders". As one who serves and teaches children and
46 youth, this is the end goal-to raise up and cultivate leaders. As a board member, I will use my
47 gifts of leadership, administration and stewardship to carry out the Districts mission to all ages.

1 I would enjoy working with the team in carrying out Christ's mission and serving for God's
2 glory.
3

4 **Mr. Joel Landskroener; St. John's Lutheran Church, Chaska; Executive Director**
5 **5188 Prairie Point, Mayer**
6

7 Parish: Executive Director of Mayer Lutheran High School; Bible Study Teacher; Confirmation
8 Class Teacher

9 District: Member of the Board of Directors; Member of the Nominations Committee; Member
10 and Chair of Commissioned Ministers Committee

11 Synod:
12

- 13 1. I fully endorse the Lutheran Confessions as a true articulation of the teaching of Scripture.
- 14
- 15 2. I plan to continue to serve our District in any way possible as a member of various boards and
16 committees, a school leader, and as an advocate for the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever I am
17 blessed to live and serve.
18

19 **LAY, EAST METRO NORTH (elect one)**

20 Open
21

22 **LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH (elect one)**

23 Open
24

25 **LAY, WEST METRO EAST (elect one)**

26 Open
27

28 **LAY, WEST METRO WEST (elect one)**

29 Open
30

31 **LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)**
32

33 **Mrs. Sara Sorenson; Immanuel Lutheran Church – Hay Creek, Red Wing; Organist, Choir Director,**
34 **piano/violin/organ private teacher**
35 **24686 Old Church Road, Red Wing**
36

37 Parish: I am the organist and choir director for my congregation. I direct three choirs: an adult
38 vocal choir, an adult handbell choir, and a children's chime choir. I am also the Women's
39 Bible study leader. Up until recently I have also been the church janitor. I have been a
40 chaperone for the high school youth group trip. I have also taught Sunday School in the
41 past.

42 District: I have served two terms on the Minnesota South District Board of Directors. I am cur-
43 rently serving on the Ministerial Health Committee.

44 Synod: I once was a lay delegate at the National Convention. I also represented the MN South
45 District at an LCMS national convention on church music.
46

- 1 1. I believe that the Bible is the true, inerrant Word of God. I am convinced that all people are
2 born in sin, and it is impossible for any person to be worthy of salvation. I believe that God sent
3 His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for sin on our behalf and through His death and
4 resurrection, declare us righteous before God the Father. I believe that the truth of the Word
5 must be upheld even when it is hard for us to understand or is contrary to the view of the
6 world. I believe that the Lutheran Confessions accurately teach the Word of God. Therefore, I
7 uphold the Lutheran Confessions as authoritative and useful to guide our actions in all our af-
8 fairs.
9
- 10 2. Keeping in mind the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, I would be able to thought-
11 fully consider all decisions brought forth to the Minnesota South District Board of Directors. I
12 would be able offer my experience as a church musician and lay member of a rural congrega-
13 tion.
14

15 **LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)**

16 Open
17

18 **LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST (elect one)**

19
20 **Mr. David Koosman; Bethlehem Lutheran, Annandale; Adjunct Instructor for St. Cloud State**
21 **University, Graduate Program in MTQ**
22 **249 County Road 6 SW, Annandale**
23

- 24 Parish: I have served as the congregation President, Elder, Sunday School Teacher, Adult Bible
25 Study teacher.
26 District: Circuit Representative for the District Conventions, and Circuit rep for Synodical con-
27 vention. I also chaired a circuit team that organized a one day Large Catechism study for
28 the circuit membership
29 Synod: (See above)
30

- 31 1. My commitment to Christ is solely thru the teaching of the 66 canonical books. I also believe
32 the Augsburg Confessions and Luther's Small catechism are true and accurate to the 66 books.
33 My faith, my confessions, my desires is for a true and accurate accounting to the Scriptures.
34
- 35 2. I expect myself to be involved enough to understand the challenges facing us both old and new.
36 I also expect that I will share what I have heard, and what I believe are true to the Scriptural and
37 Doctrinal teachings of the LCMS.
38

39 **LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST (elect one)**

40 Open
41
42
43
44
45

Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect one)

**Rev. Jeremiah D. Johnson; Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth; Pastor
9706 Lily Pond Lane, Corcoran**

Parish: Pastor

District: MNS District Nominations Committee; CSP Board of Regents

Synod: LWML zone counselor; Regular guest on KFUE's Sharper Iron.

1. I can hardly do better than what I pledged to in my ordination vows: I believe the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the sole rule and norm of all doctrine.
2. Higher education has become an increasingly difficult space for Christians to operate. I hope to aid Concordia, St. Paul in navigating the issues and challenges of being a Christian university in a post-Christian world. I also expect to use my wide variety of personal experience to continue to ask questions and assist the administration in thinking about what it means to be a University associated with the Missouri Synod.

**Rev. William H. Otte; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester; Pastor
909 18th Avenue NE, Rochester**

Parish: I have served as Associate Pastor or Senior Pastor in a number of congregations, including three in the Minnesota South District (St. Matthew, Columbia Heights; Trinity, Hudson WI; and Trinity Rochester)

District: I have served in the Minnesota South District as Circuit (Counselor) Visitor for 12 years; I served on the Minnesota South Worship Committee for a number of years while it existed, I served as District Secretary of the Minnesota South District for 9 years; I served on the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul for one year.

Synod: I served as a Circuit Visitor for 12 years (see above) and served on the LCMS Commission on Worship for 12 years, three as Chairman of the Commission and 6 as secretary of the Commission. I have also served on the Board of Regents of Concordia University St. Paul for one year.

1. I believe that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God without error, and they are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. I believe that the Lutheran Confessions are in agreement with the inspired Word of God.
2. I expect to use the gifts and experience with which I have been blessed in 40 years of pastoral ministry to give honor and glory to God, and to serve to strengthen the educational ministry of Concordia University St Paul to provide qualified workers in the Church and well-grounded citizens by means of the faithful Christian education provided by Concordia University St. Paul.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)

Open

1 **LAY MEMBER (elect two)**
2

3 **Mr. James Anderson; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake; Information Technology**
4 **5497 Crossandra Street SE, Prior Lake**

5 Parish: Vice-chairman, Board of Elders, Board of Education, Board of Trustees; Technology &
6 Communications Committee, Safety & Security Committee, Worship Committee.
7 Communion preparation; Pipe organ acquisition and installation.

8 District: Minnesota South District Convention Congregational Lay Delegate: 2006, 2009, 2012,
9 2015, 2018; Camp Omega Capital Campaign Congregational Coordinator; Board of
10 Regents - Concordia University, St. Paul: 2018 - Present.

11 Synod: Synodical Convention Circuit Lay Delegate: 2010, 2016; National Youth Gathering
12 Community Life Builder 2016, 2019.

- 13 1. We, as sinners are justified by grace alone through faith alone for the sake of Christ alone with
14 the source of Truth revealed to us in Scripture alone. I accept all of Scripture as the inspired and
15 inerrant Word of God. All Scripture bears witness to Jesus Christ to make us wise unto salva-
16 tion through faith in Him.
17
- 18 2. I enjoy helping to coordinate gathering the needs of an objective with the resources to carry
19 out that objective. In my daily work I take the big picture and break it down into components
20 that can be delegated to people who are experts in their field. I occasionally dream up the big
21 plans but mostly I have the patience to work on the small details.
22

23 I serve on CSP's academic committee and also on a program advisory committee for a Minne-
24 sota state college. I would continue to keep good relationships and articulation agreements in
25 place, partner with potential employers for graduates, and encourage faithful stewardship of
26 God's resources at the university.
27

28 **Mrs. Rosa Summers; Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth; Attorney**
29 **10408 Zion Avenue S, Bloomington**

30 Parish: I have served as the Nurture Chair (responsibilities included organizing the Sunday
31 School Program, Vacation Bible School and a monthly Bible study) and as a Sunday
32 School Teacher. I have also provided a legal perspective on various matters on an as
33 requested basis.

34 District: Yes, I currently serve on the Board of Directors (2012-present) and the Constitution
35 Committee of the MNS (2012-present). Prior to that, I served on the 2009 Campus
36 Property Task Force of the MNS.

37 Synod: N/A
38

- 39 1. I believe that the Bible is the true Word of God and the guide for our faith. The Confessions of
40 the Lutheran Church are a faithful written description of what the Bible teaches. We are to live
41 our lives in the Word as directed by the Bible teachings and as the Confessions expose.
42
- 43 2. I have been a long time follower and supporter of Concordia Saint Paul as it is my sister's alma
44 mater. I experienced the campus as a regular student visitor while I was in law school and have
45 followed its continued growth closely as both a friend and as a member of the MNS Board of
46 Directors. College is a unique moment in life when individuals spread their wings; develop and
47 test leadership skills; and make critical decisions for the trajectory of their lives, careers, and

ultimately their families. CSP has an influential and pivotal role to play in the development of our future community and church leaders. I have been a committed member of the MNS Board of Directors devoted to its purpose and our shared faith as outlined in the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions. I look forward to an opportunity to serve CSP in the same manner leveraging my experience within the MNS and my unique perspective and experience as an attorney.

**Mrs. Lori L. Utech; Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford; Family Physician
3678 120th Court W, Faribault**

Parish: Organist; Confirmation mentor for 6-8 girls/yr for 4 yrs.; Sunday School teacher; Co-led a womans Bible study for 12 yrs.; Small group Bible study member for 26 yrs.
District: Hosted visiting pastors/speakers in our home; Hosted and supported MnS District staff & employees.
Synod: Personal physician for multiple LCMS persons; Regent for Concordia University St. Paul from 2007-2016; 35 other leadership positions; Founder & Medical Director of a free medical clinic "Healing Grace" in Eureka Mo; Lead physician in my office Westglen Family Physicians in Ellisville MO; Volunteer Medical director of Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center in Burnsville MN 2018 to present; Member of the Christian Medical & Dental Society for 25 yrs.

1. I was raised in a Christian home by God fearing parents. I have been a member of the Lutheran church my entire life. I live my life by the Small Catechism. I treasure God's Holy Word, I believe true wisdom & truth are embodied in it.
2. As a previous CSP Board member, I am aware of the preparation involved prior to Board meetings & the duties involved which I am willing to do again. I believe in equipping all students to be excellent in their careers and witnesses to Christ in the world. I am passionate that our Concordias continue to provide a solid Christian foundation to those who attend in a relevant context to a changing world.

I have experience in running a business & managing people. I spend my office days listening to people, compiling & testing facts & finding truth.

2025 District Nominations Committee

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)

**Rev. Kyle D. Krueger; Glory of Christ Lutheran Church; Plymouth; Pastor
9656 Winslow Chase; Maple Grove**

Parish: Pastor
District: This will be my first official opportunity to serve the District.
Synod: Yes. Six years as Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church "Soest" in Fort Wayne, IN. Current position as Associate Pastor at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church Plymouth, MN for six years.

1. I believe and confess that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. I confess the Lutheran

1 confessions to be a true exposition of the Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doc-
2 trine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
3

4 2. I desire to fulfill my assigned duties to the best of my God given abilities.
5

6 **Rev. Eric Nelson; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie; Pastor**
7 **118 Maple Street N, Lester Prairie**

8 Parish: I have served as the pastor of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran since July of 2004.

9 District: District Convention Floor Committee; Nominations Committee; LWML District Counse-
10 lor

11 Synod: Pastoral Delegate to the 2010 Convention of Synod
12

- 13 1. I firmly believe that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. Its central message is
14 the salvation for sinners by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. As the Word of God, it serves as the
15 rule and norm for doctrine and practice. I am also firmly committed to the Lutheran Confessions
16 because they are a faithful and true exposition of the Word of God. Centered on Christ, the Lu-
17 theran Confession provide a clear and reliable explanation of what I am to teach, believe, and
18 confess.
19
- 20 2. Using the gifts, experiences, and abilities God has given me, I would work with the other mem-
21 bers of the Nominations Committee to find capable people who are faithful to the doctrines of
22 our church and humble servants of our Lord.
23

24 **Rev. Jon Niebuhr; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe; Sole Pastor**
25 **1407 Cedar Avenue N, Glencoe**

26 Parish: Sole Pastor; Ad Hoc member of all Boards and Committees.

27 District: Former member of the Disaster Planning Committee; Former member of the Board of
28 Directors for Camp Omega

29 Synod: Former member of the Disaster Planning Committee
30

- 31 1. As the Lutheran Confessions are drawn from Holy Scripture, and are a correct and concise ex-
32 planation of our beliefs as they pertain to Word and Sacrament Ministry, I am committed to
33 their preaching and teaching. I am committed to preaching and teaching God's Word, as set be-
34 fore us in the Scriptures, in both Law and Gospel. It is only in the correct preaching and teach-
35 ing of God's Word that we can find the norms and examples for our everyday life in this broken
36 and sinful world.
37
- 38 2. As a lifelong Christian, I have a passion for the love of Jesus and sharing that love with others
39 around me. As a 3rd career Pastor, I have an intricate knowledge of the stresses and challenges
40 that confront our parishioners in the everyday lives. As a former Elder in an LCMS Congrega-
41 tion, I have learned the stresses and challenges that lie on both sides of the issues that arise in a
42 congregation. I believe that I have an open mind and have a unique perspective that will help
43 me in dealing with the different personalities and challenges that arise on the Nomination Com-
44 mittee.
45

46 **COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)**

47 Open

1 **LAY MEMBER (elect four)**
2

3 **Mr. David Koosman; Bethlehem Lutheran, Annandale; Adjunct Instructor for St. Cloud State Univer-**
4 **sity, Graduate Program in MTQ**
5 **249 County Road 6 SW, Annandale**

6 Parish: Adult Bible Study Instructor; Lay delegate for district and synod conventions
7 District: (See above); I also served as a committee chair for a circuit study of Luther's Large
8 Catechism
9 Synod: (See above)

- 10
11 1. My commitment to Christ is solely thru the teaching of the 66 canonical books. I also believe
12 the Augsburg Confessions and Luther's Small catechism are true and accurate to the 66 books.
13 My faith, my confessions, my desires is for a true and accurate accounting to the Scriptures.
14
15 2. To aid and assist in whatever position I am in to continue to guide Synod, District, Circuit, and
16 our congregation in staying true in its teaching and administration of the Sacraments.
17

18 **Mr. Glen Meints; University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis; Tax Return Preparer**
19 **962 West California, St. Paul**

20 Parish: Usher, President, Elder, Fellowship Committee Chairman, Call Committee, Deacon,
21 Anniversary Committees, Board of Properties, Choir, Worship Committee Chairman,
22 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Board of Finance, Stewardship, Forward in Remem-
23 brance, Teaching (youth and adult), Board of Youth, Evangelism, VBS
24 District: MNS District Convention Delegate, 1985, '91, '97, 2003, '15, '21; MNS Board of Direc-
25 tors, 2003-09; MNS Finance Committee, 2003-09; MNS Nominations Committee Chair-
26 man, 1999-2000 & 2005-06
27 Synod: Synod Nominations Committee, 1997-98
28

- 29 1. I believe that the Bible is the true, inspired, inerrant Word of God. I believe that it is the only
30 source and norm for our lives. I believe that it "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correc-
31 tion, for instruction in righteousness." I believe that the Gospel of Christ "is the power of God
32 unto salvation to everyone that believeth." I believe that the Lutheran Confessions as set forth
33 in the Book of Concord are a true and correct exposition of the Word of God.
34
35 2. If elected I would strive, with the help of God, to serve Christ and His church in faithfulness to
36 His Word and to the best of my ability. I believe that my past experiences serving on MNS
37 nominations committees and my knowledge of and acquaintance with others throughout the
38 district would allow me to serve effectively in this position.
39

40 **Mr. Bill Summers; Glory of Christ, Plymouth; Sales**
41 **10408 Zion Avenue S, Bloomington**

42 Parish: Elder and New Building Committee Member at University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis,
43 MN
44 District: N/A
45 Synod: N/A
46

1. The Confessions of the Lutheran Church are a steadfast written description of the Bible, which is the word of God and a framework of how a faithful member should live all aspects of their life. I will continue to be committed to following what is written and taught through God's Word. I will ensure my children learn of God's Word and I will use that guidance to raise the next generation of God's followers in the Lutheran Church.
2. As a member of the Nominations Committee, it is our responsibility to identify quality candidates for important roles within the district. I would not take this responsibility lightly. I talk to people for a living and have no reservations about walking up to anyone and striking up a conversation. Through discussion and listening to people, you learn things, make friends, share interests, and in the end, can find undiscovered talents which make a good candidate for serving in important roles within the district and to gauge interest while encouraging to serve it is God's will. My personal plan would be to begin this process on day 1, if nominated. The earlier you start, the more time you have to find the very best individuals within our district to serve. I can then present a list of several solid candidates for each role in approaching the next convention. I am known as someone that is faithful, determined, organized, hard-working, persuasive, honest and does not let up until the goal is accomplished with strong results. I plan to use those skills to make a positive impact in the role while serving the District.

