

# CONVENTION WORKBOOK



*Living Our Baptized Life in Christ*

**The Fifty-Eighth Convention**

**English District**

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

June 26-28, 2025  
Concordia University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The logo for the 58th Regular Convention of the English District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was designed by Linda Linthicum.

# ENGLISH DISTRICT LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

58<sup>th</sup> Convention

June 26-28, 2025

Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI

**June 11, 2025** – Virtual - **Open Hearings** of Convention Floor Committees (start at 7 pm Eastern Time – 1/2 hour each Committee) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84953308816>

**June 12, 2025** – Virtual -**New Delegate Orientation** – 7 pm Eastern Time <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85754230108>

## ***Thursday, June 26, 2025***

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Cafeteria/Student Union
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Vendor/Exhibitor/Ministry Tent setup	Ministry Tent/West Campus
11:00 am	Registration opens	Gymnasium
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Ministry Tent
11:00 am – 6:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
1:30 pm	<b>Divine Worship Service</b> Preacher: Rev. Christopher Esget, LCMS 5th Vice President Convention Group Photo	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
3:00 pm	Break (snacks and beverages courtesy of LCEF)	Ministry Tent
3:30 pm	<b>Opening of the 58th Convention of the LCMS English District</b> Welcome and Opening comments – Bishop/President Rev. Jeffrey Miskus Introductions and Standing Rules Announcements/Electronic Voting procedures Election – Bishop/President Greetings Board of Directors Report – Terry Leu, Chair Election and Ranking – Vice Presidents Nominations from the Floor for other elections	Gymnasium
5:00 pm	Dinner	Cafeteria/Student Union
6:30 pm	Reconvene Greetings Ministerial Health Commission – Rev. Timothy Holzerland Essayist – Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall, Associate VP for Church Relations and Mission, CU Chicago Elections – Secretary & Board of Directors Recognition of new congregations and schools Recognition of Jubilarians Recess for the evening	Gymnasium

## **Friday, June 27, 2025**

6:45 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Cafeteria/Student Union
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking
8:00 am	Devotions – Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, West Region Vice President Treasurer’s Report – Sally Naglich Campus Ministry Report – Rev. Curt Dwyer Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Report – Rev. Peter Lange, LCMS First Vice President	Gymnasium
9:45 am	Break (snacks and beverages courtesy of LCEF)	Ministry Tent
10:15 am	Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Report continued	Gymnasium
10:35 am	Essayist – Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall Floor Committees Elections – Synod Committee on Nominations Concordia Plans – James Sanft, President & CEO Greetings – Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	
12:00 pm	Lunch	Ministry Tent
1:30 pm	Devotions – Rev. Zachary Marklevitz, Lake Erie Region Vice President Floor Committees Roger D. Pittelko Award Presentation Staff Reports – Albert Amling, Rev. Derek Mathers	Gymnasium
2:40 pm	Essayist – Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall	
3:25 pm	Break (snacks and beverages courtesy of LCEF)	Ministry Tent
3:55 pm	Mission Action Team – Rev. Justin Laughridge Elections – Circuit Visitors, Comm. on Nominations, and Endowment Fund Board of Managers Greetings LCMS Foundation – Ron Grimm Floor Committees	Gymnasium
6:00 pm	Dinner	Cafeteria/Student Union
	Evening session as needed	Gymnasium

## **Saturday, June 28, 2025**

6:45 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Cafeteria/Student Union
8:00 am	Devotions – Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, East Region Vice President	Gymnasium
8:25 am	President Address/Convention Business Lifeline Report Endowment Fund Report Floor Committees LCEF – Rev. Bart Day, CEO; John Hoover, English District LCEF Vice President Unfinished Business Adjourn to Chapel <b>Convention Memorial Closing Divine Service</b> Installation of Officers Preacher: Rev. Robert Rogers, Midwest Region Vice President	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
11:45 am	Bus departs for Airport	Campus Main Entrance

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# Crucified and Raised with Jesus

LCMS English District 2025 Convention Hymn



1 Cru - ci - fied and raised with Je - sus, Live the bap - tized life in Christ!  
2 Cru - ci - fied and raised with Je - sus, Live the bap - tized life in Christ!  
3 Cru - ci - fied and raised with Je - sus, Live the bap - tized life in Christ!



God is tru - ly pre - sent with us. Live the bap - tized life in Christ!  
Turn - ing to a world that needs us, Live the bap - tized life in Christ!  
Mir - a - cles of God's for - give - ness, Live the bap - tized life in Christ!



In the Ho - ly Ab - so - lu - tion, In the blest Bap - tis - mal flood,  
With au - then - tic faith and wit - ness We will hold the Scrip - tures true  
In the love of God the Fa - ther, In the grace of God the Son,



In the Bod - y and the Blood, All the gifts of our sal - va - tion,  
As God's love makes our hearts new, So in mer - cy's ea - ger quick - ness  
And the Spir - it's com - mun - ion, We will glo - ri - fy faith's Au - thor,



Come to us in means of grace. Thus He serves us in this place.  
Our vo - ca - tions we ful - fill, And per - form our Sav - ior's will.  
Shin - ing in this dark world's night, Till the na - tions see the Light.

Text: Rev. Jon Gruen, 2024

Tune: LSB 685; Georg G Boltze; Public Domain

*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20*

## THE CONVENTION ELECTION PROCEDURE

Nomination and election procedures are prescribed in the Synod *Handbook*, District Bylaws, and the District *Corporate Operations Manual*.

Four different procedures are prescribed according to the office involved:

- 1) Nomination and Election of the District President is governed by District Bylaw 5.2. Nominations for the office of President (Bishop & President) are directed by the District Secretary from the congregations to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations has no input. All congregations may nominate up to two candidates for President from the ordained minister roster of the Synod. The five pastors with the highest number of nominations for President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. No nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention. A candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. If a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot. Balloting shall continue until a candidate is elected by majority vote.
- 2) Nomination and Election of District Vice Presidents is governed by District Bylaw 5.3. Nominations for the office of Vice President are directed by the District Secretary from the congregations to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations has no input. All congregations of the District may nominate up to two candidates for Vice President from the ordained minister roster of their own District region. The three pastors from each region with the highest number of nominations for Vice President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. (In case of a tie in the number of nominations, all those tied and who accept nomination are placed on the ballot.) No nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention. The Convention as a whole elects each Vice President. A candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. If a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot. Balloting shall continue until a candidate is elected by majority vote. After all Vice Presidents are elected, they are ranked by ballot by the whole Convention, First through Fourth Vice President.
- 3) To elect Circuit Visitors, each circuit shall meet prior to the District Convention as a Circuit Forum and select a Circuit Visitor for the coming triennium (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2), with ratification of the slate of Circuit Visitors by the District Convention. Nominations for the office of Circuit Visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit or suggested by the District President in consultation with the Praesidium of the District. If a circuit fails to select a Circuit Visitor, the District President shall appoint one. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which ratification shall constitute the election.
- 4) At least two nominees for District Secretary, elected members of the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Committee on Nominations are selected by the Committee on Nominations from those submitted to them by the congregations, individual members of the District, and members of District congregations. This Convention's **Committee on Nominations was elected at the 2022 District Convention**. Additional nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention provided a written "consent to serve if elected" statement is submitted to the District Secretary. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidates receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates received 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest

candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

The Bishop/President and Vice Presidents, and the District Secretary, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations and Endowment Fund Board of Managers in attendance will be installed at the closing worship service.

## PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. Delegates wishing to address the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their names and the names of their congregations or other entity of the district they represent.
2. The voting body is composed of the voting delegates, one pastoral and one lay delegate, from each congregation or parish of the District. Voting delegates are expected to attend all sessions of the Convention. They must wear their badges at all sessions and sit in the sections reserved for voting delegates.
3. An electronic response system shall ordinarily be used to register votes. When not in use for motions before the Convention, the Chair shall call for a voice vote OR the raising of the right hand.
4. Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the Chair, or his appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
5. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the Convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next Convention by means of an overture.
6. Unless covered by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Bylaws of the English District, or the standing rules of the Convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
7. When speaking to the question on the floor, a delegate shall attempt to speak directly for or against the question. No delegate may speak more than twice to each question unless consent has been given by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates. There is a two-minute speaking rule. Speakers must address their remarks to the chair or through the chair.
8. Any unfinished item of business or program at a time set for recess in the Convention Agenda will be resumed at the following session or at a time designated by the Chair.
9. Announcements should be submitted to the Chair. At his discretion, announcements will be made from the podium; others will be posted on message boards or distributed to delegates in other forms.
10. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be given two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it. 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 shall again be placed before the house for debate.
11. The use of electronic devices (e.g. tablets, cell phones, and laptops) shall be permitted in the delegate section of the Convention. These devices must have the sound on "mute" at all times and should only be used for Convention business, such as viewing the Convention Workbook online. Courtesy, discernment, and good churchmanship should be demonstrated at all times with the use of such devices and must not distract from each delegate's responsibilities.
12. The standing rules may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting body.

## GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE

1. A member who desires to speak in debate must obtain the floor by permission of the chair.
2. Each member has the right to speak twice on the same question on the same day but cannot make a second speech on the same question so long as any member who has not yet spoken on that question desires the floor.
3. No one can speak longer than permitted by the rules of the assembly.
4. Debate must be confined to the merits of the pending question.
5. Speakers must address their remarks to the chair or through the chair.
6. Speakers must maintain a courteous tone and avoid injecting personal notes or attacking another member's motives.
7. Speakers should refer to officers by title only.
8. Speakers should avoid the mention of other members' names as much as possible.
9. The presiding officer should not enter into discussion of the merits of pending question. If the chair feels compelled to do so, he/she must relinquish the chair to a different presiding officer before speaking to the question at hand.
10. The presiding officer cannot close debate so long as any member who has not exhausted his right to debate desires the floor, except by order of the assembly (calling the question to terminate debate), which requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

### A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Parliamentary procedure assists a deliberative and decision-making assembly in carrying out its purpose and aims in an orderly, fair, and expeditious manner.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

Parliamentary law protects six basic rights:

- 1) The right of the majority to make a decision;
- 2) The right of the minority to be heard in hopes that it may become the majority;
- 3) The right of absentees to be protected;
- 4) The right of the assembly to be comfortable and to hear;
- 5) The right of the individual member to be honored;
- 6) And the orderly consideration of one subject at a time.

### B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chair and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner:

#### **MEMBERS:**

1. Address the Chair: "Rev. Chair" (or "Rev. Bishop" or "Rev. President"). The members asking for the floor must identify themselves by name and congregation or other entity of the district they represent.
2. Await recognition by the Chair.
3. Make the motion. "I move that..."
4. Second the motion (unless not required).

#### **CHAIR:**

5. States the motion (or rules it out of order).
6. Calls for discussion (unless motion is undebatable).  
Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and for discussion.
7. Takes the vote (or "calls the question").  
A tie vote defeats the motion since a majority is required to adopt - unless the motion requires a 2/3 vote.
8. States the results.  
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

### C. Basic Parliamentary Principles for Convention

1. A district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the district president, executive staff, board of directors and various committees or mission action teams. In addition, the Convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees, which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. 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. To accomplish the closure of debate a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, this motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is finished, and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. 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. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
7. 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.
8. Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home or neighboring congregations.

## A Basic Primer of Parliamentary Procedure

### I. 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 ensure 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.

### II. Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

The motions or points listed below, 1 through 9, are in order of precedence.

In other words:

- A. When any of them is pending, you may not introduce one listed below it.
- B. You may introduce one that is listed above it.

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

### III. General Points, Proposals, and Motions

The items listed below are general points, proposals, and motions, and they have no order of procedure over another. You may introduce any one of them at any time except:

- A. When a motion to adjourn is pending
- B. When a motion to recess is pending
- C. When a point of privilege is pending.

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

#### **IV. Substitute Motions**

If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be given two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it. 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 shall again be placed before the house for debate.

## GLOSSARY OF PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Special committee with a limited assignment and a limited life.

**Advisory Delegate:** A certified member of the Convention with the right to speak without vote; however, if appointed to a floor committee, entitled to vote there.

**Agenda:** List of items of Convention business “to be done.

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

**Amend:** To change or modify a resolution or motion.

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

**Audit:** Official examination and verification of accounts.

**Bylaw:** A rule of the District ranking immediately below the constitution in authority and above standing rules.

**Call the Question:** A subject or point of debate or a resolution being or to be voted on.

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

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

**Division in the House:** A vote taken by rising or electronic device to verify a voice vote at the call of the Chair or at the request of a voting delegate.

**Floor Committee:** A working group of Convention voting and advisory delegates to whom the processing of a share of Convention business is entrusted for recommendation in turn to the Convention proper.

**General Consent:** An informal method of disposing of routine and generally favored proposals by assuming approval of a request unless immediate objection is raised.

**Handbook:** A manual containing the District or Synod Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws.

**In Order:** Correct from a parliamentary standpoint at a given time.

**Majority:** More than half the votes cast. The Synod Constitution provides: “All matters of doctrine and of conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote” (Article VIII.C). This means a majority in all instances except those which involve a proposed constitutional amendment; these require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all votes cast. All elections are determined not by simple plurality but by absolute majority.

**Out of Order:** Not correct from a parliamentary standpoint at that particular time.

**Overture (Memorial):** A recommendation or proposed resolution submitted by a member congregation or other authorized group for consideration by the convention.

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

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

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

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

**Preamble:** The introductory part of a resolution or report, usually in the form of whereas clauses. The assembly has the right to perfect these since they are part of the resolution when presented together with the resolves.

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

**Privileged Motion:** A motion, such as to recess, to fix the time of the next session, and to change the Orders of the Day. It takes precedence over all other motions.

**Question:** A subject or point of debate or a resolution to be voted on.

**Quorum:** The fewest number of delegates that can be present and still permit business to be legally transacted. At least one-third of the voting members of the District represented by at least one of their respective representatives shall constitute a quorum (Synod Constitution XII.14).

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

**Rescind:** To annul or to cancel. To undo or reverse a previous decision.

**Resolution:** A formal proposal submitted previously in writing by a Convention floor committee for action by the Convention.

**Substitute Amendment:** When a full paragraph, section, or resolution is dropped and another is inserted in its place.

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

**58<sup>th</sup> CONVENTION of the  
ENGLISH DISTRICT of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
June 26-28, 2025**

<b><u>Committee on Nominations</u></b> .....		The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Chair
	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Congregational Layperson</u>
Eastern Region	The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Mr. Connor Hagey
Lake Erie Region	The Rev. Mark Braden	Mr. Terry Leu
Midwest Region	The Rev. Dr. David Petersen	DCE Rodrick Lane
Western Region	The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Ms. Karina Lindsey-von Hindenburg
	The Rev. Luke Zimmerman, District Secretary, Advisor	

**APPOINTMENTS**

Floor Committees:

- Committee #1 Church and Theology**.....The Rev. Mark Braden with  
Committee members of the Detroit North & South Circuits 11 & 12  
The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz, Vice President, Advisor
- Committee #2 Missions and Evangelization**..... The Rev. Benjamin Janssen with  
Committee members of the Pittsburgh Circuit 6  
The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Vice President, Advisor
- Committee #3 Administration and Structure**..... The Rev. Stanley Lacey with  
Committee members of the Arizona South Circuit 20  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, Vice President, Advisor
- Committee #4 Congregational Services**.....The Rev. Anthony Oliphant with  
Committee members of the Chicago North & South Circuits 15 & 16  
The Rev. Robert Rogers, Vice President, Advisor
- Committee #5 Elections**.....The Rev. Robert Tauscher with  
The Rev. Jonathan McCall, Vice Chair  
The Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Advisor
- Convention Chaplains**.....The Rev. Marc DiConti and The Rev. Jonathan Lackey
- Parliamentarian**..... The Rev. Dr. John Stieve
- Worship Committee**.....The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, Chair and  
The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein, Vice Chair
- District Convention Essayist**.....The Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall
- Convention Homilists**.....The Rev. Christopher Esget and The Rev. Robert Rogers
- Youth Delegate Coordinators**..... Rod Lane and DCE Emily Leising

**ENGLISH DISTRICT**  
of  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**  
33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030  
Phone: (248)476-0039; FAX: (248)476-0188  
www.englishdistrict.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Rev. Todd Arnold	DCE Rod Lane	Mrs. Sally Naglich
Mr. Chris Cassel	The Rev. Justin Laughridge	The Rev. Robert Rogers
Ms. Carol George	Mr. Terry Leu	Mr. Jim Thielen (Canada Corp)
Mr. Thomas Habitz	The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Mr. Keith Vieregge
Mr. Tom Honebrink	The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus	Mrs. Kristin Wellik
The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

**OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus	33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:</b> The Rev. Robert A. Rogers	300 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181-2614
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:</b> The Rev. Dr. Michael A. Morehouse	15855 N Twin Lakes Drive, Tucson, AZ 85739-8895
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:</b> The Rev. Zachary W. Marklevitz	150 50th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49548-5636
<b>4<sup>th</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:</b> The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	25 Scenic Road, Springfield, PA 19064-1951
<b>SECRETARY:</b> The Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman	208 Woods Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-2634
<b>TREASURER:</b> Mrs. Sally L. Naglich, CPA	33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030

**CIRCUIT VISITORS**

New York #1: The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt	Western Michigan #13: The Rev. Peter Burfeind
Philadelphia #2: The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein	Indiana #14: The Rev. Chad Trouten
Florida #3: The Rev. William Douthwaite III	Chicago-North #15: The Rev. Anthony Oliphant
Georgia #4: The Rev. David Miller	Chicago-South #16: The Rev. Douglas Hoag
Buffalo #5: The Rev. David Walsh	Milwaukee #17: The Rev. Frederic Reaman
Pittsburgh #6: The Rev. Justin Schmidt	St. Louis #18: The Rev. Jonathan Gruen
Canada-East #7: The Rev. Gerald Luck	Arizona-North #19: The Rev. Steven Resner
Canada-West #8: The Rev. James Leistico	Arizona-South #20: The Rev. Dr. John Stieve
Cleveland-Akron #9: The Rev. Jonathan McCall	Texas/Nevada #21: The Rev. Stanley Lacey
Cleveland-West #10: The Rev. Robert Weldon Sr.	San Diego #22: The Rev. James Huenink
Detroit-South #11: The Rev. Bradford Scott	Los Angeles #23: The Rev. Titus Utecht
Detroit-North #12: The Rev. Timothy Holzerland	San Francisco #24: The Rev. Curtis Binz

**DISTRICT STAFF**

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers	Assistant to the President / Executive Assistant to the President - Missions
Mr. Albert Amling	Executive Assistant to the President - School Ministry
Mrs. Sally Naglich	Treasurer / Executive Assistant to the President - Business & Finance
Mr. Ronald Grimm	LCMS Foundation Planned Giving Counselor
Mr. John Hoover	LCEF Vice President
Mrs. Kathryn Stanis	Administrative Assistant to the Bishop / President
Mrs. Peggy Oke	Administrative Assistant – Business & Finance
Ms. Natalya Hrecznyj	Accounting Assistant
Mrs. Linda Linthicum	Communications Coordinator

## ELECTED COMMITTEES

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

<u>REGION</u>	<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>LAYPERSONS</u>
Eastern	The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	Mr. Connor Hagey
Lake Erie	The Rev. Mark Braden	Mr. Terry Leu
Midwest	The Rev. David Petersen	DCE Rodrick Lane
Western	The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Ms. Karina Lindsey-von Hindenburg

### **ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Eastern Region	Mr. Michael Coffey
Lake Erie Region	Mr. Jim Thielen
Midwest Region	Mr. Rex Toepke
Western Region	The Rev. Fred Gerlach
Canada Corporation	Ms. Ann Marie Weselan
English District President	The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus
English District Treasurer	Mrs. Sally Naglich
Board of Directors Representative	Mr. Terry Leu
Advisory	Mr. Thomas Schlitt

## APPOINTMENTS/APPOINTED COMMITTEES

### **CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE**

The Rev. Eric Andrae, The Rev. Dr. Matthias Benfey, The Rev. Scott Benjamin, The Rev. Jacob Deal, The Rev. Marc DiConti, The Rev. Dr. David Dressel\*, The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, The Rev. Christopher Nuttelman, The Rev. James Robinson, The Rev. Bradley Scott, The Rev. M. Todd Zill

### **CONSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP #**

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, The Rev. Ryan Beffrey, The Rev. Luke Zimmerman\*

### **DISTRICT ARCHIVIST**

The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz

### **EVANGELISM TEAM**

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Brian Pratt\*

### **LIFELINE**

Dr. Roni Grad\*, The Rev. Daniel Greg, The Rev. Douglas Hoag, Mr. Glenn Kahle, Mr. Dave Lambert, Deaconess Jennifer Miller, The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

### **MINISTERIAL HEALTH**

The Rev. Brian Crane, The Rev. Paul Habersock, Deac. Barbara Hemme, The Rev. Timothy Holzerland\*, Ms. Marianne Jackson, The Rev. Dr. Christian Just, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers\*, The Rev. Greg Michel, Ms. Susan Neff, The Rev. Justin Schmidt, The Rev. Steven Sutterer

### **MISSION ACTION TEAM**

Mr. Ian Farquharson, Ms. Linda Gilbertson, The Rev. Justin Laughridge\*, The Rev. Gerald Luck, Mr. Gordon Marquette, The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, The Rev. Fred Reaman, The Rev. Titus Utecht

### **RECONCILERS #**

Mr. Richard Crain, The Rev. Philip Gai, Mr. Charles Porter, The Rev. David Young

### **STEWARDSHIP**

The Rev. Michael Scheer\*

### **WORSHIP**

The Rev. Ryan Beffrey\*, The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

\*Chair/Co-Chair

# Requires Board ratification

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

**OFFICERS**

President: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
First Vice President: The Rev. Peter Lange  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
Second Vice President: The Rev. Benjamin Ball  
6969 W Frontage Rd., Worden, IL 62097  
Third Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Scott Murray  
5800 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057  
Fourth Vice President: The Rev. Nabil Nour  
46448 263rd St, Hartford, SD, 57033  
Fifth Vice President: The Rev. Christopher Esget  
1801 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Sixth Vice President: The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Jr.  
3832 S. Lake Dr., Saint Francis, WI 53235  
Secretary: The Rev. Dr. John Sias  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122  
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Felix Loc  
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Nathan Haak  
Chief Mission Officer: The Rev. Kevin Robson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Officers:* Mr. Christian Preus, Chairman; Mr. Andrew Grams, Vice-Chairman; The Rev. John Sias, Secretary

*Ordained Members:* The Rev. Roger Gallup, The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, The Rev. Josemon Hoem, The Rev. John Sias

*Commissioned Member:* Dr. Jan Lohmeyer

*Lay Members:* Mr. Andrew Grams, Mr. Larry Harrington, Mr. Leo MacKay Jr., Mr. Christian Preus, Mr. Rick Stathakis, Mr. K. Allan Voss, Dr. Jesse Yow

*Non-Voting Members:* The Rev. Peter Lange

*Advisory:* Mr. Nathan Haak, Mr. Felix Loc, Rev. Kevin Robson

*Legal Counsel:* UB Greensfelder LLP

## 2025 CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #1 - New York</u></b>		
Ewing, NJ	Bethany	
Flushing, NY	Immanuel	
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace	
Palisades Park, NJ	New Jersey Chowon	Rev. Phillip Sang Cho Rey
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel	Daysung Lee
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Jane Duffy
Saint Albans, NY	Redeemer	Herb Gishlick
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour	Rev. Curtis Stephens
		Sandra Coffey
<b><u>Circuit #2 - Philadelphia</u></b>		
Alexandria, VA	Immanuel	Rev. Christopher Esget
Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei	Andrew Scheck
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Christopher Seifferlein
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman
Philadelphia, PA	Rehoboth Afaan	Gabriel Edwards
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Karen Appel
Warminster, PA	Grace	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
		David Carlson
<b><u>Circuit #3 - Florida</u></b>		
Inverness, FL	Tree of Life	Rev. Eric Linthicum
Naples, FL	Faith	Ronald Hansen
Ocala, FL	Trinity	Rev. Danlias Howe
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. Gregory Michel
Saint John's, FL	Celebration	Cathleen Howe
		Marsha Asbury
<b><u>Circuit #4 - Georgia</u></b>		
Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd	
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller
		Will Davis
<b><u>Circuit #5 - Buffalo</u></b>		
Albion, PA	Holy Trinity	Rev. Michael Taylor
Amherst, NY	Calvary	David Lindenmuth
Erie, PA	Trinity	Rev. Travis Schmidt
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. David Walsh
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer	
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community	
<b><u>Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh</u></b>		
Bridgeport, WV	Saint John's	Rev. Christopher Harrison
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Justin Schmidt
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz
Pittsburgh, PA	First Trinity	Rev. Benjamin Janssen
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints	Joseph Solberg
		Connor Hagey
		Brandon Price
		Peter Rigney

## 2025 CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #7 - Canada East</u></b>			
Aurora, ON	Christ	Rev. Justin Park	Bob Ernst
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John's		
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Rev. Philip Gai	Doug Woods
Pembroke, ON	Saint John's	Rev. Stephen Alles	Mary Ann Alles
Toronto, ON	Saint Luke	Rev. Justin Laughridge	Ian Farquharson
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	Rev. Dereck Pillay	Derick Ackloo
<b><u>Circuit #8 - Canada West</u></b>			
Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's		
Kingsville, ON	First		
Kitchener, ON	Hope		Glenn Kahle
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Andersen	
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Rev. Colton LaMay	
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane		
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. James Leistico	
<b><u>Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron</u></b>			
Akron, OH	Concordia		
Fairlawn, OH	Fairlawn		
North Royalton, OH	Our Savior	Rev. Jonathan McCall	Charles Parnell
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Rev. Blake Martzowka	Rory Wolff
<b><u>Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West</u></b>			
Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross		
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia		
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon Sr.	David Darmstadt
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Rev. Jim Bretthauer	Terry Leu
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Rev. Joshua Ulm	Mark English
Oberlin, OH	Grace		
<b><u>Circuit #11 - Detroit-South</u></b>			
Allen Park, MI	Angelica		Ed Stephens
Allen Park, MI	Christ Our Redeemer	Rev. Joel Holls	Vincent Tobias
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden	Thomas Habitz Jr.
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Solomon Spangler	Edward Fleck
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ		
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory		
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Bradford Scott	LeAnne Scott

## 2025 CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u></b>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Larry Loree Jr.	David Lambert
Redford, MI	Grace		
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Redeemer		
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul's	Rev. Simeon Cornwell	Joseph Finazzo
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
Shelby Township, MI	Epic		
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Tony Pauza
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings	Rev. Daniel Jansen	Larry Watson
<b><u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u></b>			
Bellaire, MI	Hope	Rev. Wade Seaver	Mark Harris
Dorr, MI	Epiphany		
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Curt Dwyer	Susan Beyerlein
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Christopher Nuttelman	Andrew Silagi
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Charles Cole
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss	Neal Forss
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity		
Marshall, MI	Agnus Dei	Rev. Peter Burfeind	Aidan Quick
West Olive, MI	Christ		
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. Zachary Marklevitz	Jeffrey DeYoung
<b><u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u></b>			
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Rev. Chad Trouten	Ethan Richards
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. David Petersen	Jonathan Busarow
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well		
Fremont, IN	Peace		
Hudson, IN	Prince of Peace		
La Porte, IN	Trinity		
Zionsville, IN	Advent	Rev. Aaron Schultz	Mark Werling
<b><u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u></b>			
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith		John Coates
Chicago, IL	Bethany		
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon	Roop Charles
Chicago, IL	Christ English		
Chicago, IL	Grace English		
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Rev. Daniel Greg	Scott Fredrick
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	Rev. Anthony Oliphant	Daniel Anderson
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers	Bert Dale
<b><u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u></b>			
Berwyn, IL	Concordia		
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields		
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha		
Chicago, IL	Faith		
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine		
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah		
Markham, IL	Markham		Bernardine Postlewaite
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag	Timothy King

## 2025 CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u></b>			
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah		
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	Rev. Todd Liefer	
Hastings, MN	Hope		
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark		
Lake Mills, WI	Christ		
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler	Phil Hagedorn
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Scott Kruse	Carol Fontanez
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Tyler Werner	Jeff Leffin
Watertown, WI	Faith	Rev. Seth Hoepfner	
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman	Chuck Porter
<b><u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u></b>			
Hannibal, MO	Saint John's		
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Devin Burmeister	Chris Troester
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer		Derek Johnson
Saint Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Theodore Laesch	David Stahlhut
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. Jonathan Lackey	Regis O'Neil
<b><u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u></b>			
Gold Canyon, AZ	Shepherd of the Canyon	Rev. Dr. Mark Wood	Mary Ellen Wood
Mesa, AZ	Eternal Life	Rev. Brian Crane	Andrew Grant
Overgaard, AZ	Faith	Rev. Rodney Schmeltz	Brian Parker
Parker, AZ	Messiah		
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines		
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Fred Gerlach	Benjamin Wirtz
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. Michael Mathews	
<b><u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u></b>			
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Todd Arnold	Dennis Betz
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex		
Sahuarita, AZ	Crosspoint	Rev. Jason Hong	Keith Christiansen
Tucson, AZ	Ascension		Andy Wellik
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse	Tom Honebrink
Tucson, AZ	Faith	Rev. M. Todd Zill	Judy Hughes
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity		
Tucson, AZ	Messiah		
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Isaac Wirtz	Jonathan Wiens
<b><u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u></b>			
Magnolia, TX	Saint Thomas	Rev. Stanley Lacey	Glen Piper
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Robert Bruggeman	Colin Metzger
Paris, TX	Saint Paul	Rev. Toby Byrd	Jonathan Fitzgerald

**2025 CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATES**

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<b><u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u></b>			
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego		
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. James Huenink	Kathleen Vaughn
La Mesa, CA	Saint Luke's	Rev. Dr. Mark Menacher	
<b><u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u></b>			
Long Beach, CA	Saint Paul's		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park		
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Manuel De La Rosa	Sara De La Rosa
Orange, CA	Immanuel		
Palm Desert, CA	Peace	Rev. James Bowes	Lauren Bowes
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	Rev. Titus Utecht	Laura Warshawsky
<b><u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u></b>			
Danville, CA	Messiah	Rev. Kevin Belter	Joseph Pleinis
Ferndale, CA	Saint Mark		
Fremont, CA	Hope		
Hayden, ID	Blessed Sacrament	Rev. Marc DiConti	Wade Arndt
Moses Lake, WA	Apostolic		
San Francisco, CA	New Life	Rev. Charles Fox	Ed Yee
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Curtis Binz	

## 2025 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

### YOUTH

*Isabella Bowes*

*Arturo Cepeda*

*Fernando Cepeda*

*Denise DeDonatis*

*Simon Ficken*

*Andrew Koch*

*Rebecca Wharton*

### CONGREGATION

Peace, Palm Desert, CA

St. Paul, Paris, TX

St. Paul, Paris, TX

Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ

Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ

First, El Cajon, CA

## JUBILARIANS – ORDAINED

### Ordination Anniversary

#### **25 years (1998, 1999, 2000)**

The Rev. Eric R. Andrae  
The Rev. Curtis A. Binz  
The Rev. David M. Dukovan  
The Rev. Christopher S. Esget  
The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy  
The Rev. Michael A. Johnson, Sr.  
The Rev. Shadrach Katari  
The Rev. Scott D. Kruse  
The Rev. Theodore L. Laesch, Jr.  
The Rev. Dr. Michael A. Morehouse  
The Rev. Todd A. Seaver  
The Rev. Wade M. Seaver  
The Rev. Glenn D. Stresman  
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger  
The Rev. James E. Witt  
The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood

#### **30 years (1993, 1994, 1995)**

The Rev. Peter A. Bauernfeind  
The Rev. Larry E. Bell  
The Rev. Douglas E. Hoag  
The Rev. Dr. Terry N. Hursh  
The Rev. Dr. James W. Jasper  
The Rev. John T. Kelling  
The Rev. Michael W. Mathews  
The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus  
The Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Morton  
The Rev. Steven J. Okpiz  
The Rev. Raymond W. Scholle, Jr.  
The Rev. Edward J. Steeh  
The Rev. Charles E. Varsogea  
The Rev. Nicholas D. Wirtz

#### **35 years (1988, 1989, 1990)**

The Rev. Scott E. Benjamin  
The Rev. Thomas E. Engler  
The Rev. Eric C. Forss  
The Rev. James A. Gau  
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth  
The Rev. Dale W. Kaster  
The Rev. Robert A. Rogers  
The Rev. Travis J. Schmidt  
The Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt  
The Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel  
The Rev. Rodney E. Zwonitzer

#### **40 years (1983, 1984, 1985)**

The Rev. Paul W. E. Anderson  
The Rev. Randy S. Boelter  
The Rev. Marc G. DiConti  
The Rev. Steven J. Duescher  
The Rev. Mark H. Ebert  
The Rev. Ben C. Eder  
The Rev. Charles A. Fox  
The Rev. Patrick D. Henry  
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers  
The Rev. Bradford C. Maxon  
The Rev. Karl E. Schmidt  
The Rev. Bradford E. Scott  
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw  
The Rev. Steven E. Sutterer  
The Rev. Michael S. Taylor  
The Rev. Robert E. Voelker

#### **45 years (1978, 1979, 1980)**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Acton  
The Rev. Dr. James L. Hoke, Jr.  
The Rev. Allen D. Lunneberg  
The Rev. Dr. Elwood E. Mather, III  
The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz  
The Rev. Robert W. Tauscher, Jr.

#### **50 years (1973, 1974, 1975)**

The Rev. Peter M. Berg  
The Rev. Dr. Michael S. Ernst  
The Rev. Luther P. Esala  
The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just  
The Rev. David R. Liefeld  
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert C. Meilaender  
The Rev. Dr. Frank J. Pies, Jr.  
The Rev. Dr. Larry G. Schneekloth  
The Rev. Norman A. Timmermann

#### **55 years (1968, 1969, 1970)**

The Rev. Dr. David A. Dressel  
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert J. Duchow  
The Rev. Dr. John M. Goerss  
The Rev. Robert W. Maass  
The Rev. Dr. Garry D. McClure  
The Rev. Edward F. Radke  
The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt  
The Rev. Dr. John W. Stieve  
The Rev. John A. Strohschein  
The Rev. Roger R. Stuenkel  
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth  
The Rev. Mark L. Viets

#### **60 years (1963, 1964, 1965)**

The Rev. Norman A. Bumbly  
The Rev. Robert F. Burke  
The Rev. Paul H. Dorr  
The Rev. Ronald H. Laue  
The Rev. Theodore G. Predoehl  
The Rev. Guy A. Vogel  
The Rev. Dr. David J. Zersen

#### **65 years (1958, 1959, 1960)**

The Rev. Dr. Simon S. C. Johann  
The Rev. William G. Naumann  
The Rev. Richard W. Patt  
The Rev. Dr. Daniel G. Reuning  
The Rev. Dr. Louis N. Scholl

## JUBILARIANS – COMMISSIONED

### Graduation Anniversary

#### **25 years (1998, 1999, 2000)**

Mrs. Kathryn E. Brech  
Mrs. Katie M. Dennert  
Mrs. Emily L. Helmreich  
Mrs. Elizabeth U. Radcliffe  
Deaconess Brenda M. Ryan

#### **30 years (1993, 1994, 1995)**

Mrs. Teresa L. Hansen  
Mrs. Susan J. Michel  
Ms. Elaine E. Mills  
Mr. Donald R. Rau

#### **35 years (1988, 1989, 1990)**

Deaconess Catherine A. Dillabough  
Mrs. Sherri L. Steigerwalt  
Ms. Laurie A. Horne

#### **40 years (1983, 1984, 1985)**

Mrs. Judith A. Behlke  
Mrs. Grace M. Gallmann  
Mr. Paul F. Gohde  
Mr. Daniel V. Holt  
Mrs. Karla K. Rendahl  
Mrs. Nadine L. Schilke  
Mrs. Patricia A. Zanta

#### **45 years (1978, 1979, 1980)**

Mr. Timothy S. Franz  
Mrs. Darla J. Gremel  
Mrs. Vicki J. Helmling  
Mr. Robert W. Kaun, Jr.  
Mr. Douglas S. Mertz  
Mrs. Susan E. Monfre  
Mr. George T. Moore  
Mr. Randy L. Potts  
Mrs. Mary Beth Terhaar

#### **50 years (1973, 1974, 1975)**

Mr. Carl E. Hoppe  
Mr. Dwayne D. Jobst  
Mrs. Andrea L. Johnson  
Mrs. Gloria M. Lawrence  
Mr. Eric M. Schultz  
Mrs. Judy K. Schultz  
Mrs. Janet L. Stechholz

#### **55 years (1968, 1969, 1970)**

Mrs. Lynn D. Buhrke  
Mr. Waldemar C. Heuer  
Mr. Albert L. Kahlfeldt  
Mrs. Linda L. Scheurman  
Mr. Gordon S. Stuckert

#### **60 years (1963, 1964, 1965)**

Mrs. Annette L. Bacon  
Mrs. Rozanne M. Heinzel  
Mr. Leslie R. W. Morris  
Mr. Kenneth J. Oerkfitz  
Mrs. Susan A. Stults  
Mr. Donald F. Wachholz

#### **65 years (1958, 1959, 1960)**

Mr. Robert J. Clegg  
Mr. Rex T. Kollmorgen  
Mrs. Sandra J. Kollmorgen  
Mr. John W. Speckhard  
Mr. Gerald J. Warmbier  
Mr. Hilbert W. Wiedenkiller

#### **70 years (1953, 1954, 1955)**

Mr. Carl G. Gruendler

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### Ordinations

**BARNETT**, Candidate Shawn T., 6-22-2024, Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN  
**BOWES**, Candidate James F. L., 1-14-2024, Peace of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA  
**BRETTHAUER II**, Candidate James A., 1-29-2023, Prince of Peace, Medina, OH  
**DOUGHTY III**, Candidate Robert M., 2-21-2025, Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ  
**DUNCAN**, Candidate Owen D., 7-21-2024, Faith, Naples, FL  
**GRAY**, Candidate Daniel L., 7-24-2022, Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ  
**JANSSEN**, Candidate Benjamin N., 7-2-2023, Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA  
**LACKEY**, Candidate Jonathan S., 7-9-2023, St. Paul, Cullman, AL  
**MARTZOWKA**, Candidate Blake J., 7-8-2023, St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH  
**RUDOLPH**, Candidate Jared E., 7-28-2024, Peace, Fremont, IN  
**SCHULTZ**, Candidate Aaron A., 6-19-2022, Immanuel, Alexandria, VA  
**SPANGLER**, Candidate Solomon K., 7-13-2024, Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
**ST. JOHN**, Candidate Samuel M. K., 6-26-2022, Ascension, Tucson, AZ

### Installations – Ordained Ministers

**ANDERSEN**, Rev. Gerald B., 9-7-2024, Sole Pastor, Grace, Mitchell, ON, Canada  
**BARNETT**, Rev. Shawn T., 6-22-2024, Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN  
**BELTER**, Rev. Kevin P., 7-31-2022, Sole Pastor, Messiah, Danville, CA  
**BOWES**, Rev. James F. L., 1-14-2024, Sole Pastor, Peace of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA  
**BRETTHAUER II**, Rev. James A., Specific Ministry Pastor, Prince of Peace, Medina, OH  
**BYRD**, Rev. Toby O., 8-25-2024, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Paris, TX  
**CORNWELL**, Rev. Simeon J., 11-19-2023, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, St. Clair Shores, MI  
**CRANE**, Rev. Brian T., 10-9-2022, Sole Pastor, Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ  
**DICONTI**, Rev. Marc G., 1-28-2024, Associate Pastor, Blessed Sacrament, Hayden, ID  
**DOUGHTY III**, Rev. Robert M., 2-12-2025, Associate Pastor, Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ  
**DOUGLAS**, Rev. Paul D., 5-14-2023, Sole Pastor, St. John, Golden Lake, ON, Canada  
**DUNCAN**, Rev. Owen D., 7-21-2024, Associate Pastor, Faith, Naples, FL  
**FRESE**, Rev. Michael N., 4-14-2023, Deputy Director of Church Relations, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, St. Louis, MO  
**GRAY**, Rev. Daniel L., 7-24-2022, Sole Pastor, Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ  
**HARDY**, Rev. Dr. Jamison J., 7-23-2024, President, Concordia University System, St. Louis, MO  
**HARRISON**, Rev. Christopher D., 11-17-2024, Sole Pastor, St. John's, Clarksburg, WV  
**HONG**, Rev. Jason J., 8-6-2023, Sole Pastor, Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ  
**HOWE**, Rev. Danlias F., 9-25-2022, Specific Ministry Pastor, Trinity, Ocala, FL  
**HURSH**, Rev. Dr. Terry N., 2-5-2023, Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Mississauga, ON, Canada  
**JAMESON**, Rev. Leon C., 6-1-2024, Senior Pastor, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**JANSSEN**, Rev. Benjamin N., 7-2-2023, Associate Pastor, Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA  
**KOONTZ**, Rev. Dr. Adam C., 6-2-2024, Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Oakmont, PA  
**KRUSE**, Rev. Scott D., 2-11-2024, Sole Pastor, Peace, New Berlin, WI  
**LACEY**, Rev. Stanley J., 8-17-2024, Sole Pastor, St. Thomas, Magnolia, TX  
**LACKEY**, Rev. Jonathan S., 7-23-2023, Sole Pastor, Grace, Vine Grove, KY  
**LAMAY**, Rev. Colton J., 8-21-2022, Specific Ministry Pastor, Redeemer, Sarnia, ON, Canada  
**LEE**, Rev. Ho Jai, 9-11-2022, Sole Pastor, Immanuel Korean, Flushing, NY  
**LINTHICUM**, Rev. Eric R., 12-22-2024, Sole Pastor, Tree of Life, Inverness, FL

**LOREE Jr.**, Rev. Larry K., 12-3-2023, Sole Pastor, Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI  
**MARTIN**, Rev. Stephen W., 8-27-2022, Assistant Pastor and Chaplain, Institutional (Prison Ministry), Ascension, Tucson, AZ  
**MARTZOWKA**, Rev. Blake J., 7-8-2023, Sole Pastor, St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH and Christ, Mantua, OH (Ohio District)  
**MATHEWS**, Rev. Michael W., 2-3-2024, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ  
**MENACHER**, Rev. Dr. Mark D., 2-11-2024, Sole Pastor, St. Luke, La Mesa, CA  
**MICHEL**, Rev. Gregory S., 2-12-2023, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Coast, Palm Coast, FL  
**MISKUS**, Rev. Jeffrey G., 6-24-2024, Bishop/President, LCMS English District, Farmington, MI  
**NICHOLSON**, Rev. Dr. Isaac W., 8-27-2022, Sole Pastor, St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL  
**NUTTELMAN**, Rev. Christopher K., 4-10-2022, Sole Pastor, Hope, Grand Rapids, MI  
**RENNER**, Rev. Mark J., 5-29-2022, Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Janesville, WI  
**RUDOLPH**, Rev. Jared E., 7-28-2024, Associate Pastor, Peace, Fremont, IN  
**SCHEER**, Rev. Michael D., 6-25-2023, Principal/Headmaster, Our Savior, Hartland, MI  
**SCHMELTZ**, Rev. Rodney L., 10-8-2022, Sole Pastor, Faith, Overgaard, AZ  
**SCHULTZ**, Rev. Aaron A., 7-16-2022, Associate Pastor, Advent, Zionsville, IN  
**SPANGLER**, Rev. Solomon K., 7-13-2024, Sole Pastor, Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
**SPEAKS**, Rev. Keith A., 10-8-2023, Sole Pastor, Faith, Arlington Heights, IL  
**SPITTEL**, Rev. Dr. Douglas H., 10-29-2024, Vice President, Concordia University System, St. Louis, MO  
**ST. JOHN**, Rev. Samuel M. K., 6-26-2022, Associate Pastor, Ascension, Tucson, AZ  
**STEPHENS**, Rev. Curtis D., 7-1-2023, Sole Pastor, Trinity, Scarsdale, NY  
**SWENSON**, Rev. Jacob D., 6-30-2024, Associate Pastor, West Portal, San Francisco, CA  
**VON HINDENBURG**, Rev. Bruce J., 8-4-2024, Assistant Pastor, Catalina, Tucson, AZ  
**WALSH**, Rev. David J., 12-10-2023, Sole Pastor, Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY  
**WILLIAMS**, Rev. Marcus A., 5-15-2022, Senior Pastor, Blessed Sacrament, Hayden, ID  
**WOOD**, Rev. Dr. Mark A., 2-23-2025, Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Canyon, Gold Canyon, AZ  
**ZAGORE**, Rev. Robert M., 4-15-2023, Sole Pastor, Celebration, St. John's, FL

### **Commissionings**

**BROSCH**, Candidate Isabel, 7-28-2024, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO  
**DILLON**, Candidate Bethany J., 8-28-2022, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**GRUNDSTROM**, Candidate Michael H., 8-27-2023, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**KELLE**, Candidate Grace E., 8-27-2023, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**NABER**, Candidate Katelyn M., 8-28-2022, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**PAUL**, Candidate Elizabeth G., 8-13-2023, Advent, Zionsville, IN  
**PICCIOLO**, Candidate Jane C., 8-28-2022, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**REIMER**, Candidate Andria J., 8-27-2023, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**SIUKOLA**, Candidate Jennifer L., 8-14-2022, Advent, Zionsville, IN  
**WAITE**, Candidate Tonya C., 1-8-2023, Ascension, Tucson, AZ  
**WILSHIRE**, Candidate Grace A., 8-20-2023, Redeemer, Oakmont, PA  
**WILSON**, Candidate Mackensi J., 8-25-2024, Our Savior, Hartland, MI

### **Installations – Commissioned Ministers**

**AMLING**, Ms. Grace I. L., 8-27-2023, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**BAUER**, Mr. Noah L., 10-2-2022, Director of Christian Education/Director of Youth Ministry, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**BROSCH**, Miss Isabel, 7-28-2024, Director of Christian Education, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO  
**DILLON**, Ms. Bethany J., 8-28-2022, Teacher/Director of Children's Ministry, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI

**GORR**, Mrs. Karen E., 9-3-2023, Teacher, Immanuel, Alexandria, VA  
**GRUNDSTROM**, Mr. Michael H., 8-27-2023, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**HEISENBUEITEL**, Mrs. Monica M., 8-25-2024, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI  
**HUELSMAN**, Deaconess Jenny Z., 7-21-2024, Deaconess, First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA  
**KELLE**, Ms. Grace E., 8-27-2023, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**LEISING**, Miss Emily J., 5-19-2024, Director of Christian Education, Prince of Peace, Medina, OH  
**MIDDLETON**, Mr. Andrew C., 8-11-2024, Teacher, West Portal, San Francisco, CA  
**NABER**, Ms. Katelyn M., 8-28-2022, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**OCHNIKOWSKI**, Mr. Joshua J., 8-28-2022, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**PAUL**, Ms. Elizabeth G., 8-13-2023, Teacher, Advent, Zionsville, IN  
**PICCIOLO**, Ms. Jane C., 8-28-2022, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**PROST**, Mrs. Linda A., 4-26-2023, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**REIMER**, Ms. Andria J., 8-27-2023, Teacher, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI  
**SIUKOLA**, Deaconess Jennifer L., 8-14-2022, Deaconess, Advent, Zionsville, IN  
**WAITE**, Miss, Tonya C., 1-8-2023, Director of Christian Education, Ascension, Tucson, AZ  
**WILSHIRE**, Ms. Grace A., 8-20-2023, Teacher, Redeemer, Oakmont, PA  
**WILSON**, Miss Mackensi J., 8-25-2024, Teacher, Our Savior, Hartland, MI

#### **Appointments**

**ERHARDT**, Rev. Dr. Martin K., 11-1-2022, Circuit Visitor, New York Circuit 1  
**KIESELOWSKY**, Rev. Robert J., 10-1-2024, Vice President, Eastern Region  
**LACEY**, Rev. Stanley J., 11-1-2024, Circuit Visitor, Nevada Circuit 21  
**LUCK**, Rev. Gerald E., 9-9-2024, Circuit Visitor, Canada East Circuit 7  
**MARKLEVITZ**, Rev. Zachary W., 8-1-2024, Vice President, Lake Erie Region  
**SCHMIDT**, Rev. Justin R., 12-1-2022, Circuit Visitor, Pittsburgh Circuit 6  
**SEIFFERLEIN**, Rev. Christopher M., 6-20-2022, Circuit Visitor, Philadelphia Circuit 2  
**WALSH**, Rev. David J., 9-23-2024, Circuit Visitor, Buffalo Circuit 5  
**WELDON Sr.**, Rev. Robert F., 4-17-2023, Circuit Visitor, Cleveland-West Circuit 10

#### **Called to Glory – Ordained**

**ANDRAE**, Rev. Hans O., 2-13-2023  
**BAHR**, Rev. Dr. Ferdinand O., 3-21-2024  
**BECKMANN Jr.**, Rev. William C., 1-14-2024  
**CLAYCOMBE Jr.**, Rev. Howard E., 9-23-2023  
**ELSNER**, Rev. James L., 1-11-2023  
**FITZPATRICK**, Rev. Dr. Robert L., 11-21-2024  
**INGMIRE**, Rev. Richard L., 11-5-2024  
**MAYER**, Rev. Robert F., 9-13-2022  
**MEALWITZ**, Rev. Dr. Peter E., 11-13-2023  
**MORALES**, Rev. Christian G., 10-1-2023  
**POURCHOT**, Rev. Dr. Daniel M., 5-30-2023  
**REPP Jr.**, Rev. Arthur C., 3-27-2024  
**STEIN**, Rev. Dr. David T., 9-25-2023  
**STUCKMEYER**, Rev. C. David, 11-22-2023

#### **Called to Glory – Commissioned**

**BRAUN**, Mr. Theodore T., 3-20-2022  
**BROCKHOFF**, Mrs. Marian F., 3-15-2024  
**DUCHOW**, Mr. Martin C., 11-30-2023

FINLEY, Mrs. Margaret A., 11-26-2024

SEILER, Mrs. Christine R., 7-12-2023

**Change of Status – Ordained**

ANDERSON, Rev. Paul W. E., 12-16-2023, Active to Emeritus

BELL, Rev. Larry E., 9-1-2024, Active to Emeritus

BOELTER, Rev. Randy S., 6-15-2024, Active to Emeritus

DE SANTO, Rev. Steven A., 9-26-2022, Active to Emeritus

DOUTHWAITE III, Rev. William, 7-23-2022, Active to Emeritus

DRESSEL, Rev. Dr. David A., 1-1-2025, Active to Emeritus

DUESCHER, Rev. Steven J., 5-29-2023, Active to Emeritus

DUY, Rev. Douglas M., 7-1-2022, Active to Emeritus

EBERT, Rev. Mark H., 8-1-2024, Active to Emeritus

EDER, Rev. Ben C., 9-1-2023, Active to Emeritus

GRADY, Rev. James M., 7-1-2024, Active to Emeritus

HABERKOST, Rev. Daniel R., 5-1-2023, Active to Emeritus

HURSH, Rev. Dr. Terry N., 8-4-2024, Active to Emeritus

JOHANN, Rev. Dr. Simon Sung-Chi, 9-10-2022, Active to Emeritus

JOHNSON Sr., Rev. Michael A., 7-10-2023, Active to Candidate

JUST, Rev. Dr. Christian F., 7-8-2023, Active to Emeritus

KERR, Rev. Jonathan W., 2-1-2023, Active to Emeritus

LACEY, Rev. Stanley J., 6-3-2024, Active to Candidate

LEDIC, Rev. Peter J., 7-11-2022, Active to Emeritus

LEPLEY, Rev. Daniel J., 6-21-2024, Active to Candidate

LUCK, Rev. Gerald E., 9-25-2023, Active to Emeritus

MATHER, Rev. Dr. Elwood E., 1-1-2024, Active to Candidate

MILLS, Rev. Peter E., 6-27-2022, Active to Emeritus

OKPISZ, Rev. Steven J., 11-1-2022, Active to Candidate

REND AHL, Rev. Craig S., 2-11-2023, Active to Candidate

SACHS, Rev. Jonathan B., 1-1-2025, Active to Candidate

SEAVER, Rev. Todd A., 7-1-2024, Active to Emeritus

TANNAHILL, Rev. David S., 8-22-2022, Candidate to Emeritus

ZWONITZER, Rev. Rodney E., 5-1-2023, Active to Emeritus

**Change of Status – Commissioned**

CAMPBELL, Mrs. Annette M., 6-16-2023, Active to Candidate

COLE, Deaconess, Jane E., 1-7-2022, Active to Candidate

CZERNICKI, Mrs. Hillary R., 6-16-2023, Active to Candidate

FARRAR, Mrs. Deborah L., 6-16-2023, Active to Emeritus

FISCHL, Ms. Mary Jo, 6-4-2022, Active to Emeritus

HEMLING, Ms. Vicki J., 8-16-2024, Active to Emeritus

HORN YAK, Mrs. Kimberly A., 6-14-2024, Active to Candidate

HUBLICK, Deaconess Angela E., 6-17-2023, Active to Candidate

JOHNSON, Mrs. Andrea L., 7-1-2022, Active to Emeritus

LILLQUIST, Mrs. Judy L., 6-16-2023, Active to Emeritus

MARKWORTH, Mr. Douglas W., 8-1-2024, Candidate to Emeritus

MARKWORTH, Mrs. JoAn L., 8-1-2023, Candidate to Emeritus

MERTZ, Mr. Douglas S., 3-11-2022, Active to Emeritus

MITTS, Mrs. Erika K., 12-18-2024, Active to Candidate

**NABER**, Mrs. Mary L., 6-15-2022, Active to Emeritus  
**SCHMIDT**, Mrs. Heather M., 6-16-2022, Active to Candidate  
**SCOTT**, Mrs. Adrienne D., 6-16-2024, Active to Candidate  
**STEIGERWALT**, Ms. Sherri L., 5-24-2024, Candidate to Emeritus  
**STEIN**, Mrs. Tonya C., 2-22-2024, Active to Candidate  
**VOUGHT**, Mr. Andrew L., 6-16-2023, Active to Candidate

**Reinstatements – Ordained**

**Reinstatements – Commissioned**

**Resigned from the Roster – Ordained**

**SACHS**, Rev. Jonathan B., 2-12-2025  
**THIELE**, Rev. David L., 11-16-2022

**Resigned from the Roster – Commissioned**

**UTECHT**, Mrs. Rianne K., 8-14-2024  
**VOELTZ**, Mr. Bruce L., 2-3-2023

**Removed from the Roster – Ordained**

**WEDAJO**, Rev. Alemayehu O., 2-20-2024

**Removed from the Roster – Commissioned**

**BAKER**, Mrs. Callie N., 12-19-2022

**Transfer into District – Ordained**

**ABRAM**, Rev. Mark H., 6-14-2024, Rocky Mountain District  
**ACTON**, Rev. Dr. Thomas R., 6-25-2024, Pacific Southwest District  
**ALEXANDER**, Rev. Howard M., 12-13-2023, Eastern District  
**ANDERSEN**, Rev. Gerald B., 8-18-2024, Lutheran Church—Canada  
**BAHR**, Rev. Dr. Ferdinand O., 8-16-2023, South Wisconsin District  
**BELTER**, Rev. Kevin P., 6-15-2022, Rocky Mountain District  
**BENJAMIN**, Rev. Scott E., 11-30-2022, Michigan District  
**BERG**, Rev. Peter M., 11-12-2024, Michigan District  
**BOBBY**, Rev. Samuel L., 3-11-2025, South Dakota District  
**BRAMWELL**, Rev. Tyrel E., 9-7-2024, California-Nevada-Hawaii District  
**BYRD**, Rev. Toby O., 8-24-2024, Texas District  
**CORNWELL**, Rev. Simeon J., 11-1-2023, Indiana District  
**CRANE**, Rev. Brian T., 10-9-2022, South Wisconsin District  
**DUCHOW**, Rev. Dr. Gilbert J., 8-4-2022, South Wisconsin District  
**FISHER**, Rev. Thomas J., 8-2-2024, Atlantic District  
**HARRISON**, Rev. Christopher D., 11-4-2024, Iowa West District  
**HICKEY**, Rev. Aaron J., 3-10-2025, Central Illinois District  
**HONG**, Rev. Jason J., 5-1-2023, Pacific Southwest District  
**HOWE**, Rev. Danlias F., 9-2-2022, SELC District  
**KOONTZ**, Rev. Dr. Adam C., 5-31-2024, Rocky Mountain District  
**KRUSE**, Rev. Scott D., 2-11-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**LAGRAVE**, Rev. Tyler R., 8-9-2024, Minnesota South District

**LAMAY**, Rev. Colton J., 7-31-2022, Florida-Georgia District  
**MATHEWS**, Rev. Michael W., 1-22-2024, Minnesota South District  
**McCANLESS**, Rev. Robert E. L., 8-22-2023, Eastern District  
**RENNER**, Rev. Mark J., 5-9-2022, Ohio District  
**SCHMELTZ**, Rev. Rodney L., 9-15-2022, Indiana District  
**STEEH**, Rev. Edward J., 6-15-2022, Michigan District  
**STEPHENS**, Rev. Curtis D., 6-19-2023, SELC District  
**SWENSON**, Rev. Jacob D., 6-18-2024, Iowa East District  
**VANG**, Rev. Yia Z., 9-10-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**WALSH**, Rev. David J., 11-30-2023, Minnesota North District  
**WILLIAMS**, Rev. Marcus A., 4-25-2022, Montana District  
**WOOD**, Rev. Dr. Mark A., 2-20-2025, Missouri District  
**ZAGORE**, Rev. Robert M., 4-4-2023, Missouri District

**Transfer into District – Commissioned**

**AMLING**, Ms. Grace I. L., 6-30-2023, South Wisconsin District  
**BAUER**, Mr. Noah L., 8-27-2022, Minnesota South District  
**ESGET**, Deaconess Eileen J., 1-1-2025, Mid-South District  
**FLENNER**, Mrs. Lorraine F., 11-8-2022, Southeastern District  
**GORR**, Mrs. Karen E., 12-12-2022, Southeastern District  
**HAUSCH**, Mr. Michael F., 2-15-2023, Michigan District  
**HEISENBUETTEL**, Mrs. Monica M., 4-1-2024, Michigan District  
**HEMME**, Deaconess Barbara R., 9-5-2023, Northern Illinois District  
**HIBBARD**, Deaconess Mary Anne, 1-24-2024, Ohio District  
**HUELSMAN**, Deaconess Jenny Z., 6-25-2024, Eastern District  
**LEISING**, Miss Emily J., 5-5-2024, Mid-South District  
**MALLEGNI**, Ms. Kimberly S., 2-10-2025, South Wisconsin District  
**MIDDLETON**, Mr. Andrew C., 8-1-2024, Indiana District  
**NICKEL**, Mr. Scott G., 6-17-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**OCHNIKOWSKI**, Mr. Joshua J., 8-27-2022, South Wisconsin District  
**PROST**, Ms. Linda A., 3-21-2023, South Wisconsin District  
**RYAN**, Deaconess Brenda M., 11-20-2022, Lutheran Church—Canada  
**SCHIMM**, Mrs. Alisha D., 1-24-2023, Michigan District  
**SCHULTZ**, Mr. Eric M., 6-19-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**SCHULTZ**, Mrs. Judith K., 6-19-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**SEWARD**, Deaconess Linda D., 4-10-2023, Pacific Southwest District  
**STATZA**, Mrs. Diane L., 2-14-2023, South Wisconsin District  
**STUCKERT**, Mr. Gordon S., 3-1-2024, Florida-Georgia District  
**SWENSON**, Deaconess Faith E., 6-18-2024, Iowa East District  
**WALSH**, Deaconess Margaret A., 11-30-2023, Minnesota North District

