

Convention Announcements

- Dates:** April 19-21, 2018
- Location:** Sioux Falls Convention Center
- Theme:** "Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!"
Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 52:13; John 3:14-15
- Registration:** \$150 per delegate paid in advance by mail. Receive badges and meal tickets at the Convention Center
- Convention Worship:** Worship Service with Holy Communion, 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 19th, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2200 South Western Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Worship Service with Installation of Officers, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21 at Convention Center
- Convention Preachers:** Opening Service: The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Installation Service: The Reverend Scott C. Sailer, President of The South Dakota District The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Times of Sessions:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 st Session | 3:30-5:35 p.m. Thursday, April 19 |
| 2 nd Session | 6:45-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 |
| 3 rd Session | 8:00-10:00 a.m. Friday, April 20 |
| 4 th Session | 10:30-Noon Friday, April 20 |
| 5 th Session | 1:30-3:00 p.m. Friday, April 20 |
| 6 th Session | 3:30-5:30 p.m. Friday, April 20 |
| 7 th Session | 8:00-10:15 a.m. Saturday, April 21 |
- Synodical Representative:** The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Convention Bible Study Leader/Essayist:** The Reverend Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Senior Pastor Saint Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Convention Chaplain:** The Reverend Gene D. Bauman, Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, South Dakota
- Convention Parliamentarian:** Mr. Thomas Deadrick, Legal Counsel, The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Convention Manager:** Mr. Randall L. Gayken, Business Manager, The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Public Relations Director:** Reverend Darren R. Olson, Executive Secretary, The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Assistant Secretary:** Mrs. Krista Erickson, Lay Member Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Convention Accompanist:** Reverend Howard Shane, Emeritus Pastor Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Convention Committees

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Committee 1: | Administration Work Assignment: Committee Members: | President's Report; Treasurer's Report, Board of Directors Minutes Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman Reverend David Otten Mr. Glenn Harnisch Mr. Gordon Krause |
| Committee 2: | Parish Services Work Assignment: Committee Members: | Service Areas; Special Ministries Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman Reverend Cory Rajek Mr. Dave Daberkow Mrs. Liz Peters Mr. Mark Rutter |
| Committee 3: | Special and Sundry Matters Work Assignment: Committee Members: | Minutes of Pastors and Teachers Conferences; Sundry Matters; Courtesy Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman Reverend Bret Bierman Ms. Crystal Bormann Mr. Ron Neeman |
| Committee 4: | Registration, Credentials and Excuses Work Assignment: Committee Members: | Registration, Credentials and Excuses Reverend Kory Janneke, Chairman Reverend Jason Letsche |
| Committee 5: | Nominations Work Assignment: Committee Members: | Develop Slates of Candidates for Offices to be filled by election, 2018 Convention Reverend Timothy Rynearson, Chairman Reverend Peter Utecht Mr. Dale Hemminger Mr. John Marquardt Mr. David Zuercher |
| Committee 6: | Elections Work Assignment: Committee Members: | As stipulated by District Handbook, Bylaw 5.21 District President will appoint the Chairman during the first session of the Convention |

NOTE: Committees 1, 2, and 3 will meet Monday, March 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office to prepare convention business, meeting as long as necessary to complete assigned work.

NOTE: Correspondence regarding resolutions proposed by floor committees should be addressed to committee chairmen as listed below. If requested, floor committees may hold hearings Thursday morning, April 19, 2018, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. at the Convention Center.

Committee 1: **Administration**
Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman
Zion Lutheran Church
4550 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57701
Telephone: (605) 342-5749
E-Mail: paul.winckler@zionrc.org

Committee 2: **Parish Services**
Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
St. Martin-Trinity-St. John's Lutheran Churches
PO Box 126
Alexandria, SD 57311
Telephone: (605) 239-4754
E-Mail: lutheranpreacher@gmail.com

Committee 3: **Special and Sundry Matters**
Reverend Daniel Deardoff, Chairman
Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church
PO Box 289
Brandon, SD 57005
Telephone: (605) 582-2396
E-Mail: pastorbrlc@alliancecom.net

Special Standing Rules

(These rules are among those which prevail for Conventions of the Synod.)

1. The Chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Delegates wishing to address the Convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state their name and the name and location of the congregation, or of the administrative unit that they represent.
3. No delegate may speak in debate for longer than two (2) minutes per speech. No delegate may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak the second time until all delegates desiring to speak the first time have had the opportunity. The Chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule. When a floor committee is called on to answer a question or to give information, this rule shall not apply.
4. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his/her speech. Any other voting delegate may call the question at any time.
5. Most votes will be taken by electronic key pad ballot. The Chair shall have discretion, however, to call for a vote other than by electronic key pad ballot. Instead of only a voice vote on such motions before the Convention, the Chair shall ordinarily also call for the raising of the right hand.
6. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two (2) minutes to provide the rationale for offering it, and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two (2) minutes to present rationale for not considering the proposed substitute, after which the Convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion fails. If the substitute motion does not receive a favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is an adaptation of the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions, as observed by the Synod.)
7. The presenter of any resolution from a floor committee shall move adoption of the resolution. Because it is understood that there is support from other members of the floor committee, a second shall not be required.
8. The preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections shall be regarded as integral parts of resolutions and therefore subject to the same consideration and adoption as the main motion.
9. Whenever possible, amendments to proposed resolutions and substitute resolutions shall be submitted to the District Office or Convention Office for publication in *Today's Business* prior to convention consideration of the resolutions to which they pertain. When this is not possible, as in the course of a discussion, a written copy of proposed amendments shall be provided to the Secretary either before or immediately after being offered from the floor.
10. Whenever an amendment is offered from the floor that seeks to make editorial or other helpful suggestions to a pending resolution coming from a floor committee, the chair of the floor committee shall have the option of accepting such an amendment. If it is accepted, then the amendment is made without further debate or formal vote of the assembly.
11. In order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following guidance shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, including laptops, cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar devices. In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such

devices shall not be used. Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall not be allowed on the convention floor.

| Seating Area of Convention Hall | Type of Use Permitted | | | Laptop Computers (no communication, e.g. e-mail or Internet) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|
| | Voice | Text Messages | Other Electronic Communications, including laptops | |
| Voting Delegate | No | No | No | Yes |
| BOD, Special Guests | No | Yes | Yes | --- |
| Advisory Delegate | No | Yes | Yes | --- |
| Visitors | No | Yes | Yes | --- |

12. At such time as “pro-con” discussion is occurring, the front microphone will be designated the “pro” microphone and the back microphone will be designated as the “con” microphone. Motions or questions may be made from any microphone.
13. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the Convention.
14. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees, which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, die.
15. Unless covered by these standing rules of the Convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Roberts *Rules of Order Newly Revised*. Above all, the rules of Christian love and behavior shall apply.

Parliamentary Procedure

A. 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, and to ensure justice and fairness to all, both the majority and the minority.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chairman and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe nine basic, essential parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner. They are:

Members:

1. Address the Chair. "Mr. Chairman" (or Mr. President)
2. Await recognition by the Chair
3. Identify yourself thus: "I am a pastoral/lay delegate from _____ congregation, city."
4. Make the motion. "I move that..."
5. Second the motion. (Unless not required)

Chair:

6. States the motion. (Or rules it out of order)
7. Calls for discussion. (Unless motion is undebatable)
8. Take the vote. (Or "Puts the Question")
9. States the results.
"The 'yesses' have it and the motion is carried." Or, "the 'noes' have it and the motion is lost." The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

A PRIMER OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PROCEDURE

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

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

Above all, there should be a spirit of Christian love and trust.

B. 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.

| YOU WANT TO: | YOU SAY: | May Speaker Be Interrupted To Make this Motion? | Is Second Required? | Is Motion Debatable? | Can This Motion Be Amended? | Is Vote Required? What%Required? |
|---|---|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Adjourn | I move we adjourn. | No | Yes | No | No | Majority |
| 2. Recess | I move we recess. | No | Yes | No | No | Majority |
| 3. Raise a question of privilege | Question of privilege Mr. Chairman. . . | Yes | No | No | No | No vote required |
| 4. Lay on the table | I move to table this matter. | No | Yes | No | No | Majority |
| 5. Previous question | I move the previous question. | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3 vote |
| 6. Postpone definitely or to a certain time | I move we postpone this matter until. . . | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| 7. Commit or refer | I move we refer this matter to a committee. | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| 8. Amend a motion | I move this be amended to read. . . | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |
| 9. Main motion | I move that. . . | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority |

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

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

| YOU WANT TO: | YOU SAY: | May Speaker Be Interrupted To Make this Motion? | Is Second Required? | Is Motion Debatable? | Can This Motion Be Amended? | Is Vote Required? What%Required? |
|---|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Object to error in procedure due to a personal affront | Point of Order | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| 2. Request for Information | Request for Information | Yes, if urgent | No | No | No | No |
| 3. Verify voice vote by taking actual count | I call for a division of the house | No | No | No | No | No, unless someone objects then majority |
| 4. Object to consider a matter you think improper | I object to consideration of this question | Yes | No | No | No | Yes - 2/3 |
| 5. Take up a matter which has been tabled | I move we take from the table | No | Yes | No | No | Yes majority |
| 6. Reconsider matter already disposed of | I move we reconsider our action relative to | Yes | Yes | Yes, if original motion was debatable | No | Majority |
| 7. Consider matter out of scheduled order | I move we suspend rules & consider | No | Yes | No | No | 2/3 |
| 8. Vote on a ruling of the chair | I appeal the decision of the chair | Yes | Yes | Yes, if original motion was debatable | No | Majority |

C. SUBSTITUTE MOTION

In the case of a substitute motion we shall follow an adaptation of the so-called "Behnken Rule." See page 4, point 6 for more information.

Convention Agenda

Thursday, April 19, 2018

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9:30-2:00 p.m. | Delegate Registration, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, Exhibit Hall #2 |
| 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Floor Committee Hearings – Convention Center, Ballroom A |
| 11:00-Noon. | Opening Worship Service, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD |
| 12:00-1:30 p.m. | Lunch (Delegates are on their own.) |
| 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Registration – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2 <i>NOTE: Each voting delegate will receive a voting keypad at the time of registration. <u>It is extremely important that all voting delegates complete registration by 2:00 p.m.</u> so that they will have their voting keypads available for practice voting during the Delegate Orientation.</i> |
| 1:30-5:00 p.m. | Exhibits – Convention Center Ballroom A |
| 2:15-3:15 p.m. | Orientation of Delegates – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2 <u>(Due to the use of the electronic voting system, all delegates are expected to participate in the Orientation Session.)</u> |
| 3:30-5:35 p.m. | First Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2 |
| 5:35-6:45 p.m. | Delegate Dinner (meal ticket required) – Convention Center, Ballroom A |
| 6:45-8:30 p.m. | Second Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2 |

Friday, April 20, 2018

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:00-8:00 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet (meal ticket required) at Convention Center, Ballroom A |
| 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Exhibits – Convention Center Ballroom A |
| 8:00-10:00 a.m. | Third Session |
| 10:00-10:30 a.m. | Recess/Coffee Break – Convention Center, Ballroom A |
| 10:30-Noon | Fourth Session |
| Noon-1:30 p.m. | Recess/Noon Meal (meal ticket required) – Convention Center Ballroom A |
| 1:30-3:00 p.m. | Fifth Session |
| 3:00-3:30 p.m. | Recess/Coffee Break #2 – Convention Center, Ballroom A |
| 3:30-5:30 p.m. | Sixth Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2 |
| 5:30 p.m. | Evening Meal (Delegates are on their own) |

Saturday, April 21, 2018

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 7:00-8:00 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet at Convention Center (meal ticket required) |
| 8:00-10:15 a.m. | Seventh Session |
| 10:30 a.m. | Closing Worship Service |

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Roster of Officers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|--|---|
| President: The Reverend Scott C. Sailer | Elected First Term 2015 |
| 1 st Vice-President: The Reverend Gene D. Bauman | Elected First Term 2015 |
| 2 nd Vice-President: The Reverend L. Scott Spiehs | Elected First Term 2015 |
| Secretary: The Reverend Samuel L. Bobby | Elected First Term 2015 |
| Treasurer: Mr. Jeff A. Siekmann..... | Appointed Mid-Term 2011; Elected First Full Term 2012 |
| Lay Member: Mr. Guy W. Baumann | Elected First Term 2012 |
| Lay Member: Mr. Robert J. Herz | Elected First Term 2015 |

Circuit Visitors

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Circuit A Visitor | Reverend Timothy Koch |
| Circuit B Visitor | Reverend David Knefelkamp |
| Circuit C Visitor | Reverend Ray Greenseth |
| Circuit D Visitor | Reverend Dr. Dale Sattgast |
| Circuit E Visitor | Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher |
| Circuit F Visitor | Reverend Mark Mischnick |
| Circuit G Visitor | Reverend Thomas Christopher* |
| Circuit H Visitor | Reverend Charles Kramer |
| Circuit I Visitor..... | Reverend David Gunderson** |

*Appointed after Reverend Dwaine Doremus resigned.

**Appointed after Reverend Dean Schroeder resigned.

District Reconcilers

The 1992 Synodical Convention with its Resolution 5-01B adopted a new process of conflict resolution, replacing the previous adjudication process with a new reconciliation process. The resolution allows each District to name four Reconcilers, who are asked to serve for a period of six years on both the District level and the Synodical level when named to special Dispute Resolution Panels or in other unique circumstances.

In order to fill these positions, Circuit Visitors in each District of the Synod were asked to submit names of pastors and laymen to their District Boards of Directors. The Board of Directors was given final selection process. Special intensive training was provided by the Synod.

The four Reconcilers of The South Dakota District are:

Reverend Paul Winckler
SD District Reconciler
4550 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57701

Reverend Nabil Nour
SD District Reconciler
46448 263rd Street
Hartford, SD 57033

Mr. Steve Jastram
SD District Reconciler
828 North Columbia Circle
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Mr. Scott Peters
SD District Reconciler
215 West 25th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

2018 Convention Nominating Committee

(Elected by the 2015 District Convention)

Pastors: Reverend Timothy Rynearson
 Reverend Peter Utecht

Laymen: Mr. Dale Hemminger
 Mr. John Marquardt
 Mr. David Zuercher

NOTE: According to Bylaw 5.11 of the District Handbook, page 16, the District President shall recommend to the Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on Nominations for the next Convention of the District, to be elected at this Convention. Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by the Convention, with two pastors and three laymen to be elected.

Roster Ministers of Religion – Ordained (Pastors) - Active

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aker, Corey..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Albers, Paul | Vermillion, SD |
| Andreasen, Jordon | Wagner and Fairfax, SD |
| Ascher, Christopher..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Asmus, Aaron | Sioux Falls, SD |
| | |
| Bauer, Micah..... | Brookings, SD |
| Bauman, Gene | Spearfish, SD |
| Bierman, Bret..... | Mansfield, Stratford and Aberdeen, SD |
| Bobby, Samuel | Aberdeen, SD |
| Brown, Thomas | Mitchell, SD |
| | |
| Christopher, Thomas | Alexandria, Spencer and Emery, SD |
| | |
| Davis, Jesse | Centerville and Hurley, SD |
| Deardoff, Sr., Daniel | Brandon, SD |
| Domke, Daniel..... | Huron, SD |
| Doremus, Dwaine | Marion and Parker, SD |
| Drevlow, Ryan | Sioux Falls, SD |
| | |
| Edwards, Lucas | Rapid City, SD |
| | |
| Farden, John..... | Tea, SD |
| Fitch, Josiah..... | Aberdeen, SD |
| Fries, John | Deadwood and Sturgis, SD |
| | |
| Gatnoor, Jenina | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Grams, Craig | Groton and Andover, SD |
| Greenseth, Ray | Murdo and Draper, SD |
| Grimmer, Daniel | Mitchell, SD |
| Gunderson, David..... | Yankton, SD |
| | |
| Hinners, Gregory | Norris and Midland, SD |
| | |
| Jacobsen, Gary | Hot Springs, SD |
| Janke, Ryan..... | Winner and Hamill, SD |
| Janneke, Kory..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Jenson, Jens..... | Armour, SD |
| Johnson, Kenneth..... | Avon and Springfield, SD |
| Jones, Joshua | Rapid City, SD |
| | |
| Knefelkamp, David | White and Aurora, SD |
| Koch, Timothy..... | Cresbard and Wecota, SD |
| Kumm, Michael..... | Dakota Dunes, SD |
| Kurowski, Peter | Canistota and Montrose, SD |
| | |
| Lehr, Gregory..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Lemcke, Brian..... | Delmont and Tripp, SD |
| Letsche, Jason | Brandon, SD |
| Lindenberg, David | Rapid City, SD |
| Loeslie, Ryan | Dimock, SD |
| | |
| Makelin, Terry..... | Freeman, SD |
| McCarthy, Christopher..... | Wall and Creighton, SD |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Meyer, Wade | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Mischnick, Mark..... | Chamberlain, SD |
| Morfitt, David..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| | |
| Nemera, Chera | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Neugebauer, Nathan | Milbank and Reville, SD |
| Nix, Matthew | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Nour, Nabil..... | Hartford, SD |
| | |
| Obermann, Eric | Custer and Hill City, SD |
| Olson, Darren | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Otten, David..... | Gettysburg and Lebanon, SD |
| | |
| Possehl, Iver..... | Watertown, SD |
| | |
| Rajek, Cory | Pierre, SD |
| Redhage, Lloyd | Ferney and Britton, SD |
| Resner, Matthew | Menno and Scotland, SD |
| Ring, Marcus..... | Gregory, SD |
| Rynearson, Timothy | Brookings and Flandreau, SD |
| | |
| Sailer, Scott | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Schewe, Caleb | Corona and Wilmot, SD |
| Schroeder, Dean | Tyndall and Utica, SD |
| Soyk, Kenneth | Parkston and Emery, SD |
| Spiehs, L. Scott | Wolsey, Wessington Springs and Woonsocket, SD |
| Sturzenbecher, Randy..... | Black Hawk, SD |
| | |
| Theiss, Benjamin | Onida, Blunt and Harrold, SD |
| Thole, Samuel | Brookings and Flandreau, SD |
| Thorson, Clint | Madison and Howard, SD |
| | |
| Utecht, Peter..... | Redfield and Doland, SD |
| | |
| Weeman, Richard..... | Wolsey, Wessington Springs and Woonsocket, SD |
| Weispfennig, Steven..... | Yankton, SD |
| Welton, Adam | Wentworth, SD |
| Wilshusen, James | Sisseton and Waubay, SD |
| Winckler, Paul..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Wurm, Matthew | Brookings, SD |

District Missionaries at Large

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Sutton, Albert..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Utecht, Andrew | Rosebud, SD |

Military Chaplains – Active Duty

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Wilson, Lynn | Rapid City, SD |
|--------------------|----------------|

Military Chaplains – Reserve

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Gunderson, David..... | Yankton, SD |
|-----------------------|-------------|

Retired Pastors

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Adams, Ray | Sioux City, IA |
| Ahart, Neal..... | Alcester, SD |
| Althoff, Albert | Gregory, SD |
| Anderson, Hyle | Aberdeen, SD |
| Anderson, Robert | Custer, SD |
| Boeder, Charles..... | Pipestone, MN |
| Bohlmann, Robert..... | Custer, SD |
| Borglum, Kent..... | Spearfish, SD |
| Dell, Monty..... | Salem, SD |
| Denke, Glenn..... | Winner, SD |
| Dietz, William | Scottsdale, AZ |
| Ellis, David | Yankton, SD |
| Fedde, Robert..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Gardner, Robert..... | Hot Springs, SD |
| Gies, Clark | Fairfax, SD |
| Goldammer, Gordon | Custer, SD |
| Greinke, Kenneth..... | Lee's Summit, MO |
| Hartman, Stephen | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Hartwig, Raymond | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Haugen, Paul | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Helling, Melbourne..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Johnson, Larry | Webster, SD |
| Kramer, Charles | Canton, SD |
| Luttmann, Richard | Sioux Falls, SD |
| McKillop, Don..... | Winner, SD |
| Mueller, James | Yankton, SD |
| Naasz, Terry | Pierre, SD |
| Paepke, William..... | Piedmont, SD |
| Pomplun, Ray | Aberdeen, SD |
| Sattgast, Dale | Huron, SD |
| Schmidt, Kenneth | Rapid City, SD |
| Schultz, Glenn | Rapid City, SD |
| Schwan, David..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Sestak, Peter | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Shane, Howard..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Uecker, Warren..... | Madison, SD |
| Urbach, Jon Bradford | Pierre, SD |
| Warnier, Paul | Alcester, SD |
| Warpness, Barry | Box Elder, SD |
| Werner, John | Emery, SD |

Pastors – Candidate Status

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Dawson, John | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Heckmann, Robert..... | Canton, SD |
| Hinckley, Robert | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Idt, Brian | Andover, SD |
| Kalb, Jeffrey..... | Browns Valley, MN |
| Lessman, Bradley..... | Spearfish, SD |

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (Teachers)

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Allen, Marianne..... | Hot Springs, SD |
| Berkmire, Amber..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Bridges, Kristy..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Bult, Derek..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Deeter, Dana..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Deeter, Nicholas..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Dooley, Karen..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Eberhard, Susan..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Esser, Tia..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Frerking, Krystal..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Genzlinger, Hope..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Graumann, Natalie..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Herther, Ann..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Hoogland, Lacey..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Hoppen, Faith..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Lenz, Tina..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Miller, Allison..... | Aberdeen, SD |
| Miller, Heather..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Mlnarik, Kathryn..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Noble, Jennifer..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Ockander, Marli..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Pinn, Jon..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Solinsky, Ann..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Tams, Sandra..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Vercruyse, Britney..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Vogel, LeAnn..... | Rapid City, SD |

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Candidate

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Althoff, Diane..... | Gregory, SD |
| Asmus, Alissa..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Grimmer, Christine..... | Mitchell, SD |
| Henschen, Rhonda..... | Bancroft, NE |
| Holt, Sherlyn..... | Arlington, SD |
| Kolb, Linda..... | Big Stone City, SD |
| Lenz, Rod..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Loeslie, Valerie..... | Dimock, SD |
| Olson, Susan..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Preto, Kayla..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Schmitt, Ellen..... | Yankton, SD |
| Singer, Kelly..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Smith, Emily..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Smith, Mavis..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Wendt, Nikol..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Wombold, Dawn..... | Rapid City, SD |

Ministers of Religion – DCE

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Baker, Jodene..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Larson, Eric..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Peters, Elizabeth..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Peterson, Lorien..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Schmitt, Joshua..... | Yankton, SD |

Ministers of Religion Commissioned - Teacher Evangelist

Belitz, Larry Hot Springs, SD

Ministers of Religion Commissioned – Emeritus

Consoer, Paul Prescott Valley, AZ
Geidel, David Dimock, SD
Hoyme, Kristie Baltic, SD
Koopman, Karleen Roswell, NM
Lafrentz, Louise Sioux Falls, SD
Palmreuter, Kenneth Rapid City, SD
Palmreuter, Martha Rapid City, SD
Peters, Joyce North Sioux City, SD
Sayles, Priscilla Rapid City, SD
Schoenborn, Marlys Rapid City, SD
Sopko, Darlene Elk Point, SD
Sopko, Marvin Elk Point, SD
Uecker, Carol Madison, SD
Withee, Roxanne Rapid City, SD

Roster of Congregations & Parishes by Circuit

Circuit A – 13 Congregations, 7 Parishes

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Aberdeen, Saint Paul..... | Parish |
| Aberdeen, Our Savior..... | Parish |
| Columbia, Saint John | |
| Andover, Zion | Parish |
| Groton, Saint John | |
| Ferney, Saint Paul | Parish |
| Britton, Saint John | |
| Cresbard, Concordia | Parish |
| Wecota, Immanuel | |
| Leola, Saint Paul | Parish |
| Mansfield, Trinity | Parish |
| Stratford, Saint Paul | |
| Aberdeen, Saint John | |

Circuit B – 13 Congregations, 8 Parishes

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Brookings, Mount Calvary | Parish |
| Brookings, Peace | Parish |
| Flandreau, Redeemer | |
| Corona, Trinity | Parish |
| Wilmot, Our Savior | |
| Milbank, Bethlehem | Parish |
| Revilla, Saint John | |
| Milbank, Emanuel | Parish |
| Sisseton, Emanuel..... | Parish |
| Waubay, Zion | |
| Watertown, Mount Olive | Parish |
| White, Zion..... | Parish |
| Aurora, First English | |

Circuit C – 12 Congregations, 6 Parishes

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Gettysburg, Emmanuel..... | Parish |
| Lebanon, Christ | |
| Midland, Saint Peter | Parish |
| Norris, Saint John | |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Murdo, Messiah | Parish |
| Draper, Saint Paul | |
| Onida, Holy Cross | Parish |
| Harrold, Immanuel | |
| Blunt, Trinity | |
| Pierre, Faith | Parish |
| Presho, Zion | Parish |
| Reliance, Trinity | |

Circuit D – 8 Congregations, 4 Parishes

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Doland, Redeemer | Parish |
| Redfield, Messiah | |
| Howard, Saint John | Parish |
| Madison, Our Savior | |
| Huron, Mount Calvary..... | Parish |
| Wolsey, Saint John..... | Parish |
| Wessington Springs, Zion | |
| Woonsocket, Mount Olive | |

Circuit E – 14 Congregations, 10 Parishes

| | |
|--|--------|
| Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd | Parish |
| Creighton, Emmanuel..... | Parish |
| Wall, First | |
| Custer, Our Redeemer | Parish |
| Hill City, Our Savior | |
| Deadwood, Grace..... | Parish |
| Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel | |
| Hot Springs, Bethesda..... | Parish |
| <i>(Philip, Redeemer***) in parish with Messiah-Saint Paul, Murdo-Draper, SD – Circuit C</i> | |
| Rapid City, Bethlehem..... | Parish |
| Rapid City, Our Redeemer | Parish |
| Rapid City, Peace | Parish |
| Rapid City, Zion | Parish |
| Spearfish, Saint Paul..... | Parish |

Circuit F – 13 Congregations, 9 Parishes

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Armour, Redeemer | Parish |
| Chamberlain, Zion | Parish |
| Hamill, Zion | Parish |
| Winner, Christ | |
| Delmont, Zion | Parish |
| Tripp, Emmaus | |
| Dimock, Immanuel..... | Parish |
| Gregory, Saint John..... | Parish |
| Mitchell, Zion..... | Parish |
| Parkston, Faith | Parish |
| Emery, Saint Peter | |
| Plankinton, Saint Paul | Parish |
| White Lake, Trinity | |

Circuit G – 12 Congregations, 7 Parishes

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Alexandria, Saint Martin | Parish |
| Spencer, Trinity | |
| Emery, Saint John | |
| Canistota, Zion | Parish |
| Montrose, Saint John | |
| Freeman, Saint Paul..... | Parish |
| Hartford, Trinity..... | Parish |
| Marion, Bethesda | Parish |
| Parker, First English | |
| Menno, Immanuel..... | Parish |
| Scotland, Saint Paul | |
| Wentworth, Saint Peter..... | Parish |

Circuit H – 10 Congregations, 9 Parishes

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Brandon, Blessed Redeemer | Parish |
| Sioux Falls, Christ..... | Parish |
| Sioux Falls, Trinity | |
| Sioux Falls, Faith | Parish |
| Sioux Falls, Lord of Life | Parish |

Sioux Falls, Memorial Parish
 Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer Parish
 Sioux Falls, Resurrection..... Parish
 Sioux Falls, Zion Parish
 Tea, Risen Savior Parish

Circuit I – 12 Congregations, 8 Parishes

Alcester, Peace Parish
 Avon, Zion..... Parish
 Springfield, Our Savior
 Centerville, First English..... Parish
 Hurley, Zion
 Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross Parish
 Tyndall, Saint John Parish
 Utica, Martinus
 Vermillion, Concordia Parish
 Wagner, Saint John Parish
 Fairfax, Trinity
 Yankton, Saint John’s..... Parish

South Dakota District Early Childhood, Elementary and High Schools

(Alphabetical by city)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| The Lighthouse – Preschool..... | Aberdeen, SD |
| Divine Shepherd Lutheran Preschool..... | Black Hawk, SD |
| Blessed Redeemer – Preschool..... | Brandon, SD |
| Peace Lutheran – Early Childhood Center and School..... | Brookings, SD |
| Zion Lutheran – Preschool | Canistota, SD |
| Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool..... | Dakota Dunes, SD |
| Redeemer Lutheran – Preschool..... | Flandreau, SD |
| Saint John’s Lutheran – Preschool..... | Groton, SD |
| Trinity Lutheran Learning Center – Preschool/Early Childhood Center | Hartford, SD |
| Bethesda Lutheran School – Preschool-2 nd Grade | Hot Springs, SD |
| Mount Calvary Lutheran – Preschool | Huron, SD |
| Emanuel Lutheran – Preschool | Milbank, SD |
| Faith Lutheran – Preschool/Early Childhood Center | Pierre, SD |
| Black Hills Lutheran School – 6-12 th Grade..... | Rapid City, SD |
| Peace Lutheran – Preschool | Rapid City, SD |
| Zion Lutheran School – Preschool – 5 th Grade | Rapid City, SD |
| His Ark Christian Child Development Center | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association – Preschool-8 th Grade..... | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls – 9 th –12 th Grade | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool..... | Sturgis, SD |
| Risen Savior Lutheran – Preschool..... | Tea, SD |
| Saint John’s Lutheran – Preschool..... | Yankton, SD |

District President's Report to the 61st Convention of The South Dakota District, LCMS

President Scott C. Sailer

“Behold Your God!”

(Extended Theme: “Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!”)

Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 52:13; John 3:14-15

“Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’” (Isaiah 40:9).

“Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted” (Isaiah 52:13).

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).

It is an honor to bring you this report as the fourteenth President of The South Dakota District. In the past triennium, my first as the District President, we have walked together under the theme from the last convention in 2015: “Called Into Partnership – For MERCY (*Diaconia*)”. This theme logically followed the themes of the conventions that immediately preceded it: in 2012, “Called Into Partnership – For WITNESS (*Martyria*),” and in 2009, “Called Into Partnership – For FELLOWSHIP (*Koinonia*).” The three themes nicely reflect the mission and ministry emphasis of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in place since the Synod’s restructuring in 2010: Witness, Mercy, Life Together.