Synod Nominations Committee

Mr. Dave E. Kenow; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna; 1515 Truman Avenue SE, Owatonna

- Parish: I have served as usher, worship assistant, choir member, confirmation instruction, monitored handicap confirmation student and served on various committees.
- District: I have served as congregational lay representative to LCMS So MN District Convention in 2013, 2015, and 2018. I have served on the MN South District Board of Directors for the period of 2018 to the present as lay delegate from Region 3, SE MN West. I have been selected to serve as congregational lay representative for the 2022 District Convention.
- Synod: I have served on the Camp Omega Board of Directors from 2018 to the present.

1. My statement of commitment comes from the writings of Luther in his Small Catechism. "The word of God (Bible) is true and without error with Christ being the center of scripture and only with guidance through the Holy Spirit can we properly understand it."
2. We have a plaque in our home which reads, "Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you." I would continually apply this philosophy, with God's help, to whatever task He puts before me.

Mr. Christian A. Preus; Glory of Christ, Plymouth; Attorney 4770 Underwood Lane N, Unit G, Plymouth

- Parish: President, Elder, Church Council, Constitution Committee, and various other.
- District: District Nominations Committee (Three times)
- Synod: LCMS Board of Directors (1995-2007 and 2013-president, Chair Personnel Committee, Chair Governance Committee, Chair Legal Committee, Executive Committee), Chair of

1. I believe the Bible is the Word of God, inspired and without error. I subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of the Holy Scriptures. I confess the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. I believe we have been commissioned in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything God has commanded.
2. I am dedicated to the LCMS and convinced it can and will continue to witness to the ends of the world. I am conscientious, committed and work very hard. In addition to my experience in the LCMS, on other non-profit boards, and in various public offices, my legal practice has involved handling hundreds of claims involving churches and other religious organizations of all sizes, structures, and denominations. On the LCMS Board of Directors, including serving as Chair of the Personnel Committee for several years, I have been actively involved in the appointment process for multiple positions.

1 **NEWLY ELECTED CIRCUIT VISITORS**
2 **AS ELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE CIRCUITS**
3

4	Circuit 1: Northeast Suburban	Rev. Paul Strawn, Prince of Peace, Spring Lake Park
5	Circuit 2: St. Paul East Metro	Rev. Steven Bielenberg, Jehovah, St. Paul
6	Circuit 3: St. Croix River	Rev. Ted Diecrick, Good Shepherd, Circle Pines
7	Circuit 4: Southeast Suburban	Rev. Kurt Klaus, Messiah, Lakeville
8	Circuit 5: Northwest Suburban	Rev. Steven Jones, Peace, Robbinsdale
9	Circuit 6: Minneapolis Metro	Rev. William Hugo, St. Matthew, Columbia Heights
10	Circuit 7: Southwest Suburban	Rev. Ryan Alvey, St. Michael's, Bloomington
11	Circuit 8: Lake Minnetonka	Open
12	Circuit 9: Carver County	Rev. David Hormann
13	Circuit 10: Carver South	Rev. Greg Snow, St. John's, Chaska
14	Circuit 11: Lake Pepin	Rev. Lowell Sorenson, Immanuel, Red Wing
15	Circuit 12: Winona	Rev. Richard Moore, St. Martins, Winona
16	Circuit 13: Rochester	Rev. Joel Haak, Trinity, Rochester
17	Circuit 14: Austin	Rev. Jesse Krusemark, St. Paul's, Waltham
18	Circuit 15: Waseca	Rev. Michael Mathews, First/St. John, Waldorf/MN Lake
19	Circuit 16: Faribault	Rev. Brent Klein, Trinity, Northfield
20	Circuit 17: Litchfield	Rev. Michael Trask, Life in Christ, Albertville
21	Circuit 18: McLeod	Rev. Russell Reed, Immanuel, Brownton
22	Circuit 19: Arlington	Rev. James King, Immanuel, Gaylord
23	Circuit 20: Mankato	Rev. Adam Finney, St. Peter, Vernon Center
24	Circuit 21: Blue Earth	Rev. Wade Daul, Immanuel, Fairmont
25	Circuit 22: Sherburn	Rev. Russell Reimers, St. Paul's/Our Savior's, Wilbert/Ceylon
26	Circuit 23: Worthington	Rev. Paul Sajban, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Windom
27	Circuit 24: Pipestone	Rev. Shawn Ethridge, St. Paul's, Fulda, St. Paul's, Fulda

TRIENNIAL ROSTER CHANGES – ORDAINED

March 1, 2018 - March 31, 2022

ACCESSIONS AND TRANSFERS INTO THE DISTRICT

REV. JOSHUA B. ARNDT, Graduate, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Lester Prairie, 7/8/2018

REV. MATTHEW ALBRIGHT, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Associate Pastor, Messiah, Mounds View, 7/7/2021

REV. JESSE C. S. BAKER, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Sole Pastor, Zion, Hardwick, 7/14/2019

REV. DINKO L. BATO, Colloquy to Interim Placement to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI, 3/25/2018

REV. DENNIS M. BOHREN, Emeritus, from Northwest District to Minnesota South District, 9/1/2021

REV. GAYLEN A. BUROW, Emeritus, from Kansas District to Minnesota South District, 11/8/2021

REV. JARED A. COOKSEY, Sole Pastor, St. John's First, Bridgeton, New Jersey, to Sole Pastor, Christ, Eagan, MNS District, 11/20/2021

REV. MARTIN D. CORNES, SMP, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Interim Placement, St. Matthew, Columbia Heights, 5/2/2021

REV. SAMUEL Y. DERESSA, Colloquy placement to Concordia University as University Faculty, 11/18/2018

REV. DEAN A. DUNAVAN, SMP placement to Associate Pastor, Woodbury, Woodbury, 2/14/2021

REV. BRUCE G. FREDERICKSON, Emeritus Status, MNN District to MNS District, 7/28/2021

REV. KARL M. GRANT, Colloquy to Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Gibbon, 12/05/2021

REV. GEN HASHIMOTO, Colloquy placement to Sole Pastor, Japanese Fellowship, Minneapolis, 9/9/2018

REV. JOSHUA D. HOLLMANN, from Sole Pastor, Christ, Woodside, NY, Atlantic District to Staff Member at Concordia University, St. Paul, MNS District, 10/5/2021

REV. DAVID L. JANDER, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Carver, 7/19/2020

1 REV. BRIAN C. JOHNSTON, Graduate, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, to Associate
2 Pastor Trinity, Janesville, 7/7/2019
3
4 REV. AARON J. KUEHN, from Associate Pastor, Christ Victorious, Chaska to Senior Pastor, 11/7/2021
5
6 REV. TYLER R. La GRAVE, Colloquy placement to Sole Pastor, Zion, Annandale, 6/28/2020
7
8 REV. ELLIOTT R. MALM, from Colloquy to Sole Pastor, Grace, Dodge Center, 7/18/2021
9
10 REV. CRAIG T. MCCOURT, SMP placement to Sole Pastor, New Creation, Shakopee, 6/30/2019
11
12 REV. BRIAN S. MCQUIGGIN, from Texas District, to Sole Pastor, River of Life, St. Peter, MNS District,
13 7/18/2021
14
15 REV. JOSHUA C. MILLER, Colloquy placement to Sole Pastor, Emmaus, W. St. Paul, 9/6/2020
16
17 REV. MARK E. MOSS, from Sole Pastor, Mt. Calvary, MNS District to Mission Developer, Lutheran
18 Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI, 11/21/2021
19
20 REV. HERBERT C. MUELLER, Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Westgate and Grace, Fayette, Iowa East District
21 to Sole Pastor, Immanuel Evangelical, Lewiston, 6/13/2021
22
23 REV. ANDREW C. MUSSELL, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Associate Pastor, Zion,
24 Mayer, 6/27/2021
25
26 REV. JOSHUA L. PARRISH, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Sole Pastor, Redemption,
27 Bloomington, 6/14/2020
28
29 REV. M. KEITH PERRY, Emeritus Status, South Wisconsin District to Emeritus Status, MNS District,
30 5/28/2021
31
32 REV. CRAIG A. QUIRING, Colloquy placement to Pastor-Specific Ministry, Family of Christ, Ham Lake,
33 6/23/2019
34
35 REV. GATLUK L. REAT, EIIT, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Associate Pastor Sudanese Lutheran
36 Mission Church of Southern Minnesota, Faribault, 3/17/2019
37
38 REV. CHRISTOPHER M. RYAN, Specific Ministry Program, St. Louis, 10/27/2021 to Pastor - Specific
39 Ministry, St. John, Buffalo, 1/23/2022
40
41 REV. RICHARD H. STADLER, Colloquy to Pastor, St. John, Woodbury, 7/22/2021
42
43 REV. BRYAN D. STECKER, Associate Pastor, Grace, Nashua, New Hampshire, to Associate Pastor,
44 Trinity, Waconia, 1/9/2022
45
46 REV. TYLER C. WERNER, Graduate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Associate Pastor, Trinity,
47 Faribault, MNS District, 7/7/2020

TRANSFERS OUT OF THE DISTRICT

1
2
3 REV. CLIFFORD ADAIR, Emeritus, MNS District, to Southern Illinois District, 7/20/2020
4

5 REV. PHILL E. ANDREASEN, Emeritus, MNS District, to South Dakota District, 3/19/2020
6

7 REV. ANDREW A. AUDETTE, Associate Pastor, TheAlley, Cottage Grove, to Pastor, St. Paul, Fort
8 Worth, Texas District, 8/26/2019
9

10 REV. DAVID H. BAUMGAM, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Waseca, to Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska,
11 South Wisconsin District, 7/30/2018
12

13 REV. THOMAS P. BRAUN, Sole Pastor, River of Life, St. Peter, to Senior Pastor, Ascension, Tucson,
14 AZ, English District, 4/22/2020
15

16 REV. ADAM C. CARNEHL, from Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Fairmont, to Sole Pastor, Good Shepherd,
17 Randolph, NJ, 11/30/2021
18

19 REV. KEATON G. CHRISTIANSEN, Associate Pastor, Trinity, St. Francis, to Sole Pastor, Zion Garrett,
20 Indiana District, 10/29/2019
21

22 REV. ANDERS M. DAVIDSON, Associate Pastor, Trinity, Waconia, MNS District, to Senior Pastor,
23 Holy Cross, North Canton, OH, Ohio District, 5/24/2021
24

25 REV. JESSE LEE DAVIS, from Sole Pastor, Faith, Minneapolis, to Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Westfield, WI,
26 11/15/2021
27

28 REV. GERALD J. DELOYE, from Emeritus Status, MNS District, to Emeritus Status, Pacific Southwest
29 District, 7/08/2021
30

31 REV. CHRISTOPHER R. DODGE, candidate to Michigan District, 3/9/2020
32

33 REV. COLLIN P. DULING, Sole Pastor, St. John, Sargeant and Immanuel, Racine, to Pastor, Our Savior,
34 Westchester, CA, Pacific Southwest District, 8/20/2018
35

36 REV. LYLE H. FRITSCH, from Senior Pastor, St. John's, Stewartville, to Emeritus Status, South Dakota,
37 9/23/2021
38

39 REV. GERALD "JERRY" A. GAUTHIER II, Sole Pastor, Trinity, Lakefield, to pastor, Zion, Wabash,
40 Indiana District, 5/7/2018
41

42 REV. JACOB S. GILLARD, Candidate, Board for Int'l Mission, St. Louis, MNS District to MNN District,
43 1/2/2019
44

45 REV. BEN GONZALES, from Candidate Status, MNS District, to Candidate Status, Texas District,
46 7/10/2021
47

1 REV. LARRY J. GRIFFIN, Intentional Interim Pastor – Sole, St. Paul’s, Waseca, MNS District, to Inten-
2 tional Interim Pastor, Epiphany, Tallahassee, Florida-Georgia District, 5/17/2021
3
4 REV. GREGORY N. HEIDORN, Sole Pastor, Grace, Rochester, to Pastor, Faith, Homer, AK, Northwest
5 District, 10/4/2019
6
7 REV. ANDREW E. HERZBERG, from Senior Pastor, Trinity, Farmington, to Sole Pastor, St. John,
8 Mattoon, IL, 6/28/2021
9
10 REV. HAROLD R. HINTZMAN, JR., Emeritus, MNS District, to Wyoming District, 7/12/2019
11
12 REV. MARK D. JOHNSON, Sole Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Richfield, to Emeritus, MNN District, 8/14/2018
13
14 REV. TIMOTHY H. LAMKIN, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Grove, Maple Grove, MNS District, to
15 Pastor, Zion, St. Francis, MNN District, 4/6/2021
16
17 REV. DANIEL C. LARSEN, from Sole Pastor, Bethany, Trinity & Zion Lutheran Churches, Wabasso to
18 Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Henning, MN, MN North District, 10/18/2021
19
20 REV. WILLIAM “KURT” P. LEHMKUHL, Sole Pastor, Peace, Arlington, to Emeritus, 7/1/2018
21
22 REV. RYAN M. MCDERMOTT, Missionary, LCMS Office of International Mission, St. Louis, to
23 Missionary-at-Large, South Wisconsin District, 12/18/2019
24
25 REV. PETER A. MEIER, Exec. Dir. Center for US Missions, Concordia University, Irvine, CA, MNS
26 District, to Executive Director of Missions and Outreach, District Office, Orlando, Florida-Georgia
27 District, 10/29/2019
28
29 REV. H. DOUGLAS MINTON, JR., Candidate, MNS District, to Pastor, Our Savior, Milford, Central
30 Illinois District, 2/2/2021
31
32 REV. JOHN M. MOE, Senior Pastor, St. John, Rosemount, to Emeritus, MNN District, 7/26/2018
33
34 REV. SAMUEL L. MORSCHING, from Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, St. Charles, MN to Sole Pastor, Peace,
35 WI, North Wisconsin District, 7/01/2021
36
37 REV. PAUL D. MUTHER, Associate Pastor, Trinity, Janesville, MNS District, to Pastor, Our Savior’s,
38 Burlington, WI, South Wisconsin District, 3/30/2021
39
40 REV. JEREMIAH F. OLSON, Sole Pastor, Fairview, Minnetonka, to Emeritus to North Dakota District,
41 8/1/2021
42
43 REV. ADAM D. PARVEY, from Associate Pastor, Hosanna, Mankato to Senior Pastor, Abiding Savior,
44 St. Louis, MO, Missouri District on 1/01/2022
45
46 REV. DANIEL M. PROVOST, Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Lakefield, to Pastor, Our Savior, Newton, Iowa
47 East District, 4/3/2018

1 REV. DANIEL R. RITTER, Emeritus Status in MNS District, to Emeritus Status Florida-Georgia District,
2 9/01/2021
3

4 REV. MARK W. ROSENAU, Senior pastor, Good Shepherd, Owatonna, to Emeritus, Nebraska District,
5 1/8/2019
6

7 REV. NATHAN J. RUSERT, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Truman, to Pastor, Emanuel, Tell City, Indiana
8 District, 9/24/2019
9

10 REV. STEVEN R. SCHAUDER, Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Rochester, to Associate Pastor, St. James,
11 Shawano, North Wisconsin District, 2/27/2018
12

13 REV. SCOTT R. SCHILBE, Sole Pastor, Christ, Rochester, to pastor, Messiah, Carlyle, Southern Illinois
14 District, 12/7/2018
15

16 REV. JOHN SCHLEICHER, Emeritus, MNS District, to Texas District, 7/10/2020
17

18 REV. PHILLIP J. STOHLMANN, candidate, MNS District, to Rocky Mountain District, 7/30/2019
19

20 REV. YIA Z. VANG, Emeritus Status in MNS District to, to Emeritus Status South Wisconsin District,
21 1/24/2022
22

23 REV. MATTHEW WAIT, Associate Pastor, Messiah, Lakeville, to Pastor, First, Los Angeles, CA, Pacific
24 Southwest District, 4/13/2018
25

26 REV. TYLER C. WERNER, from Associate Pastor, Trinity, Faribault, MNS District, to Sole Pastor,
27 St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI, English District, 2/1/2022
28