**Transfer into District – Congregations**

**ST. MARK**, Ferndale, CA, 9-7-2024, California-Nevada-Hawaii District

**Transfer out of District – Ordained**

**BOMBARO**, Rev. Dr. John J., 8-1-2024, Indiana District  
**DE SANTO**, Rev. Steven A., 11-17-2023, Southern District  
**DIENER**, Rev. John H., 9-6-2022, Michigan District  
**DREHMAN**, Rev. Arthur J., 8-29-2022, South Dakota District

**ERICKSON**, Rev. John B., 5-24-2024, Pacific Southwest District  
**GRAMS**, Rev. Daniel E., 9-25-2023, Kansas District  
**GRIESER**, Rev. Winston P. A., 12-21-2024, Central Illinois District  
**GRUENWALD**, Rev. Daniel J., 7-18-2023, Michigan District  
**HENDRICKS**, Rev. Dwayne R., 7-21-2023, California-Nevada-Hawaii District  
**KERR**, Rev. Jonathan W., 3-9-2023, Missouri District  
**KIMARI**, Rev. Wallace J., 10-19-2023, Pacific Southwest District  
**KOONTZ**, Rev. Dr. Adam C., 6-2-2022, Rocky Mountain District  
**LEPLEY**, Rev. Daniel J., 10-5-2024, Michigan District  
**MACONACHY**, Rev. Samuel O., 4-29-2023, Missouri District  
**MILLARD Jr.**, Rev. Ronald G., 8-1-2022, Missouri District  
**MOLDENHAUER**, Rev. Joshua P., 6-10-2023, Minnesota South District  
**NAUMANN**, Rev. Dr. Edward A., 8-18-2023, Northern Illinois District  
**NAUMANN**, Rev. Gordon S., 11-1-2022, SELC District  
**NICHOLSON**, Rev. Dr. Isaac W., 10-14-2024, North Wisconsin District  
**RENNER**, Rev. Mark J., 6-15-2024, Ohio District  
**RETZLAFF**, Rev. Brady N., 2-3-2024, SELC District  
**ROGNESS**, Rev. Noah J., 10-7-2023, South Wisconsin District  
**RUTTER**, Rev. David A., 10-1-2022, Michigan District  
**SCHNEIDER**, Rev. Ryan B., 9-12-2022, Indiana District  
**SPEAKS**, Rev. Keith A., 9-28-2024, Northern Illinois District  
**STEVENS**, Rev. Robert J., 6-4-2022, Rocky Mountain District  
**URLAUB**, Rev. Bradley P., 12-7-2024, Eastern District  
**WARNER**, Rev. Daniel M., 8-1-2022, Rocky Mountain District  
**WESTGATE**, Rev. Brian P., 1-18-2023, Indiana District  
**YORK**, Rev. Ronald K., 11-6-2023, Pacific Southwest District

**Transfer out of District – Commissioned**

**AMENDT**, Deaconess Melissa K., 1-29-2025, Oklahoma District  
**BAUER**, Mrs. Kristi K., 09-21-2023, Minnesota South District  
**COLE**, Deaconess Jane E., 06-26-2023, Mid-South District  
**EISMAN**, Mr. Carl S., 12-18-2023, Missouri District  
**ELLIS**, Mrs. Phyllis J., 2-4-2025, South Dakota District  
**FLENNER**, Mrs. Lorraine F., 11-20-2024, Florida-Georgia District  
**FUNKE**, Mr. David M., 1-2-2023, North Wisconsin District  
**GARNER**, Mrs. Emily, 7-15-2022, Texas District  
**GREINKE**, Ms. Ann M., 7-31-2022, Florida-Georgia District  
**HARBKE**, Mr. James M., 1-29-2025, Northern Illinois District  
**KANE**, Mrs. Debra L., 1-25-2023, Northern Illinois District  
**KELLING**, Mrs. Lori A., 7-1-2023, Pacific Southwest District  
**LEWISTON**, Deaconess Sunny, 7-10-2024, North Wisconsin District  
**POPPE**, Mrs. Cheryl L., 7-31-2023, SELC District  
**PROST**, Ms. Linda A., 6-15-2024, South Wisconsin District  
**ROESLER**, Mrs. Kerrie R., 8-1-2023, Texas District  
**SCHWARTZ**, Mrs. Gretchen C., 3-30-2023, Minnesota South District  
**SEWARD**, Deaconess Linda D., 2-26-2024, Pacific Southwest District  
**SNASHALL**, Deaconess Doris M., 8-1-2024, Pacific Southwest District  
**STEINKE**, Ms. Laurie, J., 6-6-2023, Florida-Georgia District

**WOOCK**, Ms. Emily, 8-27-2023, Northern Illinois District  
**ZOBEL**, Miss Suzanne E., 11-1-2023, Northern Illinois District

**Transfer out of District – Congregations**

**PEACE**, O’Fallon, MO, 8-1-2022, Missouri District  
**PEACE IN THE VALLEY**, Benson, AZ, 11-6-2023, Pacific Southwest District

**Congregations – Closed**

**FAITH**, Chesapeake, VA, 12-31-2023  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**, Akron, OH, 5-22-2022  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**, Chicago, IL, 6-24-2018  
**GRACE**, Akron, OH, 6-26-2022  
**OUR SAVIOR’S**, St. George, UT, 9-6-2022  
**RESURRECTION**, Shawano, WI, 9-21-2021  
**TRINITY**, San Dimas, CA, 8-7-2022

**Congregations – New**

**CHRIST**, West Olive, MI, 6-9-2024  
**FIRST**, Kingsville, ON, Canada, 8-20-2023  
**OUR SAVIOR**, North Royalton, OH, 5-8-2022  
**SHEPHERD OF THE CANYON (MS)**, Gold Canyon, AZ, 6-30-2022  
**SHEPHERD OF THE CANYON**, Gold Canyon, AZ, 2-23-2025  
**ST. PAUL**, Paris, TX, 5-27-2024  
**ST. THOMAS**, Magnolia, TX, 3-19-2024

**Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish**

**Schools – Closed**

**CALVARY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**, Mechanicsburg, PA, 5-15-2022  
**GRACE BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL**, Wyoming, MI, 5-5-2024  
**GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL**, Chicago, IL, 6-9-2024  
**SAINT PAUL’S LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**, Saint Clair Shores, MI, 12-23-2022  
**TRINITY CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL**, Villa Park, IL, 9-29-2024

**Schools – New**

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDCARE LEARNING CENTER**, St. Clair Shores, MI, 7-1-2019

## ENGLISH DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES by Regions and Circuits

### **EASTERN REGION**

#### **New York Circuit #1**

Ewing, NJ: Bethany - Served by Alexander  
Flushing, NY: Immanuel - Lee  
Palisades Park, NJ: Grace - Bauernfeind  
Palisades Park, NJ: Cho Won - Rey  
Pennsauken, NJ: Martin Luther Chapel - Gray  
Princeton, NJ: Messiah (CM) - **Erhardt**  
Scarsdale, NY: Trinity - Stephens  
St. Albans, NY: Redeemer - Hicks  
Valley Stream, NY: Our Saviour - Thiagarajan

#### **Philadelphia Circuit #2**

Alexandria, VA: Immanuel - Esget  
Blue Bell, PA: Gloria Dei - Young  
Chincoteague, VA: St. Luke's (S) - Served by Spittel  
Lititz, PA: Mt. Calvary - **Seifferlein**  
Mechanicsburg, PA: Calvary - Zimmerman  
Philadelphia, PA: Logos (S) - Kieselowsky  
Philadelphia, PA: Rehoboth Afaan Oromo - Vacant  
Springfield, PA: St. John's - Kieselowsky  
Warminster, PA: Grace - Young

**\*NOTE: Circuits 1 & 2 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Florida Circuit #3**

Inverness, FL: Tree of Life - Linthicum  
Naples, FL: Faith - Treglowen / Hildebrandt / Duncan  
Ocala, FL: Trinity - Howe  
Palm Coast, FL: **Douthwaite**  
Palm Coast, FL: Shep/Coast - Michel  
St. John's, FL: Celebration - Vacant

#### **Georgia Circuit #4**

Alpharetta, GA: Christ/Shepherd - Elseroad / Sterling  
Atlanta, GA: Ascension - **Miller**

**\*NOTE: Circuits 3 & 4 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Buffalo Circuit #5**

Albion, PA: Holy Trinity - Taylor  
Amherst, NY: Calvary - Served by K. Schmidt  
Erie, PA: Trinity - T. Schmidt  
Kenmore, NY: Pilgrim - **Walsh**  
North Tonawanda, NY: Redeemer - Served by M. Doblér\*  
Syracuse, NY: Hope - Vacant

#### **Pittsburgh Circuit #6**

Bridgeport, WV: St. John's - Harrison  
Hazelwood, PA: Holy Cross (S) - Served by Janssen  
McMurray, PA: Peace - **J. Schmidt**  
Oakmont, PA: Redeemer - Koontz  
Pittsburgh, PA: First Trinity (CM) - Andrae / Janssen  
Slippery Rock, PA: All Saints (CM) - Served by J. Deal\*

**\*NOTE: Circuits 5 & 6 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

### **LAKE ERIE REGION**

#### **Canada East Circuit #7**

Aurora, ON: Christ - Served by Park  
Fullarton, ON: **Luck**  
Golden Lake, ON: St. John's (Germanicus) - Douglas  
Mississauga, ON: St. Mark - Miskus / Gai / Benfey / Mathers  
North York, ON: St. Luke - Laughridge / Park / Lutz / Tillinger  
Pembroke, ON: St. John's - Alles  
Scarborough, ON: St. Matthew - Pillay

### **LAKE ERIE REGION-cont.**

#### **Canada West Circuit #8**

Chatham, ON: Our Saviour - Served by P. Pollex\*  
Kitchener, ON: Hope - Vacant  
Kingsville, ON: First - Vacant  
Mitchell, ON: Grace - Andersen  
Sarnia, ON: Redeemer - LaMay  
Windsor, ON: Gethsemane - Simon  
Windsor, ON: Peace - **Leistico**

**\*NOTE: Circuits 7 & 8 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9**

Akron, OH: Concordia - Served by J. Voelker\*  
Akron, OH: Fairlawn - Gau  
North Royalton, OH: Our Savior - **McCall**  
Streetsboro, OH: St. Thomas - Martzowka

#### **Cleveland-West Circuit #10**

Cleveland, OH: Holy Cross - Served by McCanless  
Cleveland, OH: Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (HC) - Vacant  
Elyria, OH: Grace - **Weldon**  
Medina, OH: Prince/Peace - Bretthauer  
North Olmsted, OH: Ascension - Ulm  
Oberlin, OH: Grace (CM) - Served by Weldon

**\*NOTE: Circuits 9 & 10 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Detroit-South Circuit #11**

Allen Park, MI: Angelica - Vacant  
Allen Park, MI: Christ Our Redeemer - Holls  
Detroit, MI: Zion - Braden  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI: Christ/King - Spangler  
Plymouth, MI: Risen Christ - Kaufmann  
Sylvania, OH: King/Glory - Schmidlin  
Toledo, OH: Good Shepherd - **Scott**

#### **Detroit-North Circuit #12**

Beverly Hills, MI: Ascension/Christ - Loree  
Redford, MI: Grace - Halboth  
Saint Clair Shores, MI: Redeemer - Vacant  
Saint Clair Shores, MI: St. Paul's - Cornwell  
Sandusky, MI: Holy Redeemer - Served by M. Allen\*  
Shelby Township, MI: Epic - Hile  
West Bloomfield, MI: Shepherd King - **Holzerland**  
West Branch, MI: New Beginnings - Jansen

**\*NOTE: Circuits 11 & 12 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

#### **Western Michigan Circuit #13**

Bellaire, MI: Hope - Seaver  
Dorr, MI: Epiphany - Beffrey  
East Lansing, MI: Martin Luther Chapel (CM) - Dwyer / Robinson  
Grand Rapids, MI: Hope - Nuttelman  
Hartland, MI: Our Savior - Thoma / Hardy / Scheer  
Howell, MI: Immanuel - Forss  
Lakeview, MI: Holy Trinity - Sabol  
Marshall, MI: Agnus Dei - **Burfeind**  
West Olive, MI: Christ - Served by Nuttelman  
Wyoming, MI: Grace - Marklevitz

## **MIDWEST REGION**

### **Indiana Circuit #14**

Fort Wayne, IN: Bethany - **Trouten**  
Fort Wayne, IN: Redeemer - Petersen / Barnett  
Fort Wayne, IN: Jacob's Well - Adams  
Fremont, IN: Peace - Teeple / Rudolph  
Hudson, IN: Prince/Peace - Pratt  
LaPorte, IN: Trinity - Served by R. Ungrodt\*  
Zionsville, IN: Advent - Mackay / Schultz

### **Chicago-North Circuit #15**

Arlington Heights, IL: Faith - Vacant  
Chicago, IL: Bethany - Served by S. Baldauf\*  
Chicago, IL: Bethesda - Bacon / Katari / Bingue  
Chicago, IL: Christ English - Wright  
Chicago, IL: Grace English - Served by F. Gomez\*  
Elk Grove Village, IL: Holy Spirit - Greg  
Elmhurst, IL: Redeemer - **Oliphant**  
Villa Park, IL: Trinity - Rogers

### **Chicago-South Circuit #16**

Berwyn, IL: Concordia - Served by M Brockhoff & C. Kolupas\*  
Chicago, IL: Chatham Fields - Kinslow  
Chicago, IL: Ephphatha - Marsh  
Chicago, IL: Faith - Vacant  
Chicago, IL: St. John/Divine - Vacant  
Elmhurst, IL: Messiah - Maxon  
Markham, IL: Markham - Schneekloth  
New Lenox, IL: Trinity - **Hoag**

**\*NOTE: Circuits 15 & 16 comprise 1 electoral circuit**

### **Milwaukee Circuit #17**

Forest Lake, MN: Messiah - Musolf  
Hales Corners, WI: Hales Corners - Jameson / Kogutkiewicz / Liefer / Wood / Hickey  
Hastings, MN: Hope - Boudreau  
Janesville, WI: St. Mark - Vacant  
Lake Mills, WI: Christ - Dukovan  
Menomonee Falls, WI: Prince/Peace - Engler  
New Berlin, WI: Peace - Kruse  
Sheboygan, WI: St. Mark - Werner  
Watertown, WI: Faith - Hoepfner  
West Allis, WI: Greenfield Park - **Reaman**

### **St. Louis Circuit #18**

Hannibal, MO: St. John's - Carlson  
Lee's Summit, MO: Beautiful Savior - **Gruen** / Burmeister  
Lincoln, NE: Redeemer - Vacant  
St. Louis, MO: Chapel/Cross - Laesch / Glenn  
Vine Grove, KY: Grace - Lackey

\*Indicates a pastor rostered in another district

## **WESTERN REGION**

### **Arizona-North Circuit #19**

Gold Canyon, AZ: Shepherd of the Canyon - Wood  
Mesa, AZ: Eternal Life - Crane / Doughty  
Mesa, AZ: **Resner**  
Overgaard, AZ: Faith - Schmeltz  
Parker, AZ: Messiah - Served by R. Donahue\*  
Payson, AZ: Shepherd/Pines - Vacant  
Phoenix, AZ: Family/Christ (CM) - Gerlach  
Pinetop, AZ: Shepherd/Mountains - Mathews

### **Arizona-South Circuit #20**

Cortaro, AZ: Messiah - Esala  
Green Valley, AZ: Risen Savior - Arnold / N. Wirtz  
Green Valley, AZ: **Stieve**  
Rio Rico, AZ: Christus Rex - Served by R. Stuenkel  
Sahuarita, AZ: Crosspoint - Hong  
Tucson, AZ: Ascension - Braun / St. John | Martin  
Tucson, AZ: Catalina - Morehouse / von Hindenburg  
Tucson, AZ: Faith (CM) - Served by N. Wirtz  
Tucson, AZ: Holy Trinity - Vacant  
Tucson, AZ: Mt. Olive - I. Wirtz

### **Nevada/Utah Circuit #21**

Magnolia, TX: St. Thomas - **Lacey**  
Mesquite, NV: Prince of Peace - Bruggeman  
Paris, TX: St. Paul - Byrd

### **San Diego Circuit #22**

Borrego Springs, CA: Borrego - Matthews  
El Cajon, CA: First - **Huenink**  
La Mesa, CA: St. Luke's - Menacher

### **Los Angeles Circuit #23**

Long Beach, CA: St. Paul's - Pierson  
Los Angeles, CA: Highland Park - Vacant  
Mission Hills, CA: Chapel/Cross - Naumann / De La Rosa  
Orange, CA: Immanuel - Ring  
Palm Desert, CA: Peace - Bowes  
Sherman Oaks, CA: Sherman Oaks - **Utecht**

### **San Francisco Circuit #24**

Danville, CA: Messiah - Belter  
Ferndale, CA: St. Mark's - Bramwell  
Fremont, CA: Hope - Hulett  
Hayden, ID (CM): Blessed Sacrament - Williams / DiConti  
Moses Lake, WA: Apostolic - Vacant  
San Francisco, CA: New Life - Fox  
San Francisco, CA: West Portal - **Binz** / Swenson

Campus Ministries (CM)  
Human Care Ministries (HC)  
Mission Starts (MS)  
Satellite (S)

### **Circuit Visitor**

## **REGIONS FOR 2025-2028 TRIENNIUM**

In May 2023, the District Regions for the 2025–2028 triennium were established by the President and Vice Presidents and the Board of Directors as required by District Bylaw 3.3. The four regions are listed below:

### **EASTERN REGION**

- Circuit 1 [New York/New Jersey]
- Circuit 2 [Philadelphia]
- Circuit 3 [Florida]
- Circuit 4 [Georgia]
- Circuit 5 [Buffalo]
- Circuit 6 [Pittsburgh]

### **LAKE ERIE REGION**

- Circuit 7 [Canada—East]
- Circuit 8 [Canada—West]
- Circuit 9 [Cleveland/Akron]
- Circuit 10 [Cleveland—West]
- Circuit 11 [Detroit—South]
- Circuit 12 [Detroit—North]
- Circuit 13 [Western Michigan]
- Circuit 14 [Indiana]

### **MIDWESTERN REGION**

- Circuit 15 [Chicago—North]
- Circuit 16 [Chicago—South]
- Circuit 17 [Milwaukee]
- Circuit 18 [Saint Louis]

### **WESTERN REGION**

- Circuit 19 [Arizona—North]
- Circuit 20 [Arizona—South]
- Circuit 21 [Nevada/Utah]
- Circuit 22 [San Diego]
- Circuit 23 [Los Angeles]
- Circuit 24 [San Francisco]

## **BISHOP/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus

### **Theme: Living the Baptized Life in Christ**

*"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, Christ lives in me.  
The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God  
who loved me and gave himself for me."  
Galatians 2:20*

*In our baptisms* we were united with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. God's act of grace gave us faith and new birth as His children.

*In our baptisms* we have been crucified and raised with Christ. Glory be to God!

*In our baptisms* our sins were washed away, and we were clothed with the holiness and righteousness of Jesus – we were fit for the very presence of God.

*In our baptisms* we were filled with God's Holy Spirit.

*In our baptisms* we were saved.

As baptized believers we are called each day to offer our lives as living sacrifices to God as they are now holy, righteous, and pleasing to God because of Jesus.

We are called to live the baptized life of repentance, faith, and love that we've been graciously given.

Not only is this beautiful revelation our convention theme, but it has been our district's vision for the past year and will be into the future.

### **Thanks be to God!**

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as your bishop and president. For this wonderful gift I give thanks to God. This calling is challenging, humbling, and exciting. It has brought me to my knees in prayer and lifted me up in praise and thanksgiving. I am thankful for the eight years of experience as your vice president. This gave me an introduction to what the presidency would entail.

### **WHAT DOES A BISHOP/PRESIDENT DO EXACTLY?**

#### **Visiting the Bride of Christ**

One of the great joys of this calling is visiting the Bride of Christ. Traveling through the twenty-two U.S. states and one Canadian province where our congregations are located is an experience I treasure. Worshipping with over fifty of our congregations over the past year, encouraging the pastors, preaching, teaching, and sharing with others about the work of our blessed district and synod has been a privilege. Ordaining and installing pastors, celebrating congregational anniversaries and building projects, are just some of the joys I was able to share with God's holy people and their pastors.

### **Prayer and Devotional Study (Daily)**

I begin each day with one hour of Scripture readings and prayers for the pastors and congregations in our district. It is the first thing I do and the most important thing that I do. The meetings I have had with many of you have helped guide my prayers.

### **Time with Every Active Pastor of Our District**

I have met with almost every active pastor in our district (166) in a series of one-hour online meetings. My goal is to listen, encourage, pray for, and get to know the hearts of our district's pastors. This has been a joy. Our pastors are working hard, balancing family and church vocations, preaching and teaching faithfully, and visiting and caring for God's people. I have also started working on meeting with the retired pastors as well. They are filled with wisdom, experience, and grace. They are an invaluable resource to God's church, and we dare not forget them. We have 100 retired pastors in our district.

### **New Worker Orientation**

I met with the newly ordained pastors in September 2024 for an online "English District Orientation" session. I worshipped with them, prayed for them, got to know them, encouraged them in their ministry, introduced them to our staff and supports, and made sure they were connected to their circuits and regions (circuit visitors and vice presidents). I helped them to understand our English District, where we are (regions, circuits, and congregations), and how we operate within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). I also spent some time sharing with them my thirty years of experience in pastoral ministry – my many failures/opportunities to learn, and God's many victories. I also shared with them some tools of time management that have been a great help to me in my ministry.

### **Pastoral and Congregational Counselling**

While pastors and congregations often work through the circuit visitors (CV) and the vice presidents (VP), there are some that call me directly looking for prayer and advice. There are also those that have gone through the CV and VP and now directly involve me because of the seriousness of the issue. I give praise and thanks to God for our VPs, CVs, as well as Rev. Derek Mathers and Mr. Albert Amling as we work together to support our brothers and sisters going through difficult challenges.

### **Weekly Staff Meetings**

I have weekly virtual meetings with the district staff where we begin with a devotion, pray for each other and the district, and give updates on our ministries. While some of our district staff are deployed throughout the United States and Canada, my wife and I moved into a small home ten minutes from the district office in Livonia, Michigan.

### **Council of Presidents Meetings**

An unexpected joy is the quarterly meetings of our synod's Council of Presidents. In these meetings our synod's elected leadership meets regularly to pray, study, worship, research, plan, hear reports, and enact convention resolutions assigned to us. I am so pleased to report that these meetings are godly, fruitful, and spiritually edifying. Our synod's leadership is doing what you would expect them to do. We discuss and handle difficult issues. We learn what is happening in our schools, congregations, and missions. We brainstorm subjects like congregational health, church worker wellness, and current issues of our culture and communities. We also worship and pray together. While there is not agreement on every issue, there is a wonderful spirit of brotherhood in our Lord Jesus Christ. The meetings are orderly (what else would you expect from Lutherans!), respectful, and relevant. Our Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, does an exceptional job of taking us through our Lutheran Confessions and reporting

on synodical matters. He does this with many years of experience under his belt and with a good sense of humor mixed in at the appropriate times.

### **Life March**

In late January, I joined with our Synod President Dr. Harrison and most of the thirty-five district presidents in the Life March in Washington D.C. As we marched to give a voice to the unborn children of our world, we sang hymns, confessed our faith, prayed, and encouraged each other. The LCMS was well represented and joyfully proclaimed “Life” in Jesus Christ. This Life March is the largest of its kind in the world and I was honored to be a part of it. It was especially encouraging that both the president and vice president of the United States spoke in support of the March for Life.

### **Quarterly Board of Directors Meetings**

I give thanks to God for your English District’s Board of Directors. They have been a joy to work with over the past 10 years and I feel so blessed to be a part of their service to our English District. Our quarterly meetings are hosted by one of our congregations in one of our four regions. They have been a blessing to both the board and the Church at large. The hospitality of our congregations and pastors has been wonderful. There are often difficult issues to report on and challenging decisions to make. However, the board handles them with grace and wisdom.

### **Calls and Calling Congregations**

This ministry involves all levels of our district, from my office as bishop/president, assistant to the bishop, district administrators, to the vice presidents (VPs), circuit visitors (CVs), voters’ assemblies, and call committees. Most of the CVs and VPs have a close relationship with the congregations and pastors in their regions and circuits. They know their areas well and are a great source of information to pastors who have been called. Congregations work through a self-study before organizing to call a pastor to have a clear understanding of their context and needs. We are actively in communication with the pastors who are considering calls and are encouraging them with prayer and invitations to talk. We’re committed to praying for, contacting, encouraging, and being available to the congregations and pastors in the call process. When considering men to place on a call list, we are looking for brothers who are passionate about being Confessional Lutherans – *Living the Baptized Life in Christ*, committed to our synod and district, and willing to put in the work.

### **Seminary Interviews**

Pre-seminary interviews with those desiring to attend one of our seminaries are conducted with Rev. Justin Schmidt, Interview Committee Chairman; Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop; Kathy Stanis, Administrative Assistant; and me. These interviews are administered prayerfully according to the qualifications given in Holy Scripture. Praise the LORD that men from our district congregations continue to be called to the Office of Holy Ministry.

### **Time with Vice Presidents and Circuit Visitors**

I meet with the circuit visitors and vice presidents of our four regions in four different regional meetings. The goal is to foster communication within the region regarding congregations who are calling or vacant, issues being handled, and concerns being addressed. I intend to hold these meetings three times a year, avoiding Advent and Lent.

### **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)**

In 2024, we welcomed John Hoover as the LCEF Vice President to the English District. John is a wonderful Lutheran brother, an elder at his church in St. Louis, and has a resumé that demonstrates his

ability to structure loans. John attended two of the four regional conferences in his first year and has done a great job getting to know the pastors and congregations of our district. He actively visits congregations all over the United States.

### **Dominican Republic (DR) Lutheran Mission Visit (DRLM)**

The English District has faithfully and generously supported this incredible mission for years. When a generous donor offered to fully fund the district presidents' visits to the mission, I accepted gladly. I visited the mission March 30-April 5, 2025. The trip was both inspiring and transformative. The Regional Director of the DRLM Rev. Theodore Krey, an English District pastor, provides his team with solid leadership and vision. The DRLM's passion for Confessional Lutheran teachings is made clear in their vision to *Proclaim the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Congregations, and Show Mercy*.

When I visited the churches, seminary, and mercy house of the DR, I clearly saw the three parts of the mission in motion. This is a young mission with long legs. It has the theological vision in place to grow a self-supporting church if it is given a few more decades of support.

I worshipped in Spanish for the first time and was impressed by the Spanish Language Lutheran Service Book. Whether it's Matins or Vespers, the liturgy is beautifully paired with music that respects the language and culture of the DR.

The work Deaconess Danelle Schumann has done with the group home in the DR is one of a kind in the entire country. I spent time with the residents and heard their stories of how God worked in their lives. This is evidence that our Lord Jesus is alive and working through His people to extend mercy where it is needed and felt most authentically.

The seminarian visits to the village surrounding the seminary reminded me of the work I did in the community surrounding my own congregation. Home visits where the Word of God and prayer are clearly the focus and goal are a huge part (fifteen hours a week) of their seminary training. Watching the young seminarians teach and interact with the villagers was inspiring. I had never been to a community with such poverty. I was humbled by what God had accomplished through His people and by what the mission team gets done with the few resources they have compared to us back in the United States and Canada. It is a lesson for everyone who visits, and you can't help but learn from it. Our God has truly given us everything we need for life and godliness through Word and Sacrament ministry.

### **WHAT DOES THE DISTRICT DO?**

This question is asked of me during almost every congregational visit that I make. There are five major areas where the district serves the congregation:

1. Connecting the congregation to synod and other congregations.
2. Providing ecclesiastical authority to pastors and congregations.
3. Providing support to congregations in missions and church planting.
4. Providing support to congregations in education and schools.
5. Providing support for congregations in terms of funding.

The district and the synod are one. We have the same constitutions and similar bylaws. The district is essentially the synod in a smaller, local form. The district connects your congregation to her sister congregations and the wider synod. When a congregation celebrates an anniversary or a significant event, a representative from the district normally attends when invited and encourages sister

congregations to rejoice as one. When your congregation has a tragedy, the district normally sends a representative to grieve or support you through the crisis. You are not alone; God has given you sister congregations that walk with you, pray for you, support you, and look to encourage your congregation in good times and difficult times.

The district also watches over the teachings of the pastors and congregations – this is the ecclesiastical authority we exercise as a district. The district shepherds the shepherds. Church worker support and health is also an area where the district serves. We encourage the pastors and church workers to meet, study, and worship together in conferences (run by district and regions) promoting the unity of our doctrine and supporting each other in our callings.

When congregations need pastors, the district is right there in the person of the circuit visitor who connects the church with the bishop/president. My office works together with my assistants and administrators to review the congregational self-assessments and put together lists of pastors from our synod roster for them to consider calling. The pastors on our roster are educated, trained, certified, and ordained men who have completed a biblically based education approved by our synod. The circuit visitor also meets with the congregation and shepherds them through the time of vacancy, advising them on vacancy pastors and questions they might have. When a pastor accepts a divine call, a representative from the district visits and rejoices with the congregation. The pastor is properly ordained/installed according to Christ's Word. When congregations suffer conflict, the district is available to help and counsel.

**Schools:** If an English District congregation wants to start a school, the Education Executive Albert Amling, a retired Lutheran school principal with more than 30 years of experience, assists the congregation in its process. Albert gives his counsel and aid if one of our 36 schools is in need. When you read Albert's report, you will see that this keeps him very busy.

**Missions:** The district gathers and combines the funds gifted to district missions to accomplish what one congregation may not have the financial resources to do on its own. The missions of the district are trusted, Lutheran organizations and are properly administered. We visit and oversee our missions to ensure that they are acting according to their mission statements and keeping sound financial records.

**Church Planting:** The English District also comes alongside congregations that want to plant a church. We provide step-by-step procedures created and approved by our synod and based on years of experience. As the Church Planting Team follows the steps in the process, funds from the synod and district are accessed to support the work.

**Congregational Revitalization:** When a congregation wants to look at itself and get an idea of its purpose and direction, the district has synod-developed programs to help the congregation walk through this exercise without harming the vital Word and Sacrament ministry that is the lifeblood of our church and mission. Rev. Derek Mathers, Assistant to the Bishop/President and Mission Executive, has been trained to take congregations through this self-examination process. After completing the self-examination, the congregation may need funds to build or renovate. The district and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) work together to help the congregation gain access to funds.

**Fellowship:** The district represents your congregation in its fellowship with the other districts of our synod. The bishop/president meets quarterly with the presidents of the other thirty-four districts as well

as the synod president and vice presidents to worship, study, pray, and discuss the important issues in our church body.

### **THANKS...**

**To my wife of 35 years, Sylvia:** Thank you. Your support for me and the district ministry has been unwavering. Uprooted from our home of twenty-four years you faithfully followed me to Livonia, Michigan and set up our new home there. You worked full time (remotely) while I travelled all over the continent. I can never thank God enough for your wisdom, steadfastness, and faithfulness.

**To my congregation, The Church of St. Mark Lutheran:** Thank you. For twenty-four years I served as your senior pastor. You made sure that my family was taken care of in so many ways throughout the years of ministry. When it came time for me to serve the English District as bishop/president, you blessed me with love, support, prayer, and encouragement. Serving as your pastor will always be one of the greatest joys of my life, and I thank God for you.

**To Rev. Derek Mathers:** Thank you. We have been fellow pastors for decades. We've travelled together, been roommates at conferences, prayed for each other and supported each other. You are someone I can always trust to support me and be straight with me. Your devotion to the health and wellness of our church workers is such a blessing to the ministry of the district. Your passion for Jesus and His mission constantly inspires me and I thank God for your faithfulness as we work together to serve our district.

**To Kathy Stanis:** Thank you. What a joy you are to work with. Your devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church is authentic, and your service to the office of bishop/president is professional, spiritual, and a beautiful offering to our Lord. You are always thinking of ways to serve and bless those who work with you.

**To Sally Naglich:** Thank you. You do so much more than your titles tell. You manage the office and staff professionally. Your devotion to administration and finances undergirds the ministry of the staff as they connect to the pastors and congregations. I thank God for you and your devotion to our English District.

**To Peggy Oke:** Thank you. For thirty-eight years you have faithfully served the English District. You cover countless duties which often go unseen. You are a pleasure to work with, and I thank you for your calm patience and wisdom in fielding all my questions as I learned some of the administrative aspects of the presidency. You are a great blessing to God's Kingdom and the English District.

**To Natalya Hrecznyj:** Thank you. You quietly, faithfully, and professionally learn from the more senior office staff, and we are praying that you will be able to take on many of their responsibilities in the future. Thank you for your steadfast devotion to learn and grow as you serve our Lord and His Church.

**To Linda Linthicum:** Thank you. You do such a wonderful job on our weekly Servant to Servant. This is such an important part of our English District as it connects us with so many of our congregations and church members. It is always a pleasure to read and enjoy the pictures. You are a great blessing to our staff in your continued willingness to serve on other projects.

**To Albert Amling:** Thank you. Your love for God and people is contagious. For years you have faithfully served our district's churches and schools, bringing with you decades of experience. You are a blessing

to our congregations as they seek to start, maintain, and enhance Lutheran education in their communities. You share your wisdom so generously and are a great inspiration.

**To Ron Grimm:** Thank you. Your steadfast and faithful work for the Lutheran Foundation has begun to bear much fruit not only for our district but also for God's Kingdom at large. The results of your work often take years to develop, but you faithfully soldier on in quiet service to our Lord and His Church. I thank God for your wisdom and churchmanship as you meet and serve so many people in our churches all over the country.

**To John Hoover:** Thank you. You came onto the staff just a few months after I started, and you've been such a blessing. Your experience and knowledge in loans is a great gift to our district. Your passion for our Lord and his church is inspiring. You have faithfully connected with so many of our congregations and pastors, and I am excited to see how our Lord works through your ministry in the years to come.

**To Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy:** Thank you. For the first three months of my term as bishop/president you took my many phone calls and were generous with your time and experience. You brought me on the Board of Directors nine years ago and entrusted me with many tasks throughout your presidency helping me to learn the position over many years. I am thankful to God for your faithful leadership to our district and now to our synodical schools of higher learning.

**To Rev. Luke Zimmerman, District Secretary:** Thank you. Your knowledge of our district and synodical constitutions and bylaws has been critical to the proper and orderly functioning of our Board of Directors and our district. You humbly, yet confidently, keep us faithful to these principles of good order and this has been a great blessing to me and God's Church.

**To Mr. Terry Leu, Chairman of our Board of Directors:** Thank you. God blessed our Board of Directors with your gifts and faithfulness as our chairman. Your decades of experience in many aspects of congregational and district ministry have been an asset to our board as we navigated many different issues over the years. You're a wonderful brother in the Lord and a faithful servant to His Church.

**To the congregations of the English District:** Thank you. Your faithfulness to Confessional Lutheranism has made my calling a great blessing. It has been an honor to serve you, and I look forward to serving you in whatever capacity our Lord Jesus wills in the future.

# MISSIONS REPORT

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers  
Assistant to the President/Bishop and Mission Executive

As my title communicates, my main area of responsibility in our district is in assisting our president/bishop, when requested, representing him at an ecclesiastical event, congregational visit, or a situation of conflict. In addition, my service to our district centers around three different areas of our mission together. First, by encouraging, tooling, and facilitating the member congregations and circuits of our district in establishing new mission opportunities and expanding existing outreach ministry. Second, by working with a group of skilled and dedicated individuals passionate about church worker wellness, which also extends to the worker's family. Thirdly, our district-wide 1-1-1 initiative.

In each of those areas I am honoured to work with groups of individuals who are intentional and focused on advancing our work and effort together as a District. It is a joy to work with and watch the growth of these ministry areas. Through these individuals God has planted and watered the work, yet, we need to remember that it is God alone who causes the growth. Therefore, all glory for what is accomplished belongs alone to our God. He receives all our praises and thanks.

*As the Apostle Paul wrote: "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." - 1 Corinthians 3:7*

Reports from our Mission Action Team, our Ministerial Health Commission, and an update on our 1-1-1 initiative are within the pages of this workbook.

I am focusing my report on a few insights I believe are beneficial for us to share together. I am going to start with a reminder of our DNA.

This reminder comes from Rev. Dr. William Schumacher, who was our keynote speaker for our 2012 English District Convention. Since it was a significant anniversary year for us, He was asked to speak on the topic, "What is the English District About?" He summed up all he shared with the following:

"Sharing the good news of God's Kingdom across every boundary and barrier of human existence."  
- Rev. Dr. William Schumacher, 2012 English District Convention

At the 2023 LCMS Youth Gathering this mural-sized picture hung right behind our district table in the district zone of the gathering. It is a graphic representation of Dr. Schumacher's observation about our district.

While geographic districts have clearly defined edges and limitation for their ministries, our English District's area of ministry, mission, and service are identified by the tan color, which is inclusive of the 22 states and the province of Ontario, Canada in which we have congregations. "God in All Things ... Without Borders" reflects so much of our district's history and current focus. This is our DNA.



*“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” - 2 Corinthians 9:8*

**Insight One:**

In 2021, former Mission Executive and LCEF Vice President of our District Rev. David Thiele wrote a paper titled, “Considering Your Congregation’s Future.” It discussed a difficult topic that was slightly ahead of our reality, but the questions it raised and the points it made are even more a reality today, four years later.

Being very practical, a section of the paper walked through possible options for congregations whose ministry was no longer viable and was coming to a close. One of those thoughts was that the congregation could become a legacy congregation. Rev. Thiele wrote:

“The congregation can make an unrestricted gift to their district. Your congregation’s Constitution will have instructions on how the congregation’s assets are to be directed when a congregation closes. Many constitutions list the district of which they are a member as the recipient.” (page 8)

In 2022, a few of our district congregations voted for the dissolution of their ministries. In that difficult time, they wanted their assets to continue the work of mission and ministry for which they were originally given to be a blessing for ministry and mission elsewhere. Then-Bishop Jamison Hardy presented a plan for the disbursement of these legacy gifts. The district Board of Directors agreed and established the guideline that when legacy gifts are received by the District 60% would go into the district’s Endowment Fund, 10% would pass through our district and be sent onto the Synod, and the remaining 30% would become a fund for special mission grants, the focus of which would be to strengthen ministry of our congregations and schools, as well as support new or developing missions or ministries of our district.

The total amount of this legacy 30% grants in our recent triennium was \$1,056,830.

These were distributed to the following congregations, institutions, and new missions of our district for the indicated purposes.

2022

St. John the Divine Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL	Congregational revitalization
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2023

Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI	Ebenezer – local mercy ministry Haiti – church mission endeavor
All Saints Lutheran Church, Slippery Rock, PA	Assisting with costs of a vicar
Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA	Support of a candidate/pastor
Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church, Hayden, ID	Costs of a worship location
St. John Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, WV	Costs of a worship location
Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Marshall, MI	Costs of a worship location
St. John the Divine Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL	Congregational revitalization
Shepherd of the Canyon Mission, Gold Canyon, AZ	Costs of a worship location
Hope Lutheran Church, Hastings, MN	Support for school
Ascension Lutheran Church, North Olmsted, OH	New ministry development
Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ	New school and ministry development
Church of St. Mark – Lutheran, Mississauga, ON	First Nations children mercy care

<p>Grace Lutheran Church, Wyoming, MI  Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN  Immanuel Korean Lutheran Church, Flushing, NY  Bethesda International Academy, Chicago, IL  Shepherd of the Canyon Mission, Gold Canyon, AZ  Redeemer Lutheran School, Verona, PA  Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI  Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church, Hayden, ID  Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Philadelphia, PA</p> <p>2024</p> <p>St. John the Divine Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL  Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI  Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ  Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA  Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church, Hayden, ID  Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ  Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Lititz, PA  Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington Hts, IL  Advent Lutheran Church, Zionsville, IN  St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Magnolia, TX</p>	<p>New church plant  Portion of costs for developing a library  Support for website and church building  Support of school  New church plant  Upgrading windows and renovations  Focused international student outreach  Establishment of campus ministry  Building renovations</p> <p>Congregational revitalization  Assisting with costs of a vicar  Site study for possible Lutheran school  Support of mission costs  Purchase of a property  Exploration of school association  Contribution for March for Life Rally  Salary of intentional interim pastor  Contribution towards school expansion  Contribution for new pastor's salary</p>
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Together we grieve the dissolution of any one of our ministries or congregations and the loss of a mission and ministry presence in a community. Yet, we give thanks to God’s people for seeing how there is further and future kingdom work to be accomplished. They have been and are a significant part of all the work listed above.

**Insight Two:**

The LCMS re:Vitality suite of tools continues to be available, without cost, to our district congregations. I continue to believe and encourage these resources can be a blessing and benefit to our congregations. Since 2018, thirty of our congregations have made use of the Congregational Assessment of Development and Decline Survey (CADDs). This starting tool for the re:Vitality suite is a survey-based self-assessment that helps congregations objectively answer the question “Where are we ... really?” Using this study will assist a congregation in determining which areas of ministry might be revitalized within their congregation with prayer and intentional focus of vision, energy, and effort.

CADDs - <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/TAV1waMTZN5SRrqM4tml3UPWqTVVxmOI>

“Shepherding Our Strays” (SOS) is a module of re:Vitality that provides practical tools to address the challenge of engaging members who have separated themselves from the spiritual life of the congregation.

SOS - <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/oYFMUWbremzFXdaW6qsUV2aL2hU90x3O>

“Serving in God’s Mission” (SGM) is a module of re:Vitality that guides a congregation through a strategic planning process tailored to the unique needs of Lutheran congregations.

SGM - <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/4WlgD8NKdSa8vDpR4ieA9NIAdTBm4U6X>

“Connect to Disciple” (CTD) is a re:Vitality resource providing the congregation with a practical process and useful tools for intentionally improving the effectiveness of their congregation’s outreach efforts.

CTD - <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/7SZtpzaeLxISlpoo6BDukNsCQdYWRbUh>

More and more of our congregations are asking, how can we maintain vitality as a congregation?

It is important for us to be reminded that spiritual vitality has nothing to do with our actions. It is God alone who creates and strengthens our spiritual vitality. Where the true Word of God is shared and read, where the Sacraments are celebrated in accord with the Word of God, and the focus of worship is on God serving us with His law and Gospel, in that place, spiritual vitality exists.

It is institutional vitality that is really the focus of this question. Re:Vitality can assist a congregation in clarifying which aspects of the institution will benefit from intentional attention for meaningful institutional revitalization.

Re:vitality is never an action of just the leadership of a congregation but involves all the people of God in that specific context of ministry.

### **Insight Three:**

The English District doesn't plant congregations from the top down but seeks to encourage congregations and circuits to prayerfully explore their communities and the context of the ministries with a visionary sight for what could be. When these mission planting teams contact our district, the answer will always be, "yes, let's talk more." Our district seeks to come along side such mission planting teams with support, guidance, and a little practical.

There has been much shared about the Church Planting Initiative which comes out of the synodical Office of National Mission. There is more that will be shared in the coming months.

Right now, let's answer the question, "Do we have new mission starts in our district?" The answer is yes, and they are in all stages of development.

#### Location

Uniontown, PA

- Exploring with a planting team (likely phase two)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paris, TX

- Is chartered, has a called pastor, and still in formation (phase four)

El Cajon, CA

- Exploring with a planting team, developing (phase two)

Gettysburg, PA

- Some opening discussions with individuals (phase one)

Holy Cross Lutheran Mission, Pittsburgh, PA

- Planting team formed and working with advisory team (phase five)

Shepherd of the Canyon Lutheran Church, Gold Canyon, AZ

- Chartered in formation and has received grant from Synod Church Planting Initiative (phase five)

Re-plant, Kitchener, ON

- Planting team in place, working with advisory team, and moving towards becoming part of the LCMS Church Planting Initiative (phase three)

Orlando, FL

- Stalled because of leadership change; not looking like it will develop further

St. John Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, WV

- With a recent change in pastoral leadership, a pause has been taken (phase two)  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Magnolia, TX
- Is chartered, has called new pastor, has advisory team and is in process (phase three)

I think we can say there are currently five to six solid starts in development, three that are still not yet in development, and one that has stalled. Everything is normal as this is how mission planting goes.

Our synod currently has 23 districts (out of 35) with active sites and plans for church planting. Twenty-seven states and one province have new church plant sites active in one of the six phases of the church planting process. Projected possible grants through the end of 2026 are now around 39 with a projected funding need across Synod of just over \$3 million.

I would like to remind everyone that Rev. Justin Laughridge (co-chair of our Mission Action Team) describes CPS as scaffolding around a new building construction. The scaffolding is not part of the building, nor is it intended to be present forever. Its purpose is to support the construction which has been envisioned. Scaffolding is a solid illustration of what our Mission Action Team is tasked to do in the CPS process.

#### **Insight Four:**

Pastor Justin Laughridge is in the middle of a four-article series entitled “Looking Back and Looking Forward”. These articles are intended to share the history of mission planting and mission planting endeavors of our synod and districts. They are short, thoughtful, and challenging. The challenging aspect is the question, are our assumptions about church planting in our world today correct? Every one of us, every congregation, and even our district leadership, from president/bishop to appointed committee member, needs to check our mission assumptions for the most effective church planting to be accomplished.

#### **My Conclusion:**

Our unity in mission is not in the traditions, wisdom, or imaginations of men or women. No. Our unity, our unified focus of gospel proclamation, in mission is the work of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through our baptisms, the words of God, and the partaking of Holy Communion. Mission done apart from these gifts of God will not last long, nor will it be healthy.

Mission planting always comes down to this, plain and simple. One person shares with another person where to find food and water that truly lasts. One individual, in conversation with another, speaking of the forgiveness, hope, and love they know in the Bible.

If you would like more information or to share with me your views, thoughts, and perspectives on anything I have written, please contact me directly. I am very willing to have a discussion with you and I might learn something new.

“God in All Things ... Without Borders”

# SCHOOL MINISTRY REPORT

Albert J. Amling

Executive Assistant to the President: School Ministry

## INTRODUCTION

Greetings, in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It has been such a joy and a privilege to work with an outstanding staff at the district level, wonderfully supportive colleagues at the synod level, and dedicated and gifted administrators and directors at the educational ministry level. What a blessing it has been to watch these workers diligently serving the Lord with the goal of bringing more souls into the Kingdom. Each ministry setting is unique within our district. We serve families from a multitude of ethnic and faith backgrounds and socio-economic standings, and while the delivery of the message may need to be adapted, the message itself never changes. We profess and teach Jesus as Savior. Sharing that truth becomes our passion, and that is what I see in our schools: people loving and caring for their neighbors with passion!

## OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

School ministry support consists of helping our elementary schools, preschools, child-care centers, and high school with staffing, call list preparation, curriculum, instructional management, resources, accreditation, spiritual growth, and on-site visits. Consultants provide contacts for National Lutheran School Accreditation and Early Childhood Accreditation. English District School Ministry also administers the Financial Aid for Future Church Workers program.

## HIGHLIGHTS / OTHER INFORMATION

1. EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES – The English District works with 36 educational ministries as of January 2025. Our educational ministries consist of free-standing PreKs, free-standing PreKs with daycares, PreKs with Kindergartens and daycares, PreK with a Kindergarten, PreK–6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school, PreK–8th grade elementary schools, K–8th grade elementary schools, and a PreK–12th grade site. Education remains one of our district's distinctive ministries and most successful means to bring the Gospel to the lost, serving just under 3,500 children and their families. **This is an increase of over 300 students served!** Research has shown that children who attend Christian schools have a significantly greater success rate at life in general and are less likely to lose their faith, an eternal benefit! Eight of our schools are NLSA accredited. Well over 70% of the children attending our English District schools are not Lutheran. This accentuates that we are truly a mission field in action.
2. SCHOOL VISITS – School and worker visitation continues to be a major emphasis of my work - NLSA, consultations, presentations, conferences and workshops, call committees, and school board meetings. I consider much of this position as assisting schools with resources and serving as a consultant, coach, and mentor. Regular visitation to all of our schools is a high priority in my work life. My goal is to visit each English District education ministry at least once during the calendar year.
3. SYNODICAL NEWS – Dr. Alan Freeman is serving as the Director of LCMS Schools. LCMS serves over 186,000 children and their families in over 2,000 school settings. The school ministry office website for resource is: [luthed.org](http://luthed.org). This site offers schools several resources including professional development webinars, manuals, Lutheran Schools Week materials, and a host of

other items at no cost to our schools. It has been an invaluable resource for our educational ministries.

4. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS – The English District celebrates the service of its workers (rostered and non-rostered) with anniversary awards and acknowledgments for 25 and 40 years of service in Lutheran ministry with a plaque. The Lumen Christi Award is presented by the English District to publicly recognize one professional staff educator and one congregational volunteer educator. Nomination forms are sent out each December to all English District pastors, principals, directors, and directors of Christian education. The Lumen Christi Award Committee reviews all nominations and each spring announces the two recipients. The Lifetime Ministry Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated commitment to faithful, fruitful, and impactful servant leadership over a lifetime of ministry to the mission and ministry of Lutheran schools.

A list of previous recipients of the Lumen Christi Award and Lifetime Ministry Award is available on the [School](#) page of the English District website.

- 5 FINANCIAL AID FOR FUTURE CHURCH WORKERS – We have been blessed with the financial strength to provide grants to current ordained and commissioned called workers for debt reduction and scholarships to young people entering our Concordia universities and seminaries. Each year the district disburses approximately \$40,000, aiding students enrolled in church worker programs at the Concordia universities and students enrolled in our seminaries. Below is a thank you note received from Rev. Daniel Burfiend at Concordia Theological Seminary.

*I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*  
Psalm 16:8

Feb. 26, 2025

Dear English District Staff,

I thank you for supporting English District students at CTSFW through your most recent gift.

You are supporting the spread of the Gospel as you partner with CTS in preparing laborers for our Lord's harvest field here and around the world. I thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

Yours in Christ  
Daniel Burfiend

6. NLSA – We continue to actively promote NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) among our district schools. We have an active English District NLSA commission: Gail Holzer, Commissioner, assisted by Crissy Peterson and Albert Amling. With the steep competition our schools face, it is important to provide high quality programs to the community. Lutheran schools continue to compete with public, charter, and other private schools. To be an effective “player” in the field of education we must provide excellence in education and become the school of choice in our neighborhoods. NLSA is the most effective way for our schools to evaluate success, progress, and weakness to set goals and objectives for the future. Gail Holzer, principal at Redeemer Lutheran School in Verona, PA, serves as the commissioner for the English District NLSA Commission. She will represent the English District on the national level and become our expert in the field. The NLSA has rewritten the standards, and it aligns with several secular accreditation bodies giving our schools a valued “stamp of approval.” We must continue to assist schools and early childhood centers in taking the steps needed to demonstrate the positive, unmatched impact of a Christ-centered education.
7. CALL LIST PREPARATION/CONSULTATIONS – The English District school ministry team devotes a significant amount of time assisting schools in the process of calling commissioned ministers. I meet with call committees to help with the process especially when there is a need for an administrator. With fewer workers in the field, finding qualified individuals who are willing and able to leave their current position becomes increasingly difficult. The Commissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF) is a database that assists us in the process. While it does come with challenges, it is much more user friendly than the last system.
8. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – Developing leaders continues to be a challenge for our synod. The School Leadership Development project (SLED) continues to be funded and offers a one-year training program for teachers who might be interested in leading a school ministry. Miss Grace Amling and Mrs. Katelyn Naber, teachers at Hales Corners Lutheran School, are recent graduates of this program
9. MISSION AND VISION – Lutheran schools exist for the sole purpose of teaching Jesus’ grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, and promise of salvation. We work to develop our students’ faith lives, and part of that is teaching them to serve others out of Christ’s love for them. The schools of the English District collect offerings, gifts, and items to provide for the needs of others. Our Lutheran education ministries are a vital part of the English District family. We teach using Scripture with doctrines based on LCMS theology; we demonstrate Jesus’ love and compassion daily with students and families; we reach into the community and around the world to serve the hungry, homeless, and helpless. The Holy Spirit is present and active in our schools, opening doors and creating opportunities for the faith development of young and old alike. It is a privilege to serve as a partner with our district in serving and growing the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Sally L. Naglich C.P.A.

Assistant to the President Business/Finance and Treasurer

The English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod continues to be blessed with the financial resources to carry out mission and ministry. The strong financial position is because you and your congregations support the work accomplished collectively throughout the district and its partnerships with other entities.

Following are the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for the three fiscal years ended January 31, 2025, 2024, and 2023. The financial statements for January 31, 2023 combines all U.S. and Canadian activity including the Church Extension Fund activity in Canada while the January 31, 2024 and January 31, 2025 present Canadian activity separately. This is a Generally Accepted Accounting Practice reporting requirement based on the action of the Canada Corporation members and Board of Directors that have approved changes to its structure including that Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is now the sole member of the corporation. LCEF will be continuing the work of Canada Corporation and expanding the services available to Canadian Lutheran churches and church workers.

The Statement of Financial Position reflects that the district's net assets (equity) have increased from \$5,633,219 to 9,004,628 over the last three years. Several events and items contributed to this change in net assets, the largest factor being gifts of monies and property from disbanded ministries of almost \$5 million and the earnings and valuations gains in endowment investments, with and without donor restrictions.

Unrestricted support (tithes) from English District congregations (U.S. and Canada) for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2023, was \$885,407, 2024 was \$884,659, and 2025 was \$851,291. The support from Canadian congregations is not combined with the U.S. support on the last two years of the included financial statements but shown as the line item "Discontinued Operations, Income (Loss) from Operations of Canada Corporation." For the fiscal year ending January 31, 2025, the loss from Discontinued Operations – Canada Corporation is due largely to currency exchange rate calculations. Additionally, congregations have provided restricted gifts, an average of \$76,000 annually, which included time restricted support and gifts for 1-1-1 Dollar for Missions.

This convention cycle the English District (U.S. & Canada Corporation) has pledged \$611,500 to Synod for national and international ministry. In this triennium the total amount given to Synod was \$950,679. These additional gifts of approximately \$343,000 were sent as a percentage of proceeds from disbanded congregations. Over the past three years an additional \$2,605,500 was given directly for mission grants, including for new mission starts, campus ministry, school ministries, ministry grants, church worker scholarships, church worker debt reduction, DRLM partnership, human care, and world missions.

The financial records are audited annually and the statement of functional expenses, statement of cash flows, and notes are an integral part of the financial statements but are not included in this report. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the English District office.

English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Statement of Financial Position  
January 31, 2023, 2024, 2025

	January 31, 2023	January 31, 2024	January 31, 2025
Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 415,822	\$ 114,542	\$ 170,091
Operating Investments	1,028,864	1,087,478	717,932
Accounts and Interest Receivable	6,799	3,489	13,839
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	15,658	16,461	16,072
Property Held for Sale	5,569	595,000	-
Contributions Receivable	285,000	525	2,750
Campus Center Divestiture	523,000	523,000	209,172
Loans Receivable	3,924,238	1,802,160	1,714,564
Property and Equipment - Net	258,343	362,357	239,495
Bene. Int. in Char. Trusts Held by Others	24,560	25,594	26,733
Endowment Investments	2,972,921	4,235,869	4,888,533
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	23,144	25,485	27,056
Canada Corporation Assets Held for Sale	-	2,220,236	1,902,069
	<u>\$ 9,483,918</u>	<u>\$ 11,012,196</u>	<u>\$ 9,928,306</u>
Total Assets			
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 126,708	\$ 166,133	\$ 132,985
Grants Payable	16,288	16,083	16,083
Deferred Revenue	41,304	41,279	79,753
Loans Payable	1,014,852	738,641	661,558
Notes Payable to Investors	467,072	-	-
Canada Corporation Liabilities Held for Sale	-	408,202	33,299
	<u>\$ 1,666,224</u>	<u>\$ 1,370,338</u>	<u>\$ 923,678</u>
Total Liabilities			
Net Assets:			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 7,234,844	\$ 8,987,135	\$ 8,411,178
With Donor Restrictions	582,850	654,723	593,450
	<u>\$ 7,817,694</u>	<u>\$ 9,641,858</u>	<u>\$ 9,004,628</u>
Total Net Assets			
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 9,483,918</u>	<u>\$ 11,012,196</u>	<u>\$ 9,928,306</u>

English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Statement of Activities

For The Years Ended January 31, 2023, 2024, 2025

	2023	2024	2025
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, &amp; OTHER ADDITIONS: WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>			
Support -			
District Congregations	\$ 885,407	\$ 816,363	\$ 778,843
Disbanded Cong./Donated Property	2,720,673	2,245,000	-
Other	40,805	107,606	10,159
Revenues -			
Subscriptions	12,051	18,906	18,566
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	183,479	83,068	46,506
Net Investment Return (Loss)	(60,800)	326,550	506,767
Interest Income on Loans	91,827	104,615	97,555
Other	16,922	5,672	7,644
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Currency	(41,661)	-	-
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	244,592	184,693	252,998
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 4,093,295	\$ 3,892,473	\$ 1,719,038
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, &amp; OTHER ADDITIONS: WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</u>			
Support -			
District Congregations	\$ 73,910	\$ 90,889	\$ 62,670
LCEF	110,552	55,880	51,102
Other	138,873	79,447	16,693
Revenues -			
Net Investment Return (Loss)	(20,267)	32,769	60,624
Change in Value of Bene. Int. in Char. Trusts	1,246	(2,862)	1,139
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Currency	(67)	-	-
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(244,592)	(184,693)	(252,998)
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$ 59,655	\$ 71,430	\$ (60,770)
<u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</u>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	\$ 628,700	\$ 685,002	\$ 530,139
Preparing Church Workers	32,150	41,550	116,100
School Ministry	73,837	73,032	65,083
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	239,769	375,785	245,125
Mission and Ministry Support Services	456,889	589,641	563,205
Ecclesiastical and Program Admin.	461,611	445,982	393,143
Fundraising	60,383	52,766	52,304
Church Extension Operations	15,136	1,707	-
Loss on Sale of Property	-	-	13,922
Impairment Loss on CCC Divestiture	-	-	313,828
Total Expenses	\$ 1,968,475	\$ 2,265,465	\$ 2,292,849
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	\$ 2,184,475	\$ 1,698,438	\$ (634,581)
DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS			
Income (Loss) from Operations of Canada Corporation	-	125,726	(2,649)
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 2,184,475	\$ 1,824,164	\$ (637,230)
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	5,633,219	7,817,694	9,641,858
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 7,817,694	\$ 9,641,858	\$ 9,004,628

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

John Hoover

District Vice President – LCMS English District

## Mission

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and in the future, empowering ministry and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Organization Overview

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has steadfastly pursued its mission to "make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world." Established in 1978, LCEF plays a crucial role in this mission.

- Purpose: To empower ministry by providing loans, investments, and support services designed to serve the financial needs of congregations, schools, and other ministry organizations within the LCMS.
- Growth: From humble beginnings with \$100 million in assets to a current portfolio exceeding \$2.0 billion—demonstrating our commitment to financial stability, trustworthiness, and advancing Christ's kingdom.

## Historical Context

LCEF's primary function has been to provide loans funded by investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Over the years, our services have broadened to include strategic advisory services, such as:

- Ministry Solutions: Offering mission clarity and guidance through ministry clarity processes and capital campaigns.
- Real Estate Solutions: Providing expert consultation and execution in property development, repurposing, and expansion.

## Financial Strength

LCEF's strong financial foundation plays a crucial role in supporting the LCMS today and securing its future. Our investment programs empower LCMS individuals and organizations, funding projects such as home loans, sanctuary renovations, senior living communities, and Lutheran schools.