“Mercy” in The South Dakota District, 2015-2018

“Mercy” has been our emphasis from 2015-2018. Mercy is spoken of throughout the Old and New Testaments in various ways, using various words, such as loving kindness, pity, kindness, compassion, and sacrificial love. God acts in all of those ways toward us sinners. This is especially seen in His love for us in Jesus Christ. We, having received such undeserved and necessary mercy, reflect the mercy we have received from God into the lives of the people around us, as His grateful sons and daughters, especially as we serve our neighbors with good works to meet their needs.

In my article in the January 2018 District supplement in *The Lutheran Witness*, I asked, “How have we [shown mercy] in our District in the current triennium?” I wrote:

God has done that through you! In 2017, forty-one Harvest Grants totaling \$94,060 were given to encourage and support congregations and schools in planting the seed of the Gospel in their communities through mercy projects and Gospel witness activities.

You have also shown mercy through your generous mission support, with our 107 congregations remitting about \$1 million to the District in each of the last three years. For every dollar your congregation remits to the District, thirty-two cents are sent to the Synod to support the Lord’s work in other places. The offerings we retain go to work to show mercy in many ways, including through the Native American mission work we do on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. Reverend Andrew Utecht (Rosebud) and Reverend Albert Sutton (Pine Ridge) preach God’s Word to a growing number of people. Baptisms are increasing in number, too. And

myriad are the other ways people are being helped through these pastors and the laypersons who assist them.

Because of your congregation's mission commitment to the District, the deaf are receiving God's Word and hospital patients in Sioux Falls are being visited by Reverend Matthew Nix. Your dollars help us to minister to college students at South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota. And they help us to conduct workshops in rural ministry, stewardship, church planting and evangelism.

In the current triennium, in addition to the ministry carried out through the mission dollars the District receives, many of our congregations, Sunday Schools, and other groups and individuals rallied to the aid of Zion Lutheran Church, Delmont, after the devastating tornado in 2015. Thousands of dollars were given in a great show of mercy. The result is that Zion now has a new church building and parsonage.

Yes, God has shown mercy to us; we, in turn, have shown His mercy to others.

God's Agents of Mercy to Me

God has extended His mercy to me, personally, in special ways the past three years. Being a District President is not on the radar of one who aspired to be a pastor, as I had done since my confirmation days at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dickinson, ND. Yet this is what you elected me to in 2015, after I had served in parish ministry in South Dakota for twenty-six years and as a seminary admissions officer for four. There was the proverbial steep learning curve, especially early on as District President. But my predecessor, the Reverend Dr. Dale L. Sattgast, given the title "District President Emeritus" in the 2015 Convention, was generous with his time as he wrapped up his duties as president, and he gave me a fine orientation to the unique ministry of District President. And the value of the many templates left behind by Reverend Sattgast to aid in ministering to this or that situation cannot be calculated, but they are deeply appreciated by me. Thank you, Dale, for being God's agent of mercy to me in these ways!

God, in His mercy, has given to the District and to me a fine staff at the District Office. Mr. Randall Gayken, our Business Manager for 37+ years, Mrs. Julie Pike, Administrative Assistant for 30+ years, Mr. Chad Zinnel, Accountant (officially) and Technology Guru (unofficially) for thirteen years, and Reverend Darren Olson, our Executive Secretary for six years, are God's agents of mercy to me and to you. Many of you know, from your experience of contacting the District Office, that Randy, Julie, Chad, and Darren are willing and able servants of God, eager to assist you and your congregation or school. They do that for me, too, as what has been new to me is hardly new to them. I could not serve you effectively as your District President without them. I think we work together well at 3501 S. Gateway Boulevard in Sioux Falls for the sake of the Kingdom. Thank you, District Office team, for being patient and helpful agents of mercy to me and all of us in the District!

Our Convention Theme in 2018 and the District's Mission & Ministry Theme for 2018-2021: "Behold Your God!"

The District President gets to develop the theme for District Conventions. And so I gathered together a small team in January of 2016 to work on the theme for this year's convention. I wanted something missional and something exciting. I had already invited the Reverend Dr. Reed Lessing, a pastor in Fort Wayne, IN, and one of the fine Old Testament scholars in the Synod, to be our essayist/Bible study leader for this convention, and I instructed Dr. Lessing that he has two hours at the convention to take us through Isaiah chapters 40-55, which he is eager to do for us.

As the team and I explored this beautiful section of Isaiah, which Dr. Lessing, in his commentary on Isaiah 40-55, calls the “zenith of Yahweh’s revelation in the Old Testament,” we came up with the theme “Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!” (short form, “Behold Your God!”). This was inspired by Isaiah 40:9, where the prophet implores the people of Judah to urge their neighbors to behold God and all He wants to do for them as the all-holy, almighty, and all-gracious Lord of creation and the One who would redeem them by the Suffering Servant He would provide (Isaiah 52-53).

But, to get them to this point of being God’s grateful messengers, a whole lot of history had to unfold. God’s people living in Judah would be complacent in their faith, or downright rebellious against God, running away from Him, indulging their sinful flesh, and chasing after idols. God did not want to lose His people forever, so He would one day discipline them through the destruction wrought by the ruthless Babylonians. Many of God’s people would be carted off into exile in Babylon. There, they would mourn the loss of their land, their temple, and their freedom.

Yet God, who is rich in mercy, did not stop loving His people. In response to their cry for help, He would deliver unexpected and undeserved help in the form of a certain promise to rescue them from their Babylonian captivity and to grant them “double for all their sins” (cf. Isaiah 40:2) – that is, far more grace from Him than they could have ever imagined. What a gracious God they beheld! What a gracious God, whose love they, the people of Judah, could now share with their neighbors, saying, “Behold your God!”

We, the people of God of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who live in South Dakota, likewise, have experienced our Lord’s help in countless ways, and we have countless opportunities to witness to those around us: “Behold your God! Know that He has an immeasurable supply of grace for you in Jesus Christ.”

And so in our District Convention we will study and celebrate this Good News and we will plan our mission and ministry around this Good News for the next triennium.

Not Home Yet: Evidence of This in the Past Three Years

God’s people in their Babylonian exile yearned for home and for *shalom*. Judah, Jerusalem, and its environs was “home.” For us, the new heavens and the new earth promised by God is really our home; we’re just passing through this temporal world for the time being. *Shalom* is more than mere “peace.” It is a restored and grace-filled relationship with God. Dr. Lessing, on page 670 in his commentary, adds that *shalom* means everything so wrong will be made right.

So much has happened in our world and state in the past triennium to signal to us we are not home yet and that there is so much that is wrong that must be made right.

On Mother’s Day, 2015, the aforementioned tornado ripped through Delmont, just as Sunday School was about to begin at Zion Lutheran Church. Fortunately, the teachers and students were able to take shelter in the church basement, even as the nave was destroyed above them. God was gracious and He guarded the lives of those in the building. But the beautiful German Gothic building and its priceless organ from Germany were destroyed. The re-building of lives and buildings would ensue, but it would be a difficult time of recovery.

On June 26, 2015, another kind of “storm” ripped through our entire nation, as the U.S. Supreme Court on that day ruled that same-sex marriage was the law of the land. We in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to hold firm to the teaching of God’s beautiful gift of marriage as one man and one woman for life. However, we face the ongoing challenge of declaring His truth on this doctrine and all His instruction found in His Holy Word in a world that finds it difficult to acknowledge truth of any kind, and that has grown in its hatred of individuals and institutions that declare the Bible as divine truth.

Travel bans. Pipeline and anthem protests. Charlottesville. Church shootings. Sniping via social media. North Korean missiles. Syrian genocide. Internet porn. Abortion on demand. Wildfires. Harvey, Irma, Maria. Storms, of one kind or another, that rip through our sinful, broken world.

In The South Dakota District and throughout our Synod the winds of change are blowing in the form of changing demographics and attitudes. Rural towns and churches, for the most part, are getting smaller and older. Even in places of population growth, like Sioux Falls, Tea, and Rapid City, church membership and worship attendance have plateaued. LCMS folks are moving to these cities, but many are choosing to worship in other churches, or not at all. In other places in the state, big and small, our church members are moving away, or, if they stay, they are less frequent in their worship attendance.

About a generation ago, in 1994, the average congregation in the District had 302 baptized and 231 confirmed members; 115 souls were in worship. At the end of 2016, the 107 LCMS congregations in the District had an average baptized membership of 278, an average confirmed membership of 217, and an average weekend worship attendance of 83. Over the twenty-two years from 1994 to 2016, while the number of souls in our congregations declined by 8%, worship attendance declined by 28%. It's no wonder that 71 of our 107 congregations are in dual and triple-point parish arrangements in order to keep their doors open and support a pastor. In 2017, three congregations in the District, which had stood alone for an average of 104 years each, made the decision to partner with other churches in response to having fewer members and lower worship attendance and offerings for the Lord's work.

If this decline is true for many of our District congregations, it should not surprise us that demographic studies reveal that a large number of the people in the rural areas and cities of South Dakota today are not connected to a church. How many of these folks don't know or trust the help and hope given by the Savior? Only God knows! And He calls us to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (cf. Matthew 5:13-14). Praise God that He uses individual Christians as "salt" and "light" in their various vocations to draw people to Himself! He wants to use congregations and circuits and a church District, too. But the institutional Church as a whole, and we as a part of it, seem to be lagging in the missionary efforts required to reach out with the Gospel and with works of mercy.

Instead, should we not be a Church that lives like it knows that there's a better Home to come, and that we want to head there, bringing more people along with us, as we connect them to Christ through Word and Sacraments? There's plenty of room! Our Lord assures us, "In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

What Help, What Hope: The Lord is With Us and For Us!

By the end of 2017, I had visited most of the congregations in the District. In fact, I've had the privilege of preaching in fifty-eight churches in South Dakota – some of them more than once -- since I was elected District President. I feel like I'm getting to know the saints of The South Dakota District and they are getting to know me. Despite the shortcomings and challenges noted above, it is clear to me that we are God's beloved people, saint-sinners, striving to be faithful to Him and His Word. We have dedicated, hard-working pastors, teachers, and Directors of Christian Education. The laity are salt-of-the-earth. In God's mercy, He helps us in countless ways. He gives us hope for the living of our days, as we look forward to the eternal Home to come. We know that the living Lord is with us and He is for us.

In Part 2 of my report, to be given at the Convention, I'll outline the needs and opportunities before us, as I see them, which include:

- Strategizing with our congregations about their future and their opportunities for witness and mercy;
- Increasing the offerings of Bible study in our churches, a way that God builds healthy congregations;
- Seizing the opportunities to reach the unchurched and de-churched in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Belle Fourche, and other places;
- Recruiting more people for church work careers; and
- Equipping our lay people, including our young adults, to lead.

Until then, I wish you God's richest blessings! May He continue to help you amid the storms and the times of tranquility. May He fill you with His hope in Christ Jesus. And may you boldly and winsomely say to those in your congregation and community, "Behold Your God!"

Reverend Scott C. Sailer
President, The South Dakota District—LCMS
Romans 1:16; 16:25-27
"...not ashamed of the Gospel"

[Note: The commentary referenced is from the Concordia Commentary series published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. Dr. Lessing's volume on Isaiah 40-55 in the series was published in 2011.]

District Mission Reports

Ministry to the Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD

Reverend Matthew W. Nix, Sioux Falls, SD

Over the past few years, the work being done among the deaf in South Dakota has continued to change. We have been able to continue to work with the members of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, in Sioux Falls and across the state. We are able to provide regular Word and Sacrament ministry along with Bible studies and care in all parts of their lives. There has also been a growing number of high school students and young adults that have shown a renewed interest in the church. This has brought with it changes in how Deaf Ministry needs to be provided. Our deaf, being across the state and many of them not being official members of Trinity and with their many special needs (communication being only one special aspect) require a creative use of time and resources. Working with one deaf youth in Rapid City required multiple trips out within a month's time, each trip taking multiple days. This is not an uncommon situation and we are grateful for your understanding and support.

The dual parish with Christ Lutheran continues to work well with Deaf Ministry. It allows us to offer more opportunities to the deaf in our local area. If the deaf in our area cannot make it to Trinity we are able to provide an interpreter at Christ. We are also able to invite the deaf to our special services, allowing them opportunities they might not otherwise have. Our main service for the deaf is at 8:30 Sunday mornings. We also enjoy the opportunity for my wife to interpret Main Street Living, giving deaf across our region opportunity for regular worship.

Whatever changes might happen in our deaf community in South Dakota, we are thankful that our District provides opportunities for us to bring the precious Gospel to them in the manner that fits the ever changing environment. If you have deaf people in your area please feel free to point them to Main Street Living and or let us know about them. (mw_nix@yahoo.com)

It is a great joy serving the deaf in our District. I look forward to many more years of working with you to bring the saving message of Jesus to this special part of God's kingdom.

Missionary-at-Large to the Native American People at Pine Ridge

Reverend Albert G. Sutton, Rapid City, SD

It is a land of darkness, poverty, and suffering. In this land, pagan worship and blood sacrifice still exist through the ever-popular sun dances and human flesh sacrifices left on prayer trees. In this land, it is thought by many that purification comes in the form of burning sage and smudging or going to sweats in the sweat lodges. In this land of confusion, Christianity is seen by many as a threat to the traditional culture. All Christians are made to bear the punishment for the sins of a few, so many years ago. This land of darkness and confusion is often hostile to the Christian message and witness.

However, it is into this land that our Father has called us, as a district, to speak the Way, the Truth and the Life to a hurting people. As we gather for ministry, Jesus comes to us in Word and Sacrament, forgiving our sins and raising us to new life. As we gather with the Natives, we hear the bold proclamation "Behold your God!" And together as God's people we rejoice that He has come to us, breaking into our land of darkness and confusion and bringing us light and life through the purification that only His blood and Word can bring.

Through the partnership of The South Dakota District, we are able to spread God's Word, and show acts of love and mercy to the Great Sioux Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Word is spread as we continue to hold services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The services are traditional Lutheran targeted at an adult audience, followed by a Christian magic lesson taught by Larry Belitz. Dianne Falin follows this up with a Sunday school lesson and a craft. The lessons and magic are designed for the children but the adults stay to listen and even look forward to the craft every time. Christ's love and mercy is also seen through our human care. Every Sunday that we hold church, we conclude with a meal to feed the people, prepared by Doris Belitz. On the fourth Sunday of every month, we hand out food bags to each family that is in attendance. The end of the month is a very lean time for the native families and the gifts are greatly appreciated. The human care extends after the Sunday service with family home visits to shut ins, those requesting or needing a visit, regular hospital visits to those staying at Rapid City Regional Hospital and the helping of individuals as specific financial needs come up.

On a typical Sunday, we use the two District vans to bring our needed items for the day. This would include tables, altar furnishings, a generator, fire wood, A/V equipment, food and water and cleaning supplies. We joke that we are the traveling Tabernacle. All of this is needed as we worship in and make do with an abandoned building for our church home. This means no heat or utilities other than what we bring. It is dark, cold, and dirty. Not a nice place by anyone's standards. The good news is, nobody else wants to use it, and this has actually helped us to remain in the community. The Sutton and Tilley children help us set this all up and I might add they have become quite efficient at it, too. Jim Tilley, Sarah Sutton, Jeff Falin, and Donna Utecht then take the vans and go through the housing divisions to pick up children and those needing a ride. During our service and Sunday School hour all of the workers in our mission help to keep order, run A/V equipment or be a loving lap for a native child to sit on.

Our attendance has grown to 35-50 Natives each Sunday. These numbers do not include the team itself. It is important, when looking at attendance numbers, to remember that the Native people are a very transient people. It is very normal for people to move from community to community and live with or visit extended family for various lengths of time, up to years on end. It seems that every year half of the faces are changing. We are seeing many different people and as they move away they are taking their faith with them. I have had Natives call me wanting to know a good church to worship at in their new home off the reservation. Also by way of social media, we are seeing members encourage one another in the faith even after they move away.

The last three years we have seen steady growth in many areas. The adult attendance continues in a slow growth cycle. We are seeing more children where previously they had stopped coming as the adults increased. The last three years have given us many firsts. Previously we had spoken at wakes for native friends that have passed away but last year we were asked to officiate the entire funeral process, which is a 2 day wake with a service and committal. We have also seen our first, and now abundant by comparison, adult baptisms. Most recently, I have been asked to officiate a native wedding. While not spectacular by most normal church standards, these firsts show that the community is seeing us not just as a mission but also as a church of the community.

Thank you to the District and all who support our mission and for the continued prayer on our behalf.

Missionary-at-Large to the Native American People

Reverend Andrew E. Utecht, Rosebud, SD

“Behold Your God” Proclaimed on the Rosebud Indian Reservation

2018 will mark the 25th anniversary of our mission in Rosebud. 2017 marked the 20th year of my ordination and installation in Rosebud. The last 3 years have witnessed lots of baptisms, and funerals, a few weddings, confirmations, Sunday worship services, Lenten services, Bible studies, daily radio devotions, VBS, mission groups, home visits, puppet shows, and lots of prayer, as we seek to say with Isaiah, “Behold your God!” and show the people of Rosebud the grace of our Lord Jesus.

One of the main parts of our mission are home visits. Looking back I can see how the visits have changed from being an outsider, visiting through a door or window with suspicion, to being welcomed as one of the family or community as their Pastor. Many times I am invited to the homes to perform a “house blessing”, and chase away the evil spirits. If I am not asked, I usually still include a prayer that the evil spirits leave and the Holy Spirit comes. This may strike some as scary, but it is an everyday part of the ministry.



We also work together in ministry by hosting several mission groups throughout the year. We try to have most of them come from the SD District, as one of the goals of hosting groups is to develop Christian friendships. That way if someone from here moves to where they are, or attends college there, they will have a friend to encourage them. Hosting mission groups also helps break down racism, as people get to know people. Hosting mission groups also helps those groups open their eyes and hearts to learn to do missions right where they live. Most groups help with VBS, although some help with Christmas caroling, or work projects. We thank especially the churches in Brandon, Sioux Falls, Brookings, Pierre, and Dimock in this regard, but others as well.



We continue to help and encourage the work at Harvest Winds sewing factory in Parmelee, where we make star quilts. This business has been going for 4 years now, and we are quite encouraged by it. My job is to go on a semi regular basis and offer encouragement to the workers, and a devotion. I also try to help with problems at home, so that then they are better able to work.

We also host a Bible AA group, in both churches, and help with Sunday worship on a monthly basis. This is a great group of people that run the program, tied to the tribal treatment program. The members of our church are greatly encouraged by this outreach.

One of the great things to come out of our churches is my son Titus, who is currently on vicarage in Green Bay, as he studies to be a pastor. We also work to raise up Native leaders also. Have encouraged a few in that direction, but God will raise them up in His time.

We also continue to perform the Puppet Place ministry at the State Fair, even utilizing some people from Rosebud to help. We also help the LWML in this as they help us, not only here but in so many ways. Thank you to all the LWML groups for their support.

Our worship service attendance ranges from 12-60 in attendance. Many are children who come without parents. The children help with all the preparation from lighting candles, distributing the bulletins, ringing the bell, getting the flannelgraph story together and even helping tell the story. I have also served the vacancy at St. John in Norris for the past 2 years. And continue to serve Our Savior, Valentine, Nebraska as a vacancy also, with this moving toward a permanent call while continuing the mission in Rosebud.

Again we are glad to proclaim, "Behold Your God" together as a mission of the SD District. We look forward to continuing to proclaim Jesus Christ as God, and Lord in the years ahead. Thank you for the support, prayers, and encouragement you give to all of us.

Love In Christ, Reverend Andrew Utecht

Campus Ministry SDSU, Brookings, SD

Reverend Matthew E. Wurm and Reverend Micah L. Bauer, Brookings, SD

In August 2016, Reverend Micah Bauer was called to Mount Calvary, in part, to lead the ongoing campus ministry at SDSU, replacing a series of vicars and a parish worker. In 2016-2017, we reached at least 54 students, with approximately 25-35 different students worshipping with us and 7 at our campus Bible study within the span of a given month. In the fall semester of 2017, we reached at least 68 students, with approximately 35-40 worshipping and 11 in Bible study monthly.

In addition to weekly worship and on-campus Bible study, we attended conferences in Minneapolis and Washington, DC, hosted game nights for students and parishioners, provided a monthly lunch for students after worship services, played dartball against our Men's Club, had pizza and movie nights, etc. In addition to making student visits, Pastor Bauer has also been visiting campus weekly in his clerical collar, offering to pray for students and answer any questions.

In order to further our campus ministry, we ask that you please let us know if any of your parishioners attend SDSU. Giving us their contact information is a significant initial step in helping them to remain faithful during this often tumultuous time. The other colleges' campus ministries would ask the same. Many students, for one reason or another, do not make the extra effort to go to church unless someone reaches out to them, and we cannot reach out if we don't know they're here. Thank you.

Concordia Lutheran Church and Student Center USD, Vermillion, SD

Reverend Paul F. Albers

Reaching out and ministering to the students of USD continues to be a priority of Concordia Lutheran Church and her members, and we are extremely thankful for the generous support of the District that helps us do this work! It has been both a wonderful and challenging couple of years and your continued support of thoughts and prayers is always welcomed and especially needed.

Much of our campus ministry activities have not changed over the last few years, which means we continue to meet for a weekly Bible study somewhere on campus, gather at least once a month for fellowship and to watch a movie at the church, and attend the biannual LCMS-U conferences. I (pastor) also try to spend some time on campus each week to interact with

students, but that doesn't always happen depending on the seasons, meetings, or any number of other things that come up.

This last year there was a core group of young students that come to many of our weekly Bible studies and a number of other students that we regularly have joining us for worship on Sunday mornings. By the grace of God, I pray that both groups will continue to thrive and grow in the coming months and years.

The couple years have been a time of transition, as we have gotten a new pastor and recruited a new faculty/staff advisor for our LCMS-U student group at the university. All of which is to say, we have begun to have conversations about how we want and/or need to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of campus ministry, so that God's Word might continue to reach the students here at USD.

Thank you, again, for your strong support and love! Please, continue to pray for Concordia, the unique work God has given us to do, and share with us the names of any young woman or man from your congregation that attends (or plans to attend) USD.

Peace and God bless.

Report of Initial Membership - Individuals

The procedure for admitting into membership in the Synod Ministers of Religion – Ordained (Pastors) and Ministers of Religion – Commissioned (Teachers and DCE’s) was changed by the 1986 Convention of the Synod. Eligible individuals become members of the Synod by the Rites of Ordination and Installation (in the case of pastors) and by Rites of Commissioning and Installation (in the case of teachers and other church workers). (2016 Handbook, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3, p. 55). During the past triennium, the following individuals were received into membership:

PASTORS

2015

Jesse L. Davis
Daniel P. Grimmer
Jason M. Letsche
Matthew T. Resner
James M. Wilshusen

2016

Paul F. Albers
Micah L. Bauer
William L. Cornelius
Josiah J. Fitch
Ryan M. Janke
Jens B. Jenson
Eric P. Obermann
Benjamin J. Theiss

2017

Christopher R. McCarthy
Samuel R. Thole

TEACHERS AND DCE'S

2015

Christina R. Sereda
Emily B. Smith
Brian M. Weyers

2016

Allison R. Miller
Joshua M. Schmitt
Britney C. Vercruysse

Action Requested: That the new members be recognized and welcomed.

Report on the Admission of Congregations into Membership in the Synod and on Revisions of Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and By-Laws of Congregations

Pursuant to the regulations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which govern the admission of congregations into Synodical membership, as well as the revision and amendment of Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and By-laws of congregations, the following report is made. Please refer to the 2016 Handbook of the Synod pages 52 - 55.

The procedure for congregations applying for membership is as follows:

1. Submit Articles of Incorporation (Constitution) and By-laws to District President.
2. District President refers documents to the District Constitution Committee for review.
3. District Constitution Committee examines documents and informs congregation of any necessary changes that must be made.
4. When documents are in order, this fact is reported by the District Constitution Committee to the District President who presents the application for membership to the District Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors acts on the application at any regular meeting.
6. The President and Secretary of the congregation, as representatives of the newly-admitted congregation sign the Constitution of the Synod in a special worship service normally attended by the District President.
7. District President presents certificate of membership to the congregation.
8. Signatures preserved by District Secretary.

The procedure for review of Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and By-Laws is:

1. Mandatory to submit any change in all documents to District President.
2. District President refers to District Constitution Committee for review.
3. District Constitution Committee notifies District President when documents are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions and the teaching and practices of the Synod and laws of South Dakota.
4. District President presents documents to District Board of Directors for approval.
5. When approved by the Board of Directors the congregation is notified that it may function under the new documents as a member of the Synod.
6. The congregation files a restated Articles of Incorporation with the State of South Dakota.
7. These actions reported to the next convention of the District.

As you can see, the District Constitution Committee plays a major role in the review process of corporate documents of member congregations and of congregations applying for membership. The committee has three members. Pastor Terry Naasz replaced Pastor David Otten as Chairman of the Constitution Committee when he was elected into the position of District Secretary in 2012. Pastor Naasz served until his retirement in August 2013. Pastor Daniel Deardoff, Sr., was appointed Chairman in October 2013. He is assisted by Pastor Warren Uecker and Pastor Kenneth Soyk. The District has been blessed to have had legal counsel of Mr. Tom Deadrick who looked to see if Articles of Incorporation are in line with the State of South Dakota codified law.

Corporate Documents Approved by the Board of Directors

Paragraph 2.4.1, pp. 54 of the 2016 Handbook of the Synod stipulates that the action of the District Board of Directors approving revised Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and By-laws be reported to the District Convention. The Board approved documents as follows:

Fairfax, Trinity Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Constitution and Bylaws, December 10, 2017

Rapid City, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, September 26, 2017

Rapid City, Zion Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, March 6, 2018

Sioux Falls, Christ Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, September 26, 2017

Sioux Falls, Resurrection Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, March 6, 2018

Tea, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, September 26, 2017

White Lake, Trinity Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation, June 13, 2016

Wilmot, Our Savior Lutheran Church, South Dakota, Amended Articles of Incorporation, December 15, 2014

Documents in Process of Review by DCC

The District Constitution Committee is currently considering the official documents of the following congregations:

Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd

Brookings, Mount Calvary

Hill City, Our Savior

Hot Springs, Bethesda

Milbank, Emanuel

Parkston, Faith

Rapid City, Bethlehem

Sioux Falls, Memorial

Springfield, Our Savior

Pastoral Candidates Ordained and Installed

Albers, Paul F. (St. Louis, MO 2016) ordained by Reverend John M. Albers at Chapel of the Resurrection, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN on June 12, 2016 and installed by Reverend Scott Sailer at Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on August 7, 2016.

Bauer, Micah L. (St. Louis, MO 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on August 14, 2016.

Cornelius, William L. (Colloquy, 2014) Placed by Council of Presidents on May 6, 2016, installed by Reverend David J. Kniefelkamp at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 24, 2016.

Davis, Jesse L. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2015) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at First English and Zion Lutheran Churches of Centerville and Hurley, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on August 30, 2015.

Fitch, Josiah J. (St. Louis, MO 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on July 31, 2016.

Grimmer, Daniel P. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2015) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Zion Lutheran Church of Mitchell, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on July 12, 2015.

Janke, Ryan M. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Christ and Zion Lutheran Churches of Winner and Hamill, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on June 26, 2016.

Jenson, Jens B. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Armour, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 24, 2016.

Letsche, Jason M. (St. Louis, MO 2015) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church of Brandon, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on June 28, 2015.

McCarthy, Christopher R. (St. Louis, MO 2017) ordained and installed by Reverend Gene D. Bauman at First and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches of Wall and Creighton, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 23, 2017.

Obermann, Eric P. (St. Louis, MO 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Our Redeemer and Our Savior Lutheran Churches of Custer and Hill City, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on June 19, 2016.

Resner, Matthew T. (St. Louis, MO 2015) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Immanuel and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Menno and Scotland, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on August 9, 2015.

Theiss, Benjamin J. (St. Louis, MO 2016) ordained and installed by Reverend L. Scott Spiehs at Holy Cross, Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran Churches of Onida, Harrold and Blunt, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on August 14, 2016.

Thole, Samuel R. (St. Louis, MO 2017) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Peace Lutheran Church of Brookings, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on August 13, 2017.

Wilshusen, James M. (St. Louis, MO 2015) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Zion and Emanuel Lutheran Churches of Waubay and Sisseton, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 26, 2015.

Pastors Transferred from Other Districts

Aker, Corey W. (Mid-South District) installed at Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 14, 2016 by Reverend Gene D. Bauman.

Barbey, Daniel C. (Southern Illinois District) installed at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota as Intentional Interim on February 7, 2016 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Bohlmann, Robert E. (Indiana District) Emeritus, Custer, South Dakota on July 1, 2017.

Dawson, John K. (Ohio District) Non-Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on February 3, 2016.

Fries, John J. (Missouri District) installed at Grace and Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Churches of Deadwood and Sturgis, South Dakota on April 9, 2017 by Reverend Gene D. Bauman.

Hartwig, Raymond L. (Missouri District) Emeritus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on March 1, 2017.

Hinckley, Jr., Robert M. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on December 19, 2017.

Hinners, Gregory S. (Nebraska District) installed at St. John and St. Peter Lutheran Churches of Norris and Midland, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on January 28, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Kurowski, Peter M. (Missouri District) installed at Zion and St. John Lutheran Churches of Canistota and Montrose, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on August 6, 2017 by Reverend Thomas D. Christopher.

Lemcke, Brian S. (Missouri District) installed at Zion and Emmaus Lutheran Churches of Delmont and Tripp, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on January 7, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Lessman, Bradley R. (Southern District) Candidate, Spearfish, South Dakota on December 18, 2017.

Loeslie, Ryan L. (Nebraska District) installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dimock, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on September 24, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Makelin, Terry J. (Nebraska District) installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Freeman, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on September 10, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Morfitt, David C. (Iowa West District) installed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on May 3, 2015 by Reverend Charles F. Kramer.