29 REV. DAVID W. WINTER, Emeritus, to MNN District, 8/17/2018
30

31 REV. KARL J. YAHR, candidate, MNS District to Kansas District, 3/18/2020
32

33 CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT 34

35 REV. THOMAS V. AADLAND, from LCMS OIM Missionary to Kenya, to Emeritus, MNS District,
36 6/30/2021
37

38 REV. CLIFFORD ADAIR, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, to Emeritus, 7/1/2020
39

40 REV. LARRY R. BEHNKEN, Candidate to Emeritus, 4/15/2019
41

42 REV. PAUL F. BIEBIGHAUSER, from Senior Pastor, Christ Victorious, Chaska to Emeritus, 8/31/2021
43

44 REV. GERHARD H. BODE, SR., Associate Pastor, Peace, Hutchinson, to Emeritus, 8/2/2019
45

46 REV. DALE R. CRITCHLEY, Associate pastor, St. James, W. St. Paul, to candidate, 9/22/2020
47

1 REV. THOMAS E. FAST, from Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Fairmont, to Sole Pastor, St. Matthew,
2 St. Charles, 2/20/2022
3
4 REV. DAVID G. FRETAM, Sole Pastor, Zion, Springfield, to Emeritus, 7/1/2019
5
6 REV. KEVIN M. FROELICH, Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Winona, to Emeritus, 3/1/2019
7
8 REV. VICTOR G. FRY, from Assistant Pastor, Messiah, Lakeville, to Emeritus, 10/25/2021
9
10 REV. DEAN W. GADE, Sole Pastor, Gloria Dei, Minneapolis, to Emeritus, 1/1/2020
11
12 REV. BEN GONZALES, from Sole Pastor, The Alley, Cottage Grove, to Candidate, 2/1/2021
13
14 REV. SOL E. GROSSKOPF, Sole Pastor, Redemption, Bloomington, to Candidate, 1/11/2019
15
16 REV. DAVID G. HAHN, Sole Pastor, Christ, Eagan, to Candidate, 2/1/2019
17
18 REV. JOHN C. HENDRICKSON, from Sole Pastor, St. John, Mankato (Rapidan), to Trinity, Lake Crystal,
19 2/6/2022
20
21 REV. ROBERT D. HINES, Sole Pastor, Centennial, Henderson, to Emeritus, 7/1/2019
22
23 REV. HAROLD R. HINTZMAN, JR., Sole Pastor, St. John's and St. Mark, Rushford, to Emeritus,
24 6/1/2019
25
26 REV. MARK D. JOHNSON, Sole Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Richfield, to Emeritus, 7/16//2018
27
28 REV. WILLIAM L. KELLER, Sole Pastor, Concordia, S. St. Paul, to Candidate, 10/12/2019
29
30 REV. GARY H. KLATT, Sole Pastor. St. John, Luverne, to Emeritus, 6/1/2020
31
32 REV. STEVEN P. KOSBERG, Associate Pastor, Hosanna, Mankato, to Emeritus, 12/16/2019
33
34 REV. BRUCE H. LAABS, from Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Minneapolis, to candidate, 1/20/2021
35
36 REV. PAUL A. LAUER, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Waseca, to candidate on 1/10/2022
37
38 REV. JOEL W. LINTNER, Sole Pastor, St. John, Elmore to Emeritus, 5/4/2020
39
40 REV. WILLIAM C. MEILNER, Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Lewiston, to Emeritus, 1/1/2021
41
42 REV. H. DOUGLAS MINTON, JR., Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Robbinsdale, to Candidate, 6/1/2019
43
44 REV. ROBERT L. MUNDAHL, Senior Pastor, Peace, Fairmont, to Emeritus, 9/1/2019
45
46 REV. DEAN W. NADASDY, President, MNS District, to Emeritus, 8/31/2018
47

1 REV. ROBERT L. NIKL, Associate Pastor, Our Savior's, St. Paul, to candidate, 2/17/2020
2
3 REV. JOHN A. PASCHE, Senior Pastor, Peace, Hutchinson to candidate on 11/22/2021
4
5 REV. PETER E. PREUS, from candidate to Emeritus, MNS District, 2/10/2022
6
7 REV. RONALD B. PRIGGE, Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Brownsdale, to Emeritus, 10/22/2018
8
9 REV. THOMAS J. QUECK, Sole Pastor, Zion, Annandale, to Candidate, 6/1/2020
10
11 REV. THOMAS K. RIES, President, Concordia University, St. Paul to Emeritus, 8/1/2019
12
13 REV. DANIEL R. RITTER, Sole Pastor, Mt. Hope, Bloomington, to Emeritus, 6/11/2018
14
15 REV. MARK W. ROSENAU, Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd, Owatonna, to Emeritus, 12/1/2018
16
17 REV. BENJAMIN K. RUCKER, from active to candidate, 6/2/2021
18
19 REV. NORMAN J. RUTHENBECK, Pastor, St. Peter's, Edina, to Emeritus, 4/1/2018
20
21 REV. WILLIAM G. SABOL, Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Winnebago and St. Peter, Easton, to Candidate,
22 11/27/2018
23
24 REV. GREGORY A. SCHLICKER, from Associate Pastor to Senior/Administrative Pastor, Good
25 Shepherd, Owatonna, 1/2/2022
26
27 REV. ROBERT A. SCHULZE, Executive Assistant to the President, MNS District, to Emeritus,
28 9/1/2019
29
30 REV. DAN L. SIEDENBURY, Sole Pastor, Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington, to Emeritus, 2/25/2019
31
32 REV. TODD D. STOCKER, from Associate Pastor, Trinity, Hudson, to candidate, 1/22/2021
33
34 REV. PHILIP J. STOHLMANN, Sole Pastor, Mt. Moriah, Byron, to candidate, 4/1/2018
35
36 REV. CARL "RANDY" STROMING, from active to Emeritus, 12/31/2021
37
38 REV. KENNETH L. TALKENHORST, Assistant Pastor, St. John, Elk River, to Emeritus, 9/2/2018
39
40 REV. AARON J. UNSETH, Sole Pastor, The WHEREhouse, St. Paul, to candidate, 6/1/2019
41
42 REV. THOMAS E. VOLKER, from active to candidate, 11/24/2021
43
44 REV. PHILLIP P. WAGNER, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Waconia to Emeritus, 9/21/2020
45
46 REV. LARRY F. WESOLIK, from candidate to Emeritus, 1/14/2021
47

FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

- 1
2
3 REV. RICHARD L. BUEGE, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 1/9/2022
4
5 REV. J. NEVIN CROWTHER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 5/24/2019
6
7 REV. RONALD G. DOMMER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 2/18/2022
8
9 REV. ROGER K. DRAMSTAD, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 6/17/2019
10
11 REV. EUGENE C. GLADE, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 7/11/2019
12
13 REV. DAVID E. HINCK, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 9/30/2021
14
15 REV. DONALD R. HOWARD, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 2/11/2021
16
17 REV. ROY R. KARNER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 12/11/2019
18
19 REV. HARVEY G. KATH, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 10/30/2018
20
21 REV. DONALD E. KNICK, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 6/05/2018
22
23 REV. LUTHER A. KOEHLER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 10/02/2021
24
25 REV. ALBERT S. KRESKEN, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 1/13/2018
26
27 REV. RICHARD A. KROGEN, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 1/14/2021
28
29 REV. ROBERT H. KRUEGER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 11/13/2021
30
31 REV. STEVEN J. KUEHNE, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 11/3/219
32
33 REV. ROYCE C. LECKBAND, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 11/18/2018
34
35 REV. DAVID W. MAKI, Sole Pastor, Trinity, Arden Hills, Called to Glory, 1/17/2019
36
37 REV. KEITH E. MEYER, Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Minneapolis, Called to Glory, 6/13/2018
38
39 REV. MICHAEL J. NIRVA, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Faribault, Called to Glory, 6/9/2018
40
41 REV. THOMAS N. OIE, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 5/12/2019
42
43 REV. THEODORE E. SCHOEWE, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 11/16/2018
44
45 REV. THEODORE W. SCHROEDER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 2/9/2021
46
47 REV. DEANE L. SCHUESSLER, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 8/16/2018

1 REV. KENNETH J. SIESS, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 8/24/2018
2
3 REV. ROBERT E. SNYDER, JR., Emeritus, Called to Glory, 3/31/2022
4
5 REV. MARVIN L. SOULEK, Candidate, Called to Glory, 2/6/2020
6
7 REV. MAYNARD A. SPITZACK, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 3/19/2019
8
9 REV. GEORGE P. STEINKAMP, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 12/3/2018
10
11 REV. STEPHEN C. STOHLMANN, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 2/15/2021
12
13 REV. DONALD E. URBACH, Assistant Pastor, First Evangelical, Glencoe, Called to Glory, 5/27/2018
14
15 REV. GERALD B. WUNROW, Emeritus, Called to Glory, 2/8/2020
16
17 REV. RONALD R. YUNGMANN, Emeritus, Called to Glory 9/7/2019
18

CONGREGATIONAL CHANGES

21 BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WABASSO and TRINITY EVANGELICAL
22 LUTHERAN CHURCH, WABASSO and TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, SANBORN and ZION
23 LUTHERAN CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD formed a multi-congregation parish on 1/26/2020
24
25 CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, SOUTH ST. PAUL dissolved on 5/24/2021
26
27 FAIRVIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, MINNETONKA dissolved on 7/12/2021
28
29 FAMILY OF CHRIST, ROCHESTER merged with HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROCHESTER on
30 10/31/2019
31
32 GENESIS MISSIONAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS dissolved on 6/30/2018
33
34 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH-KIMBALL TOWNSHIP, ALPHA dissolved on 10/19/2020
35
36 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LA CRESCENT and GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, STOCKTON
37 formed a multi-congregation parish on 4/23/2017 (7/10/2020)
38
39 MT. ZION, MINNEAPOLIS dissolved on 6/28/2021
40
41 REMEDY CHURCH, OAKDALE began as a daughter congregation of THEALLEY LUTHERAN
42 CHURCH, COTTAGE GROVE ON 12/03/2019
43
44 REMEDY CHURCH, OAKDALE dissolved on 8/02/2021
45
46 ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH-RAPIDAN, MANKATO dissolved on 11/22/2021
47

1 ST. PETER, EASTON dissolved on 8/15/2020

2
3 THE GATHERING PLACE, ARDEN HILLS merger between TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ARDEN
4 HILLS and NEEJ TSCHIAB, ROBBINSDALE on 9/11/2018

5
6 The WHEREhouse LUTHERAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL dissolved on 5/6/2020

7
8 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELMORE dissolved on 11/04/2018

9
10 ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEWISVILLE dissolved on 1/11/2021

11
12 HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, resigned its membership on 12/20/2021

13
14 **REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER**

15
16 REV. TIMOTHY E. BOOTH, resigned voluntarily, 2/10/2020

17
18 REV. ERIC F. HUTCHISON, resigned voluntarily, 7/30/2020

19
20 REV. H. MARK NEUMANN, Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd, Owatonna, removed by action of the
21 District President, 4/2/2020

22
23 REV. WILLIAM G. SABOL, resigned voluntarily, 11/8/2020

24
25 REV. STEPHEN C. SCHMIDT, removed by action of the District President, 12/14/2020

26
27 REV. DENNIS E. STARR, removed by action of the District President, 5/20/2021

TRIENNIAL ROSTER CHANGES – COMMISSIONED

March 1, 2018 - March 31, 2022

ACCESSIONS AND TRANSFERS INTO THE DISTRICT

JENS ACAMO - (CSN 18) DCE, St. John's, Elk River on August 19, 2018 by Rev Eric Voigt

SARAH ALBACHTEN - (CSP 19) Teacher, First Evangelical, Glencoe on November 3, 2019 by Rev. Daniel Welch

MICHAELLE ANGERMAN - (English District) Principal, St. John's, Wykoff on August 29, 2021 by Rev. Michael Harman

PAMELA ARGUTO - (Rocky Mountain) Teacher, Immanuel, Plainview on August 30, 2020 by Rev. Philipp Augustine

ALISSA ASMUS - (South Dakota) Candidate Status on September 7, 2021

BRADLEY ASMUS - (CSP 19) DCE, Eastern Heights, St. Paul on September 22, 2019 by Rev. Steven Benson

KIAH BAKKEN - (CMQ 21) Teacher, St. John's, NYA on August 22, 2021 by Rev. Joshua Bernau

ERIN BANKS - (Colloquy) Faribault School, Faribault on September 16, 2018 by Rev. Matthew Lane

BROOKE BARINGER - (Texas) Teacher, Rochester Central, Rochester on November 21, 2021 by Rev. Bill Keller

TODD BARINGER - (Texas) Principal, Rochester Central, Rochester on November 21, 2021 by Rev. Bill Keller

PEYTON BARRETT - (CSP 21) Teacher, King of Kings, Roseville on August 22, 2021 by Rev. Steve Bielenberg

NOAH BAUER - (CRF 19) DCE, Camp Omega, Waterville on December 4, 2019 by Rev. Paul Muther

JENNA BENTS - (CUI 21) DCE, St. Matthew, Worthington on August 29, 2021 by Rev. Mark Schreiber

RACHEL BOHNHOFF - (Northern Illinois) Teacher, Mayer Lutheran, Mayer on August 25, 2019 by Rev. Eric Zacharias

HAROLD BOHRER - (Colloquy) Hosanna Lutheran, Mankato on August 31, 2020 by Rev. Dennis Heiden

1 MICHAEL BOLL - (North Dakota) Teacher, King of Kings, Roseville on August 19, 2018 by Rev. Steven
2 Bielenberg
3
4 BRENNAN BOWLAND - (Colloquy) Central Rochester, Rochester on August 16, 2020 by Rev. Joel Haak
5
6 BETHANY BRANDVOLD - (CSP 20) DCE, South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake on November 15,
7 2020 by Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke
8
9 AUBREY BROWNE - (MO) DFLM, St. John's Lutheran Church, Chaska on August 30, 2020 by
10 Rev. Gregory Snow
11
12 BENJAMIN BROWNE - (MO) Teacher, First Lutheran, Glencoe on September 13, 2020 by Rev. Daniel
13 Welch
14
15 LISA CARNEHL - (MO) Candidate Status on February 11, 2019
16
17 JENEAN CHERNEY - (South Wisconsin) Teacher, Good Shepherd, N. Mankato on September 13, 2020
18 by Rev. Kristian Bjornstad
19
20 BARBARA COFFIN - (Southeastern District) Deaconess, Cross View, Edina on October 17, 2021 by
21 Rev. Steve Wheeler
22
23 ELIZABETH CRAWFORD - (Central Illinois) Teacher, St. John's, Corcoran on August 30, 2020 by
24 Rev. Matthew Moss
25
26 DANIELLE CRITCHLEY - (NE) Candidate Status on December 25, 2021
27
28 JOHN DOLDE - (CMQ 17) Lay Minister, South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake on April 8, 2018 by
29 Rev. Robert Gehrke
30
31 MACKENZIE DORASKA - (Iowa West) Teacher, King of Kings, Roseville on August 19, 2018 by
32 Rev. Steven Bielenberg
33
34 CHRYSTEENA (FAY) SAEHLER - (South Wisconsin) Teacher, Faribault Lutheran School, Faribault on
35 September 16, 2018 by Rev. Paul Rieger
36
37 PAIGE FLADLAND - (Iowa West) DCE, Berea, Richfield on August 5, 2018 by Rev. Kevin Taden
38
39 CHRISTIN FREY - (Colloquy) Teacher, Rochester Central, Rochester on March 17, 2019 by
40 Rev. Jeffrey Niederstadt
41
42 LAURIE FRIEDRICH - (NE) Candidate Status on April 15, 2021
43
44 KATHRYN GRIFFIN - (Colloquy) Trinity First, Minneapolis on September 6, 2018 by Rev. David Maki
45
46 REBECCA GUSTAFSON - (Colloquy) Rochester Central, Rochester on August 16, 2020 by Rev. Adam
47 Koglin