## Leadership

Our leadership is committed to guiding the organization with vision, expertise, and a dedication to our mission. Here's a snapshot of our leadership team and workforce:

- President and CEO: Bart Day, MBA MDiv, reports to a 12-member Board of Directors.
- Workforce: LCEF employs over 150 people across the United States, including our headquarters in St. Louis and representatives in 31 LCMS districts.

## Connection to Ministries

LCMS ministries connect with LCEF through their district vice presidents (DVPs), who act as vital links to ensure our services meet each district's unique needs. For over 45 years, LCEF has been committed to providing the financial resources and services that support the church's mission. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to serving the LCMS and strengthening ministries through trusted financial and strategic partnerships.

## **Economic Overview**

A period of complex and evolving economic challenges:

### **2022:**

- Continued recovery from the initial shock of the pandemic.
- Significant inflation, with the Consumer Price Index peaking at 9.1% in June.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 2.1%.
- Unemployment was around 3.6% by year's end.
- Federal Reserve initiated a series of interest rate hikes to control inflation.

### **2023:**

- Ongoing efforts by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation.
- Interest rates reached levels not seen since before the Great Recession.
- Inflation cooled to 3% by December.
- Tepid GDP growth of 1.8%.
- The housing market experienced a significant slowdown due to higher borrowing costs.
- Unemployment remained low at 3.5%.

### **2024:**

- Continued economic challenges but signs of stabilization.
- Inflation moderated to 2.5% year-over-year.
- GDP growth is projected to remain sluggish at 1.5%.
- Unemployment slightly increased to 3.8%.
- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) paused rate hikes to monitor economic data closely.

## **LCEF's Response**

LCEF navigated volatile markets with prudence, strengthening our capital and positioning for sustained growth. Despite economic challenges, we ended FY 2024 with over \$17.5M in gains, reinforcing our commitment to financial stability and ministry support.

## LCMS FOUNDATION

Ronald Grimm

Gift Planning Counselor – LCMS English District

Serving as your English District Gift Planning Counselor, I am an employee of the LCMS Foundation which has been doing gift planning and trust services for the Synod for 66+ years. To learn more about the LCMS Foundation, review this link to see the great work we have done in the last year: [2024 LCMS Foundation Ministry Report](#).

There are two components to my service in our English District. The first component is to assist congregational members through their will and estate planning process. This ministry is called “Lifetime Plan for Giving” (LPG) and is intended to assist an individual or couple in walking through the entire process of transferring the blessings (both at no cost and with total confidentiality) which God has given by being the best stewards of those resources for your loved ones and ministries that they care so much about. This includes, but not limited to, assisting with creating a Christian Preamble (to share your faith with loved ones), organizing your estate (via LPG Survey) and providing design concepts that enable the most cost-effective way to share those gifts with loved ones efficiently and with ministries that you care so much about, all while minimizing the tax effect on your estate and to your loved ones.

I can also provide legal documents for your charitable gifts (three attorneys on staff) and work with your legal counsel to coordinate, so that what God has written on your heart is carried out when you have been called home to heaven.

The second component of my service is with church leadership. I have available resources for discussing long-term investing opportunities via endowment funds and/or investment accounts, which can strengthen your ministry today, tomorrow, and forever.

A congregation may have created an endowment in the past, but it has become dormant. I can assist congregations in revitalizing those gifts for future benefit by using the Foundation’s expertise in marketing, documenting the structure and guidelines to guide your congregation. Gift planning seminars are also offered that can help keep the endowment relevant and growing. The goal is always to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our world and growing these gifts enables larger distributions for those ministries valued in the hearts of the congregation.

Our English District is made up of about 155 churches within 22 states and the province of Ontario. Being a non-geographical district presents some challenges, yet in these last several years we have been able to be more efficient by presenting virtually when it is a struggle to get everyone together in the same place on the same day. The preferred way is always to be in person when speaking to a congregation. The focus is to be a faithful steward of the resources God has entrusted to us in this life as a child of God. The Lifetime Plan for Giving discussion is one that should be reoccurring with congregations periodically to enable members to participate whenever life changes have inspired them to plan for how best to transfer their blessings.

Over the last seven years I have been able to personally visit 101 of our congregations, their pastors and leadership. These opportunities have been a great blessing as I gained both insight into the contexts in

which our congregations do their ministries and was privileged to hear and see the wonderful ministries in which they are involved. I believe that the experience and knowledge I received has better equipped me when discussing ministries best aligned to a donor's desires in supporting God-pleasing work. The visits have opened the opportunity for me to lead over 43 "Lifetime Plan for Giving" (LPG) presentations (with more planned in the future) for congregational members, to then follow up and meet individually to work through the four-meeting process.

Through the gift planning process, generous English District members have provided testamentary gifts that could total in an excess of \$21,996,580. On average, about one half of the gifts go to local congregations. We also have testamentary gifts pledged to the English District Endowment Fund of potentially \$1,287,000.

In addition to the generosity of our members, we have been able to assist English District congregations, schools, and recognized service organizations with gifts totaling over \$1,350,080. In several instances some of these dollars were sitting stagnant in checking accounts for years and are now being invested and are growing to support ministries.

The coming triennium looks to be busy as I plan to present in another three congregations before year's end and estimate starting another six new gift plans in the near future.

If you or your congregation are interested in learning more, please contact me ([ron.grimm@lfnd.org](mailto:ron.grimm@lfnd.org)). I look forward to discussing with you opportunities for the faithful use of God's blessings in your life.

*A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9*

## **EASTERN REGION**

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Fourth Vice President

In October 2024 Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel stepped down as Vice President after accepting a call to serve with the Concordia University System. His work, wisdom, and leadership were a tremendous contribution to the district. I count it a great privilege to be appointed to fill out his term. By the grace of God, our region continues mission work in West Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Campus ministry continues to be a strong presence in Princeton, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. We also give thanks for expanded campus outreach at Grove City College out of All Saints congregation in Slippery Rock, PA.

### **NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CIRCUIT #1**

*The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, Circuit Visitor*

The Lord has been active here in the New York/New Jersey circuit these past three years! We are especially grateful for His provision of three energetic, capable, and faithful new pastors to serve congregations in our circuit: the Rev. Daniel Gray at Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken, NJ, the Rev. Ho Jai Lee at Immanuel (Korean) in Flushing, NY, and the Rev. Curtis Stephens at Trinity in Scarsdale, NY. On February 11, 2025, Pastor Stephens was unanimously elected our new circuit visitor for the 2025-28 triennium.

Currently, all of our congregations except Bethany in Ewing, NJ are served by regularly called pastors. Bethany is served generously and faithfully (weekly) by the Rev. Howard Alexander. In November 2024, we were blessed to have Bishop and Sylvia Miskus with us for a whirlwind northeast-to-southwest tour of our circuit over four days of delightfully warm weather. Highlights of their visit included a rare, in-person circuit meeting at Grace in Palisades Park, NJ and a festive Vespers service, organ tour, and fellowship dinner at Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken, NJ, attended by people from several congregations. God is good. We're blessed to be part of His Church and partners with you in the gospel!

**Bethany, Ewing, NJ** – served by The Rev. Howard Alexander

As he concluded his ministry here in 2023, we thanked Pastor Elwood (Woody) Mather for serving our congregation since 2018.

Bethany continues with Sunday Divine Service, adult and Sunday school, choir and possibly the bells for Easter Sunday, weekday study on Saint Paul's letters and Christian literature on most Friday evenings. We are blessed by Pastor Alexander serving as our vacancy pastor.

We were blessed by the visit of District Mission Executive Rev. Derek Mathers in January 2024 to encourage us and direct our self-assessment and planning for the future. That work continues.

We were blessed by the visit of Bishop Miskus on Sunday, November 10, 2024, for a festive breakfast with parishioners before joining us for Divine Service, where he preached Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew! Wonderful!

**Grace, Palisades Park, NJ** – The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind

God has been at work at Grace as we...

- help the local Hispanic community with its large day worker population that gathers outside our church.

- work with the police department and the elementary school to use Grace as a safe space where children can be brought if an emergency or threat event occurs.
- encourage our two Chinese families as they look for ways to witness and bring encouragement to Lutheran Chinese mission endeavors.

**Immanuel, Flushing, NY** – The Rev. Ho Jai Lee

Pastor Lee oversaw a major renovation of Immanuel's building in 2024.

**Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ** – The Rev. Daniel Gray

God has been at work at Martin Luther Chapel through...

- our new fellowship program, which aims to build strong Christian relationships with all members of our congregation. Through weekly “coffee hours,” activities, and fellowship meals, our members get to know one another, encourage one another, meet new members and welcome guests, and grow in Christian love for one another.
- our new music program, which is increasing our use of historic Lutheran hymnody. With the help of our choir, our congregation has been diving deep into the theologically rich hymns of our Lutheran Church. Many members have found these hymns to be edifying and encouraging.
- our food pantry program, where Martin Luther Chapel shares the love of Christ Jesus with our neighbors through caring for their needs.

**Messiah, Princeton, NJ** – The Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt

God has been at work at Messiah as we...

- celebrated our 75th anniversary year in 2022-23 with services, commemorative lectures and slideshows, a photo album documenting the history of the congregation, building improvements, an organ recital, a banquet, and endowed the Messiah Future Fund. We look forward to being a lively, faithful embassy of God's kingdom through our 100th anniversary and beyond!
- hosted Bishop Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland for a weekend of preaching and presentations at local congregations and Princeton University's alumni reunions (May 2022).
- helped organize the 2024 New Jersey March for Life in Trenton as well as LCMS and university student participation in it.
- offer creative and engaging Lenten midweek series, e.g. *The Story of Joseph, Life is Hard but Life Is Good*, and *Navigating Troubled Waters*.
- engage students at Princeton University and Princeton Seminary with monthly Table Talks (dinner discussions) of faith-shaped life in Lutheran perspective.
- rejoice in God's faithful financial provision as (a) younger members have willingly taken on the mantle of generosity from older members, (b) the cultivation of multiple income streams (e.g. facility rental, endowment earnings, specified gifts for major projects, estate planning, online payment processing, and encouraging and practicing tithing among members) bears fruit in ministry, and (c) responsible, diligent, and transparent financial management builds confidence among members in the church as an institution worthy of trust and investment.
- partner in mission with five nearby LCMS congregations, sponsoring and publicizing joint activities and worship services, encouraging inter-congregational fellowship, sharing resources and best practices, and cooperating in planning future ministry initiatives.
- bring God's gifts to our community in worship services, music, education, fellowship events, home visits, mercy ministry, online outreach, and financial support.

**New Jersey Korean Cho Won, Palisades Park, NJ** – The Rev. Phillip Sang-Cho Rey

Pastor Rey has welcomed Spanish-speaking residents of the area to participate in multi-lingual events with the Korean Cho Won congregation, which meets in Grace, Palisades Park's building.

**Our Saviour, Valley Stream, NY** – The Rev. Alfred Thiagarajan

Significant events since 2022:

- A grand celebration of 90 years took place in our church. A banquet dinner was held on October 1, 2022 with then-Bishop Jamison Hardy attending as the chief guest. A special service of gratitude was organized on October 22, 2022, in which our circuit visitor, the Rev Dr. Martin Erhardt, was the preacher. We also organized an open house, a church tour, a photo exhibition, and the unveiling of the pastors emeriti, all of which took place in the morning for the public. Both programs were well attended by our members and public officials, who presented several proclamations.
- We organized an Easter concert on April 6, 2024, featuring *Awake and Alive*, a band from California, and *The Disciples*, a band from Queens, NY. Congregation members and members of the public attended the event.
- The President and Bishop of the English District, the Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, and his wife Sylvia, visited our church on Friday evening, November 8, 2024. This was well attended by our church members.

**Redeemer, St. Albans, NY** – The Rev. Steven Hicks

The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer gives thanks to God for His continued blessings to the congregation and the community. As we approach our 100th anniversary in the year 2026, we thank God for all the ministry with which He has entrusted us. We are thankful for:

- the growing Christian education programs in the church.
- our continued community service along with our partners: the Southeast Queens Lutheran churches (LCMS), the Food Bank of Southeast Queens, the New York State Chaplains Association, Lutheran Social Services, and the Queens Children Arts Group. All these groups bless us in our community service.
- evangelism in the community. Bringing the name of Jesus Christ to our neighbors has been a blessing to the congregation.
- planning for the 100th year celebration has been a great light which gives us hope for what is to come in the Kingdom.

**Trinity, Scarsdale, NY** – The Rev. Curtis Stephens

- Trinity's new pastor Rev. Curtis Stephens was installed on July 1, 2023.
- Trinity joyfully celebrated its 100th anniversary on October 6, 2024. Bishop Jeffrey Miskus preached and joined the congregation for our celebration meal after service. The service and meal were well attended by members and friends of the congregation. A 100th anniversary banner was dedicated during the service.
- In December of 2023, Trinity began a new tradition: Christmas Vacation Bible School (VBS). At Christmas VBS, children enjoy Christmas carols, crafts, games, and Christmas cookie decorating - all centered around Bible lessons on the birth of Christ and Epiphany. Christmas VBS has been enjoyed by a small crowd of visiting families for two years running.
- This year, the members of Trinity have begun collecting items weekly for our local food bank.

## **PHILADELPHIA CIRCUIT #2**

*The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein, Circuit Visitor*

### **Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA** – The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The 2022–2025 triennium was marked by several milestones at Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church. Early in the triennium, the congregation finished its sanctuary wing renovation project, completing improvements to the social hall, narthex, kitchen, and bathrooms. Project completion involved a dedication and celebration on October 2, 2022. Later in the triennium, Calvary commemorated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organized congregation, having been chartered on May 15, 1899. That anniversary celebration took place on June 2, 2024, including worship conducted according to the order found in the English Synod's 1893 Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book.

Calvary continues to see slow but steady growth in membership. The congregation's human care ministries are also seeing expansion and finding supporters from the community, especially activities by the Operation Barnabas Society. Identifying activities or mission planting opportunities that might develop in the Gettysburg/Hanover or the Lewisburg/Sunbury/Selinsgrove areas is a future agenda item.

### **Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, PA** – The Rev. David Young

### **Grace, Warminster, PA** – The Rev. David Young

### **Immanuel, Alexandria, VA** – The Rev. Christopher Esget

### **Logos (Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries), Philadelphia, PA** – The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

In any location, but particularly in the city, mission work is more a marathon than a sprint. That has certainly been the case over the last three years. The primary endeavor of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries has been outreach in the heart of the city center on word and sacrament ministry at Logos Lutheran. We saw an increase of undergraduate students as well as young professionals in attendance at Divine Service. The nature of the city is very transient. As we welcome new individuals to our midst, we regularly bid farewell to those we have known so well. Your prayers are very much appreciated. Additionally, we have enjoyed getting to know and see the growth of nine different vicars, each of whom brings something unique. Two years ago, the weekly rhythm was changed by the vicar to include a dedicated meal and intentional theological conversation as a means of asking questions in a causal setting. This has been a means of pointing people to regular attendance at Divine Service on Sundays as well as weekly prayer and Scripture study on Tuesday evenings.

In 2018, Pastor Kieselowsky took an opportunity to begin a weekly Bible study in the Philadelphia prison. While the Bible study was temporarily suspended due to pandemic restrictions, he has been invited back to meet with a high-need section of the prison serving those who require unique psychological support. The proclamation of liberty in Christ continues to go out to the far corners of the city of Philadelphia. The support of the English District is a tremendous encouragement. Our Lord has brought the world to our doorstep, and it is a privilege to be included in His gracious work to bring people to the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA** – The Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church serves longstanding members, transfers, and those seeking refuge from other denominations with the true Word and Holy Sacraments. Blessed to be in a numerically growing

area as well as in the protected "Bible Belt of the East," congregational membership is stable to growing. The congregation has completed a major renovation and update to their physical plant and facility. The temporary sanctuary, built in 1993 by LCEF Laborers for Christ, has been transformed into a permanent worship home. The aging HVAC system was removed and a new system installed. Challenges include the need for additional pastoral support and remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus in an increasingly secular mindset.

#### **Rehoboth Afaan Oromo, Ridley Park, PA – Vacant**

#### **St. John, Springfield, PA – The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky**

Thanks be to God, our congregation came out of the pandemic years strong and eager to celebrate our 175th anniversary in June of 2023. Then-Bishop Hardy and circuit visitor Rev. Christopher Seifferlein joined us for the Divine Service as did former pastors of the congregation Rev. Charles McClean and Rev. Robert Tauscher. Members produced an updated history of the congregation and displayed a great many historical artifacts for the anniversary celebration. As one of the oldest congregations in the English District, we rejoice in the sustaining grace of our Heavenly Father that He continues His saving work among us.

#### **FLORIDA CIRCUIT #3**

*The Rev. William Douthwaite, Circuit Visitor*

#### **Celebration, St. John's, FL – Vacant**

#### **Faith, Naples, FL – The Rev. Donald Treglown, The Rev. Bradford Hildebrandt, and The Rev. Owen Duncan**

Faith Lutheran Church, preaching the Word of God, continues to grow. We are currently at 742 baptized (which includes 564 confirmed) members as of 2025. We are steadily working on building back from the COVID era in 2020 with 815 baptized members. With joy, we continue to be blessed with our Administrative Pastor Brad Hildebrandt (recently celebrating 12 years of service at Faith) and the newest member of our ministry team Associate Pastor Owen Duncan (recently called from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) who was installed in July of 2024. We continue to be involved with our Lambs of Faith Preschool, Mission of the Month Program entering its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation, and Faith in Action Program having sent 98.5 tons of troop care packages since 2003. We are preparing for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Don Treglown serving as Senior Pastor at Faith. Jesus Christ and His love continues to be the message we tell, live, and share as His followers.

#### **Shepherd of the Coast, Palm Coast, FL – The Rev. Gregory Michel**

The past triennium was a transition period for Shepherd of the Coast. After 26 years of faithful ministry to the congregation, the Rev. Bill Douthwaite retired in July 2022. The Rev. Greg Michel accepted the call to serve as the congregation's next pastor and was installed in February 2023. The following December, congregation leaders participated in a weekend, vision-planning session and adopted a long-range vision entitled "Building Up All of God's People in Faith and Knowledge for God's Work," based on Ephesians 4:11-13, focusing on four priorities: Worship, Leadership, Evangelism, and Youth. As part of the vision's implementation, a governance review committee was appointed to examine and recommend a more efficient and effective model of congregational governance and leadership. The committee's work continued through much of 2024 and resulted in a proposed revision to the congregation's constitution and bylaws.

**Tree of Life, Inverness, FL** – The Rev. Eric Linthicum

Tree of Life continues to serve the people of Citrus County, Florida by the grace of God. During the last three years Rev. Eric Linthicum officially became our pastor. We continued to offer our Kids in Care (KIC) ministry. KIC is a monthly gathering of foster families that is very much like a mini-VBS with music, crafts, food, and, most importantly, fellowship for foster care providers. We have consistently gathered in entire meal items, not just the nonperishables but everything needed for a complete meal, for 10 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are still looking and praying for a building to call our own, but in the meantime, we have a kind and caring landlord, and we are most grateful for that.

**Trinity, Ocala, FL** – The Rev. Danlias Howe

Trinity Lutheran Church has been serving the Northeast Ocala and Silver Springs area for over 35 years. In addition to weekly Sunday worship, we offer a Wednesday evening vespers service and Bible study. Trinity offers support to a local Spanish language church by licensing a portion of our facility for their worship and Bible studies. We have a tradition of serving the veterans community, especially by our presence at the local VFW Post activities and by visiting and fellowshiping with the residents of the Fort McCoy Veterans Village. Trinity hosts regular activities of the community modeling club, ladies quilting and craft gatherings, and health and personal fitness training. We are always looking for new ways to share the love of Christ with our community.

**GEORGIA CIRCUIT #4**

*The Rev. David Miller, Circuit Visitor*

**Ascension, Atlanta, GA** – The Rev. David Miller

**Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA** – The Rev. Kevin Elseroad and The Rev. Aaron Sterling

**BUFFALO CIRCUIT #5**

*The Rev. David Walsh, Circuit Visitor*

**Calvary, Amherst, NY** – served by The Rev. Karl Schmidt

We continue to meet as a small but faithful congregation and look forward to continuing outreach to the local Amherst community.

**Holy Trinity, Albion, PA** – The Rev. Michael Taylor

We continue to serve the Albion community with our preschool in which the faith is taught to little ones. We also still have a very strong community garden which is a blessing to families in the town. Our French fry ministry is only growing in its reach and scope, as not only the Albion community is benefitted but also other communities in the region are blessed by the fries and the loving workers who participate.

**Hope Community, Syracuse, NY** – Vacant

**Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY** – The Rev. David Walsh

Long-time pastor the Rev. Ben Eder retired in August of 2023. A call committee was started before his retirement so that the church would not go long without a full-time pastor. In mid-September a call was issued to the Rev. David Walsh. He accepted the call and was installed in December of 2023.

In the meantime, the church's Esther Circle (or LWML group) was active in keeping outreach going into the local community assisting various organizations in providing resources, including partnering with several churches in their food bank ministries. They also provided aid to the return of Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY and have helped with its VBS program.

We also celebrated our 100-year anniversary as a congregation in 2022, and in February 2026 we will celebrate 100 years in our building. God be praised!

We look forward to expanding our outreach efforts with our new pastor.

**Redeemer, North Tonawanda, NY** – served by the Rev. Michael Dobler

Beginning in December 2024, Redeemer Lutheran Church entered into a partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church in the City of Tonawanda. Rev. Michael Dobler serves as pastor for both congregations, and it has been an exciting season of joining together for worship, service, and fellowship activities. With thanksgiving to God and to all of the pastors who served the people of Redeemer over the past few years, we look forward to what God will do among us and in our community in the next season.

**Trinity, Erie, PA** – The Rev. Travis Schmidt

Trinity Lutheran Church is continuing its ministry to the people of Erie, PA. Recently, they had Concordia Theological Seminary professor Dr. Charles Geischen give lectures on the Thessalonians.

#### **PITTSBURGH CIRCUIT #6**

*The Rev. Justin Schmidt, Circuit Visitor*

**All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA** – served by The Rev. Jacob Deal

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center continues to stand in awe at the providential care of the Lord our God. The members here know how important Word and Sacrament ministry is in this area, but with a special emphasis that we are uniquely placed to be the home away from home for Lutheran students from across the country. Many congregations go quite a while between visitors, but here it is very common for us to be the first introduction to the faith and liturgy of the Church. We welcome this opportunity with deep humility. Thank you for entrusting to us your college students while they are here. Continue to encourage them in the faith during these formative years. Recently, we have been relieved from the burden of our mortgage thanks to the cheerful and generous support of our members. It is the hope of all here that as this support continues, we will reach the goal of adequately supporting a called full-time pastor. Could this be done by our 50th anniversary in 2027? Only the Lord knows, but until such a time, Pastor Jacob Deal continues to preach and teach as our vacancy pastor. Thank you for your prayers and support through the years.

**First Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA** – The Rev. Eric Andræ and The Rev Benjamin Janssen

Lots of coming and goings.... The Rev. Hans O. Andræ (Fr. Hans), designated as pastor emeritus, died on February 13, 2023, with the funeral held here on February 18. The Rev. Benjamin Janssen, our 2021-22 vicar at Holy Cross Chapel (Hazelwood), was called and ordained as the mission's first pastor (see below). Sherri Crum, the long-time director of our Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, retired May 18, 2024 after 18 years of faithful service. Deaconess Zoë Huelsman, a daughter of the congregation who was catechized and confirmed at First Trinity as an adult in 2016, accepted the call to serve as the new part-time director and was installed on July 21, 2024. Rev. Douglas Spittel, the parish pastor for over 26 years, accepted another call and left First Trinity in September 2024. For over 24 years, the Rev. Eric Andræ has continued to serve in full-time campus ministry and now also as the vacancy parish pastor. He is currently the longest-serving campus pastor in Pittsburgh and in the LCMS. Besides the full-time campus ministry, the parish hosts part-time homeless, deaf, and blind ministries. In addition to the staff mentioned, committed lay volunteers help all these missions to thrive.

**Holy Cross Chapel, Hazelwood, PA** – The Rev. Benjamin Janssen

The Rev. Benjamin Janssen was called and ordained on July 2, 2023, as the first pastor for this mission.

**Peace, McMurray, PA** – The Rev. Justin Schmidt

Peace has been thriving in its mission to serve the community. With a growing congregation, the church has fostered an environment where people of all ages come together to worship, study the Word of God, and live as children of God. Additionally, the church has embraced modern technology, offering online services, which has helped expand its reach to a broader audience.

**Redeemer, Oakmont, PA** – The Rev. Adam Koontz

Redeemer Lutheran Church is now pastored by Rev. Adam Koontz, who received and accepted a Divine Call to serve the congregation in the spring of 2024. Its 175 members are working hard at outreach to Pittsburgh's East Hills, including the tens of thousands coming for the 2025 U.S. Open in Oakmont. The congregation is growing through an online presence that has drawn 10 new members since last spring with more coming each month.

**St. John's, Clarksburg, WV** – The Rev. Christopher Harrison

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church remains a light in the darkness in Northcentral West Virginia. The congregation has grown from 10 members at its chartering to now well over 60. February saw the start of a weekly Lutheran homeschool cooperative to support member families as well provide an entry point for community families new to the LCMS. Weekly visitors continue to show up having discovered Confessional Lutheranism online. The congregation remains confident and clear in its commitment to the historic liturgy of the Church as being the best teacher and guide into the things of Christ.

## **LAKE ERIE REGION**

The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz, Third Vice President

It has been an honor to serve as the vice president of the Lake Erie Region of the English District. I want to thank Bishop Miskus for appointing me, as I have had the opportunity to witness and be involved in the transition that has taken place during this triennium. I assure you that God is faithful and has appointed the right individuals to the right positions at the right time.

In my short time serving, I have participated in three Board of Directors meetings, a handful of virtual meetings, and led one regional conference. This has given me a chance to meet pastors and laypeople and strengthened existing relationships.

As vice president, I serve to advise and be in the stead of the office of the bishop in any way I can. I've humbly enjoyed my time as I continue to pray for God's wisdom and guidance in this role. I give thanks for the grace and wisdom of those who serve the district in various ways that help to shape me.

Last October, the annual Lake Erie Pastors Conference took place. It was a joy to be part of the small committee that put together a meaningful conference. Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmsted, Ohio, graciously hosted us for a second time. The committee consisted of Rev. Jonathan McCall, Rev. Jeff Teeple, and Rev. Matthias Benfey. Rev. Joshua Ulm and Rev. Jim Bretthauer also assisted us.

Meanwhile, all who were there benefited from hearing the guest speaker, The Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Winger, who taught on Ephesians.

I cannot thank this committee enough for their time and effort in putting this conference together and their ongoing work. Lastly, I would like to recognize Rev. Matthias Benfey, Rev. Ryan Beffrey, and Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh, who served the brothers with short talks at the conference.

### **CANADA EAST CIRCUIT #7**

*The Rev. Gerald Luck, Circuit Visitor*

**Christ, Aurora, ON** – served by The Rev. Jung Hun Park

**St. John's, Golden Lake, ON** – The Rev. Paul Douglas

**St. John's, Pembroke, ON** – The Rev. Stephen Alles

Thankfully, God has given us what we need to regain much of the stability that had been disrupted because of the COVID pandemic. Like many congregations, there were people who dropped away during this difficult time. We had an intentional program to reach out to lapsed members and encourage them back. We managed to get a few families rekindled and reconnected to the church. There have been some changes within our church community. Some of the former pillars of the congregation have been called home. Thankfully, younger people have taken over leadership roles. We have also gained some new members who have blessed the congregation with an infusion of new ideas.

The congregation continues to employ many of the activities that have proven to be fruitful in the past. We have a very good reputation within our community for our vacation Bible school. We also support

those within our congregation and our wider community with a grief share program. We have been partnering in a number of events with our neighbouring Lutheran Church—Canada congregations (a partner church of the LCMS.) We have brought our choirs together for a Christmas cantata. We've also had lay leadership conferences, and we have a joint Easter vigil service and Reformation service. The youth of the various Lutheran churches participate in retreats. All of these activities have served to bring our churches closer together and to offer activities that might not be possible if we worked independently.

Presently, our congregation is engaging in the call process. After 21 years of pastoral ministry at St. John's, Pastor Alles is preparing to retire. He plans to continue until a new pastor is secured. We are praying that the Lord of the church will supply us with new pastoral leadership and help us with transitioning to a different pastor. God has blessed this congregation since its beginnings in 1891. We trust that God will continue to bless our congregation and enable us to be a light to our members and community.

**St. Luke, North York, ON** – The Rev. Justin Laughridge, The Rev. Jung Hun Park, The Rev. Greg Lutz, and The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7)*

The Church of St. Luke Lutheran continues to witness God's abundant blessings in our ministry. We remain steadfast in our mission to proclaim Christ's Gospel, serve our neighbors, and build a thriving Christian community. Through worship, outreach, and strategic partnerships, we have expanded our impact and deepened our commitment to sharing God's love with those around us.

Our Persian Fellowship continues to grow, with approximately 80-100 adult and child baptisms each year, a testament to the Holy Spirit's work in drawing people to Christ. Many of those baptized come from backgrounds where Christianity was not freely accessible, and they now find a new home in the faith at St. Luke. The fellowship has become a vital part of our church family, providing discipleship, support, and a strong sense of community for Persian-speaking believers.

Additionally, our music ministry has flourished with the addition of Drs. Haesun Moon and Bo Yon Koh, whose exceptional musical gifts have enriched our worship services. We have also sought new ways to extend our outreach through strategic community partnerships, including our ongoing ministry partnership with the Bayview Center for the Arts, which connects with the community through the arts. Furthermore, our continued support of subsidized housing at 175 Cummer remains a key effort in alleviating homelessness in Toronto.

Looking ahead, we trust in the Lord's provision as we seek to deepen our ministries and expand our outreach. We pray that God will continue to bless our congregation as we remain faithful in His service, reaching even more people with the hope of the Gospel.

*Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)*

**St. Mark, Mississauga, ON** – The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, The Rev. Philip Gai, The Rev. Dr. Matthias Benfey, and The Rev. J. Derek Mathers

**St. Matthew, Scarborough/Toronto, ON** – The Rev. Dereck Pillay

### **CANADA WEST CIRCUIT #8**

*The Rev. James Leistico, Circuit Visitor*

“Transitions” seems to be the word of this past triennium for our circuit. We welcomed First Lutheran Church-Kingsville into our circuit, as well as Rev. Colton LaMay at Redeemer, Sarnia, and Rev. Gerald Andersen at Grace, Mitchell. In 2024, Our Saviour’s, Chatham agreed to form a dual parish with Good Shepherd, Amherstburg (while retaining their synodical memberships with the LCMS and Lutheran Church—Canada, respectively) and began the call process.

This dual parish was a fruit of the greatly improved relations between the LCMS and the Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC). Annual Koinonia meetings have brought together our Ontario English District pastors, Bishop Jamison Hardy, leadership in the SELC District (with Pastor Charles St. Onge in Montreal), President Matthew Harrison and members of his staff, along with pastors of LCC in the Ontario region and their regional and synodical leadership.

Though our circuit is spread far apart, the bonds of brotherly love knit together by the Holy Spirit is clear to see. Our tradition continues of gathering not just for winks, but also for our annual Advent church service and dinner in London, ON – inviting the Canada East Circuit to join us. We also expressed our care and concern for our retired pastors as Rev. Ray Kirk’s wife Nancy and Rev. Ted Radke’s wife Lucy both died in 2024. We gave great thanks to the Lord when He restored the health of Rev. Roger Ellis after a serious condition kept him hospitalized for many months in 2023.

#### **First, Kingsville, ON** – vacant

First Evangelical Lutheran Church has been focused on leading people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and welcoming everyone to come and worship. Our church and our members have grown in many ways the last three years. Weekend worship services have been well attended by members, and we also welcomed many guests. We began new fellowship-based and bible study-based growth communities to support the discipleship process. Our Sunday school ministry was reestablished, and its space was renovated to meet its needs. We continued to support our community partnerships with Augustine Villas (assisted living), the Town of Kingsville (supporting special events), Hogs for Hospice (supporting Blessing of the Bikes and the summer registered ride), and our local high school.

Our global outreach team went to Nicaragua in 2023 and 2024 supporting two Lutheran congregations and plans to return in December 2025. The GYM (God’s Youth Ministry) met every Friday evening for sports, activities, and a Gospel message for community high school students. The GYM was on hold earlier this school year, but God made a way to begin this ministry again in March 2025. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are also able to restart our public high school lunch and devotion ministry in April 2025, serving about 100 students. We received a letter on August 19, 2023, from the English District Board of Directors that we were accepted as a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the English District. We celebrated this officially on December 10, 2023. We are trusting God as we wait on His timing to provide a shepherd for our congregation. We have been vacant since September 2024. We do not have a vacancy pastor, but we are grateful to Rev. Glenn Stresman

who serves us once a month when we share in Holy Communion and to the many lay people who assist with services on other Sundays.

**Gethsemane, Windsor, ON** – The Rev. Jordan Simon

Gethsemane Lutheran Church continues the search for a new pastor, praying that Christ guides their path. Rev. Jordan Simon, our assistant pastor, faithfully guides us in liturgy and Holy Communion. Until Rev. Roger Ellis was hospitalized in May 2023, we were very blessed to have him serve as our vacancy pastor. For a few special services like Christmas Eve, Rev. Ellis video records a sermon for us to play during the service.

**Grace, Mitchell, ON** – The Rev. Gerald Andersen

After being vacant for about a year, Grace called Rev. Gerald Andersen in May of 2024 to be their pastor. He was installed on September 7, 2024. In his first five months Pastor Andersen conducted one baptism and two funerals. He started up the confirmation class with six youth, and a Bible study on the Nicene Creed with around eight in attendance. Visitation of shut-ins and those in care homes is being conducted and Word and Sacraments administered. Grace entered a church float in the town Santa Claus parade on St. Nicholas of Myra day with about ten children and ten adults on the float. This was done after many years of not entering the parade. There is an active Sunday school, and 23 children took part in the annual Christmas play. Grace is also active in gathering food for the town food bank and toys for the local Christmas hampers. Other fellowship/community activities have included roast beef dinners, annual community Christmas dinners and meat pie sales. We look forward to seeing what this new year will bring as Pastor Andersen becomes more familiar with our congregation and town.

**Hope, Kitchener, ON** – Vacant

**Our Saviour's, Chatham, ON** – served by The Rev. Paul Pollex

We give thanks to God for Pastor Pollex who has been our shepherd since the congregational split in 2019 and through the Pandemic. Through the Holy Spirit, he has helped to equip the membership to work together unified in the one true faith to rebuild our congregation in Chatham. We praise God that we have seen steadily increasing membership over the past few years. We welcomed eight new members in 2022 and three new members in 2024. We have increased our community presence through social media which includes a new church website, a Facebook page and a YouTube channel where we post the weekly sermons. In 2024, we also established a Board of Evangelism to oversee local community outreach and the social media presence. In 2024, the congregation entered into a new joint parish agreement with Good Shepherd Church in Amherstburg. We look forward to the arrival of our new pastor Rev. Dionotan Ferreira of Brazil.

**Peace, Windsor, ON** – The Rev. James Leistico

For 81 years, our congregation has proclaimed the peace of Christ to a world filled with conflict and death. We celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2023 with then-Bishop Jamison Hardy preaching God's faithfulness to us. We were privileged to witness our church's son Rev. Jeffrey Miskus being installed as bishop during our regular morning service in August 2024.

We continue to reach out to the community with our food bank, providing for about 200 families per month. We could not do it without the generous donations of our local Metro grocery store and other businesses and individuals inside and outside the congregation. We held both a car show and a concert to raise funds as well. Our facilities also host Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups seven nights a week, as well as other community service groups.

We have continued in our sponsorship of a Middle Eastern Christian family in partnership with LCMS congregations in Illinois and Missouri. The family's application was finally completed in 2024, and we now are praying that the government of Canada approves their immigration.

We continue to give thanks to God that our church member Rev. Emeritus Glenn Stresman is able to fill in for us when Pastor Leistico needs to attend to business at circuit congregations on Sunday mornings and that he also has preached at other vacant congregations in the area.

**Redeemer, Sarnia, ON** – The Rev. Colton LaMay

On August 22, 2022, Rev. Colton LaMay was installed as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

### **CLEVELAND-AKRON CIRCUIT #9**

*The Rev. Jonathan McCall, Circuit Visitor*

**Concordia, Akron, OH** – served by The Rev. John Voelker

**Fairlawn, Fairlawn, OH** – The Rev. James Gau

**Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH** – Served by The Rev. Robert McCanless

**Our Savior, North Royalton, OH** – The Rev. Jonathan McCall

**St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH** – The Rev. Blake Martzowka

### **CLEVELAND-WEST CIRCUIT #10**

*The Rev. Robert Weldon Sr., Circuit Visitor*

**Ascension, North Olmsted, OH** – The Rev. Joshua Ulm

**Grace, Elyria, OH** – The Rev. Robert Weldon Sr.

**Grace, Oberlin, OH** – served by The Rev. Robert Weldon Sr.

**Iglesia, Cleveland, OH** – Vacant

**Prince of Peace, Medina, OH** – The Rev. James Bretthauer II

### **DETROIT-SOUTH CIRCUIT #11**

*The Rev. Bradford Scott, Circuit Visitor*

**Angelica, Allen Park, MI** – Vacant

**Christ Our Redeemer, Allen Park, MI** – The Rev. Joel Holls

**Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI** – The Rev. Solomon Spangler

The members and leaders of Christ the King Lutheran Church continue to be ever grateful to the Lord for His abundant mercy and bountiful goodness. The last three years have been a time of great transition for Christ the King. Our preschool, directed by Mrs. Melissa Pieper, continues to be a strong connection with our community and a wonderful opportunity to connect the youngest among us to the Gospel and the love of Christ.

In the months leading up to His planned retirement, Rev. Randy Boelter was granted emeritus status by the congregation. In June of 2024, Rev. Randy Boelter and our organist Bruce Sininger, who had both faithfully served at Christ the King for decades, retired.

On April 24, 2024, a Call was issued to pastoral candidate Solomon Spangler. Upon graduation, Solomon accepted this call and was ordained and installed at Christ the King on July 13, 2024. In January of 2025, Christ the King was blessed with Roman Lizak, our new organist and music director.

Our congregation has continued to faithfully reduce the debt incurred during the building and renovation of our facility 22 years ago and, God willing, will retire our building mortgage in the coming Fall. We continue to worship and serve, thanking God continually for His many blessings!

**Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH** – The Rev. Bradford Scott

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has continued to enjoy the Lord's undeserved blessings even as we face the challenges that are certainly familiar to our sister congregations of the District and Synod. With the addition of several new members, we have been slowly rebounding from losses precipitated at the time of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the loss of several young families around that time has led to the suspension of our Sunday school, but our Board of Discipleship is looking into ways to reinvigorate it. Meanwhile, our average worship attendance has been increasing slowly and is approaching a pre-pandemic level.

For several years now, Good Shepherd has been hosting a mid-summer Classic Car Show. It has proven to be a good way to become visible to the neighborhood and gives an opportunity to get acquainted and extend a warm invitation to visit. If a congregation has a large parking lot, this is a fairly simple event to organize since classic car owners are looking for the opportunity to show off their toys. Our event has become well-known among car enthusiasts, and many have commented that it is their favorite such show.

**King of Glory, Sylvania, OH** – The Rev. Paul Schmidlin

**Risen Christ, Plymouth, MI** – The Rev. Reinald Kaufmann

**Zion, Detroit, MI** – The Rev. Mark Braden

The ministry of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church in southwest Detroit is one of exceptional stability, even in a turbulent environment. Last year we celebrated 15 years of Fr. Braden's pastoral ministry, enriched by an ecclesiastical visit from then-Bishop Jamison Hardy. Membership and attendance are quite steady, and we have rejoiced at recent baptisms, first communions, and confirmations of members of faithful families. Our budget is long-term secure due to a rental relationship with a very stable charter school organization. By God's grace, and thanks to the support of the English District and the Synod as well as many private gifts, Zion's building and grounds emerged from a major flood in 2021 much better positioned to weather any similar future events.

Zion continues to be blessed with one of the richest calendars of liturgical observation and opportunities for study of Scripture of any congregation, especially relative to its size. Holy Mass is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday and on many other feast and saint days. Five regular studies of the Bible or important works of the Church are held, youth Sunday school is weekly, and the Daily Office is prayed throughout the week.

Zion supports the work of the Synod and the English District as her pastor serves as an adjunct member of the faculty of the seminary, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Concordia University System; and our congregational chairman serves on the English District Board of Directors.

Zion is also privileged to host a prominent annual event, the St. Michael Liturgical Conference, each September. Geared toward clergy and focusing on the doctrine of liturgy, attendance has recently grown to over 100 attendees.

## **DETROIT-NORTH CIRCUIT #12**

*The Rev. Tim Holzerland, Circuit Visitor*

### **Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI – The Rev. Larry K. Loree Jr.**

The Lord continues to bless the ministry of Word and Sacrament in and through Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church (AoC).

- Having served AoC since September 2013, the Rev. Daniel Grams accepted the divine call to serve at the Kansas District office and departed in September 2023. On the First Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2023, Bishop Hardy installed the Rev. Larry K. Loree Jr., to serve as sole pastor.
- After serving three years as Vice President and another seven years as president of the congregation, Dave Lambert passed the gavel to Mr. David Preiss, who has now begun his first term as president. Thankfully, Dave Lambert will continue to serve the congregation, both as chairman of the Board of Elders and in his new role as Director of Administration.
- Being blessed with several faithful young couples, the congregation has enjoyed the natural growth of the congregation through six infant baptisms. Three of these families are currently expecting their next child.
- Son of the congregation, Mr. James Gramzow, entered the seminary at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) in fall 2022 to begin his preparation for the office of the holy ministry. He is currently wrapping up his vicarage at Grace, Naples, FL, before heading back to the seminary to start his final year in fall 2025.
- The LCEF loan taken out in 2018-19 to make much-needed improvements to the church building and install a “new-to-AoC” pipe organ is projected to be paid off by the end of 2026, which will make AoC completely debt-free.
- In addition to its regular support of District and Synod missions, Ascension continues to provide support for the Krey family serving in the Dominican Republic and the Beckendorf family serving with Lutheran Bible Translators in Botswana. Mission support is also given to the Evangelical Lutheran Church South Sudan/Sudan.
- Our Human Care Team has become very active and has connected with several groups and organizations to provide an increased number of opportunities and projects for members to support with their prayers and resources, including regular food drives for the food pantry at Peace Lutheran in Detroit.

- In 2023, our congregation began participating in the deaconess intern program, receiving our first intern from CTSFW. We are now hosting our second deaconess intern, both of whom have been exceptional, bringing significant value to our congregation and childcare program. The office of deaconess has been a true blessing to our parish, enriching our congregational life.
- Despite increased competition from our State's free Pre-K program offered through school districts—which impacted our enrollment in fall 2024—our child care center adapted with creativity and resilience. Under the capable leadership of our program director and her teacher leads, a hybrid preschool/pre-K class was created and is now at capacity, as are two of our other programs. With an overall capacity of 52 children, we entered spring 2025 with 48 enrolled. Now in its ninth year of operation, our child care center continues to provide exceptional care to the infants and young children we serve.

**Epic, Shelby Township, MI** – The Rev. John Hile

**Grace, Redford, MI** – The Rev. Timothy Halboth

In 2026 Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate the 85th anniversary of its founding with 80 years of the "Halboth" name as pastors. God has richly blessed Grace. During the pandemic, drive-in services were conducted from the porch of the church while members parked their cars and received an FM signal through their radios. Grace has seen growth again in membership and indoor worship; while not an explosive gain, the faithfulness of the members is something to behold. With an annual concert by the Redford Civic Symphony and its annual food distribution day for the less fortunate in the community, Grace serves the Township of Redford and surrounding cities. A beacon of the community, Grace continues to lift high the cross of Christ.

**Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, MI** – served by The Rev. Michael Allen

**New Beginnings, West Branch, MI** – The Rev. Daniel Jansen

**Redeemer, St. Clair Shores, MI** – Vacant

**St. Paul's, St. Clair Shores, MI** – The Rev. Simeon Cornwell

Pastor David Rutter accepted a call in the fall of 2022, after faithfully serving Christ's flock at St. Paul for 25 years. During their vacancy, the congregation was served by Pastor Larry Loree, now serving as the sole pastor at Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI.

St. Paul's preschool director resigned in December 2022, and the preschool has been closed ever since. The congregation is currently considering whether it would be better to work towards re-opening it or starting a homeschool co-op instead.

St. Paul's food co-op has been thriving over the past year and half, helping 15-20 people in the surrounding community weekly.

In the fall of 2023, St. Paul's issued a call to Simeon Cornwell, which he accepted. Since Pastor Cornwell's time at St. Paul's we have been trying to steadily bring back members who lapsed during the COVID pandemic. St. Paul's experienced their first Easter Vigil service at Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, with Pastor Cornwell assisting.

We have begun planning for our 100-year anniversary in fall of 2026.

**Shepherd King, West Bloomfield, MI** – The Rev. Timothy Holzerland

We give all thanks and glory to Christ our Lord who continues to work in the body of Christ at the Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King. The congregation continues to make capital improvements to the building. New air conditioning units were installed in the educational wing of the building. New paint and lighting for the exterior of the building was completed in 2024. Shepherd King Preschool continues to serve the community. We have an enrollment of 28 students. Shepherd King continues to be invested in mission outreach to Head Start of Farmington/Farmington Hills, MI. The congregation also opened its doors to court workers from the 48<sup>th</sup> District Court and expanded to the 52<sup>nd</sup> District Court in Oakland County. The congregation's online worship, Bible study, and Friday blog has brought visitors to Shepherd King in the past three years. There are two people beginning adult confirmation classes in 2025. We were blessed by our Savior to conduct three baptisms, three weddings, and welcome two new families and one new individual member to the congregation in the last three years. We are also thankful that one of our members, Janet Flessa, was awarded the English District Lumen Christi award on Sunday, June 30, 2024 for four decades of work as Sunday school teacher at Shepherd King. Pastor Holzerland was also honored with an anniversary dinner for his 15 years of service at Shepherd King on September 17, 2022.

**WESTERN MICHIGAN CIRCUIT #13**

*The Rev. Peter Burfeind, Circuit Visitor*

**Agnus Dei, Marshall, MI** – The Rev. Peter Burfeind

**Christ, West Olive, MI** – served by The Rev. Christopher Nuttelman

In her first year of existence, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church has ministered to students in Holland, MI and Allendale, MI. We have our own pastor whom we share with a sister congregation. We have had four confirmations in our first year and continue to deepen our presence on area campuses. May God continue to bless our witness and our life together in Christ.

**Epiphany, Dorr, MI** – The Rev. Ryan Beffrey

**Grace, Wyoming, MI** – The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz

Since the last English District Convention in 2022, Grace Lutheran Church has been blessed with significant milestones in its mission. In 2023, God provided us with the opportunity to establish a church plant, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Olive, MI, which is faithfully served by Rev. Christopher Nuttelman. The congregation continues to grow as members reach out to college students.

In 2024, Grace celebrated its 75th anniversary, thanking God for His faithfulness throughout the years. This milestone offered a chance to reflect on our rich history and rejoice in the present as we pray for God's mercy to grant us many more years of His faithful Word proclaimed and His Sacrament properly administered.

**Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI** – The Rev. Alexander Sabol

**Hope, Bellaire, MI** – The Rev. Wade Seaver

**Hope, Grand Rapids, MI** – The Rev. Christopher Nuttelman

For the last three years, Hope Lutheran Church has pressed forward in her revitalization effort. Our Lord Jesus has blessed us with our earthly needs and, all the more, with his Holy Spirit and opportunity to confess his gospel before men.

We now share our pastor with a new church plant and have been blessed in our fellowship with her members. We have welcomed area families as well as students from five different area campuses. We plan to hold three weddings this coming summer.

We have leaders who both lead and follow faithfully—who labor sacrificially and joyfully welcome. We have begun a very simple but much appreciated homeschool group at our church, which is currently making plans for its second year of operation.

Our Lutheran confession is a gift to us and to our world. May God grant many to receive it!

**Immanuel, Howell, MI** – The Rev. Eric Forss

**Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI** – The Rev. Curtis Dwyer and The Rev. James Robinson

Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University is a congregation comprised of people of all ages and stages of life united around the gospel of Jesus Christ and dedicated to serving the campus community of Michigan State University. Alongside year-long resident members, students are involved in nearly every aspect of congregational life. In order to support the outreach to students, the English District has given us a grant every year of our existence, including the past three years.

Every year a team of students are identified as Student Leaders. These student leaders serve as officers of our Registered Student Organization on campus as well as the core group to help organize outreach and events for students. The student leaders meet weekly with one of the pastors (usually Pastor Robinson) for a meal, devotion, and prayer, and to discuss upcoming ministry events. The focus for every event is to reach new students, foster community among the students, and raise up new leaders. Every semester students plan two retreats, weekly Bible studies, and various other events. Every fall Pastor Robinson helps organize a retreat for students from several Michigan campuses, and each spring we send a group to the Campus Ministry Leadership Conference with students from across the Midwest.

In addition to student-specific events, students sing in the choir, assist with planning and leading our children’s ministry, attend the Sunday morning Bible study, participate in the monthly Church Council meetings, attend and sometimes prepare congregational meals, become trained Stephen Ministers, assist with scripture readings and communion distribution during worship, and participate in any other role that suits their gifts and abilities.

Pastor Robinson and Pastor Dwyer work year-round to identify and connect with incoming students. Pastor Robinson regularly leads chapel services at Lutheran high schools around the state of Michigan. In cooperation with the Michigan District, we help support the “Campus Connect” initiative every summer, inviting Michigan LCMS congregations to connect their students with the appropriate campus ministry at several Michigan schools. We receive referrals from across Synod through the LCMS-U website. As members of the MSU Religious Advisors Association, we work with other religious organizations to ensure that all MSU students are connected with the religious organization of their choice.

Over the past three years, since the summer of 2022, we have reached out to over 1200 students through events, mailings, and other outreach like social media or a flyer around campus. We have had approximately 50 join us for worship, Bible study, retreats, and other activities, including luncheons and regular church functions.

Of special note: On February 13, 2023, a shooter claimed the lives of three MSU students and seriously injured five others. During the tragedy and in the immediate aftermath, Martin Luther Chapel was able to take a leading role in serving the whole MSU community: hosting a prayer service the next night, helping coordinate the presence of Comfort Dogs on campus, and offering words of encouragement and support to countless students (along with hundreds of cookies donated by members and friends). Pastor Dwyer, as the President of the MSU Religious Advisors Association, coordinated several clergy who ministered directly with the families of the students who were killed, and he was invited to help organize and speak at the campus-wide memorial two days after the tragedy. In the midst of overwhelming grief, we were able to point the campus to the eternal hope that we have in Christ, who triumphed over death and the grave.

**Our Savior, Hartland, MI** – The Rev. Christopher Thoma, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, and The Rev. Michael Scheer

## MIDWEST REGION

The Rev. Robert A. Rogers, First Vice President

As of June 2025, I have been the Vice President of the Midwest Region for 11 years. Starting as 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, I have climbed to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and the time has come to step aside for younger men to serve God with their gifts. I have had the pleasure of being in many of the congregations of the English District, especially those in the Midwest Region, and I find it truly remarkable to see what God does through the people of the English District. We have congregations who practice the highest of high church, and we have congregations who practice cutting-edge, modern worship. We have pastors who are some of the best preachers I have ever heard and all our pastors strive to glorify God in their leading of the liturgy and proclamation of the Gospel. I am very proud of the Midwest Region. While we have struggled with declining attendance and closing congregations, I believe that this is not a case of the Church dying (for that cannot happen), but a distillation process in which the saints of God are becoming purer and more intense. That is a good thing because as we continue forward into the end times, things are not getting easier but more difficult. If the LCMS is to continue to thrive (as I am certain she will), she will need congregations who both understand the value of standing on the shoulders of 2,000 years of saints and look for every possible way to speak the Gospel to the modern hearer.

The Midwest Region includes Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Kentucky. Our congregations are more varied than average for the LCMS. Highlights include:

- Bethesda in Chicago runs an international school serving many ethnicities and cultures. The congregation itself is about 1/3 Anglo and 2/3 Asian Indian.
- Grace in Vine Grove, KY is our southernmost congregation both geographically and culturally. It is a recent mission plant that is fully self-supporting, and I am very proud of the work they have done under their young pastor to overcome bumps in the road and thrive.
- Redeemer in Lincoln, NE is perhaps our most solidly Midwestern congregation. They are grieving the retirement of Pastor Ebert after serving them 41 years. He is a remarkable man and I look forward to seeing how God will use him in retirement. Redeemer is powering through the vacancy of their senior pastor like the powerful servant they are while simultaneously sponsoring their faithful DCE, Rod Lane, to be their Specific Ministry Family Life Pastor.
- I am always proud to say that my region is the home of the largest congregation of the LCMS, Hales Corners Lutheran Church. With an average worship attendance of some 1,500, their new senior pastor Leon Jameson is doing a faithful job of serving them and the Lord, but size is immaterial. My classmate Keith Speaks, their former senior pastor, has noted that more money means more problems. Truly, Hales Corners is not remarkable because of its size but because of its commitment to find innovative ways to proclaim the Gospel, especially to children and families. God has blessed them, and they have used those blessings to glorify Him.
- And now a shout out to one of the smallest congregations in the Midwest Region. Messiah in Elmhurst, IL has about 20 worshippers gathered on a good weekend. And yet, they still make an impact in their community. Under the long and faithful leadership of Rev. Brad Maxon, Messiah prides itself on being the small church presence in the shadow of massive reformed and community congregations. One of Messiah's members is 100 years old, and she still attends almost every LWML Zone meeting. Jesus has commissioned us to proclaim His Word wherever we are and administer His sacraments wherever we are and that is exactly what Messiah continues to do.
- I am also very proud of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit and their young pastor Dan Greg. They have recovered from their former pastor's tragic car accident which led him to leave

congregational ministry. They are once more a growing confessional, liturgical congregation that would make Bishop Pittelko very proud (he was their pastor for 20+ years before he became bishop).

I would love to mention all my congregations because they are all doing amazing things to serve the Lord and the English District but there is only so much room in the workbook. Suffice to say, the Midwest Region is blessed with innovative and faithful congregations and pastors. May God continue to bless this region under the leadership of a new vice president in the coming triennium.

#### **INDIANA CIRCUIT #14**

*The Rev. Chad Trouten, Circuit Visitor*

**Advent, Zionsville, IN** – The Rev. Marcus Mackay and The Rev. Aaron Schultz

Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Matthew 18:16). Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, enriched by God’s blessings, has been emboldened to expand the breadth and scope of ministry these past three years. In July 2022 we installed Rev. Aaron Schultz as our new headmaster and associate pastor. In August 2022 we installed Deaconess Dr. Jennifer Siukola. In fall 2022 we expanded our school to include 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Our excitement for this endeavor was paused as we grieved together at the death of Deb Grady, Assistant Pastor Rev. Jim Grady’s dear bride. We rejoiced in the Resurrection yet to come and the rest granted to her after battling cancer. Christ is yet victorious even in death for us! August 2023 brought the addition of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades and the installation of two new teachers: Ms. Elizabeth Paul and Mrs. Jena Mackay. Pastor Grady stepped down from full-time to part-time pastoral work in September 2023 and then retired completely in July 2024, being granted emeritus status. He is yet an active and involved member at Advent. Running out of classrooms, Advent began a three-year capital campaign in December 2023 to raise funds for our Phase III expansion (auditorium, classrooms, and offices). Initial commitments of \$2.1 million were pledged towards a goal of \$3.5 million. God be praised for this historic and generous campaign! A building committee was formed and has worked diligently towards ground-breaking on our Phase III expansion, slated for 2025. God willing, the doors of our new expansion will be open for classes and use in the fall of 2026. The fall of 2024 brought continued growth in our school with the addition of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. We will also add another Kindergarten class in the fall of 2025 and continue to have a waitlist for our other early childhood classes. We are currently out of classrooms and looking forward to the additional space. Advent sincerely thanks the English District for the gift of a generous grant to help with our Lutheran school expansion.

Additional staff members have also been added to our church and school, namely assistant teachers, school advancement coordinator, and professional bookkeeper. Over the course of the last three years, God has also blessed Advent with church growth of 54 households (96 new members), 26 child and 6 adult baptisms, and 17 youth and 21 adult confirmations. Advent continues to support the musical arts by hosting public events such as Abendmusik and Holy Week Cantata. New groups and outreach opportunities are also up and running, such as 55+, Young Professionals, Junior and Senior Youth, Books & Beer, Men’s Night, Women’s Night, and Single and Couples Marriage Retreats. With this growth, Advent has also increased support of outside missions, including English District and 1-1-1; Issues, ETC.; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; seminary support for Dominican Republic and Siberia; missionary support for Pr. Preus in Romania, Pr. Gerald Paul in Grand Cayman, and Pr. Michael Paul in Taiwan; LCFS Indianapolis (SEED and Lutherwood Center); education support for Luther Classical College

and Indianapolis Lutheran High School; seminarian student support for Michael Hahn and Charlie McLain; Boone County Right to Life; and LCMS Water Projects in Africa.

God be praised! Let the children come!

**Bethany, Fort Wayne, IN** – The Rev. Chad Trouten and The Rev. Charles Varsogea

In the past three years, our Lord has continued to bless His flock at Bethany Lutheran Church. He graciously provided us with a massive remodeling, both indoors and out, new cement work on all our porches, stairs, and sidewalks, as well as new flooring and carpeting throughout the church building. Our associate pastor Rev. Charles Varsogea continues to be deployed with the U.S. Navy, now as the commanding officer of the Naval Chaplaincy School in Newport, Rhode Island. We have gained several new families who have moved into our area, which has reduced the average age of our parishioners by a decade and reinvigorated our Sunday school program. At its most recent voters assembly, Bethany approved revisions to its constitution and bylaws which, if approved by our district board of directors, will finalize our desire to separate first communion from confirmation. We look forward to seeing what marvelous things our Lord will do in the coming triennium!

**Jacob's Well, Ft. Wayne, IN** – The Rev. David Adams

**Peace, Fremont, IN** – The Rev. Jeffrey Teeple and The Rev. Jared Rudolph

By God's grace and mercy, Peace Lutheran Church has continued to proclaim Christ and Him crucified to the people of the tri-state area in northeast Indiana. Over the past triennium, we have called and received a new associate pastor to assist in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We have also completed a building expansion and renovation to support our early childhood center, strengthen our fellowship spaces, and improve our administrative offices, all in service to the Gospel. Most importantly, we have sought to walk alongside our neighbors in both joy and suffering, bearing witness to the hope we have in Christ alone. Soli Deo Gloria

**Prince of Peace, Stroh, IN** – The Rev. Brian Pratt

During the past three years, our Lord has continued to bless His people at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. He has graciously provided us with many opportunities for worship, study, service, and fellowship along with a stable membership and budget. Our attendance continues to fluctuate seasonally, as many members go south for the winter months. We hold worship services every Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m., year-round. We offer four adult Bible classes each week as well as Sunday school and confirmation classes. We offer many social events like seasonal dinners, game nights, movie nights and garden club. In addition to activities at our building, we sponsor a weekly ladies' Bible study that often meets at coffee shops and restaurants, monthly chapel services at Luther Life Villages in Kendallville and a chapel service for adults with developmental disabilities in Garrett. Pastor Pratt often encourages members to regularly proclaim the good news of Jesus to friends, family and neighbors around the nearby lakes, and is now chair of the district's Evangelism team. We joyfully anticipate seeing what salvific things our Lord will do in the next three years!

**Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN** – The Rev. Dr. David Petersen and The Rev. Shawn Barnett

God has greatly blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church in the last 25 years. Some of those years knew great financial distress and one hard act of embezzlement. Others were marked by internal controversy over doctrine and practice. We endured a rough year through COVID and more than a few demonic attacks, some of which sadly ended with divorce or other losses. Nonetheless, God is steadfast. His mercy endures. He has blessed us through Word and Sacrament. We have made some mistakes, committed

many sins, but also received much grace and learned a few things. Twenty-five years ago, the average attendance was 60 souls on a Sunday morning. Now it is 300. Funerals were common. Baptisms were rare. That seems to have been reversed. This is largely demographic. Of our current 339 total members, 68 are 50 years old or older. The other 271 are younger than that, and 125 are under 12 years old. We see 98% of our members in worship at least once a month. We have enjoyed a significant number of adult and family converts in response to our evangelism efforts based on thorough catechesis and liturgy. Come and find me. I'd love to talk to you about it! Along the way, a congregation was planted in Marshall, MI for the English District, and we helped them eventually to get their own pastor. We also started a classical school which currently has 54 children enrolled. It is the only Lutheran school in Ft. Wayne that is growing at the moment. The people that God has sent to us are hungry for more than a quality education. They want a thoroughly rigorous theological education with daily, liturgical worship. We also called an associate pastor. We recently obtained a new school building to help us expand. And, of course, a lot of Jello has been eaten in the church basement. More than a few meetings have been held in the parking lot after the so-called "real" meetings, and the copy machine has had a jam or two. All this, by God's grace, without merit or worthiness in us. Soli Deo Gloria!

**Trinity, La Porte, IN** – served by The Rev. Richard Ungrodt

#### **CHICAGO-NORTH #15**

*The Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Circuit Visitor*

**Bethany, Chicago, IL** – served by The Rev. Steven Baldauf

**Bethesda, Chicago, IL** – The Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon, The Rev. Dr. Shadrach Katari, and The Rev. Jean Bingue  
After living through the pandemic with no hospitalizations and no deaths, Bethesda Lutheran Church and School steadied its congregational life and looks to the future with hope. The "English" component at Bethesda numbers about 20 communicants and the Asian Indian Telegu part 45 adults and children. We have been worshipping together in English since 2020 and have held together with no difficulty.

Bethesda International Academy, serving three-year-olds through eighth grade numbers at 80 with a good prospect of reaching into the eighties by the fall. The Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation, which grants tuition and salary support along with capital funds, which over the years has amounted to more than \$10 million, has been the major support for Lutheran education in Chicago that keeps us alive.

Pastor Katari and Pastor Bacon look at the four youngsters under four years of age born to our families as a sign of continued life, for they show up in worship regularly. We know we are blessed.

**Christ English, Chicago, IL** – The Rev. C. J. Wright

Christ English Lutheran Church is in the process of restarting our educational program. We are located on the west side of Chicago, and we are the only African American LCMS church on this side of the city. We are preparing to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into our educational training. Currently, we are not able to afford full-time teachers, but AI technology will allow our students to get the same benefit that would be received from the instruction of a full-time teacher. Although we will not have full-time instructors, in the AI culture, we will have what are called coaches. These are people who have the responsibility of ensuring that the students correctly understand and follow instructed training. The concept of coaching in the realm of AI culture typically revolves around facilitating growth,

improvement, and learning but through a distinctly technological lens. AI coaching can be described as the practice of providing tailored guidance, insights, or mentorship using artificial intelligence systems. These systems rely on vast data analysis, pattern recognition, and predictive analytics to offer personalized feedback or recommendations to help individuals (our students) achieve their goals—be it in specialized development, skill building, or even mental health support. We intend to partner with organizations that specialize in AI education to access resources, workshops, and support networks. For instance, platforms like Open Roberta offer tools for programming educational robots, making AI concepts accessible to younger learners. Also, we will develop policies that promote the responsible use of AI, emphasizing ethical considerations and digital citizenship. This will help students understand the broader implications of AI technology. God willing, we plan to open this coming fall. We humbly solicit your prayers for this endeavor to come to fruition.

**Faith, Arlington Heights, IL – Vacant**

**Grace English, Chicago, IL – served by The Rev. Fernandez Gomez**

**Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL – The Rev. Daniel Greg**

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is in its 66<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to the northwest suburbs of Chicago. We are proud to bring scriptural, confessional, liturgical Lutheranism to the frontlines of the world in the heart of Cook County.

**Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL – The Rev. Anthony Oliphant**

Redeemer Lutheran Church is in its 97<sup>th</sup> year of bringing God's Word and gifts to His people in Elmhurst and the surrounding suburbs. We have recently had a number of families with young children join, bringing our preschool and kindergarten Sunday school classroom to a joyful fullness. We have also seen a rise in the number of church work students from Concordia University-Chicago in attendance. We continue to be a training site for deaconess field work students as they prepare for full-time service in the Lord's church.

With the retirement of our office secretary after over 20 years at Redeemer and our full-time director of parish music moving to part-time to facilitate a professorship at Concordia, we have seen some rebalancing in the day-to-day administration of the congregation. But every Sunday remains a beacon of the richness of our Lutheran liturgical heritage, the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments.

Our calendar has also grown with more participation in weekly, monthly, and quarterly events in the last three years. The reestablishment of a men's group is well underway. Women's Bible study remains strong after many years of gathering. Book clubs, social events, and gatherings in and out of members' homes all speak to the bond of fellowship that continues to grow out of our combined confession of the faith and unity around the Lord's Word and altar.

**Trinity, Villa Park, IL – The Rev. Robert Rogers**

In this triennium, Trinity has seen some significant changes. Sadly, after COVID, our preschool could not rebound, and we had to close it after 45 years of service to our Lord. We had a celebration in the fall of 2024 thanking God for the many blessings He had poured out upon us through our preschool. In an effort to continue using our space to glorify God, in the fall of 2025, we will welcome a homeschool group into our building. They currently serve about 20 families in our area but hope to grow to over 100

families once they have the space to do so. Trinity will be providing them with weekly chapel services, and we hope to meld together into a unified Christian educational ministry.

Trinity has recovered from COVID. We never closed our doors during the virus and gained multiple families who started worshipping with us because their churches were closed. Our worship attendance has rebounded to about 80% of pre-COVID and we continue to grow. Our Sunday school is back up to pre-COVID numbers as well. As we turn 112 this year, the Lord continues to bless us as we serve Him in our community.

Finally, Trinity's greatest current joy is our seminarian. Jackson Scofield will receive a call into the Holy Ministry this spring. While he is not our first son of the congregation to enter the Office of the Holy Ministry, it has been many years since we had one. Every pastor's job is to replace himself before he retires, and Pastor Rogers could not be more thrilled with the quality of the man that he has mentored into the Holy Office. He hopes for about three more coming down the line before he retires!

From our seven adult Bible studies to our powerful youth ministry, Trinity is blessed. As we proclaim His Word in weekend worship, midweek worship, and community events held at Trinity, we are blessed. Al-Anon, AA, Mom's group, BeeKeepers Association, Men's group, Dorcas, LWML, Quilters and Knitters all serve God together at Trinity and bring His Word and presence into our community decade upon decade as we serve together for our second century. Soli Deo Gloria!

#### **CHICAGO-SOUTH CIRCUIT #16**

*The Rev. Douglas Hoag, Circuit Visitor*

In the last triennium our circuit congregations have been essentially maintaining by the grace of God. Although the challenges are great, we know that we have an even greater God! Our circuit consists of the following congregations:

**Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL** – The Rev. Keith Kinslow

**Concordia, Berwyn, IL** – The Rev. Chris Kolupa

**Ephphatha, Chicago, IL** – The Rev. Prentice Marsh

**Faith, Chicago, IL** – vacant

**Markham, Markham, IL** – The Rev. Larry Schneekloth

The members of Markham Lutheran Church, along with the whole Church, are making their way through Lent, preparing for the great Easter feast. We gather around Word and Sacrament each Lord's Day, and during Lent we share a light Wednesday meal, then meditate and pray our midweek worship. We try to reach out into our communities individually and together by putting on Facebook Live all our Sunday and weekday services. We are very pleased at the numbers of people who worship with us online each week and pray that our services are a real blessing to man.

**Messiah, Elmhurst, IL** – The Rev. Bradford Maxon

**St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL** – vacant

**Trinity, New Lenox, IL** – The Rev. Doug Hoag

At Trinity Lutheran Church we have been laboring in God’s vineyard with celebration and outreach. We are currently using the LCMS *re:Vitality* resources and have seen some success, but most of our growth has come from families looking for a more traditional and stable place to worship. Adult instruction classes have been necessary on an ongoing basis, something that Trinity hasn’t seen in quite a while. The Lord is clearly bringing people into our midst to be shepherded by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Our preschool continues to operate this year with a new director and a new teacher. We are facing the challenges of families in our area needing all-day preschool -- something we cannot provide at this time. Perhaps our Lord will open some doors for us and give us other opportunities for ministering to preschoolers.

**MILWAUKEE CIRCUIT #17**

*The Rev. Frederic Reaman, Circuit Visitor*

1-1-1: Mission Accomplished! The Milwaukee Circuit was the originating group behind the creation of 1-1-1 birthed from an idea of Pastor Tom Engler and the Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace in Menomonee Falls, WI.

Over the past triennium, the Milwaukee churches have emerged from the COVID debacle and are thriving, reaching the lost, and carrying out the Great Commission. Some of the notable official activities include the installation of Pastor Leon Jameson as senior pastor, Todd Liefer as associate pastor and Aaron Hickey as associate pastor at Hales Corners Lutheran Church and School in Hales Corners, WI.

Pastor Scott Kruse was installed at Peace, New Berlin, WI. Pastor Brady Retzlaff and Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant merged with a local SELC District congregation. And the hosting of the Midwest Regional Conference was joyously handed off to the Chicago circuits for next year!

**Christ, Lake Mills, WI** – The Rev. David Dukovan

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church has 32 baptized members and in the last triennium:

- 3 confirmations
- 1 baptism
- 4 funerals
- Adult Bible class every Wednesday
- Sunday School – 3 students
- Worship service Sunday at 10 AM

We have been helping to support a seminary student at Concordia Seminary for the last two years.

**Faith, Watertown, WI** – The Rev. Seth Hoepfner

Pastor Hoepfner is continuing to take General Pastoral Certificate classes in the hopes of completing the program in 2026. Learning and growing in God’s Word is a key theme for Faith Lutheran Church. We began a Wednesday Night Gathering Bible Fellowship which has a study for women, men, and children every first and third Wednesday. We have been emphasizing fellowship within the congregation.

In Sunday School, we now have an upper grade section. We continue our Vacation Bible School in August, and in the summer of 2024, we started an outreach event at our city's town square with music, a message, and various activities.

Our day school added a grade each of the past three years, and we are now up to sixth grade with the goal of going up to eighth grade. We are a small school but have very dedicated teachers and great support from the congregation. We also have welcomed a few missionaries to share their work and ministry with the congregation. Our midweek chapel services have been well attended with parents from the day school and members of the congregation. We try to incorporate many generations worshipping together.

In the summer of 2024, we had a sanctuary refresh. We painted the walls and replaced our original carpeting of 38 years. The congregation was very supportive in our efforts for this refresh. We also added new acolyte robes. We are planning on having a celebratory 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2026 thanking God for the blessings He has given us in the past and seeking to know how we can serve Him better in the present and future.

#### **Greenfield Park, West Allis, WI – The Rev. Fred Reaman**

Greenfield Park Evangelical Lutheran Church recently celebrated 85 years of serving West Allis in the Milwaukee area. Our emeriti pastors, Rev. William Meier (1969-1999) and Rev. Paul Koester (2000-2013), are well and continue to care for people. Pastor Reaman has been busy working on opportunities in our community serving youth, adults, and seniors.

We have seen continued growth in the co-founded neighborhood association with over 750 members, guiding, supporting, and partnering with them for social causes, fundraisers, food packs, clothing drives, and neighboring events. This has been a great blessing and is a natural place for outreach, witnessing, and bringing neighbors to worship. Ministry and facility usage continues to remain active with five scouting groups, health screening, car clubs, movie nights, block parties, and outside family groups using our hall for events. The Prayer Shawl ministry continues to minister to and connect with area food pantries and homeless shelters, and pack lunches and supplies for the Street Angels. Participation at events, activities, and worship remains steady, with an increasingly younger average age.

#### **Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI – The Rev. Leon Jameson, The Rev. Christian Wood, The Rev. Todd Liefer, The Rev. Chad Kogutkiewicz, and The Rev. Aaron Hickey**

At Hales Corners Lutheran Church (HCL), everything we do is centered on Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins. As part of God's family, we are called to **Love God, Love People, and Live Like Jesus** in everything we do. That calling shapes how we worship, care for one another, and serve our neighbors near and far.

Looking ahead, we believe God is leading us to focus on three key priorities:

#### **LOVE GOD:**

Worship is at the heart of who we are. Through faithful preaching, teaching, and the Sacraments, we gather to receive God's gifts and be strengthened in faith. We'll continue investing in ways to help people of all ages grow as disciples, connecting God's Word to everyday life and vocation.

#### **LOVE PEOPLE:**

Because God loves us first, we are called to love one another. HCL is a place where people are valued,

cared for, and connected. We want to create a community where relationships thrive, and people feel supported as they walk through life together in Christ.

**LIVE LIKE JESUS:**

Jesus came to serve, and as His people, we are called to do the same. Whether it's serving a neighbor down the street or supporting global mission efforts, we'll continue to look for ways to meet needs with compassion and share the love of Christ in both word and action. We'll also strive to be good stewards of the resources God has given us so that our ministry can impact generations to come.

In 2025 and beyond, the members, leaders, and staff of HCL will walk together in faith, trusting in God's promises and provision and confident that He will fulfill His good purposes through us.

**Hope, Hastings, MN** – The Rev. Kenneth Boudreau

Hope Lutheran Church continues to meet before the Lord in weekly worship and receives His gifts of grace with joy and gladness. While we have seen some shifts in membership in the wake of the pandemic, God is faithful not only to prune but to add growth.

We see God's blessings in providing opportunity to reach the community through our preschool which has operated near capacity the last two years. Our hope is to expand to a third classroom even while the new aftercare program has been blessed with stability.

We recently celebrated the gifts of our preschool families and teachers during worship services and welcomed nearly a dozen families and our teachers on that day. We continue to have families connect with Hope through their introduction and association with the preschool by way of new member classes, holiday events, and prayer partnering with the church members.

This past summer we experimented with the use of our parking lot space to sponsor a farmers-style market and food truck court which was well received and provided weekly opportunity to interact with many neighbors.

We are pleased to be sending a delegation of our youth to the National Youth Gathering again while our Vacation Bible School will experience a pause this year to refocus and restructure for 2026. We have been blessed to partner with the Concordia University, St. Paul Department of Theology & Ministry as a site for fieldwork students to learn and apply their experience while preparing for certification and placement.

We praise and thank God for His faithfulness to us and to all those served by our preschool. His mercy is everlasting, and His gifts are great. Praise be His name and all thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus Christ given to us!

**Messiah, Forest Lake, MN** – The Rev. Gregory Musolf

**Peace, New Berlin, WI** – The Rev. Scott Kruse

**Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, WI** – The Rev. Thomas Engler

The Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace continues to grow in its ministry under the service of Rev. Tom Engler, who is entering his 12<sup>th</sup> year.

Our caregiving AMOS (A Ministry of Serving) program through its “Helping Hands” program, which offers assistance with small household repairs, meals, transportation and shopping, continues to serve our elder adults. We also have an unaffiliated Boy Scout troop that uses our facilities, performs service projects, assists with our fall/spring cleanup days and, over the years, completed a total of 10 on-site Eagle Scout projects.

Sadly, Rhoda, our K9 Comfort Dog ended her service here. We anticipated her retirement and began obtaining another dog. Through Dawgs at Work (Saukville, WI) Sophie, Ministry Therapy Dog, began working with our team of ten members who trained as handlers for Rhoda. Daily visits to community hospitals in Menomonee Falls and West Bend, area nursing homes, assisted living and memory care facilities, and group homes resumed in late fall. We increased visits in the community, greeting students at their “first day of school” and “De-stress Days” for exams at area high schools and colleges.

We continue to jointly support Missionary David Baker in Mongolia. Annually in December, we have a collection of socks or hats and mittens for Pastor Baker to distribute. Through our Missions and Outreach Board, we held a free coffee drive-through in July (2024) for the community and supported our local food pantry with two food drives in June and November (2024). Other local projects included collections of soaps for prison ministry, personal hygiene bags for Milwaukee Rescue Mission, and a blood drive.

Our LWML/Women’s Guild is involved with organizing the 2026 LWML convention to be held in the Milwaukee area, starting with fundraisers, Christmas cookie sale, and “Hugs in a Mug” (Valentine’s Day), to help cover the costs of the convention. The subcommittees will assist with preparing attendees’ packets and organizing “in-Gatherings” and local servant events.

Strategic plans for 2025 focus on outreach as the community continues to grow with new housing developments around us. We are in the process of recruiting another staff member (Outreach Worker) to work in the community, sharing the Gospel and reaching out to lapsed members, the lost, and the unchurched. We continue to support the 1-1-1 for Missions program within the English District and prayerfully hope for its expansion at the synod level.

**St. Mark, Janesville, WI - Vacant**

**St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI – The Rev. Tyler Werner**

### **SAINT LOUIS CIRCUIT #18**

*The Rev. Theodore Laesch Jr., Circuit Visitor*

**Beautiful Savior, Lee’s Summit, MO – The Rev. Jonathan Gruen and The Rev. Devin Burmeister**  
We strive to “Tell the Next Generation” about the wonders that God has done (Ps. 78:4), especially in sending His own Son Jesus to save the world. Our desire is to engage all people, especially each new generation, with the Good News of the cross and the empty tomb of Christ. We are thrilled that our Abounding Love Preschool’s enrollment remains at capacity, right around 100 students! Our Upward Basketball ministry this past year grew to 404 registered participants. The Gospel is shared with these growing athletes at practices and with all their family members at games during the halftime devotions.

Our ministry team went through a few transitions, and we welcomed our preschool director Stephanie Wood in February 2023, a new DCE Isabel Brosch in July 2024, and our administrative assistant Missy Whitaker in December 2024. God is faithful to send us the right people at the right time!

We renovated our sanctuary, giving it some beautiful and much-needed updates and were glad to return worshipping there in February of 2025 after about five months of worshipping in our gym. We find that we are never short on challenges or joys, and we can always count on the grace of God to carry us along as we serve. Thanks be to God!

**Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO** – The Rev. Theodore Laesch Jr. and The Rev. Ellory Glenn  
Chapel of the Cross – Lutheran gives thanks and praise to God as we celebrate 60 years of mission and ministry this year. God indeed has been good as we continue to serve the people of North St. Louis County and beyond as we shine Christ’s love, share our hope in Him, and show His love to our world. Since last convention Chapel has started to take part in the vicarage program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, receiving our second vicar this past July. Chapel of the Cross also continues to collaborate in ministry with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis (Missouri District) in their EAC after-school program, summer camp program, and beginning in May of 2025, in a childcare center located on Chapel’s campus. Chapel continues to partner with local Lutheran elementary schools and Lutheran North Middle and High School in sharing the importance of quality, Lutheran education for its families and the families in the community. On March 30, 2025, Chapel celebrated the retirement of its debt with a mortgage burning.

**Grace, Vine Grove, KY** – The Rev. Jonathan Lackey

**Redeemer, Lincoln, NE** – The Rev. Samuel Bobby  
In June 2024, Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrated God’s generosity shown in Rev. Mark Ebert’s 41 years of faithful service at Redeemer with a meal, 1984 talent show video, and Rev. Stephen P. Starke’s hymn “To God I Say, ‘You Are My Lord’” commissioned for the occasion. Although still working through some of the pandemic’s impact, Redeemer continues to livestream worship and funeral services and continues to enjoy broad member participation in activities, boards, and committees. Redeemer members actively support the Belize Mission Society and the “Blessing Box” containing food items (and Portals of Prayer!) located in Redeemer’s parking lot, which clearly serves our neighbors. Redeemer’s partnership with neighborhood associations includes sponsoring a neighborhood movie night. Since the last English District Convention, a young adult Bible study group has formed, a casserole program for members and neighbors is now underway, and the annual chili cook-off/cinnamon roll bake-off has become increasingly popular – and competitive! Redeemer looks forward to welcoming Senior Pastor Samuel Bobby shortly after the convention and DCE Rod Lane entering Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne’s SMP program in fall 2025. All praise and thanks to God for His faithfulness to His people!

**St. John’s, Hannibal, MO** – The Rev. Eric Carlson

## WESTERN REGION

The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse, Second Vice President

### ARIZONA-NORTH CIRCUIT #19

*The Rev. Steven Resner, Circuit Visitor*

#### **Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ** – The Rev. Brian Crane and The Rev. Rob Doughty III

In July 2022, the congregation called Rev. Brian Crane to be our pastor. He accepted the Divine Call and was installed on October 9, 2022. His installation marked the end of a nearly five-year pastoral vacancy. During that time, the congregation was blessed to be served by Rev. Steven Resner as its vacancy pastor. Rev. Resner worked hard to ensure the congregation was in a sound financial position to support a full-time pastor. God blessed us with membership growth during his tenure and that growth has continued into the present. Many people have visited and joined our congregation because of our distinctly Lutheran traditional, liturgical worship.

God has also blessed us with the addition of an associate pastor. On February 21, 2025, Rev. Rob Doughty III was ordained by Bishop Jeffrey Miskus and installed as our associate pastor. Because Rev. Doughty is a full-time attorney, he serves the congregation in a limited, part-time capacity, assisting Pastor Crane as necessary. In these and many other ways, God has been exceedingly good and gracious to our congregation as we seek to share the love and message of Jesus to people in Mesa and the East Valley of Phoenix.

#### **Faith, Overgaard, AZ** – The Rev. Rodney Schmeltz

Since Faith Lutheran Church is on the Mogollon Rim, there are a number of our members who reside with us in the late spring through early fall. They then reside in the “valley” for the remainder of the year. This fluctuation does involve proportionately less than it had since a few of those members have moved their membership.

Faith Lutheran Church has a sizable nest egg which will allow us to carry on until we grow to provide the offerings necessary to endure or the Lord decides we have existed in the kingdom work long enough. All of us at Faith are determined that the Lord has us here for a reason, and we realize the reality: we are in a time of rebuilding in the ministry here.

Our three Bible studies are fairly well attended, and we have almost all of our members worshipping every Sunday. It is wonderful to hear and see faith maturing in the members here.

The 1-1-1 Mission jug is utilized by a good many of the people here, and in 2024 the Council approved the increase of our District support from 3% to 5%.

The congregation expects and encourages Pastor Schmeltz to be involved with Circuit Winkels and other matters.

It is stressed often and regularly here at Faith that our mission and calling is to preach the Word and rightly administer the Sacraments. God gives the increase, and He will bring into our midst those He already knows who will join us. We remain optimistic for the days, months, and years ahead.

Lord, use us always for Your glory and the good of Your kingdom, Amen.

**Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ** – The Rev. Fred Gerlach

Rev. Fred Gerlach has labored tirelessly at Family of Christ Lutheran Church which is located in a close suburb of Phoenix. He faithfully preaches the Word of God and properly administers the Sacraments as instituted by Christ. He serves as the pastor of this very small congregation, as well as the director of the child care/preschool of the church and community.

In the past six months, Pastor Gerlach has baptized several children and catechized several adult members. Family of Christ is located in a very mobile suburb, and therefore the change in membership is much greater than in other locations. As Rev Gerlach says, "I will serve this church and preschool until the Lord of the Church calls me elsewhere."

**Messiah, Parker, AZ** – Vacant

For 20 years Rev. Roger Yoder served the brothers and sisters of Messiah Lutheran Church as its called SMP pastor. Pastor Yoder, at the age of 80, retired as of February 2025. The congregation is at the beginning of the Call process and would appreciate the prayers of the English District that our heavenly Father would see fit to provide a pastor to serve them. Even though they are not a large congregation, they are active and want to remain a viable English District parish.

**Shepherd of the Canyon, Gold Canyon, AZ** – The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood

Shepherd of the Canyon Lutheran Church (SCLC) began as a new church start in August 2022 with a core group of eight people. Using the LCMS's new church planting process (now called Church Planting Simplified), the core group formed the Church Planting Team and worked with the District to establish an Advisory Team. After meeting for about one year in the conference room of a local hotel, SCLC was able to secure a lease for commercial property in Gold Canyon. Then Bishop/President Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy joined us for a dedication service and celebration in October 2023. In June 2024, SCLC was able to expand into additional space in the same office complex. On February 23, 2025, SCLC was received into membership in the English District by Bishop/President Rev. Jeffrey Miskus. On that same day, Pastor Mark Wood was installed as SCLC's first called pastor. The congregation was chartered with 32 members. SCLC has received two grants from the English District and is the first recipient of the LCMS's granting program under Church Planting Simplified. The District's and Synod's support has been instrumental in SCLC becoming a chartered congregation in the LCMS. The near-term focus of SCLC is on establishing witness and outreach activities.

**Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ** – The Rev. Michael Mathews

After Rev. Daniel Warner accepted a call to Colorado, we were served during the vacancy by emeritus pastor Rev. David Kaiser until Rev. Michael Mathews accepted the call to serve us and was installed in February 2024. We continue to reach out to residents and visitors in the White Mountains area of Arizona with the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

**Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ** – Vacant

After a successful 5+ years of Rev. Larry Bell serving at Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church, he made the decision to retire from parish ministry. We join our brothers and sisters in Christ in thanking Pastor Bell for his time among them. He and his wife Pam have decided to remain in Payson for retirement. Congratulations to the Bells!

The congregation is currently in the Call process. They ask for prayers on their behalf that the God of the Church would send them a new under-shepherd in the near future.

## **ARIZONA-SOUTH CIRCUIT #20**

*The Rev. Dr. John Stieve, Circuit Visitor*

The Arizona South visitation circuit encompasses congregations, schools, and special ministries in the greater Tucson, Arizona area. God has richly blessed the people, programs, and spiritual life of our circuit throughout the 2022–2025 triennium.

**Ascension, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Thomas Braun, The Rev. Samuel St. John, and The Rev. Stephen Martin Ascension Lutheran Church and School serve the Oro Valley area, just north of Tucson. They are in the beginning stages of making it easier to enter worship as well as combining all the school classrooms into one building for enhanced security purposes. They continue to grow numerically and spiritually through the Word of God, worship, and Bible study. Ascension feels blessed to be serving people of different backgrounds.

**Catalina, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse and The Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg Catalina Lutheran Church has continued to build upon a strong foundation of biblically grounded, highly liturgical and confessional worship and teaching. The congregation again participated in the LCMS vicarage program, with plans to continue that in the future. We offered professional church worker continuing education courses annually through both U.S. seminaries. Congregational outreach to local communities included their Operation Barnabas Chapter and that of lay diaconate members. A women's theological book club was added, and the pastors continue to serve the Church in the world through participation in KFUE's "Thy Strong Word." Catalina completed a three-year capital campaign, and a second campaign has begun. God has granted funds to empower them to expand their facilities footprint on their current grounds. They are considering purchasing a permanent vicarage house near the congregation property and expanding the classroom, kitchen, and fellowship spaces.

**Christus Rex, Rio Rico, AZ** – served by The Rev. Roger Stuenkel

Christus Rex Lutheran Church gathers a small group of faithful believers around Word and Sacrament each Lord's Day. They serve their southern Arizona Rio Rico Community – less than fifteen miles from the Mexico border. Christus Rex plans greater visibility and outreach in the coming months.

**Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ** – The Rev. Jason Hong

Crosspoint Lutheran Church continues to grow in membership in the fast-developing community of Sahuarita, about fifteen miles south of Tucson. They welcomed their new pastor in August 2023 and have since added new ministry and activity areas, including home Bible studies, children and youth events, and adult fellowship groups. In February 2025, after worshiping in a local restaurant meeting room for fifteen months, Crosspoint dedicated a new worship and ministry center – the church's home base for worship, fellowship, nurture, and service.

**Faith, Tucson, AZ** – served by The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

Faith Lutheran Church, the mother LCMS church for the Tucson area, continues to be a missional, English-speaking congregation by hosting a Spanish ministry, a parochial school, and a campus outreach (Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society). Pastor Wirtz serves as the deployed Hispanic missionary to

Santa Trinidad through Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, Green Valley. Pastor Todd Zill serves Faith Lutheran Church as their deployed missionary to campus ministries in Tucson.

Faith Lutheran School has been giving parents and students a distinctly Lutheran alternative to public school since 1952. Offering Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade along with a toddler and preschool program, it continues to be staffed by dedicated and loving teachers. A low student-to-teacher ratio allows for individual attention to students' educational, emotional, and spiritual needs. Faith is currently in discussions with other LCMS congregations and schools in the Tucson area as they explore the possibility of a city-wide educational association: Southern Arizona Lutheran Schools Association.

LCMS U at the University of Arizona – The Rev. M. Todd Zill was in a part-time capacity with an attempt to develop the campus ministry into a full-time ministry for the first time. Making this happen has had its challenges, both locally specific and general to all who engage in campus ministry today. The Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona was partially owned by the District but was not utilized during these years due to an ongoing lawsuit. Despite the changes and challenges, a small but stable student group continues to be well served and demonstrates a great zeal for faithful Lutheran catechesis and fellowship, in conjunction with the continued support of the circuit, the District, and the local ALCMS (Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society).

**Holy Trinity, Tucson, AZ** – served by The Rev. Dr. Garry McClure

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church moved from its southern Tucson grounds to a store site on the far west side of Tucson. They purchased land in that area and hope to erect a church building on it in the coming years. They conduct regular Divine services, Bible studies, and group activities, as they seek to reach the community around them.

**Messiah, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Luther Esala

Messiah Lutheran Church meets within a home for worship, study, and fellowship. This small band of believers continues to serve in an area of northwest Tucson.

**Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Isaac Wirtz

For the first time in years, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church took six youth to the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering. In 2024, they raised funds and attended Higher Things and plan to do so again. Confirmation classes have grown to over a half-dozen per class and twice as many in youth group events. They completed updating their constitution and bylaws. Weekly attendance has grown steadily, with individuals or families visiting each week, many whom are entirely new to Lutheranism.

**Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ** – The Rev. Todd Arnold

Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior maintains a healthy and active membership in the Green Valley retirement community about twenty miles south of Tucson. Staff additions included a Director of Technology and Communications (who also serves the circuit) and a Parish Nurse. 2024 was an anniversary year, celebrating fifty years at their current site and sixty years as a congregation. Pastor emeritus John Stieve spoke at the 50-year dinner celebration, and Bishop Jeffrey Miskus preached for the 60-year Divine Services. In February 2025, a Lutheran Hour Ministry Weekend was held with Lutheran Hour speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler preaching. The campus hosts many community groups, including A.A., quilters, and musicians. The church's semi-monthly "SOUL Lunch" continues to feed and provide fellowship for hundreds around the community.

**Misión Luterana Santa Trinidad, Tucson, AZ** – The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

Misión Luterana Santa Trinidad, which has been active for 30 years in the Tucson area, continues its mission work to Spanish-speaking folks. It serves four generations of Spanish speakers with abuelas (grandmothers) and abuelos (grandfathers), bisabuelas (great-grandmother matriarchs), mothers, fathers, and their children who attend Santa Trinidad and some who also attend Faith Lutheran School.

The Sanctity of Life ministry, led by Dr. Roni Grad, organizes the circuit to participate in the annual Tucson March for Life. Additionally, he keeps pastors and congregation leaders updated on District and Lutherans for Life events locally, regionally and nationally. A few congregations have Life Teams, churches support pregnancy care centers, and prayers are offered in the vicinity of a local Planned Parenthood office.

The Lutheran Servanthood School continues to educate, train, and prepare laity for meaningful diaconate work throughout the circuit. This school continues its over 35 years of service.

**NEVADA/TEXAS CIRCUIT #21**

*The Rev. Stanley Lacey, Circuit Visitor*

**Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV** – The Rev. Robert Bruggeman

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church began 2024 with a Vision Workshop, emphasizing that the kingdom of God would not only grow within each of the saints but also extend to our local community, state, and national outreach. Prince of Peace is predominantly a congregation of retirees, many of whom live in Mesquite, NV, from October until April before returning to their summer homes and family congregations. Whether we have everyone here or are awaiting their return, Prince of Peace Lutheran continues to sustain and thrive.

Our spring outreach event was Mesquite Days where we handed out pamphlets and extended an invitation to join us for Divine Services, Christian education, and fellowship opportunities, including Women of Life, Campfire Fellowship, ATV Fellowship, Hope & Comfort Club Fellowship, Sunday Brunch Fellowship, and Movie Fellowship. We also distributed nearly 100 Portals of Prayer and registrations for our Vacation Bible School initiative (which welcomed five children in its first summer).

One of our members came forward to answer the call to pastoral ministry through the Specific Ministry Program. We offer prayers for his ordination and installation in 2026. As part of the program, Pastor Bruggeman installed him as the vicar at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In September, they both attended the SMP orientation at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. He has since completed his fall Lutheran Confessions course and begun a course on the Gospel of Luke.

Prince of Peace Lutheran continues to show love for God and neighbor, as several saints stepped forward to serve as elders, and our council vice president assumed the office of president when our previous president suddenly entered glory.

Improvements to our facilities have been both industrious and creative. One family hired a carpenter to install shelving and cabinetry for our library. Our Women of Life welcomed the teachers and staff of Virgin Valley Elementary School back with a breakfast, where they also provided Prince of Peace Lutheran drawstring backpacks. Additionally, they organized our second annual Angel Tree event for Virgin Valley Elementary School through which over a dozen families received Christmas gifts.

**St. Paul, Paris, TX – The Rev. Toby Byrd**

In the spring of 2024, nine dedicated families, confessional Lutherans all, met and agreed to form a confessional Lutheran congregation in Paris, TX. The congregation was to center around Word and Sacrament ministry. After securing a facility for worship—the conference room of the VIP Inn & Suites motel in Paris, TX—and asking the Rev. Toby Byrd to lead the service, the fledgling group held its first Divine Service on April 7, 2024.

From that first worship service, the group pledged to fund the new congregation through offerings, covering the cost of a facility in which to worship, the purchase of altar and communion ware for Divine Service, and the cost of worship and Sunday school materials. With this pledged support, the congregation chose a name—St. Paul Lutheran Church—and contacted the president of the English District for inclusion in the district.

After our initial Divine Service, the following happened in succession:

1. The application for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the English District was completed by the president/bishop of the English District on April 30, 2024.
2. The Rev. Toby Byrd transferred into the English District.
3. The Constitution of St. Paul Lutheran Church was approved by the English District Board of Directors on May 23, 2024, and St. Paul became a member of the English District on that date.
4. The Rev. Toby Byrd accepted the call of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paris, TX, as their pastor and was installed as pastor by English District Bishop Rev. Jeffery Miskus on May 25, 2024.

The Lord has been gracious to us throughout the year, providing a venue for Divine Services for which the congregation is grateful. As God’s Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments distributed, the congregation has grown, adding two adults through baptism and confirmation. However, during the year, we lost one of our saints as he was called to God’s kingdom of glory. The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away.

Throughout the year, Christian education has been continually provided with a Sunday Bible study, Sunday school, and a Wednesday morning Bible study at a local restaurant. On Monday evenings, one of our younger members is completing her second year of catechism and will be confirmed on Palm Sunday 2025. We give thanks to God for these wonderful blessings He continues to pour out upon us.

The congregation has continued to meet at the VIP Inn & Suites but always with an eye toward a permanent church of our own. Our search for an already constructed facility has met with disappointment, as no suitable facility has been located. Therefore, looking toward the future, the congregation is in the process of purchasing a 1.94-acre lot on the northwest side of Paris, TX, on a major avenue that runs the entire length of the city from north to south. This purchase is scheduled to close on February 28, 2025. Once complete, the congregation will embark on a plan to construct St. Paul’s church, utilizing the lot as often as possible for evangelism, outreach, and worship while we await the construction of our new church building.

We are excited about the opportunities the Holy Spirit has placed before us in the Paris, TX community, and we look forward to meeting these great mission opportunities while also asking for your prayers as we endeavor to do the Lord’s work in this great community.

We look forward to meeting our fellow brothers and sisters at the convention in Ann Arbor in June.

**St. Thomas, Magnolia, TX** – The Rev. Stanley Lacey

St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first gathering on Epiphany in 2024. By the grace of God, the congregation was officially chartered as a member congregation of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in April 2024. We are deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of the English District, especially then-Bishop Jamison Hardy and now Bishop Jeffrey Miskus, as we continue to grow and increase awareness in our community.

St. Thomas began with 37 charter members. Since the installation of Pastor Lacey in August of 2024, we have received two members by baptism and thirteen by transfer from other LCMS congregations, bringing our total membership to 61. On a typical Sunday, our average attendance is 60. We celebrate the Divine Service with Holy Communion every week, followed by beginning catechesis for children around ten and under who are preparing for First Communion and family catechesis for older youth and adults. During Advent and Lent, we offer Thursday evening prayer services, which a local LCMS congregation, St. Paul of the Texas District, kindly allows us to hold in their space.

As a young and vibrant church, St. Thomas is committed to outreach and evangelism in the growing Northwest Houston area. Our primary efforts have included establishing an online presence through our website, optimizing search engine visibility, and maintaining active engagement on Facebook and Instagram. We are also working on improving signage to make our worship location easier to find on Sunday mornings. Looking ahead, we have begun exploring different property options to better understand potential costs for a more permanent location.

One of the biggest challenges we have faced is raising awareness of our congregation in a sprawling suburban area. However, we have been richly blessed with faithful families, many children, and an active laity who are eager to deepen relationships within the congregation and work to identify pathways to community engagement. The past year has been a whirlwind—truly a gift from God. We never expected to be where we are in such a short time, but we are energized by the constant reminder that God is in charge and has set a path before us. Now that we have a pastor, we look forward to engaging more actively with our community, inviting people into our church, and sharing the love of Christ with those around us.

We thank God for His abundant blessings upon our congregation and pray for His continued guidance as we seek to be faithful stewards of His Word and Sacraments in our community.

**SAN DIEGO CIRCUIT #22**

*The Rev. James Huenink, Circuit Visitor*

**Borrego, Borrego Springs, CA** – The Rev. Michael Matthews

Borrego Lutheran Church continues to serve the Borrego Springs community and the surrounding area with the word and sacraments. You can find out more by going to our website, <https://www.borregolutheranchurch.com/>.

**First, El Cajon, CA** – The Rev. James Huenink

The past triennium has been filled with both highs and lows for First Lutheran Church. Since 2022, we have had a number of new Christians enter our congregation including four adults through baptism and four adults through confirmation. All of these people came to us as gifts from God with no previous

connection, including one who said something like, “So I decided I wanted to be a Christian. I started with the book of Genesis.”

In 2024 we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sanctuary and installed a new organ. Our congregation has been working on ways to connect with the Afghan, Chaldean, Syrian, and Kurdish immigrants and refugees in our neighborhood. After a couple of failed partnerships with organizations and individuals from the refugee community, we are beginning to reach out by doing a kind of Sunday school in the park called Afternoon Blast, as well as hosting ESL classes.

We are also working on a plan to establish a campus ministry at San Diego State University. Our partnership with a maternity home that is housed on our campus has helped house at least 20 homeless mothers through their pregnancies. While, like many churches, we are facing financial challenges, we are hopeful that our new outreach initiatives will connect with our neighbors with the gospel.

**St. Luke’s, La Mesa, CA** – The Rev. Dr. Mark Menacher

**LOS ANGELES CIRCUIT #23**

*The Rev. Titus Utecht, Circuit Visitor*

**Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA** – The Rev. William Naumann and The Rev. Manuel De La Rosa  
Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church recently celebrated its 70th year as an English District plant with many years of past parish education ministries. It is currently served by two part-time, unsalaried pastors as a bilingual congregation in the growing multi-ethnic neighborhoods of northeast San Fernando Valley.

**Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA** – Vacant

Highland Park Lutheran Church remains vacant, currently worshipping 10-20 each Sunday.

**Immanuel, Orange, CA** – The Rev. Dr. Robb Ring

**Peace, Palm Desert, CA** – The Rev. James Bowes

**Saint Paul’s, Long Beach, CA** – The Rev. Mark Pierson

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church continues to be served by Rev. Mark Pierson. The attendance and finances of the congregation and its preschool are currently stable. Increases in church membership since the pandemic have mostly been due to some transfers, along with a few who have returned to the faith after years of wandering in the wilderness.

**Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA** – The Rev. Titus Utecht

Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church continues to be served by Rev. Titus Utecht. The congregation continues to have an influx of people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, especially Persian.

**Trinity, San Dimas, CA** – After many years of faithful service to God's people, Trinity Lutheran Church closed during the last triennium.

## **SAN FRANCISCO CIRCUIT #24**

*The Rev. Curtis Binz, Circuit Visitor*

### **Apostolic, Moses Lake, WA – Vacant**

#### **Blessed Sacrament, Hayden, ID – The Rev. Marcus Williams and The Rev. Marc DiConti**

Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church, situated in Hayden, ID, is a plant congregation of the English District, which was constituted in the fall of 2020. We are a confessional and liturgical parish in which the Gospel is purely preached and the Sacraments are instituted in accord with our Lord's instructions. We are a congregation comprised of mostly younger families and currently rent from a WELS congregation. In January of 2024, we called Rev. Marc DiConti for the purpose of campus ministry with LCMS-U at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA. In February of 2024 we purchased a nearly 9-acre property with a home that now serves Rev. Marcus Williams and his family as a parsonage. Our Lord continues to bless us with faithful ministry and faithful hearers of the Word.

#### **Hope, Fremont, CA – The Rev. Raymond Hulett**

The saints of Hope Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Fremont, CA strive to engage our community with both the Gospel of Jesus Christ and friendly fellowship as neighbors. The Lenten season of 2025 marks our second year of mailing fliers to those who live in the immediate vicinity of the church (just before Advent and Lent), and this summer marks our third year of Summer Dinner and Study Nights – four Saturdays in June and July featuring a potluck dinner and in-depth study of a chosen topic. We also had a very successful first run at Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween where we handed out nearly 50 gift bags with treats, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, and a custom bookmark with the Church's information. We pray that the Lord would bless the "scattering of the seed" as we continue to consider how else we might reach out with the love of Christ to those in need of His forgiveness and salvation!

#### **Messiah, Danville, CA – The Rev. Kevin Belter**

In July of 2022 Messiah Lutheran Church gave thanks to God for 23 years of Rev. Peter Ledic's pastoral care and leadership at the occasion of his retirement. At the end of the month, Rev. Kevin Belter was installed as sole pastor by then-Bishop Jamison Hardy. Messiah continues to gather regularly for worship, Bible study, and fellowship events. In December of 2023 the congregation voted to begin construction of a parsonage. In 2024, we celebrated 45 years as a congregation joined together by Christ our Lord. To God be the glory both now and forever.

#### **New Life Chinese, San Francisco, CA – The Rev. Charles Fox**

God enabled New Life (NL) to celebrate her 28th anniversary on October 6, 2024! Pastor Charles "Chip" Fox was called to New Life in 2002, together with His wonderfully supportive wife Hannah and sons David and Jonathan. He serves as pastor of New Life and with Pastor Otis Byrd (SMP) as senior pastor of Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) (CNH District). New Life continues her relationship with SOTH as a "multi-congregation parish."

Praise God for our New Life Mission and Ministry Council (Congregational Board of Directors) - Officers: Ed Yee, President; Susan Yee, Secretary; Cindy Chan, Treasurer; Directors: Henry Lee, Missions/Ministries Director; Henry Wong, Properties/Building Program Director; Pastor Chip Fox (ex-officio). New Life Church Secretary: Gail Wong.

For the last triennium, the average onsite attendance of New Life was: 44 (2022), 47 (2023), and 46 (2024). Current (2025) average attendance is 49 onsite, 9 livestream viewers and 30 total viewers. God

has blessed us with five infant/child baptisms, four adult baptisms, two adult confirmations, three junior confirmations, and four professions of faith. Communion was offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

New Life's Sunday worship is trilingual (English, Cantonese, and Mandarin) with livestream on YouTube. During 2022-2025 New Life continued outreach through special celebrations including New Beginnings Sunday, Mid-Autumn Festival, Reformation Day, "Saints & Treats" activity for the children, Thanksgiving Sunday, Thanksgiving Day home devotions, Christmas Sunday and Christmas program (praise God, in 2024 He brought 92 people to attend!), Christmas Day home devotion, Chinese New Year Sunday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship services. Each of these had related activities to engage, befriend, and share the Good News of Christ with people!

The education hour, Sunday school, and small groups occur after worship. Attendance is about 50% of the Sunday worshippers. Several small groups, including the Friday Men's Group (Zoom), Blessing Fellowship Cantonese Bible study, Wednesday Outreach/Prayer Cantonese small group (Zoom), and Wednesday Bible study (Zoom), each use specially prepared small group questions related to the sermon for the purpose of providing more in-depth examination and practical application of Sunday's sermon text. We also have Chinese adult Cantonese group, English adult group, Friday youth and young adults fellowship, once a month young professionals group, discovery classes (adult and junior confirmation), and the Alleluia Choir, Hosanna Choir, Men's Choir, and Joyful Sound Ensemble.

In 2022 we had a summer retreat with the theme "Overcomer." We had special congregational picnics in both 2023 and 2024, which served as outreach opportunities.

Thanks be to God, New Life had 10 persons who attended the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering! The youth and young adults had really meaningful winter retreats in 2023 and 2024.

New Life has two additional reasons to praise Jesus for His work:

1. Her "son" Michael Yee, graduate of Concordia University - Irvine's Director of Christian Education program, is currently seeking to attend seminary to serve God as a pastor; and
2. Her "son" Corey Chang was ordained as associate pastor at Hope, Daly City, CA in 2024.

New Life triennium service activities included Operation Christmas Child (2022, 50 boxes; 2023, 72 boxes; 2024, 50 boxes), Christmas caroling to the shut-ins, and having a leading role with Pastor Otis Byrd (SOTH) and Pastor Curtis Binz and West Portal Lutheran Church in the annual LCMS participation in the Walk for Life West Coast and the LCMS Pre-Walk Gathering.

Thanks be to God, New Lifers have participated in these "mercy ministries:" English District's 1-1-1 Mission Initiative, English District Gala, hurricane relief (Ian, Idalia, Lee, Helene, Milton), Kentucky flood relief, tornado relief, Mississippi tornado relief, earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, national offering, Ukrainian relief, Maui fire relief, Morocco's earthquake, Libya's flooding, the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenian Christian refugees, Iowa flood relief, California wildfire relief, and Alpha Pregnancy Center.

Please pray to Christ for us as we seek His help to reach out especially to the younger generations! To God be the glory!

**St. Mark, Ferndale, CA** – The Rev. Tyrel Bramwell

St. Mark Lutheran Church continues to listen to the Word of God and hold fast to it in good hearts, bearing fruit with patience. The center of our life together is the Divine Service, with the Lord's Supper

celebrated weekly. We have two in-person family Bible studies (Sunday and Wednesday), where all ages grow in the wisdom of God together, and one live Bible study (Tuesday) online. The congregation wants more! Individual Confession is available weekly (Thursdays) and by appointment. The pastor and people actively engage with neighbors, contending for the faith against many evil efforts to lead our neighbors astray, suffering for the sake of Christ, and are blessed to see many fruits of faithfulness. In addition to serving our local neighbors, St. Mark is actively serving the Church-at-large through the online publication of educational videos.

**West Portal, San Francisco, CA** – The Rev. Curtis Binz and The Rev. Jacob Swenson

West Portal Lutheran Church and School in San Francisco, California, is now blessed with a new associate pastor, Rev. Jacob Swenson, who comes to California from the Iowa East District. West Portal Lutheran School will be celebrating 75 years next year. God continues to bless West Portal Lutheran Church and School with a steady/increasing school enrollment and many faithful church members. Many long-time church members have entered into the church triumphant in the past few years, but God continues to bring new people to us to be instructed in God's Word and receive God's gifts through the Word and Sacraments.

## MISSION GRANTS

### **All Saints Lutheran Church Campus Ministry, Slippery Rock, PA**

The Rev. Jacob Deal and Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

1. Congregation Development
  - a. Campus ministry does not happen well outside of an established congregation. We are thankful that the involvement of members has continually been increasing. The leadership in the congregation continues to show love for the members and our college community seeking to provide balance and attention to both. The mortgage has been paid off making a way for us to do more with the gifts the Lord provides.
  - b. Other opportunities for catechesis and involvement in the life of the church are available, including Sunday afternoon congregational catechesis.
  - c. The congregation created a sacristy in an upstairs room and cleaned out the narthex to make room for overflow when the sanctuary fills up.
  - d. There has been an increase in community presence at Village Fest and Giant Eagle (bell ringing). We have, over the last couple years, become a presence at Village Fest, hosting a tent and handing out free water and information about Lutheran doctrine.
2. Vicarage Support
  - a. Over the 2023-2024 school year All Saints Lutheran Church welcomed Vicar Zachary Wessel thanks in large part to the support of the English District. His love and care for the people of God grew and grew throughout the year resulting in a richer preaching and teaching of Christ the Crucified.
3. Lutheran Student Fellowship - Grove City College
  - a. The members of All Saints are continually looking for ways to engage more students who are away at college. Dr. Kelsey Madsen, a member and French professor at Grove City College, was instrumental in helping our students organize the Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF).
    - i. Sunday evening study is offered on Grove City College's campus; students have the opportunity to request the study of topics that interest them.
  - b. All Saints has provided support and encouragement as students developed a chartered LSF group on Grove City College's campus. LSF has hosted three official events on campus thus far.
4. Lutheran Student Fellowship - Slippery Rock University
  - a. The 2024-2025 school year saw an increase of interest from Slippery Rock students, some Lutheran and some exploring other denominations. Our new student president for the LSF is working closely with the Campus Ministry Committee to revitalize the organization and provide spiritual care to the students on campus focusing on worship and Bible studies.
  - b. Weekly Wednesday evening Bible study is offered at All Saints for students from Slippery Rock University.
5. Campus Ministry Committee
  - a. This new committee was formed to help keep track of the schedules of both colleges, giving the students the greatest opportunity to participate in activities. It works closely with the student fellowship leaders to plan, support, and advertise on-campus and off-campus events. This can be everything from budgeting to transportation. All Saints is

trying to provide fellowship activities to help students build a community of faith; events have included axe throwing, kayaking, and trap shooting, with plans to have a men's camping trip, range time, and other activities.

6. Campus Ministry: Increasing Visibility

- a. The office of the campus ministry director was moved to a more visible and accessible location for local college students to visit during the week. Campus Ministry Director Augusta Mennell is available to meet with students Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; Pastor Jacob Deal is also available whenever needed.
- b. Mrs. Mennell remains in close contact with current and former international students in an effort to continue to share the gospel.

**Bethesda Asian Indian Ministry, Chicago, IL**

The Rev. Shadrach Katari

Asian Indian Ministry was started in 1998 to preach the Gospel among all Asian Indians especially among Telugu people of India. It is a great blessing to have many people added from other suburbs in Chicagoland. We reach out to believers and non-believers to know our Lord through the gospel and invite them to our Christian community to know each other and learn more about the word of God.

Through our Bible studies our church families are learning about the faith and become involved in discussions. In the last four years, we have finished many books in the New Testament, and by following the Lutheran perspectives and methods, we are encouraging our Christian families who do not know how to understand the word of God. The small groups are helping to reach many families with prayers around the city. Every Friday we have the Bible study in our Telugu language, and every other Saturday we have Bible study in English.

We conduct intercessory prayer twice a week to help the needy and sick. We also have online prayer meetings once a month where we invite families from other countries to share their needs. We had many people witness about how the prayers are helping them to see the miracles in their lives.

We have new families coming to our church worship services in English at 10:30 a.m. and to Telugu worship services at 7:00 p.m. We invite Christian and non-Christian families to our services and are happy to see them on Sundays. For family thanksgiving prayers and birthday celebrations, our church people gather in the assembly hall in church, and many invite new people to these events. We preach the gospel, and it gives us the opportunity to invite them to our weekly programs and Sunday worships. It is a great privilege for me to meet them and pray for them.

We invite families and friends to attend the gospel concerts and gospel meetings which gives us the opportunity to invite them to attend our church programs throughout the year. Many youth and children involved in the singing share their experiences about their personal relationship with Jesus. They express how our church programs encourage them to grow in faith.

We provide transportation to bring families to church and to take the elderly to their doctor's appointments. We also assist families with groceries and clothing. We have distributed gospel tracts and Bibles to people in our community. We help new mothers with babysitting, and we invite all these families to attend our fellowship services.

We appreciate and are thankful to our president/bishop and the English District for their prayers and support for me and our ministry to grow in faith and reach out to many souls to bring them to the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA**

The Rev. Eric Andræ

#### **Highlights from Lutheran Student Fellowship and International Student Ministry:**

- Hosted in-person and online speakers on and off campus on a variety of topics: “What Does It Mean to Be Human?”, “The Truth Will Set You Free: Christian Discernment in an Age of Political Extremism and Conspiracy Thinking,” “Sex and Gender,” and more.
- Two adult baptisms, plus one infant baptism of a child of graduate students; nine adult confirmations.
- Every Ash Wednesday we offer the imposition of ashes, tabling at central locations on campus at CMU (student union) and Pitt (dorms/cafeteria).
- First Trinity Homeless Ministry, a daughter mission of the campus ministry, provides weekly lunch rounds. Students from LSF, as well as non-churched students, commonly participate. The campus pastor begins with brief devotions. Students also volunteer at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, housed at First Trinity.
- Campus pastor continues to serve on advisory council of the Beatrice Institute, as chaplain for the Pitt Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program, and as a member of the CMU Council of Religious Advisors and the Pitt Association of Chaplaincies; he is also a regular guest on WORD-FM.
- Annual popular social events include welcome back picnic, hayride/bonfire/corn maze; Thanksgiving feast; Shrove/Fat Tuesday pancake dinner and party; symphony outing; international potluck; and much more.
- Every year we table at the fall and spring semester activities fairs of Pitt, CMU, and Chatham and at the Wellness Fair of Pitt (only religious organization represented); Pastor Andræ also regularly tables on campus and in front of the church with a “Free Prayer” sign; outreach events include free ice cream days, free pancakes days, and more.
- Pastor attends CMU Humanist League meetings several times each year.
- Pastor continues regular gigs on local Christian radio station, WORD-FM, as well as involvement with local pro-life network of organizations.
- Weekly LSF dinner, Bible study, and Compline; ESL class and Bible study; Catechesis.
- Weekly Divine Service with the First Trinity congregation and student lunch.
- Pastor facilitates quarterly meetings of the Pitt Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program.
- Campus pastor regularly involved with local Redeemer Lutheran High School: opening prayers, speaking about college choices and life, etc.
- Pastor Hans O. Andræ (Fr. Hans), designated pastor emeritus, died 2/13/23; son and Campus Pastor Eric R. Andræ preached at the funeral, 2/18.
- Pastor presented paper and preached at new LCMS U conferences 2023, 2024.
- First Trinity hosted PALM/Higher Things youth retreat with Pastor Andræ as plenary speaker and a college student panel, 2/16-2/17/24.
- Pastor conducted private prayer service for comfort and consolation for ESL student, Zheng, a believer from China, and her non-believing niece. Zheng’s daughter, a CMU student from China, had taken her own life.

- Pastor was guest lecturer in Concordia University online classes and in person, 9/11, 10/14, 10/16/24
- Pastor spoke at large group meeting of CMU InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 2/21/25.
- First Trinity/Holy Cross hosted Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) “Urban Immersion” for three students, 3/1-3/4/25.
- Three alumni are currently enrolled in seminary toward the ministry.
- *Lots* of alumni visitation both with former students visiting Pittsburgh and during campus pastor’s travels.
- *Lots* of regular, ongoing pastoral care, counsel, private confessions, etc. This has included transformative experiences for people involved in severe spiritual warfare, the occult, and Satanism.

### **Martin Luther Chapel Campus Ministry, East Lansing, MI**

The Rev. Curt Dwyer and The Rev. James Robinson

Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University is a congregation comprised of people of all ages and stages of life united around the gospel of Jesus Christ and dedicated to serving the campus community of Michigan State. Alongside year-long resident members, students are involved in nearly every aspect of congregational life. In order to support the outreach to students, the English District has given us a grant every year of our existence, including the past three years.

Every year a team of students are identified as Student Leaders. These student leaders serve as officers of our Registered Student Organization on campus as well as the core group to help organize outreach and events for students. The student leaders meet weekly with one of the pastors (usually Pastor James Robinson) for a meal, devotion and prayer, and to discuss upcoming ministry events. The focus for every event is to reach new students, foster community among the students, and raise up new leaders. Every semester, students plan two retreats, weekly Bible studies, and various other events. Every fall Pastor Robinson helps organize a retreat for students from several Michigan campuses, and each spring we send a group to the Campus Ministry Leadership Conference with students from across the Midwest.

In addition to student-specific events, students sing in the choir, assist with planning and leading our children’s ministry, attend the Sunday morning Bible study, participate in the monthly church council meetings, attend and sometimes prepare congregational meals, become trained Stephen Ministers, assist with scripture readings and communion distribution during worship, and participate in any other role that suits their gifts and abilities.

Pastor Robinson and Pastor Dwyer work year-round to identify and connect with incoming students. Pastor Robinson regularly leads chapel services at Lutheran high schools around the state of Michigan. In cooperation with the Michigan District, we help support the “Campus Connect” initiative every summer, inviting Michigan LCMS congregations to connect their students with the appropriate campus ministry at several Michigan schools. We receive referrals from across Synod through the LCMS-U website. As members of the MSU Religious Advisors Association, we work with other religious organizations to ensure that all MSU students are connected with the religious organization of their choice.

Over the past three years, since the summer of 2022, we have reached out to over 1200 students through events, mailings, and other outreach like social media or a flyer around campus. We have had

approximately 50 join us for worship, Bible study, retreats and other activities, including luncheons and regular church functions.

Of special note: On February 13, 2023, a shooter claimed the lives of three MSU students and seriously injured five others. During the tragedy and in the immediate aftermath, Martin Luther Chapel was able to take a leading role in serving the whole MSU community: hosting a prayer service the next night, helping coordinate the presence of Comfort Dogs on campus, and offering words of encouragement and support to countless students (along with hundreds of cookies donated by members and friends). Pastor Dwyer, as president of the MSU Religious Advisors Association, coordinated several clergy who ministered directly to the families of the students who were killed, and he was invited to help organize and speak at the campus-wide memorial two days after the tragedy. In the midst of overwhelming grief, we were able to point the campus to the eternal hope that we have in Christ, who triumphed over death and the grave.

### **Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries – Logos, Philadelphia, PA**

The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

In any location, but particularly in the city, mission work is more a marathon than a sprint. That has certainly been the case over the last three years. The primary endeavor of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries has been outreach in the heart of the city center by word and sacrament ministry at Logos Lutheran. We saw an increase of undergraduate students as well as young professionals in attendance at Divine Service. The nature of the city is very transient as we welcome new individuals to our midst and regularly bid farewell to those we have known so well. Your prayers are very much appreciated.

Additionally, we have enjoyed getting to know nine different vicars and see them grow during their time with us. Each of them brings something unique to the ministry. Two years ago, the weekly rhythm was changed by the vicar to include a dedicated meal and intentional theological conversation as a means of asking questions in a causal setting. This has been a means of pointing people to regular attendance at Divine Service on Sundays as well as weekly prayer and Scripture study on Tuesday evenings.