Rajek, Cory J. (South Wisconsin District) installed at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota as Senior/Administrative Pastor on February 12, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Ring, Marcus J. (Southern District) installed at St. John Lutheran Church, Gregory, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on January 8, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Schmidt, Kenneth A. (Iowa West District) Emeritus, Rapid City, South Dakota on July 8, 2017.

Thorson, Clint O. (Texas District) installed at Our Savior and St. John Lutheran Churches, Madison and Howard, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on April 15, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Warnier, Paul A. (Minnesota North District) Emeritus, Alcester, South Dakota on September 1, 2017.

Warpness, Barry G. (Northwest District) Emeritus, Box Elder, South Dakota on November 13, 2016.

Pastors Transferred to Other Districts

Barbey, Daniel C., August 1, 2017 (Intentional Interim, Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District.

Baumann, Joshua J., March 4, 2018 (Associate pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota) to the North Wisconsin District.

Bicknase, Keith W., July 1, 2016 (Emeritus) to the Florida-Georgia District.

Bode, Edgar W., December 19, 2016 (Emeritus) to the Rocky Mountain District.

Bucklew, Christopher B., July 3, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Zion and Emmaus Lutheran Churches, Delmont and Tripp, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District.

Cornelius, William L., November 6, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota) to the Southern District.

Edge, David A., March 10, 2017 (Assistant Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Texas District.

Garland, Curtis D., July 4, 2016 (Sole Pastor, First and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches, Wall and Creighton, South Dakota) to the Michigan District.

Gregory, Karl W., June 5, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Bethesda and First English Lutheran Churches, Marion and Parker, South Dakota) to the Southern Illinois District.

Henschen, Nathan P., October 3, 2016 (Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Leola, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District.

Mehl, Silas C., January 30, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Zion and St. John Lutheran Churches, Canistota and Montrose, South Dakota) to the Missouri District.

Milbrandt, Richard W., October 29, 2017 (Sole Pastor, St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches, White Lake and Plankinton, South Dakota) to the Iowa West District.

Needham, Samuel J., June 1, 2015 (Sole Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, South Dakota) to the Wyoming District.

Nies, Jared R., February 1, 2016 (Sole Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Gregory, South Dakota) to the Minnesota North District.

Pater, Paul M., November 14, 2016 (Sole Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Howard, South Dakota) to the Ohio District.

Pay, Garen R., October 30, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Alcester, South Dakota) to the Northwest District.

Poppen, Tyler P., July 17, 2017 (Sole Pastor, Our Savior and St. John Lutheran Churches, Aberdeen and Columbia, South Dakota) to the Missouri District.

Smith, Kelly D., June 20, 2016 (Associate Pastor, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota) to the North Wisconsin District.

Troester, Jerome A., August 10, 2015 (Emeritus) to the Nebraska District.

Yahr, Karl J., January 5, 2016 (Candidate) to the Minnesota South District.

Pastoral Moves Within The District

Bierman, Bret R. (Sole Pastor, Trinity and St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Mansfield and Stratford, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor-SMP of Trinity, St. Paul and St. John Lutheran Churches of Mansfield, Stratford and Aberdeen, South Dakota (a newly created tri-point parish) on May 3, 2015 by Reverend Dr. Dale L. Sattgast.

Bobby, Samuel L. (Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Aberdeen, South Dakota on July 5, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Doremus, Dwaine D. (Emeritus, Wentworth, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor, First English and Bethesda Lutheran Churches of Marion and Parker, South Dakota on March 3, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Edwards, Lucas W. (Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran Churches of Onida, Harrold and Blunt, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota on November 22, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Grams, Craig N. (Sole Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Groton, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor, St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches of Groton and Andover, South Dakota (newly formed dual parish) on September 10, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Janneke, Kory A. (Assistant Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Associate Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on December 20, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Nour, Nabil S. (Emeritus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, South Dakota) on August 21, 2016 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Otten, David G. (Sole Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dimock, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor, Emmanuel and Christ Lutheran Churches of Gettysburg and Lebanon, South Dakota on January 29, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Redhage, Lloyd W. (Sole Pastor, Zion and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Andover and Ferney, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of St. John and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Britton and Ferney, South Dakota (newly formed dual parish) on February 19, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Sailer, Scott C. (Senior Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as South Dakota District President, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 14, 2015 by Reverend Dr. Dale L. Sattgast.

Welton, Adam J. (Sole Pastor, Zion and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Presho and Reliance, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church of Wentworth, South Dakota on January 6, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Winckler, Paul M. (Assistant Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota) installed as Associate Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota on July 1, 2017 by Reverend Randy R. Sturzenbecher.

Candidate Status Granted

Edge, David A., Assistant Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Candidate status granted July 28, 2016.

Yahr, Karl J., Sole Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, South Dakota; Candidate status granted July 20, 2015.

Pastors Retired

Anderson, Hyle R., Senior Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota retired July 31, 2015.

Borglum, Kent A., Sole Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Freeman, South Dakota retired January 31, 2016.

Denke, Glenn R., Sole Pastor, St. John and St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Norris and Midland, South Dakota retired December 31, 2015.

Doremus, Dwaine D., Sole Pastor, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, South Dakota retired December 1, 2017.

McKillop, Don C., Sole Pastor, Christ and Zion Lutheran Churches, Winner and Hamill, South Dakota retired December 31, 2015.

Nour, Nabil S., Sole Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, South Dakota retired August 9, 2015.

Sattgast, Dale L., South Dakota District President LCMS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired August 1, 2015.

Schulz, Glenn A., Assistant Pastor, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota retired February 7, 2017.

Schwan, David E., Senior Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota retired June 12, 2017.

Troester, Jerome A., Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota retired July 31, 2015.

Uecker, Warren W., Sole Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, South Dakota retired January 15, 2018.

Pastors Called to Glory

Brack, Orlett D., Emeritus, February 19, 2018.

Knuth, Edward W., Emeritus, March 1, 2017.

Pastors Removed from Roster

Morton, Douglas V. (Emeritus, Omaha, Nebraska) resigned March 14, 2016.

Tews, Daniel E. (Sole Pastor, Emmanuel, Christ and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Gettysburg, Lebanon and Seneca, South Dakota) resigned November 8, 2015.

Teachers – DCE’s Commissioned & Installed

Miller, Allison R. (Concordia, Chicago, Illinois, 2017) commissioned and installed as Principal/Teacher at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Aberdeen, South Dakota on August 6, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Schmitt, Joshua M. (Concordia, Irvine, California, 2017) commissioned and installed as Director of Christian Education at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota on August 13, 2017 by Reverend Darren R. Olson.

Sereda, Christina R. (Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, 2015) commissioned and installed as teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 30, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Smith, Emily B. (Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, 2015) commissioned and installed as teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 30, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Vercruyse, Britney C. (Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, 2017) commissioned and installed as teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 27, 2017 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Weyers, Brian M. (Concordia, St. Paul, MN, 2015) commissioned by Reverend Adam Koglin at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota on June 21, 2015 and installed as Director of Christian Education at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota by Reverend Scott C. Sailer on July 12, 2015.

Teachers - DCE’s Transferred From Other Districts

Eberhard, Susan L. (Montana District) installed as Teacher at Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 27, 2017 by Reverend Darren R. Olson.

Geidel, David O. (Nebraska District) Emeritus, Dimock, South Dakota on July 1, 2017.

Grimmer, Christine A. (Indiana District) Candidate Status, Mitchell, South Dakota on January 9, 2017.

Holt, Sheryln J. (Rocky Mountain District) Non-Candidate Status, Arlington, South Dakota on January 4, 2016.

Kolb, Linda A. (Minnesota South District) Non-Candidate Status, Big Stone City, South Dakota on June 3, 2016.

Loeslie, Valerie A. (Nebraska District) Candidate Status, Dimock, South Dakota on September 5, 2017.

Miller, Dana N. (Northern Illinois District) installed as Teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 21, 2016 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Mlnarik, Kathryn J. (Montana District) installed as Teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 30, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Preto, Kayla A. (Nebraska District) Non-Candidate Status, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on September 11, 2015.

Schmitt, Ellen M. (Iowa East District) Candidate Status, Yankton, South Dakota on August 2, 2017.

Singer, Kelly J. (Pacific Southwest District) installed as Teacher at Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 28, 2016 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Teacher - DCE Moves Within The District

Solinsky, Ann C. (Teacher, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota) installed as Principal/Teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota on July 19, 2015 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Teachers – DCE’s Transferred To Other Districts

Heirigs, Joshua D., (Director of Christian Education, Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Minnesota South District on August 24, 2015.

Heirigs, Rachel L., (Candidate Status, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Minnesota South District on August 24, 2015.

Nies, Sarah A., (Non-Candidate Status, Gregory, South Dakota) to the Minnesota North District on February 1, 2016.

Sereda, Christina R., (Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Southern District on July 13, 2017.

Smith, Megan T., (Non-Candidate Status, Huron, South Dakota) to the North Wisconsin District on June 20, 2016.

Waterman, David M., (Emeritus Status, Cedar Rapids, IA) to the Iowa East District on January 20, 2016.

White, Jordan M., (Teacher, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota) to the Rocky Mountain District on May 18, 2015.

Candidate Status Granted

Singer, Kelly J., Candidate Status granted July 1, 2017.

Smith, Emily B., Candidate Status granted February 19, 2018.

Wacker, Christian N., Candidate Status granted May 27, 2016.

Teachers – DCE’s Removed From the Roster

Deeter, Alex C., Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, resigned January 10, 2017.

Geidel, Lianne I., Teacher, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota, resigned June 25, 2015.

Palmreuter, Joel K., Non-Candidate Status, Rapid City, South Dakota, resigned May 28, 2015.

Wacker, Christian N., Teacher, Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota, removed by action of the District President, May 18, 2017.

Weyers, Brian M., Director of Christian Education, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota resigned May 25, 2016.

Teachers – Retired

Hoyme, Kristie L., Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired July 1, 2017.

Lafrentz, Louise J., Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired June 30, 2015.

Sayles, Priscilla M., Administrator, Zion Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota retired June 30, 2015.

Withee, Roxanne J., Teacher, Zion Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota retired July 1, 2017.

Congregational Changes

St. John Lutheran Church, Groton, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, Andover, South Dakota formed a dual parish on April 27, 2017.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Mansfield, South Dakota, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stratford, South Dakota and St. John Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota have formed a new tri-point parish on May 3, 2015.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Seneca, South Dakota was removed as a congregation of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod when they disbanded on September 24, 2016.

Zion Lutheran Church, Andover, South Dakota and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ferney, South Dakota dissolved their dual parish on December 18, 2016.

St. John Lutheran Church, Britton, South Dakota and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ferney, South Dakota have formed a new dual parish on December 28, 2016.

St. John Lutheran Church, Howard, South Dakota and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, South Dakota have formed a new dual parish on April 15, 2018.

Centennials – Congregations

Zion Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs, South Dakota, 1916
Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, South Dakota, 1917
Trinity Lutheran Church, Reliance, South Dakota, 1917
St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, South Dakota, 1918

125th Anniversaries – Congregations

St. John Lutheran Church, Britton, South Dakota, 1892
Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota, 1892
First English Lutheran Church, Parker, South Dakota, 1892
Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer, South Dakota, 1892
Zion Lutheran Church, Waubay, South Dakota, 1892
Zion Lutheran Church, Avon, South Dakota, 1893
St. John Lutheran Church, Groton, South Dakota, 1893

Anniversaries

In 2018 the following pastors and teachers will have observed 25 or more years of service to their Lord since ordination or commissioning.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------|
| Reverend Charles Boeder | Ordained | 1958 |
| Reverend James Mueller | Ordained | 1959 |
| Reverend Raymond Pomplun | Ordained | 1961 |
| Martha Palmreuter | Commissioned | 1961 |
| Reverend Melbourne Helling | Ordained | 1962 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------|
| Kenneth Palmreuter | Commissioned | 1962 |
| Reverend Kenneth Greinke | Ordained | 1965 |
| Larry Belitz | Commissioned | 1965 |
| Reverend Clark Gies | Ordained | 1966 |
| Joyce Peters | Commissioned | 1966 |
| Louise Lafrentz | Commissioned | 1967 |
| Reverend Robert Bohlmann | Ordained | 1967 |
| Reverend William Paepke | Ordained | 1968 |
| Marvin Sopko | Commissioned | 1968 |
| Reverend John Farden | Ordained | 1969 |
| Reverend Richard Luttmann | Ordained | 1969 |
| Paul Consoer | Commissioned | 1969 |
| Marlys Schoenborn | Commissioned | 1969 |
| Darlene Sopko | Commissioned | 1969 |
| Reverend Paul Haugen | Ordained | 1970 |
| Reverend Raymond Hartwig | Ordained | 1971 |
| Reverend Charles Kramer | Ordained | 1971 |
| Reverend Brad Urbach | Ordained | 1971 |
| Reverend Glenn Schulz | Ordained | 1971 |
| Priscilla Sayles | Commissioned | 1971 |
| David Geidel | Commissioned | 1972 |
| Reverend John Werner | Ordained | 1972 |
| Reverend Robert Anderson | Ordained | 1974 |
| Reverend Albert Althoff | Commissioned | 1974 |
| Diane Althoff | Commissioned | 1974 |
| Carol Uecker | Commissioned | 1975 |
| Reverend Robert Gardner | Ordained | 1976 |
| Reverend David Schwan | Ordained | 1977 |
| Reverend Peter Sestak | Ordained | 1977 |
| Roxanne Withee | Commissioned | 1977 |
| Reverend Neal Ahart | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend William Dietz | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Gordon Goldammer | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Craig Grams | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Peter Kurowski | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Neal Ahart | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Howard Shane | Ordained | 1978 |
| Reverend Albert Althoff | Ordained | 1979 |
| Reverend Hyle Anderson | Ordained | 1979 |
| Reverend Gene Bauman | Ordained | 1979 |
| Reverend Larry Johnson | Ordained | 1979 |
| Rod Lenz | Commissioned | 1979 |
| Tina Lenz | Commissioned | 1979 |
| Reverend Dr. Dale Sattgast | Ordained | 1980 |
| Diane Schroeder | Commissioned | 1980 |
| Reverend David Gunderson | Ordained | 1981 |
| Reverend Terry Naasz | Ordained | 1981 |
| Reverend Warren Uecker | Ordained | 1981 |
| Reverend Paul Warnier | Ordained | 1981 |
| Reverend Glenn Denke | Ordained | 1982 |
| Reverend Ray Greenseth | Ordained | 1982 |
| Reverend Don McKillop | Ordained | 1982 |
| Reverend Iver Possehl | Ordained | 1982 |
| Reverend Warren Uecker | Ordained | 1982 |
| Reverend Daniel Domke | Ordained | 1983 |
| Reverend Lloyd Redhage | Ordained | 1983 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|------|
| Reverend Raymond Adams | Ordained | 1984 |
| Reverend Daniel Deardoff | Ordained | 1984 |
| Reverend Robert Heckmann | Ordained | 1985 |
| Reverend Timothy Rynearson | Ordained | 1985 |
| Reverend Scott Sailer | Ordained | 1985 |
| Reverend Aaron Asmus | Ordained | 1986 |
| Reverend Dwaine Doremus | Ordained | 1986 |
| Reverend Stephen Hartman | Ordained | 1986 |
| Reverend Barry Warpness | Ordained | 1986 |
| Reverend John Dawson | Ordained | 1986 |
| Reverend Richard Milbrandt | Ordained | 1989 |
| Reverend Lynn Wilson | Ordained | 1989 |
| Reverend Thomas Christopher | Ordained | 1990 |
| Reverend Wade Meyer | Ordained | 1990 |
| Reverend Richard Weeman | Ordained | 1990 |
| Reverend L. Scott Spiehs | Ordained | 1991 |
| Reverend Kenneth Johnson | Ordained | 1993 |
| Reverend Matthew Nix | Ordained | 1993 |

Reports of Circuit Visitors

Circuit A (Aberdeen)

Reverend Timothy Koch, Circuit Visitor

Behold Your God and what He has done in the Aberdeen Circuit.

Over the past triennium, the Aberdeen Circuit (Circuit-A) has recognized that the world is increasingly hostile to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, it is antithetical to our Christian confession to view our congregations in competition with one another. Confessing our unity in Jesus Christ, we have striven to reflect our unity in confession by unity in practice. This has manifested itself in the following ways:

- (1) **Circuit-Wide Worship Services.** Beginning in 2015, our Circuit has had three circuit-wide services each year: a Reformation Service, an Epiphany Service, and an Ascension Day Service. We bring in a guest preacher for our Reformation Service and are happy to have heard God's Word preached from Reverend Tom Eckstein (2015), Reverend Jonathan Fisk (2016), and Reverend Dr. Raymond Hartwig (2017). A Circuit-Wide Easter Vigil will be added beginning in 2018.
- (2) **Circuit-Wide Catechism Classes.** Four times a year, the catechism students from the congregations of our circuit gather together for plenary instruction at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen.
- (3) **Circuit-Wide Bible Studies.** Pastors from the circuit take up the task of leading a four-week Bible study about four times a year on Friday afternoons in Aberdeen. Study topics have ranged from "The Reformation Solas" to "Job" to "Hosea" to "Biblical Typography" and many others.
- (4) **Circuit-Wide Youth Group.** Because our smaller outlying congregations struggle to wrangle enough youth for a robust youth-group, the youth of every congregation is invited to Aberdeen on the first Sunday of every month for "Circuit Youth Group." The youth-group begins with Responsive Prayer, enjoys an hour of games, and concludes with a meal and an hour of study.
- (5) **Circuit-Men's Bible Study.** There was an 11-week men's study on Reverend Jeff Hemmer's book *Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity*. Next year, it is the plan to have a similar study for the ladies based on the book *LadyLike: Living Biblically*.
- (6) **Circuit-Dartball.** Usually during the winter and spring months, a congregation will host a co-ed Dartball event. These have been well-attended and have fostered great circuit unity.

Within the circuit congregations, the following significant events have occurred.

- On 2 May 2015, St. John Lutheran Church rural Aberdeen formed a tri-point parish with Trinity Mansfield and St. Paul's Stratford. Reverend Bret Bierman is their pastor.
- On 5 July 2015, Reverend Samuel Bobby was installed as the Sr. Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen.
- On 25 July 2015, a celebration was hosted at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aberdeen for the faithful 38-year ministry of Reverend Hyle Anderson, who would retire at the end of the month. Reverend Anderson served parishes in Wolsey, Mitchell, Bemidji MN, and Aberdeen during his years.
- On 31 July 2016, Reverend Josiah Fitch was ordained and installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD.
- On 16 July 2017, Reverend Tyler Poppen accepted a call to Cole Camp, MO, thus leaving Our Savior in Aberdeen and St. John's Columbia vacant after a four-year ministry among them.

- On 6 August 2017, Ms. Allison Miller was installed as Director of Lighthouse Preschool after the position was vacated by Mrs. Rhonda Henschen who followed her husband, Reverend Nathan Henschen, to Bancroft & Lyons NE where he accepted a call to serve as their pastor.
- On 6 August 2017, Joshua Vogel was installed as Vicar of the Concordia-Immanuel Lutheran Church parish in Cresbard and Wecota. The installation service was a joint-service held at Concordia in Cresbard.
- Parish realignments occurred when Zion Lutheran Church in Andover ended their dual-point arrangement with St. Paul in Ferney and aligned with St. John's in Groton. Reverend Craig Grams is their pastor. Meanwhile, this freed up St. Paul in Ferney to align with St. John's Britton as a new dual-point parish. Reverend Lloyd Redhage is their pastor.

Finally, due to a generous \$2000 *Harvest Grant* from the SD District, Circuit-A was able to purchase 250 copies of *The Problem of Suffering: A Father's Hope*, authored by Reverend Dr. Gregory Schulz, who came out to St. Paul's in Aberdeen on 30 April 2017 to be the guest presenter for the Circuit Convocation. Roughly 175 were in attendance for that event.

Behold, this is what your God has done and accomplished among the saints of Circuit-A.

Circuit B (Milbank)

Reverend Iver Possehl, Circuit Visitor

Our Circuit has been working together during our winkles to focus on Scripture and the Confessions studies. Over the last three years, our congregations have worked together to do Circuit Youth Gatherings. These Youth Gatherings have struggled with respect to distance. We also, due to distance, had our Circuit Forum over Google Hangouts, which was a minor success (hopefully we will be able to work through some issues).

At Waubay and Sisseton Pastor Wilshusen has been working on additional Bible studies and new member classes. While Pastor Wilshusen has been doing research for his STM Thesis, he has been able to do several presentations related to his topic on the Vineyard imagery.

At Bethlehem and St John's, there have been attempts to work through creative Sunday School ideas. Pastor Nathan Neugebauer has encouraged and been encouraged as they took several youth to a Higher Things conference. Revillo faced the closing of their school in 2017.

Pastor Caleb Schewe has taken on a leadership role with Lutherans for Life.

Emanuel has celebrated their 125th anniversary. They did a remodel of their sanctuary and some facility updates. Pastor Keith Bicknase retired in 2016. They started the call process before Pastor Bicknase retired, and they called Pastor Bill Cornelius who was installed a month after Pastor Bicknase's retirement. Emanuel also called Pastor Glenn Schultz to help as visitation pastor. Pastor Schultz has since retired, and Pastor Cornelius has taken a call to Trinity, Monroe, LA. Emanuel's parsonage is currently vacant, and the circuit is serving their pastoral needs being led by Pastor Tim Rynearson, Peace Lutheran, Brookings.

Mt. Olive recently did an outreach to their delinquent members with an "I Hate Winter" gathering, having summer fun activities inside. This was helped along by a Harvest Grant. They have also done some updates to their facilities.

First English recently has had a discussion on Estate and Funeral planning. White and Aurora continue to face struggles with finding out how to do various things with declining membership and numbers. Zion's LWML continues to help the congregation make great strides in mission minded focus, with quarterly mission projects.

Mt Calvary has worked through the vicarage program for many years in helping with Campus Ministry, but now has called Pastor Micah Bauer as their Assistant Pastor who has been doing a great job with the college group. Mt. Calvary has hosted our Circuit Tre Ore Service inviting Pastors throughout the Circuit to preach.

Peace and Redeemer, Brookings have called Pastor Samuel Thole to help out Pastor Tim Rynearson. Peace is now in their third building and have been able to increase their Early Childhood Center. They have looked through and moved forward with starting a Lutheran Elementary School. This is in addition to the Preschools at both Redeemer and Peace.

Circuit C (Pierre)

Reverend Ray Greenseth, Circuit Visitor

Zion Lutheran Church, Presho - Presho has begun planning to celebrate its 100 anniversary in 2020. In the last three years Presho has continued to have VBS, Sunday school and other Bible studies. In that time we have seen a number of adult Confirmations and infant baptisms.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Reliance - Trinity celebrated its 100th anniversary in May 2017. The guest preacher was Pastor Gardner and we had over 100 people attend the service and the lunch. There has been one infant baptism in the last three years.

Rosebud Ministry - Reverend Andrew Utecht has been serving as district missionary for 20 years, as the mission in Rosebud has reached its 24th year, (25 years will be Nov. 2018). Worship continues at both Rosebud Lutheran in Rosebud, and at Lord's Warriors Lutheran in Parmelee. There is also midweek class held in Parmelee every Tuesday, and Rosebud on Thursday. Daily radio devotion ministry continues on KOYA 88.1 FM. You can read more about this mission in the special ministry section.

St. John, Norris - During the last 3 years we have had our Pastor of 19 years retire, Reverend Glenn Denke, and we thank him for his faithful service to our church and community. We have continued in vacancy status, being served by both Pastor Utecht of Rosebud, and Pastor Hinnert of Crookston, NE. Pastor Hinnert has accepted our call to serve and will be our full time pastor, together with St. Peter in Midland. We have had baptisms, confirmations, funerals, VBS, and LWML along with our regular worship services. We have recently put a new steel roof on the church, and plan to continue to proclaim, "Behold your God" for many years.

Holy Cross, Onida - The LWML has been very active in both local, national, and international efforts. Locally they had a booth representing Holy Cross at the Sully County Fair, giving away various literature and other goodies. Also locally they sold food and drinks to the attendees of Onida's annual "Twas the Night Before Christmas" event. Outside of Onida they have collected receipts to support Missouri Shores, collected various items for the Orphan Grain Train, and put together health kits for hurricane disaster relief.

Trinity, Blunt - The members have once again been very active participants in various parts of Blunt Fest, an event held at the end of August. Also they contributed a lot of food for the Community Thanksgiving supper held at Blunt Elementary.

Immanuel, Harrold - The members have recently voted to increase their giving to missions, both in the state and with international efforts. For most of the year Trinity and Immanuel had been worshipping together, though that has now changed so that all three churches are having their own services once again.

In the future the Tri-Parish will be working together in looking at the importance of Closed Communion, that there would be better understanding of this practice. Also we have begun work on ways to protect our ministry from various lawsuits and will hopefully have something in place within the next year so that we will have peace of mind concerning this potential issue. Another plan for the three congregations is to address the issue concerning our inactive members: who they are, why they've become inactive, and reaching out to them in ways that will encourage them to come back and receive God's gracious gifts in worship. Lastly we may look into sending some youth to our Circuit Bible Camp so that they can share in fellowship with other youth in our circuit.

St. Peter, Norris - has been served by Pastor Denke for some 19 years and then retired. They were truly blessed to have a pastor for so many years. They have been served the last two years by the Circuit Visitor Ray Greenseth in the afternoon and they extended a call to Reverend Greg Hinnners who did accept the call and will have been installed in January.

St. Paul's, Draper - celebrated their 107 years of being a Lutheran Church and also celebrated using the same building for 71 years. They have resided 3 outside walls so far which really adds to the appearance. What was great about all this is that they celebrated this day on September 30, 2017, a Saturday so their Pastor Ray Greenseth could attend. For he is real busy on Sunday doing 4 worship services, so that was a real joy to me. They look forward to celebrating "Behold our God" for many, many more years.

Messiah, Murdo - Is busy planning for their 100 years in 2020, as this takes a lot of work, to pick the day, the time, the preacher, to get everything ready and to show the community that "Behold our God" is very important to us all. We try to do things in the community, we take care of the "Food Assistance" program, which is also a good outreach program for our county, and several members listen to kids read at school,

Emmanuel, Gettysburg - The congregation has called a new Pastor. Rev David Otten was installed in January of 2017. The congregation paid off the mortgage of the fellowship hall and educational building. The congregation would be more involved in the community. Looking for ways to reach younger members of the community.

Christ, Lebanon - The congregation has called a new pastor. Rev David Otten was installed in January of 2017. Christ Lebanon is the only church in the town. Needs direction and help in serving the small town and staying open.

St Paul, Seneca - The congregation closed in 2016.

Circuit D (Huron)

Reverend Dr. Dale L. Sattgast, Circuit Visitor

From the moment of our Baptism until the Day of the Lord when Christ comes again in glory or the day when the Lord of Life calls us from life in this creation to life eternal in heaven, God's people are always in transition. Yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in God's Word and the Sacraments, there is always the assurance that our God is with us every moment of our life's journey, no matter what transitions we may face.

"Behold your God!" That is the assurance we are given each time we open God's Word in our home devotions, each time we sit in the pew in worship or at a table in Bible study, each time a child or older person is brought to the Baptismal Font, and each time we receive our Savior's holy Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper. "Behold your God!" "Behold the Cross!" "Behold the Empty Tomb!" "Behold the victorious Savior!" "Behold the blood-bought forgiveness and redemption that is for you!" "Behold the living Savior who says, 'I AM with you always.'" What comfort, what help, what hope!

Through this past triennium, the people and congregations of Circuit D have beheld our God as He has led us and continues to lead us through a time of transition both in our congregations and as a circuit.

Three years ago and facing the realities both of a pastoral vacancy at the two-point parish of Zion Lutheran Church in Wessington Springs and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Woonsocket as well as rural demographics and declining memberships, these two congregations joined with St. John's Lutheran Church of Wolsey to form a new three-point parish. The parish called Reverend Scott Spiehs who had been serving the Wolsey congregation to be its senior pastor and retired pastor, Reverend Richard Weeman, to be the part-time assistant pastor. During this past triennium, the people of this three-point parish have beheld their God as He has poured out His blessings on this transition.

Two pastors from our circuit, Reverend Paul Pater who served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Howard and Reverend Kelly Smith who served as associate pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron both accepted calls during the triennium. Pastor Warren Uecker who served as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Madison retired in January of this year, and Pastor Dan Domke who serves as senior pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron will retire this May. "Behold your God" is a wonderful assurance to each of these men and their families that even during these transitions in their lives, their God and Savior is present with His help, hope, and blessings!

Needless to say, each of the circuit congregations served by these pastors who have accepted calls or are leaving due to retirement also face a time of transition. Both St. John's Lutheran Church in Howard and Our Savior Lutheran Church in Madison not only have faced the loss of their pastors, but also the reality of diminishing memberships. As a result, these two congregations recently formed a two-point parish and, at the time of the writing of this report, were actively involved in the calling of a new pastor to serve this newly-formed parish.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron is also a congregation in transition. Facing the vacancy in the position of associate pastor and the coming retirement of its senior pastor, Mt. Calvary is in transition as it calls a new senior pastor. When that position is filled, the congregation will review its staffing needs and responsibilities and will issue a call for a second professional staff person.

In the midst of so many transitions in our circuit, we are thankful for Reverend Peter Utecht who continues to serve the two-point parish of Messiah Lutheran Church in Redfield and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Doland.

Facing the realities of rural demographics, declining memberships in our congregations, the forming of multiple-point parishes and the resultant reduction in numbers of pastors in our circuit, as well as the difficulty of maintaining the minimum requirements under Synod's Bylaws to exist as an electoral circuit, we face one more major transition as a circuit. That is reflected in the request to this Convention to disband as a circuit and realign our congregations and parishes with other surrounding circuits. This has not been an easy decision. However, we know that in whatever direction the Lord leads in this transition, one thing will remain the same. Through God's precious Word and Sacraments, the people and congregations in this part of our beloved South Dakota District will continue to have the assurance we may behold our God in all of His grace, mercy, help, and hope.