1 ALEXANDER IRWIN - (Iowa West) DCE, Mount Olive, Anoka on July 12, 2020 by Rev. Jon Haakana
2
3 SIERRA JACOB - (CSN 19) Teacher, Faribault Lutheran, Faribault on September 15, 2019 by Rev. Paul
4 Rieger
5
6 CHRISTOPHER JACOBSON - (Colloquy) St. Martin's, Winona on January 27, 2019 by Rev. Richard
7 Moore
8
9 REBECCA JAHR - (Wisconsin South) Teacher, Trinity Lutheran, St. Francis on July 11, 2021 by
10 Rev. Timothy Vaughan
11
12 JENNIFER JAROCKI - (Colloquy) Faribault Lutheran, Faribault on September 16, 2018 by
13 Rev. Matthew Lane
14
15 KATHRYN KEOGH - (Rocky Mountain) Emeritus on April 11, 2019
16
17 KATHLEEN LANE - (South Wisconsin) Emeritus on December 7, 2021
18
19 DANIELLE MAHLUM - (CSP 21) Teacher, Emanuel, Hamburg on September 19, 2021 by Rev. Dean
20 Mahlum
21
22 LISA MARTINSON - Reinstated DCE Trinity, Northfield on October 27, 2019 by Rev. Dr. Brent Klein
23
24 PATRICIA MAYHEW - (MI) DCE, Beautiful Savior, Plymouth on April 25, 2021 by Rev. Tom Stoebig
25
26 MARY MEHRL - (Colloquy) St. John, Woodbury on July 22, 2020 by Rev. Dave Larson
27
28 KATHY MEIER- (IN) Candidate on March 11, 2019
29
30 BRUCE MERTENS - (NE) Teacher, Trinity, Janesville on August 25, 2019 by Rev. Paul Muther
31
32 FELICIA MEYER- (South Wisconsin) - Teacher, Immanuel, Lewiston on September 9, 2018 by
33 Rev. William Meilner
34
35 KELLSEY MEYER - (Colloquy) Faribault Lutheran, Faribault on September 16, 2018 by Rev. Paul Rieger
36
37 MARK MEYER - (MNN) Teacher, Faribault Lutheran, Faribault on August 22, 2021 by Rev. Tyler
38 Werner
39
40 JACOB MIKKELSON - (Missouri) Teacher, Immanuel, Plainview on August 29, 2021 by Rev. Phil
41 Augustine
42
43 LEANN MILLER - (KS) DCE, St. Peter, Gibbon on August 26, 2019 by Rev. Benjamin Rucker
44
45 JAMES MILLER - (Northern Illinois) Emeritus on March 1, 2021
46
47 BRITTANY MOEN - (Colloquy) Zion Lutheran, Cologne on January 15, 2019 by Rev. Eric Zacharias

1 KRISTEN MUELLER - (IA) Candidate Status on May 17, 2021
2
3 SUSAN NASH - (Colloquy) St. John's, Wykoff on December 5, 2021 by Rev. Michael Harman
4
5 KARI NELSON - (Pacific Southwest District) Teacher Candidate to Beautiful Savior, Plymouth on
6 October 1, 2017 by Rev. Thomas Stoebig
7
8 PAUL NELSON - (MO) DCE, St. John's, Buffalo on November 14, 2021 by Rev. Ryan Clark
9
10 KATHERINE PARRISH - (CSP 18) Teacher, Open Arms Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington on August 30,
11 2020 by Rev. Paul Krentz
12
13 FREDERICK PAWELK - (Northern Illinois) Emeritus on March 9, 2021
14
15 HANNAH PEHL - (South Wisconsin) Teacher, Trinity, Waconia on August 25, 2019 by Rev. Philip
16 Wagner
17
18 EMILY PETERSON - (MEQ 18) Teacher, Trinity, St. Francis on August 12, 2018 by Rev. Keaton
19 Christiansen
20
21 NATALIE PIEPER - (OK) Teacher, Redeemer, Wayzata on September 27, 2019 by Rev. Steven Ferber
22
23 JOSHUA PINGEL - (CMQ 19) Teacher, Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer on August 16, 2020 by
24 Rev. LeRoy LaPlant
25
26 MEGAN POLZIN - (CSP 20) Teacher, Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer on August 16, 2021 by
27 Rev. LeRoy LaPlant
28
29 JAZMIN ROSTE - (Colloquy) King of Kings, Roseville on January 12, 2020 by Rev. Steve Bielenberg
30
31 WALTER SCHMIDT - (Pacific Southwest District) Emeritus on November 1, 2018
32
33 CARA SCHMIDTKE - (CSP 20) Teacher, King of Kings, Roseville on August 17, 2020 by Rev. Steven
34
35 PHILIP SCHULT - (Rocky Mountain District) Teacher Candidate, Martin Luther, Northrop on
36 May 2, 2021 by Rev. Wade Daul
37
38 BENJAMIN SCHULTEIS - (Central Illinois) Teacher, Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer on August 26,
39 2018 by Rev. Gregory Snow
40
41 ELLEN SCHULTEIS - (Central Illinois) Candidate on August 14, 2020
42
43 RENEE SIEGLE - (Colloquy) St. John's Lutheran School, Chaska on February 28, 2021 by Rev. Gregory
44 Snow
45
46 JESSICA SMITH - (New England District) Teacher, Trinity First, Minneapolis on September 26, 2021 by
47 Rev. Jon Kuehne

1 SARAH STEINBORN - (CMQ 18) Teacher, St. John Lutheran, Elk River on August 25, 2019 by
2 Rev. Eric Voigt
3
4 KEVIN STRIPLING - (CMQ 19) DCE, Zion Lutheran, Hopkins on August 9, 2020 by Rev. Randall Neal
5
6 BRITTANY STROHSCHEIN - (Florida-Georgia District) Teacher, St. John's, Corcoran on August 26,
7 2018 by Rev. Matthew Moss
8
9 MARY STUEDEMAN - (Colloquy) Emmanuel, Hamburg on September 16, 2018 by Rev. Mark Triplett
10
11 MEGAN TEWS - (CMQ 19) Teacher, Concordia Academy, Roseville on September 19, 2019 by
12 Rev. Timothy Berner
13
14 MACKENZIE THIESFELD - (CSP 19) Teacher, First Evangelical, Glencoe on November 3, 2019 by
15 Rev. Daniel Welch
16
17 MYCHAL THOM -(Indiana) Teacher, Concordia, St. Paul on October 5, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Michael
18 Dorner
19
20 KEITH TRASKA - (South Wisconsin) Teacher, Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer on August 16, 2020
21 by Rev. LeRoy LaPlant
22
23 CHRISTINE UNRUH - (South Wisconsin) Candidate on December 9, 2020
24
25 ROGER VAN ANDEL - (MT) Emeritus on April 7, 2021
26
27 JUDITH VAN ANDEL - (MT) Emeritus on April 7, 2021
28
29 JOEL WETZSTEIN - (CMQ 19) DPM, Woodbury Lutheran, Woodbury on September 15, 2019 by
30 Rev. Thomas Pfothenauer
31
32 SARAH WILLIS - (CSN 21) DCE, Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia on July 19, 2021 by Rev. Duncan
33 McLellan
34
35 RUTH WOLTMANN - (MNN) DCE, Family of Christ Ham Lake on January 3, 2021 by Rev. Keith
36 Grimm
37

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

38
39
40 MARY ABBAN - (Teacher) Trinity First, Minneapolis to (LSEM) Trinity First, Minneapolis on September
41 26, 2021 by Rev. John Kuehne
42
43 EMILY ANDERSON - Immanuel, Lewiston to Candidate status on July 1, 2018
44
45 MELANIE APPELQUIST - Mt. Hope, Bloomington to Good Shepherd, Circle Pines on May 13, 2018 by
46 Rev. Ted Diedrick
47

1 HEATHER BIELEC - Mt. Hope, Bloomington to Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan on January 27, 2019 by
2 Rev. James Kroonblawd
3
4 CURTIS BOEDER - St. Peter's, Gibbon to Candidate Status on June 16, 2019
5
6 ANDREW BOLL - Our Savior, Hutchinson to Concordia Academy, N Mankato on September 8, 2019
7 by Rev. Kristian Bjornstad
8
9 ANDREW BOLL - Concordia Academy, N Mankato to Candidate on July 1, 2020
10
11 GREGORY BRAND - Trinity, Waconia to St. John, Wykoff on August 18, 2019 by Rev. Michael
12 Harman
13
14 ROBIN CARLSON - Candidate Status to Zion, Mayer on November 18, 2018 by Rev. Adam Gless
15
16 LISA CARNEHL - Martin Luther, Northrop to Candidate on July 21, 2021
17
18 LISA COLE - St. Peter's, Gibbon to Redeemer, New Ulm on September 15, 2019 by Rev. Grant Bode
19
20 ELIZABETH COOK - Rochester Central, Rochester to Candidate on July 31, 2020
21
22 LUKE DAHL - First Evangelical, Glencoe to St. Johns, Howard Lake on September 9, 2018 by
23 Rev. Mark Loder
24
25 DENISE DESART-STRASSER- Central Lutheran, St. Paul to Candidate Status on November 28, 2018
26
27 HEATHER DIMMEL - Trinity, Janesville to Hosanna Lutheran, Mankato on November 4, 2020 by
28 Rev. Dennis Heiden
29
30 JOHN DOLDE - South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake to Candidate Status on September 3, 2018
31
32 WENDY EWALD - Christ Lutheran Preschool, Eagan to Candidate Status on January 1, 2021
33
34 PAIGE FLADLAND - Berea Lutheran, Richfield to St. Paul, Prior Lake on August 4, 2019 by Rev. John
35 Kallio
36
37 KENDRA GILMORE - St. John's, Corcoran to St. John's, Chaska on August 26, 2018 by Rev. Gregory
38 Snow
39
40 MARLENE GLESSING - St. James, Howard Lake to Candidate Status on November 30, 2018
41
42 KATHRYN GRIFFIN - Candidate Status to Trinity First, Minneapolis November 23, 2020 by Rev. Keith
43 Brutlag
44
45 LAURA HAGEN - St. Peter's, Edina to Candidate on February 1, 2019
46
47 KRISTINE HANSON - St. Paul, Chatfield to Candidate on January 1, 2019

1 SHANNON HECKSEL - St. Paul, Prior Lake to Hosanna, Mankato on June 2, 2018 by Rev. Dennis
2 Heiden
3
4 SUSAN HEWITT - UpWorks, Minneapolis to Candidate on July 20, 2019
5
6 DARYL HOEWISCH - St. John, Sherburn to Candidate on May 19, 2020
7
8 JAMES HOLMLUND - Beautiful Savior, Plymouth to Candidate on August 19, 2021
9
10 ANDREW HULKE - King of Kings, Roseville to Concordia Academy, Roseville on August 23, 2018 by
11 Rev. Timothy Berner
12
13 JENA IVERSON - Candidate Status to St. Martin's, Winona on September 12, 2021 by Rev. Richard
14 Moore
15
16 SARAH JANDA - Beautiful Savior, Plymouth to Redeemer Christian Academy, Wayzata on August 29,
17 2021 by Rev. Steven Ferber
18
19 SCOTT JOHNSON - Immanuel, Lakefield to St. John's, NYA on August 19, 2018 by Rev. Josh Bernau
20
21 LISA JOHNSON - Immanuel, Lakefield to Candidate on January 2, 2019
22
23 LISA JOHNSON - Candidate Status to St. John's, Norwood Young America on August 18, 2019 by
24 Rev. Josh Bernau
25
26 RACHEL KOYIOL - Hand in Hand, St. Paul to Trinity, Waconia on December 5, 2021 by Rev. Duncan
27 McLellan
28
29 KELLY LAMKIN - Candidate Status to Concordia Academy, Roseville on August 23, 2018 by
30 Rev. Timothy Berner
31
32 TAMMY LANGFIELD - Trinity, Waconia to Candidate on June 9, 2018
33
34 EMILY LAPLANT - Zion Lutheran, Mayer to Concordia Classical Academy, N Mankato on February 27,
35 2022 by Rev. LeRoy LaPlant
36
37 NONA LATZIG - Candidate Status to Christ Community, Watertown on September 29, 2019 by
38 Rev. Gerald Schwanke
39
40 KELLI LAVOIE - Candidate Status to St. John, Elk River on September 12, 2021 by Rev. Eric Voigt
41
42 KATIE LITZAU - St. Paul, Lester Prairie to St. John's, NYA on July 18, 2021 by Rev. Josh Bernau
43
44 DANIEL MASER - King of Kings, Roseville to Trinity, Waconia on August 26, 2018 by Rev. Philip
45 Wagner
46

1 SARAH MATTILA - (Contract) Immanuel, Lakefield to (Called) Immanuel, Lakefield on December 2,
2 2020 by Rev. Phillip Beukema
3
4 EMILY MEYER - King of Kings, Roseville to Candidate status on August 1, 2018
5
6 KEVIN MEYER - St. John's, Wykoff to Immanuel, Lewiston on September 9, 2018 by Rev. William
7 Meilner
8
9 BRITTANY NAGEL - Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington to Family of Christ, Ham Lake on August 1, 2021
10 by Rev. Keith Grimm
11
12 ALICIA OLDRE - Trinity First, Minneapolis to St. John's, Corcoran on August 26, 2018 by
13 Rev. Matthew Moss
14
15 ALICIA OLDRE - St. John's, Corcoran to Trinity First, Minneapolis on October 5, 2020 by Rev. Keith
16 Brutlag
17
18 ROBERT ORR - Bethlehem, St. Paul to Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan on August 25, 2019 by Rev. James
19 Kroonblawd
20
21 BRYAN POLZIN - St. John, Norwood Young America to Candidate on July 16, 2020
22
23 FAITH RATTEI - St. Peter's, Edina to Candidate on July 31, 2020
24
25 CHRYSTEENA SAEHLER - (Teacher) Faribault Lutheran, Faribault to (Principal) Faribault Lutheran,
26 Faribault on August 22, 2021 by Rev. Ryler Werner
27
28 DAWN SCHROEDER - St. Paul's Fulda to Immanuel Plainview on September 9, 2018 by Rev. J Philipp
29 Augustine
30
31 JAY SCHUTTE - Candidate Status to King of Kings, Roseville on July 21, 2019 by Rev. Steven
32 Bielenberg
33
34 HAIDEE SELLE - Trinity First, Minneapolis to Candidate on July 1, 2017 (dated 1/25/2022)
35
36 JESSICA SMITH - Candidate Status to Trinity First, Minneapolis on September 26, 2021 by Rev. John
37 Kuehne
38
39 CRYSTAL SWANSON - Candidate Status to Beautiful Savior, Plymouth on September 8, 2019 by
40 Rev. Thomas Stoebig
41
42 REBECCA TAYLOR - Candidate Status to St. Paul, Fairmont on January 21, 2018 (received late)
43
44 JENNIFER TAYLOR - Central Lutheran, St. Paul to Candidate on August 18, 2018
45
46 STEPHANIE VALLIN - Reinstated to Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan on September 23, 2018 by Rev. James
47 Kroonblawd

1 ELIZABETH WEGNER - Central Lutheran, St. Paul to Candidate on February 11, 2019
2
3 ELIZABETH WEGNER- Candidate Status to King of Kings, Roseville on September 26, 2021 by
4 Rev. Steven Bielenberg
5
6 STEPHANIE WILABY - Zion, Mayer to St. John's, Chaska on August 26, 2018 by Rev. Gregory Snow
7
8 RUTH WOLTMANN - Peace in Christ, Hermantown to Family of Christ, Ham Lake on January 3, 2021
9 by Rev. Keith Grimm
10

11 TRANSFERS OUT OF THE DISTRICT

12

13 LAURA ARNDT - Candidate Status to NE on August 26, 2019
14
15 PAMELA BIERBAUM - Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer to Southern IL on February 3, 2021
16
17 CAROLINE BOLL - Emeritus Status to Montana District on March 12, 2018
18
19 JOHN BOLL - Emeritus Status to Montana District on March 12, 2018
20
21 LISA CARNEHL - Candidate Status to NJ District on February 3, 2022
22
23 EMILY COOLEY - Candidate Status to Minnesota North on February 1, 2021
24
25 CHRISTOPHER DEHNING - Zion Lutheran School, Cologne to Southern Illinois District on June 15,
26 2018
27
28 PHYLLIS ELLIS - Emeritus Status to Pacific Southwest on February 7, 2019
29
30 EMILY GIERSE - St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fulda to Iowa West on August 30, 2018
31
32 MICHELLE GILLARD - Candidate Status to Minnesota North on December 13, 2018
33
34 MARY GINKEL - Emeritus Status to Minnesota North March 5, 2021
35
36 JUDITH GRUENHAGEN - Emeritus Status to Minnesota North on July 26, 2019
37
38 MARY HEINE - Immanuel Lutheran, Gaylord to MI on August 14, 2019
39
40 ELLEN HENSCHEN - Reinstated, Candidate Status to Southern Illinois on November 2, 2018
41
42 JUDITH KING - Candidate Status to Minnesota North on November 23, 2020
43
44 CHRISTINE KLUG - Candidate Status to South Wisconsin on August 13, 2018
45
46 TRACI KOHLS - Trinity Lutheran, Waconia to Nebraska on October 23, 2018
47