In 2018, Pastor Kieselowsky took an opportunity to begin a weekly Bible study in the Philadelphia prison. While the Bible study was temporarily suspended due to pandemic restrictions, he has been invited back to meet with the high-need section of the prison with unique psychological support.

The proclamation of liberty in Christ continues to go out to the far corners of the city of Philadelphia. The support of the English District is a tremendous encouragement. Our Lord has brought the world to our doorstep, and it is a privilege to be included in His gracious work to bring people to the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry**

Ms. Debra Lynn Terhune, Director

At Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry (PLDM) we use our hands to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Deaf community of Pittsburgh through weekly signed Bible study, weekly interpreted Divine Services, third Sunday Deaf luncheon and social, instruction in American Sign Language for hearing and hard of hearing members of the congregation, local Lutheran high school elective classes, local pastors who may

also wish to start a similar ministry, and outreach to other LCMS Deaf ministries across the United States.

We proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the Deaf community in Pittsburgh in accord with the Great Commission. To preach and teach the true Word of God and administer the sacraments that all who hear the Word and receive the sacraments may live and grow in faith in Jesus Christ. To act in faith with love and mercy toward others, especially the Deaf in the Pittsburgh area, as Jesus Christ would have us do.

The highlight in the year of Our Lord 2024 at the Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry was the baptism and confirmation of five of our newest members at First Trinity Lutheran Church. Rev. Eric Andræ baptized and confirmed in the faith three deaf women and confirmed in the faith two additional deaf women. The two sponsors for the baptisms were deaf members of First Trinity Lutheran Church.

We look forward in 2025 to the baptism, confirmation and marriage counseling of a deaf couple that will be married at First Trinity in 2026. We are excited to have our first deaf wedding! The Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry also looks forward to hosting a table at the Pittsburgh Sign-A-Thon in March. This is where the majority of Deaf in the Pittsburgh area go to meet old friends and see new technologies and resources available for the deaf. We distribute Catechisms on thumb drives, Bible stories for children, and give out a cross and bracelet to wear as well as information about our ministry.

The Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry constantly thanks God for His continued gifts and blessings upon His people, for His mercy never ceases! We pray His blessing to be upon each of you, and we encourage you to reach out to us if you would like to begin a deaf ministry in your church.

### **Redeemer Crisis Center and Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (ICH), Cleveland, OH**

Mrs. Diane Zellmer, Director

God's gift of perseverance, protection, and provision are clearly visible here in Cleveland! Here are just some of the ways He ushered in new expressions of hope, through serving, witnessing and celebrating!

**2,558** unduplicated families (**6,746** family members) connected to Redeemer/ICH through programing and outreach.

**999,989 lbs.** of food was provided to families through **16,434** food service requests at a cost of **\$131,708.**

That's ... **678,810** meals provided at a cost of **\$0.14** each over the last three years (2022-2024) with a retail value of **\$4,591,485.**

**63** volunteers worked **16,285+** hours in 2024!

Service hours are valued at **\$488,550** and invested by committed volunteers from the neighborhood and surrounding congregations. Glory be to God for He does marvelous things.

**When I was hungry...can you help?** The center continues to provide a five-day supply of groceries monthly. We are amazed by 49 seniors (80+ years) who have stood in line to receive food and browse through the donated clothing. Families average about 6.5 visits per year. To make this task a little easier and remain good stewards, the Center participates in a bulk buying program and utilizes USDA food commodities. Retail food donations have increased, and area congregations continue to sponsor food drives, fresh vegetables, and bread.

**When I was lonely...can you help?** The Center continues to be a place of forgiveness, strength and healing. Broken families, mentally ill, lonely and drug addicted are encouraged to join us for morning prayer. Concerns brought to the group include relationships, neighborhood issues, the Center's ministry, new babies and pregnancies, healthy families, celebrations, and thankfulness.

Our Summer Youth Family Days themed "Fun Under the SON" are celebrated on Thursdays during July. These outdoor events are guided and held in our yard and playground providing neighbors with the opportunity to meet and engage with one another in a safe place. Lunch is provided by the area congregations, and a sack bag goes home with everyone. Teens use this time to build their resumé, gain work experience and gather references providing them with the edge needed to find employment and/or college money.

**When I was naked...can you help?** Through the ministry of "Babies' Care Cupboard," the Center was the instrument used by God to spread the news that we are robed in Christ's righteousness through baptism. With an attendance of 12-24, people received an explanation of God's mercy and forgiveness provided us. This year safe homes and healthy families will be our topic. Parents attending education sessions, monthly gatherings, and who become involved behind the scenes will have the opportunity to work toward receiving one of the following: car seat, play yard, activity center, stroller, or highchair. These items will be provided through our English District mission grant.

The donations received from churches and individuals continue to be given away free of charge. We are finally digging out from our COVID "stay at home clean outs" which provided a reserve of clothing that had never been seen before. A furniture and appliance needs list is maintained so that donations and requests can be matched. Blankets are greatly appreciated by our families and those who continue to find themselves living under bridges, in tents, and on the streets.

Support from the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, English District LCMS, Lutheran Urban Community Ministry, Thrivent, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Foodbank, area churches, organizations, businesses, clubs, and individuals comes in many forms – cash, food, clothing, labor, furniture, toys, and household items.

*The King will answer them, "I can guarantee this truth: whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant [they seemed], you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40 God's Word

### **Persian Ministry – St. Luke, North York, ON**

The Rev. Justin Laughridge

The Persian Fellowship at The Church of St. Luke-Lutheran continues to grow with approximately 80-100 adult and child baptisms each year, a testament to the Holy Spirit's work in drawing people to Christ. Many of those baptized come from backgrounds where Christianity was not freely accessible, and they now find a new home in the faith at St. Luke. The fellowship has become a vital part of our church family, providing discipleship, support, and a strong sense of community for Persian-speaking believers.

## **LCMS U at the University of Arizona**

The Rev. M. Todd Zill

During this triennium the campus ministry has been served by Rev. M. Todd Zill. Despite best efforts, a full-time campus ministry is simply not reasonable in Tucson for both current locally specific challenges, as well as circumstances and issues that are common to all who engage in campus ministry today.

The Campus Christian Center at the University of Arizona has not been available for campus ministry purposes due to the withdrawal of the English District in 2020. Despite the changes and challenges, a small but stable group of dedicated students continues to be well served and demonstrates a great zeal for faithful Lutheran catechesis in conjunction with the continued support of the circuit and district through the ALCMS (Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society). This faithful group of young people greatly personifies the campus ministry's slogan, "*No Gimmicks. Just JESUS.*" They meet on a weekly basis primarily at Faith Lutheran Church, the mother LCMS congregation in Tucson, and on campus where possible and as needed.

We ask for the continued prayers of all as we work to chart a path forward and develop both a short-term and hopefully a long-term plan for the development and growth of this cherished and foundational campus ministry. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and continued financial support.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Terry Leu, Chair

The 2022-2025 Triennium for the Board of Directors was one marked by change. Following the June 2022 Convention, there were eight first-time members of the Board. Five of these new members were voting members, two were Vice Presidents, and one was District staff.

I thank God for the fine people that were chosen to serve:

**Bishop/President** – Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

**Vice Presidents** – Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, Rev. Rob Rogers, Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

**Secretary** – Rev. Luke Zimmerman

**Ordained Ministers** – Rev. Rob Kieselowsky, Rev. Dr. David Petersen

**Commissioned Ministers** – Teacher Lucas Fitzgerald, DCE Rod Lane

**Laypersons** – Carol George, Gail Grieser, Thomas Habitz, Thomas Honebrink, Terry Leu (chair), and Kristin Wellik

**Canada Corporation Representative** – Jim Thielen

**District Staff** – Albert Amling, Ron Grimm, Rev. Daniel Lepley, Rev. Derek Mathers, and Sally Naglich

Just as we were starting to become comfortable with each other, the changes continued:

- In April 2023, Gail Greiser resigned for personal reasons. Christopher Cassel was appointed as her replacement.
- In August 2023, the Synod Convention elected Rev. Dr. David Petersen to serve on the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and he chose to resign his position on our Board of Directors to take up that position. Rev. Todd Arnold was appointed as a replacement.

This was only the beginning of changes to our Board:

- In October 2023, Lucas Fitzgerald was suddenly called home by God and Teacher Keith Vieregge was appointed as a replacement.
- In June 2024, our Bishop/President Rev. Dr. Hardy accepted the call to serve as CUS president leading to Rev. Jeffrey Miskus becoming Bishop/President. This also created an empty regional vice president seat. Rev. Zachary Marklevitz was appointed to fill this seat.
- In August 2024, Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel was called to serve as CUS Vice President and Rev. Rob Kieselowsky was appointed to replace him as Eastern Region Vice President. Rev. Justin Laughridge was appointed to replace Rev. Kieselowsky as a voting member of the Board.
- In October 2024, Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice President Rev. Daniel Lepley was replaced by John Hoover.

All these additions have been a blessing and they have quickly become a valuable part of the Board. It's been a busy three years just maintaining a full board!

Change in board membership wasn't the only thing we had time for. Your Board found time to meet eleven times in person and seven more times electronically during the triennium. We continued to be in the district by meeting at district congregations:

- Epiphany Lutheran Church – Dorr, MI
- Lutheran Church of the Ascension – Atlanta, GA
- Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church – Hartland, MI
- Fairlawn Lutheran Church – Fairlawn, OH
- Immanuel Lutheran Church – Alexandria, VA
- St. John the Divine Lutheran Church – Chicago, IL
- Immanuel Lutheran Church – Orange, CA

- Advent Lutheran Church – Zionsville, IN
- Peace Lutheran Church – Windsor, ON, Canada
- Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church – Mechanicsburg, PA
- Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior – Green Valley, AZ

All were gracious hosts to the Board. I would like to point out that the Board was in Canada for an international meeting. This supported Bishop Hardy's triennial theme, *God in All Things Without Borders!* This meeting also coincided with the installation of Bishop/President Miskus. What a blessing for the board to be part of this celebration!

Some of the highlights of board work were the startup of four new congregations, two in Texas, one in Idaho, and another in Arizona. Several constitutions have been either approved or revised. The sale of a number of properties acquired by the district and the establishment of a model for the distribution of those funds was created. The Board oversaw the management of the district's Endowment Fund which God has blessed abundantly. A portion of the Fund's earnings are distributed as grants to support many different ministries around the district. Funds also support church worker scholarships and church worker debt reduction. The English District is a leader in the Synod in both efforts.

We have worked with LCEF and our Canada Corporation to transfer control that will allow LCEF to fund church worker loans in Canada much like they do in the United States, a blessing to our Canadian church workers who have not been able to participate in the benefits of LCEF loans. This is still a work in progress as we dot all the I's and cross all the T's to cover all the legal requirements.

We have authorized improvements to our district office property. We continue to pursue legal action regarding the Campus Christian Center on the campus of University of Arizona. We have navigated the waters of leadership change, and I'm very proud to say the transition has been seamless.

As my time on the board comes to a close due to term limits, I would like to say it has been my honor and pleasure to serve with such a great group of God-minded servants. The English District is in God's hands, and we have good people doing His work! God in all things without borders!

## REVISIONS TO DISTRICT CORPORATE OPERATIONS MANUAL DURING THE 2022—2025 TRIENNIUM

District Bylaw 9.8 authorizes the Board of Directors to establish and maintain a Corporate Operations Manual that includes various regulations for how the District functions. This is a document of quaternary authority below the Synod Constitution, Synod Bylaws, and English District Bylaws:

- 9.8.1 The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain the District's *Corporate Operations Manual* and shall approve appropriate modifications.
- 9.8.2 Only the District in Convention shall have the power to amend the *Corporate Operations Manual* with respect to sections dealing with the election of officers and the Board.
- 9.8.3 Modifications to the *Corporate Operations Manual* approved by the Board to any other sections shall be reported at the next Convention.

The Board of Directors made several revisions to the *Corporate Operations Manual* during the 2022—2025 Triennium, which are outlined below:

### 1. Establishing New Standards for District President Retirement Compensation

Article II.B concerning District President retirement compensation was amended as follows:

#### B. Retirement Compensation

- 1. ~~End of term. If the President cannot, chooses not to run for another term in office or is defeated for reelection, he shall receive three (3) months' salary and health and retirement benefits from the date of his successor's installation.~~ End of Term. If the President cannot or chooses not to run for another term in office or is defeated for reelection, he shall receive three (3) months' salary and health and retirement benefits from the date of his successor's installation.
- 2. ~~Voluntary. If the President leaves office during a term, he shall receive three (3) months' salary and health and retirement benefits, payable bi-weekly or however it is typically paid, from the date of his resignation.~~ Voluntary. If the President leaves office during a term, he shall receive one (1) month's salary and health and retirement benefits from the date that his successor assumes the duties of the office. During the transition period, the outgoing President shall be available as a consultant.
- 3. Involuntary. If the President is removed from office, he shall receive thirty days' salary and health and retirement benefits, payable bi-weekly or however it is typically paid, from the date of his removal.
- 4. If appropriate, retirement compensation for the outgoing President shall begin three months after the election of a new President.

### 2. Removal of Provisions Related to the Canada Corporation

Several provisions related to the Canada Corporation were removed, as that corporation will no longer exist as a subagency of the English District:

- (a) Responsibility of the District Treasurer to serve as Treasurer of the Canada Corporation was eliminated from the District Treasurer's Job Description.
- (b) The section on the Canada Corporation, including its bylaws, was removed in its entirety.

### 3. Revisions to the Endowment Fund Governing Document

- (a) The section on the composition of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers was revised as follows:

#### 5.3 Composition

- 5.3.1 The Board of Managers shall consist of:
    - a. The Treasurer of the District, who shall serve as treasurer of the Fund
    - b. One member of the District Board of Directors elected by the Board
    - c. ~~One regional manager (preferably laity) elected from each region of the District;~~ Four individuals, preferably laypersons, elected from the District at-large by the District Convention
    - d. ~~One Canadian representative elected by the Canada Corporation~~
    - e. d. The District President
  - 5.3.2 All elected members of the Board of Managers shall be members of English District congregations.
- (b) The section on the election of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers was revised as follows:

#### 5.5 Nomination and Election of Regional Managers

- 5.5.1 Nominations for the regional elected managers positions shall be gathered by the District Committee on Nominations before each District ~~Convention to fill each position.~~
- 5.5.2 ~~Election of each regional manager shall be held at the District Convention by a vote of the Convention.~~ Election of managers shall be conducted at the District Convention *[cf. District Bylaw 5.5ff].*

(c) The section on filling vacancies on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers was revised as follows:

**5.6 Vacancies**

- 5.6.1 A vacancy in any ~~regional elected~~ manager position shall be filled by appointment of the District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The appointed ~~manager~~ individual shall serve the remainder of the term.
- ~~5.6.2 A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment of the Canada Corporation. The appointed manager shall serve the remainder of the term.~~
- 5.6.3 A vacancy in the Board of Directors position shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors. The appointed ~~manager~~ individual shall serve the remainder of the term.

*[Note: This change will become effective if the District Convention approves the proposed amendment to District Bylaw 6.2.5.]*

**4. Amendment to the Investment Policy of the English District Endowment Fund**

The Investment Policy concerning the permissible Types of Investments was revised as follows:

***Types of Investments***

Mutual Funds, Equity, Fixed Income, Alternative/Non-traditional Investments utilizing Mutual Funds, Exchange Traded Funds (EFT's), ~~Venture Capital~~, and Direct Investments will be used to maximize diversification, liquidity, and investment management expertise. Prohibited investments shall include substantial involvement in tobacco, alcohol, gaming, abortion, etc.

A copy of the *District Corporate Operations Manual* in its revised state as of March 2025 is included in the following pages.

# CORPORATE OPERATIONS MANUAL



ENGLISH DISTRICT  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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**DATES OF DOCUMENT**

*Received:* June 1997

*Revised:* January 2009

*Revised:* November 2015

*Revised:* June 2018

*Revised:* February 2025

*Revised:* March 2025

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## ELECTED OFFICERS – RIGHTS & DUTIES

- I. The rights and duties of the elected officers of the District
  - President
  - Vice Presidents
  - Secretary
  - Circuit Visitorsare noted in the *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Bylaws of the English District.
  
- II. The Office of President
  - A. The term Bishop may be used in addition to or as an alternate term to President, especially in inter-church relations.
  - B. Retirement Compensation
    1. End of Term. If the President cannot or chooses not to run for another term in office or is defeated for reelection, he shall receive three (3) months' salary and health and retirement benefits from the date of his successor's installation.
    2. Voluntary. If the President leaves office during a term, he shall receive one (1) month's salary and health and retirement benefits from the date that his successor assumes the duties of the office. During the transition period, the outgoing President shall be available as a consultant.
    3. Involuntary. If the President is removed from office, he shall receive thirty days' salary and health and retirement benefits, payable bi-weekly or however it is typically paid, from the date of his removal.
    4. If appropriate, retirement compensation for the outgoing President shall begin three months after the election of a new President.
  - C. President-Elect

When a new President of the District is elected, he shall be installed as President-Elect at the Electing Convention, assume office not earlier than two or later than three months after the election, and be installed as President of the District on the Sunday following his assumption of office. He may begin to receive salary and benefits one month prior to his assumption of office.
  - D. Position Description

In accord with the *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (Constitution Article XII and Bylaws Article 4.4), the President's responsibilities will include, but not be limited to the following:

    1. Supervision of doctrine and life of district professional workers;
    2. Supervision of administration of district professional workers;
    3. Visitation of ministries and professional workers;
    4. Administrative actions relating to his role as chief executive of the district.
  - E. The President shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

## **APPOINTED STAFF – JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

### **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT: MISSIONS**

**1. POSITION**

The responsibility of the Executive Assistant to the President: Missions, is to promote mission vision in the District and administer the mission program of the District, under the direction of the President.

**2. CALL**

The Executive Assistant to the President: Missions, an ordained pastor of the LCMS, shall be called by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the President. The original call shall be for a specific period not exceeding three months following the date of the next District Convention. The call may be extended for up to an additional three-year periods by the approval of the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the President. The call may be withdrawn upon three months' prior written notice by the approval of the Board of Directors. The call shall be withdrawn prior to expiration of the three-month period if the Executive Assistant to the President: Missions accepts another call prior to such date.

**3. COMPENSATION**

The salary shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Executive Assistant to the President: Missions shall also be entitled to receive such benefits as are then offered to all similarly situated employees. Compensation shall be paid until the date of resignation, disability or withdrawal of the call or until such earlier date as this person accepts another call.

**4. LOCATION**

The English District office in Farmington, Michigan, or other District office location as may be established or at a deployed location at the discretion of the President.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Guided by and supportive of the mission and vision of the President, he will, in an executive capacity, work cooperatively with the President and other members of the District staff.
- B. Create and administer the Mission budget.
- C. Oversee the mission grants to new church plants, specialized ministries, campus and university work, urban, ethnic, and cross cultural ministries.
- D. Explore, study and initiate new mission opportunities, fields and methods of mission development that will best utilize resources of people and possessions.
- E. Conduct workshops and seminars in leadership, evangelization, assimilation, revitalization and process planning.
- F. Work with congregations that desire to identify their God-given mission and develop new strategies for effective ministries.
- G. Coordinate with The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Vice-President to facilitate mission opportunities.
- H. Shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT: PARISH SERVICES

### 1. POSITION

The responsibility of the Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services is to provide leadership in education and parish services to the District, under the direction of the President.

### 2. CALL

The Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services, an ordained or commissioned minister of the LCMS shall be called by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the President. The original call shall be for a specific period not exceeding three months following the date of the next District Convention. The call may be extended for up to an additional three-year period by the approval of the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the President. The call may be withdrawn upon three months' prior written notice by the approval of the Board of Directors. The call shall be withdrawn prior to expiration of the three-month period if the Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services accepts another call prior to such date.

### 3. COMPENSATION

The salary shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services shall also be entitled to receive such benefits as are then offered to all similarly situated employees. Compensation shall be paid until the date of resignation, disability or withdrawal of the call or until such earlier date as this person accepts another call.

### 4. LOCATION

The English District office in Farmington, Michigan, or other District office location as may be established or at a deployed location at the discretion of the President.

### 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Guided by and supportive of the mission and vision of the President, s/he will, in an executive capacity, be available to the President and work cooperatively with the President and other members of the District staff.
- B. Serve as a consultant and resource person for congregations and schools in behalf of Lutheran School ministry and other parish educational programs and services
- C. Assist the President in supervising the doctrine, the life and the official administration of the commissioned ministers of the District and the calling of commissioned ministers; providing counsel and responding to requests and inquiries regarding staffing and team ministry.
- D. Assist district church workers with call, vocational and other professional matters and affirm workers, congregations and schools through regular contact, presence at installations, retirements, the awarding of years of service awards and upon the granting of school accreditation as possible.
- E. Give consultation, care, vision and leadership to congregations beginning or maintaining early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools, through visitation, through contact and regular communication with school administrators, boards, and other leaders.
- F. Serve as the district point person for schools, congregations and workers for National Lutheran School Accreditation, the Lutheran School Portal and as an advocate and link to the School Ministry, Children's Ministry, Family Life Ministry and Youth Ministry departments of LCMS District and Congregational Services.
- G. Provide leadership regarding the selection and implementation of key programs, conferences, gatherings and other events, a Resource Library for the strengthening of Lutheran schools and other parish educational ministries and administration of the financial aid program for future church workers.
- H. Shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT:  
BUSINESS AND FINANCE AND TREASURER**

**1. POSITION**

The responsibility of the Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer, is to carry out the execution of the District's accounting and financial programs in accordance with sound business practice and manage the day-to-day function of the District office, under the direction of the President.

**2. CONTRACT**

The Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer, a layperson of the LCMS, shall be contracted by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation by the President. The original contract shall be for a specific period not exceeding three months following the date of the next District Convention. The contract may be extended for up to an additional three-year period by the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the President. The contract may be withdrawn upon three months' prior written notice by the approval of the Board of Directors. The contract shall be withdrawn prior to expiration of the three-month period if the Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer accepts another contract prior to such date.

**3. COMPENSATION**

The salary shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer shall also be entitled to receive such benefits as are then offered to all similarly situated employees. Compensation shall be paid until the date of resignation, disability or withdrawal of the contract or until such earlier date as this person accepts another contract.

**4. LOCATION**

The English District office in Farmington, Michigan, or other District office location as may be established or at a deployed location at the discretion of the President.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Guided by and supportive of the mission and vision of the President, s/he will, in an executive capacity, be available to the President and work cooperatively with the President and other members of the District staff.
- B. Organize and administer all financial systems of the District, including accounting, reporting, analyzing, planning, and budgeting. Be responsible for banking and investing funds, receiving and disbursing the monies of the District, and borrowing and loaning money in its name. Serve as Treasurer, trust officer and business advisor to the Board of Directors. Regularly report on fiscal and business matters to the Board of Directors and the District Convention. Report to the congregations through the District newsletter.
- C. Manage and protect the assets of the District. Maintain and insure its properties. Buy and sell property in its name. Engage legal counsel when necessary and act as the District's agent in matters of law and real estate. (Note provisions under "Contracting Policies")
- D. Maintain and supervise the clerical and accounting personnel in the District office and oversee employee payroll and benefits.
- E. Perform such related duties as the Board of Directors may assign to him/her and administer his/her office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the English District, as directed by its Board of Directors.
- F. Shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT:  
VICE-PRESIDENT – LCEF, ENGLISH DISTRICT**

**1. POSITION**

The responsibility of the Executive Assistant to the President: LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund), English District is fund promotion, investor development, and the processing and servicing of mortgage loans within the English District.

**2. CONTRACT**

The Executive Assistant to the President: Vice President – LCEF, English District shall be contracted by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation by the President. The original contract shall be for a specific period not exceeding three months following the date of the next District Convention. The contract may be extended for up to an additional three-year period by the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the President. The contract may be withdrawn upon three months' prior written notice by the approval of the Board of Directors. The contract shall be withdrawn prior to expiration of the three-month period if the Executive Assistant to the President: Vice President – LCEF, English District accepts another contract prior to such date. *(Note the LCEF, LCMS Position Document.)*

**3. COMPENSATION**

The salary shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Executive Assistant to the President: Vice President – LCEF, English District shall also be entitled to receive such benefits as are then offered to all similarly situated employees. Compensation shall be paid until the date of resignation, disability or withdrawal of the contract or until such earlier date as this person accepts another contract.

**4. LOCATION**

The English District office in Farmington, Michigan, or other District office location as may be established or at a deployed location at the discretion of the President.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Guided by and supportive of the mission and vision of the President, s/he will, in an executive capacity, be available to the President and work cooperatively with the President and other members of the District staff.
- B. Report to the District President and the President of LCEF.
- C. Work with the District President, District staff, District Board of Directors and the Committee for Stewardship, and with District congregations.
- D. Perform such related duties as the Board of Directors may assign to him/her and administer his/her office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the English District, as directed by its Board of Directors.
- E. Shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT:  
GIFT PLANNING COUNSELOR – DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

**1. POSITION**

The responsibility of the Executive Assistant to the President: Gift Planning Counselor – Development Director, is to promote a Lifetime Plan for Giving and the Gift Planning Strategy of the District to people and ministries in the District, under the direction of the President.

**2. CONTRACT**

The Executive Assistant to the President: Gift Planning Counselor – Development Director, a layperson of the LCMS, shall be contracted by the Board of Directors, upon recommendation by the President. The original contract shall be for a specific period not exceeding three months following the date of the next District Convention. The contract may be extended for up to an additional three-year period by the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the President. The contract may be withdrawn upon three months' prior written notice by the approval of the Board of Directors. The contract shall be withdrawn prior to expiration of the three-month period if the Executive Assistant to the President: Gift Planning Counselor – Development Director accepts another contract prior to such date.

**3. COMPENSATION**

The salary shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Executive Assistant to the President: Gift Planning Counselor – Development Director shall also be entitled to receive such benefits as are then offered to all similarly situated employees. Compensation shall be paid until the date of resignation, disability or withdrawal of the contract or until such earlier date as this person accepts another contract.

**4. LOCATION**

The English District office in Farmington, Michigan, or other District office location as may be established, or at a deployed location at the discretion of the President.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Guided by and supportive of the mission and vision of the President, he/she will, in an executive capacity, work cooperatively with the President and other members of the District staff.
- B. Coordinate with the District Executive staff to identify congregations that are living out their mission and ministry.
- C. Work with congregations that have identified their God-given mission and develop new strategies for funding those opportunities.
- D. Serve as a consultant and resource person for congregations and schools seeking to strengthen their mission and ministry by establishing, promoting, growing and managing an endowment fund.
- E. Conduct workshops and seminars: Transfer the Blessings, Ministry Endowment Funding, Charitable Giving, Investing, and others.
- F. Personally visit congregational members and school constituents regarding charitable planning and invite them to complete their Personal Gift Plan for their families and ministries. Implement individual gift plans based on scriptural stewardship principles.
- G. Maintain and continually improve knowledge and expertise in gift planning and all relevant principles and concepts in charitable giving.
- H. Mentor Congregational Gift Planners.
- I. Coordinate online giving opportunities.
- J. Represent and promote the District at conferences, conventions, workshops, meetings and other functions.
- K. Create and administer the Gift Planning - Development budget.
- L. Shall abide by the rules and intentions of the Executive Handbook.

**6. RELATIONSHIPS**

- A. Maintains close working relationship with the Senior Vice President of Gift Planning Services of the LCMS Foundation and the Director of Gift Planning Development, Mentoring and Training of the LCMS Foundation.
- B. Relates to, assists, and coordinates with other Gift Planning Counselors, volunteers, and other individuals and entities as authorized by the President.
- C. Works closely with development staff from other LCMS organizations and all fraternal organizations.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors sets the policy and direction for the work of the English District. Policy is implemented by the President working through his executive staff. The President is responsible to the Board for all policies set by the Board and through his executive staff will supervise, oversee, and encourage appropriate and God-pleasing mission and ministry.

The Board of Directors Manual (including the Board of Directors Policies) describes the officers, duties of the Board and its relationship to the President. It is reviewed and modified or affirmed once each triennium.

## **COMMITTEE FOR STEWARDSHIP**

A Committee for Stewardship will be appointed by the President through the Board to comply with the stewardship programs and goals of the LCMS. (*Handbook*, Article 4.6.) Duties include, but are not limited to: stewardship information and education; communication on Synod and District stewardship emphases; and coordination with the President.

## **DISTRICT ARCHIVIST**

The District Archivist will compile and keep in order the District's history in all phases of District work and history of each District congregation; preserve copies of the District convention proceedings, the Synodical convention proceedings, the District publication, and other documents of historical value to the District; and provide a haven in the archives of the District for records of special committees, obsolete reports, etc.

## **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS** (*Note English District Bylaws 5.4 and 5.5*)

**Function:** Prepare slates of candidates for the offices of Secretary, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees, as required by the bylaws of the Synod and District.

**Membership:** The committee shall consist of one pastor and one layperson or commissioned minister from each region of the District, elected at the District Convention. They shall organize themselves nine months prior to the Convention at the "call" of the President.

**Duties:**

- A. Receive nominations for Secretary, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees from the congregations, officers, and members of the District, and the laypersons of the congregations of the District.

- B. Prepare a slate of at least two candidates and one alternate for each above-listed position to be filled by election at the District convention.

- C. Request from all candidates for elected positions (1) biographical information and (2) a statement concerning his/her candidacy. Publish and distribute the same to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention. The committee may pose questions to the candidates and limit the length of the response.

## **CONTRACTING POLICIES**

Contracts reserved for the Board of Directors or its appointees: Call documents; Real estate purchases and sales; Mortgages; Notes and Loans.

Ministry arrangement contracts must be signed by the District President.

All other District contracts may be signed only by the President or the Executive Assistant to the President: Business and Finance and Treasurer. These include, but are not limited to: Utility and Phone contracts; Employee benefit contracts; Maintenance agreements (one-time contracts, annual agreements, and contracts over one year, etc.); Hotel, meeting, catering, and banquet facility contracts.

## **ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

### **1.0 Name**

The Fund shall be called the English District Endowment Fund, English District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It shall be a separate fund, but it shall be one of the funds of the District.

### **2.0 Purpose**

The purpose of the English District Endowment Fund is to provide God's people with a unique opportunity to participate in a perpetual fund. This fund shall assist congregations in developing new ministries, support current missions and ministries; revitalization efforts, church workers and seminary students, and provide financial assistance for other approved mission endeavors.

### **3.0 Distribution of the Funds**

3.1 The Fund shall be construed as a perpetually endowed fund, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 4.0. As such, all gifts and bequests shall form the corpus of the Fund, which shall be invested in a prudent manner.

3.2 It is not intended that the corpus of the Fund received from gifts and bequests be used in funding grants.

3.3 Only the earnings generated by the donor-gifted corpus will be utilized in funding grants according to the donor stipulations.

3.3.1 75% of earnings may be distributed each year with 25% being retained within the Fund.

3.4 Earnings from the Fund may be used annually through the specific funding model: Human Care/Disaster Relief 5%, New Missions 35%, Scholarships 30%, Church Worker Debt Reduction 10%, Campus Ministry 15%, Other Ministry 5%.

3.4.1 It is not intended that earnings be used to fund normal operating expenses of the English District, except where those expenses are considered grants for ministry or missions.

3.5 In addition, up to 5% of board-designated funds may be distributed in a given year for the work and mission of the English District.

3.6 Undistributed earnings

3.6.1 Any earnings generated by the corpus that remain undistributed at the end of the fiscal year may be retained for future distribution for up to three years.

3.6.2 Any undistributed earnings that remain after three fiscal years will be added to the corpus of the Fund.

### **4.0 Duration of the Fund**

The English District Endowment Fund shall continue in existence as long as the English District shall continue to exist. If the English District should cease to exist, then the remaining properties, funds, principal and accrued income constituting the English District Endowment Fund shall become the property of (a) successor(s). The English District at the time of dissolution has the right and duty to determine the existence of (a) successor(s) and shall execute the necessary documents to effect the transfer. If the English District fails to act in this matter, the Fund becomes the absolute property of the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, to be held and used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation. Such transactions will be in accord with the Bylaws of the English District.

4.1 Donor designations of gifted funds will supersede any transfer upon dissolution of the English District.

**5.0 Board of Managers**

**5.1 Administration**

- 5.1.1 The administration of the Fund shall be delegated by the District Board of Directors to a Board of Managers, which will include the District President as a voting member of said board.
- 5.1.2 The District Board of Directors shall possess reserve powers over the Fund, and shall review the activities and actions of the Board of Managers to ratify and, if deemed necessary, to rescind or alter actions of the Board of Managers.
- 5.1.3 The Board of Managers shall report its Minutes and its activity and actions at least quarterly to the Board of Directors and shall report to each convention of the District.
- 5.1.4 The Board of Directors shall develop a budget for administration and promotion of the Fund.

**5.2 Duties**

- 5.2.1 The Board of Managers shall serve as the promotion agency, including publicity and fund raising, for the Endowment Fund.
- 5.2.2 The Board of Managers shall review and recommend to the Board of Directors any changes in the Endowment Fund investment policy and management agreement.
- 5.2.3 The Board of Managers may make recommendations to the Board of Directors quarterly regarding the number, size and recipients of grants made from the Endowment Fund.

**5.3 Composition**

- 5.3.1 The Board of Managers shall consist of:
  - a. The Treasurer of the District, who shall serve as treasurer of the Fund
  - b. One member of the District Board of Directors elected by the Board
  - c. Four individuals, preferably laypersons, elected from the District at-large by the District Convention
  - d. The District President
- 5.3.2 All elected members of the Board of Managers shall be members of English District congregations.

**5.4 Term and Tenure of Elected Managers**

- 5.4.1 Managers shall be elected to a three-year term that begins on the 1st day of September following a District Convention.
- 5.4.2 Maximum tenure shall be four consecutive terms.

**5.5 Nomination and Election of Managers**

- 5.5.1 Nominations for elected managers shall be gathered by the District Committee on Nominations before each District.
- 5.5.2 Election of managers shall be conducted at the District Convention. [*cf. District Dylaw 5.5ff*].

**5.6 Vacancies**

- 5.6.1 A vacancy in any elected manager position shall be filled by appointment of the District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The appointed individual shall serve the remainder of the term.
- 5.6.2 A vacancy in the Board of Directors position shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors. The appointed individual shall serve the remainder of the term.

**5.7 Removal from Office**

Any or all managers may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or Convention of the District.

**5.8 Meetings**

The Board of Managers shall meet at least quarterly at a time and in a manner deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee of the Board. [*See Paragraph 6.4.*]

**5.9 Quorum**

A majority of the Managers shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Board.

**5.10 Manner of Acting**

The action of a majority of the Managers present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute an action of the Board, unless a greater number is required by the Bylaws or the District Board of Directors. The Chair may make or second motions and may cast a vote on any and all matters before the Board of Managers.

**5.11 Compensation and Remuneration**

Managers shall not receive any compensation for their services, except for remuneration incurred in accordance with established District policy.

**5.12 Expenditure of Funds**

5.12.1 The Board of Managers may make recommendations to the Board of Directors – in accordance with its operating policies – regarding the expenditure of all funds, including payment of expenses, allocation of grants, and all other expenditures.

5.12.2 All funds shall be handled by the Treasurer of the District, who shall provide the Board of Managers with accounting reports necessary to carry out its work.

**6.0 Officers of the Board of Managers**

**6.1 Number**

The Board shall have a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (who must be treasurer of the District). Other officers may be elected by the Board in accordance with the needs and purposes of the Board.

**6.2 Election and Term of Office**

With the exception of Treasurer and District President/Bishop, officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Managers, and all officers shall serve until a successor is elected.

**6.3 Duties of Officers**

The duties shall be the usual and customary duties of the office held or as prescribed by action of the Board. In addition, officers shall be active in promoting the Fund and revenue raising activities for the Fund.

**6.4 Executive Committee**

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and District President shall constitute the Executive Committee.

6.4.1 The executive committee shall meet quarterly to assess the Fund's performance and to make recommendations to the Board of Managers regarding any potential changes in the investments of the Fund. The Executive Committee shall not, on its own, have the power to make changes in the investments without the approval of the full Board of Managers, subject to Paragraph 7.0.

**7.0 Investment**

The Board of Managers shall research and give guidance in the investment of Fund moneys. Final responsibility for such investment lies with the Board of Directors of the District. (*Note District Board of Directors Policy I.D.2.*)

**8.0 Reception of Funds, Gifts and Property**

8.1 All gifts, contributions of funds or bequests to the English District Endowment Fund will be received by the District Board of Directors through the District Treasurer.

8.2 The District Board of Directors may reject any contribution, gift or bequest directed by the donor to the English District Endowment Fund.

8.2.1 The Board of Directors may direct any rejected gifts into another program or ministry of the District with the approval of the donor.

8.2.2 Gifts accepted, but not used for the intended purpose within three (3) years, will be reviewed, reevaluated, and may be redirected, subject to Paragraph 8.2.1.

- 8.3 Real estate donations shall be researched completely and thoroughly before acceptance. These, and other property gifts, may be kept, sold or disposed of by action of the Board of Directors and be used to grow the balance of the Fund.
- 8.4 All deeds, leases, title papers, contracts, insurance policies, securities and evidence of ownership of property of the District and other valuable papers related to the English District Endowment Fund shall be kept under such safe keeping or custodial arrangement as the Board of Directors of the District shall, from time to time, select and designate.

**9.0 Endowment Fund Reports**

- 9.1 The Board of Managers shall report quarterly to the District Board of Directors. This report shall be made available to any member of the District upon request.
- 9.2 The District Board of Directors shall submit a report to any regularly called convention of the District.
- 9.3 The quarterly report and the convention report shall include the gifts received; the size of the Fund; and the number, size and recipients of grants distributed from the Endowment Fund during that given time period.

**10.0 Changes and Amendments**

- 10.1 Any article of this document, with the exception of Paragraph 4.0, may be changed or amended by a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors of the English District or by a convention of the English District.
- 10.2 Paragraph 4.0 may be changed or amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors of the District or a majority vote of a convention of the District.

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**DATES OF DOCUMENT**

*Adopted:* November 2005  
*Convention Ratification:* June 2006  
*Revised:* January 2009  
*Revised:* November 2014  
*Revised:* January 2015  
*Revised:* November 2015  
*Revised:* February 2025  
*Revised:* March 2025

## Investment Policy for English District Endowment Fund

### **Investment Purpose:**

The overall objective is to be good stewards of the financial resources the Lord has provided through the Endowment Fund, and to manage Endowment assets in order to optimize the fund's total return in the context of its risk profile as defined below.

### **Investment Policy:**

#### ***Applicable Laws***

The English District Endowment Fund (EDEF) will follow the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA).

#### ***Risk Profile***

General investment policy is intended to be that of a prudent fiduciary investor whose investment purpose includes both income and capital appreciation. The general level of acceptable risk is a Moderate Growth Model, however, investment manager(s) at their discretion will be allowed to move investments to defensive investments, even cash, when market condition dictate protection of the investments.

#### ***Target Return***

Target Return should be rate of return (net of investment expenses) of 5% plus inflation rate as defined in the consumer price index.

#### ***Time Horizon***

The investment time horizon of the fund is in perpetuity.

#### ***Use of Outside Advisor***

The EDEF Board of Managers shall be authorized to hire outside investment advisors as needed.

#### ***Types of Investments***

Mutual Funds, Equity, Fixed Income, Alternative/Non-traditional Investments utilizing Mutual Funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's), and Direct Investments will be used to maximize diversification, liquidity, and investment management expertise. Prohibited investments shall include substantial involvement in tobacco, alcohol, gaming, abortion, etc.

#### ***Grant Spending Policy***

Payouts will be in accordance to the terms of the EDEF.

#### ***Earnings***

Earnings of the EDEF are to be defined as dividends and interest and other income (rent, option income, etc.), prior year's undistributed income, and appreciation. Account valuation date for determining appreciation of assets will be January 1. This may be reviewed and modified by the Board managers periodically.

#### ***Monitoring Performance***

The EDEF Board managers will receive written reports from the investment manager at least quarterly. The Board shall meet in accordance with the EDEF, and at least quarterly to review performance of the fund.

*(Revised November 2, 2024)*

#### **ENABLING STATEMENT**

*Revisions within the English District Corporate Operations Manual approved by the Board of Directors during the 2006-2009 triennium will take effect at the beginning of the 2009-2012 triennium, with the following exceptions:*

- (1) The Office of President, paragraph "B"*
- (2) Executive Assistants to the President, paragraphs 2 and 3 --- for those positions existing (staffed or not) at the beginning of the 2006-2009 triennium.*

*These exceptions will cease at the beginning of the 2012-2015 triennium.*

#### **REVIEW OF DOCUMENT**

This document will be reviewed and affirmed at least once each triennium by the District Board of Directors. Any substantive changes shall be reported at the next Convention.

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## 1-1-1 MISSION INITIATIVE

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers

**Introduction** - Our 1-1-1 Mission Initiative was established on the principle that “there is power in many giving little as we are moved by God's Spirit.” This model was officially launched during the 2018 English District Convention and has continued as a voluntary initiative for all congregations. The program is designed to support and develop new missions while enhancing existing ones, encouraging broad participation through small, consistent contributions.

**The 1-1-1 Model** - The 1-1-1 funding approach is simple yet effective: each baptized member of a congregation is encouraged to contribute \$1 per week towards mission work. This collective effort demonstrates the power of the Body of Christ working together in faith and generosity. Unlike other funding models, every dollar contributed to 1-1-1 is fully allocated to mission work, with no administrative deductions.

**Participation and Impact** - The 1-1-1 program operates on an annual cycle from September 1 to August 31. Over the years, participation has fluctuated, but it has consistently enabled meaningful mission work:

- **2018-2019:** Supported Concordia Lutheran Mission (Myerstown, PA) and the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission.
- **2019-2020:** Assisted Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel (Hazelwood, PA) and Tree of Life Lutheran Church (Inverness, FL).
- **2020-2021:** Focused on campus ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **2021-2022:** Supported Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church (Hayden, ID) and St. John's Lutheran Church (Clarksburg, WV).
- **2022-2023:** Funds designated for Logos (Philadelphia, PA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine.
- **2023-2024:** Contributions went to Eastern Washington University LCMS-U Chapter and the Nuer (South Sudanese) Language Fellowship at St. Mark, Mississauga, ON.
- **2024-2025:** Current recipients are Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry and Montreal FORO, supporting diverse mission efforts in both Pittsburgh, PA, and Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

**The Need for Continued Support** - Despite its success, there are still misconceptions that mission expansion is limited due to a lack of funds. The 1-1-1 Initiative proves otherwise by enabling congregations to contribute beyond their regular district giving. The English District Mission Action Team (formerly the Missions Council) plays a crucial role in supporting, equipping, and encouraging mission work through this initiative.

**Conclusion** - The 1-1-1 Mission Initiative has demonstrated that small, collective contributions can have a profound impact on mission work. As we move forward, our shared goal is to strengthen and expand this initiative, bringing greater support to missions locally and globally. Through faith and unified effort, the English District can achieve a lasting legacy of mission support and outreach.

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Chair

It is an honor to serve as English District Archivist. Each district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to have an archivist who is connected to Concordia Historical Institute (CHI). CHI is the archival agency for matters relating to the history of our Synod, districts and their antecedent districts, North American Evangelical Lutheran history, congregations, schools, seminaries, synodical colleges and universities, auxiliaries, and other entities of Synod. I recommend you or your congregation subscribe to the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly (CHIQ) for reading interesting historical articles.

Occasionally, I am asked to find historical information for an English District congregation or pastor. First, though, go to your own church's historical archives, parish registry book and records, and conserved history. I encourage each congregation to have a pictorial gallery of current and past pastors in the narthex or undercroft, honoring them for their service to the Lord in a given congregation. This helps teach future generations a respect for the pastoral office and thankfulness to God for faithful under-shepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ. Schools might also consider a pictorial gallery of teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, or others who serve or have served during the school's history.

At our English District office in Farmington, Michigan, there is a room that houses various books, pamphlets, articles, and artifacts. For example, we have a processional cross that was donated year's ago by the Rev. Zerit Yohannes, a then English District pastor who served in his native Eritrea as an LCMS missionary in conjunction with support from the English District. The cross is made of bullet shell casings that had been used in Eritrea's war of independence.

As most of you know, in 2021 the English District published the book that I wrote after retiring as Bishop/President. It is titled ***The English District Saga: A Niche in the History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America***. Every pastor, school principal, and church library should have a copy of this book, which may be purchased at the District Convention and signed by the author or purchased online. Remembering our history is vital. It was an honor to write this book, chronicling the history of our beloved district and her antecedents.

The matter of historical preservation: pastors, principals, and congregational leaders play an important role in the preservation of church and school history. Do not rely on your or older members' memories of anniversary services of worship and other important events. The Lord God blesses us with the ability and skills to record history in written and digital form. CHI strongly recommends keeping written documentation as well as digital preservation. Some of your church's and school's history can be succinctly shared in online and printed newsletters. Be sure to keep file of anniversary booklets and services and also share them with CHI. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Rev. Dr. David Dressel, Chair

The campus ministries in the English District value the significant and meaningful support from the English District and its bishop, Jeff Miskus. During one of our virtual meetings, he enthusiastically encouraged us as campus ministry workers and talked about how campus ministry bears long-term fruit and is an essential investment for the church here in North America and throughout the world. We in campus ministry give thanks for this and find encouragement from this support and spirit!

The English District Campus Ministry Task Force generally meets 2-3 times a year, once in fall semester and once or twice in spring semester each year in a Zoom conference call format. We have developed and with the Spirit's guiding try to live out our **rationale for campus ministry in the English District** which reads as follows:

*Campus Ministry in the English District LCMS exists to encourage and strengthen young adult Christians, reach those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and care for all on our university and college campuses (students, their families, faculty, staff, administration, and campus communities) with the love of Christ.*

Participants have included those involved in campus ministry as well as those seeking to start or grow their campus ministry: Princeton, U of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon/and others, Slippery Rock, Oberlin College, U. of Toledo, Michigan State University, University of Arizona, U. of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Eastern Washington U., Hope College and Grand Valley State, Toronto universities, a Lutheran Campus Mission Association representative, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Derek Mathers, and Pastor Justin Laughridge, English District Mission Action Team co-chair. We have also included two ministries from the New Jersey District, Rutgers U and Apple of His Eye ministries.

We encourage each other, share recent events and talk about how we can be more effective in ministry. We look for opportunities and ways to plant new English District campus ministries (including international student ministries) through English District congregations, circuits, or regions, while at the same time strengthening existing campus ministries.

Through our partnership with the LCMS Recognized Service Organization the Lutheran Campus Mission Association (LCMA), we have been part of the annual Campus Leadership Conference, bringing together student leaders and staff from upper Midwest campus ministries. In addition, through LCMA we have contact and liaison with the LCMS Board for Youth Ministry as it carries on its work for church-wide campus ministry through LCMS-U.

We celebrate the mission work that is happening through English District ministries. Please continue to pray for these, your campus ministries that are developing faith-filled leaders that go into (and help start) churches across North America and the world.

## **CANADA CORPORATION**

Jim Thielen, Chair

Bart Day, President and CEO, Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The Canada Corporation was incorporated in 1954 under the name, "Mission Board of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, in Canada." and was changed in October 1961 to "The English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod." In September 1986, the Board of Directors authorized the Corporation to borrow money, issue bonds, invest reserves, mortgage and sell property with power to delegate same to Directors or officers. In addition, the Corporation accepted deposits from congregations and members of congregations that became reserves for lending purposes in Canada.

Several years ago, the English District opened conversations with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) about the possibility of the Canada Corporation entering LCEF. While the existing structure has faithfully served for many years, there were expanded opportunities if the Corporation was under the umbrella of LCEF. Most importantly, the Corporation would continue serving LCMS congregations and ministries in Canada but with additional capital could serve the extension fund needs of Lutheran Church–Canada. The lending scope would also include mortgage lending to rostered church workers.

After more than two years, and several approvals, including the LCEF and LCMS Board of Directors and the Canada Corporation Board of Directors and Members, LCEF has become the sole member of "The Lutheran Church Extension Fund–Missouri Synod Canada Corporation."

The newly constituted Corporation re-elected four Directors: Jim Thielen, Rev. Gerald Luck, Ann Marie Weselan, and Rev. Philip Gai. Two new Directors were also elected: Sue Elsholz and Rev. Charles St. Onge. Officers include Jim Thielen, chair; Ann Marie Weselan, vice-chair; Rev. Charles St. Onge, secretary; and Sally Naglich, a non-director, to serve as Treasurer. These individuals have done an outstanding job helping manage through the transition.

While this new opportunity provides the ability to expand and grow lending across Canada, the important non-lending services provided to congregations of the English District will continue. Employee expenses and charitable acknowledgements will continue to occur through the Corporation.

At the time of this writing, several transfer details are being finalized with the expectation everything will be complete by the time of the convention. The Corporation is assuming all assets and liabilities and in exchange, the English District will receive an annual payment of \$37,000 for the next 10 years.

LCEF is thankful for Canada Corporation partnering with LCEF and the opportunities this affords the Corporation to honor the past as we build an expanded future serving across Canada.

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Interim Chair

During the 2022–2025 triennium, the English District Constitution Committee reviewed both numerous new constitutions and bylaws and revisions to existing constitutions and bylaws submitted by congregations.

These approval processes are required by Synod Bylaws. LCMS Bylaw 2.2.1 requires District review of congregational constitutions and bylaws as part of the application process for membership within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. LCMS Bylaw 2.4.1 requires District review of revisions to congregational constitutions and bylaws by congregations that already hold membership within the Synod. Both review processes also include approval of the constitutions and bylaws by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the Constitution Committee.

This report identifies the congregational constitutions and bylaws that were favorably reviewed by the Constitution Committee and approved by the Board of Directors from March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2025.

### **NEW CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS & BYLAWS APPROVED**

First – Kingsville, ON	[AUG 2023]
St. Thomas – Magnolia, TX	[MAR 2024]
Christ – West Olive, MI	[MAY 2024]
St. Paul – Paris, TX	[MAY 2024]
Shepherd of the Canyon – Gold Canyon, AZ	[NOV 2024]

### **REVISED CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS & BYLAWS APPROVED**

Ascension – Tucson, AZ	[JUN 2022]
Pilgrim – Kenmore, NY	[JUN 2022]
Faith – Chesapeake, VA	[JUN 2022]
Faith – Tucson, AZ	[DEC 2022]
Chapel of the Cross – St. Louis, MO	[DEC 2022]
First – El Cajon, CA	[FEB 2023]
Peace of the Desert – Palm Desert, CA	[AUG 2023]
Angelica – Allen Park, MI	[NOV 2023]
St. Paul – St. Clair Shores, MI	[NOV 2023]
Epiphany – Dorr, MI	[MAR 2024]
Our Savior – Hartland, MI	[MAR 2024]
West Portal – San Francisco, CA	[APR 2024]
Ascension of Christ – Beverly Hills, MI	[APR 2024]
Redeemer – Lincoln, NE	[MAY 2024]
Mount Olive – Tucson, AZ	[AUG 2024]
Redeemer – Lincoln, NE	[AUG 2024]
St. John – Clarksburg, WV	[AUG 2024]
Christ – Aurora, ON	[NOV 2024]
Shepherd of the Mountains – Pinetop, AZ	[FEB 2025]
Bethany – Fort Wayne, IN	[FEB 2025]
Good Shepherd – Toledo, OH	[FEB 2025]
Christ – Aurora, ON	[FEB 2025]
Redeemer – Oakmont, PA	[FEB 2025]
St. Paul – Paris, TX	[FEB 2025]

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Rev. Fred Gerlach, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Managers it is my privilege to present the English District's Endowment Fund (EDEF) report. The Fund continues to experience growth which produced increased distributable earnings now available for grants. As the Lord's servants, the managers strive to be good stewards of the Fund's considerable assets in order to strengthen and advance the mission of the Gospel proclamation in and through the English District.

In our quarterly teleconference meetings prior to each Board of Directors meeting, the managers review financial reports and monitor asset distribution between two major investment funds to determine the need for asset reallocation. Since the last convention, the board of managers transferred funds from Stifel Nicolaus/American Funds to Confluence/Raymond James to continue our relationship with the investment manager who has guided our investment strategy for many years. The success and growth of the funds over the last several years influenced our decision to continue this advisor's financial counsel.

The Endowment Fund was established as a fund in *perpetuity*, meaning it is expected to be in existence forever with an income-producing investment strategy to secure future resources to achieve the District's mission objectives. The funds are invested in industries that conform to the Synod moral and ethical standards. The Endowment Fund objective is to assist congregations in supporting ministries and missions such as campus ministries, human care and new missions.

There are six categories the managers evaluate for funding: human care/disaster relief, new missions, scholarships, church worker debt reduction, campus ministry and other. If the managers decide a grant application meets the criteria of the fund we recommend to the Board of Directors that a grant be awarded and the financial support is provided to facilitate their objectives. Since the previous convention, the endowment fund earnings supported church worker debt reduction totaling \$36,973, scholarships of \$84,650, other missions and ministries of the district that fall under the six categories above for \$278,486, for a total of \$400,109 as of January 31, 2025.

At the end of December 2021, the Fund value was \$2,648,602; at the close of December 2024 the fund's value increased to \$4,780,829. This foundation creates an opportunity for continued growth and income to fund our mission objectives.

The English District has supported a partnership with the LCMS Foundation since 2018 with the objective of serving the congregations of the District, large and small, providing services at no cost to the congregations to assist in long-term investing and gift planning (helping church members go through the will and estate planning process) to be the best stewards of the resources God has blessed us with. Over the years this Lifetime Plan for Giving ministry supports many valuable ministries for today, tomorrow, and into the future. Ron Grimm has served over 100 churches, giving presentations to over 45 congregations, and from those efforts testamentary gifts to ministry could top \$22 million dollars. Of those charitable gifts the EDEF could receive up to \$1.3 million dedicated to supporting missions and the churches of the English District. This on-going ministry continues the benevolence and stewardship to our ministries to encourage more of our congregations to give and enable the church to share the good news that Christ is risen!

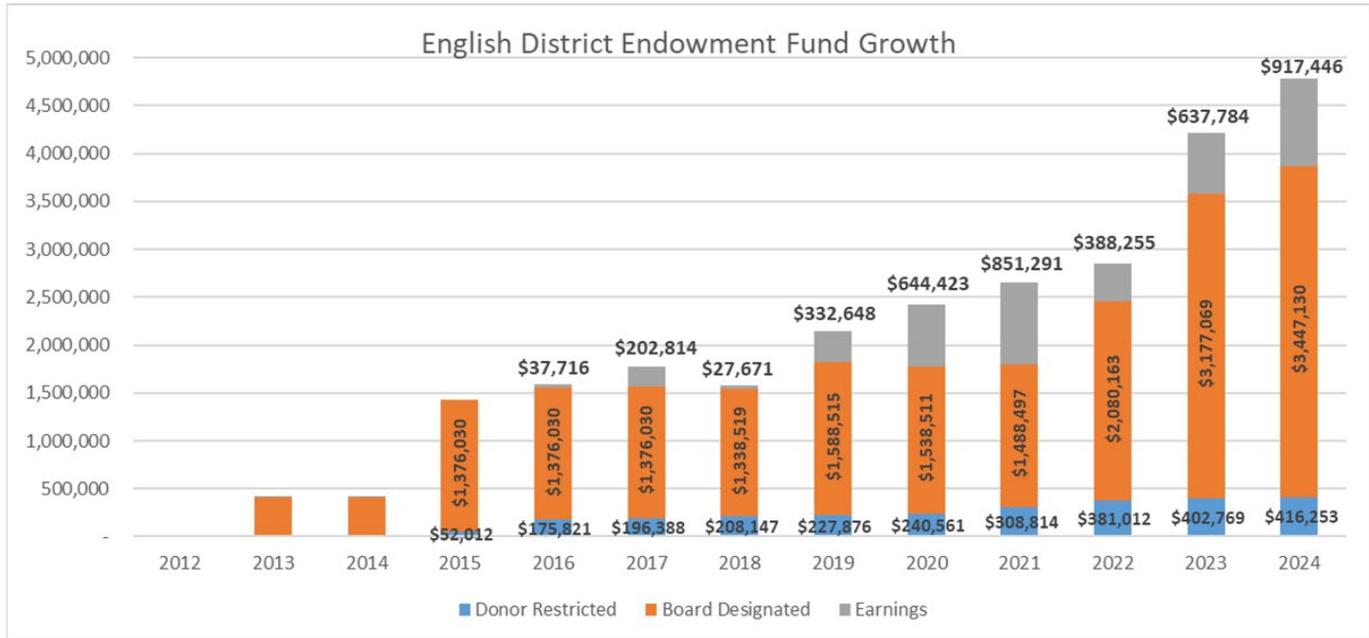
It is a privilege to serve as a member of the Board of Managers, and I look forward to working with the other managers to oversee and prosper God's gifts in this unique service of supporting various Gospel missions.

## English District Endowment Fund Financial Summary

	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
Board Designated	\$ 2,080,163	\$ 3,177,069	\$ 3,447,130
Earnings - Board Designated	360,778	583,516	840,253
Permanently Restricted - Gifts to Fund	171,722	193,480	206,713
Earnings - Temp. Restricted on Gifts	(3,220)	17,818	33,053
Perm. Restricted - Gifts for Scholarships	209,290	209,290	209,540
Earnings - Temp. Restricted for Scholarships	30,697	36,450	44,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,849,430</b>	<b>\$ 4,217,623</b>	<b>\$ 4,780,829</b>

### Accounts

LCEF/Comerica Cash	\$ 74,833	\$ 1,020,637	\$ 159,856
Vanguard	1,408,486	1,572,889	2,208,777
Confluence/Raymond James	-	-	2,412,196
Stifel Nicolaus/American Funds	1,366,111	1,624,097	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,849,430</b>	<b>\$ 4,217,623</b>	<b>\$ 4,780,829</b>



## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Brian Pratt, Chair

The Evangelism Committee's activities have recently included publishing "As You Go" articles in the Servant to Servant newsletter. We have also begun making networking calls to recruit new members, primarily from within the English District clergy. To aid in furthering this agenda, a new leader, Rev. Brian Pratt, was added to the team in late 2024. The Committee's mission is to encourage and equip our pastors to regularly include the goal of evangelism in their sermons and Bible classes. The topic of proclaiming Christ is uncomfortable for many Lutheran Christians, so our committee strives to alleviate this anxiety with simple, practical suggestions, often found within our regular cycle of Scripture readings. Our goals for the next three years are to increase interest and participation in our committee and to further encourage and equip our pastors to promote evangelism.

## LIFELINE TEAM

Dr. Roni Grad, Chair

### Members:

Rev. Dan Greg, Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL

Rev. Doug Hoag, Trinity, New Lenox, IL

Rev. Christopher Seifferlein, Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA

Mr. Glenn Kahle, Hope, Kitchener, ON

Mr. David Lambert, Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI

Deaconess Jeni Miller, Ascension, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Roni Grad (chair), Catalina, Tucson, AZ

The Lifeline Team has grown and flourished over the past triennium! As you can see above, we now have a team comprised of members from each of the regions of our district and including Canada. Specific activities since 2022:

1. The rebuilding of the Lifeline webpage on the district website, with links to the sanctity of life resources of LCMS, Lutherans for Life, and other organizations.
2. Brief write-ups in *Servant to Servant* (S2S) covering sanctity of life topics. In 2023 we had a concentrated focus on topics related to the family, and we still have interest in including these. Since late last summer, we have focused on the theme of *Every Sunday Is Life Sunday*, unpacking the Divine Service liturgy, lectionary readings, and hymnody to proclaim the sanctity of life. The 2014 Pew Research Center *Religious Landscape Study* found that of those members of LCMS congregations surveyed, 36% of those who attend services at least once a week think that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 37% favor or strongly favor same-sex marriage. Yet, each and every individual in the pew is hearing, reading, confessing, praying, and singing the sanctity of life at every service. God's services to us are all about life!
3. We now have a Lifeline blog, on which pieces published in S2S may be found; this may be accessed at <https://englishdistrictlifeline.blogspot.com>.
4. English District pastors and laity have played major roles in organizing Lutheran participation in March for Life events in Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Ontario.