Circuit E (Black Hills)

Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher, Circuit Visitor

Black Elk peak is the highest point in South Dakota. On a clear day you can see 5 states. It would be the perfect place to look down and "Behold your God" and all He is doing. However you do not have to climb to the top of the 7200 foot summit to see how our mighty God is working, just look at what His churches in the Black Hills circuit are doing.

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs: Pastor Gary Jacobsen

I finished our last report by saying that a special project was being presented to the parish with the intent of having the mortgage paid off within five years. I am very pleased to inform all that the mortgage has been paid for in full two years ahead of schedule. A reassessment of how and what we are doing with the school has taken place. We are very encouraged by some of the preliminary stats. Quit possibly, a 'day-care' center along with some expansion to the Pre-school and Day School may be taking place. - - - On another note, we are planning for and getting ready to celebrate our 100th anniversary coming soon. Plans are underway for a spectacular event. The Lord has blessed us.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rapid City: Pastor Joshua Jones

Bethlehem has experienced several firsts recently. We sent our first "son" of the congregation, Nathaniel Brown, to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the summer of 2017 for his preparation for the pastoral ministry. We also sent our first short-term mission team of 10 members of our congregation to Panama to work with Lutheran Hour Ministries and the local people in Panama City. Our congregation also started our own grant program called "Caring by Sharing" in which we disperse up to \$20,000 per fiscal year to those in need, generally outside of our own congregation. Bethlehem continues to be supportive of her pastor and his family in their ongoing challenges to care for his special needs daughter, Zoe. The congregation has also been supportive of their pastor receiving further education at Concordia Seminary in the Doctor of Ministry program.

Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City: Lacey Hoogland Administrator

In the past three years Black Hills Lutheran School has grown to serve students in 6th - 12th grade and this May we will graduate our first student who has been with us since we opened in 2011. We currently have 4 full time faculty, three of whom are called. Each month, during the school year, our faculty and students participated in a community service project ranging from volunteering at Feeding SD, Cornerstone Rescue Mission or a nursing home, making Valentines for Sr. Citizens, cookies for First Responders, Easter or May baskets and more. We have officially adopted and have begun implementation of Classical Education. After an in-depth study we believe this is what is best for students and it offers a distinctly Christian worldview. Full implementation will begin in the fall of 2018.

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, Black Hawk: Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher

Isaiah reminds us that our God comes with "might". Through His mighty Word He provides sinners forgiveness of sins, life health and salvation. Easter Sunday 2017 was the first service in Divine Shepherd's new sanctuary. It was also the beginning of offering Holy Communion in every worship service to God's redeemed people. Along with the new sanctuary Divine Shepherd opened an Early Childhood Center (ECC). It offers preschool classes as well as child care for up to 65 of God's children. Each day, and in each lesson they hear of their redeeming, loving Savior Jesus. Divine Shepherd continues to send short term mission teams to Concordia Lutheran School in Kowloon, Hong Kong, to engage the students in English and teach them about the One true God. Through God's grace and mercy in Christ we are able to be His "herald of good news" to the communities of Black Hawk, Rapid City and the Piedmont valley.

First Lutheran, Wall and Emmanuel Lutheran, Creighton: Pastor Christopher McCarthy

The Lord of the church continues to care for His people in Wall and Creighton through the faithful hearing of the Word and reception of the Sacraments. Pastor Garland accepted the call to Immanuel Lutheran of Monroe, Michigan in 2016 and the Lord provided Pastor Kent Borglum to care for His people as their vacancy pastor. Pastor Christopher McCarthy was installed in July of 2017 and the churches have received him warmly. Both churches continue to grow through baptisms, confirmations, and affirmations of faith. The early release from school to churches continues in our community and both children and teachers enjoy this time to study God's Word. First has continued to work upon the basement, especially the kitchen. Emmanuel remains healthy, and has nearly as many children in weekly attendance as adults. Sunday school remains active in both churches. The response from both churches in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation was robust, and the circuit wide service well attended. Each congregation sought to outdo the other in showing love for their neighbor and donated over 1000 food items to the Country Cupboard food pantry. First and Emmanuel continue to be a beacon in their communities of God's love for His creation shown in the Crucified and Risen Lord.

Grace Lutheran, Deadwood and Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran, Sturgis: Pastor John Fries

At Blessed Emmanuel we have closed our Pre-School but we are starting a diaper ministry for Meade County. We served over 1600 breakfasts and suppers during the Sturgis Rally. VBS had over 30 children involved from the community. Tuesday afternoon Bible study that is studying Isaiah. Service is at 10:45 AM on Sunday morning.

At Grace our attendance is steadily growing. We have a real Sunday School again. We have a midweek service at 5:30 PM and a Thursday morning Bible study that is well attended. Service is at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

Our Redeemer Lutheran, Custer and Our Savior's Lutheran, Hill City: Pastor Eric Obermann

At the dual parish of Our Redeemer and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in Custer and Hill City we have experienced the joys of calling a Seminary Candidate in the spring of 2016. Pastor Obermann has been serving the dual parish since June of 2016. Aside from calling a new pastor, the dual parish adjusted the service times to help with travel between the parishes. Our Savior's now starts at 8:15 a.m. and Our Redeemer has kept their time at 9:45 a.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran, Rapid City: Pastor Lucas Edwards

Our most gracious and merciful God endlessly pours forth his blessed gifts through his Son and in the power of his Spirit to the congregation of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Rapid City). God remains faithful to His promises and continues to sustain and nourish His beloved people through His Word and in His Sacraments. Our Redeemer was the recipient of a SD District Harvest Grant, and is using that grant to provide sack lunches to all those in need of daily bread. We are not only meeting a basic need in the community through the provision of food, but we are also making friends and creating a context in which we can proclaim the Word to people who are far off. The saints at Our Redeemer continue to embrace the good news of Jesus Christ, and to engage one another and their community with the one thing that cannot be provided, or even found, outside the Lutheran Church—namely, Christ and him crucified, poured into our ear holes, on our heads, and down our throats. Soli Deo Gloria!

Peace Lutheran, Rapid City: Pastor David Lindenberg

- + Our MOPS group has brought a number of young families to our congregation.
- + Many of these young families have immersed themselves into the life of the congregation and are serving the Lord and others in various capacities.
- + We hosted a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course last spring, and are currently hosting a 2nd one.
- + Surrounding the 500th Reformation Anniversary we hosted a day of making meals for the hungry for Feeding South Dakota, through a group called (Kids Against Hunger), and plan to do more of these in the future.

+This summer we did many replacements/renovations/improvements to the church facilities and are continuing this work with things that need to be done in the parsonage.

+For the new Triennium, we are preparing, through Bible Study and education, to have a greater focus on and involve the congregation more in:

*Mercy Care (in the various areas of emphasis this includes)

*Support of Missions (beyond what we give to the TIM program)

*Making Disciples (as opposed to just gaining more members)

St Paul Lutheran, Spearfish: Pastor Gene Bauman.

1) Celebrated the 75th Anniversary of St. Paul congregation with President Sailer and former pastors and sons of the congregation participating.

2) Continued outreach through campus ministry.

3) Updated Fellowship Hall and offices with carpets, blinds and chairs.

4) Voted to replace outdoor church sign

5) Increased mission giving

6) Jump-started the St. Paul Endowment Fund to assist our community, circuit, district and beyond.

7) Supported Spearfish Community Food Pantry and Bella Pregnancy Care Center.

8) Continued to support ministries of LWML, LYF, Quilters group, Prayer Shawl, Loaves and Dishes (meals for members after operations or newborns), Altar Guild and Prayer Chain.

9) Continue to be a supporting congregation of Black Hills Lutheran School.

10) Are exploring the possibility of outreach into the Belle Fourche area toward the goal of planting a church in that city.

Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City: Pastor Paul Winkler, DCE Lorien Petersen, Principal Ann Solinsky, and Preschool Director Hope Genzlinger

Zion continues to be blessed with strong ministry through our church, school and preschool. Ann Solinsky was called to serve as the Principal of the school and immediately was tasked with guiding our school through a successful renewal of accreditation through the National Lutheran Schools Association. The visiting accreditation team nominated Pastor David Schwan and Pastor Paul Winkler for the national School Shepherd Award. In May 2017 Roxi Withee, a dedicated and talented servant of Christ, retired from teaching Kindergarten. In June 2017 Pastor Schwan retired from the ministry after 40 years of faithful and effective leadership in Christ's church. The congregation is currently seeking to call a second Associate Pastor. Our Preschool under the direction of Hope Genzlinger continues to remain strong and operating at maximum capacity. DCE Lorien Petersen continues to lead a very active youth ministry with numerous middle school and high school youth engaged in study and annual service projects. She also serves as a leader in District youth events and also volunteering as Chaplain for the Rapid City Police Department. Pastor Winckler has attended Synodical Reconciler Training to serve as a District Reconciler. Our members continue to remain engaged in study of the Word and service to our community in numerous ways, seeking to reflect the grace of God in word and deed.

Circuit F (Mitchell)

Reverend Mark Mischnick, Circuit Visitor

The Mitchell Circuit, at this writing, is comprised of thirteen congregations served by eight pastors, four pastors who reside in the Circuit as retirees and one dual parish that is vacant. St. Paul, Plankinton and Trinity, White Lake are vacant for the first time in more than fifteen years when Reverend Richard Milbrandt took a call out of the District in October of 2017. They are awaiting a decision by the Board of Assignments for a candidate placement this spring.

As we in the Mitchell Circuit behold our God over the last triennium, we see a God who does not change--acting to bring about change in His Church! The most violent and destructive change came soon after we met in convention in 2015 when a tornado destroyed Zion, Delmont's church

building, parsonage, and much of the town on Mother's Day. Pastor Bucklew and the people of Zion were tried, tested, and challenged in the following months as they ministered to each other and their community. It was there that the true meaning of the church at large and walking together came to fruition. Thanks be to God for the saints at Emmaus, Tripp, and those of the surrounding parishes in the Mitchell Circuit, the South Dakota District, and the whole Missouri Synod who rallied around Zion, Delmont. God be praised! A new church building and parsonage were completed and dedicated in the summer of 2017. Pastor Bucklew has since taken a call to Nebraska. Zion, Delmont and Emmaus, Tripp have a called Reverend Brian Lemcke who began his service January 1, 2017.

Other changes in the circuit were decidedly less traumatic but were changes nonetheless. Due to resignation, calls, and retirements most of our congregations have new pastors. Of the nine called pastors serving in the circuit, only one has been here more than ten years (Soyk-13) and only three were here for the last convention in 2015 (Soyk, Brown, and Mischnick). Reverend Dan Grimmer was installed at Zion, Mitchell, in the summer of 2015; Reverend Jens Jenson at Redeemer, Armour, and Reverend Ryan Janke at Christ, Winner, and Zion, Hamill in the summer of 2016, all from the Board of Assignments. Reverend Marcus Ring, St. John, Gregory and Reverend Ryan Loeslie, Immanuel, Dimock, were called from the field and installed in 2017. Reverend Brian Lemcke was installed in January 2018.

Both Christ and Zion Lutheran of Winner and Hamill are doing well. Both congregations made the switch to the *Lutheran Service Book* and have been using it as their sole worship book.

Zion, Chamberlain, celebrated their Centennial in 2017 with five special Sundays. They invited special guests to preach on those occasions, including Reverend Scott Sailer (twice), Reverend Bob Bailey, Reverend Vernon Schindler, and Reverend Dr. Herb Mueller, Jr. Synod VP Mueller was the guest for the 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation and Circuit F Convocation in October. Many from our Circuit attended.

The last three years have been busy ones at Zion, Mitchell. In 2015, they bid farewell to Pastor Troester who retired, and welcomed Pastor Daniel Grimmer from the seminary. Zion has largely not shared in the demographic crunch of so much of our district, as Mitchell is a growing, increasingly forward-looking community. As Mitchell grows, Zion has grown proportionately. In 2016, Zion purchased 3 adjacent properties that were eye-sores and demolished them to make room for more parking and expansion. They have been busy studying options for expanding their facilities to better serve the changing congregation well into the future. 2017 marked Zion's 125th anniversary.

Zion, Mitchell has joined Zion, Chamberlain in offering the blessings of every Sunday Holy Communion to the saints gathered there. Both Zions praise God for this blessing to their respective congregations.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Dimock (Flensburg as many folks still call it) has been greatly blessed by the Lord of the Church over the past three years. The same Word and Sacraments which have been the consistency of this congregation for over 135 years continue to support a strong congregation. Many families have been here since our congregation's founding. Others have been welcomed in over the course of time. Together we form a congregation which honors the traditions of our fathers while looking to pass on our precious faith to new people in a new day. For much of Immanuel's history, she has been blessed to be served by long-tenured pastors, most recently 13 years of faithful service from Reverend David Otten. Blessed with a short and smooth vacancy served by Reverend Don McKillop, Immanuel welcomed a new pastor in September 2017, Reverend Ryan Loeslie. As always, God is with us at Immanuel. No matter how much times have changed in the world and around our beloved country church, we stand ready to serve God's people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Reverend Don McKillop has served the District and Circuit in retirement as vacancy pastor for Dimock and now Plankinton and White Lake. Pastors Brown, Grimmer, and Jenson have added to their responsibilities by serving Delmont and Tripp during their vacancy.

Revs. Werner (Clayton), Althoff (Gregory), Denke (Winner), and McKillop (Winner) are all retired and living in Circuit F. Reverend Mischnick (Chamberlain) was serving as Circuit Visitor, 2015-2018 and will be retiring from full time ministry in 2018.

We continue to meet eight months of the year as a Circuit with seven Winkels and a picnic. Our Winkels begin with time for Confession and Absolution, followed by a family meal and the Divine Service. Our topics have been centered on Chemnitz's Enchiridion. Our picnics these past two summers have been at the American Creek Recreation Area in Chamberlain.

Reverend Thomas Brown was elected to serve as our next Circuit Visitor by the Circuit F Forum. We pray that the Lord of the Church will give him the strength and stamina needed for this noble task.

All of the congregations in Circuit F continue to lift up their voice and herald the Good News in their respective communities. Whether with a seasoned shepherd or a new one, the task is the same, to behold our God and aid our neighbors in doing so, too!

God bless the congregations and pastors of Circuit F, our beloved South Dakota District, and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as we Behold Our God, living lives of Witness (It's Still All About Jesus!), showing Mercy, and living Life Together as the Body of Christ, the Church.

Circuit G (Freeman)

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Circuit Visitor

Circuit G is comprised of the following congregations:

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD – Reverend Adam Welton
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD — Reverend Nabil Nour
First English Lutheran Church, Parker, SD — Currently Vacant
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Marion, SD — Currently Vacant
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Freeman, SD — Reverend Terry Makelin
Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota, SD — Reverend Dr. Peter Kurowski
St. John Lutheran Church, Montrose, SD — Reverend Dr Peter Kurowski
Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer, SD — Reverend Thomas Christopher
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Alexandria, SD — Reverend Thomas Christopher
St. John's Lutheran Church, Emery, SD — Reverend Thomas Christopher
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Scotland, SD — Reverend Matthew Resner
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, SD — Reverend Matthew Resner

Circuit G has seen several new faces in our pulpits during the last triennium:

Reverend Matthew Resner was installed on August 9, 2015 at St. Paul/Immanuel in Scotland and Menno after Reverend David Ellis retired as pastor of the parish.

Reverend Nabil Nour was installed as Pastor of Trinity in Hartford on August 21, 2016 after having served the vacancy there for several months. Reverend Nour also serves as 3rd Vice-President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Reverend Dr. Peter Kurowski was installed in a part-time call as pastor of Zion/St. John's in Canistota and Montrose on August 6, 2017 after Reverend Silas Mehl accepted a call to Missouri.

Reverend Terry Makelin was installed as pastor of St. Paul in Freeman on September 10, 2017 after an extended vacancy in that parish.

Reverend Dwaine Doremus, after having served for 21 years in the parish, retired as pastor of St. Peter in Wentworth as of November 30. The parish called Reverend Adam Welton who accepted the call and was awaiting his installation as of the writing of this report.

The parish of First English, Parker, and Bethesda, Marion remains vacant after Reverend Karl Gregory, who had served there for ten years as vacancy pastor and later as called pastor, accepted a call to Illinois. The vacancy is currently being served by Reverend Matthew Resner.

The pastors of Circuit K meet monthly for study and worship, fellowship and mutual support at the circuit winkels. As often as possible the pastors' wives and children join the pastors at the monthly winkels.

The congregations of the circuit meet twice each year for circuit forums, each congregation taking its turn to host the delegates to the forums. Each triennium the circuit holds its circuit convocation, with the convocation this year being the circuit celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation observed in a worship service at Trinity in Hartford on October 29 with Reverend Dr. Dale Sattgast preaching.

In 2016 the circuit congregations began the Circuit Lay Leadership Conferences. Meeting three times per year, the conferences are for the members of the circuit congregations, especially the lay leadership of the congregations, to get to know one another, study various practical theological topics, and have open discussion on matters of parish and circuit concern with one another. The goal of the conferences is to help our circuit congregations work more closely together as we meet many of the same challenges we see in our rural parishes.

"Behold Your God," the theme of our 2018 SD District Convention, has been and continues to be very much the theme of Circuit G as well as the pastors and saints of the circuit continue to behold their God and Savior Jesus Christ in the holy Means of Grace. The pastors of this circuit continue to be a close-knit group working diligently in their partnership in the Gospel and benefitting greatly from the monthly fellowship and study time at the winkels. The congregations of the circuit also take advantage of opportunities to show their Christian care and concern for one another and their pastors. Despite the challenges of rural ministry in our Synod and District, God's Word is still being preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments still administered according to Christ's command. We rejoice that God continues to do His mighty work among us through His Means of Grace and will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Circuit H (Sioux Falls)

Reverend Charles F. Kramer, Circuit Visitor

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God! Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and tell her that her sin has been paid for"(Is 40:1,2). As pastors in the Brandon, Sioux Falls and Tea communities it is our privilege to share the message of God's comfort, love and forgiveness in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our congregations and their ministries include:

Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon - Reverend Dan Deardoff Sr., Pastor; Assistant Pastor: Reverend Jason Letsche;(ordained and installed on June 28, 2015) Michelle Ternus, Preschool Director.

Christ Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Sioux Falls - Reverend Matthew Nix, Pastor. He also provides ministry to the deaf in other locations in South Dakota.

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls Reverend Corey Aker, Sr. Pastor (installed August 14, 2016) and Reverend Kory Janneke, Associate Pastor; Mavis Smith, Music Coordinator; Faith has ethnic ministries to the Ethiopian and Eritrean people.

Lord of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls Reverend Wade Meyer, Sr. Pastor
Reverend Chera Namera, Assistant Pastor to the Oromo people, immigrants from Ethiopia.

Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls - Reverend Aaron Asmus, Pastor; Liz Peters, DCE; Eric Larson, DCE (plans to attend the seminary in 2018); Colleen Kaiser, Director of Ministry Involvement,(contract part-time); Kathy Holdorf, Administrative Manager (contract full time); Kristi Prouty, Coordinator of Special music (contract part-time).

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls - Reverend Ryan Drevlow, Sr. Pastor; Assistant Pastor, Reverend David Morfitt, (installed May 10,2015) They also minister to Liberian people in their worship services.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls - Reverend Christopher Ascher, Pastor; Jodene Baker, DCE, His Ark Director; Albert Bakat; Evangelist to the Congolese people.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Tea - Reverend John Farden, Pastor; Mrs. Holly Hank, Preschool Director/Teacher, (contract part-time)

Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls - Reverend Greg Lehr, Sr. Pastor; Reverend Jenina Gatnoor, Pastor to the Sudanese; Jacob Shoup, Praise Team Leader and Director of Youth and College Ministry,(contract full time); Rusty Willson, Choir Director, (contract part-time); Melissa Anderson, Lil Troopers Learning Center Director; Chez Shoup, Director of Family and College Ministry, (contract part-time)

Pastor Matthew Nix continues to serve as hospital chaplain for the Sioux Falls hospitals for those outside the Sioux Falls area. Should you desire a chaplain call on a member, you may contact him at 605-338-5267.

Circuit H congregations came together for our circuit forums and circuit convocation according to the by-laws of the LCMS. We gathered together at the Brandon Valley Performing Arts Center on October 29, 2017 for our Circuit Convocation celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Our guest speaker was the Reverend Wallace Schultz from St. Louis, MO. Then on October 31, 2017 our members gathered together to watch the movie "Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World" at Memorial Lutheran Church. On November 12, 2017, at our Circuit Forum, The Reverend Dr. Ray Hartwig was elected as our next Circuit Visitor pending the 2018 District Convention ratification. The pastors meet monthly for their Winkels during the months of September through May. The pastors are on a rotational basis for worship and Bible study.

We are privileged to have several retired pastors in our circuit: Reverend Orlett Brack, Reverend Monty Dell, Reverend Robert Fedde, Reverend Stephen Hartman, Reverend Dr. Ray Hartwig, Reverend Paul Haugen, Reverend Melbourne Helling, Reverend Richard Luttmann, Reverend Charles Kramer, Reverend Peter Sestak and Reverend Howard Shane. Many of these retired pastors are still serving as needed pulpit supply for other pastors in the surrounding area. Four of these couples get together on a regular basis for Christian fellowship.

The Lord tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms, and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those who have young. (Isa 40:11) The Sioux Falls Lutheran School Assn. makes it possible for many children to grow in faith. This year, we are honored to serve a total of 297 students—160 preschoolers and 137 K-8 students. The fall of 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of our school's inception and its 10th straight year of being voted a Local Best preschool in Sioux Falls. In addition, last July, the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Commission accredited 102 Lutheran schools across the nation and awarded five of them

special recognition as Schools of Distinction. SFLS was one of the five schools to receive this top national ranking. The foundation of the School of Distinction designation was the accreditation team's finding that SFLS is a school of excellence--academically and spiritually. After its site visit in March 2017, the team noted that, "Five LCMS congregations in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, celebrate, support and operate an excellent school that well serves the community. Sioux Falls Lutheran School provides a challenging academic curriculum (early childhood – grade 8) that intentionally and thoroughly integrates what we teach and believe as Christians." During the 2018-19 school year, we will have the opportunity to share three powerful, research-based, and replicable practices, identified by the NLSA visiting team, with other Lutheran schools across the United States as well as with our sister international schools in Hong Kong, Viet Nam, and China—allowing our brothers and sisters in Christ the opportunity to replicate these effective methods. After a year-long feasibility study specific to enhancing the school's mission and outreach opportunities, Our Greatest Gifts Capital Campaign was launched in November 2016. A three-year campaign goal of \$8 million was established and to date, \$2.6 million in pledges and over \$1 million in cash have been donated for the purchase of land and the construction of a new facility. On November 12, 2017, a united voters' assembly comprised of the school's association congregations (Faith, Lord of Life, Memorial, Our Redeemer, and Resurrection), granted the SFLS Board of Education permission to move forward with evaluating and acquiring property for our new school. Finally, to effectively prepare for sustainable future growth, the SFLS board, administrators, faculty and staff have been working with consultant, Dan Krause of Grace Works Ministries, to improve admissions practices and retention strategies, and to study and implement a biblically-based financial model. We praise and thank God for continually gifting us with so many wonderful kingdom-building opportunities. Mrs. Tia Esser is the Administrator.

Six of our congregations (Blessed Redeemer, Our Redeemer, Zion, Memorial, Faith and Resurrection) also joined together in ministry to the high school students. Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls (LHSSF) began in 2010 with 4 students. For this 2017-18 school year, there are 35 students preparing for their future with 1 full-time and 9 part-time teachers and 2 full-time staff members at the Memorial Lutheran Church campus. LHSSF exists to offer students and families excellence in education in a nurturing Christian environment. LHSSF helps equip students with the skills to serve God and the world with strength of character and purpose, knowing that they are loved and saved by Christ, forgiven by God, and heirs to His Kingdom. LHSSF is so thankful for the great variety of gifts and talents which God has given to young people. We strive to offer opportunities to help them continue to recognize and develop their God-given gifts and abilities. Students are extremely active and engaged in extra-curricular activities, including band, choir, athletics, drama, and many more that we do not have space to list. These activities have been designed to help enrich the student's education at LHSSF. Each year, congregation members are invited to a "Celebrate" dinner to hear progress reports and provide funding for tuition assistance. We are truly blessed to serve families by offering excellence in academics, education grounded in Christ, and support and encouragement to students who serve as leaders in their churches and community. Mr. Derek Bult is the school administrator.

Circuit I (Yankton)

Reverend David Gunderson, Circuit Visitor

Since the last convention, our circuit has been blessed to welcome into our circuit Reverend Paul Albers to Concordia Lutheran in Vermillion, and also Reverend Jesse Davis to First English in Centerville and Zion in Hurley. Reverend Garen Pay who had been serving Peace Lutheran in Alcester accepted a call to Idaho in October of 2017. The vacancy is being served by Reverend Paul Warnier, a retired pastor in our circuit.

Joshua Schmitt was installed as Director of Christian Education at St. John's Lutheran in Yankton in August 2017. He is the only DCE in our circuit.

A wonderful blessing to our circuit has been Andra Gates serving her deaconess internship in our circuit. In the last two years she has been serving the congregations in the circuit by leading Bible studies, visiting members and helping in other areas. Her supervisor is Reverend Dean Schroeder.

The circuit meets monthly for our "Winkel" meetings. At these meetings they celebrate the Lord's study, share concerns and have been studying the confessions of the church in their regular meetings. Members of the circuit also have fellowship events including a summer picnic, a party at Christmas and hunting trip.

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The circuit held a worship service on October 28, 2017 at Martinus Lutheran church in Utica. The service included President Scott Sailer as the preacher. Following the service, a wonderful meal of fine German food and beverages was served, and Reverend Steve Weispfennig, shared a presentation on his recent tour of Germany and historical locations involving the Reformation.

Following the 2015 District Convention, Reverend Dean Schroeder was elected as Circuit Visitor until he stepped down in the summer of 2017. Reverend David Gunderson was appointed to fill the position until the convention of 2018.

At our circuit forum in October, Reverend Jordan Andreasen was elected Circuit Visitor for the next three years.

NOTE: These reports were written in January 2018. Therefore some activities which occurred between that date and the time of convention are not included in these reports.

Executive Secretary's Report

Reverend Darren R. Olson, Executive Secretary

The theme of this South Dakota District Convention is: "Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!" Working together as Synod, District, congregations, schools, professional church workers, laypeople, and auxiliary organizations we assist and support one another in our common goal: proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in our communities, South Dakota, and around the world through Word and sacrament ministry and through good works of mercy. This report will review our work together as The South Dakota District during this last triennium.

Service Areas

The District has four Service Areas that are each responsible for a particular area of ministry:

- Youth Service Area (ministry to junior high and high school youth)
- Young Adult Service Area (ministry to 18-30 year olds, including campus ministry)
- Outreach Service Area (including rural ministry, evangelism, and world missions)
- Parish Services Service Area (including stewardship, parish education, parish administration, and disaster response)

Each Service Area is made up of several pastors and laypeople from the District. Their primary responsibility is to provide District congregations and professional church workers encouragement, support, materials, education, resources, and assistance in their respective ministry areas. The District actively seeks opportunities to train and equip those serving on the Service Areas. The District has arranged for members of the Service Areas to attend conferences and receiving training in: youth ministry, campus ministry, stewardship, rural and small town ministry, and disaster response.

While most professional church workers and laypeople in the District would agree that the District's Service Areas have not been operating as effectively as they could, attempts were made in the last triennium to improve their usefulness to the District. The Executive Secretary, through the Circuit Visitors, surveyed pastors throughout the District about their knowledge of the Service Areas and sought their input on how to improve their service to the District. This provided a lot of helpful information and suggestions. The Executive Secretary presented a proposal to the District Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors regarding the future of the District Service Areas for discussion. Because the proposal was received with mixed reaction which did not generate enough support or opposition, the Executive Secretary did not pursue the proposal any further. The Executive Secretary did, however, revise and expand the "Responsibilities of The South Dakota District Service Areas" to provide the Service Areas with more direction on their responsibilities and duties.

Each Service Area is led by a chairman under the direction of the Executive Secretary. The Service Area chairman is appointed by the District President with the approval of the District Board of Directors. The Service Area chairman is responsible, in consultation with the District President and Executive Secretary, for selecting two other members to serve on the Service Area. Those two members may be ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, or laypeople. Appointments to the Service Areas are for three years. Please consult the reports of the Service Area chairmen to learn more about the work that each of the Service Areas has done in our District in the last triennium.

Subsidized Congregations and Ministries

The South Dakota District has not had opportunity to financially support a new mission congregation since 2012 when Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Sturgis and Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Tea became self-supporting congregations. Pastors in Sioux Falls Circuit H have indicated that they would like to explore the possibility of a church plant in northern Sioux Falls, even as far north as the communities of Crooks/Dell Rapids and in the southern Sioux Falls area around the community of Harrisburg. The Rapid Valley area around Rapid City has been identified as a location for a possible church plant. The congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish has identified the community of Belle Fourche as an ideal location to plant a new church. Belle Fourche is the only community in South Dakota with a population over 5,000 that does not have an LCMS church.

President Sailer and Executive Secretary Olson recognized that many pastors and lay people in the District were not well informed on how their congregation could start a new ministry. They invited Reverend Dr. Peter Meier from the Center for US Mission to conduct two introductory workshops to help pastors and lay people learn the basics of beginning new ministries and planting churches. The two workshops were held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City in October 2017. Plans are being made to have Dr. Meier return to the District to conduct a two day church planting training seminar for those who would like to receive that training.