1 KELLY LAMKIN - Concordia Academy, Roseville to MNN on April 16, 2021
2
3 TAMMY LANGFIELD - Candidate Status to South Wisconsin on June 9, 2018
4
5 STACY LARSEN - Candidate Status to Minnesota North on November 23, 2021
6
7 KRISTIE MCMICHAEL - Emeritus Status to Florida-Georgia District on March 9, 2022
8
9 KATHY MEIER - Emeritus Status to Florida-Georgia District on August 21, 2020
10
11 ROBERT MELDE - Candidate Status to Canada on January 22, 2022
12
13 BENITA MORITZ - Candidate Status to Eastern District on February 28, 2019
14
15 ANNE NEILITZ - St. Paul Lutheran School, Prior Lake to Minnesota North District on June 30, 2018
16
17 MELINDA NEUENFELDT - Mount Olive, Anoka to South Wisconsin on August 23, 2019
18
19 MICHAEL RAMTHUN - Living Christ, Chanhassen to North Wisconsin on August 17, 2020
20
21 FAITH RATTEI - Candidate Status to South Dakota on January 25, 2022
22
23 RUTH ROBERTSON - Trinity Lutheran, St. Francis to SD on June 16, 2021
24
25 ELISEBETH RODRIGUEZ- Trinity First, Minneapolis to California-Nevada-Hawaii District on July 1,
26 2020
27
28 ERIN RUDOLPH - Faribault Lutheran, Faribault to Minnesota North on June 16, 2021
29
30 DANIEL SCHIELD - Immanuel Lewiston to Rocky Mountain District on July 15, 2018
31
32 PAUL SCHILF - Emeritus Status to SD on July 23, 2019
33
34 ELIZABETH SCHMIDT - Candidate Status to Minnesota North July 15, 2020
35
36 JOSHUA STENKLYFT - Candidate Status to South Wisconsin District on March 1, 2022
37
38 ANDREW STRICKLAND - St. Paul's, Prior Lake to North Wisconsin District on July 1, 2018
39
40 MEGAN TEWS - Concordia Academy, Roseville to South Wisconsin on June 1, 2021
41
42 MARIAH THIESSEN - Candidate Status to Rocky Mountain District on January 11, 2022
43
44 AMANDA VAUDT - Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan to Indiana July 23, 2020
45
46 DANIEL WACKER - Emeritus Status to Iowa East on March 16, 2021
47

1 SARA WACKER - Candidate Status to Iowa East on March 4, 2021
2
3 CHRISTINA WARNIER - St. Paul, Fairmont to MO on July 1, 2019
4
5 RHONDA WHITCOMB - St. John's, Howard Lake to Pacific Southwest District on July 10, 2018
6
7 JUDITH WIEBOLD - Emeritus Status to Florida-Georgia District on Marcy 10, 2022
8
9 DAVID WINTER - Emeritus Status to Minnesota North on March 12, 2018
10
11 PEGGY WINTER - Emeritus Status to Minnesota North on March 12, 2018
12
13 SYLVIA WITT - Candidate Status to MI on April 17, 2019
14
15 CORINNE WOLTMANN - Good Shepherd, Owatonna to NE on May 4, 2021
16
17 ANNA ZIMMERMAN - Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul to MI on May 13, 2018
18
19 **RESIGNED / REMOVED FROM THE SYNODICAL ROSTER**
20
21 WALTER ADAMS - Emeritus removed on March 12, 2021
22
23 HANNAH ANDREWS - Candidate Status, resigned on March 19, 2018
24
25 RONALD ANENSON - Emeritus removed on March 12, 2021
26
27 CORINNE BIELENBERG - Candidate Status, removed on March 23, 2018
28
29 ANDREW BOLL - Candidate Status, resigned on January 20, 2022
30
31 HEIDI BREITBARTH - Candidate Status, resigned on March 16, 2018
32
33 JUSTIN BURMEISTER - Candidate Status, removed on March 16, 2018
34
35 JAMES BUSS - Candidate Status removed on October 18, 2019
36
37 LINDA BUSS - Candidate Status removed on October 18, 2019
38
39 AARON DELONG - Candidate Status, removed on March 23, 2018
40
41 JAMES DULAS - Teacher resigned on April 23, 2021
42
43 KATIE ERICKSON - Teacher resigned on December 17, 2021
44
45 KAREN FUCHS-ARCHAMBAULT - Emeritus removed on March 18, 2021
46
47 SARAH GARCIA - Candidate Status removed on March 5, 2021

1 LAURA HAGAN - Candidate Status resigned on February 19, 2020
2
3 MAUREEN HAUCK - Candidate Status resigned on February 11, 2022
4
5 LYNN HENRY - Emeritus resigned on January 21, 2021
6
7 DARYL HOEWISCH - DCE resigned on March 8, 202
8
9 CARRIE HOSHAW - Emeritus resigned on February 3, 2022
10
11 LYNN IRRGANG - Candidate Status, resigned on March 9, 2018
12
13 ELI KUPHAL - Candidate Status, removed on March 16, 2018
14
15 SUSAN LOONTJER - Emeritus resigned on March 3, 2022
16
17 MICHELE LUKANEN - Candidate Status removed on September 27, 2019
18
19 KAREN LYON - Emeritus removed on March 5, 2021
20
21 MICHAEL MILLINGTON - Candidate Status removed on September 27, 2019
22
23 JENNIFER NIEBUHR - Teacher resigned on January 5, 2021
24
25 SHELLEY NOVOTNY - Candidate Status, removed on March 23, 2018
26
27 JIM OLLHOFF - Candidate Status, removed on March 16, 2018
28
29 ALEX RAMERTH - Emeritus removed on October 18, 2019
30
31 ERICA REISER - Emeritus removed on March 18, 2021
32
33 SHEILA SCHLECHTE - Candidate Status, resigned on March 23, 2018
34
35 CHRISTINE SCHOMBURG - Candidate Status removed on September 27, 2019
36
37 JENNIFER TAYLOR - Teacher removed on March 12, 2021
38
39 SANDRA TUTKA - Teacher removed on April 15, 2021
40
41 STEPHANIE WILABY - Teacher resigned on April 3, 2020
42
43 MATTHEW WINKELMAN - DCE removed on March 5, 2021
44
45 CHRISTINE WOOD - Teacher, Candidate Status Resigned on March 2, 2022
46
47 DONNA ZACHOW - Emeritus removed on March 12, 2021

EMERITUS

1
2
3 JIM ANDERSON - St. Michaels, Bloomington to Emeritus on September 7, 2021

4
5 DEAN AURICH - Mayer Lutheran, Mayer to Emeritus on August 1, 2019

6
7 MARY BALZUM - St. John's, Norwood Young America to Emeritus on August 1, 2019

8
9 ROBERTA BEISWENGER - Trinity, Waconia to Emeritus on May 22, 2020

10
11 CURTIS BEODER - St. Peter's, Gibbon to Emeritus on February 18, 2021

12
13 VICKIE BOEDER - Redeemer Christian Academy, Wayzata to Emeritus on June 16, 2021

14
15 DIANE BORCHARDT - Candidate Status to Emeritus on January 17, 2019

16
17 GREGORY BRAND - St. John's, Wykoff to Emeritus on July 15, 2021

18
19 LINDA BREWNER - Rochester Central, Rochester to Emeritus on June 15, 2018

20
21 GAIL CARVER - Faribault Lutheran, Faribault to Emeritus on June 16, 2019

22
23 JEANNE DICKE - Candidate Status to Emeritus on April 6, 2018

24
25 NANCY DIERDORF- Candidate Status to Emeritus on March 9, 2021

26
27 CHRISTINE EID - Cross View, Edina to Emeritus on January 5, 2021

28
29 PHYLLIS ELLIS - Candidate Status to Emeritus on February 6, 2019

30
31 SANDRA ENGELHARDT - Candidate Status to Emeritus on March 13, 2019

32
33 KEITH ESALA - Concordia Academy, Roseville to Emeritus on May 22, 2020

34
35 WENDY EWALD - Candidate Status to Emeritus on February 2, 2022

36
37 LARRY FINKE - Candidate Status to Emeritus on June 30, 2020

38
39 JOSEPH FOUNTAIN - First Lutheran, Glencoe to Emeritus on August 16, 2019

40
41 MARLENE GLESSING - Candidate Status to Emeritus on March 12, 2019

42
43 BARBARA HOBACK - Mayer Lutheran, Mayer to Emeritus on June 31, 2020

44
45 JANE HORN - St. Michael's, Bloomington to Emeritus on November 12, 2018

46
47 CARRIE HOSHAW - Good Shepherd, Circle Pines to Emeritus on June 17, 2019

1 WILLIAM HUSBERG - First Lutheran, Glencoe to Emeritus on June 16, 2021
2
3 WILLIAM JOHNSON - Beautiful Savior, Plymouth to Emeritus on June 1, 2021
4
5 ROBERT LEININGER - Concordia St. Paul to Emeritus on July 1, 2019
6
7 GARY LOONTJER - Mayer Lutheran, Mayer to Emeritus on August 1, 2018
8
9 ALVIN LUTRINGER - Immanuel, Plainview to Emeritus on September 1, 2020
10
11 KATHERINE MACKENTHUN - Emanuel Lutheran, Hamburg to Emeritus on June 15, 2021
12
13 DEANNE MALTERER - Trinity, Janesville to Emeritus on June 16, 2019
14
15 KATHY MEIER - Reinstated as Candidate to Emeritus on April 12, 2019
16
17 ANN MUSSELL - Immanuel, Plainview to Emeritus on June 16, 2018
18
19 GAIL PETROFF - Trinity, St. Francis to Emeritus on June 30, 2018
20
21 STEVEN PICKEL - Candidate Status to Emeritus on January 14, 2019
22
23 DAVID POLZIN - St. John's, Norwood Young America to Emeritus on October 31, 2018
24
25 JANET PREUS - Candidate Status to Emeritus on April 1, 2018
26
27 JULIANNE PREUS - St. John's, Corcoran to Emeritus on June 16, 2018
28
29 BARBARA PRIGGE - Mt. Calvary, Richfield to Emeritus on September 1, 2018
30
31 JERRY ROSAMOND - Candidate Status to Emeritus on January 21, 2022
32
33 KATHY ROSAMOND - Candidate Status to Emeritus on January 21, 2022
34
35 BARBARA RUDOLPH - St. John, Elk River to Emeritus on June 16, 2019
36
37 JANICE SCHRADER- King of Kings, Roseville to Emeritus on August 1, 2018
38
39 RHODA SCHULER - Candidate Status to Emeritus on July 30, 2018
40
41 SUSAN SCHUTTE - St. John's, Corcoran to Emeritus on June 2, 2019
42
43 JAMES SEEMANN - Concordia St. Paul to Emeritus on January 2, 2019
44
45 BONITA STOECKMAN - Trinity, Waconia to Emeritus on May 31, 2019
46
47 MADELINE STREI - Christ Community, Watertown to Emeritus on August 1, 2019

1 EUNICE STREUFERT - Concordia St. Paul to Emeritus on January 7, 2019

3 LINDA STROMING - Mt. Olive, Anoka to Emeritus on January 5, 2021

5 DALE TRAPP - Concordia St. Paul to Emeritus on January 2, 2019

7 JOHN WENGER - Concordia St. Paul to Emeritus on January 7, 2019

9 KATHY WESSEL - Candidate Status to Emeritus on May 7, 2019

11 MYRON WETZEL - Candidate Status to Emeritus on March 21, 2018

13 PAUL WICKRE - Rochester Central, Rochester to Emeritus on July 31, 2020

15 LINDA WIEBOLD - Redeemer Christian Academy, Wayzata to Emeritus on June 16, 2021

17 CALLED TO GLORY

19 PAUL BERG - Called to glory February 3, 2020

21 KATHRYN EHLERS - Called to glory October 20, 2016

23 JOSEPH FOUNTAIN - Called to glory August 10, 2020

25 TIM HANSEN - Called to glory January 13, 2020

27 EUGENE HEUTON - Called to glory June 10, 2019

29 JOHN KIRCHNER - Called to glory March 21, 2020

31 ROBERT LEININGER - Called to glory October 9, 2020

33 CARROLL PETER - Called to glory March 1, 2021

35 ARNOLD SCHOLZ - Called to glory November 21, 2021

37 SUSAN SCHUTTE - Called to glory November 14, 2021

39 SCHOOL CHANGES

41 NEW SCHOOL OPENINGS

43 Rosebuds Early Learning Center, Cottage Grove on January 8, 2018

45 SCHOOL CLOSINGS

47 St. Paul Lutheran School, Fulda on July 24, 2018

1 Central Lutheran School Association, St. Paul on August 13, 2018

2
3 St. Peter, Gibbon on May 24, 2019

4
5 Joy Academy, St. Paul on May 31, 2019

6
7 Hosanna Preschool, Mankato May 15, 2020

8
9 Our Savior's Preschool, Brownsdale on June 1, 2021

10
11 Christ Lutheran Preschool, Eagan on January 15, 2021

12
13 Kingdom Kids Learning Center, Ham Lake on February 1, 2022 (The two schools are now combined)

14 15 SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

16
17 Our Savior's Lutheran School, Hutchinson; new name - Early Learning Center on June 5, 2019

18
19 His Kids Concordia Childcare Center, Red Wing; new name - Little Footprints on February 1, 2022

20 21 ABBREVIATIONS USED IN ROSTER CHANGES: COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES

22
23 CQ (Colloquy)

24 CMQ (Concordia University Wisconsin)

25 CRF (Concordia University, River Forest (now Chicago))

26 CSN (Concordia University Nebraska)

27 CSP (Concordia University, St. Paul)

28 CUI (Concordia University Irvine)

29 SL (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis)

30 FW (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne)

31 32 33 **ABOUT THE LOGO**

34
35 Colossian 3:17 (ESV): *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,*
36 *giving thanks to God the Father through him."* Our theme, "Everything in the Name of Jesus," offers
37 hope, direction, and confidence and testifies to the life we have in our Lord Jesus. There is comfort
38 and power in His name. Placed upon us in Holy Baptism, His name is the Good News that He is ours
39 and we are His. He is at work in us. Everything we do, in word or deed, is done in His presence and,
40 therefore, to be done invoking Him as Lord.

41
42 The convention logo boldly expresses the truths of our theme with the name of Jesus written large, in
43 the shape of the price of our redemption, with "everything" literally in His name. Every time you see it,
44 please be immediately reminded of the power of our Savior Jesus Christ. Many thanks to **Chris Roth**
45 for designing the 2022 convention logo!

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Chapter 1

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Chapter 2

¹For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²²(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Chapter 3

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds

1 everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed
2 you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and ad-
3 monishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in
4 your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
5 giving thanks to God the Father through him.

6 ¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and
7 do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fa-
8 thers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey in everything those
9 who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of
10 heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing
11 that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
12 ²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Chapter 4

15 ¹Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

16 ²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time,
17 pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on ac-
18 count of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

19 ⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your
20 speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each
21 person.

22 ⁷Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and
23 fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we
24 are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother,
25 who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

26 ¹⁰Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning
27 whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹and Jesus who is called
28 Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God,
29 and they have been a comfort to me. ¹²Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets
30 you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all
31 the will of God. ¹³For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and
32 in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵Give my greetings to the
33 brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶And when this letter has been
34 read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the let-
35 ter from Laodicea. ¹⁷And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in
36 the Lord.”

37 ¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

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Bible Study 1—Everything IN THE NAME OF JESUS, Colossians 3:17

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Versicles

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;
hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon
I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

sts. 1, 3, 5-6



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
5 How weak the ef - fort of my heart, How
6 Till then I would Thy love pro - claim With



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
cold my warm - est thought! But when I see Thee
ev - 'ry fleet - ing breath; And may the mu - sic



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
of Thy name Re - fresh my soul in death!

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Bible Study 1--Everything IN THE NAME OF JESUS, Colossians 3:17

Goal: That the participant *believe* that Jesus is the name above all names and therefore *live* under that name.

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NOTES

- ii. The Word as Glory
 - “There is significant interest within the Gospel of John in beholding Jesus as the visible image or form of God, the Glory of YHWH seen by Moses at Sinai, by Israel in the tabernacle and temple, then by the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel in their call visions.” (13)
 - Read the following passages and then reread replacing Glory with Name: John 1:14, 2:11, 11:40, 17:22
- iii. Three sets of 7–7 Signs reveal YHWH’s work , 7 “I Ams” reveal Jesus as YHWH, 7 “I Ams” describe Jesus’ saving work
 - 7 Signs reveal Jesus’ person and work
 1. John 2:1-11 _____
 2. John 4:46-54 _____
 3. John 5:1-17 _____
 4. John 6:1-15 _____
 5. John 6:16-21 _____
 6. John 9 _____
 7. John 11:1-44 _____
 - 7 “I Ams” of Jesus’ person (absolute sayings)
 1. John 4:26 _____
 2. John 6:20 _____
 3. John 8:24 _____
 4. John 8:28 _____
 5. John 8:58 _____
 6. John 13:19 _____
 7. John 18:4-8 _____
 - 7 “I Ams” of Jesus’ work (predicate sayings)
 1. John 6:35, 41, 48 _____
 2. John 8:12 _____
 3. John 10:7, 9 _____
 4. John 10:11, 14 _____
 5. John 11:25 _____
 6. John 14:6 _____
 7. John 15:1 _____
- iv. Worship the Name
 - In the Gospel of John, “true and faithful Jewish worship is depicted as centered in Jesus.” (21) [See John 4:19-26]
 - John 9:35-38, “Jesus is depicted here as YHWH, who is worthy of worship.”