We are here as a resource for you! Please let us know how we can help. Additionally, we welcome your submissions of sanctity of life material for our webpage and/or the Servant to Servant newsletter.

My deepest thanks to all of the members of the Lifeline team, to Linda Linthicum, Peggy Oke, Pastor Derek Mathers, and Bishop Jeffrey Miskus for all of their support and encouragement, and to all of the pastors and laypeople of the English District for your Gospel-motivated voices for life. Know that I thank God for all He is doing through each and every one of you!

## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Carol Klein, President

During the past year, the LWML English District continued to demonstrate that God is actively working in the hearts of the Lutheran women and men who serve in His name.

Each of the seven LWML zones in our district supports missions at their local level and work within each of their congregations to honor God by serving others. Following are examples of the missions supported in the past year:

- Arizona – Santa Trinidad VBS, Orphan Grain Train, Faith Lutheran School Sports Scholarships, Faith Lutheran School Snacks for Preschool/Toddler Care, etc.
- Greater Chicago – Grants – Breakfast with Baby, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Voice of Care, a project at Messiah Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, etc.
- Greater Detroit – Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Family of God Ministries, Dignity4Girls, the Luke Clinic, Camp Restore Detroit, etc.
- Milwaukee – Samaritan’s Purse Operation Shoebox, Inner-city outreach in Ebenezer, Grant to Journey’s school, Blankets for Loved Ministries, etc.
- Philadelphia – Phil’s friends, Quilts for World Relief, etc.
- West Michigan – H.U.G.S. Ranch, Quilts for World Relief, Orphan Grain Train, Samaritan’s Purse, Haiti food needs, Kids Food Basket, Wellspring, Pregnancy Resource Center, etc.

The district LWML keeps 50% of the mites our zones send in to fund our budget. The grants selected for the 2024-2026 biennium are the following:

- Orphan Grain Train – Water Heater & Loading Dock Repair, Surprise, AZ PAID
- Camp Restore Detroit – Detroit, MI PAID
- Operation Barnabas Support to Women Veterans – Tucson, AZ PAID
- MOST Ministries – Funding Translators – Ann Arbor, MI
- LHF – Spreading the Gospel in Muslim Nigeria – Macomb, MI
- Lutheran Indian Ministries – Healing the Wounds of Trauma – Brookfield, WI
- Lutheran Braille Workers – Yucaipa, CA

Mites sent to National from the 40 LWML districts during the 2023-2025 biennium will fund \$2,350,000 in mission grants by June 1. This amount is projected to be \$2.6 million during the 2025-2027 biennium. God is great!

The 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention was held April 26-28, 2024 in Dearborn, Michigan. Our theme was “All Nations be Glad and Sing for Joy!” based on Psalm 67:4. Our Bible studies were led by now Bishop Jeffrey Miskus, with Rev. Dr. David Stechholz as our song leader, Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy as a guest speaker, and Kaye Wolff as keynote speaker. It was a joyful few days spent in fellowship.

Our heartfelt THANKS go to all the pastors who give their time to work with, encourage, and support their LWML ladies. You are greatly appreciated!

*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,  
and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

## MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Rev. J. Derek Mathers and The Rev. Timothy Holzerland, Co-chairs

The Ministerial Health Commission (MHC) recognized the importance of the LCMS Church Workers Wellness Survey 2017 and saw the findings as an invitation to change its focus. The MHC identified the need for a cultural shift and furnishing agency to its church workers and their families. This would entail a shift in its purpose, direction, and strategy in addressing wholeness, wellness, and well-being.

While the MHC continues to assist as a support to our Bishop, if requested, we intentionally moved to a direct hands-on support style within a culture of acceptance and encouragement. Our aim is to provide a more practical, supportive, and interactive approach and be the ever-present resource that stands alongside our church workers and their families.

The MHC has worked diligently to establish a sturdy foundation with cornerstones of strong values and principles. We have fine-tuned our direction and efforts to create, establish, and maintain sustainable and supportive resources whereby a church worker and their family member can directly seek help themselves.

The MHC has consciously sought and participated in a multitude of ways to increase awareness of our existence, communicate our foundational values and practices, and ensure our presence and accessibility. We have created an ongoing online “Toolbox” on the English District website whereby individuals can access credible resources in conjunction with customized wellness assessment and worksheet tools. In an effort to provide a broader choice of contacts and resource options, the MHC expanded its demographic and professional representation. Tools and practices were developed and implemented to guide our endeavors and the quality and array of our resources, and to ensure our integrity. Actively the MHC investigated and engaged in partnering and collaborative ventures to expand and strengthen the resources and supportive options for church workers and their families.

### The Ministerial Health Commission 2025 – 2027 Goal Statements Ground us and Guide us in our efforts and actions

- MHC Representation: Promote the presence, representation and participation of the Ministerial Health Commission at various situational and types of English District gatherings (formal, informal, critical/crisis, consultation).
- Strengthening the MHC: Focus efforts towards strengthening the presence of the English District Ministerial Health Commission through expanding membership and broadening demographics to more effectively represent those we serve. (i.e. age, region, role, responsibility, vocation).
- Online “Toolbox”: Implement a set of practices to ensure all content and/or resources of the online Ministerial Health Commission “Toolbox” have met or exceeded an established identification and evaluation criteria.
- Communication Strategy & Work Plan: Apply communication channel principles to build and strengthen relationships and connections of the Ministerial Health Commission within the English District.

The Ministerial Health Commission is committed to adopt exemplary practices to ensure it remains steadfast and faithful to its values, principles, and commitments to the English District and its church workers and their families thus these are on its horizon:

- Focus energy and efforts towards ensuring it consists of appropriate geographical and demographical representation.
- Continue to identify credible wellness tools, information, and resource options to further populate the MHC “Toolbox” webpage.
- Broaden the scope of opportunities for participatory involvement and interactions that cultivate and strengthen the relationship with church workers and their families.
- Investigate and engage in establishing collaborative partnerships with geographical districts aimed at expanding resources and support options for those we serve.
- Develop and execute a comprehensive communication strategy to broaden our audience base, heighten awareness and promote MHC values and accessibility.
- Increase networking efforts towards expanding MHC representation and presence within the English District and beyond its borders.
- Explore a partner relationship with the Office of National Mission and Concordia Plans to further enhance/achieve our goals that the MHC has established in support of our church workers and their families.

The Ministerial Health Commission is always open to suggestions, comments, insights, and other tools to benefit the health and well-being of our church workers and their families. As we move forward, we will continue to be ever-present and steadfast in our approach guided by our values and by our faith.

## **MISSION ACTION TEAM**

The Rev. Justin Laughridge and The Rev. J. Derek Mathers, Co-chairs

*Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! (Psalm 96:3)*

The English District Mission Action Team has been actively engaged in equipping, supporting, and encouraging mission efforts throughout the district during the 2022-2025 triennium. By God's grace, we have seen faithful laborers step forward to plant and revitalize churches, bringing the Gospel to communities in need. Our commitment remains steadfast as we continue to support these efforts through training, advising, and funding initiatives.

In our ongoing work, we have successfully trained eight advisors through the Church Planting Simplified program. These trained leaders are now serving six active Church Planting Teams across five different states and provinces. Their role is crucial in providing guidance, encouragement, and strategic insight as congregations step forward in faith to establish new ministries. Additionally, we continue to explore and implement new approaches to make the 1-1-1 "A Dollar for Mission" Initiative more visible and effective in our congregations, helping to generate greater awareness and participation in this simple yet powerful means of mission support.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to identifying and equipping leaders for future mission work. We give thanks for the congregations, pastors, and laity who have embraced the call to church planting and revitalization, and we pray for the continued spread of the Gospel through these dedicated efforts. As we move forward, we seek to expand our network of advisors, refine our strategies, and engage even more congregations in this vital work.

***Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)***

## **NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION (NLSA)**

Gail Holzer, Accreditation Commissioner

**Introduction:** It is my joy to continue working with English District education centers through the National Lutheran School Accreditation process. It is an arduous process for our school ministries, but the benefits bring clarity of mission and vision, as well as an assurance that our children are receiving the best educational experience in our Lutheran Schools. In addition, the process challenges our policies, processes, philosophies and demands that the Christian faith is integrated throughout the curriculum to ensure our schools exist for the purpose of sharing the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ.

**Mission of NLSA:** NLSA encourages and recognizes schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement.

**Changes to NLSA Protocol:** The National Accreditation Commission (NAC), led by LCMS School Ministries has reworked NLSA protocol and has rolled out Protocol G for PreK, Elementary and Secondary schools to use. An early childhood protocol for standalone Early Childhood Centers will be ready within the next year.

The protocol added a more comprehensive financial section of standards for our schools to meet. The purpose is to ensure the financial viability and sustainability of our school ministries.

Another change is the use of JetPack, an online system that will house all NLSA documents from all of our schools starting with the application and continuing through their documentation, strategic plan, and annual reports. This system will allow the Commission to track a school's progress and affirm their NLSA status.

NLSA schools reapply for accreditation status every 5 years. The ED has 8 school ministries accredited by NLSA, 1 is an early childhood center moving to add elementary grades, 3 are traditional PreK - 8 Lutheran Schools, 1 is a traditional PreK - 12 Lutheran school, and 3 are classical Lutheran schools.

### **English District Schools Accredited:**

Advent Lutheran Classical School, Zionsville, IN - Pastor Aaron Schultz, Headmaster

Fairlawn Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Fairlawn, OH - Katie Bungard, Director

Hales Corners Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI - Pastor Chad Kogutkiewicz, Principal

Immanuel Lutheran Classical Academy, Alexandria, VA

Redeemer Lutheran School, Pittsburgh, PA - Gail Holzer, Executive Director/Administrator

Redeemer Lutheran Classical School, Fort Wayne, IN - Nathaniel Pullmann, Headmaster

St. John Lutheran School, Hannibal, MO - Cheryl Mack, Principal

West Portal Lutheran School, San Francisco, CA - Sherise Lee, Principal

Keep all of our schools in your prayers and give thanks for the strong leadership and Christ-centered faculties who work tirelessly to bring the message of hope and salvation to students and families daily. They are without a doubt champion witnesses to Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection for each of us.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Scheer, Chair

I have been serving as the English District Stewardship Committee chair since 2018 and have attended the District Stewardship Leaders Conference each year it has been held. In 2023 the theme of the conference was “*Steward’s by God’s Design*,” which is an adaptive change process designed by the LCMS Michigan District to impact the lives of individual stewards in the congregation as well as the corporate stewardship life of the congregation. Participants were trained to be facilitators of this process for their respective districts. In 2024 the conference Theme was “Set Free to Lead: Discovering the Abundant Life for the Steward Leader.” Focus was given to reinforce the training in 2023 for the *Stewards by God’s Design* program, and strategies for disseminating the program to the district were discussed. After more than 40 years of gathering in the Phoenix, AZ area each February, the conference has been revamped for 2025 and assembled in March at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano, TX with a focus on the topic “Beyond Generosity – A Life of Grace” as presented by Phil Krupski of LCMS Foundation. Each of these conferences has provided valuable information for congregations that are struggling with stewardship as well as synodical resources that are available. More information on these resources, as well as the *Stewards by God’s Design* program will be provided in the coming months through the district’s Servant to Servant newsletter.

1 **OVERTURES**

2  
3 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND THEOLOGY**

4  
5 **Overture 1-01**

6  
7 **To Encourage the English District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod To Affirm Unequivocally the**  
8 **Practice of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as a God-pleasing Practice So As To Encourage**  
9 **Member Congregations and Pastors of the English District to Recognize the Validity of the**  
10 **Aforementioned Practice and, on That Basis, Commune Visiting Children Who, Though Not Yet**  
11 **Confirmed, Are Nevertheless Communicant Members in Good Standing and Who, Therefore, Should**  
12 **Not Be Denied the Lord’s Body and Blood Because They Have Not Yet Been Confirmed.**

13  
14 WHEREAS, Many member congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive children as  
15 communicants to the Lord’s Supper through the Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation (*LSB:*  
16 *Agenda*, 25–27) and, therefore, have non-Confirmed, yet communicant children who regularly and  
17 faithfully commune at their home congregations; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The majority of our Member Congregations do not receive children as full communicant  
20 members until they have completed Confirmation and have gone through the Rite of Confirmation (*LSB:*  
21 *Agenda*, 28–31); and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Both the Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as well as the Rite of Confirmation  
24 are countenanced and legitimated by Synod as evidenced by the presence of each rite in and use out of  
25 the *Lutheran Service Book: Agenda*; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Both rites exist, not by divine command, but as human ordinances and thus neither have the  
28 status of a Sacrament (Ap. XIII.6); and

29  
30 WHEREAS, Neither rite confers the status of worthy communicant, which is determined, not by a human  
31 ordinance, “but that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘Given and  
32 shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’” (SC VI; cf., 1 Cor. 11:27–29); and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Both rites fulfill the prescription of the Lutheran Confessions that “people are admitted only  
35 if they first had an opportunity to be examined and heard” (AC XXIV.6–7) and “the sacrament is made  
36 available to those who wish to partake of it, after they have been examined and absolved” (Ap XXIV.1);  
37 (see General Notes for both rites, p. 25 and 28 respectively); and

38  
39 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions do not require uniform rites, ordinances, and ceremonies for the  
40 sake of the unity of faith and the Church (AC VII.3; cf., Ap XV.18), thus allowing disparate rites to admit  
41 children to the Lord’s Supper; and

42  
43 WHEREAS, The Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation continues as the minority practice in the  
44 Synod, there have been anecdotal cases of children being refused Communion at sister congregations,  
45 not on the basis of their unworthiness, determined by whether or not they believe the promise of Jesus  
46 “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” but on the basis, either of their non-Confirmed  
47 status or, otherwise, an arbitrary age restriction; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, Refusal to Commune such visiting children who have been legitimately received to the Lord's  
50 Table through instruction, examination, and absolution, which precedes the Rite of First Communion  
51 Prior to Confirmation, causes such little ones, whose angels always behold the face of their Father in  
52 heaven, to stumble through confusion and offense (Matt. 18:6; see Ap XV.49 regarding how "traditions  
53 are truly traps of consciences"); therefore be it

54  
55 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention unequivocally affirms the practice of First Communion  
56 Prior to Confirmation as a God-pleasing practice and a legitimate way to faithful reception of the Lord's  
57 Supper; and be it further

58  
59 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage Member Congregations and Pastors of the  
60 English District to recognize the validity of the aforementioned practice of First Communion Prior to  
61 Confirmation so as to commune visiting children who, though not yet confirmed, are nevertheless  
62 communicant members in good standing at their home congregations; and be it further

63  
64 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention reject and condemn the error of refusing the body and  
65 blood of Jesus Christ to visiting communicant children on the basis of their non-Confirmed status or an  
66 arbitrary age restriction; and be it further

67  
68 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage the Synod in Convention to adopt the same  
69 position; and be it further

70  
71 *Resolved*, That the English District survey her Member Congregations in order to determine the  
72 percentage of congregations making use of the rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation; and be it  
73 further

74  
75 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage the Synod in Convention to survey all  
76 Member Congregations in order to determine the percentage of congregations making use of the rite of  
77 First Communion prior to confirmation; and be it finally

78  
79 *Resolved*, That the English District prepare a toolkit for congregations and Pastors that both equips  
80 Pastors who desire to implement such a rite to teach about the practice of First Communion Prior to  
81 Confirmation and that, likewise, equips Pastors to instruct congregations who do not yet understand the  
82 God-pleasing nature of the rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation so that such congregations  
83 who do not observe this practice gladly welcome and receive visiting communicant children who desire  
84 to receive the Lord's Supper.

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86  
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Submitted by  
Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church  
Hayden, ID

1 **Overture 1-02**

2  
3 **To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty**

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and given to each person "my body";  
6 and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its  
9 institutions (such as schools: public or private), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a  
12 child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, "All authority flows and is born from the authority  
13 of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the  
14 child... So all whom we call 'masters' are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority  
15 to govern from them" (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but  
18 state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live in their household; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may  
21 attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents' duty to raise their children in  
22 the faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

- 23
- 24 • Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents' approval
  - 25 • Laws that allow, recommend, or give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for  
26 "transitioning" minors without parents' approval
  - 27 • Laws that permit minors to get an abortion without parents' approval
  - 28 • Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and  
29 procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
  - 30 • Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor children  
31 vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions
  - 32 • School policies that teach children various anti-scriptural social agendas without parents'  
33 approval
  - 34 • School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents' approval
  - 35 • School policies that encourage children to "transition" or use gender-confusing language or  
36 introduce sexual or gender identities that do not conform with the child's birth sex without  
37 parents' approval

38  
39 Therefore, be it

40  
41 *Resolved*, that the English District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly states its objection on the grounds  
42 of religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the  
43 government's will over the parents' duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be  
44 kept secret from the parents; and further be it

45  
46 *Resolved*, that the English District state plainly its willingness and readiness to support, come to the aid  
47 of, and speak in defense of any parents within sister congregations of the English District who face the  
48 challenge of government laws or school policies interfering with parents' duties to raise their children in  
49 the fear of the Lord; and further be it

48 *Resolved*, that the English District urge The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in convention and each and  
49 every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state their unconditional agreement with  
50 this religious objection to government interference in the Christian parents’ duty to raise their children  
51 in the faith and life of the Christian confession; and further be it

52  
53 *Resolved*, that the English District urge The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and each and every one of  
54 her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly denounce any teachings of any church bodies which  
55 seek to advocate for or tolerate the government interfering with parents’ duties in raising their children  
56 in the Christian faith and life. Such teachings are unbiblical, unchristian, heretical, opposed to God, and  
57 worthy of condemnation; and finally be it

58  
59 *Resolved*, that the English District urge her congregations and all their families to benefit their children  
60 with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran homeschools/hybrid co-ops, or to become involved in their  
61 local public school government, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
62 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas and may be raised  
63 in the proper fear of the Lord.

64  
65  
66

Submitted by  
Chicago North and South Circuits #15 & #16

1 **Overture 1-03**

2  
3 **To Reject Kinism**

4  
5 WHEREAS, We are all descended from Adam and Eve, who were created in God’s image, and therefore  
6 are members of one human race, each formed by Him and with a special status in His created order  
7 (Genesis 1:26-28, 3:20, 9:6; Psalm 8:4-8, 139:13-16; Acts 17:25-26; Ephesians 3:15); and

8  
9 WHEREAS, We are all equally sinners for whom Christ died and rose again, that all who believe in Him  
10 should not perish but have eternal life (Psalm 51:10; John 3:16-17; Romans 4:25; Ephesians 2:5); and

11  
12 WHEREAS, By His will, God’s Church on earth includes members from a great diversity of backgrounds (1  
13 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:11-14); and

14  
15 WHEREAS, God shows no partiality among His people (Deuteronomy 10:17; Job 34:19; Acts 10:34;  
16 Romans 2:10-11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17); and

17  
18 WHEREAS, We are called to deeply love and serve one another as God has first loved us (Leviticus 19:18;  
19 Matthew 19:19, 22:39; Mark 12:21; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14, 6:10; 1 Corinthians 9:22; 2  
20 Corinthians 6:3; James 2:8; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 4:10,19); and

21  
22 WHEREAS, We joyfully anticipate the Last Day, when we will be numbered among a “great multitude ...  
23 from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” eternally in God’s presence, and singing  
24 His praise (Revelation 7:9-10; c.f. Revelation 5:8-9); and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Hatred of the brother is a grievous sin akin to murder, violating the sanctity of human life,  
27 and with grave impact on one’s eternal salvation (Exodus 20:13 [Deuteronomy 5:17]; Matthew 5:21-22;  
28 Galatians 5:21; 1 John 3:14-15; Revelation 21:8; SC The Fifth Commandment); and

29  
30 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Committee on Theology and Church Relations  
31 released the report *Racism and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry* in February, 1994 which  
32 condemned the hatred of our brothers, stating, “It is time to let our light shine and, through the  
33 proclamation of the glorious Gospel of our blessed God, to lead the way to the inclusion of all our sisters  
34 and brothers in Christ in the full exercise of the rights and privileges that belong to them as priests.  
35 What a beautiful opportunity we have to let God’s will be done on earth as it most certainly is done in  
36 heaven, where there is not now, nor will there ever be, any partiality shown to anyone. We must all  
37 continually seek God’s help in helping each other in our Synod to resist the temptations toward racist  
38 thinking and to eradicate its poisonous effects in our lives, that we may walk together in true unity of  
39 mind, heart, and purpose, even as we are one in Christ.”; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has over time adopted numerous resolutions condemning hatred  
42 based on race in all of its manifestations across the political and ideological spectrum, including 2019  
43 Resolution 11-04A, “To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities,” and 2023  
44 Resolution 11-02A, “To Reject All Forms of Racism and Affirm Our Witness to All People,” and

45  
46 WHEREAS, Kinism twists Scripture to divide the Church by race and promote racial superiority and  
47 segregation (“Did God actually say...”, c.f. Genesis 3:1); and

49 WHEREAS, Kinism has been roundly condemned by the Synodical leadership; and  
50  
51 WHEREAS, Individuals, some of whom are members of LCMS congregations, have promoted Kinism  
52 online, at times attacking Synod as a whole, and at times individual members of Synod, sadly attempting  
53 to lure the faithful away from the truth of Scripture (Matthew 24:11; Acts 20:30; 2 Corinthians 11:13; 1  
54 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4); therefore be it  
55  
56 *Resolved*, That the English District rejects and publicly condemns Kinism, affirming that all baptized  
57 believers are one in Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 10:17, 12:12,20; Ephesians 2:19, 4:4-5,16;  
58 Colossians 3:15), and encourages Synod to do the same; and be it further  
59  
60 *Resolved*, That the English District encourages her Pastors to make their congregations aware of the  
61 challenge of Kinism, and refute it through the lens of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and  
62 encourages Synod to do the same; and be it further  
63  
64 *Resolved*, That the English District encourages her Pastors in the course of their teaching, to intentionally  
65 teach sound hermeneutical principles to the members of their congregations, to equip the laity to respond  
66 to this or any temptation of “Did God really say?” (Genesis 3:1) by appealing to Scripture rightly read and  
67 understood (Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 4:1), and encourages Synod to do the same; and be it further  
68  
69 *Resolved*, That the English District publicly support any individual or entity who/that is targeted,  
70 attacked, and threatened by individuals infected by Kinism, and encourages Synod to do the same; and  
71 be it finally  
72  
73 *Resolved*, That English District calls on Pastors and laity to mark and avoid those who work to “cause  
74 divisions and create obstacles” in the Church, and “deceive ... hearts” contrary to God’s Truth (Romans  
75 16:17-18), praying that they repent, receive His absolution and cleansing, restoration to His Church, and  
76 eternal life in Him (Luke 15:1-10; 1 John 1:9), and encourages Synod to do the same.

77  
78 Submitted by  
79 Chicago- North and Chicago-South Circuits #15 & #16

1 **Overture 1-04**

2

3

**To Encourage Unity Between our Churches and Nations**

4

5 **With socio-economic tensions on the rise between Canada and the United States and also globally,**  
6 **and because these tensions are spilling into the hearts of the members of our congregations, and**  
7 **because the English District is a part of God's holy Church without borders, we respectfully ask that**  
8 **the District issue a public statement encouraging hearts of repentance, unity and prayer**

9

10 **Preamble**

11 WHEREAS, Political differences are creating tension, division and antagonism between peoples and  
12 nations; and

13

14 WHEREAS, This political tension is being felt by members of our English District congregations; and

15

16 WHEREAS, Christ is undivided, and so too His Body; and

17

18 WHEREAS, the English District is a church without borders; therefore be it

19

20 *Resolved*, That the District issue a statement encouraging our nations and churches to repent of their sins  
21 and to pursue unity across our borders and to work to bless one another; and be it further

22

23 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the English District be encouraged to pray for one another and to  
24 pray for unity between our nations and globally, beseeching the Father, Son and Holy Spirit's power and  
25 presence as we pray

26

27

28

Submitted by  
Canada East Circuit #7

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM**

2

3 **Overture 2-01**

4

5 **To Encourage Outreach and Ministry on College and University Campuses**

6

7 **Preamble**

8 WHEREAS, The English District is known for its support for and encouragement of ministry among  
9 college students, with more than 18 different campuses served by its congregations and by supporting 9  
10 ministries with funding from the district in the past triennium; and

11

12 WHEREAS, There are 145 LCMS-U chapters, and 416 congregations across the LCMS engaged in some  
13 form of college student ministry; and

14

15 WHEREAS, 95% of LCMS congregations report being within a 45-minute drive of a college or university  
16 campus; and

17

18 WHEREAS, There is a recognized need to train leaders for the future of the church, both as lay leaders  
19 and professional church workers; and

20

21 WHEREAS, Baptized and confirmed members of LCMS congregations attending college or university at a  
22 distance from their home congregation need a place to receive word and sacrament ministry and to  
23 grow in faith and service; and

24

25 WHEREAS, Even though the colleges and universities within the Concordia University System are  
26 blessings to the church at large and to the students who attend them, many LCMS students choose to  
27 attend a public or private school outside of the Concordia University System to pursue their academic  
28 and professional goals; and

29

30 WHEREAS, According to a recent Barna survey, 52% of US adults age 18-22 do not identify as Christian  
31 and/or do not know who Jesus is (<https://www.barna.com/research/teens-and-jesus/> accessed  
32 2/18/2025); and

33

34 WHEREAS, College and university campuses are vast international mission fields, with over 1.1 Million  
35 students from around the world attending during the 2023/24 academic year, many of whom come  
36 from nations where Christians are in the minority or outlawed entirely (U.S. Department of State and  
37 the Institute of International Education; <https://opendoorsdata.org>); therefore be it

38

39 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention give thanks to God for the faithful work being carried  
40 out by the campus ministries within the district; and be it further

41

42 *Resolved*, That every congregation in the English District be encouraged to connect their college-bound  
43 members with the appropriate LCMS campus ministry or local congregation; and be it further

44

45 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention commend the Office of Youth Ministry for their efforts  
46 to support the work of LCMS-U chapters and campus ministry workers; and be it further

47

48 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention give thanks to God for the work of LCMS Registered  
49 Service Organizations (RSOs) supporting work on campuses, specifically the Lutheran Campus Mission  
50 Association (LCMA) and International Student Ministry, Inc (ISM, Inc.); and be it finally  
51 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize the Synod convention in 2026 to reinstate  
52 a full-time Director of Campus Ministry within the Office of National Mission to coordinate, support and  
53 encourage outreach and discipleship on college and university campuses.

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57

Submitted by  
Martin Luther Chapel at Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

1 **Overture 2-02**

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44

**To Memorialize the Synod to Encourage Congregations in the LCMS to Include in Their Annual Mission Budgets Support for a Regional University of the Synod’s Concordia University System**

WHEREAS, congregations of our LCMS are “synod,” and together pray to the Lord for our Synod and support of our Synod nationally, regionally, and locally; and

WHEREAS, our Synod is blessed with the “jewels” of two fine seminaries and several regional universities; and,

WHEREAS, many congregations of our Synod give at least some financial support for our seminaries; and

WHEREAS, it is the concern of each congregation, pastor, professional church worker, and parochial school as to the well-being of our synodical schools of higher learning, particularly our regional Concordias of the Concordia University System (CUS); and,

WHEREAS, over a half century ago our national Synod recognized the need for synodical districts, regional Concordias, seminaries, and other entities of Synod to develop their own advancement departments for fund raising, and encouraged them to do so, even though this did not always translate into financial support for our Concordia colleges and universities in particular until long after some of them were in severe financial straits and could not rely solely on student tuition and large endowments for support; and,

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for our congregations in particular to consider giving faithful support to the Concordia schools in their region; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the LCMS to encourage the congregations of Synod to give prayerful consideration and financial support to our various Concordia universities; and be it further

*Resolved* that pastors in shepherding their congregations encourage the financial, prayer, and “presence support” for and to a CUS Concordia or Concordias of their choosing; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the LCMS in Convention to direct the CUS Board of Directors to send an annual letter of encouragement to pastors and congregations to give financial support, as well as prayer support, and encouragement of youth to consider attending a Concordia, especially for professional church work, and be it finally

*Resolved*, That in particular each congregation in each synodical district be encouraged to put a CUS school into its annual budget and/or mission budget, marking it a blessing of God to render such support for the furtherance of Christ’s Kingdom of Grace, His Church on earth.

Submitted by  
Detroit South and North Circuits #11 & #12

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE**

2

3 **Overture 3-01**

4

5 **To Merge Circuits 9 and 10 of the English District of the LCMS as One Voting Circuit**

6

7 WHEREAS, The numbers of communicant members of each circuit have declined; and

8

9 WHEREAS, Both Synod and District have clear guidelines as to what constitutes as Voting Circuit; and

10

11 WHEREAS, The English District has been required to receive exemptions for purposes of the national  
12 convention delegate representation; and

13

14 WHEREAS, Circuits 9 and 10 of the English District have for many years met and continue meeting as one  
15 circuit; therefore be it

16

17 *Resolved*, That the English District at convention merge circuits 9 and 10 of the English District to  
18 formally be one voting circuit.

19

20

21

22

Submitted by  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Elyria, OH

1 **Overture 3-02**

2  
3 **To Amend English District Bylaws 6.2.5 and 9.1.2**

4  
5 **Preamble**

6 At its December 2–3, 2022 meeting, the English District Board of Directors enacted an agreement with  
7 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) that would transfer governance of the Canada Corporation from  
8 the English District to LCEF. LCEF would replace the Canadian congregations of the English District as the  
9 sole member of the Canada Corporation and that, as the sole member, it will have the power to elect that  
10 entity’s Board of Directors.

11  
12 The agreement with LCEF to assume governance of the Canada Corporation was done, so that LCEF could  
13 potentially provide loans to Lutheran congregations and church workers in Canada that held membership  
14 outside the English District. That included both SELC congregations and church workers, as well as  
15 congregations and church workers belonging to Lutheran Church—Canada.

16  
17 Authorization for LCEF to provide loans to entities not belonging to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
18 (LCMS) required The LCMS to amend its bylaws. The LCMS Bylaws were amended at the 2023 Synod  
19 Convention [2023 Resolution 9-10A], allowing LCEF to lend to non-Synod entities with the approval of the  
20 LCEF’s governing board and the approval of The LCMS Board of Directors.

21  
22 LCEF’s assumption of governance of the Canada Corporation received final approval by The LCMS Board  
23 of Directors when it met on November 22–23, 2024. On December 5, 2024, the Members and Board of  
24 Directors of English District Canada Corporation voted to amend the corporation’s governing documents.  
25 These actions mean that the former subagency of the English District—the Canada Corporation—has now  
26 become an incorporated subagency of an agency of the Synod—LCEF.

27  
28 **Rationale**

29 With the Canada Corporation having become an incorporated subagency of LCEF, it is no longer under  
30 English District governance. The English District Board of Directors no longer has fiduciary responsibilities  
31 concerning the Canada Corporation. This makes representation of the Canada Corporation to the English  
32 District Board of Directors no longer necessary. Additionally, the change in status of the Canada  
33 Corporation includes a Board of Directors with members who are not members of English District  
34 congregations. Such an entity should not be empowered to make appointments to English District boards  
35 or committees.

36 Therefore be it

37  
38 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 6.2.5 be amended as follows:

39  
40 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

41  
42 ~~6.2.5—Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:~~

43 ~~(a) A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District~~  
44 ~~President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.~~

45 ~~(b) A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the~~  
46 ~~Canada Corporation.~~

47 6.2.5 A vacancy in any regional manager position on the District Endowment Fund Manager Board shall  
48 be filled by appointment by the District President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

49 and be it further

50

51 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 9.1.2 be amended as follows:

52

53 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

54

55 9.1.2 The Board of Directors shall have ~~six (6)~~ five (5) non-voting members:

56 (a) The Vice-Presidents of the District

57 (b) The Treasurer of the District

58 ~~(c) The Chairman of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada~~  
59 ~~Corporation)~~

60

61

62

Submitted by  
English District Board of Directors

1 **Overture 3-03**

2  
3 **To Amend English District Bylaw 5.1**

4 **Rationale**

5 During the 2022–2025 triennium, a number of District officeholders resigned their offices and took up  
6 new roles, either within or outside of the District. This led to several individuals beginning their service  
7 during the triennium, while other individuals completed more than half a term prior to their resignation.  
8

9 As the nominating process for the 2025 District Convention reached its conclusion, questions were asked  
10 concerning the application of District Bylaw 5.1 to individuals who had served multiple terms in office but  
11 had resigned during their current term. These questions focused on whether the limitation on tenure  
12 would reset for them, particularly since they had not completed a full term but had not been out of office  
13 for an interval of less than a year. Due to how District Bylaw 5.1 currently reads, different opinions  
14 concerning the application of the limitation of tenure were being offered, with none being definitive.  
15

16 This situation can be addressed by adopting revised bylaw language that resembles that used in Synod  
17 Bylaw 3.2.4.2, which establishes limitation on tenure for members of Synod boards and commissions.  
18

19 Therefore be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, That District Bylaw 5.1 be amended as follows:

22  
23 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

24  
25 **5.1 Terms of Office and Tenure**

26 ~~5.1.1 Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for~~  
27 ~~Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.~~

28 ~~5.1.2 A person’s tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-~~  
29 ~~year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of~~  
30 ~~no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less~~  
31 ~~than two (2) years.~~

32  
33 5.1.1 Officers, Circuit Visitors, and members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,  
34 Committee for Stewardship, and Endowment Fund Board of Managers shall serve for a term of  
35 three (3) years.

36 5.1.2 Officers, Circuit Visitors, and members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,  
37 Committee for Stewardship, and Endowment Fund Board of Managers shall be ineligible for re-  
38 election or reappointment after serving a total of four (4) successive terms.

39 (a) Such persons may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office or  
40 function after an interval of three (3) or more years.

41 (b) Such persons may be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of two (2) or more  
42 years.

43 (c) More than one-half of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.

44 (d) Any person who is ineligible for re-election or reappointment may be elected or appointed to  
45 another position.

46  
47 Submitted by  
48 English District Board of Directors

1 **Overture 3-04**

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3  
4

**To Amend District Bylaw 6.2.5**

5 **Rationale**

6 English District Endowment Fund Governing Document Paragraph 5.6 outlines a vacancy appointment  
7 process to fill any manager seat. That vacancy appointment process can be amended by the District Board  
8 of Directors without action by the District Convention. However, if changes to that vacancy appointment  
9 process are made within a triennium, the District Bylaws as they currently read would need to be  
10 amended. Accomplishing that may not be possible to do for months, if not years, until the District  
11 Convention is seated. This situation can be avoided by having District Bylaw 6.2.5 refer to the Endowment  
12 Fund Governing Document.

13

14 Therefore be it

15

16 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 6.2.5 be amended as follows:

17

18 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

19

20 6.2.5 ~~Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:~~

21 ~~(a) A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District~~  
22 ~~President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.~~

23 ~~(b) A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the~~  
24 ~~Canada Corporation.~~

25 Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled according  
26 to the process outlined in the English District Endowment Fund Governing Document.

27

28

29

Submitted by  
English District Board of Directors

1 **Overture 3-05**

2  
3 **To Amend English District Bylaws 5.4.4 and 9.1.1**  
4

5 WHEREAS, The elected voting membership of the English District Board of Directors currently consists of  
6 six (6) ministers of religion [four (4) ordained ministers—President, Secretary, one (1) ordained minister  
7 from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, and one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western  
8 Region—and two (2) commissioned ministers] and six (6) laypersons [one (1) from each District Region  
9 and two (2) from the District at-large] who are elected by the District Convention (EN Bylaws 5.2.2,  
10 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.5.3, and 9.1.1); and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Regional representation by ordained ministers to the District Board of Directors is currently  
13 provided by the four Regional Vice-Presidents, who “shall advise the President, serve as his  
14 representatives, and assist him in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations” (EN  
15 Bylaw 4.3) and also serve as non-voting members of the Board of Directors (EN Bylaw 9.1.2); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, The English District may be better served by electing ordained ministers with various skill sets  
18 (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.) to its Board of Directors without limitation by District  
19 Region; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, The election of commissioned ministers as voting members of the Board of Directors is no  
22 longer limited by District Region (cf. 2018 Resolution 3-03A); and

23  
24 WHEREAS, The proposed bylaw amendments would not change the existing practice of the District  
25 Convention electing six (6) ministers of religion and six (6) laypersons to serve as voting members of the  
26 Board of Directors; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, The nomination process for election of ordained ministers to the Board of Directors at the  
29 2025 English District Convention has been conducted under the current limitation by District Region (EN  
30 Bylaw 5.4.1); therefore be it

31  
32 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 5.4.4 be amended as follows:

33  
34 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

35  
36 5.4.4 The District Convention shall elect ~~one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie~~  
37 ~~Region, one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region, two (2) ordained~~  
38 ministers from the clergy roster of the District, two (2) commissioned ministers from the  
39 commissioned minister roster of the District, and one (1) layperson from each of the four  
40 regions of the District:

- 41 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
42 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated  
43 from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be  
44 declared elected.

45 and be it further  
46

47 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 9.1.1 be amended as follows:

48

49 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

50

51 9.1.1 The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:

52 (a) The President of the District

53 (b) The Secretary of the District

54 (c) Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, ~~one of whom shall be elected from either the~~  
55 ~~Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the~~  
56 ~~Midwestern Region or Western Region~~

57 (d) Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned

58 (e) One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.

59 (f) Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large

60 (g) Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of  
61 Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration,  
62 etc.)

63 and be it finally

64

65 *Resolved*, That these amendments to English District Bylaws 5.4.4 and 9.1.1 be enacted following the  
66 election of the Board of Directors at the 2025 English District Convention and become effective upon  
67 adoption.

68

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70

71

Submitted by  
Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsburg, PA

1 **Overture 3-06**

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**To Declare the Reverend Dr. Jamison Hardy “Bishop Emeritus”**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Jamison J. Hardy served the English District for nine years as our Bishop and District President with honor; and

WHEREAS, He has accepted a call to serve as the President of the Concordia University System of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Eastern Region Pastors Conference moves that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod bestow the title of “Bishop Emeritus” upon the Reverend Dr. Jamison J. Hardy; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the English District give thanks to our Lord and to Dr. Hardy for his years of honorable service.

Submitted by  
Eastern Region Pastors Conference

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2  
3 **Overture 4-01**

4  
5 **To Request a Comprehensive Review of the Theological Concerns and Practical**  
6 **Procedures When a Call Is Terminated or Self-Terminated**

7  
8 **Preamble**

9 WHEREAS, The LCMS has committed to caring for pastors and church workers in one of its seven mission  
10 priorities, to wit: "To promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical well-being of  
11 pastors and professional church workers;" and

12  
13 WHEREAS, There are a number of reasons a person might self-terminate a Divine Call, e.g. age of  
14 retirement, mental or physical health concerns or incapacitations, personal conviction, etc.; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, There is biblical precedent for the non-death ending of a tenure of service, e.g. Numbers  
17 8:23-26; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The CTCR discussed termination of Divine Call in its 2003 Report "Theology and Practice of  
20 'The Divine Call'" only from the perspective of outside termination and not self-termination; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Care should be given to the worker and the people of God served by the worker throughout  
23 the length of a Divine Call, including if a Call is terminated or self-terminated; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, There is a paucity of theological rationale and practical direction in the Synod for the many  
26 ways a Divine Call might be self-terminated before death; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, There can be confusion in the Church over legitimate and illegitimate reasons for terminating  
29 or self-terminating a Divine Call which might result in anxiety over Candidate status; therefore be it

30  
31 *Resolved*, That church workers and congregations be given clear teaching on the theological and  
32 practical procedures when a Divine Call is terminated or self-terminated; and be it further

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize Synod to instruct the CTCR to offer clarity regarding  
35 theological and practical considerations for the ways a Divine Call might be legitimately or illegitimately  
36 terminated or self-terminated; and be it further

37  
38 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the COP is to establish support  
39 and training materials for church workers who self-terminate their Divine Call legitimately; and be it  
40 further

41  
42 *Resolved*, That district presidents and circuit visitors work with the workers and congregations of their  
43 district to support their called church workers before, during, and after times of termination and self-  
44 termination; and be it further

45  
46 *Resolved*, That the English District convention send this resolution as an overture to the 2026 Synod  
47 convention.

48  
49 Submitted by  
50 Indiana Circuit #14

1 **Overture 4-02**

2  
3 **To Direct the Office of National Mission to Perform a Systematic Review of All Registered Service**  
4 **Organizations (RSOs)**

5  
6 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has historically emphasized accountability and  
7 doctrinal integrity in its affiliations, ensuring that those organizations receiving its endorsement or  
8 partnership remain faithful to the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions (Titus 1:9,  
9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in  
10 sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it”); and

11  
12 WHEREAS, The LCMS recognizes certain organizations as Registered Service Organizations (RSOs),  
13 granting them recognition and endorsement, and in some cases financial and institutional support, on  
14 the basis that their mission and practices align with biblical and confessional Lutheran teaching, as  
15 outlined in LCMS Bylaw 6.2, which establishes the process and requirements for RSO status within the  
16 Synod; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 6.2.1 states that RSOs must "function in harmony with the programs of the  
19 boards of the Synod and in furtherance of the mission and ministry of the church", making it necessary  
20 to ensure ongoing compliance with doctrinal standards; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 6.2.6 places oversight of RSOs under the Office of National Mission, which  
23 evaluates and reviews RSOs to determine whether they remain in alignment with LCMS doctrine and  
24 practice; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Faithful stewardship requires ongoing review to ensure that these organizations continue to  
27 uphold sound doctrine and biblical practices; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, There is a growing need for transparency and accountability in the work of all organizations  
30 affiliated with the church, ensuring that they adhere to biblical principles in matters of faith, morality,  
31 and financial stewardship (Luke 16:10, “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much”); and

32  
33 WHEREAS, The LCMS must take seriously its responsibility to avoid supporting or endorsing  
34 organizations that have drifted from the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions  
35 (Romans 16:17, “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create  
36 obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them” ); therefore, be it

37  
38 RESOLVED, That the LCMS Office of National Mission, in coordination with the various mission offices  
39 and the council of presidents, conduct a systematic review of all RSOs, ensuring that each organization  
40 maintains alignment with biblical teaching and the doctrinal position of the LCMS; and be it further

41  
42 RESOLVED, That this review assess each RSO’s doctrinal stance, financial stewardship, and ethical  
43 practices in light of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

44  
45 RESOLVED, That the Office of National Mission be empowered, in coordination with the various mission  
46 offices and the council of presidents and in accordance with LCMS Bylaw 6.2.6, to take corrective action  
47 regarding any RSO found to be doctrinally or ethically out of alignment with LCMS teachings, including

48 but not limited to placing the organization on probationary status, requiring doctrinal correction, or, if  
49 necessary, revoking RSO status; and be it further

50  
51 RESOLVED, That the LCMS Office of National Mission, in coordination with the various mission office and  
52 the council of presidents, shall take immediate action to revoke the RSO status of any organization that  
53 is publicly known to be acting in direct opposition to the doctrine of the Synod, including but not limited  
54 to those engaged in unlawful activity, those who abet lawbreakers, those who affirm or promote same-  
55 sex relationships, or those who facilitate the adoption of children to same-sex couples; and be it further  
56

57 RESOLVED, That any RSO whose status has been revoked due to doctrinal or ethical violations may apply  
58 for reinstatement, provided that the organization demonstrates repentance, publicly renounces its  
59 previous errors, and affirms in writing its adherence to the biblical and confessional teachings of the  
60 LCMS; and be it further

61  
62 RESOLVED, That organizations found to be out of alignment with LCMS doctrine be given a clear path to  
63 correction and reinstatement, provided they demonstrate repentance and a return to biblical and  
64 confessional teaching (Galatians 6:1, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are  
65 spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness"); and be it further  
66

67 RESOLVED, That the findings of this review be reported in their entirety to the Synod and made available  
68 for the benefit of congregations and members of the LCMS; and be it finally  
69

70 RESOLVED, That the LCMS reaffirm its commitment to biblical stewardship, ensuring that all  
71 partnerships and affiliations reflect the mission and values of Christ's Church as taught in Holy Scripture  
72 and confessed in the Lutheran Confessions.  
73

74  
75  
76

Submitted by  
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Bridgeport, WV

1 **Overture 4-03**

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**To Affirm the Board of Regents and Administration of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor  
in Their Efforts to Resolve Financial Deficits**

WHEREAS, In February 2024 the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor (CUWAA), President Erik Ankerberg, and the administration of both campuses were confronted with financial realities that included a growing financial deficit; and

WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor campus had been unable to generate auxiliary revenue sufficient to meet its needs leading to an annual average operational shortfall of \$4 million for the entire university; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that CUWAA is a Lutheran higher education community of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod serving a focused educational mission in the world accountable for responsible stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Christians may disagree over how to handle challenging situations which may be concerning and painful for many to hear, especially students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and other CUAA and CUW stakeholders and the Ann Arbor community; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA have demonstrated resolve and intentional strategic thought as they considered a variety of initiatives designed to better position CUWAA for the future; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA have demonstrated faithful Christian leadership in their service to the students, faculty, staff, and Synod in a fair, reasonable, and responsible manner recognizing that as sinful, fallible mortals their communication efforts could have been handled better; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA be commended for making the necessary decisions to ensure that CUWAA is financially secure and sustainable for future generations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That by our prayers they would be encouraged in their responsibility to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the English District continue to pray in good faith for the ongoing efforts of the Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the English District continue to pray for the students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and other stakeholders of Concordia Ann Arbor as these initiatives have and continue to have impact on the Ann Arbor campus; and be it finally

45 *Resolved*, That since CUWAA directly impacts our churches, schools, and ministries and in the spirit of  
46 fraternal support and encouragement; the English District receive a report at its next Convention  
47 regarding the outcomes, benefits, and the ongoing efforts of the Board of Regents, President Ankerberg,  
48 and the entire administration of CUWAA.

49

50

51

Submitted by  
Detroit-South and Detroit-North Circuits #11 & #12

# RESOLUTIONS

## COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

### Resolution 1-01

*(Overture 1-01, p. 4-1)*

**To Encourage the English District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to Affirm Unequivocally the Practice of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as a God-pleasing Practice so as to Encourage Member Congregations and Pastors of the English District to Recognize the Validity of the Aforementioned Practice and, on That Basis, Commune Visiting Children Who, Though Not Yet Confirmed, Are Nevertheless Communicant Members in Good Standing and Who, Therefore, Should Not Be Denied the Lord's Body and Blood Because They Have Not Yet Been Confirmed.**

WHEREAS, Many member congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive children as communicants to the Lord's Supper through the Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation (LSB: Agenda 25-27), and, therefore, have non-Confirmed, yet communicant children who regularly and faithfully commune at their home congregations; and

WHEREAS, The majority of our member congregations do not receive children as full communicant members until they have completed Confirmation and have gone through the Rite of Confirmation (LSB: Agenda, 28-31); and

WHEREAS, Both the Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation as well as the Rite of Confirmation are countenanced and legitimated by Synod as evidenced by the presence of each rite in and use out of the Lutheran Service Book: Agenda; and

WHEREAS, Both rites exist, not by divine command, but as human ordinances and thus neither have the status of a Sacrament (Ap. XIII.6); and

WHEREAS, Neither rite confers the status of worthy communicant, which is determined, not by a human ordinance, "but that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," (SC VI; cf., 1Cor.11:27-29); and

WHEREAS, Both rites fulfill the prescription of the Lutheran Confessions that "people are admitted only if they first had an opportunity to be examined and heard" (AC XXIV.6-7) and "the sacrament is made available to those who wish to partake of it, after they have been examined and absolved" (Ap XXIV.1); (see General Notes for both rites, p. 25 and 28, respectively); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions do not require uniform rites, ordinances, and ceremonies for the sake of the unity of faith and the Church (AC VII.3; cf., Ap XV.18), thus allowing disparate rites to admit children to the Lord's Supper; and

WHEREAS, The Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation continues as the minority practice in the Synod, there have been anecdotal cases of children being refused Communion at sister congregations, not on the basis of their unworthiness, determined by whether or not they believe the promise of Jesus "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," but on the basis, either of their non-confirmed status or, otherwise, an arbitrary age restriction; and

50 WHEREAS, Refusal to commune such visiting children who have been legitimately received to the Lord's  
51 Table through instruction, examination, and absolution, which precedes the Rite of First Communion  
52 Prior to Confirmation, causes such little ones, whose angels always behold the face of their Father in  
53 heaven, to stumble through confusion and offense (Matt. 18:6: ; see Ap XV.49 regarding how "traditions  
54 are truly traps of consciences"); therefore be it

55

56 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention unequivocally affirms the practice of First Communion  
57 Prior to Confirmation as a God-pleasing practice and a legitimate way to faithful reception of the Lord's  
58 Supper; and be it further

59

60 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage member congregations and pastors of the  
61 English District to recognize the validity of the aforementioned practice of First Communion Prior to  
62 Confirmation so as to commune visiting children who, though not yet confirmed, are nevertheless  
63 communicant members in good standing at their home congregations; and be it further

64

65 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention reject and condemn the error of refusing the body and  
66 blood of Jesus Christ to visiting communicant children on the basis of their non-confirmed status or an  
67 arbitrary age restriction; and be it further

68

69 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage the Synod in Convention to adopt the same  
70 position; and be it further

71

72 *Resolved*, That the English District survey her member congregations in order to determine the  
73 percentage of congregations making use of the rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation, and  
74 publish the results of said survey among our congregations; and be it further

75

76 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention encourage the Synod in Convention to survey all  
77 member congregations in order to determine the percentage of congregations making use of the rite of  
78 First Communion Prior to Confirmation, and publish the results of said survey among the congregations  
79 of Synod; and be it finally

80

81 *Resolved*, That the English District prepare a tool kit for congregations and pastors that both equips  
82 pastors who desire to implement such a rite to teach about the practice of First Communion Prior to  
83 Confirmation and that, likewise, equips pastors to instruct congregations who do not yet understand the  
84 God-pleasing nature of the rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation so that such congregations  
85 who do not observe this practice gladly welcome and receive visiting communicant children who desire  
86 to receive the Lord's Supper, and that encourages all communicant members to announce for  
87 Communion when visiting congregations other than their own.

1 **Resolution 1-02**

2 *(Overture 1-02, p. 4-3)*

3  
4 **To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents’ Duty**

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and given to each person “my body”;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its  
10 institutions (such as schools: public or private), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a  
13 child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority flows and is born from the authority  
14 of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the  
15 child... So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority  
16 to govern from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but  
19 state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live in their household; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may  
22 attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents’ duty to raise their children in  
23 the faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

- 24 – Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
- 25 – Laws that allow, recommend, or give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for
- 26 “transitioning” minors without parents’ approval
- 27 – Laws that permit minors to get an abortion without parents’ approval
- 28 – Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and
- 29 procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
- 30 – Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor children
- 31 vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions
- 32 – School policies that teach children various anti-scriptural social agendas without parents’
- 33 approval
- 34 – School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
- 35 – School policies that encourage children to “transition” or use gender-confusing language or
- 36 introduce sexual or gender identities that do not conform with the child’s birth sex without
- 37 parents’ approval

38 Therefore, be it

39  
40 *Resolved*, that the English District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state its objection on the grounds of  
41 religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the  
42 government’s will over the parents’ duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child’s will to be  
43 kept secret from the parents; and further be it

44  
45 *Resolved*, that the English District state plainly its willingness and readiness to support, come to the aid  
46 of, and speak in defense of any parents within sister congregations of the English District who face the  
47 challenge of government laws or school policies interfering with parents’ duties to raise their children in  
48 the fear of the Lord; and further be it

49

50 *Resolved*, that the English District urge The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention and each  
51 and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state their unconditional agreement  
52 with this religious objection to government interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their  
53 children in the faith and life of the Christian confession; and further be it

54

55 *Resolved*, that the English District urge The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and each and every one of  
56 her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly denounce any teachings of any church bodies which  
57 seek to advocate for or tolerate the government interfering with parents' duties in raising their children  
58 in the Christian faith and life. Such teachings are unbiblical, unchristian, heretical, opposed to God, and  
59 worthy of condemnation; and finally be it

60

61 *Resolved*, that the English District urge her congregations and all their families to benefit their children  
62 with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran homeschools/hybrid co-ops, or to become involved in their  
63 local public school government, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
64 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas and may be raised  
65 in the proper fear of the Lord.

1 **Resolution 1-03**  
2 (*Overture 1-03, p. 4-5*)

3  
4 **To Reject Kinism**  
5

6 WHEREAS, We are all descended from Adam and Eve, who were created in God’s image, and therefore  
7 are members of one human race, each formed by Him and with a special status in His created order  
8 (Genesis 1:26-28, 3:20, 9:6; Psalm 8:4-8, 139:13-16; Acts 17:25-26; Ephesians 3:15); and  
9

10 WHEREAS, We are all equally sinners for whom Christ died and rose again, that all who believe in Him  
11 should not perish but have eternal life (Psalm 51:10; John 3:16-17; Romans 4:25; Ephesians 2:5); and  
12

13 WHEREAS, By His will, God’s Church on earth includes members from a great diversity of backgrounds (1  
14 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:11-14); and  
15

16 WHEREAS, God shows no partiality among His people (Deuteronomy 10:17; Job 34:19; Acts 10:34;  
17 Romans 2:10-11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17); and  
18

19 WHEREAS, We are called to deeply love and serve one another as God has first loved us (Leviticus 19:18;  
20 Matthew 19:19, 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14, 6:10; 1 Corinthians 9:22; 2  
21 Corinthians 6:3; James 2:8; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 4:10,19); and  
22

23 WHEREAS, We joyfully anticipate the Last Day, when we will be numbered among a “great multitude ...  
24 from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” eternally in God’s presence, and singing  
25 His praise (Revelation 7:9-10; c.f. Revelation 5:8-9); and  
26

27 WHEREAS, Hatred of the brother is a grievous sin akin to murder, violating the sanctity of human life,  
28 and with grave impact on one’s eternal salvation (Exodus 20:13 [Deuteronomy 5:17]; Matthew 5:21-22;  
29 Galatians 5:21; 1 John 3:14-15; Revelation 21:8; SC The Fifth Commandment); and  
30

31 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Committee on Theology and Church Relations  
32 released the report *Racism and the Church: Overcoming the Idolatry* in February, 1994 which  
33 condemned the hatred of our brothers, stating, “It is time to let our light shine and, through the  
34 proclamation of the glorious Gospel of our blessed God, to lead the way to the inclusion of all our sisters  
35 and brothers in Christ in the full exercise of the rights and privileges that belong to them as priests.  
36 What a beautiful opportunity we have to let God’s will be done on earth as it most certainly is done in  
37 heaven, where there is not now, nor will there ever be, any partiality shown to anyone. We must all  
38 continually seek God’s help in helping each other in our Synod to resist the temptations toward racist  
39 thinking and to eradicate its poisonous effects in our lives, that we may walk together in true unity of  
40 mind, heart, and purpose, even as we are one in Christ.”; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has over time adopted numerous resolutions condemning hatred  
43 based on race in all of its manifestations across the political and ideological spectrum, including 2019  
44 Resolution 11-04A, To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities; and 2023 Resolution  
45 11-02A, To Reject All Forms of Racism and Affirm Our Witness to All People; and  
46

47 WHEREAS, Kinism twists Scripture to divide the Church by race and promote racial superiority and  
48 segregation (“Has God indeed said...?”, c.f. Genesis 3:1); and

49  
50 WHEREAS, Kinism has been roundly condemned by the Synodical leadership; and  
51  
52 WHEREAS, Individuals, some of whom are members of LCMS congregations, have promoted Kinism  
53 online, at times attacking Synod as a whole, and at times individual members of Synod, sadly attempting  
54 to lure the faithful away from the truth of Scripture (Matthew 24:11; Acts 20:30; 2 Corinthians 11:13; 1  
55 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4); therefore be it  
56  
57 *Resolved*, That the English District reject and publicly condemn Kinism, affirming that all baptized  
58 believers are one in Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 10:17, 12:12,20; Ephesians 2:19, 4:4-5,16;  
59 Colossians 3:15), and encourages Synod to do the same; and be it further  
60  
61 *Resolved*, That the English District encourage her pastors to make their congregations aware of the  
62 challenge of Kinism, and refute it through the lens of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and  
63 encourages Synod to do the same; and be it further  
64  
65 *Resolved*, That the English District encourage her pastors in the course of their teaching, to intentionally  
66 teach sound hermeneutical principles to the members of their congregations, to equip the laity to respond  
67 to this or any temptation of “Has God indeed said...?” (Genesis 3:1) by appealing to Scripture rightly read  
68 and understood (Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 4:1), and encourage the Synod to do the same; and be it further  
69  
70 *Resolved*, That the English District publicly support any individual or entity who/that is targeted,  
71 attacked, and threatened by individuals infected by Kinism, and encourage Synod to do the same; and  
72 be it finally  
73  
74 *Resolved*, That English District call on pastors and laity to mark and avoid those who work to “cause  
75 divisions and create obstacles in the Church”, and “deceive hearts” contrary to God’s Truth (Romans  
76 16:17-18), praying that they repent, receive His absolution and cleansing, restoration to His Church, and  
77 eternal life in Him (Luke 15:1-10; 1 John 1:9), and encourage Synod to do the same.

1 **Resolution 1-04**  
2 *(Overture 1-04, p. 4-7)*

3  
4 **To Encourage Unity Among Our Churches**  
5

6 **Preamble**

7 With geopolitical and socio-economic strife is on the rise between Canada, the United States, and many  
8 other nations; and because these tensions are spilling into the hearts of the members of our  
9 congregations; and because the English District is part of God's holy Church and a "District without  
10 borders", we respectfully ask that the District issue a public statement encouraging repentance, amity,  
11 unity and prayer among our congregations.

12  
13 WHEREAS, Geopolitical tension and socio-economic strife is creating division and antagonism between  
14 peoples and nations; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, This political tension is being felt by members of our English District congregations; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, The Kingdom of God is not of this world (John 18:36), Christ is undivided (1 Corinthians 1:13),  
19 and so too His Body (Colossians 3:12-15); and

20  
21 Whereas, Luther's explanation of the eighth commandment in the Small Catechism states that we do  
22 not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to  
23 come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the kindest way;  
24 Therefore, be it

25  
26 *Resolved*, That the English District issue a public statement encouraging the Pastors and members of our  
27 congregations to repent of their sins, receive the forgiveness and comfort Christ alone can give, and so  
28 to pursue peace and unity with one another across international borders, and to pray for and bless one  
29 another, beseeching the Father, Son and Holy Spirit's power and presence as they pray.

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM**

2

3 **Resolution 2-01**

4

5

**To Affirm and Retain the Seven Mission Priorities of the LCMS**

6

7 **Preamble**

8 WHEREAS, The Board of National Mission and the Board of International Mission reported to the 2025  
9 LCMS District Conventions evaluating Synod's current Mission Priorities; and

10

11 WHEREAS, the Seven Mission Priorities of the LCMS continue to direct the Synod's mission and ministry;  
12 and

13

14 WHEREAS, both the Boards of National and International Mission LCMS found no objection to the current  
15 mission priorities; therefore be it

16

17 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention give thanks to God for the faithful work being carried out  
18 by the Boards of National Mission and International Mission ; and be it further

19

20 *Resolved*, That every congregation in the English District be encouraged to review and embrace the seven  
21 mission priorities of the LCMS; and be it finally

22

23 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize the Synod convention in 2026 to retain and  
24 continue conducting herself in accord with the seven mission priorities.