Campus Ministry

The South Dakota District continues to support two campus ministries within South Dakota: South Dakota State University, Brookings, through Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, through Concordia Lutheran Church. While not supported financially by the District, our local LCMS congregations in communities with institutions of higher education also reach out to those students in their communities in places such as: Aberdeen, Mitchell, Watertown, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Spearfish, Yankton, and Madison. The ability of our campus ministries to reach out and minister to students on campuses throughout our state is reliant on parents, pastors, and congregations sharing the names of their students with the campus ministry near them. In addition, for students interested in finding the campus ministry at the school they will be attending, they can find that information at: www.lcms.org/lcmsu. A listing of South Dakota congregations in communities that have institutions of higher education can be found on the District's website: <https://sddlcms.org/mission-ministries/service-areas/young-adult-service-area/campus-ministry>. You can find more details about the two District supported campus ministries in their reports located in the District Convention Manual.

Congregations must also remember those young men and women who forgo opportunities for higher education and choose instead to serve their country by enlisting in the Armed Forces. A list of LCMS congregations that serve military personnel from military bases around the United States can be found on the District's website at:

<https://sddlcms.org/media/files/Service%20Areas/Congregations%20Supporting%20Military%20Bases.pdf>.

Native American Ministry

Approximately 10% of the District's budget is earmarked for ministry on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota. Reverend Andrew Utecht, as of 2017, has been serving for 20 years on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend Albert Sutton and his ministry team serve on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Both ministries receive much prayer, volunteer service, and financial support, not just from our South Dakota congregations, but from friends and congregations throughout the United States. In addition to Word and Sacrament ministry, our Native American ministries are engaged in works of mercy on both Reservations. For example, food donations are given out on a regular basis by both ministries. On the Rosebud Reservation, Reverend Utecht

has been extremely involved in the Harvest Winds Sewing Factory that brings work and wages to those sewing Native American quilts for local businesses to sell. Please continue to pray for and support our missionaries, Reverend Andrew Utecht and Reverend Albert Sutton, and their ministry teams, as they share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. You can learn more about Reverend Utecht's work on the Rosebud Reservation by visiting their website: <http://rosebudparmaleelutheran.com>. You can also learn more about their mission work through their written reports in the District Convention Manual.

Circuit Rider Ministry

The Circuit Rider Ministry for Northwest South Dakota has experienced a number of set-backs through the years. Reverend Gary Jacobsen, Pastor, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs was assigned the role of Circuit Rider for Northwest South Dakota. In 2012, Pastor Jacobsen was diagnosed with cancer. After successful surgery, and we thank God for hearing and answering our prayers and restoring Pastor Jacobsen to health, it took some time for him to recover and resume his full time ministry. In addition, the vast amount of area for him to cover from Hot Springs all the way into Northwest South Dakota has proven to be too much ground to cover. Pastor Jacobsen has informed the District that he would like to hand off the Circuit Rider Ministry to another willing and able pastor.

There remains approximately \$30,000 of the \$56,000 initial LWML mission grant that funded the Circuit Rider Ministry. In the future, the District will have to consider ways to retool and reorganize the NW Circuit Rider Ministry. One potential option is, if a church plant is organized in Belle Fourche, that congregation could become a new base of operations for the Circuit Rider Ministry. While currently the Circuit Rider Ministry is not quite what the District was hoping it would be, the District remains steadfast in its desire to minister to the ranching families and communities in Northwest South Dakota.

District Schools

Historically The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has had a high regard for education. The LCMS enjoys the second largest parochial school system in the United States. There are 1,150 early childhood centers, 793 elementary schools, and 86 high schools in the LCMS. Congregations or associations of congregations within The South Dakota District operate 4 elementary schools, 2 middle/high schools, and 20 early childhood centers/preschools. A list of schools in The South Dakota District can be found in the District Convention Manual.

In each of the Lutheran schools and early childhood centers in the District children are taught about their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while, at the same time, receiving a quality education. A testament to our Lutheran schools' commitment to share Jesus with students and their families while also providing top-notch instruction is found in the fact that three of the four elementary schools in our District have earned National Lutheran School Accreditation. Zion Lutheran School, Rapid City was accredited in 2016. Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls was accredited in 2017. Not only did Sioux Falls Lutheran School receive accreditation, but they were named a "School of Distinction" by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission. Sioux Falls Lutheran School earned the distinction because their overall accreditation score ranked within the top 5% of all LCMS schools receiving accreditation in 2017. Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs is currently working through the National Lutheran School Accreditation process and should complete it in 2018. In 2018 St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Yankton will become the first preschool or early childhood center in The South Dakota District to receive National Lutheran School Accreditation.

One new Lutheran school was started in the District in the last triennium. Peace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center, Brookings expanded to include kindergarten in 2016 and kindergarten and first grade in 2017. 2017 also saw Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black

Hawk expand their preschool program into a full early childhood program with preschool and childcare services.

Many of our Lutheran preschools operate in small towns like Milbank, Groton, and Canistota. These smaller preschools are providing a wonderful service to their communities. They are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their students and their families while also proving a solid foundation for the students to begin kindergarten. In many of our small towns our Lutheran preschools are the only early childhood program available in their community or they must compete with one or two other programs for students. This means that sometimes the student population makes enrolling students difficult and finding qualified teachers can be a challenge. In the last triennium two preschools in the District were not able to open their doors for those very reasons: Jesus Loves Me Preschool, Philip and Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool, Sturgis.

In 2017 Sioux Falls Lutheran School initiated their "Our Greatest Gifts" capital campaign. The purpose of the capital campaign was to raise \$8-10 million to purchase property in the Sioux Falls area and construct a new school, which would include an early childhood center, elementary school, and high school all on one campus. As of December 2017, Sioux Falls Lutheran School had raised over \$2.6 million in gifts and pledges. Also in December 2017, Sanford Health of Sioux Falls pledged to donate 30 acres of land and a matching gift of \$5 million for Sioux Falls Lutheran's capital campaign. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The Executive Secretary is a member of the South Dakota Christian School Association (SDCSA) and currently serves as the organization's president. The SDCSA is an association of Christian schools throughout South Dakota. One of the primary duties of the SDCSA is to maintain a working relationship with the South Dakota Department of Education and with South Dakota's Secretary of Education. The SDCSA actively promotes and lobbies the interests of Christian education to the members of the South Dakota Legislature. The SDCSA was instrumental in creating the Partners In Education Tax Credit Scholarship program, which was passed by the South Dakota Legislature and signed into law by Governor Daugaard in 2016. Many of our LCMS schools in South Dakota have students who benefit from this tax-credit scholarship program.

District Student Aid

The South Dakota District continues to be one of the most generous Districts for providing tuition assistance to people enrolled in a church work program at one of the Synod's Concordia University System schools or theological seminaries. The District Board of Directors, who establishes the amount of student aid available, makes a concerted effort to increase the amount of tuition assistance each year in an attempt to keep pace with the increasing cost of tuition. For undergraduate students enrolled in a church work program the District provided student aid in the amount of: 2014-15: \$1,800; 2015-16: \$2,000; 2016-17: \$3,000. For men enrolled in seminary the District provided student aid in the amount of: 2014-15: \$6,000; 2015-16: \$7,000; 2016-17: \$7,500. In the last triennium The South Dakota District has provided the following in District Student Aid in total: 2014-15: 11 grants totaling \$30,000; 2015-16: 9 grants totaling \$23,000; 2016-17: 10 grants totaling \$41,000.

Pastors, other professional church workers, family members, laypeople are all encouraged to identify and actively recruit those people (of all ages) they think would be great candidates for the pastoral ministry or other areas of professional ministry within the LCMS.

Harvest Grants

In 2016 the South Dakota District Board of Directors pledged a total of \$100,000 a year, \$60,000 to District congregations and \$40,000 to District Lutheran schools, in a grant program to encourage congregations and schools to reach out into their communities with the Gospel of

Jesus Christ and to perform acts of mercy. The first grants were awarded in 2017 to 25 churches and 9 schools. In 2018 Harvest Grants were awarded to 26 churches and 11 schools. To learn more about the District's Harvest Grant program and to find the grant application, visit the District website at: <https://sddlcms.org/forms-applications>.

District Website

In 2016 The South Dakota District contracted with 44-Interactive, a Sioux Falls company specializing in website design and development, to update and improve the District's website. Not only does the District website have a new look, it also has many more resources that professional church workers and laypeople will find extremely helpful. One of the purposes of the new website is for it to be the first place people go to find information and resources. In addition to the new website, the District also entered the realm of social media with Facebook and Twitter accounts and a YouTube channel. You can connect with The South Dakota District through:

Website: <http://sddlcms.org>

Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, find and follow the District under "SD District LCMS"

All Workers Conference

For the first time in decades all professional church workers in The South Dakota District (pastors, Directors of Christian Education, Lutheran school teachers and administrators) gathered together for a joint "All Workers Conference." The conference gathered in Rapid City under the theme, "That I May Be His Own." This phrase, taken from Martin Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles Creed, reflects two important themes in the life of every Christian. First, as St. Paul says, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Jesus Christ suffered, died, and rose again to take away the sins of his people. And second, as God's forgiven and redeemed people by faith in Jesus Christ, we are able to live in and serve God in His kingdom. Speaking about these two aspects in the lives of professional church workers was Reverend Dr. Darrell Zimmerman of Grace Place Ministries. Grace Place is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and focuses on teaching and training professional church workers to have spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational wellness. The All Workers Conference also provided the professional church workers with the opportunity to gather together for worship to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

Congregational Services

Reverend L. Scott Spiehs, Chairman

The Parish Services strives to be faithful in serving the Churches in the South Dakota District in the areas of Stewardship, Education, Human Care and Disaster Response.

In regards to **EDUCATION**, this area strives to provide resources to our congregations for all levels of Christian education and family ministry. Check out the LCMS website (www.lcms.org) or The South Dakota District website (<http://sddlcms.org>) for lots of great ideas.

In regards to **STEWARDSHIP**, the triennium began with the Reverends Curtis Garland and Kory Janneke as co-chairmen. Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

In regards to **HUMAN CARE**, a great deal of information comes from the LCMS World Relief and Human Care in Synod. Information is readily available to congregations either directly by mail, LCMS website or in the Lutheran Witness and Reporter. Pastors and individuals are encouraged

to contact the LCMS World Relief and Human Care for any questions or concerns in the Human Care area.

In regards to **DISASTER RESPONSE**, we continue to strive for coordinated and collaborative response to disasters on the local, district, regional and international levels. Successful response to any type of disaster is dependent upon voluntary local and congregational participation and training. Complete training programs are available to prepare for timely and effective disaster preparedness and early response.

On Sunday, May 10th, an EF-2 tornado blasted through Delmont. Officials report the damage total to 49 homes and structures that are either destroyed or have major damage. Another 29 homes and structures have minor damage, and residents may fix those buildings. On May 10th, following the tornado, the 12 Sunday School children and 3 adults exited safely from the basement of Zion Lutheran Church. Members and local clergy helped to secure church records and items from both the church and parsonage.

On May 11th and the following days, many items were removed from the church and parsonage and placed in storage units next to the Delmont Legion Hall, the church steel shed and members sheds.

May 12th, Reverend Bucklew and family returned and were housed at Terry Klumb home until the Hunting Lodge in Armor was available. Where they are currently residing.

Worship Services (May 14: Ascension Service; May 17th and May 24th) have been held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, Tripp SD.

May 18th a Decommissioning Service was held at (9:00 a.m.)

May 18th the Parsonage walls were removed and the basement was covered.

Residents of Delmont over the weekend celebrated the rebuilding of a church destroyed in a tornado more than two years ago. About 420 people attended a two-hour dedication service on Saturday in the new Zion Lutheran Church. The church was among many buildings that were damaged or destroyed by the May 10, 2015, tornado that also injured nine people.

Church building committee chairman Terry Klumb says the project was financed by insurance and nearly \$300,000 in donations.

At all times and in all places...giving thanks to God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus does the Church worship in times of disaster, and in times of peace, preparing us to face the moments of calamity with the joy of sins forgiven, death destroyed, eternal life our certain inheritance.

Youth Service Area

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Over the past three years, the South Dakota Youth Service Area has continued in offering events aimed towards teaching and strengthening the faith of our District Youth.

Largely, District youth events continue to be offered and supported by our district pastors and congregations.

In 2016, District youth enjoyed the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. The convention worked under the theme, "In Christ Alone." The textual foundation for the Gathering was Paul's

letter to the Philippians. DCE Lorien Peterson (Zion, Rapid City) has been organizing bussing to help district youth affordably go to and from this event.

Also, the service area has organized Higher Things Confirmation Retreats in the district during each of the last six years. During the last triennium, these have been in Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk (2017), St Paul, Aberdeen (2016), and Resurrection, Sioux Falls (2015). These Friday/Saturday conferences have generally grown in attendance to between 60 and 100 youth! Bible Bowl continues under the able direction of Reverend David Knefelkamp. Students in grades 6-12 face off using question from appointed sections of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. For 2018, the theme was the Gospel according to St. John (ESV translation), and from the ESV edition of the Small Catechism with Explanation section on Confession (questions 261-284).

Camp Minneboji at West Lake Okoboji, IA has been a long standing staple of youth ministry in South Dakota. In 2018, we celebrate and give thanks to God that this ministry is now in its 70th year! All students who have completed grades 4 through 9 are eligible to attend the week-long camp in June. Camp Minneboji has been attended by thousands of our South Dakota and neighboring district youth. To make it easier to get there, a bus has been hired to drive kids to and from camp for a reasonable fee. Pickup locations are arranged based on need. The last three years, camp has been well organized by Reverend Greg Lehr and Reverend David Otten, as well as many other pastors, lay people, and volunteers. In 2018, camp will be from June 17 to June 23.

Young Adult Service Area

Reverend Samuel Bobby

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Our Beloved South Dakota District,

The focus and emphasis of the Young Adult Service Area (YASA) has shifted over the last triennium. Previously, we had engaged in providing "consistent discussion among district pastors concerning the challenges of young adult ministry." We achieved this goal primarily through bringing in a yearly speaker, making sure each circuit had a YASA circuit representative, and producing a bi-yearly newsletter addressing pertinent topics relating to the various young adult demographics. This publication was distributed to pastors at fall and spring pastors conferences and included articles to share with congregants and questions for pastoral consideration at monthly circuit pastors meetings. We found, however, that these resources were underutilized and that keeping YASA representatives active in each circuit was difficult. As a result, we began to focus on our annual speaking engagement. Instead of expending time and energy producing a newsletter, we focused on recording our various speakers for access on the District's website. This way, if any pastor or lay person wishes to view the speaker or use a presentation as a study resource, that resource would be available. We also achieve the added benefit of accruing good, Lutheran content over time to deepen the quality and quantity of young adult resources at the District's disposal. The first year, we brought in Mollie Hemingway to present on the 2016 election and the state of politics and its relation to the church. This year we had A. Trevor Sutton present on his book *Being Lutheran*, and in August of this year (2018), we are extremely pleased to bring in Reverend Dr. Jeffery Kloha from the Museum of the Bible to discuss the often-debated status of the Bible in our contemporary setting.

My special thanks to the brother pastors of Circuit A who help to brainstorm speakers and ideas and to Reverend Tim Koch who, in a bulldog-like fashion, makes contact with potential speakers and assures they will actually show up. Also, a note of praise and thanksgiving to God for the SD District Office and Reverend Darren Olson for working with us to make these events a success and for the blessed saints at Main Street Living who graciously give of their time and talents to record the presenters and, in so doing, work with us to advance the Gospel through the YASA.

Outreach Services Area

Reverend Aaron Asmus

“Behold Your God!” – The prophet’s timeless voice announces the presence of our saving God! The Sovereign Lord who created us comes with power to rescue us from sin. We join Isaiah as heralds of good tidings, faithfully reaching out with God’s Word in ministry to all!

Beginning in August of 2016 the Evangelism, Mission, and Rural/Small Town Ministry outreach areas began meeting together.

Evangelism

Krista Erickson, Reverend Jordon Andreasen, and Reverend Aaron Asmus focused efforts on planning an Evangelism workshop which was held in March of 2017. Reverend Bill Cornelius of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD, along with members of our District Outreach group, presented an “Every Day Evangelism for My Every Day Life” workshop at six locations throughout the District (Resurrection, Sioux Falls / St. John’s, Yankton / Zion, Chamberlain / Our Redeemer, Rapid City / St. Paul’s Aberdeen / Mt. Olive, Watertown). Approximately 125-150 people attended one of the 2.5 hour workshops.

Rarely a day goes by that we don’t come into contact with someone who needs to hear the message of hope that God has given to us in our Savior Jesus. Yet we don’t always feel as if we have an open door – or, for that matter, even the skills or the courage – to be an evangelist for that person. Even as congregations, we may sometimes feel that our community offers very few inroads for reaching people with the Good News of Jesus.

Our goal for “Everyday Evangelism For My Everyday Life” was to help one another recognize where those opportunities for sharing about Jesus are springing up; to consider the balance between patience and urgency as we look for ways to communicate our hope in Christ with people that we see every day; to encourage servanthood and relationship building as key building blocks for gaining opportunities to share the Good News of our Savior Jesus. Pastor Bill Cornelius of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Milbank, along with members of the District Outreach Board, will help guide our learning and discussion about how sharing Christ is part of our everyday lives.

Evaluation questions were very basic:

What was helpful for you today?

What were we missing? or What would you have liked to learn more about?

Response summary:

What was Helpful?

Simple, easy to understand approach / Emphasis on Relationships (gentle & patient approach) / emphasis on listening / group sharing time / sharing about and recognizing community opportunities to serve.

What would you like?

More group sharing, discussion, role play / list of resources / specific outline for witnessing / more time

Current plan for Spring 2018 – workshop including more specific outline for witnessing (several possibilities) / opportunities to share what’s taking place in congregations.

Rural / Small Town Ministry

Reverend Jordon Andreasen attended the Synodical Rural and Small Town Ministry Conference in Kansas City, MO in fall of 2015.

In 2017, two Rural and Small Town Ministry workshops were held in South Dakota. Reverend Todd Kollbaum, LCMS Director of Rural and Small Town Ministry was present to lead both workshops.

“Engaging the Wandering” was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Chamberlain in June 2017.
“Engaging Your Community” was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Wolsey in September 2017.

Missions

Reverend Dr. Peter Meier from Center For United States Missions (www.c4usm.org) presented the workshop “Mobilizing the Mission of God: Start New to Reach New” at Memorial Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls on Saturday, October 21, and at Zion Lutheran Church in Rapid City on Sunday, October 22. About thirty individuals attended the workshops. A strong case was presented for working hard to establish new mission starts (can be a variety of initiatives) in order to reach new people with the Gospel. He presented data that suggested high percentages of people in South Dakota that are “unclaimed;” that is, people not currently associated with any religious group.

Plans are underway to bring the C4USM training workshop “Churches Planting Churches” to our District. This workshop is designed to provide more in-depth training for congregations that are in the process of or are considering birthing daughter congregations.

Please also see a separate report in this workbook from Dr. Alan Ludwig, South Dakota TIM missionary at the Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia.

District Archives

Mr. Wayne Steensma, Sioux Falls, SD

It has been a great honor for me to serve our South Dakota District as archivist for the past ten years and I thank those who have given me support to carry out the duties that are required of me in the South Dakota District's Policy Manual and those of the Concordia Historical Institute which is on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. I also thank our congregational historians for keeping up on the history of their congregation. I have read several of those histories and found them both very informational and interesting.

One of the questions I get asked often pertains to record keeping. "What do we save and what can we delete?" Over the years I have sent to a few congregations a listing of what records should be saved and for how long. Let the archives office know if you need a listing or have questions. The archiving of records has proved to be very important when being asked to find information such as dates of baptisms and confirmations.

The archives office maintains a file for each church which holds items of interest regarding their church's history. Some items are filed by our office, other items have been sent by the church. We appreciate receiving these articles.

I continue up-dating as changes occur in the databases listings of all the pastors, vicars, Directors of Christian Education and rostered school teachers who have served in our South Dakota District. To date we have been served by eleven hundred pastors which includes the early missionaries, one hundred thirty-eight vicars and thirty-one Directors of Education.

The district archives office is here to serve the District staff, pastors and church historians. If assistance is needed, please call the office or e-mail: sdarchives@midco.net.

Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplaincy Program

Reverend Matthew Nix, Sioux Falls, SD

I would like to thank all those who have allowed me to help in the spiritual care of their members during their time in the hospitals in Sioux Falls. I understand that all of you would prefer to be here and care for your members yourselves. But due to time, distance and other demands on your time you cannot be here as often as you would like. That is where the South Dakota District steps in to help. They have provided me the ability to help you when you cannot be here. It has given me great joy sharing Jesus with your members. It also brings me great comfort listening to your members tell about the wonderful work you are doing in your parishes. Below is an email shared with me by one of you:

Here's the text I received earlier today. ***** is coming home so I will be able to see them before he has surgery Monday. Thank you again so much for your pastoral care to them.

Fwd: I just want to share with you what I posted on FB yesterday: Today was an incredibly difficult day for ***** and me. Lots of ups and downs with uncertainty about what will happen and when. We thought he could have surgery tomorrow, but now it looks like Monday. We were definitely reminded how familiar *****'s situation has become to us and how unfamiliar it is to most medical people! We were angry and frustrated most of the day until God sent us the most wonderful gift requested by Pastor *****. The local Lutheran Chaplain paid us a much needed visit and gave us communion. I literally felt all the anger and frustration go away while my sins were being forgiven. ***** felt good most of the day and was even finally back to joking around with everyone. Psalm 147:11 "The LORD delights in those who fear him, who hope in His steadfast love."

I would ask that if you know you or a member of your parish are going to be in one of our Sioux Falls hospitals, that you inform your pastor so he can let me know. That way, I am able to make sure to see you and serve you in whatever way is best and possible.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your hospital chaplain here in Sioux Falls.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND REPORT

Randall L. Gayken, Business Manager

CEF Activity 2015-2017

The Church Extension Fund (CEF) of our South Dakota District LCMS began the 2015-2018 triennium as it has in previous convention cycles, as a separate fund administered by the District's Board of Directors with its Mission or purpose to assist the South Dakota District LCMS, its congregations, associations of congregations, and schools by providing loans:

- for the acquisition of real estate property for future expansion of the Church,
- for the construction or improvement of church facilities used for preaching, teaching and outreach ministry of the Church.

Since 1907 our CEF has been in this special ministry partnership with individual members, congregations and the District. CEF has operated like a savings and loan institution; it received investments from our Lutheran members and congregations and then loans out these monies to our LCMS congregations, associations of congregations, and schools for their loan funding needs.

Some of CEF's accomplishments during this past triennium:

- The Board of Directors approved seven loan requests to South Dakota LCMS congregations over this period totaling \$1,888,250.
- CEF has met or exceeded all ten of the financial standards the Board of Directors has established.
- Over the past three years CEF has rebated \$29,595 of interest to congregations and schools whose interest rate was above CEF's published loan rate.
- Over the past three years CEF has provided over \$41,250 to the District's unrestricted operating budget for its mission and outreach ministries.

In 2016 the District staff along with the Board of Directors began discussing the major challenges that CEF will face in the next year or two. District was informed by its computer vendor that the banking hardware and software system CEF is currently using will have to be upgraded significantly to meet the new system requirements the vendor has established for its banking customers. This cost could exceed \$75,000. Looking to the future CEF should also provide its investors and borrowing congregations with online services, better reporting systems, and with much better internet security features. Additional insurance, bankers' professional liability, is required for CEF entities which may cost over \$15,000 annually. Our CEF's investor base is aging. A marketing campaign is needed soon to gain new investors, especially the younger generation, to replace investors who are leaving CEF because of death or end of life financial needs. Additional investors are also needed to increase the assets of CEF to enable our loan fund to be sufficient to meet any future loan request. Also the current business manager who acts as CEF's executive director has announced that he's retiring after the April 2018 District Convention, so a suitable replacement will be needed.

At the September 18-19, 2016 Board of Directors meeting President Sailer announced that he had appointed a "Future of the CEF" study committee given the goal to study the question "Should the District keep its Church Extension Fund as it has functioned from 1907 or should the District transfer the Fund's loans receivable, investor payables, and net asset balance to Synod's

Lutheran Church Extension Fund?” The members appointed to this committee were Reverend Brad Urbach (pastor from a congregation that has had many significant loans from CEF and whose members have been supportive of CEF), Reverend Scott Spiehs (a member of the Board of Directors and who has good knowledge of CEF operations), Mr. James Schnaidt (lay member of the District’s Finance Committee and has experience in private and commercial banking), Mr. John Mills (layman from a congregation that has recently received a loan from CEF), and Mr. Randy Gayken (current executive director of our CEF and business manager). Reverend Urbach was appointed chairman.

In January 2017 the Study Committee met with the CEO and CFO of Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Rich Robertson and Thomas Helfrich, to determine the advantages of joining LCEF. The advantages presented and discussed are;

- Larger loan capacity available to SD congregations, schools, etc. including access to joint loan pool
- Expanded variety of investment offerings to SD members while continuing to provide opportunity to support members ministries
- Borrowing congregations have opportunity to earn a 0.5% loan interest rebate
- Loan offerings to rostered church workers for housing, debt consolidation and education loans
- Streamlining the operations of the CEF utilizing the LCEF’s administration, computer systems and supporting staff which will enable savings to be utilized within the District
- Utilizing LCEF to streamline regulatory, insurance, legal and audit requirements
- District continues to approve loan requests from congregations and promotes investments through its appointed District Vice President and committee (Board of Directors)
- Opportunity for District to receive an annual distribution of LCEF’s operating results to support ministries within the District

After the presentation and their discussion it became clear to the committee that partnering with LCEF provided for a great opportunity to continue the ministry of Church Extension with expanded funding resources and investment opportunities for our members. The committee requested LCEF to make the same presentation to the Board of Directors at their March 5-6, 2017 meeting.

Based on the information that the Board of Directors received from LCEF’s presentation, an internal financial review by Business Manager Gayken, and the Committee’s proposal that the District should merge its CEF into LCEF, the Board of Directors at its March 5-6, 2017 requested President Sailer to get feedback from our church workers and CEF investors about the proposal to merge our CEF into LCEF. The Board also requested LCEF’s CEO to be present at the Spring 2017 Pastors Conference to answer questions about the proposed merger. Over the next 2 months following the Board meeting several questions were presented and answered by either the committee chairman, District staff or LCEF’s CEO. Throughout this process we had very few negative responses.

The Board of Directors met on June 11-12, 2017 to act on the “Future of the CEF” committee’s proposal. After discussing the feedback received from members and investors, reviewing again the pros and cons of merging our District CEF into LCEF the Board unanimously resolved to consolidate the South Dakota District CEF into LCEF and to become a member District of LCEF within this current fiscal year ending January 14, 2018.

The Board of Directors in negotiating terms of the Entry Agreement with LCEF agreed to complete consolidation as of October 15, 2017. From June 12, 2017 through October 15, 2017 all major tasks of the consolidation were completed by Chad Zinnel and Randy Gayken including correspondence to all investors and borrowers about the terms of the consolidation, physically transferring all computer data files, investors paper files and loan documents to LCEF by secured internet services or courier services. On October 15, 2017 South Dakota District no longer

managed a Church Extension Fund. It had been transferred to LCEF. On this date the South Dakota District became a member District of LCEF.

LCEF Organization Overview

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of extension fund service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its individual and corporate members. Through the dollars invested by thousands of individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with custom loans and ministry support services. Together, these partnerships have grown total assets to \$1.8 billion.

There are many ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. Historically, church extension operations have centered on loans made possible through investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Today, LCEF has expanded its offerings to include resources that help put ministry in motion. VisionPath, Capital Funding Services (CFS) and Laborers For Christ (LFC) are examples of services offered to enhance and support ministries.

Bart Day serves as president/CEO and reports to a 12-member Board of Directors. LCEF employs some 110 people located in St. Louis and more than 50 employees in 30 member districts throughout the United States. The organization also counts on the service of hundreds of volunteers, such as Laborers For Christ and LCEF Advocates, to fulfill its mission.

In the national office, the investment processing area cares for nearly 60,000 LCEF investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. LCEF's loan department serves LCMS ministries and Rostered Church Workers (RCW), providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans and lines of credit. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their District Vice President (DVP), who works through the district office—they are a part of the Lutheran communities in which they serve. District Vice Presidents are supported by their district support staff as well as the national office staff in St. Louis.

LCEF's Performance – Fiscal 2017 Highlights

Against the backdrop of the economic overview provided above, during fiscal year 2017 (FY17), LCEF was blessed to serve the ministries of the LCMS and achieved or exceeded many of the financial targets and goals outlined in the prior year Ministry and Business Plan. LCEF ended the year with total assets reaching \$1.8 billion and achieved net income of \$8.8 million. Once again, LCEF was able to distribute operating results to the LCEF Districts and to the Synod and also made an allocation approximating \$1.2 million to the Kaleidoscope Fund – a granting initiative sponsored by LCEF.

Details of the financial performance for FY 2017 are listed below:

- The Ohio District CEF consolidated its operations with LCEF effective April 01, 2017.
- The South Dakota CEF decided to consolidate its operations with LCEF effective October 15, 2017, the third CEF district entry in the past two years.
- Total Assets increased \$31.1 million or 1.7% to \$1.839 billion since June 30, 2016, due to the entry of the Ohio District CEF.
- Management continued to maintain high levels of liquidity with cash and investments totaling \$317.2 million or 19.6% of notes and support dollars payables at June 30, 2017.
- Maintained a strong capital ratio of 11.7%, an increase of .4% when compared to the prior year.
- Cost of Funds (COF - the base from which loan rates are set) remained stable at 1.875% during the year, translating to very low-cost loans to organizations and Rostered Church Workers in FY 17.

- LCEF continued the multi-year increase in investors, achieving a net increase of 1,264 new investor relationships. This increase resulted from the entry of the Ohio CEF transferring 765 investors, the continued success of ConnectPlus and PartnerPlus term notes and the Young Investors (Y.I.) offering during the year.
- Loans receivable increased by \$70 million to a balance of \$1.5 billion.
- LCEF's loan disbursements were \$95.7 million higher than the prior year, totaling \$270.1 million which exceeded loan principal repayments by \$50 million, resulting in a reduction in short-term investments.
- During FY 2017, the delinquency rate increased to .7% from .4% the prior year, still a historically low level of delinquencies.
- Impaired loans decreased from \$129.8 million at June 30, 2016, to \$104.8 million at the end of FY 2017. Impaired loans include nonaccrual loans and loans for which LCEF has modified repayment terms from the terms included in the original loans agreements.
- Nonaccrual loans decreased to \$72.1 million compared with \$87.3 million at June 30, 2017. Associated interest reserves totaled \$900 thousand.
- The total allowance, as of June 30, 2017, totaled \$29.4 million or 1.96% of the loan portfolio, compared to \$37.3 million or 2.6% at June 30, 2016. The decrease in reserves represent write-offs associated with the resolution of certain specific impaired loans.