3. Read Colossians chapters 1-2 and highlight the references that give an answer to why we would do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

4. We have explored how the Gospel of John connects the person and work and name of Jesus with that of YHWH. What, if any, of the verses you jotted down in Colossians chapters 1-2 explain or give a reason for ascribing to Jesus the being of God, the personal name YHWH and the title Lord?

1 B. Visible Continuity in Text as Confession of Faith:

2 THE SACRED NAME IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

3 “One of the chief ways Jews of the first century expressed reverence for God was by according special
4 treatment to God’s name, the Tetragrammaton. For example, Jews typically avoided pronouncing the di-
5 vine name, and instead employed some surrogate in its place, such as “Lord” (Heb. *’adonai*, or Gk. *kyrios*).
6 What is less well known is that Jewish scribes also marked out the Tetragrammaton when copying the
7 Scriptures, by writing it in a special way. Scribes used a wide variety of techniques for this purpose. Some
8 used archaic Hebrew characters in texts that were otherwise written in the square Hebrew letters typical
9 of the day. Others wrote the name using specially dyed ink, or replaced the name with a different symbol
10 altogether, such as four dots or four diagonal lines. Whatever the method, the practice of singling out the
11 Tetragrammaton clearly served a religious purpose. At one level, it expressed reverence for the divine
12 name, and so also for the God who bears it. At another, it reminded readers not to pronounce the name
13 when reading the Scriptures aloud. At still another level, the practice gave visible expression to a basic
14 tenet of the Jewish faith. For Jews of the Second Temple period, the most basic and common of all
15 creedal confessions was the saying “Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone” (Deut. 6:4).
16 Known as the Shema (Heb. *shema’*, “hear”) after its first word, the saying was the Jewish daily prayer of
17 the time (cf. m. Ber. 1:1-4:1). The scribal practice of representing God’s name with special characters rein-
18 forced the message of the Shema. It served as a kind of visible version of the confession. By underscoring
19 the uniqueness and oneness of God’s name, it underscored the uniqueness and oneness of God.

20 Significantly for our story, Jewish scribes continued to single out the Tetragrammaton for spe-
21 cial treatment *even when copying the Scriptures in Greek translation*. One way they did this was
22 by writing the divine name in Hebrew or Aramaic characters, even though the surrounding text
23 was in Greek.”

24 (Soulen, Kendall R. *The Divine Name(s) and the Holy Trinity: Distinguishing the Voices, Vol. 1*. Westminster
25 John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky (2011), p. 30.)

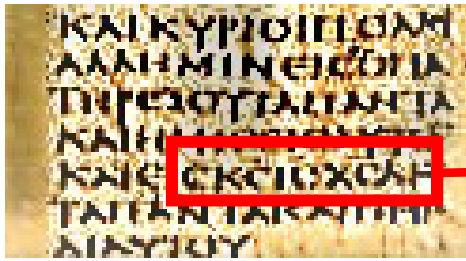
26
27 SACRED NAMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

28 “Almost from the beginning of the Jesus movement, church-connected scribes developed their own dis-
29 tinctive counterpart to Jewish scribal practice. They consistently marked off certain words from their sur-
30 roundings by abbreviating them and drawing a line over the characters that remained. These words have
31 come to be known as the *nomina sacra*, the holy or sacred names. . .

32 The *nomina sacra* differ from their Jewish counterparts in two important ways beyond their dis-
33 tinctive visual appearance (i.e., abbreviated words with a line drawn above them). First, Chris-
34 tian scribes marked out the Tetragrammaton by applying special orthography to the conven-
35 tional oral surrogate for the divine name, “Lord” (*kyrios*), rather than to the divine name itself. . .
36 let us note the other major innovation, which is even more dramatic. From the very beginning
37 (so far as surviving evidence indicates), Christian scribes accorded special treatment not only to
38 the customary surrogate for the divine name but also to three additional words . . .

39 These four words, Lord, God, Jesus and Christ, appear as *nomina sacra* in virtually all extant
40 Christian copies of the Scriptures, Old and New Testament writings alike. The number of words
41 treated as *nomina sacra* grew over time, but these four names formed the consistent core of the
42 practice. As has rightly been pointed out, these earliest four words are not merely *nomina sacra*
43 (sacred names), but rather *nomina divina* (divine names), in view of their central place in Chris-
44 tian worship.” (Soulen, 31-32)

1 C. Example: From 1 Corinthians 8:5-6 in Codex Sinaiticus



EIS Κ ΑΙ ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

2
3 II. **Explore** how Jesus is superior to everything else.

4 A. Read Hebrews 3:1-6. How is Jesus superior to Moses?

5
6
7
8 B. Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10. How is Jesus superior to the high priest?

9
10
11
12 C. Read Hebrews 9:25-28; 10:11-14. How is Jesus' sacrifice superior to the OT sacrifices?

13
14
15
16 D. Read Revelation 5. How is Jesus superior to everyone in the throne room of God?

17
18 III. **Discern** when, where and how to proclaim the name of Jesus.

19
20 A. "Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the
21 mouth, is to shut it again on something solid." (chesterton.org/shop/autobiography)

22 1. Keeping in mind the above G.K. Chesterton quote, what do you think and/or say to
23 someone who says to you in a religious discussion, "You need to keep an open mind?"

24
25
26
27
28 B. Read Colossians 2:8-3:4

29 1. Highlight the concerns Paul raises for the Colossian Christians regarding to what they
30 might be tempted to open their minds.

31 2. With whom does Paul counter and what does he say about this person so the Colossian
32 Christians can shut their mind on something solid?

33
34
35 C. Share a story when you, or someone you know, was tempted to open your mind because Christ
36 seemed not to be as solid as you had hoped.

37 1. What verses from Colossians that we have considered so far could serve as an antidote
38 to such doubt?

39
40
41
42 2. What other verses from the Bible concerning Christ Jesus could do the same?

1 D. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

2 1. Before you proclaim the name of Jesus, what must be a settled matter in your heart?

3
4
5 2. When (and by implication where) should we proclaim the name of Jesus?

6
7
8 3. How are we to proclaim the name of Jesus?

9
10 O Lord,
11 **have mercy upon us.**

12 O Christ,
13 **have mercy upon us.**

14 O Lord,
15 **have mercy upon us.**

16
17 C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,**
18 **Thy kingdom come,**
19 **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**
20 **give us this day our daily bread;**
21 **and forgive us our trespasses**
22 **as we forgive those who trespass against us;**
23 **and lead us not into temptation,**
24 **but deliver us from evil.**
25 **For Thine is the kingdom**
26 **and the power and the glory**
27 **forever and ever. Amen.**

28
29 **Prayer**

30 Most merciful God, You desire everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that by
31 the preaching of Your Gospel we may be given the wisdom that leads to salvation. By the working of Your Holy
32 Spirit keep us attentive to all the teachings of Your Word. Enlighten our minds, control our wills, and purify our
33 affections. Let Your Word be a light for our path, that neither the pleasures nor the honors nor the pains of this
34 life may turn away our thoughts from the fullness of life that is found only in You. Enable us in sincerity of heart
35 to follow You, the only true God. By Your holy Word enlighten all who are in error, doubt, or temptation with
36 the sure and certain knowledge of Your truth, that all who live in sin may be led to repentance. Show mercy and
37 grace to all those suffering any distress, to those who are sick or hospitalized, and to those facing death. Let
38 them know the sure comfort of Your holy Word. We commit ourselves and all for whom we pray to Your fa-
39 therly care and benediction. Be gracious to us and defend us by Your power. Direct us by Your Spirit that we
40 may daily grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Savior until we shall stand before You in the joy of ever-
41 lasting glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
42 God, now and forever.

43
44 *Concluding prayer:*

45
46 Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us
47 in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
48 **Amen.**

49
50 **Benedicamus**

51 Let us bless the Lord.
52 **Thanks be to God.**

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Bible Study 2—CLOTHED in the name of Jesus, Colossians 3:12-14

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Versicles

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;
hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon
I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

1 **Prayer**

2 Lord God, Merciful Father, Creator of all things, You have called us by Your Word to be Your sons and
3 daughters. May your Spirit lead us today to hear your Holy Scriptures: to convict us of our sins, to turn
4 away from them and return to You, to follow You, and to be a light to all nations. We thank you for your
5 only Son, our Lord Jesus, that by His death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb, we may have
6 new life and be reconciled to You, and also with those who have hurt us and those whom we have hurt.
7 Grant us the wisdom, strength, and willingness to serve and love You by serving each other, by loving
8 each other, and by loving our community. To you be all honor and glory. Hear us, oh Lord, and forgive
9 us. We pray all these things in your holy Son, Jesus our Lord’s name, Amen.

10
11 **Bible Study 2 “Clothed in the Name of Jesus” Colossians 3:12-14**

12
13 O Lord,
14 **have mercy upon us.**

15 O Christ,
16 **have mercy upon us.**

17 O Lord,
18 **have mercy upon us.**

19
20 **C Our Father who art in heaven,**
21 **hallowed be Thy name,**
22 **Thy kingdom come,**
23 **Thy will be done on earth**
24 **as it is in heaven;**
25 **give us this day our daily bread;**
26 **and forgive us our trespasses**
27 **as we forgive those**
28 **who trespass against us;**
29 **and lead us not into temptation,**
30 **but deliver us from evil.**
31 **For Thine is the kingdom**
32 **and the power and the glory**
33 **forever and ever. Amen.**

34
35 **Prayer**

36 Lord Almighty, merciful God, Spirit of Truth, descend on us like nothing we’ve ever seen or felt. Fill us up with
37 your Spirit, strengthen us with your love so much it overflows our cup and spills over to all those who You bring
38 into our lives. We ask that You be with all those who travel. Be with us as we work together, and let us work in
39 harmony as You have clothed us with the robe of righteousness. May all Your loving qualities be with us today:
40 compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. May we reflect them as You did to so many,
41 for we’ve all fallen short in our sins. In our sinfulness, we are no better than the murderer - we are all the same.
42 Yet in your holiness, we are still no better than the other person, for we are all are holy in your sight through
43 the blood of Jesus, making us equal with each other in your kingdom. But as we still suffer on this side of
44 heaven, help us to lift those who are down up to you and may they leap up for joy as they are made white as
45 snow through your blood. Be merciful to us, be gracious to us Father to into your hands we commend our body
46 and soul. May we stand in your presence with confidence knowing you love us. We honor and acknowledge
47 you forever and ever. We pray all these things in the name of our Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and
48 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

49
50 **Benedicamus**

51 **Let us bless the Lord.**
52 **Thanks be to God.**

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1 Compassionate hearts

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4

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6 Kindness

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11 Humility

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13

14

15

16 Meekness

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21 Patience

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30

1 **Bible Study 3—PEACE in the name of Jesus, Colossians 3:15**

2
3 *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

4
5 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

6 **Amen.**

7
8 **Versicles**

9 I cry to You, O Lord;

10 **In the morning my prayer comes before You**

11 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

12 **And uphold me with a willing spirit**

13 My mouth is filled with Your praise,

14 **And with Your glory all the day**

15 Every day I will bless You

16 **And praise Your name forever and ever**

17 By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness

18 **O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas**

19 Bless the Lord, O my soul;

20 **And all that is within me, bless His holy name**

21 He redeems your life from the pit,

22 **And crowns you with steadfast love and mercy**

23 Hear my prayer, O Lord;

24 **Let my cry come to You**

25
26 **When Peace, Like a River (LSB 763)**

27
28 1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
29 When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
30 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
31 It is well, it is well with my soul.

32
33 Refrain:

34 It is well with my soul

35 It is well, it is well with my soul.

36
37 2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials
38 should come,
39 Let this blest assurance control,
40 That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
41 And hath shed his own blood for my soul.

42
43 [Refrain]

44
45 3. He lives - O the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

[Refrain]

4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be
sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall
descend,
Even so it is well with my soul.

[Refrain]

1 **Prayer**

2 C. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from
3 all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings
4 and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul. Let Your holy angel be with
5 me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen
6

7 **Bible Study 4-- Peace “Of Christ,” “In Christ,” and “Through Christ” (Col. 3:15)**

8
9 Goal: That the participants will understand peace in relation to God, ourselves, each other, and the whole crea-
10 tion (*weltanschauung*).
11

12 **Our Main Text:** “Let the *peace of Christ* rule in your heart, since as members of one body *you were called to*
13 *peace*” (Col. 3:15)

14 **Context Summary**

15 Colossians as a whole can be divided into two sections: a clear exposition of the Gospel, or kerygma, (Ch. 1-2)
16 followed by ethical instructions on how to lead a Christian life (Ch. 3-4). His way of starting with a Christian
17 doctrine, or kerygma, is not simply in order that his readers may have a solid intellectual grasp of it, but that it
18 must find expression in Christian living.

19 Our Bible study is from the second part in Ch. 3, Paul’s instruction and exhortations based on his teaching in the
20 first kerygma (doctrinal) portion of the letter. The theological significance of this is to show, “true godly living
21 can only proceed from and is based upon true faith in Christ” (Paul Deterding, *Colossians*, 134). Colossians also
22 presents Christ as both Creator and Reconciler of the universe—which lays a foundation to today’s theme for
23 Bible study - Peace “of Christ,” “in Christ,” and “through Christ.”

24 **Outline**

- 25 **1. Prior Text I (Col. 3:1-4):** “Since, then [**since you are baptized**], you have been raised with Christ, set your
26 **hearts** on things [from] above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on
27 things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died [**our baptism, Colossians 2:12**], and your life is now
28 hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in
29 glory”¹
30

31 **a) Emphasis of Pauline gospel:**

32 **Focus on Christ** - Demonstrates that all the power and authority belongs to Christ, and believers have a
33 new life and identity in Christ.

- 34 i) The passive verb “you have been raised” (συνηγέρθητε) points to God’s action in our lives
35 ii) Change (setting our **hearts/minds** on things [from] above) is not self-contrived, but rather enabled and
36 brought by divine grace (it is a passive formulation)
37

38
39 **b) Note the following:**

- 40 i) Having been raised with him  seek things above (3:1)
41 iii) Having died with him  do not focus on the things below (3:2-3)
42 iv) Having been hidden with him  you will be revealed in glory (3:3-4)
43

¹ I use New International Version (NIV) translation throughout.

1 c) Paul's reference to "things above" and "earthly things"

- 2 i) Earthly things: Paul is referring to what is sinful, corrupt, fallen and not pleasing to God (Phil. 3:19)
3 ii) "Things above" refers to the term "heaven" mentioned in 1:5
4 iii) The word $\phi\rho\nu\epsilon\acute{\iota}\tau\epsilon$ (set your mind) refers to: not just thinking about something, but rather having a
5 "settled way of understanding, to hold an opinion, to maintain an attitude" (Rom. 8:5; 14:6; 1 Cor.
6 13:11; Phil. 2:2, 5; 3:19)
7

8 2. **Prior Text II (Col. 5-14):** ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual im-
9 morality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is
10 coming.^[a] ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid your-
11 selves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not
12 lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new
13 self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or
14 Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.
15 ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kind-
16 ness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you
17 has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on
18 love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Col. 3:5-14)

- 19 i) Since you have died with Christ (2:12, 20; 3:3), "put to death"—everything in you that is earthly. It
20 does seem that despite them being identified as followers of Christ, there are still parts of their old
21 self (habits of mind and heart) which tied them to earthly things and hindered them from setting
22 their minds/hearts "on what is above"
23 ii) "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves ...**" (V.12)
24 iii) Martin Luther, in his Large Catechism, explains it this way: "Therefore, let all Christians regard their
25 baptism as the daily garment that they are to wear all the time. Every day they should be found in
26 faith and with its fruits, suppressing the old creature and growing up in the new."