25

1 **Resolution 2-02**  
2 (*Overture 2-01, p. 4-8*)

3  
4 **To Encourage Outreach and Ministry on College and University Campuses**

5  
6 **Preamble**

7 WHEREAS, The English District is known for its support for and encouragement of ministry among  
8 college students, with more than 18 different campuses served by its congregations and by supporting 9  
9 ministries with funding from the district in the past triennium; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, There are 145 LCMS-U chapters, and 416 congregations across the LCMS engaged in some  
12 form of college student ministry; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, 95% of LCMS congregations report being within a 45-minute drive of a college or university  
15 campus; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, There is a recognized need to train leaders for the future of the church, both as lay leaders  
18 and professional church workers; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, Baptized and confirmed members of LCMS congregations attending college or university at a  
21 distance from their home congregation need a place to receive word and sacrament ministry and to  
22 grow in faith and service; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Even though the colleges and universities within the Concordia University System are  
25 blessings to the church-at-large and to the students who attend them, many LCMS students choose to  
26 attend a public or private school outside of the Concordia University System to pursue their academic  
27 and professional goals; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, According to a recent Barna survey, 52% of U.S. adults age 18-22 do not identify as Christian  
30 and/or do not know who Jesus is (<https://www.barna.com/research/teens-and-jesus/> accessed  
31 2/18/2025); and

32  
33 WHEREAS, College and university campuses are vast international mission fields, with over 1.1 million  
34 students from around the world attending during the 2023-24 academic year, many of whom come  
35 from nations where Christians are in the minority or outlawed entirely (U.S. Department of State and  
36 the Institute of International Education; <https://opendoorsdata.org>); therefore be it

37  
38 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention give thanks to God for the faithful work being carried  
39 out by the campus ministries within the district; and be it further

40  
41 *Resolved*, That every congregation in the English District be encouraged to connect their college-bound  
42 members with the appropriate LCMS campus ministry or local congregation; and be it further

43  
44 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention commend the Office of Youth Ministry for their efforts  
45 to support the work of LCMS-U chapters and campus ministry workers; and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention give thanks to God for the work of LCMS Registered  
48 Service Organizations (RSOs) supporting work on campuses, specifically the Lutheran Campus Mission  
49 Association (LCMA) and International Student Ministry, Inc (ISM, Inc.); and be it finally  
50 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize the Synod convention in 2026 to reinstate  
51 a full-time Director of Campus Ministry within the Office of National Mission to coordinate, support and  
52 encourage outreach and discipleship on college and university campuses.

1 **Resolution 2-03**

2 *(Overture 2-02, p. 4-10)*

3

4 **To Memorialize the Synod to Encourage Congregations in the LCMS to Include in Their Annual Mission**  
5 **Budgets Support for a Regional University of the Synod's Concordia University System**

6

7 WHEREAS, congregations of our LCMS are "synod," and together pray to the Lord for our Synod and  
8 support of our Synod nationally, regionally, and locally; and

9

10 WHEREAS, our Synod is blessed with the "jewels" of two fine seminaries and several regional  
11 universities; and,

12

13 WHEREAS, many congregations of our Synod give at least some financial support for our seminaries; and

14

15 WHEREAS, it is the concern of each congregation, pastor, professional church worker, and parochial  
16 school as to the well-being of our synodical schools of higher learning, particularly our regional  
17 Concordias of the Concordia University System (CUS); and,

18

19 WHEREAS, over a half century ago our national Synod recognized the need for synodical districts,  
20 regional Concordias, seminaries, and other entities of Synod to develop their own advancement  
21 departments for fund raising, and encouraged them to do so, even though this did not always translate  
22 into financial support for our Concordia colleges and universities in particular until long after some of  
23 them were in severe financial straits and could not rely solely on student tuition and large endowments  
24 for support; and,

25

26 WHEREAS, there is a necessity for our congregations in particular to consider giving faithful support to  
27 the Concordia schools in their region; therefore be it

28

29 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize the LCMS to encourage the congregations of Synod to  
30 give prayerful consideration and financial support to our various Concordia universities; and be it further

31

32 *Resolved* that pastors in shepherding their congregations encourage the financial, prayer, and "presence  
33 support" for and to a CUS Concordia or Concordias of their choosing; and be it further

34

35 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize the LCMS in Convention to direct the CUS Board of  
36 Directors to send an annual letter of encouragement to pastors and congregations to give financial  
37 support, as well as prayer support, and encouragement of youth to consider attending a Concordia,  
38 especially for professional church work, and be it finally

39

40 *Resolved*, That in particular each congregation in each synodical district be encouraged to put a CUS  
41 school into its annual budget and/or mission budget, marking it a blessing of God to render such support  
42 for the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom of Grace, His Church on earth.

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE**

2

3 **Resolution 3-01**

4 *(Overture 3-01, p. 4-11)*

5

6 **To merge Visitation Circuits 9 and 10 of the English District LCMS as One Synod Voting Circuit**

7

8 WHEREAS, The numbers of communicant members of each circuit have declined; and

9

10 WHEREAS, Both Synod and District have clear guidelines as to what constitutes as Voting Circuit; and

11

12 WHEREAS, The English District has been required to receive exemptions for purposes of the national  
13 convention delegate representation; and

14

15 WHEREAS, Visitation Circuits 9 and 10 of the English District have for many years met and continue  
16 meeting as one circuit; therefore be it

17

18 *Resolved*, That the English District at convention merge visitation circuits 9 and 10 of the English District  
19 to formally be one Synod voting circuit.

1 **Resolution 3-02**  
2 *(Overture 3-02, p. 4-12)*

3  
4 **To Amend English District Bylaw 9.1.2**

5  
6 **Preamble**

7 At its December 2-3, 2022 meeting, the English District Board of Directors enacted an agreement with  
8 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) that would transfer governance of the Canada Corporation from  
9 the English District to LCEF. LCEF would replace the Canadian congregations of the English District as the  
10 sole member of the Canada Corporation and that, as the sole member, it will have the power to elect that  
11 entity's Board of Directors.

12  
13 The agreement with LCEF to assume governance of the Canada Corporation was done, so that LCEF could  
14 potentially provide loans to Lutheran congregations and church workers in Canada that held membership  
15 outside the English District. That included both SELC congregations and church workers, as well as  
16 congregations and church workers belonging to Lutheran Church—Canada.

17  
18 Authorization for LCEF to provide loans to entities not belonging to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
19 (LCMS) required The LCMS to amend its bylaws. The LCMS Bylaws were amended at the 2023 Synod  
20 Convention [2023 Resolution 9-10A], allowing LCEF to lend to non-Synod entities with the approval of the  
21 LCEF's governing board and the approval of The LCMS Board of Directors.

22  
23 LCEF's assumption of governance of the Canada Corporation received final approval by The LCMS Board  
24 of Directors when it met on November 22–23, 2024. On December 5, 2024, the Members and Board of  
25 Directors of English District Canada Corporation voted to amend the corporation's governing documents.  
26 These actions mean that the former subagency of the English District—the Canada Corporation—has now  
27 become an incorporated subagency of an agency of the Synod—LCEF.

28  
29 **Rationale**

30 With the Canada Corporation having become an incorporated subagency of LCEF, it is no longer under  
31 English District governance. The English District Board of Directors no longer has fiduciary responsibilities  
32 concerning the Canada Corporation. This makes representation of the Canada Corporation to the English  
33 District Board of Directors no longer necessary. Additionally, the change in status of the Canada  
34 Corporation includes a Board of Directors with members who are not members of English District  
35 congregations. Such an entity should not be empowered to make appointments to English District boards  
36 or committees.  
37 Therefore be it

38  
39 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 9.1.2 be amended as follows:

40 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

41 9.1.2 The Board of Directors shall have ~~six (6)~~ five (5) non-voting members:

42 (a) The Vice-Presidents of the District

43 (b) The Treasurer of the District

44 ~~(c) The Chairman of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Canada~~  
45 ~~Corporation)~~

1 **Resolution 3-03**

2 *(Overture 3-03, p. 4-14)*

3  
4 **To Amend English District Bylaw 5.1**

5  
6 **Rationale**

7 During the 2022–2025 triennium, a number of District officeholders resigned their offices and took up  
8 new roles, either within or outside of the District. This led to several individuals beginning their service  
9 during the triennium, while other individuals completed more than half a term prior to their resignation.

10  
11 As the nominating process for the 2025 District Convention reached its conclusion, questions were asked  
12 concerning the application of District Bylaw 5.1 to individuals who had served multiple terms in office but  
13 had resigned during their current term. These questions focused on whether the limitation on tenure  
14 would reset for them, particularly since they had not completed a full term but had not been out of office  
15 for an interval of less than a year. Due to how District Bylaw 5.1 currently reads, different opinions  
16 concerning the application of the limitation of tenure were being offered, with none being definitive.

17  
18 This situation can be addressed by adopting revised bylaw language that resembles that used in Synod  
19 Bylaw 3.2.4.2, which establishes limitation on tenure for members of Synod boards and commissions.  
20 Therefore be it

21  
22 *Resolved*, That District Bylaw 5.1 be amended as follows:

23 ~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

24 **5.1 Terms of Office and Tenure**

25 ~~5.1.1 Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for~~  
26 ~~Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years.~~

27 ~~5.1.2 A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) consecutive full three-~~  
28 ~~year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of~~  
29 ~~no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less~~  
30 ~~than two (2) years.~~

31  
32 5.1.1 Officers, Circuit Visitors, and members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,  
33 Committee for Stewardship, and Endowment Fund Board of Managers shall serve for a term of  
34 three (3) years.

35 5.1.2 Officers, Circuit Visitors, and members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations,  
36 Committee for Stewardship, and Endowment Fund Board of Managers shall be ineligible for re-  
37 election or reappointment after serving a total of four (4) successive terms.

38 (a) Such persons may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office or  
39 function after an interval of three (3) or more years.

40 (b) Such persons may be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of two (2) or more  
41 years.

42 (c) More than one-half of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.

43 (d) Any person who is ineligible for re-election or reappointment may be elected or appointed to  
44 another position.

1 **Resolution 3-04**  
2 *(Overture 3-02, p. 4-12 and 3-04, p. 4-15)*

3  
4 **To Amend District Bylaw 6.2.5**

5 **Rationale**

6 English District Endowment Fund Governing Document Paragraph 5.6 outlines a vacancy appointment  
7 process to fill any manager seat. That vacancy appointment process can be amended by the District Board  
8 of Directors without action by the District Convention. However, if changes to that vacancy appointment  
9 process are made within a triennium, the District Bylaws as they currently read would need to be  
10 amended. Accomplishing that may not be possible to do for months, if not years, until the District  
11 Convention is seated. This situation can be avoided by having District Bylaw 6.2.5 refer to the Endowment  
12 Fund Governing Document.

13  
14 Therefore be it

15  
16 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 6.2.5 be amended as follows:

17 ~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING

18 6.2.5 ~~Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled:~~

19 ~~(a) A vacancy in any regional manager position shall be filled by appointment by the District~~  
20 ~~President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.~~

21 ~~(b) A vacancy in the Canadian representative position shall be filled by appointment by the~~  
22 ~~Canada Corporation.~~

23 Vacancies that occur in the office of District Endowment Fund Manager shall be filled according  
24 to the process outlined in the English District Endowment Fund Governing Document.

1 **Resolution 3-05**

2 *(Overture 3-05, p. 4-16)*

3  
4 **To Amend English District Bylaws 5.4.4 and 9.1.1**

5  
6 WHEREAS, The elected voting membership of the English District Board of Directors currently consists of  
7 six (6) ministers of religion [four (4) ordained ministers—President, Secretary, one (1) ordained minister  
8 from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, and one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western  
9 Region—and two (2) commissioned ministers] and six (6) laypersons [one (1) from each District Region  
10 and two (2) from the District at-large] who are elected by the District Convention (EN Bylaws 5.2.2, 5.4.4,  
11 5.4.5, 5.5.3, and 9.1.1); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Regional representation by ordained ministers to the District Board of Directors is currently  
14 provided by the four Regional Vice-Presidents, who “shall advise the President, serve as his  
15 representatives, and assist him in bringing to the Board of Directors any needed recommendations” (EN  
16 Bylaw 4.3) and also serve as non-voting members of the Board of Directors (EN Bylaw 9.1.2); and

17  
18 WHEREAS, The English District may be better served by electing ordained ministers with various skill sets  
19 (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.) to its Board of Directors without limitation by District  
20 Region; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, The election of commissioned ministers as voting members of the Board of Directors is no  
23 longer limited by District Region (cf. 2018 Resolution 3-03A); and

24  
25 WHEREAS, The proposed bylaw amendments would not change the existing practice of the District  
26 Convention electing six (6) ministers of religion and six (6) laypersons to serve as voting members of the  
27 Board of Directors; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, The nomination process for election of ordained ministers to the Board of Directors at the 2025  
30 English District Convention has been conducted under the current limitation by District Region (EN Bylaw  
31 5.4.1); therefore be it

32  
33 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 5.4.4 be amended as follows:

34  
35 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

36  
37 5.4.4 The District Convention shall elect ~~one (1) ordained minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region,~~  
38 ~~one (1) ordained minister from the Midwestern or Western Region,~~ two (2) ordained ministers  
39 from the clergy roster of the District, two (2) commissioned ministers ~~from the commissioned~~  
40 minister roster of the District, and one (1) layperson from each of the four regions of the District:

- 41 (a) A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.  
42 (b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated  
43 from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be  
44 declared elected.

45 and be it further

46  
47 *Resolved*, That English District Bylaw 9.1.1 be amended as follows:

48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
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66  
67

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

- 9.1.1 The Board of Directors shall have no more than fifteen (15) voting members, as follows:
- (a) The President of the District
  - (b) The Secretary of the District
  - (c) Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained, ~~one of whom shall be elected from either the Eastern Region or Lake Erie Region and one whom shall be elected from either the Midwestern Region or Western Region~~
  - (d) Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
  - (e) One (1) layperson elected from each of the four regions of the District.
  - (f) Two (2) laypersons elected from the District at large
  - (g) Up to three (3) at-large laypersons appointed by the elected voting members of the Board of Directors to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)

and be it finally

*Resolved*, That these amendments to English District Bylaws 5.4.4 and 9.1.1 be enacted following the election of the Board of Directors at the 2025 English District Convention and become effective upon adoption.

1 **Resolution 3-06**

2 *(Overture 3-06, p. 4-18)*

3

4

**To Declare the Reverend Dr. Jamison Hardy “Bishop Emeritus”**

5

6 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Jamison J. Hardy served the English District for nine years as our Bishop and  
7 District President with honor; and

8

9 WHEREAS, He has accepted a call to serve as the President of the Concordia University System of The  
10 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

11

12 *Resolved*, That the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod bestow the title of “Bishop  
13 Emeritus” upon the Reverend Dr. Jamison J. Hardy; and be it further

14

15 *Resolved*, That the English District give thanks to our Lord and to Dr. Hardy for his years of honorable  
16 service.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2

3 **Resolution 4-01**

4 *(Overture 4-01, p. 4-19)*

5

6 **To Request a Comprehensive Review of the Theological Concerns and Practical**  
7 **Procedures When a Call Is Terminated or Self-Terminated**

8

9 **Preamble**

10 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has committed to caring for pastors and  
11 church workers in one of its seven mission priorities, to wit: "To promote and nurture the spiritual,  
12 emotional, financial, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers;" and  
13

14 WHEREAS, There are a number of reasons a person might self-terminate a Divine Call, e.g. age of  
15 retirement, mental or physical health concerns or incapacitations, personal conviction, etc.; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, There is biblical precedent for the non-death ending of a tenure of service, e.g. Numbers  
18 8:23-26; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) discussed termination of Divine  
21 Call in its 2003 Report "Theology and Practice of 'The Divine Call'" only from the perspective of outside  
22 termination and not self-termination; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Care should be given to the worker and the people of God served by the worker throughout  
25 the length of a Divine Call, including if a Call is terminated or self-terminated; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, There is a paucity of theological rationale and practical direction in the Synod for the many  
28 ways a Divine Call might be self-terminated before death; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, There can be confusion in the Church over legitimate and illegitimate reasons for terminating  
31 or self-terminating a Divine Call which might result in anxiety over Candidate status; therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved*, That church workers and congregations be given clear teaching on the theological and  
34 practical procedures when a Divine Call is terminated or self-terminated; and be it further  
35

36 *Resolved*, That the English District memorialize Synod to instruct the CTCR to offer clarity regarding  
37 theological and practical considerations for the ways a Divine Call might be legitimately or illegitimately  
38 terminated or self-terminated; and be it further  
39

40 *Resolved*, That the English District in convention memorialize Synod that the COP is to establish support  
41 and training materials for church workers who self-terminate their Divine Call legitimately; and be it  
42 further  
43

44 *Resolved*, That district presidents and circuit visitors work with the workers and congregations of their  
45 district to support their called church workers before, during, and after times of termination and self-  
46 termination; and be it further  
47

48 *Resolved*, That the English District convention send this resolution as an overture to the 2026 Synod  
49 convention.

1 **Resolution 4-02**

2 *(Overture 4-02, p. 4-20)*

3  
4 **To Direct the Office of National Mission to Perform a Systematic Review of All Registered Service**  
5 **Organizations (RSOs)**

6  
7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has historically emphasized accountability and  
8 doctrinal integrity in its affiliations, ensuring that those organizations receiving its endorsement or  
9 partnership remain faithful to the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions (Titus 1:9,  
10 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in  
11 sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it”); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, The LCMS recognizes certain organizations as Registered Service Organizations (RSOs),  
14 granting them recognition and endorsement, and in some cases financial and institutional support, on  
15 the basis that their mission and practices align with biblical and confessional Lutheran teaching, as  
16 outlined in LCMS Bylaw 6.2, which establishes the process and requirements for RSO status within the  
17 Synod; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 6.2.1 states that RSOs must "function in harmony with the programs of the  
20 boards of the Synod and in furtherance of the mission and ministry of the church", making it necessary  
21 to ensure ongoing compliance with doctrinal standards; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 6.2.6 places oversight of RSOs under the Office of National Mission (ONM),  
24 which evaluates and reviews RSOs to determine whether they remain in alignment with LCMS doctrine  
25 and practice; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Faithful stewardship requires ongoing review to ensure that these organizations continue to  
28 uphold sound doctrine and biblical practices; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, There is a growing need for transparency and accountability in the work of all organizations  
31 affiliated with the church, ensuring that they adhere to biblical principles in matters of faith, morality,  
32 and financial stewardship (Luke 16:10, “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much”); and

33  
34 WHEREAS, The LCMS must take seriously its responsibility to avoid supporting or endorsing  
35 organizations that have drifted from the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions  
36 (Romans 16:17, “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create  
37 obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them” ); therefore, be it

38  
39 *Resolved*, That the LCMS Office of National Mission, in coordination with the various mission offices and  
40 the council of presidents, conduct a systematic review of all RSOs, ensuring that each organization  
41 maintains alignment with biblical teaching and the doctrinal position of the LCMS; and be it further

42  
43 *Resolved*, That this review assess each RSO’s doctrinal stance, financial stewardship, and ethical  
44 practices in light of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

45  
46 *Resolved*, That the ONM, in coordination with the various mission offices and the council of presidents  
47 and in accordance with LCMS Bylaw 6.2.6, to take corrective action regarding any RSO found to be  
48 doctrinally or ethically out of alignment with LCMS teachings, including but not limited to placing the

49 organization on probationary status, requiring doctrinal correction, or, if necessary, revoking RSO status;  
50 and be it further

51  
52 *Resolved*, That the LCMS ONM, in coordination with the various mission office and the council of  
53 presidents, shall take immediate action to revoke the RSO status of any organization that is publicly  
54 known to be acting in direct opposition to the doctrine of the Synod, including but not limited to those  
55 engaged in unlawful activity, those who abet lawbreakers, those who affirm or promote same-sex  
56 relationships, or those who facilitate the adoption of children to same-sex couples; and be it further

57  
58 *Resolved*, That any RSO whose status has been revoked due to doctrinal or ethical violations may apply  
59 for reinstatement, provided that the organization demonstrates repentance, publicly renounces its  
60 previous errors, and affirms in writing its adherence to the biblical and confessional teachings of the  
61 LCMS; and be it further

62  
63 *Resolved*, That organizations found to be out of alignment with LCMS doctrine be given a clear path to  
64 correction and reinstatement, provided they demonstrate repentance and a return to biblical and  
65 confessional teaching (Galatians 6:1, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are  
66 spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness”); and be it further

67  
68 *Resolved*, That the findings of this review be reported in their entirety to the Synod and made available  
69 for the benefit of congregations and members of the LCMS; and be it finally

70  
71 *Resolved*, That the LCMS reaffirm its commitment to biblical stewardship, ensuring that all partnerships  
72 and affiliations reflect the mission and values of Christ’s Church as taught in Holy Scripture and  
73 confessed in the Lutheran Confessions.

1 **Resolution 4-03**  
2 *(Overture 4-03, p. 4-22)*

3  
4 **To Affirm the Board of Regents and Administration of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor**  
5 **in Their Efforts to Resolve Financial Deficits**  
6

7 WHEREAS, In February 2024 the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor  
8 (CUWAA), President Erik Ankerberg, and the administration of both campuses were confronted with  
9 financial realities that included a growing financial deficit; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor campus had been unable to generate auxiliary revenue sufficient to meet its  
12 needs leading to an annual average operational shortfall of \$4 million for the entire university; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, We recognize that CUWAA is a Lutheran higher education community of the Lutheran  
15 Church-Missouri Synod serving a focused educational mission in the world accountable for responsible  
16 stewardship; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Christians may disagree over how to handle challenging situations which may be concerning  
19 and painful for many to hear, especially students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and other CUAA and  
20 CUW stakeholders and the Ann Arbor community; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, The Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA have  
23 demonstrated resolve and intentional strategic thought as they considered a variety of initiatives  
24 designed to better position CUWAA for the future; and  
25

26  
27 WHEREAS, The Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA have  
28 demonstrated faithful Christian leadership in their service to the students, faculty, staff, and Synod in a  
29 fair, reasonable, and responsible manner recognizing that as sinful, fallible mortals their communication  
30 efforts could have been handled better; therefore be it  
31

32 *Resolved*, That the Board of Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA be  
33 commended for making the necessary decisions to ensure that CUWAA is financially secure and  
34 sustainable for future generations; and be it further  
35

36 *Resolved*, That by our prayers they would be encouraged in their responsibility to be "steadfast,  
37 immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"  
38 (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV); and be it further  
39

40 *Resolved*, That the English District continue to pray in good faith for the ongoing efforts of the Board of  
41 Regents, President Ankerberg, and the administration of CUWAA; and be it further  
42

43 *Resolved*, That the English District continue to pray for the students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and  
44 other stakeholders of Concordia Ann Arbor as these initiatives have and continue to have impact on the  
45 Ann Arbor campus; and be it finally

46

47 *Resolved*, That since CUWAA directly impacts our churches, schools, and ministries and in the spirit of  
48 fraternal support and encouragement; the English District receive a report at its next Convention  
49 regarding the outcomes, benefits, and the ongoing efforts of the Board of Regents, President Ankerberg,  
50 and the entire administration of CUWAA.

## 2025 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT

### District President

Synod Bylaw 4.3.1 requires the election of a District President by each District:

A president shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod by each district. Two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a circuit visitor for each circuit established by the district shall be elected from the clergy roster of the district. In the case of regional selections, nominees shall be from the clergy roster of the district with membership in a congregation in the designated region. (This shall also be the case for all other regional selections.)

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

District Bylaw 5.2.1 outlines the process that the English District has established for the nomination of candidates for District President:

Each member congregation of the District shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two (2) ordained ministers as candidates for District President:

- (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- (b) Nominations for District President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- (c) The names of the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
- (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the ordained clergy roster of the Synod to serve as District President. Sixty-four (64) congregations submitted valid District President nominating ballots that were received by the February 26, 2025 deadline.

Individuals nominated for District President are listed below by the number of nominating votes that each received:

Jeffrey Miskus	44
David Petersen	26
Luke Zimmerman	4
Michael Morehouse	2
Christopher Esget	1
Jamison Hardy	1
Justin Laughridge	1
Christopher Thoma	1

As established by District Bylaw 5.2.1(c), the slate of candidates for District President is limited to the five (5) individuals who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to stand for election. Of the eight (8) individuals receiving nominations, three (3) consented to stand for election. No floor nominations are permitted for this office.

The following ordained ministers, listed in alphabetical order, are the candidates for District President:

**Jeffrey Miskus**

**David Petersen**

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

### **The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus**

College: University of Windsor

BA / Psych / 1990

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, St. Catharines, ON

MDiv / Exegetics / 1994



#### Pastorates:

St. Mark's, Mississauga, ON

2000-present

St. John's, Sarman, SK

1994-2000

Peace, Martensville, SK

1994-2000

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Council of Presidents (attend quarterly meetings as English District Bishop/President). Chaired Committee on Congregational Health, reporting to Council of Presidents at November 2024, and February 2025 meetings. St. Louis Seminary EIIT Mentor (2012-2016); SMP Mentor (2013-2017)

District: President/Bishop (July 2024-present), 1st Vice President (2016-2024); 4th Vice President (2014-2016); Circuit Visitor (2002-2010); Secretary for English District's Canada Corporation Board of Directors (CCEF) (2010-2022); Chair of English District's Lake Erie Region's Annual Church Workers Conference (2015-2023); Chair of English District's Virtual Galas 2021 "Thy Strong Word" and 2022 "Rooted in Christ" (Raising funds for English District Endowment Fund)

Other: Community Fun Fair Board Member (raising funds for 2 Christian food banks in the city of Mississauga) (2012-2022); past soccer and hockey coach; chair for charity dinner for flood relief in Mozambique

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As President/Bishop and as Vice President I have had the joy of ordaining and installing pastors in our district for the past 9 years. During those years I have visited and counselled congregations and pastors and been honored to preach and teach at our district's conferences, LWML conventions, and other district conventions. As the chair of our Lake Erie Region's annual pastors conference, I led our committee in organizing the conference and obtaining speakers. As a member of the English District Board of Directors (2014-present), I have faithfully attended the quarterly meetings, leading devotions and supporting the mission work of our English District. As chair of the two English District galas, I organized fund raising resulting in over \$35,000 for our district missions. I've also served our English District as a Board Member/Secretary of our English District's Canada Corporation (Canadian Church Extension Fund) Board of Directors which manages the investments made to the fund, sets interest rates, and considers loan requests from congregations in Canada seeking to borrow funds for capital projects. This has given me experience in financial accountability. As a Vice President of the English District, I was an advisory member of the English District Board of Directors which directs the President/Bishop in his ministry and oversight of the English District. I have memorized Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew's Gospel and have preached it to many congregations, pastors conferences, and seminary events. Other passages I have committed to memory are chapters 14, 15, 16, and 17 of John's Gospel, chapter 13 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, and Proverbs 31:10-31. I enjoy "preaching" these memorized passages in many contexts.

Personal Statement: With a prayerful heart, the President/Bishop serves our district by visiting congregations and encouraging faithfulness to Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. He supports our congregations in caring for their pastors and other church workers. Reminding our congregations to live out their baptismal lives, the President/Bishop proclaims Jesus Christ and His mission of salvation as our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord. In times of thanksgiving the President/Bishop represents your sister congregations and rejoices with you. In times of trial, the President/Bishop uplifts your pastors, church workers, and congregations, praying for them and encouraging them in the Lord. In times of tragedy, he undergirds you with prayer, connecting you with helpful resources from our synod and district. In times of pastoral transition, he shepherds your congregation in calling a pastor. Working together with our synod's leadership, the President/Bishop joyfully carries out the resolutions our district and synod have adopted in convention.

Statement of Candidacy: *I give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ that He called me to serve as your President/Bishop over the past year. It has been an honor to serve our English District in a variety of offices for over 20 years. I served as Vice President for eight years and was blessed to work with our English District's Board of Directors and district staff in quarterly meetings and special projects. For the 12 years before that I served as a Circuit Visitor.*

*My priorities as President/Bishop will continue to be:*

- *Faithfulness to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions*
- *Planting Congregations*
- *Strengthening Smaller Congregations*
- *Church Worker Wellness*
- *Maintaining Financial Accountability and Security*

*I seek to encourage faithfulness to Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions through personal visits to congregations. Over the past year I've visited over 50 congregations in our District reminding them to live their baptized lives in Christ Jesus. Seeking to bring a pastoral emphasis to the office of President/Bishop, I've connected personally with each of the 150 active pastors of our English District in one-on-one online meetings. I have learned about their families and ministries, prayed with them, and supported them. This speaks to another key priority which is working together with our synod's leadership to strengthen the health and well-being of our church workers. Hand in hand with faithfulness to His Word is our Lord's mission of salvation. Planting congregations (and starting schools) where faithful Word and Sacrament ministry proclaims "Christ crucified" is a priority for me as President/Bishop. Of course, strengthening our smaller congregations remains a huge priority. Many need pastors but are not able to afford them. I am committed to working with our Regional Vice Presidents and Circuit Visitors to make certain that called pastors will bring regular Word and Sacrament ministry to these congregations.*

**The Rev. Dr. David Petersen**

College: Central Michigan Univ., Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
Other Degrees: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
Other Degrees: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BS / History / 1991  
MDiv / 1996  
STM / 2013  
DMin / 2018



Pastorates:

Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN 2000-present  
Grace, Fairgrove, MI 1996-2000

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Currently Voting Member LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations; Ongoing adjunct professor in DMin and Continuing Ed courses for CTSFW; Set Apart to Serve Committee; Plenary Speaker for district pastors' conferences in the Northwest District, Michigan District, South Wisconsin District, and South

Minnesota District; Ongoing assignments for the Lutheran Witness

District: Currently serving on the nominations committee; Served on the Board of Directors for the English District; Plenary Speaker 2018 English District Convention; Lead church planter and pastor for planting Agnus Dei in Marshall, MI for the English District

Other: Supervising seminary field work students and vicarages, 2000-present; Contributing editor and writer for Gottesdienst: The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy, 2008-present; Regular Guest on Issues, Etc., 2010-present; Helped establish and on school board for Redeemer Classical School, Ft. Wayne, IN, 2017-present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Michigan Army National Guard, 1986-1994; Infantryman and Armor Officer 1986-1994; Founding chair of the Akron-Fairgrove Ministerial Alliance, 1997-2000; Founding chair of the Bach Collegium - Ft. Wayne, 2001-2011; Adjunct English Professor for Ivy Tech Community College in Ft. Wayne, 2010-2013

Personal Statement: District presidents are responsible for overseeing the spiritual, doctrinal, and administrative needs of their districts. They need some general business competence and leadership skills, but for leading the Church as Bishop theological acumen, sensitivity, and humility are also essential (1 Tim 3:1-7). The English District bishop has an additional duty, unique to our position among districts. He must be willing to fight for the survival of the district, defending it against those in the Synod who may view our non-geographic nature as redundant. Our bishop must be willing and able to stand against attacks and to advocate for the goodness of our district and its expansion. He is under a great deal of scrutiny and must work diligently to guide and encourage the district's stewardship and outreach, to build trust and unity, all while also providing pastoral care and ensuring theological faithfulness and integrity (1 Tim 4:6-11).

Statement of Candidacy: *It is a humbling honor to be considered for this office. Thank you. In everything that I do, by God's grace, I am fully committed to the Scriptures, the Book of Concord, and my ordination vows. If elected I would strive to build upon the district's history and strengths, including its worship life, outreach, and service to the synod at large. I would do this by working with the Board of Directors and Vice Presidents to establish measurable and obtainable goals. These goals would be pursued by teaching*

*and studying together, by budgeting, and, to a lesser degree, by programming. They would be evaluated and modified over time as they are reached or prove that they need to be tweaked (2 Tim 3:10-17).*

*I am particularly mindful of the unique challenges that congregations and pastors face in our day. Thus, I would seek to engage and support the leadership of our churches and our critically needed circuit visitors to pursue avenues of fruitful ministry. I would intentionally uphold pastors as they navigate their many responsibilities. And, as an essential duty, I would seek to expand and establish new congregations where and when the Lord sees fit and support foreign missions (Mt 28: 18-20). The work of the bishop is a high calling. As God gives strength, I would engage it with the same rigor that I have employed in my 25 years of service in Fort Wayne (1 Tim 3:1).*

## **2025 ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT**

### **District Vice-Presidents**

Synod Bylaw 4.3.1 requires the election of Vice-Presidents by each District:

A president shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod by each district. Two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a circuit visitor for each circuit established by the district shall be elected from the clergy roster of the district. In the case of regional selections, nominees shall be from the clergy roster of the district with membership in a congregation in the designated region. (This shall also be the case for all other regional selections.)

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

District Bylaw 5.3.1 outlines the process that the English District has established for the nomination and election of its District Vice-Presidents:

Each member congregation of a region of the District shall be entitled to nominate two (2) ordained ministers from the clergy roster of the District who hold membership in a District congregation within its region as candidates for Vice-President:

- (a) Six months prior to opening date of the District Convention, the District Secretary shall send a letter to the member congregations of the District requesting each congregation to submit nominations.
- (b) Nominations for Vice-President shall be accepted by the District Secretary up to four months prior to the opening date of the District Convention. He shall report in the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes.
- (c) The names of the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the most nominating votes and consent to serve shall form the slate of candidates. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
- (d) The District Secretary shall request from each candidate a description of the candidate's experience and qualifications, as well as a statement concerning his candidacy. These shall be published and distributed to all the convention delegates at least six weeks prior to the convention.

Following this nominating process, each congregation of the English District had opportunity to nominate two members of the ordained clergy roster of the District holding congregational membership within its region to serve as District Vice-President. Fifty-three (53) congregations submitted qualifying District Vice-President nominating ballots that were received by the February 26, 2025 deadline (*Eastern Region – 14; Lake Erie Region – 17; Midwestern Region – 8; Western Region – 14*).

Individuals receiving qualifying nominations for District Vice-President are listed below by District Region and the number of nominating votes that each received:

**Eastern Region**

Robert Kieselowsky	13
Martin Ehrhardt	1
Christopher Seifferlein	1

**Midwestern Region**

Anthony Oliphant	6
Fred Reaman	1
Robert Rogers	1

**Lake Erie Region**

Zachary Marklevitz	13
Jeffrey Miskus	2
Philip Gai	1
James Leistico	1
Larry Loree, Jr.	1
Derek Mathers	1
David Petersen	1

**Western Region**

Michael Morehouse	13
Steven Resner	3
Kevin Belter	1
James Huenink	1

As established by District Bylaw 5.3.1(c), the slate of candidates for District Vice-President is limited to the three (3) ordained ministers from each region who receive the highest number of nominating votes and consent to stand for election. No floor nominations are permitted for this office.

The nominating process for Western Region Vice-President led to multiple individuals with the third-highest number of nominating votes consenting to serve, a situation not explicitly addressed in the current District Bylaws. To deal with that situation, the principle established for the elections of Synod President and First Vice-President in Synod Bylaw 3.12.2.1(b) was followed: “In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate. ***In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.***” [emphasis added] This results in four (4) candidates appearing on the ballot for Vice-President from the Western Region.

The following ordained ministers, listed in alphabetical order by District Region, are the candidates for District Vice-President:

**Eastern Region:**

Robert Kieselowsky

**Western Region:**

Kevin Belter  
James Huenink  
Michael Morehouse  
Steven Resner

**Lake Erie Region:**

James Leistico  
Zachary Marklevitz

**Midwestern Region:**

Anthony Oliphant

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION

### **The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky**

College: Jerusalem University  
Philadelphia Biblical University  
University of Virginia  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Semester Abroad / 1998  
BS / Biblical Studies / 2000  
MEd / 2007  
MDiv / 2011



#### **Pastorates:**

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, PA (Exec. Dir.)	2012-present
St. John, Springfield, PA	2012-present
Immanuel, Alexandria, VA (Headmaster)	2010-2012
Trinity, Fairfax, VA (High School History Teacher)	2002-2007

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD**

LCMS: Vicarage Supervisor, 2016-present

District: Appointed Vice President, October 2024; Board of Directors, Vice Chairman, 2022-2024; Committee on Nominations, 2018-present; Eastern Region Pastors Conference Worship Coordinator, 2019-2024; Mission Council, 2018-2024; Traveled to Hong Kong and China with District leadership in December 2016; Circuit Visitor, 2015-2022

Other: Philadelphia Federal Detention Center Bible Study Teacher; Leland-Ginnodo Homeowners Association President, 2022-2024

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Helped initiate two new congregations in Philadelphia; Assisted in the colloquy process of several men; Assisted Ethiopian, Indonesian and Korean congregations in their partnership with the English District; Taught high school history for five years at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, VA - An interdenominational school, it introduced me to Christians from a number of different backgrounds. I served on several committees, assisted other teachers with educational technology issues, and coached the varsity baseball team.

Personal Statement: I see the work of Vice President as supporting the bishop however it is needed. I understand it to include representing the district when the bishop cannot be present. It also includes assisting with situations at congregations enduring a difficult time as well as coming alongside a pastor in need of support. Another important obligation is the organization of the regional fall pastors conference. Overall, I will purpose to be helpful to the bishop as he leads the district.

Statement of Candidacy: *It has been a tremendous blessing to serve in the English District. Philadelphia is a good example of the usefulness and necessity of our district. Historically, my region has not been a priority of the geographical districts. The situation brings to mind the gut-wrenching words of Matthew 9, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The English District has filled the gap and established a number of new congregations in my region over the decades. I am eager to give back and help move the district forward as it continues to be a blessing to the Synod in geographic areas of great need.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION**

**The Rev. James Leistico**

College: Concordia University, Irvine  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Religious Studies / 1997  
MDiv / 2001



Pastorates:

Peace, Windsor, ON	2017-present
St. Peter/St. John, Evansville/Ruma, IL	2001-2017

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS:

District: Southern Illinois District (SID) Pastors' Conference Program Committee, 2005-08; SID Congregational Constitution Committee Chairman, 2006-17; SID Mission Board member, 2009-2015; English District Canada Corporation Board of Directors, 2019-2024 and Board Secretary 2021-24; English District Circuit Visitor, Circuit #8 - Canada West, 2020-present

Other:

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Personal Statement:

Statement of Candidacy: *I am honored to have been nominated for the position of Vice President for the Lake Erie region. If I am elected, I will serve the Lord and His Church to the best of my ability informed by the wisdom and experiences He has granted me in my time as pastor and circuit visitor.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)**

**The Rev. Zachary Marklevitz**

College: Moody Bible Institute

BA / Youth Ministry / 2008

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

MDiv / 2016



Pastorates:

Grace, Wyoming, MI

2021-present

Grace, Redford, MI

2016-2021

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Pastoral Delegate - 2023 LCMS Convention

District: Vice President Lake Erie Region (appointed), 2024-present; Church plant:

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Olive, MI

Other: Board member, West Michigan Lutheran High School

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Personal Statement: I am deeply honored to have been appointed Vice President last year. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve and assist our district's congregations, pastors, and laypeople while working alongside our Bishop and the Board of Directors. Moving forward, I am willing to serve and help in any way that God wills.

Statement of Candidacy: *If elected, I'm eager to use my recent experience as Vice President to faithfully support the Bishop in his oversight of our district. I would continue to work alongside him, other Vice Presidents, the Board of Directors, Circuit Visitors, and pastors, to help support the work of our congregations in service to Christ's Church and to bring biblical unity by the grace of God.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – MIDWESTERN REGION**

**The Rev. Anthony Oliphant**

College: New Mexico State University  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BS / Biology / 2005  
MDiv / 2010  
STM / Systematics / 2018



Pastorates:  
Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL  
St. Peter's-North Plato, Hampshire, IL

2015-present  
2011-2015

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD  
LCMS: Reformation 500 Blog Editor and Manager; *Lutheran Witness* Contributor; *Reporter* Contributor

District: Circuit Visitor, Chicago-North, 2016-present; Various Floor Committees; Regional Pastors Conference Programming, 2024

Other: St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society, Treasurer and Board of Directors, 2012-present; Concordia University-Chicago, Adjunct Theology Professor, 2020-present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:

Personal Statement: Due to the geographical reach of the English District, the office of district vice-president serves as a connection between the various circuits and congregations in each region and the wider district as a whole. As such, it is important that the vice-presidents be faithful to our teaching and practice, accurate and precise in communication of these and in district proceedings, and honest in assessing the needs of his region and the district.

Statement of Candidacy: *If elected to this position, I will strive to serve with faithfulness to all that our Lord has taught and desires for our congregations and Church as we walk in the fellowship that comes through His Word and Sacraments. I will seek to speak with candor and understanding to the congregations of my region and to the district. I will pray continually for wisdom in the various tasks appointed to me in advising, representing, and assisting as called upon.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION**

**The Rev. Kevin Belter**

College: Concordia University Wisconsin  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Philosophy & Pre-sem / 2013  
MDiv / 2017



Pastorates:

Messiah, Danville, CA	2022-present
Redeemer, Salt Lake City, UT	2017-2022

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Vicarage Supervisor, 2022-present; Pastoral voting delegate, 2023 LCMS Convention; Break-out presenter for Higher Things at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2024

District: Rocky Mountain District, “Live the Faith” floor committee member, 2022; selected Circuit Visitor for new triennium

Other: Team member of a National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) visit, 2021; Presenter for 2024 San Francisco Bay area Conference of the Holy Cross under the theme “Common Sense and the Common Good in Diversities of Practice”

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Part-time elementary logic and Latin teacher for 5th-8th graders while serving in Salt Lake City

Personal Statement: My understanding of the duties of a District Vice-President is that they involve fidelity to the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Lutheran Confessions, brotherly concern for the pastors and church workers of our district, and a desire to patiently walk together as we grow, mature, and bear fruit that in Christ, will abide. The Vice-Presidents serve to assist the District President in their regions, encouraging pastors with the same care and means of grace that sustain and nourish their members.

Statement of Candidacy: *If elected and given the honor to serve, I would discharge the pertinent duties of this Office in faithfulness to the Word of our Lord and the Lutheran Confessions, for the building up of the body of Christ, to the best of my ability.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (cont.)**

**The Rev. James Huenink**

College: Concordia University, Mequon  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

BA / Pastoral Ministry / 2003  
MDiv / 2008



Pastorates:

First, El Cajon, CA	2021-present
Concordia, Berwyn, IL	2012-2021
St. James, Chicago, IL	2008-2012

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Adjunct Professor, Concordia University-Chicago, 2021-present

District: Circuit Visitor, 2014-2021; Circuit Visitor, 2022-present, Planning Committee-Midwest Regional Conference, 2015-2017

Other: Director, Digital Archive for Urban Congregations; Historian focused on Chicago Lutheran history and black Lutheran history; owner Huenink Photography

Prior service on a Board of Directors: I have served in churches using the standard board model and the Carver model. I also lead a 501(c)(3) with a board focused on urban church history.

Personal Statement: I am happy to serve if selected.

Statement of Candidacy: *After serving in and among two geographical districts, I have come to appreciate the English District's unique culture, congeniality, and organization.*

## CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (cont.)

### The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College: Adrian College

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Seminary: Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

BBA / German & Management / 1987

MDiv / Historical Theology / 1998

DMin / Pastoral Ministry / 2017



#### Pastorates:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ

1998-present

U.S. Army Chaplain Corps/Phoenix, Kuwait, & Iraq

1999-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: : CTSFW Vicar Supervisor: 2014-2015, 2016-present; Operation Barnabas National Advisory Group, 2007-Present; Concordia University, Irvine: LCMS elected Pastoral Regent: 2010-2016; CTSFW: Summer Fieldwork (Summer Vicar)

Supervisor, 2000 and 2002

District: English District Western Region Vice-President, 2d VP, 2022-present; AZ South Circuit Lutheran Servanthood School Teacher, 1999-present; AZ South Circuit Visitor, 2019-2022; U of AZ Campus Christian Center Board, Inc. Vice-President, 2007-2018; District Operation Barnabas Representative, 2009-2016

Other: 180th Field Artillery Regimental Chaplain, 2019-present; Association of Theological Schools, Visitation Team, Peer Reviewer for CSL Accreditation, 2023; U.S. Army Signal Corps, PV1 - 2LT, 1982-1985; US Army Aviation, 2Lt - MAJ, 1986-1999; Saddlebrooke Rotary Member, 1999-2004; Lay Church Council Secretary and Vice-President, 1990-1994

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Financial consultant (Series 7 & 63 licensed, Blue skied in OH and MI, 1988-2006; Fraternal Insurance Counselor, 1989-2006; Retail Farm and Automotive manager, 1980-1988

Personal Statement: District Vice-Presidents are servants of the District, given through election, to support the District President/Bishop, along with the district congregations. Their roles in the District mirror those of the Synod Vice-Presidents in the Synod:

1. Upon the President's request, VPs represent him in all his functions.
2. In case of the disability, a deposition from office, or the death of the District President, the VPs, in order of their rank of office, advance to the President's place, with full power, until the expiration of his term of office.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am humbled, again, by the congregational nominations of me for service in the office of English District Vice-President, Western Region. I am willing and able, using the skills God continues to provide, to perform the duties of the Office of District Vice-President if re-elected. Catalina Lutheran Church, my calling congregation, is supportive of this work. My priority will be to advise the Bishop/ President, as he requests, as well as to represent him in all areas as he assigns. As part of that, I do and will support the District's and LCMS' annual and triennial goals.*

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (cont.)**

**The Rev. Steven Resner**

College: Indiana State, Terre Haute, IN  
College: IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

US History / 1969-1971  
US History / 1984-1987  
MDiv / Exegetical / 1991



**Pastorates:**

Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ (vacancy)	2018-2022
Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ (vacancy)	2017-2018
Calvary, Plymouth, IN	1997-2014
Grace, South Holland, IL	1994-1997
Mt. Calvary, Fullerton, NE	1991-1994

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD**

**LCMS:** Pastoral Delegate, LCMS Convention, 2001; LSB Lectionary Congregation Field Test; ESSB Every Sunday Service Bulletin Writer, 2015-2018

**District:** Circuit Visitor, 12 years (Indiana District); Circuit Visitor, 4 years; Vicarage Supervisor for 7 vicars, 2000-2013 (Indiana District); Vacancy Pastor, 2017-2022 (PSW and English District)

**Other:** Planning Committee member for recycling and code enforcement; Elected mayor, Fullerton, NE; Member, Education Service Unit #7, Columbus, NE; Opening Prayer Cook County Board of Commissioners, Chicago, IL; Member, Ministerium Welfare Board, South Holland, IL

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** Member of Code Enforcement for Marion County Health Department, Indianapolis, IN

**Personal Statement:** The Office of District Vice-President is one of service and of communicator: service to the pastors and congregations of a district region, and a communicator for the flow of information between the regional circuit visitors, congregations, to and from the district office, including the bishop, and all other boards and staff.

**Statement of Candidacy:** *I have no candidacy in place or in mind for the Office of District Vice-President. Several pastors asked if I would allow my name to be placed in nomination for the office, and I consented. My priority is to be an able and clear communicator between the District office and the pastors and congregations of the English District regions, and in all situations that are of most concern of the District and its regions.*

## 2025 CIRCUIT VISITOR SELECTION RESULTS

Election of Circuit Visitors involves a multi-step process, as outlined in Synod Bylaw 5.2.2:

- (1) Each Visitation Circuit holds a meeting of its Circuit Forum to select a Circuit Visitor.
- (2) The slate of Circuit Visitors selected is then presented to the District Convention, which has the right to alter that slate by amendment.
- (3) The District Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which will constitute election of the Circuit Visitors.

The following individuals have been selected to serve as Circuit Visitors for the 2025–2028 triennium:

**Circuit 1 (New York/New Jersey)**

Rev. Curtis Stephens

**Circuit 2 (Philadelphia)**

Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

**Circuit 3 (Florida)**

Rev. Eric Linthicum

**Circuit 4 (Georgia)**

Rev. Aaron Sterling

**Circuit 5 (Buffalo)**

Rev. David Walsh

**Circuit 6 (Pittsburgh)**

Rev. Justin Schmidt

**Circuit 7 (Canada–East)**

Rev. Gerald Luck

**Circuit 8 (Canada–West)**

Rev. James Leistico

**Circuit 9 (Cleveland–Akron)**

*No Election – Proposed Circuit Merger*

**Circuit 10 (Cleveland–West)**

Rev. Robert Weldon

**Circuit 11 (Detroit–South)**

Rev. Bradford Scott

**Circuit 12 (Detroit–North)**

Rev. Timothy Holzerland

**Circuit 13 (Western Michigan)**

Rev. Alexander Sabol

**Circuit 14 (Indiana)**

Rev. Shawn Barnett

**Circuit 15 (Chicago–North)**

Rev. Daniel Greg

**Circuit 16 (Chicago–South)**

Rev. Douglas Hoag

**Circuit 17 (Milwaukee)**

Rev. Fred Reaman

**Circuit 18 (Saint Louis)**

Rev. Jon Gruen

**Circuit 19 (Arizona–North)**

Rev. Brian Crane

**Circuit 20 (Arizona–South)**

Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg

**Circuit 21 (Nevada/Utah)**

Rev. Stanley Lacey

**Circuit 22 (San Diego)**

Rev. James Huenink

**Circuit 23 (Los Angeles)**

Rev. Titus Utecht

**Circuit 24 (San Francisco)**

Rev. Kevin Belter

**ENGLISH DISTRICT NOMINATION REPORT**  
**Secretary, Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers,**  
**District Committee on Nominations, Synod Committee for Convention Nominations**

Each District of the Synod is required to elect a Secretary [Synod Bylaw 4.3.1], a Board of Directors [Synod Bylaw 4.5.1], and a Committee on Nominations [Synod Bylaw 4.7.2]. These requirements are fulfilled by the District, as it elects a Secretary from the clergy roster of the District; a Board of Directors with ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and laypersons elected with regional limitation or at-large [District Bylaw 9.1.1]; and a Committee on Nominations with ordained ministers and commissioned ministers or laypersons elected from each region [District Bylaw 3.5].

Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 permits Districts to develop their own nominating process in harmony with the provisions of the Synod Bylaws:

Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

Additionally, Districts may elect other officers, boards, and commissions as are required for execution of the business of the District [Synod Constitution XII.4]. Using that authority, the English District has established a Board of Managers for its Endowment Fund, which has four members elected by the Convention [Endowment Fund Governing Document 5.3.1].

The nominating process for the Board of Directors is outlined in District Bylaw 5.4; the nominating process for District Secretary, Committee on Nominations, Endowment Fund Managers, and Other Boards or Committees is outlined in District Bylaw 5.5. Following those processes, congregations of the District, members of the District, and members of District congregations had opportunity to nominate individuals for election as Secretary, Directors of the District, members of the Committee on Nominations, and Managers of the Endowment Fund [District Bylaw 5.4.1; District Bylaw 5.5.1]. This process began on September 26, 2024; the deadline for submitting nominations to the Committee on Nominations was February 26, 2025 [District Bylaw 5.4.1(a); District Bylaw 5.5.1(b)].

The English District is also required to elect one member and an alternate to the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations in preparation for the 2026 Synod Convention. Based upon the rotation of Districts and the assigned roles established by Synod Bylaws 3.12.3.2 and 3.12.3.3, the individuals to be elected are to be professional church workers. Nominations for this position were solicited through the process outlined in District Bylaw 5.5.

The Committee on Nominations has prepared a slate of candidates for election by the Convention Delegates [District Bylaw 5.4.2; District Bylaw 5.5.1]. The slate of candidates and their biographical statements, grouped by office, are listed on the following pages. The slate of candidates can be amended by the Convention, following the process for floor nominations [District Bylaws 5.4.3 and 5.5.2].

## CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

Rev. Justin Laughridge

Rev. Justin Schmidt

Rev. Chad Trouten

### **The Rev. Justin Laughridge**

College: Concordia University, River Forest, IL

BA / Sec. Ed. / 2004

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

MDiv / 2008

### **Pastorates:**

St. Luke, North York, ON (Senior Pastor)

2019-Present

Morning Star & Crossroads, San Diego, CA (Sole Pastor)

2013-2019

First, El Cajon, CA (Associate Pastor)

2008-2013

### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

LCMS: Convention Pastoral Delegate, 2016; Trained for ONM “Church Planting Simplified” Initiative, 2022-Present

District: District Board of Directors - Lake Erie/Eastern Pastoral Rep., 2024-Present; Mission Action Team Member, 2012-Present; Mission Action Team Co-Chairman, 2015-Present; Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission FORO District Representative, 2016-Present; Advisory Team for Multiple District Church Plants/Missions, 2022-Present; Convention Pastoral Voting Delegate, 2009, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2025; Convention Floor Committee #1 - Missions/Evangelism, 2015, 2018

Other: Member & Treasurer for Finch Public School Parent Council, 2020-2024; Community Liaison Committee for Willowdale/North York, ON, 2023-Present; Member of Willowdale Church Coalition & Leaders Summit - Clergy, Ordained, 2021-Present; Community Youth Basketball Coach, 2009-2015

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Current Member of the English District LCMS Board of Directors, representing the Lake Erie and Eastern Regions as Ordained Voting Member.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I have served on policy-based Governing Boards in both our local congregation at St. Luke Lutheran (2019-Present) and the English District LCMS (2024-Present). In both cases I have served as Pastoral Representative on each respective Board. Since both are policy-based, this has included the writing, monitoring, and execution of organizational policies, as well as receiving and monitoring the reporting of staff and other stakeholders as appropriate and necessary.

Statement of Candidacy: *It has been my joy and honor in the Lord to serve English District congregations on both the East and West Coasts, in both the United States and Canada, for the past 17 years. This wide variety of ministry contexts in our borderless district has given me insight into how our district operates in many settings, as well as the joys, the concerns, the hopes, and the challenges of our congregations. If elected, I will, with God's help, serve to the very best of my abilities in furthering the mission, the vision, and the values that we share as Christ followers and as an English District. It has been a sincere joy and blessing to serve our district in a variety of capacities over the years, and I would be honored to continue doing so.*

## CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY (cont.)

### **The Rev. Justin Schmidt**

College: Concordia University, Ann Arbor  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

BA / Religious Studies / 1997  
MDiv / 2002

#### Pastorates:

Peace, McMurray, PA	2019-Present
Christ, Delavan, IL/St. Luke, San Jose, IL	2012-2019
Peace, Thomasboro, IL	2007-2012
North Dakota National Guard	2006-2007
St. Peters, Devils Lake, ND	2002-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Junior/Senior Pastor Representative for LWML English District; Circuit Visitor; Member of Ministerial Health Commission

Other: Board Member (Urban Ministry), Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM); Board Member (President) Upper St. Clair Community Foundation.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army for several years, where I received extensive training in leadership, ranging from small groups to large organizations. Through this experience, I developed a deep understanding of both leading effectively and supporting those in leadership roles.

Prior service on a Board of Directors: I served as the President of my community foundation, overseeing both paid and volunteer staff, as well as managing a substantial endowment. Our foundation collaborated with private entities and local government to drive community improvement initiatives and support the local school system. Additionally, we awarded scholarships annually. Through this experience, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the role of a board within an organization and the critical oversight responsibilities it holds.

Statement of Candidacy: *I wish to utilize the years of experience the Lord has blessed me with in the local parish to contribute to the success and Christ-centered growth of both the district and its ministry.*

**CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY (cont.)**

**The Rev. Chad Trouten**

College: University Of Toledo, Toledo, OH  
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary

BA / Philosophy / 1992  
MDiv / 1995

Pastorates:

Bethany, Fort Wayne, IN  
Prince of Peace, Hartford City, IN  
Faith, Roanoke, IN

2001-Present  
1996-2001  
1996-1999

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, English District; Circuit Representative to Synod Convention, English District

Other: President at local and regional level of a German folk choir organization; Vice President of a German folk choir organization at the national level; President of the local Thrivent chapter for 4 years in the early 2000s

Statement of Candidacy: *If chosen, I will serve with careful attention to the Constitution and Bylaws of our district for the benefit of our mutual covenants of love on God's kingdom.*

## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **ORDAINED (Eastern/Lake Erie)**

Rev. Justin Laughridge  
Rev. Larry Loree  
Rev. Justin Schmidt  
Rev. Luke Zimmerman

### **ORDAINED (Midwestern/Western)**

Rev. Todd Arnold  
Rev. James Huenink  
Rev. Dr. Mark Wood

### **COMMISSIONED (At Large)**

Vicki Helmling  
Barbara Hemme  
Dwayne Jobst  
Rod Lane  
Jennifer Miller

### **LAY (Eastern)**

Carol George  
Stephen Kurtz  
Mark Pfundstein

### **LAY (Lake Erie)**

Jonathan Busarow  
Thomas Habitz  
Mark Harris

### **LAY (Midwestern)**

Chris Cassel

### **LAY (Western)**

Thomas Honebrink  
Glen Piper  
Kristin Wellik

### **LAY (At-Large)**

*This slate of candidates will be announced at the District Convention. All candidates not elected to a Lay Regional Board of Directors position shall form the ballot for the two Lay At-Large Board of Directors positions.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS*

#### **The Rev. Justin Laughridge**

College: Concordia University, River Forest, IL

BA / Sec. Ed. / 2004

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

MDiv / 2008

#### Pastorates:

St. Luke, North York, ON (Senior Pastor)

2019-Present

Morning Star & Crossroads, San Diego, CA (Sole Pastor)

2013-2019

First, El Cajon, CA (Associate Pastor)

2008-2013

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Convention Pastoral Delegate, 2016; Trained for ONM “Church Planting Simplified” Initiative, 2022-Present

District: District Board of Directors, 2024-Present; Mission Action Team Member, 2012-Present; Mission Action Team Co-Chairman, 2015-Present; Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission FORO District Representative, 2016-Present; Advisory Team for Multiple District Church Plants/Missions, 2022-Present; Convention Pastoral Voting Delegate, 2009, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2025; Convention Floor Committee #1 - Missions/Evangelism, 2015, 2018

Other: Member and Treasurer for Finch Public School Parent Council, 2020-2024; Community Liaison Committee for Willowdale/North York, ON, 2023-Present; Member of Willdowdale Church Coalition and Leaders Summit - Clergy, Ordained, 2021-Present; Community Youth Basketball Coach, 2009-2015

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Current Member of the English District LCMS Board of Directors, representing the Lake Erie and Eastern Regions as Ordained Voting Member.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I have served on policy-based Governing Boards in both our local congregation at St. Luke Lutheran (2019-Present) and the English District LCMS (2024-Present). In both cases I have served as Pastoral Representative on each respective Board. Since both are policy-based, this has included the writing, monitoring, and execution of organizational policies, as well as receiving and monitoring the reporting of staff and other stakeholders as appropriate and necessary.

Statement of Candidacy: *It has been my joy and honor in the Lord to serve English District congregations on both the East and West Coasts, in both the United States and Canada, for the past 17 years. This wide variety of ministry contexts in our borderless district has given me insight into how our district operates in many settings, as well as the joys, the concerns, the hopes, and the challenges of our congregations. If elected, I will, with God's help, serve to the very best of my abilities in furthering the mission, the vision, and the values that we share as Christ followers and as an English District. It has been a sincere joy and blessing to serve our district in a variety of capacities over the years, and I would be honored to continue doing so.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Larry Loree Jr.**

College: Concordia University, Mequon  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Mgmt & Comm / 1998  
MDiv / Pastoral Theology / 2002

#### Pastorates:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI	2021-Present
All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA	2016-2021
Holy Ghost, Monroe, MI	2008-2016
Camp of the Pines, Pottersville, NY	2007-2008
Zion, Detroit, MI	2006-2007
Immanuel, Steger, IL	2002-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Pastors Conference Committee - Northern Illinois District, 2004-2006

Other: Retired after 25 years in the Air National Guard: 19 years as a chaplain and 6 years as a chaplain assistant.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Although I haven't personally served on a board of directors, my previous experience in a position that reported to and collaborated with an organization's board has given me valuable insight. I understand the critical role a strong board of directors plays in providing oversight and governance for the District.