LCEF continues to be blessed by the strong support of its investors and the dedicated commitment of its borrowers. Because of this partnership, LCEF is well positioned to serve the ministries of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod today and in the future.

Schedule of Current South Dakota Loans Receivable

The following congregations/schools have outstanding loans with LCEF as of January 31, 2018:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd | Rapid City, Our Redeemer (*) |
| Brandon, Blessed Redeemer | Rapid City, Peace |
| Brookings, Peace | Sioux Falls, Christ (*) |
| Centerville, First English | Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer |
| Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross | Sioux Falls, Resurrection (*) |
| Hartford, Trinity | Sioux Falls, Trinity |
| Huron, Mt. Calvary | Sioux Falls Lutheran School (*) |
| Madison, Our Savior | Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel |
| Mitchell, Zion | Tea, Risen Savior |
| Pierre, Faith | Utica, Martinus |

(*) Indicates that congregation or school has multiple loans

Core Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2018

As outlined in LCEF's Ministry and Business Plan for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 – 2020, LCEF is focused on the following core initiatives:

- Prepare for and adapt to internal and external change as we embrace the evolving needs of our customers and adjust to new leadership within the organization.
- Develop a greater partnership with LCMS entities and Synod, Inc., building upon synergies and strengths of the organizations in support of ministries we commonly serve.
- Ensure continued financial and operational health of the enterprise, having resources available in support of ministries and partner churches of the LCMS today and in the future.

Based on its financial forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and in line with the core initiatives outlined above, LCEF expects:

- Total assets to decrease \$14.1 million, or .01% to \$1.825 billion.
- Liquidity to remain strong, maintaining a ratio approximating 19% of notes & support dollars payables.

- Net assets to increase to \$223.1 million representing a capital-to-asset ratio of 12.2%.
- Loans receivable to increase to \$1.522 billion.
- Notes and support dollars payables to decrease to \$1.593 billion.
- Net income to total \$8.9 million.
- Loan delinquencies to remain at a level below 1.75% and non-income producing assets, non-accrual loans and real estate to decrease by \$12.1 million.

Other objectives include:

- Following three years of planning and preparation, two of three regional operations centers have opened their doors in Minneapolis/St. Paul, which is serving as the operational hub for Central Region and Mission Viejo, California, which is now serving as the operational hub for the West Region.
- One additional regional center is scheduled to open during the coming fiscal year with an office planned for Orlando, Florida. The East Region office will complete the first major phase of the larger de-centralization efforts designed to increase and improve LCEF's ability to first discern and then respond to the continually evolving needs of our customers across the country.
- National loan staff will actively engage and interact with district and regional support networks. They will seek increased opportunities with the non-congregational borrowing base, and in conjunction with the Lutheran Federal Credit Union, will expand the Rostered Church Worker (RCW) Loan Program to states beyond the current 16 where LCEF is licensed.
- Marketing will engage with and support the regional and district offices to better understand their unique needs so it can properly support their ministry efforts.
- Marketing will update the website to reflect a blog-centric content strategy and user-friendly 13 Annual Meeting 2017 experience. Marketing will implement a strategy to retire and/or redefine the investor products ensuring LCEF's product line remains strong and relevant offering investors a complementary mix of demand and term products.
- Laborers For Christ (LFC) will complete a comprehensive study and re-design of its business model to reflect current sociological and economic realities with a focus on long-term sustainability.
- Capital Funding Services will develop a capital campaign strategy utilizing a team approach of individual 'experts' within various components of a campaign for conducting campaigns in larger churches.
- District and National Operations (DNO) will continue dialogue with other synodical agencies to develop operational models for the future that seek to leverage the LCEF regional structure.
- Loans will seek opportunities to network with other synodical agencies in conjunction with product development, customer support and loan promotion efforts, and will actively participate in district and nationally hosted events, taking advantage of opportunities for key sponsorships.
- Loans will explore strategic partnerships with LCMS entities and partner churches and expand relationships with Recognized Service Organizations and associations of LCMS elementary and high schools.
- Information Technology will connect where appropriate with LCMS entities to increase communications in the areas of cybersecurity, customer relationship management and vendor management.
- Facilities Management will leverage existing relationships with partners such as Foundry Commercial, LCEF's real estate partner, to assist entities and customers with maintenance and management of physical infrastructure, analyzing building operations and suggesting improvements and opportunities for savings.
- Benefiting from networking opportunities with the Concordia University System through the National Student Marketing Competition, Marketing will host a high school entrepreneur competition in the St. Louis area with a desire to have a nationwide program in the future. They will also organize networking events and mutual learning sessions with various LCMS entities.

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- Ministry Support will consider partnering with the Office of National Mission (ONM) to develop a ministry geared to older LCMS members. In concert with the synodical stewardship group, Ministry Support will determine new stewardship opportunities for LCMS congregations.
 - DNO will continue to place a strong emphasis on growing the roles of investing partners with the LCEF. Cultivation, development and ongoing maintenance of these investor relationships will drive lending activities for the foreseeable future.
 - Loans will continue to work with impaired borrowers to return a significant portion of these loans to the active loan portfolio.
 - Finance projects LCEF will achieve sufficient net income that will provide for distribution of operating results and contributions to the Kaleidoscope Fund. Finance will also expand awareness and focus of LCEF's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process, ensuring accountability and engagement throughout the organization.

LCEF has truly been blessed with positive financial results, loyal support from its investors and faithful commitment from its borrowers. Through this support, LCEF has been able to meet the loan needs of ministries within the LCMS and maintain its strong financial position. LCEF once again distributed portions of its operating results to participating districts and the Synod along with ministry grants through the Kaleidoscope Fund. Management remains committed to supporting those ministries struggling financially, in a firm yet encouraging way, confident that God will provide a path for faithful ministries to continue to fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel.

In closing, we are thankful for "the partnership" our South Dakota District has with LCEF. Our mission is one! For the Glory of Our Risen Savior! And looking to the future we raise our voices saying "Behold your God! What Help! What Hope!"

Continuing Education

Reverend Timothy Koch, Chairman

The Continuing Education Service Ministry to the South Dakota District is primarily responsible for organizing the Pre-Lenten Workshop that takes place each January at Zion Lutheran Church in Mitchell, SD. In 2015, Rev. Keith Bicknase of Emanuel in Milbank handed over the responsibilities of this Service Ministry to Rev. Timothy Koch of Concordia and Immanuel Lutheran Churches in Cresbard and Wecota, SD.

As we seek to place Christ before our people and say, "Behold Your God!" these are the projects that have been undertaken by this service ministry in the past triennium.

In 2016, Rev. Dr. James Bushur was our Pre-Lent speaker who presented on "Signs of the Holy Cross: Patristic Paschal Images."

In 2017, Rev. Dr. Charles Arand agreed to be our Pre-Lent speaker. His trip to South Dakota did not occur on account of inclement weather. His presentation, "The Art of Living By Faith" was made available online for all those who registered for the conference.

In 2018, Rev. David Petersen was our Pre-Lent speaker. His presentation was on the Penitential Psalms.

If the members of the SD District would like to see the Continuing Education Service Ministry take on and organize additional projects, then inquiries and requests can be emailed to Rev. Timothy Koch at revtimkoch@gmail.com.

Church Worker Education Debt Assistance Committee

Reverend Scott C. Sailer, for the Board of Directors

Since it was established by action of the 2004 District Convention, the Church Worker Education Debt Assistance fund – or CWEDA – has provided grants to rostered church workers in The South Dakota District. Such grants are needed by our pastor, teachers and DCEs because most of the new workers coming into our District are bearing significant debt from four to seven years of payments for tuition and housing from their college and seminary training. Typically, each of the workers assisted through CWEDA brings from \$30,000-80,000 in such debt with them into their brand-new ministries in South Dakota. With beginning salaries in the low-to-mid \$30,000s, it is easy to see that such debt is difficult for them to manage. Therefore, the CWEDA grants have been a tremendous blessing to our church workers.

The grants are funded by undesignated gifts to the District. In addition, there is a small CWEDA endowment fund, totaling about \$19,500. Congregations, church groups, and individuals are encouraged to consider a gift to the CWEDA endowment fund.

The Board of Directors set aside \$15,000 for CWEDA grants in 2015, and \$20,000 for CWEDA grants in 2016 and 2017. An average of 24 church workers received grants each of those years. In 2015, the average grant was \$600. In 2016 and 2017, the average grant was \$870.

The Lord has graciously given us full-time workers in the Church. His generous people in the District have been the Lord's instruments to assist these workers in this special way with CWEDA grants. I join these workers in the District in expressing our thanks to you for this needed, tangible support!

LAY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Reverend Darren R. Olson, Executive Secretary

In 2007 The South Dakota District began offering classes through its Lay Leadership Institute (LLI). The mission of LLI is to provide deeper instruction and special training for lay men and women of our congregations so that they may assist in the ministry taking place in their own congregations.

LLI has an 11-course curriculum, which includes the following courses: Old Testament, New Testament, Christian Doctrine, Interpreting the Bible in Translation, Church History I, Church History II, Lutheran Worship, Teaching the Christian Faith, Mission Outreach in Context, Pastoral Care, and Homiletics (Preaching). The cost to participate in an LLI course is \$150. The courses are taught by pastors and other professional church workers serving in the South Dakota District. Instructors and participants typically meet together on the first and last days of the class at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD. The remainder of the work is done through e-mail where the participants send their coursework to their instructor and participate in conversations with the instructor and other participants.

The LLI program was designed for three different levels of involvement. Level 1 is for anyone seeking a deeper knowledge of Scripture, Lutheran doctrine, and other general areas. Level 2 is designed to better equip laymen and women for service in their congregations. Level 3 is specifically for men who will, after completion and formal District approval, and under careful oversight of their called pastor, provide assistance to their pastor in one or several areas of ministry (e.g. teaching Bible class, visiting the sick or shut-in, leading a worship service, etc.). Level 3 is also designed to equip men who may be considering entering the pastoral ministry, either through regular residential seminary training or through an alternate route such as the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) or the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology Program (EIIT). The two SMP pastors serving in our District began their instruction for ministry in the

District's LLI program. One man, Mr. Albert Bakat, graduated from the LLI program having completed all 11 courses. He is now enrolled at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO in their EIIT program. Upon completion of the EIIT program, Albert will be ordained as a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and will serve the African immigrant group that worships at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. Overall, since its inception in 2007, there have been 55 student participants, representing 35 congregations in our District. Seven individuals have completed all 11 LLI courses, four them in the last triennium, and several individuals are currently close to completing the LLI program.

Thank you to the following pastors who have taught LLI courses: Old Testament: Rev. Tim Rynearson, Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings; New Testament: Rev. Darren Olson, District Executive Secretary; Christian Doctrine: Rev. Micah Bauer, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings; Interpreting the Bible in Translation: Rev. Tim Koch, Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota; Church History I and II: Rev. David Otten, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Gettysburg and Christ Lutheran Church, Lebanon; Lutheran Worship: Rev. Jesse Davis, First English Lutheran Church, Centerville and Zion Lutheran Church, Hurley; Teaching the Christian Faith: DCE Eric Larson, Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls; Mission Outreach in Context: Rev. Curtis Garland; Pastoral Care: Rev. Terry Naasz, retired; Homiletics: Rev. Dr. Christopher Ascher, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. A special thank you to Pastors Cory Rajek and Joshua Baumann and Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD for hosting the LLI courses.

For further information on the Lay Leadership Institute, a listing of current class offerings, and for registration materials, visit The South Dakota District website: <https://sddlcms.org/mission-ministries/lay-leadership-institute>.

OPERATION BARNABAS

In 2007, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's [Ministry to the Armed Forces](#) launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program – the only one of its kind in the U.S. – together with our congregations, three key goals are accomplished:

1. Care for Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.
2. Train and assist local congregations in the care, support and outreach to all military-connected people in their congregations and their communities.
3. Serve as a resource to other organizations that provide care to military-connected people.

The District President is in the process of appointing an Operation Barnabas coordinator for the District.

TOGETHER IN MISSION

Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig, Missionary

Dear pastors and congregations of the South Dakota District:

On January 1, 1998, my wife, Patricia, and I boarded a plane in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and began the long trip half way around the world to Novosibirsk, Russia. My parishes in Cresbard and Wecota graciously gave me a ten-week leave of absence to teach Hebrew and other Old Testament courses in a new seminary. We returned from that trip in March, little knowing that it would lead to other things.

A few months later I received a call from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne to serve as resident professor in Novosibirsk. With a mixture of joy and sorrow we left to begin a new life

in Russia. Over the years I have developed nearly twenty courses, including Greek, Hebrew, books of the Bible, and theology.

In 2011 I received a call from the Office of International Mission to continue the work in Novosibirsk, plus teach in other places as the need arose. Since then I have occasionally conducted courses at other seminaries in Russia, Ukraine, and Ethiopia.

While my major work has always been preparing native Russians for serving as pastors, I have done a fair amount of parish work as well—preaching, teaching Bible classes, teaching seminars to clergy and laity, and teaching the catechism.

I have been engaged in this work for nearly twenty years. Over that time our seminary has turned out some well-equipped pastors and deacons, plus a few really fine scholars. Our faculty has grown to four full-time teachers and several part-time teachers. Most of these, all native Russians, have gone through our seminary program. It is always a joy to me to hear my “children” echo in their sermons and presentations what they learned as students. I don’t think it is any exaggeration to say that Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk is a beacon of solid Lutheran doctrine in this part of the world. I’m thankful to our gracious God for allowing me to be a part of this. I am confident that the work will continue in a God-pleasing manner after my departure. I will leave behind many lectures, articles, sermons, and other writings, which I pray will be of lasting benefit.

Right now the future for Christianity in Russia looks bright. The preference is for Russian Orthodoxy, which has shaped so much of Russian culture and thought. Yet there are many unchurched people, many of whom want no part of Orthodoxy. The Lutheran faith has a long and venerable history in Russia. While Lutheranism is unlikely to become the dominant Christian confession in Russia, we are continually growing and attracting new converts. So far the need is still greater than what we can supply. This work remains vital. The Lutheran Church most clearly of all declares that salvation is not by our own works, but by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. This Gospel must continue to be heard in Russia and everywhere.

While it is with some sadness that I will retire in June of 2018, there is joy ahead as well. I don’t know what the future holds, but plan to do an occasional stint of teaching somewhere in the world. I will devote more time to helping Patricia, who has health issues. It will be a good time to pursue delayed writing projects.

I wish to thank all of you in the South Dakota District for your generous support. You have done a tremendous amount to make this work possible, and I am deeply grateful for support from the district in which I was proud to serve as a parish pastor. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you richly and enable you to continue to spread the Gospel both at home and around the world.



Missionaries Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
Mission Development Counselors

MISSION CENTRAL

Gary & Maxine Thies Mission Foundation
*Serving the Lord Jesus and representing the
office of National & International Mission
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

Gary.Thies@lcms.org
Phone 712-682-1029

Brent.Smith@lcms.org
Phone 703-713-2851



40218 Highway E-16 Maclester, Iowa 51234
Website www.missioncentral.us

Dear NOT NORMAL Co-workers for the Lord Jesus:

What a blessing to have this privilege of reporting to you on The Lord's MISSION CENTRAL and thanking you for what God has done through you for the mission of the Lord Jesus!



Triennium Quick Facts: (July 2015-Dec 2017)

- | | | | |
|------------|---|---------------|--|
| 626 | Divine appointments with individuals | 87 | Missionary Families Housed Overnight |
| 342 | Group Mission Events on the road | 98 | Volunteers |
| 250 | Mission Events at Mission Central | 12,500 | Visitors for Mission Events |
| 115 | Meals for Groups | 5 | per week stop to pray in Wayside Chapel |



This triennium a Creation Theater was dedicated for service in the Lord's mission to tell the story of Creation, especially to the school children who visit Mission Central. A wonderful family donated over 25 life-like animals from Africa, North America, and Canada. Mission Events start in the Creation Theater with stadium seating and then move into the Barn with artifacts from missionaries all over the world that remind us why it is so urgent and important to send missionaries to tell all people everywhere about Jesus!



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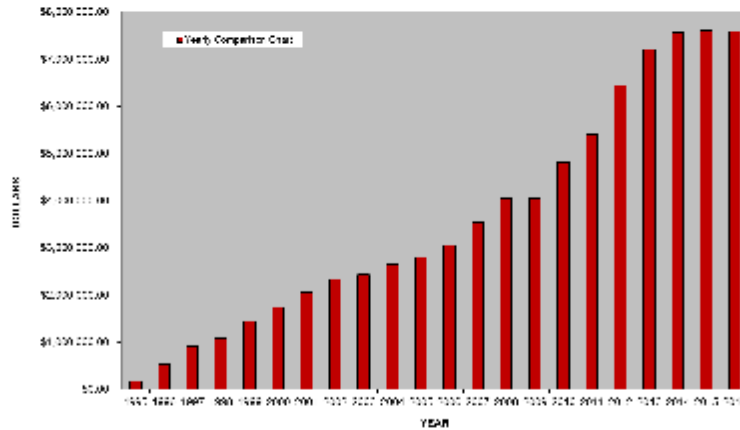


Visit the updated Website: www.missioncentral.us

- ◊ Schedule of events and visiting missionaries
- ◊ Downloadable content for each missionary
- ◊ Prayer Calendar
- ◊ Make Online Donations and much, much more...

On August 28, 2017, Old Missionary Gary turned 75 years old, BUT has no plans on retiring, and hopes to continue as long as he can "crawl across the road". On November 1, 2016 the Lord provided another helper. After 16 years of international missionary service and three years of mission work on the East Coast near Washington D.C., Brent Smith returned to work with Mission Central. Like Gary, Brent hosts mission events at Mission Central and spends most of his time on the road raising mission awareness at the invitation of the many people and congregations who are "not normal."

Year to Date Support Chart



We praise God for the thousands of individuals and congregations that provide the majority of support for over 100 missionaries. 100% of every gift continues to go 100% to the missionary's account. Through people like you we received the largest amount of donations in December 2017 ever in the history at Mission Central. This is God at work and comes at the perfect time because the number of called Missionaries has almost doubled over the this triennium to 137 plus spouses and children and, as you know, we are called to help them raise ALL of their support. Thank you for your faithful partnership with Mission Central!

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

| | |
|---|---------|
| Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statement for Years Ending January 14, 2017 and 2016 | 82-99 |
| District's Unaudited Financial Statement For Year Ending January 14, 2018 | 100-119 |

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Audited Financial Statements – January 14, 2017 and 2016

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QUAM, BERGLIN & POST, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
110 WEST MAIN – P.O. BOX 426
ELK POINT, SOUTH DAKOTA 57025

(605) 356-3374

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 14, 2017, and the related statement of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as of January 14, 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's January 14, 2016 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated May 26, 2016. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended January 14, 2016, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Quam, Berglin + Post P.C.

Quam, Berglin & Post, P.C.
Elk Point, South Dakota

May 18, 2017

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JANUARY 14, 2017 and 2016**

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 357,586 | \$ 139,033 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,556 | 1,048 |
| Accrued Interest Receivable | 9,140 | 7,778 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 12,513 | 15,545 |
| Contributions Receivable (Note 2) | 634,870 | 670,621 |
| Short-term Investments (Note 4) | 6,128,273 | 6,696,119 |
| Inventory Held for Resale | 258,690 | 258,690 |
| Current Maturities-Loans Receivable | <u>370,303</u> | <u>456,982</u> |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | <u>7,772,931</u> | <u>8,245,816</u> |
| LONG TERM ASSETS | | |
| Long-Term Investments (Note 4) | 4,454,787 | 3,966,860 |
| Gifts Receivable (Note 2) | 228,879 | 219,760 |
| Loans Receivable (Note 3) | 5,066,081 | 5,126,045 |
| Less: Allowance for Loan Losses | (22,372) | (22,372) |
| Less: Current Maturities | <u>(370,303)</u> | <u>(456,982)</u> |
| TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS | <u>9,357,072</u> | <u>8,833,311</u> |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | | |
| Property & Equipment | 703,204 | 664,574 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(431,076)</u> | <u>(440,454)</u> |
| TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS | <u>272,128</u> | <u>224,120</u> |
| RESTRICTED ASSETS | | |
| Farmland | <u>25,000</u> | <u>25,000</u> |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS | <u>25,000</u> | <u>25,000</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$ 17,427,131</u> | <u>\$ 17,328,247</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 110,183 | \$ 101,855 |
| Interest Payable | 41,159 | 41,282 |
| Deposits Payable-Current Portion | <u>2,389,769</u> | <u>2,004,715</u> |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | <u>2,541,111</u> | <u>2,147,852</u> |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | | |
| Deposits Payable | 9,716,008 | 9,842,296 |
| Less: Current Portion | <u>(2,389,769)</u> | <u>(2,004,715)</u> |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | <u>7,326,239</u> | <u>7,837,581</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>9,867,350</u> | <u>9,985,433</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 5,298,187 | 5,105,584 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 1,514,609 | 1,496,448 |
| Permanently Restricted | <u>746,985</u> | <u>740,782</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | <u>7,559,781</u> | <u>7,342,814</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | <u>\$ 17,427,131</u> | <u>\$ 17,328,247</u> |

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For The Period Ending January 14, 2017 and 2016**

| | <u>UNRESTRICTED</u> | <u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u> | <u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u> | <u>TOTALS</u> | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>Jan. 14, 2017</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2017</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2016</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2017</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2016</u> |
| <u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND GAINS/LOSSES:</u> | | | | | |
| Support: | | | | | |
| District Congregations | \$ 474,161 | \$ 670,777 | \$ 1,076 | \$ 1,146,014 | \$ 1,165,104 |
| Deferred Gifts | | 1,306 | | 1,306 | 1,849 |
| Synodical Entities & Out of State Congregations | | 21,537 | 1,500 | 23,037 | 56,777 |
| Other | 40,351 | 24,439 | 250 | 65,040 | 87,282 |
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Lutheran Witness | 93,498 | | | 93,498 | 87,458 |
| Conventions, Conferences and Workshops | 113,739 | | | 113,739 | 29,104 |
| Interest Income | 10,054 | | | 10,054 | 6,998 |
| Investment Income | 140,736 | 20,282 | | 161,018 | 154,082 |
| Interest Income - on CEF's Loans | 195,262 | | | 195,262 | 230,040 |
| Other | 2,948 | 56,419 | | 59,367 | 62,547 |
| Net Unrealized and Realized Gains/(Losses) | 4,182 | 10,817 | 3,377 | 18,376 | (75,371) |
| TOTAL - SUPPORT, REVENUE, and GAINS/LOSSES | <u>1,074,931</u> | <u>805,577</u> | <u>6,203</u> | <u>1,886,711</u> | <u>1,805,870</u> |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | <u>787,416</u> | <u>(787,416)</u> | | | |
| <u>EXPENSES:</u> | | | | | |
| Synodical Budget / World Missions | 389,383 | | | 389,383 | 388,006 |
| Program Services: | | | | | |
| North American Missions | 285,200 | | | 285,200 | 276,961 |
| Professional Education | 63,764 | | | 63,764 | 45,315 |
| Congregational Ministry | 158,110 | | | 158,110 | 95,854 |
| Missions and Ministry Support | 498,479 | | | 498,479 | 500,404 |
| Interest Expenses - on CEF's Term Certificates | 102,182 | | | 102,182 | 99,244 |
| Ecclesiastical | 172,256 | | | 172,256 | 184,298 |
| Program Administration | 130 | | | 130 | 42 |
| Other: | | | | | |
| Loss-Est. of Uncollectible Loans & Disposed Prop. | 240 | | | 240 | - |
| TOTAL - EXPENSES and LOSSES | <u>1,669,744</u> | | | <u>1,669,744</u> | <u>1,590,124</u> |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 192,603 | 18,161 | 6,203 | 216,967 | 215,746 |
| BEGINNING NET ASSETS | <u>5,105,584</u> | <u>1,496,448</u> | <u>740,782</u> | <u>7,342,814</u> | <u>7,127,068</u> |
| ENDING NET ASSETS | <u>\$ 5,298,187</u> | <u>\$ 1,514,609</u> | <u>\$ 746,985</u> | <u>\$ 7,559,781</u> | <u>\$ 7,342,814</u> |

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
JANUARY 14, 2017 and 2016**

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Change in net assets | \$ 216,967 | \$ 215,746 |
| Charges and credits to change in net assets not affecting cash | | |
| Depreciation | 20,105 | 17,291 |
| Loss (gain) on disposal of property | 240 | 17,673 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities | | |
| Accounts receivable | (508) | 8,983 |
| Interest receivable | (1,362) | (2,666) |
| Contributions receivable | 35,751 | 29,857 |
| Prepaid expenses | 3,031 | (5,880) |
| Gifts receivable | (9,119) | 51,893 |
| Accounts payable | 8,328 | 13,195 |
| Accrued interest payable | <u>(123)</u> | <u>(1,048)</u> |
| NET CASH FROM (USED FOR) OPERATING ACTIVITIES | <u>273,310</u> | <u>345,044</u> |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Decrease in loans receivable | 59,964 | 836,050 |
| Purchases of investments | (1,324,223) | (1,300,216) |
| Unrealized loss on investments | 1,891 | 26,694 |
| Proceeds from sales of investments | 1,601,156 | 787,808 |
| Reinvestment of Investment Income | (198,904) | (803,384) |
| Proceeds from sales of property and equipment | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | <u>(68,353)</u> | <u>(48,949)</u> |
| NET CASH FROM (USED FOR) INVESTING ACTIVITIES | <u>71,531</u> | <u>(501,997)</u> |
| NET CASH FROM (USED FOR) FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net increase (decrease) in investor deposits payable | <u>(126,288)</u> | <u>17,281</u> |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 218,553 | (139,672) |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR | <u>139,033</u> | <u>278,705</u> |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 357,586</u> | <u>\$ 139,033</u> |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION | | |
| Cash paid during the year for interest | \$ 102,305 | \$ 100,292 |

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JANUARY 14, 2017 AND 2016**

NOTE 1 – PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Principal District Activity

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (the “District”), a not-for-profit organization, is responsible for uniting in a corporate body the congregations, pastors, and teachers, who are members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, situated or residing within the geographical boundaries of the South Dakota District; and for perpetuating the good work of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Financial Statement Presentation

The District presents its financial statements in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 958. Accordingly, the District reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted.

Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets include unrestricted resources which represent the portion of funds that are available for the operating objectives of the District. Board-designated net assets represent amounts the District has set aside for a specific purpose. At January 14, 2017 and 2016, the District had \$5,298,187 and \$5,105,584 in unrestricted net assets.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of donor restricted contributions and grants. Amounts restricted by donors for a specific purpose are deemed to be earned and reported as temporarily restricted revenue, when received, and such unexpended amounts are reported as temporarily restricted net assets at year-end. When the donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets is reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as “net assets released from restrictions.” At January 14, 2017 and 2016, the District had \$1,514,609 and \$1,496,448 in temporarily restricted net assets.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets consist of donor restricted contributions, which are required to be held in perpetuity. Income from the assets held is available for either general operations or specific purposes, in accordance with donor stipulations. At January 14, 2017 and 2016, the District had \$746,985 and \$740,782 in permanently restricted net assets.

Contributions

The District accounts for contributions in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) topic 958, which recognizes support when received or unconditionally pledged; recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. Contributions required to be reported as temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets upon

satisfaction of the time or purpose restrictions and are reported in the statements of activities and changes in net assets as net assets released from restrictions.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents

The District considers all highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The District's cash balances subject to FDIC insurance are held in bank deposit accounts with Great Western Bank and First National Bank. As of January 14, 2017, the amounts held in these two banks were \$1,040,065.50 in excess of the FDIC limits. The District also had trust account balances in money market mutual funds, not subject to federal deposit insurance, totaling \$18,891 and \$15,242 at January 14, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

The District relies on donations from congregations within the South Dakota District for a significant portion of its support. These donations are subject to fluctuations in the economic status of the area in which the congregations are located. No provision has been made for changes in the economic environment. In addition, the District loans funds only to member congregations and individuals who are professional church workers on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are members of the South Dakota District.

Receivables and Credit Policies

Trade receivables are uncollateralized obligations due under normal trade terms requiring payment within 30 days from the invoice date. Loans receivable are stated at principal amounts and are collateralized if an asset (church building or personal automobile) is acquired with the loan proceeds. Personal loans do not require collateral. Payments on loans receivable that are received after a 30-day grace period are assessed a delinquency fee of 2% of the payment amount, with a minimum fee of \$5. Due to the uncertainty regarding collection of fees, delinquency fees are recognized as income when received.

Management and the board of directors review all loans receivable and trade receivable balances that exceed 30 days from the invoice date and estimates the portion, if any, of the balance that will not be collected. It is the District's policy to charge-off loans receivable when they are considered uncollectible. Management believes one loan account in the amount of \$22,372 is estimated to be uncollectible as of January 14, 2017 and was also estimated uncollectible on January 14, 2016. An allowance was set up as of January 14, 2010.

Investments

Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are valued at their fair values in the statements of financial position. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets in the statements of activities and changes in net assets.

Property and Equipment

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long those donated assets must

be maintained, the District reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. All acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$250 and all expenditures for repairs, maintenance, renewals, and betterments that materially prolong the useful lives of assets are capitalized. Purchased property and equipment is recorded at cost. Property and equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method with estimated useful lives ranging from three to forty years.

Income Taxes

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Taxes, is not required to be filed. In addition, the District qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under 170(c)(2).

Contributed Services

Pastors and lay people contribute a significant amount of time to the activities of the District without compensation. The financial statements do not reflect the value of those contributed services since they do not meet the criteria for recognition under FASB ASC 958.