27 Discussion Questions (also use the table below)

- 28 1. List the things we are to "put off" from our life.
29
30
31 2. How are we *clothed* with the *new man*?
32
33
34 3. What characteristics are we to *clothe* ourselves with?
35
36
37 4. In what manner are we to forgive each other?
38
39
40
41
42

Focus on the risen Christ	Take off or put to death (old humanity)	Put on (new nature)
Having being raised with him (3:1)	List sins of sexual nature: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____	List new self in Christ: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
- Seeking things from above (3:1)		
Having died with him (3:2)	List old Adam nature: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____	Forgiveness: Be like Christ (3:13) Love: "which binds them all together in perfect unity" (3:14).
- Don't focus on things from below (3:2a) - Put to death your earthly parts (3:5)		
Having being hidden with him (3:3)	List old Adam nature: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____	Forgiveness: Be like Christ (3:13) Love: "which binds them all together in perfect unity" (3:14).
- You will be revealed in glory (3:3b)		
"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all in all" (3:11)		

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"Let the *peace of Christ* rule in your heart, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Col. 3:15)

Defining Peace

- i. Paul's view on peace is not always discussed with the attention it deserves.
- ii. Sometimes we think of peace as the absence of conflict and violence. For example, we may say that a peace agreement is now in place. But, this 'cease fire' definition is only one of several. But when we speak of peace with/in/through Christ, we mean something far more positive than merely the absence of conflict.
- iii. Ladd, who in his *theology of Paul*, refers to the concept of peace as a blessing that flows from reconciliation and describes it as a "very rich, many-sided concept" (Ladd and Hagner, D. A. *A Theology of the New Testament*, 497).
- iv. In his discussion of peace in the NT, Desjardins used the motif of equality to illustrate Paul's understanding of peace, whilst the notion of *koinonia* certainly also points towards peace (M. Desjardins. *Peace, Violence and the New Testament*, 54-60).
- v. The word for peace used in Old Testament Hebrew is *shalom*:
 - Material and physical needs are satisfied (see Lev. 26:3-13 and Psalm 38:3);
 - Relationships are reconciled (1 Samuel 16:4-6; 2 Cor. 13: 11);
 - Behaviors are righteous (Deut. 10:12-22).

1 Peace in Colossians

- 2 1. **The prayer for peace** is frequently mentioned in Paul: “The peace of God, which surpasses all under-
3 standing, will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ” (Phil. 4:7). Paul also mentions peace in his
4 opening and closing greetings (see Gal. 6:16; 2 Thess. 3:16; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; and 1
5 Thess. 5:23).

6 7 “To the saints at Colossae, the faithful brothers in Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our father” 8 (Col. 1:2)

9
10 This phrase is used in Paul’s writings to mainly emphasize:

- 11
12 (1) A harmonious relationship with Jesus Christ—a baptismal incorporation into the body of Christ. We are “in
13 Christ” through baptism and faith (1 Cor. 1:5, 7; Eph. 1:3).
14 (2) Those who are “in Christ” are one in Christ and with each other (Rom. 12:5; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:15).
15 (3) The word “in Christ” also indicates the new identity of believers under the Lordship of Christ. As Christians,
16 they are no longer defined by their blood relationships, skin color, or tribal/cultural/racial identity with their
17 own kin. Their identity is now rooted in Christ.
18 (4) The word “in Christ” also relates to Paul’s emphasis of the sufficiency of the work of Christ (1:27-28).
19 (5) **Ethical dimension:** Because of their relationship with Christ, those who are “in Christ” will live a life of good
20 works.

21
22 **2. Col.1:15**, the exhortation takes a new turn. In Col. 3:15, peace occurs in an exhortation to the readers and
23 not a prayer. It no longer discusses the metaphor of clothing and no longer lists virtues for the readers to
24 adopt. It simply draws on the claims of Lordship of Jesus Christ in the first two chapters (the *kerygma*) (where
25 Christ is seated at the right hand 3:1).

26
27 With this, the main text Col.1:15:

28
29 i) Provides us with Christological lens through which we understand the new sets of behavior that we need to
30 adopt

- 31 a) Christ made peace by overcoming the powers that are opposed to God’s will (1:13, 20; 2:15)
32 b) The word “peace of Christ” refers to the peace that Christ both *embodies and brings* (John 14:27).
33 c) Christ gives peace to believers (2 Thess. 3:16)
34 d) God as “the God/Lord of peace” (Rom. 15:13; 16:20; 1 Cor. 14:33; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23,
35 Heb. 13:20)
36 e) Christ himself is that peace (Eph. 2:14, Judges 6:24, Isa 9:5, 2 Thess. 3:16, Eph 2:14)

37
38 ii) In connection to the following texts (16-17), it reminds us the central role of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in
39 our worship life. “And be thankful,” he adds, in order for Colossians to understand that being at peace with each
40 other is our response of gratitude to the grace of God.

- 41 a) Peace as a foundation for the expression of gratitude ((1 Cor. 1:4; 2 Cor. 9:15; Rom. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:11;
42 Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3, etc.).
43 b) This reminds us of Paul’s critique of the practice in pagans world - “although they knew God, they didn’t
44 honor him as God or give thanks to him” (Rom. 1:21).

45
46 iii). He calls believers to live in peace. “...**as members of one body you were called to peace.**” The words “called to
47 peace” doesn’t indicate the purpose of their calling, but rather the manner—it is to the peace of Christ that they
48 were summoned “as members of one body.”

49
50 How can we let the “peace of Christ be in control in our heart”?

- 1 How is peace made according to Paul?
 2 - Colossians 1:20 _____
 3 - Rom.5:1, 9-13 _____
 4 - Isa 52:7; 57:2 _____
 5 - Isa. 54:13 _____
 6

7 **Comparison:** In the Roman Empire, “peace maker” was applied to the Roman Emperors and generals who estab-
 8 lish peace by military act (See Harry Maier, “A Sly Civility: Colossians and Empire,” JSNT 27 (2005): 323-49).
 9 Here, Paul’s reference to Jesus’ death on the cross provides a critique to such power.

10 **Do the Comparison Below:**

Roman Empire	Jesus (Christianity)
Generals: _____	Agent: _____
Victory: _____	Victory: _____
Goal: _____	Goal: _____

12
 13 What does it mean to be “called to peace”?

- 14 1. Believers identified as God’s chosen people (3:12)
 15 2. Verses 10-11, Paul says that as a result of “being renewed in the image of the creator,”

16 What is the “one body” spoken of in Col. 3:15?
 17

18 **Prayer:** Almighty God, we bless You for our lives, we give You praise for Your abundant mercy and grace we
 19 receive. We thank You for Your faithfulness, even though we are not that faithful to You. Lord Jesus, we ask
 20 You to give us all-around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We ask that Your peace would guard our
 21 hearts and minds in You. We ask for Your grace to cover our lives this day.

22 C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,**
 23 **Thy kingdom come,**
 24 **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**
 25 **give us this day our daily bread;**
 26 **and forgive us our trespasses**
 27 **as we forgive those who trespass against us;**
 28 **and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
 29 **For Thine is the kingdom**
 30 **and the power and the glory**
 31 **forever and ever. Amen.**
 32

1 **Benedicamus**

2 Let us bless the Lord.

3 **Thanks be to God.**

4

5 The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil,
6 and bring us to everlasting life.

7 **Amen**

8

9

10 **Acknowledgments**

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1 **Bible Study 4—WORSHIP in the name of Jesus, Colossians 3:15**

2
3 *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

4
5 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
6 **Amen.**

7
8 **Versicles**

9 Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;
10 **hear me and answer me.**

11
12 Evening, morning, and noon
13 **I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.**

14
15 Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;
16 **He will never let the righteous fall.**

17
18 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
19 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

20
21 **790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

- 22
23 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
24 O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
25 Let all who hear
26 Now to His temple draw near,
27 Joining in glad adoration!
28
29 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
30 And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
31 Have you not seen
32 All that is needful has been
33 Sent by His gracious ordaining?
34
35 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
36 Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
37 What need or grief
38 Ever has failed of relief?
39 Wings of His mercy did shade you.
40
41 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
42 Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
43 Ponder anew
44 What the Almighty can do
45 As with His love He befriends you.
46
47
48
49

1 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
2 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
3 Let the Amen
4 Sound from His people again;
5 Gladly forever adore Him!

6
7 **Responsive Reading, (whole verse by whole verse)**

Psalm 145

8 ¹I will extol you, my | God and King,*
9 and bless your name forever and | ever.
10 ²**Every day I will | bless you***
11 **and praise your name forever and | ever.**
12 ³Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,*
13 and his greatness is un- | searchable.
14 ⁴**One generation shall commend your works to an- | other,***
15 **and shall declare your | mighty acts.**
16 ⁵On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,*
17 and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.
18 ⁶**They shall speak of the might of your | awesome deeds,***
19 **and I will declare your | greatness.**
20 ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant | goodness*
21 and shall sing aloud of your | righteousness.
22 ⁸**The LORD is gracious and | merciful,***
23 **slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**
24 ⁹The LORD is | good to all,*
25 and his mercy is over all that | he has made.
26 ¹⁰**All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,***
27 **and all your saints shall | bless you!**
28 ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your | kingdom*
29 and tell | of your power,
30 ¹²**to make known to the children of man your | mighty deeds,***
31 **and the glorious splendor of your | kingdom.**
32 ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting | kingdom,*
33 and your dominion endures throughout all gener- | ations.
34 The LORD is faithful in | all his words*
35 and kind in | all his works.
36 ¹⁴**The LORD upholds all who are | falling***
37 **and raises up all who are | bowed down.**
38 ¹⁵The eyes of all | look to you,*
39 and you give them their food in due | season.
40 ¹⁶**You open | your hand;***
41 **you satisfy the desire of every | living thing.**
42 ¹⁷The LORD is righteous in | all his ways*
43 and kind in | all his works.
44 ¹⁸**The LORD is near to all who | call on him,***
45 **to all who call on | him in truth.**
46 ¹⁹He fulfills the desire of those who | fear him;*
47 he also hears their cry and | saves them.
48 ²⁰**The LORD preserves all who | love him,***
49 **but all the wicked he | will destroy.**
50 ²¹My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
51 and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

1 **Prayer**

2 Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear
3 them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may
4 embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

5
6 **Bible Study 4-- WORSHIP in the name of Jesus, Col. 3:16**

7
8 **Goal:** That the participants *repent* for the times in which they trust in things other than God and *worship* the
9 one, true God by clinging to the word of Christ.

10
11 **I. Repentance**

12 **Learning Goal: Examine what it means to worship.**

13
14 **David Zahl, “Expectation Hangovers for Twentysomething Nones”**

15 • Meg Jay, a clinical psychologist, explains, “Every day, I work with twenty somethings who feel horri-
16 bly deceived by the idea that their twenties would be the best years of their lives...People imagine that
17 to do therapy with twenty somethings is to listen to the adventures and misadventures of carefree peo-
18 ple. And there is some of that. But behind closed doors, my clients have unsettling things to say.” One
19 unsettling thing Jay’s clients say is that their lives are not what they had hoped.

20
21 • “Mortality is still very much a universal reality. Our need for love and mercy in the face of expecta-
22 tion and failure has not abated - it is as urgent and comprehensive as ever.” (Zahl, 5).

23
24 • “People may not claim a religious affiliation, but that doesn’t mean, even for a second, that they are
25 any less religious. **Everybody worships...regardless of what answer they might give on a questionnaire**”
26 (Zahl, 5).

27
28 Reference: David Zahl, “Expectation Hangovers for Twentysomething Nones,” January 25, 2013.

29 <https://mbird.com/religion/another-week-ends-expectation-hangovers-and-twentysomething-nones/>

30
31 **David Foster Wallace, Commencement Address at Kenyon College**

32 “In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such
33 thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the com-
34 pelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship...is that pretty
35 much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where
36 you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It’s the truth.
37 Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age
38 start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. On one level, we all know this
39 stuff already. It’s been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every
40 great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness.

41 Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over
42 others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feel-
43 ing stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. But the insidious thing about these forms of
44 worship is not that they’re evil or sinful, it’s that they’re unconscious. They are default settings.

45
46
47

1 They're the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selec-
2 tive about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that's what
3 you're doing."
4

5 Reference: David Foster Wallace, "This is Water," 2005.

6 <https://fs.blog/david-foster-wallace-this-is-water/>
7

8 **James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love***

9 "Our idolatries, then, are more liturgical than theological. Our most alluring idols are less intellectual in-
10 ventions and more affective projections - they are the fruit of disordered wants, not just misunderstand-
11 ing or ignorance. Instead of being on guard for false teachings and analyzing culture to sift out the dis-
12 torting messages, we need to recognize that there are rival liturgies *everywhere*. These pedagogies of
13 desire are, in a sense, cultural liturgies, rival modes of worship" (Smith, 23).
14

15 Reference: James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (BrazosPress, 2016).
16

17 **Martin Luther, Large Catechism: "The First Commandment"**

18 "You are to have no other gods." That is, you are to regard me alone as your God. What does this mean,
19 and how is it to be understood? What does "to have a god" mean, or what is God?
20

21 Answer: A "god" is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find ref-
22 uge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your
23 whole heart. As I have often said, it is the trust and faith of the heart alone that make both God and an
24 idol.
25

26 If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and
27 wrong, there you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God. Anything on
28 which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God.
29

30 The intention of this commandment, therefore, is to require true faith and confidence of the heart,
31 which fly straight to the one true God and cling to him alone. What this means is: "See to it that you let
32 me alone be your God, and never search for another." In other words: "Whatever good thing you lack,
33 look to me for it and seek it from me, and whenever you suffer misfortune and distress, crawl to me and
34 cling to me. I, I myself, will give you what you need and help you out of every danger. Only do not let
35 your heart cling to or rest in anyone else."
36

37 Reference: Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions*
38 *of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Fortress Press, 2000), 386–387.
39

40 **James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love***

41 • "Christian worship, we should recognize, is essentially a *counterformation* to those rival liturgies we
42 are often immersed in, cultural practices that covertly capture our loves and longings, miscalibrating
43 them, orienting us to rival versions of the good life. This is why worship is the heart of discipleship. We
44 can't counter the power of cultural liturgies with didactic information poured into our intellects. We
45 can't recalibrate the heart from the top down, through merely informational measures. The orientation
46 of the heart happens from the bottom up, through the formation of our habits of desire. Learning
47 to love (God) takes practice" (Smith, 25).
48

1 • “Worship ends with sending: we are gathered by the grace of our (re)creating God in order to be-
2 come the image bearers he created us to be, precisely so we can be sent into his world as ambassadors
3 of reconciliation (2 For. 5:17-20). The God who *is* love reorders our loves, bending our deepest desires
4 back toward himself, so that we might rightly love our neighbors for his sake. The Spirit rehabilitates our
5 loves not merely for the sake of renovation but so that we can love even our enemies. This is what we
6 were made for: to love what God loves. Our *telos* brings us back to our beginning. And we were made to
7 be *sent* (Smith, 189).
8

9 II. **Worship in the Name of Jesus**

10 **Learning Goal: Using Colossians 3:16, demonstrate that real worship is in the Name of Jesus.**

11
12 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing
13 psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16 ESV).
14

15 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**

- 16 • To dwell with Christ (despite all of the hustle and bustle of everyday demands)
- 17 • To repent of false loves and idols
- 18 • To experience God’s grace in Jesus

19 **Teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom**

- 20 • All Wisdom
- 21 • Freedom to Serve

22 **Martin Luther’s *Freedom of a Christian***

23 “A Christian is the lord of all, completely free of everything.

24 A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.”
25

26
27
28 “These two assertions appear to conflict with one another; however, if they can be found to be in agree-
29 ment, it would serve our purposes beautifully. Both are statements from the Apostle Paul. He says in 1
30 Corinthians 9:19: “For though I am free with respect to all, I had made myself a slave to all.” And in Ro-
31 mans 13:8 he asserts: “Owe no one anything except to love on another.” It is in the very nature of love
32 to be attentive to others and to serve the one who is loved. So it is the case with Christ. Although he
33 was Lord of all and “born of woman, born under law” (Gal. 4:4), he was at the same time a free man and
34 servant, in “the form of God” and in the “form of a slave” (Phil. 2:6-7).”
35

36 Reference: Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian* (Luther Study Edition), translated and introduced
37 by Mark D. Tranvik (Fortress Press, 2008).
38

39 **Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**

40 The Word of Christ embraces us so that we may worship

41 **Old Testament Psalms**

- 42 • Psalm 85
- 43 • Psalm 145

1 New Testament Hymns

- 2 • Colossians 1:15–20
3 • Ephesians 5:14
4 • Philippians 2:6–11
5 • 1 Timothy 3:16
6

7 Spiritual Songs
8

9 **III. Living in God's Grace**

10 **Learning Goal: Explore what it means to be filled with gratitude in your heart to God.**

- 11
12 • To dwell with Christ means to be filled up in Christ
13 • With thanksgiving, gratitude, and **grace**.