Statement of Candidacy: *If elected to serve, I will diligently strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position in a way that is faithful to the Gospel of Christ and for the good of the District.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Justin Schmidt**

College: Concordia College, Ann Arbor  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

BA / Religious Studies / 1997  
MDiv / 2002

#### Pastorates:

Peace, McMurray, PA	2019-Present
Christ, Delavan, IL/St. Luke, San Jose, IL	2012-2019
Peace, Thomasboro, IL	2007-2012
North Dakota National Guard	2006-2007
St. Peters, Devils Lake, ND	2002-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Junior/Senior Pastor Representative for LWML English District; Circuit Visitor; Member of Ministerial Health Commission.

Other: Board Member (Urban Ministry), Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM); Board Member (President) Upper St. Clair Community Foundation.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army for several years, where I received extensive training in leadership, ranging from small groups to large organizations. Through this experience, I developed a deep understanding of both leading effectively and supporting those in leadership roles.

Prior service on a Board of Directors: I served as the President of my community foundation, overseeing both paid and volunteer staff, as well as managing a substantial endowment. Our foundation collaborated with private entities and local government to drive community improvement initiatives and support the local school system. Additionally, we awarded scholarships annually. Through this experience, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the role of a board within an organization and the critical oversight responsibilities it holds.

Statement of Candidacy: *I wish to utilize the years of experience the Lord has blessed me with in the local parish to contribute to the success and Christ-centered growth of both the district and its ministry.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Luke Zimmerman**

College: Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

BS / Pol. Sci. & Geography / 1999  
MDiv / Historical Theol. / 2003

#### Pastorates:

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA  
St. John's, Casey, IA/Zion, Dexter, IA

2008-Present  
2004-2008

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Synod Convention Delegate, 2007, 2010, 2013; 2016 Res. 11-10 LCMS Task Force, 2017-2018

District: English District: District Secretary, 2015-Present; Committee on Constitutions and Membership, 2009-2015, 2024-Present; Committee on Nominations, 2015; Philadelphia Circuit Visitor, 2014-2015

Other: Board of Directors, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2014-2017; LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor, 2006-2008, 2018-2021; Regular Guest – KFUE's "Sharper Iron" program, 2017-Present; Contributing Author - *Concordia Pulpit Resources*; Contributor - *Treasury of Daily Prayer*; Hampden Township, PA Election Poll Worker, 2020–Present

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Through my service as District Secretary, I have gained first-hand experience of policy-based governance as permitted under Synod and District bylaws. I also have past experience as a member of the Board of Directors for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, an LCMS-affiliated RSO.

Statement of Candidacy: *Our District has provided me the privilege of serving its members as District Secretary since 2015. Convention Delegates will determine whether my service to the District should continue in a different role on its Board of Directors. If elected, I will endeavor to meet the expectations that our District's members have concerning (a) the stewardship of the assets that our Lord has entrusted to us and (b) the establishing of policies to govern our District's operations while it carries out the "secular/business aspects" of the Church's life. If another candidate is elected, I will gladly provide whatever assistance he may seek concerning service on the Board of Directors.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED**

### ***MIDWESTERN / WESTERN REGIONS***

#### **The Rev. Todd Arnold**

College: North Central College, Naperville, IL  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis  
Seminary: San Francisco Theol. Seminary

BA / Chemistry & Biology / 1979  
MDiv / 1996  
Advanced pastoral studies / 2016

#### **Pastorates:**

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ  
West Portal, San Francisco, CA  
Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

2017-Present  
2008-2016  
1996-2008

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

District: Western Region Vice President, 2015-2022; Board of Directors, Pastor-Midwest/Western Region, 2023-Present; Ablaze Coordinator

Other: Little League Baseball Coach; Youth Basketball, Soccer and Flag Football Coach; His Love, Our Response Congregation coordinator

Prior service on a Board of Directors: Served on Board of Directors for New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center in Payson, AZ, and for Alpha Pregnancy Center in San Francisco, CA; served a term as the President on both boards; served on the School Board for Bridgemont High School in San Francisco

Statement of Candidacy: *I have served as a pastor in three of the Western Region's circuits. It has been an honor and a joy serving 7 years as the Western Region Vice President, representing the region and filling the vacant term of the Midwest/Western Pastor. I'd be happy to do so for three more years.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED**

***MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)***

**The Rev. James Huenink**

College: Concordia University, Mequon  
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

BA / Pastoral Ministry / 2003  
MDiv / 2008

Pastorates:

First, El Cajon, CA	2021-Present
Concordia, Berwyn, IL	2012-2021
St. James, Chicago, IL	2008-2012

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Adjunct Professor, Concordia University Chicago, 2021-Present

District: Circuit Visitor, 2014-2021; Circuit Visitor, 2022-Present; Planning Committee-Midwest Regional Conference 2015-2017

Other: Director, Digital Archive for Urban Congregations; Historian focused on Chicago Lutheran history and black Lutheran history; owner Huenink Photography

Prior service on a Board of Directors: I have served in churches using the standard boards model and the Carver model. I also lead a 501(c)(3) with a board focused on urban church history.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am happy to serve if selected.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ORDAINED

### *MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood**

College: Mesa Community College

AAS / Comp. Programming / 1984

College: University of Phoenix

BA / Business Admin. / 1986

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

MDiv / 2000

Seminary: Reformed Theol. Seminary, Orlando, FL

DMin / 2017

#### Pastorates:

Shepherd of the Canyon, Gold Canyon, AZ

2023-Present

LCMS Office of National Mission, St. Louis, MO

2014-2025

Lamb of God, Lithia, FL

2008-2014

Immanuel, Brandon, FL

2000-2008

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Managing Director, LCMS Office of National Mission.

District: District Outreach Council, FL-GA District.

Other: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mesa, AZ – Teacher, Board of Evangelism, Elder; Concordia Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, IN – Elder; Ascension Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, IN - Board of Education.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: US Air Force (1976-1982) Non-Commissioned Officer; Motorola Corp. (1984-1991) Manager of Project Management Systems; Raytheon Corp. (1991-1999) Asst. Director Project Management Office; Microsoft User Group (1993-1997) President.

Prior service on a Board of Directors: No previous experience as a member of a Board of Directors. Extensive interactions with boards while serving in the LCMS Office of National Mission primarily under a policy-based governance model.

Statement of Candidacy: *I've been blessed to serve the Church both as a layman and a pastor and to have served in various ministry settings including an established congregation, new church starts, and the Synod's Office of National Mission. Being a second career pastor provides me with a fuller perspective of the Church and a deeper understanding of how congregations function. Having a business background provides me with a robust set of skills related to the business side of the Church including budgeting, planning, performance assessment, human resources, and business law. I would be honored to make use of these gifts and experiences to help advance the mission of the English District as a member of the Board of Directors.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED-AT-LARGE

### Vicki Helmling

College: Concordia University, Chicago

BA / Education / 1978

Present Congregation: Grace English, Chicago, IL

#### Congregations/Schools Served:

Grace English, Chicago, IL	2002-2024 (closed)
Our Savior, Norwood Park (Chicago), IL	2001-2002 (closed)
Christ English, Chicago, IL	1984-1989, 1991-2002
Nazareth, Buffalo, NY	1990-1991
Martin Luther Christian - Called by Calvary, Buffalo, NY	1989--1990

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Served on the committee for Lutheran Malaria Initiative for three years under the directive of Bishop Stechholz

Other: While at Our Savior, Norwood Park, my husband and I helped the school and the congregation to navigate the closure of the school in 2002. I am currently organizing the files (school and church), records, as well as the history of Grace English after the closing of school in June 2024

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Served on the Board of Trustees for Luther High School North in Chicago for 11 years; served as secretary for about half the time; served on the Chicagoland Black Ministry Unit (CBMU)

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Luther North High School (LNHS) - Chicago, Board of Trustees for 11 years; served as the recording secretary for about 7 of those years; assisted in the sale of LNHS in 2010

Statement of Candidacy: *As a commissioned minister, I believe that my service extends past my role in the congregation. I believe it is important to serve our Lord not just locally but on the district level and national level – will assist wherever the Lord leads.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED-AT-LARGE (cont.)**

**Barbara Hemme**

College: De Paul University, Chicago

BA / Business / 1995

College: De Paul University, Chicago

MA / Sociology / 1998

College: Concordia University, Chicago

MA / Theology / 2010

College: Concordia University, Chicago

Deaconess Diploma / 2011

Present Congregation: Trinity, New Lenox, IL

Employment / Congregations/Schools Served:

Youngberg Industries - CFO

2001-2023

Cedars Luth. Living Centers, Hampshire, IL

2016-2020

St. Peter's, Hampshire, IL

2013-2016

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Member of Ministerial Health Commission

Other: Treasurer, Concordia Deaconess Conference; Committee member, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for Boone and Winnebago County, IL; Committee member, Northern Illinois Stateline Region Critical Skills Shortage Consortium

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board; Northern Illinois University: Accountancy Instructor for Undergraduate and MBA programs

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Growth Dimensions (Boone County IL Economic Development) Board of Directors: Chair, Business Development and Retention Committee; Rock River Valley Girl Scouts Board of Directors: Finance Committee; Financial Executives International Rock Valley Chapter Board of Directors: Academic Liaison

Statement of Candidacy: *The core values of the English District are values that are important to me both personally and professionally. Utilizing my past experiences, it is my hope to contribute to the Board's planning for the current and future ministries of the Church-at-large.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED-AT-LARGE (cont.)**

**Dwayne Jobst**

College: Concordia, St. Paul

DCE / Elem. Ed. / 1975

College: Bowling Green State University

MA / Ed. Admin. / 1982

Present Congregation: Ascension, Tucson, AZ

Congregations/Schools Served:

Lake County Lutheran, Hartland, WI - Administration

2011-2018

Milwaukee Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI - Administration

1999-2011

Lutheran West HS, Rocky River, OH - Administration

1981-1999

Grace, Elyria, OH - DCE

1976-1981

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Board of Regents CUW/CUAA, 1997-2022

Other: Congregation - Bible Class Leader; Worship Leader; Choir; Elder/ Member and Chair; Vice President

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: CUW/CUAA Board of Regents; Board of Directors at all three schools I served; I am very familiar with the Carver Model of Board Governance

Statement of Candidacy: *I would be humbled to serve the English District in this capacity in being able to share Jesus and help people understand the power and purpose of the cross.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED-AT-LARGE (cont.)**

**Rod Lane**

College: Concordia, Seward  
College: Concordia, St. Paul

BA / Management / 1997  
DCE / Colloquy / 2010

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Congregations/Schools Served:

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

2007-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors, 2019-Present; Chair, Lutheran Malaria Initiative; hosted/coordinated, district youth gathering servant event, 2017; District Gala Team, 2021-2022

Other: Redeemer Lutheran Church - DCE in Family, Education, Youth and Outreach, 2010-Present; lay worker in youth and education, 2007-2010

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Currently serve on English District Board of Directors; serve on oversight board for developmentally disabled - primary duties include chart reviews, overseeing individual freedoms and making recommendations as deemed necessary for team

Statement of Candidacy: *I have served for the last several years and enjoy my service to the district on both the Board of Directors and the Committee on Nominations. I believe it is a good use of my time and talents. I believe I'm a good resource for the board and welcome the challenges that come with serving on the Committee on Nominations.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED-AT-LARGE (cont.)**

**Jennifer Miller**

College: Concordia University, River Forest  
College: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Theology & Public Relations / 2005  
MA / Religion / 2009

Present Congregation: Ascension, Atlanta, GA

Congregations/Schools Served:

St. Paul's, Iowa City, IA - Deaconess	2011-2012
St. John's, Wheaton, IL - Deaconess Intern	2008-2009

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Interim Director of Marketing, LCMS Communications, 2014; currently work as a contractor/freelancer for LCMS Communications as an editor/writer for official publications and other projects, as well as for LCEF

District: Iowa East District, District Youth Committee

Other: I've served in various roles in my member congregations; I currently serve on the Altar Guild, Hospitality Committee, substitute teach Sunday School and volunteer for other projects as I'm able. In addition to congregational work, I serve auxiliaries of the LCMS as an editor/writer for several entities.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I served on the English District Board of Directors from 2015 - 2017. I've also been serving on the board of directors for Georgia Metropolitan Dance Theatre (a ballet company) since 2020. I currently serve both as their secretary and chair of the marketing committee. It's a working board that meets every six weeks.

Statement of Candidacy: *Thank you for considering me, and I'm pleased to serve my district in any way that I'm needed.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY**

### ***EASTERN REGION***

#### **Carol George**

College: University of Pittsburgh

BA / Political Science / 1975

College: Edinboro University of Penns.

MA / Rehab Counseling / 1982

Present Congregation: Trinity, Erie, PA

Occupation: Rental Property Owner/Manager

#### **Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

Carol Properties Corp. - Owner/Manager 2006-Present

George Gulf Properties I, LLC - Owner 2000-2019

George Properties - Owner/Manager 1984-Present

Serenity Rehabilitation Center - Counselor 1983-1984

Sarah Reed Children's Home - Counselor 1982-1983

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

LCMS: Convention Delegate, 2010, 2016, 2023; National Stewardship Leadership Conference, 2014

District: English District Board of Directors, 2015-Present; District Stewardship Committee, 2011-2015; Convention Delegate, 2000, 2003, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2025

Other: Call Committee, Trustee (previously Head Trustee), Stephen Ministries/Stephen Ministry Leader, Chairman/Member of Scholarship Committee, Music Coordinator, VBS Music Volunteer and several other church committees; LWML Zone Delegate 2005 Convention, Previous board positions: Lake Erie Ballet Board of Directors; Search Committee for Lake Erie Ballet Executive Director; Erie Day School Board of Directors, President of Parent Board of Erie Day School and Search Committee of Erie Day School

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: For the past ten years, I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the English District, served on several task forces, and have attended every quarterly meeting. My service on this board and on the boards of other non-profit organizations has included revising bylaws, establishing mission and vision statements, drafting job descriptions, allocating resources, promoting communications, recruiting leadership, delegating responsibilities, and creating collaborative relationships with other boards and industries.

Statement of Candidacy: *It would be an honor to continue my service on the Board of Directors of the English District. I have been a member of an English District congregation for over 40 years. Baptized and raised in the LCMS, I follow several generations of service to our Synod. I am well informed about the District's work, and I endorse its mission. I traveled to Hong Kong and Thailand where I visited with LCMS missionaries at our mission churches. I believe in the importance and value of our English District, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our Lord and His Church.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY**

***EASTERN REGION (cont.)***

**Stephen Kurtz**

Present Congregation: Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA

Occupation: Executive Director

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Katallasso Health Center - Executive Director

2020-Present

Cityview Church (non-denominational), York, PA - Pastor

2004-2020

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other: Congregation Council Member, Outreach Board Chair

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board Member, Katallasso Family Health Center

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I have served on all types of boards from a management-style board to a cooperative board governance style. I chaired our local congregation board for over 10 years. I presently serve on a policy-type non-profit board.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I am honored to be nominated, and happy to serve the District in this role.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### ***EASTERN REGION (cont.)***

#### **Mark Pfundstein**

College: Calvin College

BA / Political Science / 1999

College: George Mason University

MA / Public Policy / 2016

Present Congregation: Immanuel, Alexandria, VA

Occupation: Program Manager

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

George Mason Univ. - Program Manager

2013-Present

Robert Bosch Foundation - Fellow

2010-2011

The Fund for American Studies - Program Director

2006-2010

Congressman Mark Souder - various positions

1999-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

Other: Congregational Financial Secretary, 2017-2023; Congregational President, 2012-2015; Immanuel Lutheran School Board, 2012; Chair, Board of Christian Life, 2005-2009

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board of Trustees, Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, 2009-2012; Board of Directors, Higher Things, 2006-2010

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I have served on several boards over the last decade and a half. My Church Council positions were by virtue of holding a particular position in the congregation's structure. These positions had particular, associated duties such as tracking tithes/offerings, in the case of Financial Secretary, and chairing council and voters' meetings in the case of Congregational President (among other duties). In addition to serving in various functions in my congregation, including those on our Church Council, I served a term on the Higher Things board and the Board of Trustees of the Germanna Colonies Foundation, a historical/genealogical foundation in Virginia. These other board positions were more in an at-large capacity. My duties for those boards were on an as-assigned/volunteered-for basis. On all boards, I was involved in budgetary and hiring matters, as well as general governance of the organizations.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am a candidate because I was asked to serve. In the modern world, we think we are "too busy" to serve. We should never be too busy to serve one another and to serve the Church. I am an adult convert to Lutheranism, a layman knowledgeable about governance, and a father of three. I hope these attributes would benefit the English District. I will serve deliberately, diligently, and to the best of my abilities.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### LAKE ERIE REGION

#### **Jonathan Busarow**

College: Valparaiso University  
The Ohio State University

BM / Music / 2008  
MM / Music / 2010

Present Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Occupation: Executive Director, Fort Wayne Children’s Choir

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Purdue University - Associate Faculty	2012-Present
Fort Wayne Children’s Choir - Executive Artistic Director	2012-Present
Valparaiso University - Director of Choirs, Sabbatical Replacement	2011-2012

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Floor Committee and Lay Delegate, Synod Convention, 2023

Other: Elder, Church Council – Redeemer Lutheran Church; Board of Directors – Redeemer Classical School

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: My executive role with the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir has been invaluable to me in helping lead the non-profit. I am hopeful that I can use that knowledge to help the English District.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: In my role with the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir, I work with a Board of Directors as the chief staff member. I have also enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Fort Wayne. In 2026 I will serve as president of the board. I have served for four years on the Board of Directors of Redeemer Classical School.

Statement of Candidacy: *I have been looking for ways in which I can help serve the Synod and the English District. Nominated by my pastor, I am encouraged to serve on the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Board and the Nominating Committee. I pray that I may use the gifts given to me to help the Church.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### ***LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)***

#### **Thomas Habitz**

College: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

BA / Economics / 2003

College: Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

MUP / Urban Planning / 2008

Present Congregation: Zion, Detroit, MI

Occupation: Nonprofit Executive

#### **Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

CEO, Hamtramck Parks Conservancy

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** Convention Delegate, 2012; Board of Directors, 2022-Present

**Other (congregation, community, etc.):** Zion Lutheran Church: Chairman, Voters Assembly (current); Chairman, Board of Deacons (current); Member, Board of Endowment (current); Chairman, Lutheran Center Association of Greater Detroit (past)

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals, City of Hamtramck (current); Member, Plan Commission, City of Hamtramck (current); Secretary, Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (past)

**Prior service on a board of directors:** The Zoning Board of Appeals is a statutory quasi-judicial body in the city I reside. As Chairman, I preside over meetings. As Chairman of the Voters in my congregation, I work closely with the pastor and parish council to set agendas, organize meetings, and run them efficiently and in a Christian manner.

**Statement concerning candidacy:** *It has been a privilege and joy to serve on the District Board during the last term. I have become active through the Presidential Salary task force and am willing to continue service through other committees or other avenues needed.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY**

### ***LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)***

#### **Mark Harris**

College: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

BS / Criminal Justice / 1997

Present Congregation: Hope Ev. Lutheran Church, Bellaire, MI

Occupation: Retired – Michigan State Police

#### **Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

Michigan State Police (MSP) Special Investigations Section Commander	2019-2024
MSP Post Commander, Gaylord Post	2016-2019
MSP D/Sergeant Gaylord, Kalkaska, Traverse City	2002-2016
MSP Shift-Sergeant Traverse City Post	2000-2002
MSP-Trooper, Flint, Kalkaska, Gaylord Criminal Invest. Unit	1993-2000

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

District: I have not held any formal positions within the District. I have worked with District personnel while serving as the Call Committee Chairman and when other issues arose in the congregation which required District involvement.

Other: I have served at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church as a Trustee from 2000-2006. I have been an Elder and served as a Subdeacon from 2006 to present. I have also been serving as the chairman of the congregation since 2022. Additionally, was a Call Committee Chairman in 2010, when we called our current pastor. I led the Bellaire Cub Scout Troop as the Scoutmaster for 10-years, while also participating as a Boy Scout Leader. I attend numerous Business After Hours and Chamber of Commerce functions in my local community to keep in touch with business leaders and community events. For several years, I coached youth football and baseball.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: In the Michigan State Police (MSP), I have prepared agendas and led many section and post meetings to present important information and maintain communication with the personnel. I have served on various boards, including County Gun Boards, 911 Committee Boards, multi-jurisdictional task force meetings, detective meetings, Child Advocacy Meeting, Child Death Review panels, and numerous others. Since I have run and participated on numerous boards and meetings, I am very familiar with preparing for and facilitating them.

Prior service on a board of directors: I have served as a director on six different County Gun Boards as a voting member. This required reviewing information presented, asking questions of the applicant, applying applicable laws, and rendering a decision in an open public meeting. The meetings were recorded and minutes taken. I have been on the board of several County 911 boards. These meetings were similar in format. They were not open forum meetings but involved numerous heads from different entities to discuss budgets, technical issues, and updates, and ensure the 911 Centers were operating as efficiently and effectively as possible. Motions are presented and supported or denied. The boards were run utilizing Robert’s Rules, the dates and times were posted as required by law, and subject to all FOIA laws for disclosure. I frequently familiarize myself with the Board of Directors minutes posted on the English District website to stay up with the current agenda items and status of the district.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am running for the positions of Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Nominating Committee. After 31 years of service, I recently retired from the Michigan State Police as a Detective First Lieutenant. I found this career very satisfying in serving others while providing leadership for troopers and the communities we served. I have been able to develop my communication, organizational, leadership, budgeting, and planning skills throughout my various roles. I have been attending Hope Lutheran Church in Bellaire, Michigan since we moved to the area in 1996. I have served in several church leadership roles and currently hold the positions of Chairman and Elder. I love the Liturgy of the Common Service and serving as a Subdeacon during the Mass. I always make myself available to help with maintenance and groundskeeping at the church, as well as helping elderly members who are in need. Now that I am retired, I feel I have an opportunity to serve in a role with a wider impact within the English District. I believe whichever role I'm selected for; I will serve with integrity, honor, and commitment. I am married to my wife, Jill, we have four children, Brendan 27-LCMS pastor in Fall Creek, WI, Christian 25-working for the parks, Madeleine 20 and Cameron 19-both attending college. Thank you for your support.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### MIDWESTERN REGION

#### Christopher Cassel

College: University of Nebraska, Lincoln

BS / Bus. Admin. / 1990

College: University of Nebraska, Lincoln

MBA / Mgmt Info Sys / 2013

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Occupation: Sr. Quality & Project Management Manager

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Assurity Life Insurance - Sr. Mgr. Quality & Project Mgmt, IT	2012-Present
Nebraska Dept. of Educ. - Director, Neb. Student & Staff Record Sys	2004-2012
University of Nebraska - Data Warehouse Analyst	2000-2003
Lucent Technologies - Senior Software Developer	2000
Electronic Data Systems - Software Developer Manager	1990-2000

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors, 2015-2022, 2023-Present (Vice-chair 2021-2022, 2024-Present); Lay Delegate to English District Convention, 2015; English District Nominating Committee, 2015

Other: Redeemer President, 2023-present; Redeemer Board of Elders, 2009-2018 (Chair 2013-2018); President, Redeemer Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors, 2015-2019; Redeemer Church Council, 2009-Present; Redeemer Budget Study Committee, 2009-2011 (Chair 2011); Facilitator, Financial Peace University at Redeemer, 2007-2008; Leader, DivorceCare at Redeemer, 2010-2011; Concordia University (Nebraska) Weller Society for Leadership, 2014-Present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As Chair of the Budget Study Committee, I led an effort to switch from percentage-based tuition assistance model to an amount per student in elementary, middle, and high school that is established each year, enabling the congregation to more effectively budget its expenditures. My work experience includes supervision and leading large software development and integration projects.

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I served as President of Redeemer Foundation, Inc. and began serving on the English District Board of Directors in 2015, twice serving as Vice-chair.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am grateful to be considered to continue serving His Church in this capacity. I am also grateful for the rich theology of our liturgy and hymnody that points us to the person and work of Christ. I cherish the English District's zeal for mission and church planting, while embracing the excitement that geographic diversity provides.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY**

### ***WESTERN REGION***

#### **Thomas Honebrink**

College: Concordia College, St. Paul

BA / Env. Science / 1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Lay Deacon

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Catalina Lutheran Church - Lay Deacon (Liturgy)	2014-Present
Casas Christian School -Middle School Science Teacher	2016-2020
Oro Valley Pediatrics - Administrator	2008-2015
Atonement Lutheran School - Bookkeeper	1999-2001
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - Rule Coordinator	1994-1998

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors, 2022-Present; Committee on Nominations, 2012-2018; Convention Lay Delegate, 2006; Arizona South Circuit President, 2024-Present

Other: Congregational President, Vice President, Elder, Financial Secretary, Bell Choir Director, Youth Director, Bible Study Leader; School Board Chair, Substitute Teacher; Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair, Youth Sports Coach; Family First Pregnancy Care Center Board Member; Tohono Chul Park Volunteer

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board member, Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society; Provost, Lutheran Servanthood School; Board member, Southern Arizona Foundation for Education-Lutheran; Council member, Concordia, St. Paul Alumni Council Member; Peace Corps Volunteer - Conservation Officer; served on additional extension and community-based boards and groups, domestically and abroad

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: Over the course of serving on boards related to LCMS Elementary Education, Town Advisory Councils, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Heritage Societies, Sports Leagues, church organizations and more, I have been exposed to a variety of modes and models but particularly advisory, cooperative, and policy-based models. Serving on the Board of Directors for the last triennium has been invaluable.

Statement of Candidacy: *Having been blessed by Lutheran education from first grade through college, it has been my pleasure to serve in various capacities throughout my life in natural response to all that the Lord has given me. I have enjoyed serving the Lord at the congregational, circuit and district levels as well as in my community. May the Lord bless His church at her convention and all who serve in His name.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### WESTERN REGION (cont.)

#### Glen Piper

College: Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI

College: UNC-Greensboro, NC

BA / History / 1989

MS / IT & Management / 2001

Present Congregation: St. Thomas, Magnolia, TX

Occupation: IT Manager

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Klein ISD - IT Service Desk Manager

2021-Present

Sam Houston State Univ. - IT Service Desk Mgr

2015-2021

Purdue Univ. North Central - Asst. Dir. of IT

2001-2013

Wake Forest Univ. - Acad. Computing Spec.

1995-2001

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Concordia, Irvine - Board of Regents, 2010-2013; Synodical Convention Delegate, 2007, 2010

District: Indiana District Convention Delegate, 2010

Other: Board of Elders (10 years at 3 congregations); Head Elder (2 years); Board of Ed. Chair (1 year); Board of Stewardship (1 year)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Leadership training; project management, strategic planning, and committees at several organizations

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: I served on the CU-Irvine Board of Regents from 2010-2013. I have also completed a Leadership Academy at Purdue University, and a mentoring program at Sam Houston State. I served on a Decadal Funding Regional Subcommittee and a Campus Strategic Planning Group at Purdue University. As a delegate to the 2007 & 2010 Synodical Conventions I participated in the Restructuring Process.

Statement of Candidacy: *We are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts given us by our Lord, both personally and collectively. Quite often this is a daunting task, as leadership is not always easy. It can, however, be immensely gratifying when serving brothers and sisters in Christ. Service in the congregation and district is a great honor, and should I be elected I pray that God will strengthen and bless me such that I can faithfully live up to that honor.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAY

### WESTERN REGION (cont.)

#### **Kristin Wellik**

College: University of Arizona

BA / Marketing / 1987

Present Congregation: Ascension, Tucson, AZ

Occupation: Financial Planning

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

RW Greene & Assoc., Inc. - Sales & Administration

1987-Present

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors, 2018-Present

Other: Ascension Lutheran Church: Member since 1995, Congregational President (4 yrs), Confirmation Teacher, 2013-Present, High School Youth Leader (3 yrs), Congregation Secretary (5 yrs), VBS Teacher (multiple yrs), and Congregation Board Member, 2022-Present; LCMS-U at Univ. of Arizona: Board Secretary (4 yrs)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Junior League of Tucson: President, Secretary, Fund Development Director, and several chairmanships during 16 yrs of active membership; board positions provided opportunities to participate in Association conferences and training conferences; currently a sustaining member; Boy Scouts of America: District Membership Chair (4 yrs), Pack Trainer (3 yrs), Den Leader (6 yrs); Sigma Kappa Sorority: Collegiate Chapter President (included participation at national conference), Corporation Board President (after graduation)

Prior Service on a Board of Directors: For the past seven years, I have served on the English District Board of Directors as a Lay Member-at-Large. Ascension Lutheran Church: served as board secretary during transition from a board system to the Carver Governance Model. I participated in the writing of a new Constitution/Bylaws, and creation of policies. Once we became a governance board, I served as secretary and president. Junior League of Tucson: operated under a board and council system. All of my board experiences have been with non-profit organizations and have used Robert's Rules of Order at meetings.

Statement concerning candidacy: *I would welcome the opportunity to serve another term on the Board of Directors. I have enjoyed visiting congregations and schools around the district at our quarterly meetings. I have had the privilege of participating in salary reviews, financial audits, policy reviews, and serving as the advisory delegate for the board at the Synod Convention. As a lay member of the board, I believe I provide a different perspective to the business at hand. Volunteer service has always been a part of my adult life. I possess leadership, communication, organizational, problem-solving, and creative skills. I value volunteerism and I am one of those people who enjoy meetings, really.*

## CANDIDATES FOR ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

Jonathan Busarow  
Michael Coffey  
Rev. Fred Gerlach  
Mark Harris

Terry Leu  
Rev. Larry Loree  
Matthew Thompson  
Ann Marie Weselan

### **Jonathan Busarow**

College: Valparaiso University  
The Ohio State University

BM / Music / 2008  
MM / Music / 2010

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN

Occupation: Executive Director, Fort Wayne Children's Choir

### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Purdue University – Associate Faculty	2012-Present
Fort Wayne Children's Choir – Executive Artistic Director	2012-Present
Valparaiso University – Director of Choirs, Sabbatical Replacement	2011-2012

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Floor Committee and Lay Delegate, Synod Convention, 2023

Other: Elder, Church Council – Redeemer Lutheran Church; Board of Directors – Redeemer Classical School

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: My executive role with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir has been invaluable to me in helping lead the non-profit. I am hopeful that I can use that knowledge to help the English District.

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: My work with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir as well as serving in Rotary has given me a fair amount of experience in overseeing and managing endowment funds.

Statement of Candidacy: *I have been looking for ways in which I can help serve the Synod and the English District. Nominated by my pastor, I am encouraged to serve on the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Board and the Nominating Committee. I pray that I may use the gifts given to me to help the Church.*

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)

### **Michael Coffey**

College: Cornell University

BS / Business / 1963

Present Congregation: Trinity, Scarsdale, NY

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

C & C Moving & Storage - Owner	1989-2015
City of White Plains, NY - Elected Councilman (4 terms)	1973-1993
Moving Company - Sales Manager	1970-1989
General Foods Company - Sales Rep	1963-1970

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Delegate, LCMS Conventions; Floor Committee, LCMS Convention

District: Delegate, multiple District Conventions; Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2018-Present;

Other: Served in all offices of the church council and presently as elder; elected councilman for city of White Plains, NY, serving on numerous boards and committees, 20 years; volunteer firefighter, 45 years; owner and operator of C&C Moving and Storage for over 45 years serving the local and national community

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Member of call committee for Trinity Lutheran Church several times

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: I have served several terms as a member of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers working with our Bishop to help our District to grow in service to our Lord.

Statement of Candidacy: *Support the English District with helping the District to grow and serve our member congregations as they serve our Lord.*

**ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)**

**The Rev. Fred Gerlach**

College: Pace University

BBA / Public Accting / 1979

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St Louis

MDiv / 2005

Pastorates:

Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ

2018-Present

Bethany, Ewing, NJ

2005-2017

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2013-Present

Other: ASU Campus Ministry; Ewing Alcohol and Drug Alliance (substance abuse prevention)

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Worked 20 years in the finance and banking industries

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts:

Statement of Candidacy: *I have served 8 years on the Endowment Board where it's a blessing to help congregations with their mission outreach.*

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)

### **Mark Harris**

College: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

BS / Criminal Justice / 1997

Present Congregation: Hope, Bellaire, MI

Occupation: Retired – Michigan State Police

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Michigan State Police (MSP) Special Investigations Section Commander	2019-2024
MSP Post Commander, Gaylord Post	2016-2019
MSP D/Sergeant Gaylord, Kalkaska, Traverse City	2002-2016
MSP Shift-Sergeant Traverse City Post	2000-2002
MSP-Trooper, Flint, Kalkaska, Gaylord Criminal Invest. Unit	1993-2000

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: I have not held any formal positions within the District. I have worked with District personnel while serving as the Call Committee Chairman and when other issues arose in the congregation which required District involvement.

Other: I have served at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church as a Trustee from 2000-2006. I have been an Elder and served as a Subdeacon from 2006 to present. I have also been serving as the chairman of the congregation since 2022. Additionally, was a Call Committee Chairman in 2010, when we called our current pastor. I led the Bellaire Cub Scout Troop as the Scoutmaster for 10-years, while also participating as a Boy Scout Leader. I attend numerous Business After Hours and Chamber of Commerce functions in my local community to keep in touch with business leaders and community events. For several years, I coached youth football and baseball.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: In the Michigan State Police (MSP), I have prepared agendas and led many section and post meetings to present important information and maintain communication with the personnel. I have served on various boards, including County Gun Boards, 911 Committee Boards, multi-jurisdictional task force meetings, detective meetings, Child Advocacy Meeting, Child Death Review panels, and numerous others. Since I have run and participated on numerous boards and meetings, I am very familiar with preparing for and facilitating them.

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: I have been responsible for maintaining a budget for overtime and business expenses while working in the MSP. This requires projecting costs, encumbering funds for regular expenditures, adjusting for unforeseen costs, projecting and planning for overtime usage within the allotted budget allocation. I have been developing my financial strategy through investments, property, and assets. I work closely with my financial manager to ensure the security of our financial future for my family and church. This includes the development of a Will and Trust to make sure monies are distributed to all parties according to our wishes. I have bought and sold numerous homes, and I am familiar with real property laws and regulations. I feel my skills would be beneficial in serving on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers to help secure the future of congregations, missions, scholarships, and other ministries of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am running for the positions of Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Nominating Committee. After 31 years of service, I recently retired from the Michigan*

**Mark Harris (cont.)**

*State Police as a Detective First Lieutenant. I found this career very satisfying in serving others while providing leadership for troopers and the communities we served. I have been able to develop my communication, organizational, leadership, budgeting, and planning skills throughout my various roles. I have been attending Hope Lutheran Church in Bellaire, Michigan since we moved to the area in 1996. I have served in several church leadership roles and currently hold the positions of Chairman and Elder. I love the Liturgy of the Common Service and serving as a Subdeacon during the Mass. I always make myself available to help with maintenance and groundskeeping at the church, as well as helping elderly members who are in need. Now that I am retired, I feel I have an opportunity to serve in a role with a wider impact within the English District. I believe whichever role I'm selected for, I will serve with integrity, honor, and commitment. I am married to my wife, Jill, we have four children, Brendan 27-LCMS pastor in Fall Creek, WI, Christian 25-working for the parks, Madeleine 20 and Cameron 19-both attending college. Thank you for your support.*

**Terry Leu**

College: Ashland College

BS / Education / 1978

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Occupation: Retired – Self-employed

**Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

Rolston Poultry – Owner

1992-2016

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

LCMS: English District Coordinator, National Youth Gathering, 2022 and 2025

District: Board of Directors, 2012-Present; Endowment Fund Board of Managers, Board of Directors representative and secretary, 2018-Present

Other: Congregation: Presently Head Elder; Endowment Fund Chairman; Lay Youth Worker; Head of the Call Committee

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Active in the Cleveland & Akron Circuits, have attended both Synod and District Conventions; attended 11 National Youth Gatherings; President of the Pine Valley Golf League

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: My time serving on the Board of Directors has given me a unique perspective regarding the workings of our Endowment Fund. I have background and understanding of the how's and why's Grants have been funded in the past. I believe that going forward this experience would be helpful in providing consistency and stability.

Statement of Candidacy: *Because of my tenure on the Board of Directors, I feel that I can help provide continued direction, leadership, and stability, along what has been a very successful path for the last decade.*

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)

### **The Rev. Larry Loree Jr.**

College: Concordia University, Mequon

BA / Mgmt & Comm / 1998

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

MDiv / Pastoral Theology / 2002

### Pastorates:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI

2021-Present

All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA

2016-2021

Holy Ghost, Monroe, MI

2008-2016

Camp of the Pines, Pottersville, NY

2007-2008

Zion, Detroit, MI

2006-2007

Immanuel, Steger, IL

2002-2006

### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Pastors Conference Committee - Northern Illinois District, 2004-2006

Other: Retired after 25 years in the Air National Guard: 19 years as a chaplain and 6 years as a chaplain assistant.

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: My disciplined approach to personal finance, rooted in faithful stewardship, directly enhances the guidance I offer on financial matters for our congregation and childcare center. This experience aligns with the Endowment Fund Board's crucial responsibility to manage resources prudently, ensuring effective support for the District and the church-at-large.

Statement of Candidacy: If elected to serve, I will diligently strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position in a way that is faithful to the Gospel of Christ and for the good of the District.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)**

### **Matthew Thompson**

College: Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

BA / Financial Mgmt / 2004

Present Congregation: Trinity, Villa Park, IL

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner - Wealth Management

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: I served on and was head of our parish lay ministry from 2005-2023. I have owned a financial services practice for 22 years, overseeing \$125 million in client assets for more than 250 households.

## ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS (cont.)

### Ann Marie Weselan

College: Queen's University

BS / Biology / 1989

Present Congregation: St. Mark's, Mississauga, ON

Occupation: Retired

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Government of Ontario/Manager (various ministries)	2008-2022
Government of Ontario/Program Coordinator & Project Manager	2004-2008
City of Toronto/Public Consultation Coordinator	1998-2004
Toronto & Region Conservation Authority/Project Manager	1991-1998
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority/Water Quality Assistant	1989-1991

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Missouri Synod Canada Corporation Board of Directors, lay representative and currently serving as Vice-Chair, 2025-Present

District: Lay Representative, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2022-present; Lay Representative, Canada Corporation, 2022-2025

Other: Church of St. Mark – Lutheran - Member since 1994; held Chair position for 6 years, Vice Chair for 4 years, HR Committee for 3 years, 1 year as Elder; serving on Grant Committee and Social Committee at Dixie Curling Club; have also helped organize a novice league for past 2 years

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Extensive experience in grant program administration as well as strategic and change management. Financial management skills developed through management roles as well as grant program administration.

Related Endowment Fund Work Experience/Gifts: Promotion - I have had extensive experience in developing and delivering client-centric communication strategies to promote legislative, regulatory and program changes to a variety of stakeholders. Financial oversight - In my roles as a manager, I managed financial and human resources within budgetary envelopes, with expenditures consistently within 1-5% of allocation. Grant program development and implementation - I designed and delivered a grant program to provide funding to individuals to improve water quality on their properties. My work included designing promotional material and grant applications, reviewing grant proposals and presenting recommendations to a committee for approval.

Statement of Candidacy: *Although I have held positions on Council at the Church of St. Mark - Lutheran in Mississauga, over the past few years I have felt God encouraging me to expand my support to other areas within the LCMS. I have had opportunities to do so since 2022 and would like to continue that support on the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.*

## CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

### ORDAINED (Eastern)

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

### COMMISSIONED/LAY (Eastern)

Connor Hagey

### ORDAINED (Lake Erie)

Rev. Mark Braden

Rev. Larry Loree

Rev. Dr. David Petersen

### COMMISSIONED/LAY (Lake Erie)

Jonathan Busarow

Mark Harris

Terry Leu

### ORDAINED (Midwestern)

Rev. Daniel Greg

Rev. Thomas Engler

### COMMISSIONED/LAY (Midwestern)

Rod Lane

### ORDAINED (Western)

Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

### COMMISSIONED/LAY (Western)

Andrew Grant

Thomas Honebrink

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### ***EASTERN REGION***

#### **The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky**

College: Jerusalem University  
Philadelphia Biblical University  
University of Virginia  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Semester Abroad / 1998  
BS / Biblical Studies / 2000  
MEd / 2007  
MDiv / 2011

#### **Pastorates:**

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, PA (Exec. Dir.)	2012-present
St. John, Springfield, PA	2012-present
Immanuel, Alexandria, VA (Headmaster)	2010-2012
Trinity, Fairfax, VA (High School History Teacher)	2002-2007

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD**

**LCMS:** Vicarage Supervisor, 2016-present

**District:** Appointed Vice President, October 2024; Board of Directors, Vice Chairman, 2022-2024; Committee on Nominations, 2018-present; Eastern Region Pastors Conference Worship Coordinator, 2019-2024; Mission Council, 2018-2024; Traveled to Hong Kong and China with District leadership in December 2016; Circuit Visitor, 2015-2022

**Other:** Philadelphia Federal Detention Center Bible Study Teacher; Leland-Ginnodo Homeowners Association President, 2022-2024

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** Helped initiate two new congregations in Philadelphia; Assisted in the colloquy process of several men; Assisted Ethiopian, Indonesian and Korean congregations in their partnership with the English District; Taught high school history for five years at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, VA - an interdenominational school, it introduced me to Christians from a number of different backgrounds. I served on several committees, assisted other teachers with educational technology issues, and coached the varsity baseball team.

**Statement of Candidacy:** *It has been a tremendous blessing to serve in the English District. Philadelphia is a good example of the usefulness and necessity of our district. Historically, my region has not been a priority of the geographical districts. The situation brings to mind the gut-wrenching words of Matthew 9, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The English District has filled the gap and established a number of new congregations in my region over the decades. I am eager to give back and help move the district forward as it continues to be a blessing to the Synod in geographic areas of great need.*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### LAKE ERIE REGION

#### The Rev. Mark Braden

College: Concordia Univ., Ann Arbor

BA / Human Res. / 1988

College: Eastern Michigan Univ.

MS / Hosp Mgt/Educ / 1995

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

MDiv / 2003

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

STM / 2011

Other Degrees: AA/Culinary Arts/1987

#### Pastorates:

Zion, Detroit, MI

2009-Present

Zion, Cleghorn, WI

2004-2008

St. Paul, Modena, WI

2004-2008

St. Paul, Steinke Valley, WI (monthly pulpit relief)

2004-2008

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Adjunct Faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (2003-2004, 2006-Present); Adjunct Faculty, Concordia University-Ann Arbor, 2013-2014; Pastoral Delegate, Synodical Convention, 2007 & 2010; Office of International Missions - Multiple international trips to teach theology, 2006-Present

District: Chairman, Church & Theology Floor Committee (2018, 2022)

Other (church, community, etc.): International Fellow, Luther Academy, 2014-Present; Host Pastor and Conference Administrator, Saint Michael Liturgical Conference, 2009-Present; Departmental Editor, Gottesdienst Magazine, 2014-Present; Lutheran Center Association, Board of Directors, 2013-Present, currently Chairman of Board; Keynote Presenter, St. Andrew Theological Conference, 2014 & 2015; Keynote Presenter, St. Mark Theological Conference, 2017; Past Board Member, Lutheran City Ministries, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit; Past Member, Board of Directors of Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn, MI; Director, Fairlane Music Guild (Chamber Music Series), 1994-1997; North Wisconsin District Scholarship Committee, 2005-2008; Spanish Teacher, Eau Claire Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI, 2004-2007; Spanish Teacher, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn, MI, 2009-2011

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: 18 years of professional experience as a Director, Area Manager, Manager and Supervisor at state universities, extensive background in committee service, financial management, budgeting, facilities administration, union negotiations and training and development

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED**

***LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)***

**The Rev. Larry Loree Jr.**

College: Concordia University, Mequon  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Mgmt & Comm / 1998  
MDiv / Pastoral Theology / 2002

Pastorates:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI	2021-Present
All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA	2016-2021
Holy Ghost, Monroe, MI	2008-2016
Camp of the Pines, Pottersville, NY	2007-2008
Zion, Detroit, MI	2006-2007
Immanuel, Steger, IL	2002-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Pastors Conference Committee - Northern Illinois District, 2004-2006

Other: Retired after 25 years in the Air National Guard: 19 years as a chaplain and 6 years as a chaplain assistant.

Statement of Candidacy: *If elected to serve, I will diligently strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position in a way that is faithful to the Gospel of Christ and for the good of the District.*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### *LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Dr. David Petersen**

College: Central Michigan Univ., Mt. Pleasant, MI	BS / History / 1991
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne	MDiv / 1996
Other Degrees: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne	STM / 2013
Other Degrees: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne	DMin / 2018

#### Pastorates:

Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN	2000-present
Grace, Fairgrove, MI	1996-2000

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD

LCMS: Currently Voting Member LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations; Ongoing adjunct professor in DMin and Continuing Ed courses for CTSFW; Set Apart to Serve Committee; Plenary Speaker for district pastors' conferences in the Northwest District, Michigan District, South Wisconsin District, and South Minnesota District; Ongoing assignments for the Lutheran Witness

District: Currently serving on the nominations committee; Served on the Board of Directors for the English District; Plenary Speaker 2018 English District Convention; Lead church planter and pastor for planting Agnus Dei in Marshall, MI for the English District

Other: Supervising seminary field work students and vicarages, 2000-present; Contributing editor and writer for Gottesdienst: The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy, 2008-present; Regular Guest on Issues, Etc., 2010-present; Helped establish and on school board for Redeemer Classical School, Ft. Wayne, IN, 2017-present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Michigan Army National Guard, 1986-1994; Infantryman and Armor Officer 1986-1994; Founding chair of the Akron-Fairgrove Ministerial Alliance, 1997-2000; Founding chair of the Bach Collegium - Ft. Wayne, 2001-2011; Adjunct English Professor for Ivy Tech Community College in Ft. Wayne, 2010-2013

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### ***MIDWEST REGION***

#### **The Rev. Daniel Greg**

College: St Louis University

College: Universitat Heidelberg, Germany

College: St. Louis University

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Archaeological Dig / Israel / 2014

Study Abroad / 2015

BA / Theology/English/German / 2017

MDiv / 2021

#### **Pastorates:**

Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL

2021-Present

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** Lifeline Team; Circuit Visitor for new triennium

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** I'm interested in getting things done.

**Statement of Candidacy:** *I'm aiming to help out the English District, wherever they need help, as they ask for it.*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### *MIDWEST REGION (cont.)*

#### **The Rev. Thomas Engler**

College: University of Nebraska-Lincoln	BF / Memorial Stadium / 1982-1986
College: University of Nebraska-Lincoln	BA / Chemistry / 1986
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	MDiv / 1990
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	STM / OT Exegesis / 1999

#### **Pastorates:**

Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, WI	2014-Present
St. Mark's, Ridley Park, PA	2009-2014
Calvary, Havertown, PA/St. John, Springfield, PA	2002-2007 / 2005-2007
Oksudong, Seoul, Korea (Asst to Pastor)	1995-2001
St. John, Staten Island, NY	1990-1994

#### **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

LCMS: Missionary to Korea, 1994-2001; Assistant Professor, Luther (Theological) University, 1998-2001; Korean Lutheran Hour Director, 1997-2001; Urban Strategist for Philadelphia, LCMS World Mission, 2007-2009; LCMS Board for National Missions, 2010-2014

District: Mission Developer, LCMS Eastern District, 2002-2005; Executive Director, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2004-2007, 2009-2014; Member, Missions Council, English District, 2014-2021

Other: As a pastor of congregations, I would assist the nominating committees to find people to serve.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I would nominate my children to do various chores.

Statement of Candidacy: *I was once self-nicknamed "The Nominator," because I was always on top of things. Then someone told me I was probably thinking of "numerator." Be that as it may, I like to nominate other people to do work. Now, maybe I can live up to the nickname "The Nominator."*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – ORDAINED

### WESTERN REGION

#### The Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse

College: Adrian College, Adrian, MI

Seminary: Concordia Theol. Sem., Ft. Wayne

Seminary: Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

BBA / German & Management / 1987

MDiv / Historical Theology / 1998

DMin / Pastoral Ministry / 2017

#### Pastorates:

Catalina, Tucson, AZ

1998-present

US Army Chaplain Corps-Phoenix, Kuwait, Iraq

1999-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: CTSFW Vicar Supervisor: 2014-2015, 2016-present; Operation Barnabas National Advisory Group, 2007-Present; Concordia University, Irvine: LCMS elected Pastoral Regent: 2010-2016; CTSFW: Summer Fieldwork (Summer Vicar) Supervisor, 2000 and 2002

District: English District Western Region Vice-President, 2d VP, 2022-present; AZ South Circuit Lutheran Servanthood School Teacher, 1999-present; AZ South Circuit Visitor, 2019-2022; U of AZ Campus Christian Center Board, Inc. Vice-President, 2007-2018; District Operation Barnabas Representative, 2009-2016

Other: 180th Field Artillery Regimental Chaplain, 2019-present; Association of Theological Schools, Visitation Team, Peer Reviewer for CSL Accreditation, 2023; U.S. Army Signal Corps, PV1 - 2LT, 1982-1985; US Army Aviation, 2Lt - MAJ, 1986-1999; Saddlebrooke Rotary Member, 1999-2004; Lay Church Council Secretary and Vice-President, 1990-1994

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Financial consultant (Series 7 & 63 licensed in OH and MI), 1988-2006; Fraternal Insurance Counselor, 1989-2006; Retail Farm and Automotive manager, 1980-1988

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY**

***EASTERN REGION***

**Connor Hagey**

College: Shippensburg Univ.

BS / Business / 2003

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Oakmont, PA

Occupation: Senior Health Care Director

**Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

Concordia Lutheran Ministries - Director

2013-Present

PNC Bank - Investment Operations

2006-2013

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**District:** Committee on Nominations, 2022, 2025

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** As a Director with Concordia Lutheran Ministries, LCMS RSO, I am blessed to interact with LCMS groups from across the country. I am also blessed to sit on multiple Endowment Boards as well. Additionally, I serve as Chairman of the Board for Redeemer Lutheran School, another LCMS RSO.

**Statement of Candidacy:** *I am blessed and honored to be considered for serving the English District in any way I can.*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

### LAKE ERIE REGION

#### Jonathan Busarow

College: Valparaiso University  
The Ohio State University

BM / Music / 2008  
MM / Music / 2010

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN

Occupation: Executive Director, Fort Wayne Children's Choir

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Purdue University – Associate Faculty	2012-Present
Fort Wayne Children's Choir – Executive Artistic Director	2012-Present
Valparaiso University – Director of Choirs, Sabbatical Replacement	2011-2012

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Floor Committee and Lay Delegate, Synod Convention, 2023

Other: Elder, Church Council – Redeemer Lutheran Church; Board of Directors – Redeemer Classical School

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: My executive role with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir has been invaluable to me in helping lead the non-profit. I am hopeful that I can use that knowledge to help the English District.

Statement of Candidacy: *I have been looking for ways in which I can help serve the Synod and the English District. Nominated by my pastor, I am encouraged to serve on the Board of Directors, the Endowment Fund Board and the Nominating Committee. I pray that I may use the gifts given to me to help the Church.*

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

### LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

#### Mark Harris

College: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

BS / Criminal Justice / 1997

Present Congregation: Hope, Bellaire, MI

Occupation: Retired – Michigan State Police

#### Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Michigan State Police (MSP) Special Investigations Section Commander	2019-2024
MSP Post Commander, Gaylord Post	2016-2019
MSP D/Sergeant Gaylord, Kalkaska, Traverse City	2002-2016
MSP Shift-Sergeant Traverse City Post	2000-2002
MSP-Trooper, Flint, Kalkaska, Gaylord Criminal Invest. Unit	1993-2000

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: I have not held any formal positions within the District. I have worked with District personnel while serving as the Call Committee Chairman and when other issues arose in the congregation which required District involvement.

Other: I have served at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church as a Trustee from 2000-2006. I have been an Elder and served as a Subdeacon from 2006 to present. I have also been serving as the chairman of the congregation since 2022. Additionally, was a Call Committee Chairman in 2010, when we called our current pastor. I led the Bellaire Cub Scout Troop as the Scoutmaster for 10-years, while also participating as a Boy Scout Leader. I attend numerous Business After Hours and Chamber of Commerce functions in my local community to keep in touch with business leaders and community events. For several years, I coached youth football and baseball.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: In the Michigan State Police (MSP), I have prepared agendas and led many section and post meetings to present important information and maintain communication with the personnel. I have served on various boards, including County Gun Boards, 911 Committee Boards, multi-jurisdictional task force meetings, detective meetings, Child Advocacy Meeting, Child Death Review panels, and numerous others. Since I have run and participated on numerous boards and meetings, I am very familiar with preparing for and facilitating them.

Statement of Candidacy: *I am running for the positions of Board of Directors, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Nominating Committee. After 31 years of service, I recently retired from the Michigan State Police as a Detective First Lieutenant. I found this career very satisfying in serving others while providing leadership for troopers and the communities we served. I have been able to develop my communication, organizational, leadership, budgeting, and planning skills throughout my various roles. I have been attending Hope Lutheran Church in Bellaire, Michigan since we moved to the area in 1996. I have served in several church leadership roles and currently hold the positions of Chairman and Elder. I love the Liturgy of the Common Service and serving as a Subdeacon during the Mass. I always make myself available to help with maintenance and groundskeeping at the church, as well as helping elderly members who are in need. Now that I am retired, I feel I have an opportunity to serve in a role with a wider impact within the English District. I believe whichever role I'm selected for, I will serve with integrity, honor, and commitment. I am married to my wife, Jill, we have four children, Brendan 27- LCMS pastor in Fall Creek, WI, Christian 25-working for the parks, Madeleine 20 and Cameron 19-both attending college. Thank you for your support.*

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY**

***LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)***

**Terry Leu**

College: Ashland College

BS / Education / 1978

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Occupation: Retired – Self-employed

**Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

Rolston Poultry – Owner

1992-2016

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**LCMS:** English District Coordinator, National Youth Gathering, 2022 and 2025

**District:** Board of Directors, 2012-Present; Endowment Fund Board of Managers, Board of Directors representative and secretary, 2018-Present

**Other:** Congregation: Presently Head Elder; Endowment Fund Chairman; Lay Youth Worker; Head of the Call Committee

**Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications:** Active in the Cleveland & Akron Circuits, have attended both Synod and District Conventions; attended 11 National Youth Gatherings; President of the Pine Valley Golf League

**Statement of Candidacy:** *Because of my tenure on the Board of Directors, I feel that I can help provide continued direction, leadership, and stability, along what has been a very successful path for the last decade.*

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY**

***MIDWEST REGION***

**Rod Lane**

College: Concordia, Seward

BA / Management / 1997

College: Concordia, St. Paul

DCE / Colloquy / 2010

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

**Congregations/Schools Served:**

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

2007-Present

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

District: Board of Directors, 2019-Present; Chair, Lutheran Malaria Initiative; hosted/coordinated, district youth gathering servant event, 2017; District Gala Team, 2021-2022

Other: Redeemer Lutheran Church - DCE in Family, Education, Youth and Outreach, 2010-Present; lay worker in youth and education, 2007-2010

*Statement of Candidacy: I have served for the last several years and enjoy my service to the district. I believe it is a good use of my time and talents. I believe I'm a good resource for the board and welcome the challenges that come with serving on the Committee on Nominations.*

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY**

***WESTERN REGION***

**Andrew Grant**

College: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

BS / Mech. & Aerospace Eng. / 2010

Present Congregation: Eternal Life, Mesa, AZ

Occupation: Engineer

**Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):**

The Boeing Company - Materials & Process Engineer

2022-Present

The Boeing Company - Design Engineer

2014-2022

The Boeing Company - Manufacturing Engineer

2010-2013

**SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

**LCMS: LCMS Convention 2016, 2018**

**Other: Board of Christian Education, 2013-2021; Board of Elders, 2016-Present; Head Elder, 2022-Present; Board for Campus Ministry at Arizona State University, 2012-2015**

**Statement of Candidacy: *I am ready to learn, and willing to serve where my time, talents, and abilities are needed.***

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY**

***WESTERN REGION (cont.)***

**Thomas Honebrink**

College: Concordia College, St. Paul

BA / Env. Science / 1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Occupation: Lay Deacon

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Catalina Lutheran Church – Lay Deacon (Music)	2014-Present
Casas Christian School – Teacher (Middle School Science)	2016-2020
Oro Valley Pediatrics – Administrator	2008-2015
Atonement Lutheran School – Bookkeeper	1999-2001
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Rule Coordinator	1994-1998

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations, 2015, 2018; Convention Lay Delegate, 2006

Other: Congregation: Elder, Financial Secretary, Bell Choir Director, Youth Director, Bible study leader, School Board Chair, Substitute Teacher; Advisory Board Chair, Town of Oro Valley Parks & Recreation; Youth Sports Coach; Board Member, Family First Pregnancy Care Center; Volunteer, Tohono Chul Park

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Board member, Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society; Provost, Lutheran Servanthood School; Board member, Southern Arizona Foundation for Education-Lutheran; Council member, Concordia St. Paul Alumni; Volunteer-Conservation Officer, Peace Corps; served on additional extension and community-based boards and groups domestically and abroad

Statement of Candidacy: *Having been blessed by Lutheran education from first grade through college, it has been my pleasure to serve in various capacities throughout my life in natural response to all that the Lord has given me. I have enjoyed serving the Lord at the congregational, circuit and district levels as well as in my community. May the Lord bless His church at her convention and all who serve in His name.*

## **CANDIDATES FOR SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS**

Nominations received were submitted to the District Committee on Nominations for it to review and prepare a slate of candidates for election by the Convention Delegates. The slate of candidates is listed alphabetically below:

Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

Rev. Larry Loree

## SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

### **The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy**

College: Concordia University Wisconsin  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
Grad School: Walden University  
Grad School: Walden University

BS / Education / 1996  
MDiv / 2000  
MPA / 2009  
DBA / 2012

#### Pastorates:

Our Savior, Hartland, MI	2020-Present
Peace, McMurray, PA	2008-2020
Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, PA	2000-2008

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

LCMS: Vice Chair, Floor Committee-Structure; Vice Chair, Floor Committee-University Education; Chair, Floor Committee-Mercy; Board of Regents CUWAA

District: Bishop/President; Regional Vice-President; Circuit Visitor; Regional Mission Action Council; Regional Missions Facilitator

### **The Rev. Larry Loree Jr.**

College: Concordia University, Mequon  
Seminary: Concordia Theol. Seminary, Ft. Wayne

BA / Mgmt & Comm / 1998  
MDiv / Pastoral Theology / 2002

#### Pastorates:

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI	2021-Present
All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA	2016-2021
Holy Ghost, Monroe, MI	2008-2016
Camp of the Pines, Pottersville, NY	2007-2008
Zion, Detroit, MI	2006-2007
Immanuel, Steger, IL	2002-2006

#### SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Pastors Conference Committee - Northern Illinois District, 2004-2006

Other: Retired after 25 years in the Air National Guard: 19 years as a chaplain and 6 years as a chaplain assistant.

Statement of Candidacy: If elected to serve, I will diligently strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position in a way that is faithful to the Gospel of Christ and for the good of the District.