NOTE 2 – CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE AND DEFERRED GIFTS

Contributions receivable consist of unconditional promises to give that are due within one year and represent congregation commitments to the District for the years ended January 14, 2017 and 2016. The contributions receivable are recorded at net realizable value of \$634,870 and \$670,621 as of January 14, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Management considers all unconditional promises to give to be collectible and has determined that no allowance is necessary.

Irrevocable deferred gifts, including charitable remainder trusts, identify the District as a beneficiary and are held in trust for the District by The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Foundation or other third party trustee. Upon receiving notification of a deferred gift, the District records the present value of the gift as permanently restricted support if the gift is for an endowment and any other gift as temporarily restricted support because of time restrictions. The present value of each gift is derived by applying a present value and actuarial formula to the current value. Increases or decreases in the present value of deferred gifts are recorded as changes in permanently and temporarily restricted net assets in the statements of activities and changes in net assets.

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, the present value of irrevocable deferred gifts is as follows:

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| One to five years | \$ 65,394 | \$ 62,789 |
| More than five years | <u>163,485</u> | <u>156,971</u> |
| | <u>\$ 228,879</u> | <u>\$ 219,760</u> |

NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016 loans receivable consist of various loans at rates of 0.00% to 5.5%. as follows:

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assistance Loans | | |
| Number of loans | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| Total loan value | <u>\$ 6,532</u> | <u>\$ 6,973</u> |
| Church Extension Loans | | |
| Number of loans | <u>24</u> | <u>27</u> |
| Total loan value | <u>\$ 5,059,549</u> | <u>\$ 5,119,072</u> |
| Total loans receivable | <u>\$ 5,066,081</u> | <u>\$ 5,126,045</u> |

Annual maturities of loans receivable are as follows:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Current | \$ 370,303 |
| Non-Current | <u>4,695,778</u> |
| | <u>\$ 5,066,081</u> |

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, investments are stated at fair value and summarized as follows:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Cost | Fair Value | Cost | Fair Value |
| Bank certificates of deposit | \$ 2,300,000 | \$ 2,300,000 | \$ 1,800,000 | \$ 1,800,000 |
| Bank mutual fund account | 1,088,505 | 1,102,768 | 1,051,665 | 1,065,267 |
| Thrivent Financial | <u>32,480</u> | <u>32,567</u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | <u>3,420,985</u> | <u>3,435,335</u> | <u>2,851,665</u> | <u>2,865,267</u> |
| Lutheran Church Extension Fund | | | | |
| Demand notes | 4,915,822 | 4,915,822 | 5,576,166 | 5,576,166 |
| Term notes | 1,406,458 | 1,406,458 | 1,385,833 | 1,385,833 |
| Loan participation account | <u>395,560</u> | <u>395,560</u> | <u>415,761</u> | <u>415,761</u> |
| | <u>6,717,840</u> | <u>6,717,840</u> | <u>7,377,760</u> | <u>7,377,760</u> |
| Missouri Synod Foundation | | | | |
| Standard funds - fixed income | 411,517 | 356,555 | 407,793 | 348,900 |
| Standard funds - equity growth | <u>96,209</u> | <u>73,330</u> | <u>95,895</u> | <u>71,052</u> |
| | <u>507,726</u> | <u>429,885</u> | <u>503,688</u> | <u>419,952</u> |
| Total investments | <u>\$ 10,646,551</u> | <u>\$ 10,583,060</u> | <u>\$ 10,733,113</u> | <u>\$ 10,662,979</u> |

Included in the accompanying statement of financial position for the years ended January 14, 2017 and 2016 investments are listed as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Short term investments | \$ 6,128,273 | \$ 6,696,119 |
| Long term investments | <u>4,454,787</u> | <u>3,966,860</u> |
| Total investments | <u>\$ 10,583,060</u> | <u>\$ 10,662,979</u> |

The return on investment and its classification in the statements of activities and changes in net assets for the years ended January 14, 2017 and 2016, respectively, is summarized as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total |
| Investment income | \$ 140,736 | \$ 20,282 | \$ | \$ 161,018 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains | <u>4,182</u> | <u>10,817</u> | <u>3,377</u> | <u>18,376</u> |
| Total investment return | <u>\$ 144,918</u> | <u>\$ 31,099</u> | <u>\$ 3,377</u> | <u>\$ 179,394</u> |

| | <u>2016</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total |
| Investment income | \$ 135,072 | \$ 19,010 | \$ | \$ 154,082 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains | <u>(18,317)</u> | <u>(36,135)</u> | <u>(3,246)</u> | <u>(57,698)</u> |
| Total investment return | <u>\$ 116,755</u> | <u>\$ (17,125)</u> | <u>\$ (3,246)</u> | <u>\$ 96,384</u> |

The Board of Directors has interpreted state law as requiring only the original amount of a gift is retained as the corpus for permanent endowments. Realized gains as well as net appreciation of permanent endowments may be expended for the same purpose as the endowment was established, unless explicit donor restrictions specify other treatment. Interest and dividend income on permanently restricted net assets has been recognized as temporarily restricted revenue, and, if restrictions were met, transferred to unrestricted net assets released from restrictions.

NOTE 5 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

FASB ASC 820 Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. It also establishes a fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used to measure fair value, maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the observable inputs be used when available, and enhances disclosure requirements for fair value measurements. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from independent sources. Unobservable inputs reflect assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The fair value hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the transparency of inputs as follows:

Level 1 Inputs – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the report date. A quoted price for an identical asset or liability in an active market provides the most reliable fair value measurement because it is directly observable to the market.

Level 2 Inputs – Pricing inputs are other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the report date. Level 2 inputs include assets or liabilities for which quoted prices are available but traded less frequently and assets or liabilities that are fair valued using similar assets or liabilities, the parameters of which can be directly observed.

Level 3 Inputs – Assets or liabilities have little to no pricing observability as of the report date. These items are measured using management's best estimate of fair value, where the inputs into the determination of fair value are not observable and require significant management judgment or estimation.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

The following table sets forth by level, within fair value hierarchy, invested assets as of January 14, 2017.

| | <u>Fair Value Measurements</u> | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|-----------|---|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets | Significant Other Observable Inputs | | Significant Other Unobservable Inputs |
| | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) | Total |
| Invested assets | | | | |
| Bank certificates of deposit | \$ 2,300,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ 2,300,000 |
| Bank mutual fund account | 1,102,768 | | | 1,102,768 |
| Thrivent Financial | <u>32,567</u> | | | <u>32,567</u> |
| Total Bank and Insurance | <u>3,435,335</u> | | | <u>3,435,335</u> |
| Missouri Synod Foundation | | | | |
| Standard fund-fixed income | | 356,555 | | 356,555 |
| Standard fund-equity growth | | <u>73,330</u> | | <u>73,330</u> |
| Total Foundation investments | | <u>429,885</u> | | <u>\$ 429,885</u> |
| Lutheran Church Extension Fund | | | | |
| Demand note | 4,915,822 | | | 4,915,822 |
| Term note | 1,406,458 | | | 1,406,458 |
| Loan participation account | <u>395,560</u> | | | <u>395,560</u> |
| Total LCEF | <u>6,717,840</u> | | | <u>6,717,840</u> |
| Total invested assets | <u>\$ 10,153,175</u> | <u>\$ 429,885</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>\$ 10,583,060</u> |

The following table sets forth by level, within fair value hierarchy, invested assets as of January 14, 2016:

| | <u>Fair Value Measurements</u> | | | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets | Significant Other Observable Inputs | Significant Other Unobservable Inputs | |
| | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) | |
| Invested assets | | | | |
| Bank certificates of deposit | \$ 1,800,000 | \$ | \$ | \$ 1,800,000 |
| Bank mutual fund account | 1,065,267 | _____ | _____ | 1,065,267 |
| Total Bank and Insurance | <u>2,865,267</u> | _____ | _____ | <u>2,865,267</u> |
| Missouri Synod Foundation | | | | |
| Standard fund-fixed income | _____ | 348,900 | _____ | 348,900 |
| Standard fund-equity growth | _____ | 71,052 | _____ | 71,052 |
| Total Foundation investments | _____ | <u>419,952</u> | _____ | <u>419,952</u> |
| Lutheran Church Extension Fund | | | | |
| Demand note | 5,576,166 | _____ | _____ | 5,576,166 |
| Term note | 1,385,833 | _____ | _____ | 1,385,833 |
| Loan participaiton account | 415,761 | _____ | _____ | 415,761 |
| Total LCEF | <u>7,377,760</u> | _____ | _____ | <u>7,377,760</u> |
| Total invested assets | <u>\$ 10,243,027</u> | <u>\$ 419,952</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>\$ 10,662,979</u> |

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, property and equipment consist of the following:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| District office land and building | \$ 538,513 | \$ 491,107 |
| Equipment | 137,197 | 150,586 |
| Automobiles | 27,494 | 22,881 |
| Total | <u>703,204</u> | <u>664,574</u> |
| Accumulated Depreciation | <u>(431,076)</u> | <u>(440,454)</u> |
| Net Book Value | <u>\$ 272,128</u> | <u>\$ 224,120</u> |

NOTE 7 – REAL ESTATE

The District holds 344 acres of farmland, the income from which is disbursed according to the donor's wishes. The farmland is classified in the financial statements as permanently restricted, and its carrying value of \$25,000 reflects its market value as of the date of transfer to the District. This property is being leased for the years ended 2017 and 2016.

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, the carrying value and estimated fair value of real estate investments described above are as follows:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Fair Value | Carrying Value | Fair Value |
| Unrestricted - Land | \$ 258,690 | \$ 258,690 | \$ 258,690 | \$ 258,690 |
| Permanently restricted - Land | <u>25,000</u> | <u>1,319,448</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>1,360,394</u> |
| | <u>\$ 283,690</u> | <u>\$ 1,578,138</u> | <u>\$ 283,690</u> | <u>\$ 1,619,084</u> |

NOTE 8 – INVESTOR NOTES PAYABLE

The District currently holds deposits for investors in the amount of \$9,716,008 and \$9,842,296 as of January 14, 2017 and 2016, respectively, on 3 month, 12 month, and 3 year unsecured revolving notes, due on the demand of the investor, and bearing interest at rates ranging from 0.80% to 1.30%.

NOTE 9 – TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, temporarily restricted net assets is available for specific purposes as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Congregation Pledged Support for District and Synod | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Pine Ridge Ministry, Facility Rent or Humanitarian Need | 465,808 | 459,345 |
| General Student Aid | 122,033 | 95,702 |
| Disaster Relief and Orphan Housing | 114,129 | 138,430 |
| Irrevocable Deferred Gifts for District Programs | 76,777 | 71,035 |
| Mercy Fund for Professional Church Workers | 49,537 | 49,101 |
| Circuit Rider Ministry | 29,557 | 29,391 |
| New Mission Start or Site Purchase | 24,452 | 24,292 |
| Rosebud New Ministries and VBS Program | 10,455 | 10,355 |
| Seminary Student Aid | 10,051 | 8,261 |
| Deaf Interpreter Program | 4,555 | 4,555 |
| Higher Things, Youth Conference | 1,840 | |
| Circuit Pastor Meetings & Forums | 3,441 | 1,136 |
| Special District Office Need Fund | 908 | 3,427 |
| Short Term International Mission Trips Travel | 491 | 491 |
| Sioux Falls Circuit Conferences | 334 | 334 |
| Promoting Ministerial Health | 225 | 225 |
| C.W.E.D.A. Grants | 16 | 368 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,514,609</u> | <u>\$ 1,496,448</u> |

NOTE 10 – LINE OF CREDIT

The District has an agreement with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) whereby investors who invest in Individual Retirement Accounts with LCEF may designate those funds to be available for the District. These funds may be loaned to the District under an unsecured agreement and interest would be charged. As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, \$163,307 and \$164,454 respectively, of these investments were available to the District. There were no balances due on this line of credit as of January 14, 2017.

NOTE 11 – PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, permanently restricted net assets is restricted to investment in perpetuity, the income from which is expendable to support specific purposes as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Student Aid | \$ 511,182 | \$ 509,356 |
| Deferred Gifts Through LCMS | 125,211 | 121,834 |
| Seminary Student Aid | 54,674 | 54,674 |
| Martin Luther Orphan Asylum Trust | 35,838 | 35,838 |
| C.W.E.D.A. Endowment Fund | 19,580 | 18,580 |
| Barnabus Rural Ministry | 500 | 500 |
| Total | <u>\$ 746,985</u> | <u>\$ 740,782</u> |

NOTE 12 – BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, the Board of Directors designated unrestricted net assets for specific purposes as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Board Designated- General | | |
| Special Fund - Lilly Smith Estate | \$ 708,064 | \$ 756,336 |
| Gain on Sale of Rapid City Property | 204,697 | 202,449 |
| Assistance Loan Fund | 196,728 | 193,123 |
| Special Fund - Kurt Huber Trust | 127,653 | 136,766 |
| Special Fund - A. Schwarze Estate | 86,964 | 85,884 |
| Master Work Comp Policy Dividend | 29,541 | 29,541 |
| Synodical Convention | 12,953 | 9,158 |
| District/National Youth Gatherings | 2,638 | 143 |
| Rural Ministry Workshops | 1,375 | 1,375 |
| Lay Institute Training | 1,044 | 2,310 |
| District Property Maintenance | 730 | 730 |
| Pastors' Conference | 180 | 2,617 |
| Pastors' Continuing Education Workshops | 500 | |
| Teachers' Conference | | 500 |
| | <u>1,373,067</u> | <u>1,420,932</u> |
| Current Operating | 942,596 | 821,169 |
| Property | 237,758 | 199,609 |
| Church Extension | <u>2,744,766</u> | <u>2,663,874</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 5,298,187</u> | <u>\$ 5,105,584</u> |

NOTE 13 – NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the years ended January 14, 2017 and 2016, by incurring expenses satisfying the specific restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. Temporarily restricted net assets were released for the specific purposes as follows:

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Program Restrictions Accomplished | | |
| General Student Aid | \$ 46,629 | \$ 28,346 |
| Together in Mission (T.I.M.) or Global Seminary Initiative | 46,014 | 40,764 |
| Indian Ministry | 39,464 | 50,644 |
| Disaster Relief | 37,231 | 19,000 |
| Mercy Fund for Professional Church Workers | 9,600 | |
| Special District Office Needs Fund | 2,519 | |
| Rosebud Mission | 1,579 | 2,551 |
| Circuit Pastor Meetings or Forums | 1,530 | 834 |
| Higher Things, Youth Conference | 1,270 | |
| Orphan Housing | 852 | 138 |
| C.W.E.D.A. Grant Funding | 562 | 14,800 |
| Circuit Rider Ministry | 166 | 164 |
| Pine Ridge Ministry | | 149 |
| Protect My Ministry | | <u>50</u> |
| Time Restrictions Expired | <u>187,416</u> | <u>157,440</u> |
| Passage of Specified Time - Congregation Pledges | <u>600,000</u> | <u>657,787</u> |
| | <u>\$ 787,416</u> | <u>\$ 815,227</u> |

NOTE 14 – OPERATING LEASES

The District entered into a farmland lease agreement effective December 21, 2013 through December 20, 2016, which required the lessee to pay the District \$57,910 annually. This lease was renewed on November 6th, 2016, for a period of three years, ending December 20, 2019, with annual payments of \$53,740.

NOTE 15 – FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION EXPENSES

The costs of providing the various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities and changes in net assets. Accordingly, certain costs, including all general and administrative cost, have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

NOTE 16 – BENEFITS PLANS

The District participates in various Concordia Plan Services of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Contributions paid for those plans were as follows:

| | District's Contributions to Concordia Plan Services | |
|--|--|-------------|
| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
| Concordia Health Plan | \$ 85,149 | \$ 91,422 |
| Concordia Retirement Plan | 34,362 | 35,756 |
| Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan | 8,887 | 8,877 |
| Concordia Travel Accident Insurance Plan | 136 | 99 |

The Concordia Retirement Plan is a defined benefit plan covering substantially all District employees. The plan is funded through payments to Concordia Plans, which has established a trustee plan whereby annuities, effective upon retirement, will be available to participants in amounts established by the plan. In this master multi-employer plan, the accumulated benefits and net assets are not determined or allocated separately by individual employer.

During fiscal year 2016, the District went to a higher deductible health plan which allowed for Health Savings Accounts and Medical FSA accounts for employees.

NOTE 17 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD TRANSACTIONS

Annually, the District budgets an amount to support the Synod's budget based on the commitments from congregations and the District's needs for mission and ministry work in South Dakota. The District remits monthly payments to the Synod and then, at year-end, any amount over the year-end reserve set by the District's Board of Directors is forwarded to the Synod. The District contributed a total of \$343,370 and \$347,242 to the Synod for the years ended January 14, 2017 and 2016, respectively. As of January 14, 2017 and 2016, \$51,290 and \$62,918, respectively, were included in accounts payable in the accompanying statements of financial position for this purpose.

NOTE 18 – VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS

As of January 14, 2017, the total market value of endowment pooled investments was less than the total original value of endowment gifts received over the years by approximately \$52,801. This deficiency has resulted primarily from declines in the financial markets.

The deficiency has absorbed substantially all previously reported accumulated earnings from the endowment pool as of January 14, 2017. The District plans to recover this excess deficiency from future endowment pool investment returns.

NOTE 19 – COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements include certain January 14, 2016 comparative information. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the organization's financial statements for the year ended January 14, 2016 from which the summarized information was derived.

NOTE 20 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The District has evaluated subsequent events through May 18, 2017, the date which the financial statements were available to be used.

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Unaudited Financial Report
January 15, 2017 through January 14, 2018

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South Dakota District, LCMS
Unaudited Financial Report
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | January 14, 2018 | January 14, 2017 |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 197,805 | \$ 357,586 |
| Accounts Receivable | 743 | 1,556 |
| Interest Receivable | 4,860 | 9,140 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 8,911 | 12,513 |
| Contributions Receivable | 637,373 | 634,870 |
| Short-term Investments | 2,816,821 | 6,128,273 |
| Inventory (Property) Held for Resale | - | 258,690 |
| Current Maturities on Loans Receivable | - | 370,303 |
| TOTAL - CURRENT ASSETS | 3,666,513 | 7,772,931 |
| LONG TERM ASSETS | | |
| Long-Term Investments | 1,300,000 | 4,454,787 |
| Deferred Gifts Receivable | 228,866 | 228,879 |
| Loans Receivable - Professional Church Workers | 2,373 | 6,532 |
| Loans Receivable - Congregations | - | 5,059,549 |
| Less: Allowance for Loan Losses | - | (22,372) |
| Less: Current Maturities on Loans Receivable | - | (370,303) |
| TOTAL - LONG TERM ASSETS | 1,531,239 | 9,357,072 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | | |
| Property and Equipment | 727,801 | 703,204 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (456,945) | (431,076) |
| TOTAL - CAPITAL ASSETS | 270,856 | 272,128 |
| RESTRICTED ASSETS | | |
| Farmland | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| TOTAL - RESTRICTED ASSETS | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 5,493,608 | \$ 17,427,131 |
| <u>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</u> | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 104,346 | \$ 110,183 |
| Interest Payable | - | 41,159 |
| Deposits Payable to Investors-Current Portion | - | 2,389,769 |
| TOTAL - CURRENT LIABILITIES | 104,346 | 2,541,111 |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | | |
| Deposits Payable to Investors | - | 9,716,008 |
| Less: Current Portion | - | (2,389,769) |
| TOTAL - LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | - | 7,326,239 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$ 104,346 | \$ 9,867,350 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| UNRESTRICTED | | |
| Current Unrestricted Operating Fund | 744,863 | 942,596 |
| Property Fund | 220,393 | 237,758 |
| Board Designated Funds | 2,219,198 | 1,373,067 |
| Church Extension Fund | - | 2,744,766 |
| Total - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | 3,184,454 | 5,298,187 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | 1,451,392 | 1,514,609 |
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED | 753,416 | 746,985 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$ 5,389,262 | \$ 7,559,781 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS | \$ 5,493,608 | \$ 17,427,131 |

South Dakota District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For The Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | <u>UNRESTRICTED</u> | <u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u> | <u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u> | <u>TOTALS - For 12 Mos. Ending</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | <u>Jan. 14, 2018</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2018</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2017</u> | <u>Jan. 14, 2017</u> |
| <u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND GAINS:</u> | | | | |
| Support: | | | | |
| District Congregations | 451,545 | 684,656 | - | 1,136,201 |
| Deferred Gifts | (16,890) | - | - | (16,890) |
| Synodical Entities & Out of State Congregations | 36,452 | 14,279 | - | 50,731 |
| Other | 15,945 | 34,745 | 500 | 51,190 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Lutheran Witness | 100,750 | - | - | 100,750 |
| Conventions, Conferences and Workshops | 14,580 | - | - | 14,580 |
| Interest Income | 10,257 | - | - | 10,257 |
| Investment Income | 120,324 | 21,022 | - | 141,346 |
| Interest Income - on CEF's Loans | 158,222 | - | - | 158,222 |
| Other; Rent Income | (1,823,866) | 53,740 | - | (1,770,126) |
| Net Unrealized and Realized Gains/(Losses) | (219,025) | 20,790 | 5,931 | (192,304) |
| TOTAL - SUPPORT, REVENUES, and GAINS (LOSSE | (1,151,706) | 829,232 | 6,431 | 1,886,711 |
| NET ASSETS RELEASED from Restrictions | 892,449 | (892,449) | - | - |
| NET TOTAL - SUPPORT, REVENUE, and GAINS | \$ (259,257) | \$ (63,217) | \$ 6,431 | \$ 1,886,711 |
| <u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</u> | | | | |
| Synodical Budget / World Missions | 372,167 | | | 372,167 |
| Program Services: | | | | |
| North American Missions | 388,128 | | | 388,128 |
| Professional Education | 77,456 | | | 77,456 |
| Congregational Ministry | 256,396 | | | 256,396 |
| Missions and Ministry Support | 503,912 | | | 503,912 |
| Interest Expenses - on CEF's Term Certificates | 83,363 | | | 83,363 |
| Ecclesiastical | 172,729 | | | 172,729 |
| Program Administration | 153 | | | 153 |
| Other: | | | | |
| Loss-Est. of Uncollectible Loans & Disposed Prop. | 172 | | | 172 |
| TOTAL - EXPENSES and LOSSES | \$ 1,854,476 | - | - | \$ 1,854,476 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS/Current Year | \$ (2,113,733) | \$ (63,217) | \$ 6,431 | \$ (2,170,519) |
| NET ASSETS - Begin. Of Year / January 15th | 5,298,187 | 1,514,609 | 746,985 | 7,559,781 |
| NET ASSETS - End of Year / January 14th | \$ 3,184,454 | 1,451,392 | \$ 753,416 | \$ 5,389,262 |

South Dakota District, LCMS
Summary Report - BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS and TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS
For the Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018

| | Net Asset Balance January 14, 2017 | Restricted Income | Release of Restriction | Net Asset Balance January 14, 2018 |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS</u> | | | | |
| <u>Program Restrictions:</u> | | | | |
| Synodical Convention | 12,953.40 | 2,210.00 | - | 15,163.40 |
| District Convention | - | - | - | - |
| Pastors Conference | 180.00 | 12,135.00 | 12,315.00 | - |
| Teachers Conference | - | 4,959.47 | 4,959.47 | - |
| Pastors Continuing Education Workshops | 500.00 | 945.00 | 1,445.00 | - |
| District / National Youth Gatherings | 2,638.20 | - | - | 2,638.20 |
| Rural Ministry Workshops | 1,375.00 | - | - | 1,375.00 |
| Lay Institute Training | 1,043.83 | 2,000.00 | 2,594.48 | 449.35 |
| Kurt Huber Trust Gift | 100,762.48 | 953.40 | 101,715.88 | (0.00) |
| Lilly Smith Trust & Gift Fund | 708,064.50 | 8,747.12 | 17,759.52 | 699,052.10 |
| A. Schwarze Estate Gift | 86,963.52 | 888.11 | 3,320.12 | 84,531.51 |
| Gain on Sale of Rapid City Property/ Future Mission | 204,696.70 | 2,353.94 | - | 207,050.64 |
| Sale of Tea Property/ Future Church Plant | - | 214,326.81 | - | 214,326.81 |
| CEF Balance Remaining After Consolidation | - | 753,912.99 | - | 753,912.99 |
| Property Maintenance Fund (Insur. Claim Proceeds) | 730.00 | - | - | 730.00 |
| Master Work Comp Policy Dividend-for Conv. Exp. | 29,541.21 | - | - | 29,541.21 |
| Special Board Gift Fund | - | - | - | - |
| Assistance Loan Fund | 196,727.69 | 3,915.79 | 216.10 | 200,427.38 |
| <u>Time Restrictions:</u> | | | | |
| Special Board Fund - Kurt Huber Trust Gift | 26,890.70 | (16,890.70) | - | 10,000.00 |
| TOTAL - BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDING | \$ 1,373,067.23 | \$ 990,456.93 | \$ 144,325.57 | \$ 2,219,198.59 |
| <u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS</u> | | | | |
| <u>Program Restrictions:</u> | | | | |
| Grant Support for Deaf Interpreter Program | 4,554.77 | - | - | 4,554.77 |
| Chaplaincy Ministry | - | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | - |
| Support for Professional Church Workers Health | 225.06 | - | - | 225.06 |
| Mercy Fund for Professional Church Workers | 49,536.80 | 1,860.01 | 3,000.00 | 48,396.81 |
| Short Term International Mission Trips Travel | 491.00 | - | - | 491.00 |
| Circuit Rider Ministry | 29,556.80 | 338.92 | 279.14 | 29,616.58 |
| New Mission Starts | 13,952.25 | 43.92 | - | 13,996.17 |
| New Mission Site Purchase | 10,500.00 | - | - | 10,500.00 |
| Rosebud Ministry Support | - | 32,965.83 | 32,965.83 | - |
| Rosebud Mission - Offerings Collected | - | 1,638.84 | 1,638.84 | - |
| Rosebud Mission - Special Ministry Need | 10,000.00 | - | - | 10,000.00 |
| Indian Ministry - VBS Program | 454.90 | 200.00 | 11.87 | 643.03 |
| Pine Ridge - Ministry Support | - | - | - | - |
| Pine Ridge - Special Ministry Needs | 7,233.00 | 1,000.00 | - | 8,233.00 |
| Pine Ridge - Rent Facilities | 1,541.33 | - | - | 1,541.33 |
| Pine Ridge - Schlenkerman Bequest | 457,034.00 | 6,350.99 | - | 463,384.99 |
| Higher Things, Youth Conference | 1,840.10 | - | 389.92 | 1,450.18 |
| Aberdeen Circuit "A" Fund | 1,202.40 | 8,913.00 | 8,334.31 | 1,781.09 |
| Huron Circuit "D" Fund | - | 1,818.00 | 1,673.58 | 144.42 |
| Black Hills Circuit "E" Fund | 1,146.76 | 31,742.38 | 19,833.64 | 13,055.50 |
| Mitchell Circuit "F" Fund | 1,092.27 | 599.10 | 812.41 | 878.96 |
| Sioux Falls Circuit "H" Fund | 334.33 | 9,834.00 | 9,698.90 | 469.43 |
| T.I.M. Missionary Support | - | 36,740.64 | 36,740.64 | - |
| General Student Aid Funding | 122,032.53 | 71,591.21 | 55,497.56 | 138,126.18 |
| Seminary Student Aid Funding | 10,051.03 | 2,214.71 | - | 12,265.74 |
| C.W.E.D.A. Grant Funding | 15.87 | 2,224.61 | 2,240.48 | - |
| Special District Office Need Fund | 908.36 | - | - | 908.36 |
| Disaster Relief, South Dakota | 2,837.89 | 2,298.00 | 2,184.72 | 2,951.17 |
| Disaster Relief, Delmont | 110,647.64 | 3,000.00 | 113,647.64 | - |
| Orphan Housing Funding | 643.23 | 1,911.22 | 2,500.00 | 54.45 |
| <u>Time Restrictions:</u> | | | | |
| Congregational Pledge - Current Year | 600,000.00 | 600,000.00 | 600,000.00 | 600,000.00 |
| Congregational Pledge - Previous Year | - | - | - | - |
| Irrevocable Deferred Gifts - LCMS Foundation | 76,776.65 | 10,947.61 | - | 87,724.26 |
| TOTAL - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | \$ 1,514,608.97 | \$ 829,232.99 | \$ 892,449.48 | \$ 1,451,392.48 |

South Dakota District, LCMS
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
January 14, 2018 and 2017

| <u>ASSETS:</u> | January 14, 2018 | January 14, 2017 |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | - | 244,612 |
| Accounts Receivable | - | - |
| Due From Other Funds | - | - |
| Interest Receivable | - | 8,020 |
| Prepaid Expenses | - | 3,298 |
| Short-term Investments | - | 3,498,821 |
| Loans to Congregations Receivable, CEF | - | 5,059,549 |
| Allowance for Estimated Uncollectible Loans | - | (22,372) |
| Long-Term Investments | - | 3,754,787 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ - | \$ 12,546,715 |
| <u>LIABILITIES:</u> | | |
| Accounts Payable | - | 459 |
| Due To Other Funds | - | 44,324 |
| Interest Payable | - | 41,158 |
| Investor's Payables | - | 9,716,008 |
| Loans Payable to LCEF | - | - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$ - | \$ 9,801,949 |
| <u>NET ASSETS:</u> | | |
| <u>UNRESTRICTED</u> | | |
| Church Extension Fund: | \$ - | \$ 2,744,766 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS | \$ - | \$ 12,546,715 |