14 **Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**
15

16 **I. Repentance**

- 17 1. What alluring idols distract me from worshiping God alone?
18 2. What cultural liturgies do I find to be most enticing?
19 3. For what do I need to repent?
20

21 **II. Worship in the Name of Jesus**

- 22 1. How does God's Word in Christ dwell in me?
23 2. What psalm, liturgy, prayer, hymn, or song directs me back to worship to experience God's grace in
24 Jesus Christ?
25 3. What promise from God's Word will sustain me in the days ahead?
26

27 **III. Living in God's Grace**

- 28 1. Where have I seen Christ's love show up in my life in a surprising and meaningful way?
29 2. How would I define the words "Grace" and "Gospel"? Compare your definition with those provided by
30 the Glossary of Theological Terms published by Mockingbird Ministries (<https://mbird.com/glossary/>).
31 3. How can I articulate God's grace and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a clear, engaging, and help-
32 ful way?
33

34 **GRACE**

35 Broadly speaking, grace can be understood as God's unmerited favor toward human beings, his one-way, sacrifi-
36 cial love for sinful men and women who deserve anything but. It is a gift with no strings attached. Grace is the
37 answer we receive in Christ to the question of God's disposition toward troubled people like you and me.
38

39 How many times can we mess up before we have exhausted God's forgiveness? In Christ, God's Grace is re-
40 vealed to be inexhaustible, the death and resurrection of Christ being the bedrock of this assurance. Through it
41 we are secured of God's favor—come what may. This is why the triumphant cry of the Apostle Paul in Romans
42 8:1, "there is, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," has been the hallmark of those
43 committed to the Good News of God's saving Grace.
44

45 Reference: <https://mbird.com/glossary/grace/>
46
47
48
49

GOSPEL

One might think that in a Christian context, a term like “Gospel” would not require a definition. History, however, has proven it to be one of the most contentious terms in the entire tradition. Even people who were converted by the Apostle Paul were prone to turn to other “gospels” (Gal 1:6). No doubt this is why Paul argues in the same book for the “truth of the Gospel” (2:5) to be preserved. Indeed, the severity with which he chastises his beloved congregation illustrates the necessity for getting this all-important concept right. So, with the Apostle Paul, we stand in the tradition that sees the Gospel as just what the word means: Good News.

Specifically, the Good News that “Jesus Christ came into the world to save Sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15). “[Christ] was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Romans 4:25). The Gospel is a proclamation, rather than an invitation or command, yet it always addresses sinners and sufferers directly, i.e. you and me. People have gone wrong throughout history when they have reduced this Good News to its effect on those who have heard it, e.g., peace, love and understanding. These are wonderful things, to be sure, but they should not be confused for the Gospel itself, lest it become a means to an end, rather than an end in itself.

Reference: <https://mbird.com/glossary/gospel/>

Hymn: *In Christ Alone* by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

CCLI Song # 33503959 (c)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand</p> <p>2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live</p> | <p>3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ</p> <p>4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand</p> |
|--|--|

O Lord,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ,
have mercy upon us.
O Lord,
have mercy upon us.

1 C Our Father who art in heaven,
2 hallowed be Thy name,
3 Thy kingdom come,
4 Thy will be done on earth
5 as it is in heaven;
6 give us this day our daily bread;
7 and forgive us our trespasses
8 as we forgive those
9 who trespass against us;
10 and lead us not into temptation,
11 but deliver us from evil.
12 For Thine is the kingdom
13 and the power and the glory
14 forever and ever. Amen.

15
16 **Prayer**

17 Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our
18 many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You
19 to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

20
21 *Concluding prayer:*

22
23 Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us
24 in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

25 **Amen.**

26
27 **Benedicamus**

28 Let us bless the Lord.

29 **Thanks be to God.**

30
31
32 **Acknowledgments**

33 Noon from Lutheran Service Book

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1 **Bible Study 5—EVERYTHING in the name of Jesus, Colossians 3:15**

2
3 *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

4
5 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
6 **Amen.**

7
8 In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;
9 **in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.**

10
11 My mouth is filled with Your praise,
12 **and with Your glory all the day.**

13
14 O Lord, open my lips,
15 **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

16
17 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
18 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

19
20 **474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen** *sts. 1, ref, 2-3*, **817 Earth and All Stars** *sts. 1, ref, 3*

21 1 Alleluia!
22 Jesus is risen!
23 Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
24 Splendor, the Lamb,
25 Heaven forever!
26 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

27
28 Refrain Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
29 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

30
31 2 Earth and all stars!
32 Loud rushing planets!
33 Sing to the Lord a new song!
34 Oh, victory!
35 Loud shouting army!
36 Sing to the Lord a new song!

37
38 Refrain He has done marvelous things.
39 I too will praise Him with a new song!

40
41 3 Walking the way,
42 Christ in the center
43 Telling the story to open our eyes;
44 Breaking our bread,
45 Giving us glory:
46 Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

47
48 Refrain Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
49 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

4 Trumpet and pipes!
Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre!
Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain He has done marvelous things.
I too will praise Him with a new song!

5 Jesus the vine,
We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth,
Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

50
51
52
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1 **Prayer**

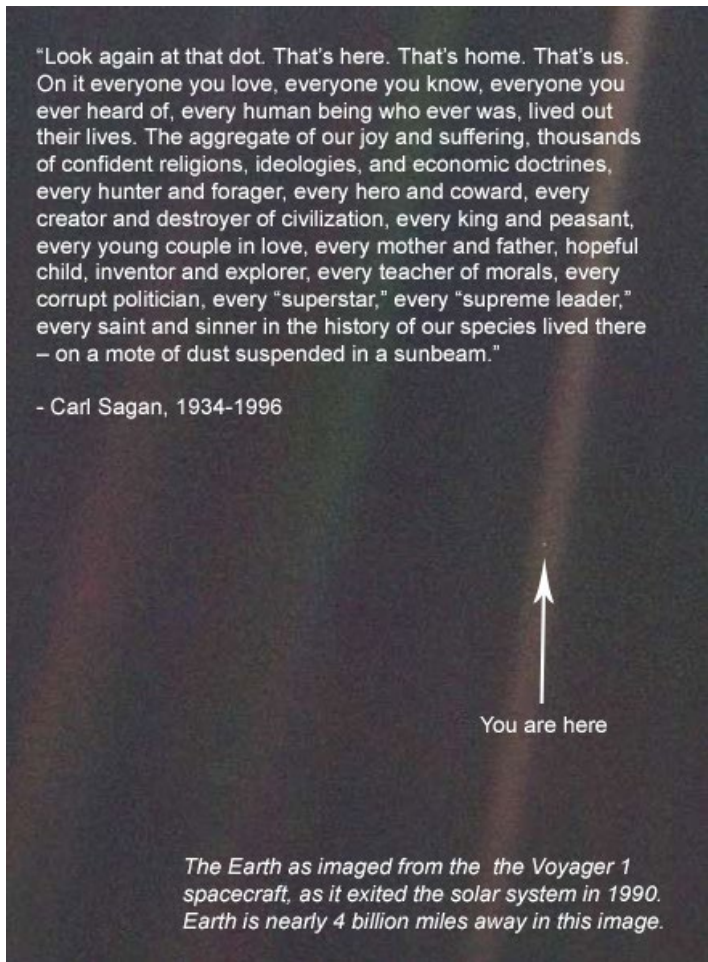
2 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is
3 in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish
4 ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

5
6 **Bible Study 5--EVERYTHING** in the name of Jesus, **Colossians 3:17**
7

8 **Goal:** That the participants live out their various callings through faith in the Lordship of Jesus, who is the 'The-
9 ology of Everything'

10
11 I. A Theory of Everything

12 A. *Carl Sagan's Blue Dot.* (n.d.). [Photograph]. Johnkary.Net.
13 <https://johnkary.net/blog/thoughts-on-carl-sagans-pale-blue-dot/>



Reflection

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Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for others and ourselves

Prayers

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

1 I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night
2 from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that
3 all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all
4 things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
5
6

7 Let us bless the Lord.
8 **Thanks be to God.**
9

10 *Then go joyfully to your work.*
11
12

13 Acknowledgments

14 Morning from Lutheran Service Book

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Closing Worship

79th Convention

Minnesota South District

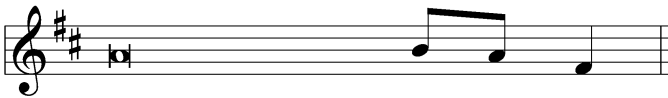
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

June 11, 2022

ORDER OF MATINS

(Please stand as you are able)

L: O Lord, open my lips,



and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

PSALMODY

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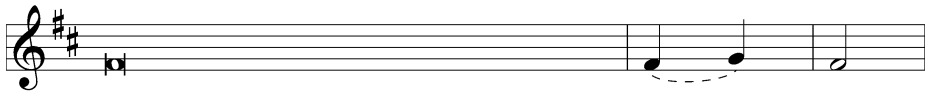


L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.



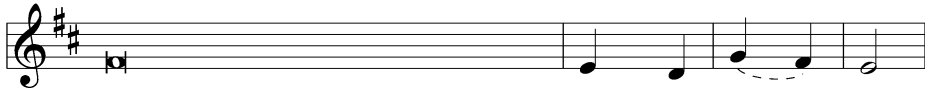
C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

VENITE ~ O Come, Let Us Sing



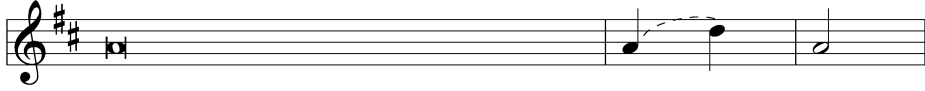
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

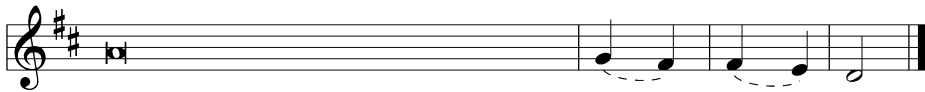


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal-va-tion.
2 and a great king a-bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks-giv-ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be-gin-ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al-so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak-er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for ev-er. A-men.



L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

1 **Psalm 92:1-5, 12-15**

2 L: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

3 **C: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

4 L: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

5 **C: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

6 L: How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

7 **C: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

8 L: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

9 **C: They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,**

10 L: to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

11 **All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall**
12 **be, world without end. Amen.**

13
14 *(Please be seated)*

15 **READINGS**

16
17 **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Isaiah 55:6-11**

18 ⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;

19 call upon him while he is near;

20 ⁷let the wicked forsake his way,

21 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

22 let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,

23 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

24 ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

25 neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

26 ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

27 so are my ways higher than your ways

28 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

29 ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

30 and do not return there but water the earth,

31 making it bring forth and sprout,

32 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

33 ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

34 it shall not return to me empty,

35 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

36 and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

37
38 L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

39 **C: Thanks be to God.**

40
41 **EPISTLE LESSON - Romans 10:5-17**

42 ⁵Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall

43 live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’”

44 (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But

45 what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we pro-

46 claim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from

47 the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and

48 is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinc-

49 tion between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “every-

50 one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not be-

51 lieved? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without

1 someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet
2 of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has be-
3 lieved what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

4
5 L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
6 C: **Thanks be to God.**

7
8 *(Please stand as you are able)*

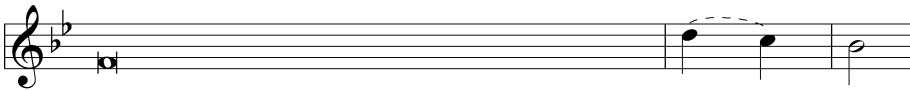
9
10 **GOSPEL LESSON - Matthew 28:16-20**

11 ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw
12 him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on
13 earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Fa-
14 ther and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I
15 am with you always, to the end of the age."

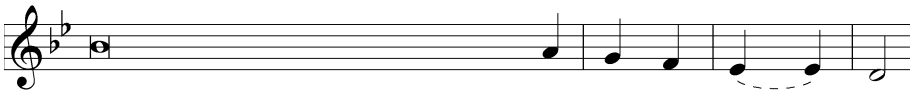
16
17 L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
18 C: **Thanks be to God.**

19 **CANTICLE**

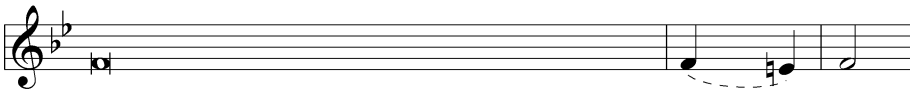
20
21 **TE DEUM ~ We Praise You, O God**



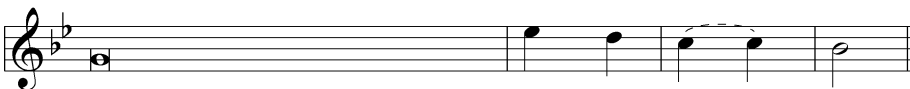
22
23 **C** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise— You.



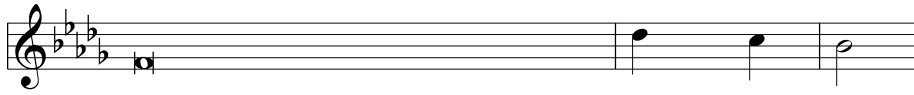
24
25 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



26
27 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise— You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
28 4 You are the king of glory, O— Christ;

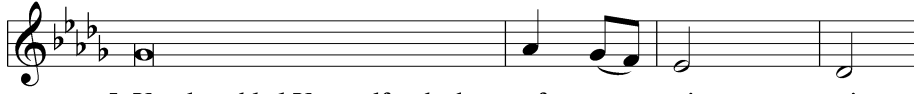


29
30 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise— You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
31 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



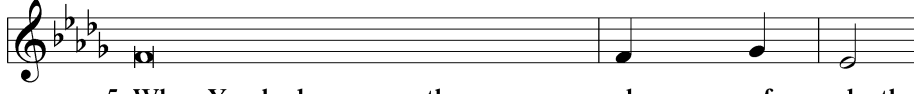
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God

1



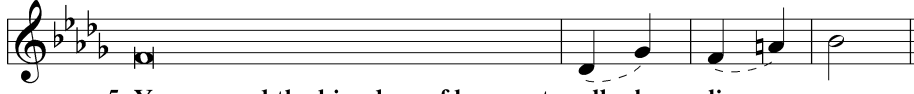
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.

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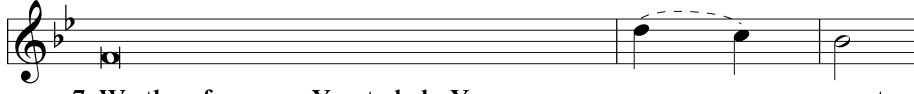
5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come

3



5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.

4



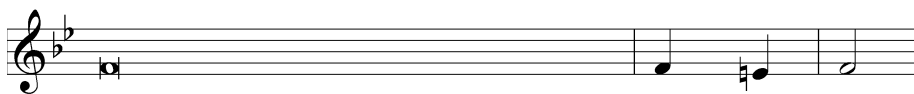
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,

5



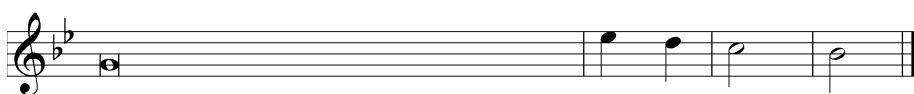
7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.

6



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints

7



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.

8

9

10

PRAYER

11

12

13

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

14

15

16

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

17

18

19

20

1 **COLLECTS**

2 **For Increase in Ministry**

3 L: Almighty and gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have commanded us to pray that You
4 would send forth laborers into Your harvest. Of Your infinite mercy give us true teachers and ministers of
5 Your Word who truly fulfill Your command and preach nothing contrary to Your holy Word. Grant that we,
6 being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted, and strengthened by Your holy Word, may do those things
7 which are well pleasing to You and profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

8 C: Amen.

9
10 **For Guidance in Calling**

11 L: Lord God,

12 C: You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden,
13 through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that
14 Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

15
16 *(Please be seated)*
17

18 **INSTALLATIONS**

19
20 **INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

21
22 **INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS**

23
24 **SENDING**

25
26 **CLOSING PRAYER**

27 Pastor: Almighty and gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that You send faithful laborers into Your
28 vineyard. Grant that through the labor of these, your servants, Your church may be nourished, enriched,
29 guided and sustained in the Word of God and built up into him who is the head of the Church, even Jesus
30 Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

31
32 **BLESSING**

33 L: Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you,
34 and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

35 C: Amen.
36

37 **HYMN~SPREAD THE REIGN OF GOD THE LORD – LSB 830**



38 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



39 Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
40 How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

1 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
2 Ripe the promise of its yield.
3 But the reapers, oh, how few
4 For the work there is to do!
5
6 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
7 Rouse to action heart and mind;
8 Let the gath'ring nations all
9 See Your light and heed Your call.

10
11 **DISMISSAL**

12 L: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

13 C: **Thanks be to God!**

14
15

16

17 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

18 Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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