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | Fiscal Year 2017 BUDGET | Year To Date | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | | CURRENT YEAR | PRIOR YEAR |
| <u>CEF/ UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</u> | | | |
| Gifts from Congregations, Individuals | 4,000 | - | 33,781 |
| Interest from loans | 210,000 | 158,222 | 194,954 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 129,000 | 103,384 | 126,730 |
| Realized / Unrealized Gains/(Loss) on Investments | 4,000 | 11,313 | 3,466 |
| Late Charge & Other Income | - | 429 | 1 |
| TOTAL Support | 347,000 | 273,348 | 358,932 |
| Net Assets TRANSFR to Board Designated Fund | - | (750,000) | - |
| Net Assets RELEASED to LCEF per Entry Agreement | - | (2,037,878) | - |
| TOTAL- SUPPORT and REVENUE | \$ 347,000 | \$ (2,514,530) | \$ 358,932 |
| <u>CEF/ EXPENDITURES:</u> | | | |
| Mission and Outreach Expense | | | |
| Transferred to Operating Fd. for New Mission Efforts | 15,000 | 11,250 | 15,000 |
| Administration and Interest Expense | | | |
| Personnel Expenses | 112,775 | 86,417 | 105,973 |
| Interest Due Investors Payable | 120,000 | 83,363 | 102,182 |
| Interest Rebate Due Congregations | 13,000 | 16,197 | 13,398 |
| Office Administration | 71,154 | 27,733 | 33,065 |
| Committee Expenses | - | 320 | 957 |
| Depreciation | 3,000 | - | 753 |
| Loss from Estimated Uncollectible Loans | - | - | - |
| TOTAL - Mission & Admin. & Int. Expense | \$ 334,929 | \$ 225,280 | \$ 271,328 |
| Office Building Expense: | | | |
| Personnel Expenses | 1,581 | 994 | 1,947 |
| Utilities, Building And Yard Expenses | 8,500 | 3,962 | 5,518 |
| Depreciation | 5,500 | - | 6,798 |
| TOTAL- Office Building Expense | \$ 15,581 | \$ 4,956 | \$ 14,263 |
| TOTAL - EXPENSES | \$ 350,510 | \$ 230,236 | \$ 285,591 |
| <u>CEF/ CHANGE IN NET ASSETS:</u> | | | |
| TOTAL - CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$ (3,510) | \$ (2,744,766) | \$ 73,341 |
| LESS: Chg. in Net Assets To: PROPERTY FUND | \$ 8,500 | \$ - | \$ 7,551 |
| YTD Chg. in Net Assets-CEF UNRESTRICTED | \$ 4,990 | \$ (2,744,766) | \$ 80,892 |
| <u>CHURCH EXTENSION - NET ASSET BALANCE:</u> | | | |
| BEGIN. BAL- CEF Unrestr. Net Assets-January 15th | \$ 2,744,766 | \$ 2,663,874 | |
| ENDING BAL- CEF Unrestr. Net Assets- January 14th | \$ - | \$ 2,744,766 | |

South Dakota District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
SUMMARY of - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS
For the Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018

| | Net Asset Balance January 14, 2017 | YTD Change | Net Asset Balance January 14, 2018 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS</u> | | | |
| General Student Aid Endowment Fund | 511,181.61 | 500.00 | 511,681.61 |
| Seminary Student Aid Endowment Fund | 532.32 | - | 532.32 |
| Schamber Scholarship Student Aid Endowment Fund | 54,141.23 | - | 54,141.23 |
| Church Worker Education Debt Assistance Endowment Fund | 19,580.39 | - | 19,580.39 |
| Parochial Tuition Assistance for Native American Grade School Students Endowment Fund | - | - | - |
| Barnabus Rural Ministry Endowment Fund | 500.00 | - | 500.00 |
| Deferred Gifts Through LCMS Foundation - Permanently Restricted | 125,211.35 | 5,930.27 | 131,141.62 |
| Martin Luther Orphan Asylum Trust | 35,838.51 | - | 35,838.51 |
| TOTAL - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED Net Assets | \$ 746,985.41 | \$ 6,430.27 | \$ 753,415.68 |

South Dakota District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT
As of January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | January 14 | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| <u>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</u> | | |
| Sioux Falls, SD - District office land and building | 548,586.26 | 538,512.83 |
| Equipment and Furniture | 151,721.19 | 137,197.13 |
| Automobiles | 27,493.78 | 27,493.78 |
| | 727,801.23 | 703,203.74 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | (456,945.46) | (431,075.59) |
| TOTAL - PROPERTY and EQUIPMENT | \$ 270,855.77 | \$ 272,128.15 |

South Dakota District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
REAL ESTATE
As of January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | January 14, 2018 | | January 14, 2017 | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Fair Value | Carrying Value | Fair Value |
| UNRESTRICTED - (Real Estate in city of Tea, SD) | - | - | 258,690 | 258,690 |
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED -(Brown County farm) | 25,000 | 1,334,240 | 25,000 | 1,319,448 |
| TOTAL - REAL ESTATE | \$ 25,000 | \$ 1,334,240 | \$ 283,690 | \$ 1,578,138 |

South Dakota District, LCMS
UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT AND REVENUE
For The Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | Current Year | | | | Past Year |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2017 BUDGET | 12 Months BUDGET | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2018 | Variance Fav/(Unfav) | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2017 |
| Support From: | | | | | |
| District Congregations Intended Support | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | \$ 1,048,205 | 48,205 | 1,073,031 |
| Congregations Other Support | 1,500 | 1,500 | \$ 339 | (1,161) | 1,130 |
| LCEF, District's Operating Results due | 0 | - | \$ - | - | - |
| Other Related Synodical Entities | 1,300 | 1,300 | \$ 3,949 | 2,649 | - |
| Individual Gifts, Bequests and Other Support | 1,250 | 1,250 | \$ 10,982 | 9,732 | 6,252 |
| TOTAL SUPPORT | \$ 1,004,050 | \$ 1,004,050 | \$ 1,063,475 | 59,425 | \$ 1,080,413 |
| Revenue From: | | | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income | 2,500 | 2,500 | \$ 8,625 | 6,125 | \$ 8,043 |
| Publication Income (Lutheran Witness) | 93,990 | 93,990 | \$ 100,750 | 6,760 | \$ 93,498 |
| LCEF Support per Agreement | - | - | \$ 30,294 | 30,294 | \$ - |
| Other | 2,000 | 2,000 | \$ 451 | (1,549) | \$ 3,167 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 98,490 | \$ 98,490 | \$ 140,120 | 41,630 | \$ 104,708 |
| Realized Loss on Sale of 8 Acre Tea Property: | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (17,890) | (17,890) | \$ - |
| Transfer to Board Designated / Property Sale | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (213,339) | (213,339) | \$ - |
| Net Assets Released From Restrictions For: | | | | | |
| T.I.M./Global Seminary Initiative, World Missions | 40,000 | 40,000 | \$ 36,741 | (3,259) | \$ 46,014 |
| District Missions and Outreach | 144,560 | 144,560 | \$ 38,396 | (106,164) | \$ 42,062 |
| Preparing Church Workers | 79,525 | 79,525 | \$ 71,455 | (8,070) | \$ 59,264 |
| Direct services to Congregations | 54,945 | 54,945 | \$ 269,153 | 214,208 | \$ 92,683 |
| Mission and Ministry Support Services | 6,840 | 6,840 | \$ 6,852 | 12 | \$ 58,539 |
| Fixed Asset/Real Estate purchases, Improvements | 0 | - | \$ 1,352 | 1,352 | \$ - |
| Ecclesiastical and Administration | 200 | 200 | \$ 3,000 | 2,800 | \$ 9,600 |
| Time Restrictions | 0 | - | \$ - | - | \$ - |
| For Deficit & Other | 18,702 | 18,702 | \$ - | (18,702) | \$ - |
| TOTAL-NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTR. | \$ 344,772 | \$ 344,772 | \$ 426,949 | 82,177 | \$ 308,162 |
| Support and Revenue-Property Fund Net Assets | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | - | \$ - |
| GRAND TOTAL - UNRESTRICTED INCOME | \$ 1,447,312 | \$ 1,447,312 | \$ 1,399,315 | (47,997) | \$ 1,493,283 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSET BALANCES: | | | | | |
| TOTAL-UNRESTRICTED INCOME | \$ 1,447,312 | \$ 1,447,312 | \$ 1,399,315 | (47,997) | \$ 1,493,283 |
| TOTAL-UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES | \$ 1,456,512 | \$ 1,456,512 | \$ 1,624,239 | (167,727) | \$ 1,384,154 |
| TOTAL - YTD CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$ (9,200) | \$ (9,200) | \$ (224,924) | (215,724) | \$ 109,129 |
| LESS: Change in Net Assets to PROPERTY FUND | \$ 9,200 | | \$ 27,191 | | \$ 12,297 |
| YTD Change in Net Assets-CURRENT UNRESTR. | \$ - | | \$ (197,733) | | \$ 121,426 |
| BEGIN. BAL- Unrestricted Net Assets - January 15th | | | \$ 942,596 | | \$ 821,170 |
| ENDING BAL-UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - January 14th | | | \$ 744,863 | | \$ 942,596 |

South Dakota District, LCMS
UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES AND LOSSES
For The Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | Current Year | | | Past Year | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2017 BUDGET | 12 Months BUDGET | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2018 | Variance Fav/(Unfav) | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2017 |
| I. WORLD MISSIONS & OUTREACH | | | | | |
| Synodical Pledge | 320,000 | 320,000 | 335,426 | (15,426) | 343,370 |
| T.I.M., Global Seminary Initiative, GEO and Other | 40,000 | 40,000 | 36,741 | 3,259 | 46,014 |
| TOTAL - WORLD MISSIONS and OUTREACH | \$ 360,000 | \$ 360,000 | \$ 372,167 | (12,167) | \$ 389,384 |
| II. DISTRICT MISSIONS & MINISTRY | | | | | |
| A. District Missions & Outreach | | | | | |
| Mission Administration (1/2 Full-time Exec. Secty.) | 61,720 | 61,720 | 58,327 | 3,393 | 57,243 |
| New Mission Start; NW So. Dak. - Circuit Rider | 2,100 | 2,100 | 279 | 1,821 | 167 |
| College Campus Ministry-Financial Support To: | | | | | |
| Brookings, Mt. Calvary | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | - | 12,000 |
| Vermillion, Concordia | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | - | 15,000 |
| Madison, Our Savior | 250 | 250 | - | 250 | - |
| Deaf Ministry | 48,125 | 48,125 | 47,563 | 562 | 44,519 |
| Ethnic Ministries | | | | | |
| Native American Indian Ministry | 154,147 | 154,147 | 144,999 | 9,148 | 139,811 |
| Urban Outreach to "All Nations" | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | 2,500 | 605 |
| Less: Funding from CEF for Mission Ministry | (15,000) | (15,000) | (11,250) | (3,750) | (15,000) |
| Financial Support for: | | | | | |
| Unexpected Congregational Needs | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 40 |
| Mission Status Congregations, subsidy support | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Outreach Services: | | | | | |
| Outreach - Committee Expenses | 2,150 | 2,150 | 173 | 1,977 | 24 |
| Outreach - Harvest Grants | 94,060 | 94,060 | 93,710 | 350 | - |
| Hospital Chaplaincy Services | 14,065 | 14,065 | 13,577 | 488 | 13,700 |
| Young Adult Services: | | | | | |
| Young Adult Services Committee Expenses | 1,765 | 1,765 | - | 1,765 | 489 |
| Ministerial Health & Health Advocate | 600 | 600 | - | 600 | - |
| Continuing Education Committee | 200 | 200 | - | 200 | - |
| Life Concerns - Grants | 0 | - | - | - | 750 |
| Orphan Housing - Grants | 800 | 800 | 2,500 | (1,700) | 852 |
| TOTAL - District Missions & Ministry | \$ 397,482 | \$ 397,482 | \$ 376,878 | 20,604 | \$ 270,200 |
| B. Preparing Church Workers | | | | | |
| General Student Aid Grants | 42,000 | 42,000 | 41,000 | 1,000 | 38,150 |
| Seminary Student Aid Grants | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Teacher Colloquy Student Grants | 5,000 | 5,000 | 1,048 | 3,952 | - |
| E.I.I.T. and D.E.T.E.P. | 8,000 | 8,000 | 6,813 | 1,187 | 2,180 |
| S.M.P. Students | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| P.A.L.S. | 7,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 | 1,000 | 4,500 |
| CWEDA Grants | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | - | 15,000 |
| Lay Training Institute / Study Committees | 4,525 | 4,525 | 2,594 | 1,931 | 3,934 |
| TOTAL - Preparing Church Workers | \$ 86,525 | \$ 86,525 | \$ 77,455 | 9,070 | \$ 63,764 |
| C. Direct Services to Congregations | | | | | |
| Program Administration (1/2 Full-time Exec. Secty.) | 61,720 | 61,720 | 58,327 | 3,393 | 57,243 |
| Lutheran Schools / NLSA | 3,500 | 3,500 | - | 3,500 | 750 |
| Parish Services: | | | | | |
| Parish Services Committee Expenses | 2,000 | 2,000 | 736 | 1,264 | - |
| Parish Services Singles Gathering | 2,000 | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - |

South Dakota District, LCMS
UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES AND LOSSES
For The Twelve Months Ending January 14, 2018 and 2017

| | Current Year | | | | Past Year |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2017 BUDGET | 12 Months BUDGET | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2018 | Variance Fav/(Unfav) | ACTUAL YTD Jan. 14, 2017 |
| C. Direct Services to Congregations (Continued) | | | | | |
| Parish Services (continued): | | | | | |
| Disaster Response - Committee/Team Expenses | 2,050 | 2,050 | 3,700 | (1,650) | 32,379 |
| Disaster Response - Relief Grants | 12,000 | 12,000 | 114,480 | (102,480) | - |
| Youth Services: | | | | | |
| Youth Services Committee Expenses | 1,300 | 1,300 | - | 1,300 | 203 |
| Bible Bowl & Leadership Training | 750 | 750 | - | 750 | 277 |
| Camp Minneboji | 250 | 250 | 1,750 | (1,500) | 250 |
| Workshops: | | | | | |
| Teen / Youth Leaders Workshop | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Parish Leaders / Administration Workshop | 4,100 | 4,100 | - | 4,100 | - |
| Evangelism and/or Stewardship Workshops | 6,500 | 6,500 | 5,614 | 886 | - |
| Pastors Continuing Education Workshop | 1,870 | 1,870 | 1,548 | 322 | - |
| Parish Education Workshop | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Music/Organist Workshop | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Official Conferences: | | | | | |
| Pastors and Interim Ministry Conferences | 12,675 | 12,675 | 19,416 | (6,741) | 7,832 |
| Orientation of Church Workers Conference | 2,500 | 2,500 | 3,866 | (1,366) | 3,947 |
| Teachers Conference | 1,575 | 1,575 | 3,211 | (1,636) | 1,349 |
| Principal/School Admin. Conference | 1,000 | 1,000 | 814 | 186 | 110 |
| District/National Youth Gatherings and Higher Things | 21,800 | 21,800 | 390 | 21,410 | 50,587 |
| Young Adult Special Events | 3,400 | 3,400 | 2,192 | 1,208 | 1,528 |
| Circuit Winkels / Events / Forums | 2,200 | 2,200 | 40,352 | (38,152) | 1,654 |
| TOTAL - Direct Services to Congregation | \$ 143,190 | \$ 143,190 | \$ 256,396 | (113,206) | \$ 158,109 |
| D. Mission & Ministry Support Services | | | | | |
| "Lutheran Witness" | 95,990 | 95,990 | 98,212 | (2,222) | 93,380 |
| Public Relations / Promotion / Copyright License | 200 | 200 | - | 200 | - |
| Newsletters | 200 | 200 | - | 200 | 112 |
| Audio Visual Library | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Archives | 1,280 | 1,280 | 50 | 1,230 | - |
| Financial-Office Administration | 161,680 | 161,680 | 174,640 | (12,960) | 154,801 |
| Financial-Office Building | 16,200 | 16,200 | 27,706 | (11,506) | 17,436 |
| Financial-Farm Operations | 6,630 | 6,630 | 6,637 | (7) | 6,299 |
| Financial-Property Held for Sale, Taxes & Maintenance | 9,340 | 9,340 | 27,485 | (18,145) | 8,378 |
| Conventions - District or Synodical | 0 | - | - | - | 49,512 |
| Planning Conference | 3,885 | 3,885 | 2,103 | 1,782 | - |
| Model Theological Conference | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Gift Planning - Counselor's Travel Expenses | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 152 |
| LCEF Expenses | - | - | 31,456 | (31,456) | - |
| TOTAL - Mission & Ministry Support | \$ 298,405 | \$ 298,405 | \$ 368,289 | (69,884) | \$ 330,070 |
| E. Ecclesiastical, Administration, Other | | | | | |
| Presidents Office | 145,300 | 145,300 | 145,532 | (232) | 141,916 |
| Vice-Presidents | 600 | 600 | - | 600 | 75 |
| Circuit Visitors | 4,850 | 4,850 | 6,848 | (1,998) | 6,587 |
| Reconcilers | 2,100 | 2,100 | - | 2,100 | - |
| Mercy Grants, Asst. to Pastors, Gifts of Appreciation., C | 7,800 | 7,800 | 10,998 | (3,198) | 15,242 |
| Ecclesiastical Administration | 0 | - | 3 | (3) | 42 |
| Board of Directors | 9,320 | 9,320 | 9,348 | (28) | 8,395 |
| Committees-Finance Comm.,Constitution Review Com | 940 | 940 | 153 | 787 | 130 |
| TOTAL - Ecclesiastical, Admin, Other | \$ 170,910 | \$ 170,910 | \$ 172,882 | (1,972) | \$ 172,387 |
| F. Losses (Total) Loss on Disposition of Property | - | - | 172 | (172) | 240 |
| TOTAL-DISTRICT MISSIONS & MINISTRY | \$ 1,096,512 | \$ 1,096,512 | \$ 1,252,072 | \$ (155,560) | \$ 994,770 |
| GRAND TOTAL-UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES | \$ 1,456,512 | \$ 1,456,512 | \$ 1,624,239 | \$ (167,727) | \$ 1,384,154 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 | 12 Months | 12 Months | Avg/Per Comm. | |
|------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------|
| | | | Intention | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |

Circuit A - Aberdeen

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Aberdeen | Our Savior | 328 | 5,000 | 7,772 | 7,433 | 23.70 | 22.66 |
| Aberdeen | St John | 86 | 12,000 | 15,791 | 17,254 | 183.62 | 200.63 |
| Aberdeen | St Paul | 838 | 42,000 | 46,393 | 43,025 | 55.36 | 51.34 |
| Andover | Zion | 106 | - | 1,220 | 2,281 | 11.51 | 21.52 |
| Britton | St John | 152 | 6,000 | 6,525 | 6,000 | 42.93 | 39.47 |
| Columbia | St John | 103 | 7,300 | 7,445 | 8,605 | 72.28 | 83.54 |
| Cresbard | Concordia | 54 | 2,000 | 3,940 | 6,551 | 72.96 | 121.31 |
| Ferney | St Paul | 164 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 24.39 | 24.39 |
| Groton | St John | 298 | 15,000 | 19,790 | 20,000 | 66.41 | 67.11 |
| Leola | St Paul | 71 | 500 | 945 | 800 | 13.31 | 11.27 |
| Mansfield | Trinity | 272 | 23,500 | 26,550 | 26,734 | 97.61 | 98.29 |
| Stratford | St Paul | 48 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 83.33 | 83.33 |
| Wecota | Immanuel | 83 | 6,475 | 9,774 | 17,800 | 117.76 | 214.46 |
| Circuit A Totals | | 2,603 | \$ 127,775 | \$ 154,145 | \$ 164,483 | 59.22 | 63.19 |

Circuit B - Watertown

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Aurora | First English | 32 | 1,500 | 2,199 | 1,986 | 68.72 | 62.06 |
| Brookings | Mt Calvary | 354 | 30,000 | 33,491 | 28,205 | 94.61 | 79.68 |
| Brookings | Peace | 212 | - | 5,262 | 6,405 | 24.82 | 30.21 |
| Corona | Trinity | 145 | 2,000 | 3,739 | 3,550 | 25.79 | 24.48 |
| Flandreau | Redeemer | 41 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 73.17 | 73.17 |
| Milbank | Bethlehem | 63 | 500 | 650 | 624 | 10.32 | 9.90 |
| Milbank | Emanuel | 882 | 32,000 | 26,630 | 24,441 | 30.19 | 27.71 |
| Reville | St John | 131 | 8,000 | 9,015 | 9,068 | 68.82 | 69.22 |
| Sisseton | Emanuel | 161 | 4,400 | 3,091 | 4,450 | 19.20 | 27.64 |
| Watertown | Mt Olive | 373 | 28,840 | 29,360 | 28,850 | 78.71 | 77.35 |
| Waubay | Zion | 118 | 2,400 | 4,495 | 5,041 | 38.09 | 42.72 |
| White | Zion | 99 | 3,500 | 4,102 | 3,556 | 41.43 | 35.92 |
| Wilmot | Our Savior | 164 | 4,500 | 5,372 | 3,734 | 32.76 | 22.77 |
| Circuit B Totals | | 2,775 | \$ 120,640 | \$ 130,406 | \$ 122,910 | 46.99 | 44.29 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months | | Avg/Per Comm. | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit C - Pierre | | | | | | | |
| Blunt | Trinity | 38 | - | 2,000 | 1,500 | 52.63 | 39.47 |
| Draper | St Paul | 22 | - | 500 | 2,100 | 22.73 | 95.45 |
| Gettysburg | Emmanuel | 240 | 6,500 | 4,518 | 6,500 | 18.83 | 27.08 |
| Harrold | Immanuel | 32 | 500 | 500 | 250 | 15.63 | 7.81 |
| Lebanon | Christ | 16 | - | 785 | 180 | 49.06 | 11.25 |
| Midland | St Peter | 44 | 3,000 | 5,591 | 6,735 | 127.07 | 153.07 |
| Murdo | Messiah | 84 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 1,691 | 35.71 | 20.13 |
| Norris | St John | 64 | - | 2,500 | 1,109 | 39.06 | 17.33 |
| Onida | Holy Cross | 115 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 13.91 | 13.91 |
| Pierre | Faith | 1,568 | 41,000 | 40,992 | 41,268 | 26.14 | 26.32 |
| Presho | Zion | 95 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 14.74 | 14.74 |
| Reliance | Trinity | 39 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rosebud | Rosebud Mission | - | - | 1,390 | 1,728 | - | - |
| Seneca | St Paul | 0 | - | - | 424 | - | - |
| Circuit C Totals | | 2,357 | \$ 57,000 | \$ 64,776 | \$ 66,485 | 27.48 | 28.21 |
| Circuit D - Huron | | | | | | | |
| Doland | Redeemer | 43 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 46.51 | 46.51 |
| Howard | St John | 117 | - | - | 3,400 | - | 29.06 |
| Huron | Mt Calvary | 776 | 70,000 | 70,384 | 70,000 | 90.70 | 90.21 |
| Madison | Our Savior | 324 | 2,500 | 3,704 | 3,135 | 11.43 | 9.68 |
| Redfield | Messiah | 154 | 500 | - | - | - | - |
| Wessington Sprgs | Zion | 79 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 8.23 | 8.23 |
| Wolsey | St John | 216 | 13,400 | 14,215 | 13,684 | 65.81 | 63.35 |
| Woonsocket | Mt Olive | 11 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit D Totals | | 1,720 | \$ 89,050 | \$ 90,953 | \$ 92,869 | 52.88 | 53.99 |
| Circuit E - Black Hills | | | | | | | |
| Black Hawk | Divine Shepherd | 410 | - | 12,000 | 12,000 | 29.27 | 29.27 |
| Creighton | Emmanuel | 53 | - | 355 | 643 | 6.70 | 12.13 |
| Custer | Our Redeemer | 201 | - | 6,000 | 9,991 | 29.85 | 49.71 |
| Deadwood | Grace | 109 | 2,600 | 2,383 | 2,817 | 21.86 | 25.84 |
| Hill City | Our Savior | 29 | - | - | 1,200 | - | 41.38 |
| Hot Springs | Bethesda | 327 | 7,175 | 7,195 | 6,417 | 22.00 | 19.62 |
| Philip | Our Redeemer | 50 | - | 644 | - | 12.88 | - |
| Rapid City | Bethlehem | 474 | 26,877 | 24,637 | 29,415 | 51.98 | 62.06 |
| Rapid City | Our Redeemer | 120 | 1,800 | 1,650 | 1,800 | 13.75 | 15.00 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months | | Avg/Per Comm. | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit E - Black Hills (continued) | | | | | | | |
| Rapid City | Peace | 495 | 20,000 | 21,827 | 22,409 | 44.09 | 45.27 |
| Rapid City | Zion | 1,085 | 8,500 | 8,550 | 8,500 | 7.88 | 7.83 |
| Spearfish | St Paul | 360 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 37,324 | 111.11 | 103.68 |
| Sturgis | Blessed Emmanuel | 38 | 600 | 1,155 | 728 | 30.39 | 19.16 |
| Wall | First | 214 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 9.81 | 9.81 |
| Circuit E Totals | | 3,965 | \$ 109,652 | \$ 128,496 | \$ 135,344 | 32.41 | 34.13 |

Circuit F - Mitchell

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Armour | Redeemer | 219 | 7,500 | 8,500 | 8,001 | 38.81 | 36.53 |
| Chamberlain | Zion | 404 | - | 11,939 | 15,651 | 29.55 | 38.74 |
| Delmont | Zion | 167 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 95.81 | 95.81 |
| Dimock | Immanuel | 186 | 18,000 | 24,479 | 30,297 | 131.61 | 162.89 |
| Emery | St Peter | 72 | 6,000 | 6,554 | 3,855 | 91.03 | 53.54 |
| Gregory | St John | 271 | - | 2,750 | 1,500 | 10.15 | 5.54 |
| Hamill | Zion | 56 | 1,000 | 2,003 | 1,000 | 35.77 | 17.86 |
| Mitchell | Zion | 720 | 29,350 | 29,340 | 29,350 | 40.75 | 40.76 |
| Parkston | Faith | 198 | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 50.51 | 50.51 |
| Plankinton | St Paul | 177 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 45.20 | 45.20 |
| Tripp | Emmaus | 126 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 79.37 | 79.37 |
| White Lake | Trinity | 124 | 8,000 | 9,920 | 9,590 | 80.00 | 77.34 |
| Winner | Christ | 145 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 13.79 | 13.79 |
| Circuit F Totals | | 2,865 | \$ 105,850 | \$ 141,485 | \$ 145,244 | 49.38 | 50.70 |

Circuit G - Freeman

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alexandria | St Martin | 81 | - | - | 1,058 | - | 13.06 |
| Canistota | Zion | 234 | 2,500 | 5,340 | 2,281 | 22.82 | 9.75 |
| Emery | St John | 51 | - | 1,200 | 1,000 | 23.53 | 19.61 |
| Freeman | St Paul | 276 | 9,000 | 10,094 | 10,903 | 36.57 | 39.50 |
| Hartford | Trinity | 104 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 24.04 | 21.15 |
| Marion | Bethesda | 65 | - | 2,500 | - | 38.46 | - |
| Menno | Immanuel | 105 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 42.86 | 42.86 |
| Montrose | St John | 86 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Parker | First English | 37 | 2,000 | 1,817 | 3,051 | 49.11 | 82.46 |
| Scotland | St Paul | 38 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 31.58 | 31.58 |
| Spencer | Trinity | 71 | - | 2,000 | 2,165 | 28.17 | 30.49 |
| Wentworth | St Peter | 180 | 7,467 | 8,257 | 7,610 | 45.87 | 42.28 |
| Circuit G Totals | | 1,328 | \$ 29,167 | \$ 39,408 | \$ 35,968 | 29.67 | 27.08 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months | | Avg/Per Comm. | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit H - Sioux Falls | | | | | | | |
| Brandon | Blessed Redeemer | 320 | 13,200 | 12,100 | 13,200 | 37.81 | 41.25 |
| Sioux Falls | Christ | 98 | - | 1,500 | 1,500 | 15.31 | 15.31 |
| Sioux Falls | Faith | 579 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 72.54 | 72.54 |
| Sioux Falls | Lord of Life | 193 | 14,490 | 14,490 | 13,857 | 75.08 | 71.80 |
| Sioux Falls | Memorial | 688 | - | 32,268 | 28,585 | 46.90 | 41.55 |
| Sioux Falls | Our Redeemer | 378 | 22,700 | 18,917 | 22,700 | 50.04 | 60.05 |
| Sioux Falls | Resurrection | 223 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 67.26 | 89.69 |
| Sioux Falls | Trinity of The Deaf | 36 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sioux Falls | Zion | 722 | 42,000 | 44,000 | 44,000 | 60.94 | 60.94 |
| Tea | Risen Savior | 85 | 7,300 | 8,016 | 7,388 | 94.31 | 86.92 |
| Circuit H Totals | | 3,322 | \$ 156,690 | \$ 188,291 | \$ 193,230 | 56.68 | 58.17 |
| Circuit I - Yankton | | | | | | | |
| Alcester | Peace | 123 | 3,000 | 4,261 | 4,119 | 34.64 | 33.49 |
| Avon | Zion | 178 | 5,000 | 5,310 | 5,685 | 29.83 | 31.94 |
| Centerville | First English | 99 | 2,000 | 2,320 | 2,445 | 23.43 | 24.70 |
| Dakota Dunes | Holy Cross | 155 | 24,601 | 27,743 | 27,020 | 178.99 | 174.32 |
| Fairfax | Trinity | 71 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 56.34 | 56.34 |
| Hurley | Zion | 40 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,800 | 65.00 | 70.00 |
| Springfield | Our Savior | 27 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 3.70 | 3.70 |
| Tyndall | St John | 166 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,550 | 10.24 | 9.34 |
| Utica | Martinus | 62 | 1,500 | 2,211 | 1,877 | 35.66 | 30.27 |
| Vermillion | Concordia | 60 | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | 83.33 | 83.33 |
| Wagner | St John | 263 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 34.22 | 34.22 |
| Yankton | St John | 1,072 | - | 46,000 | 52,902 | 42.91 | 49.35 |
| Circuit I Totals | | 2,316 | \$ 53,401 | \$ 110,245 | \$ 116,498 | 47.60 | 50.30 |
| GRAND TOTALS | | 23,251 | \$ 849,225 | \$1,048,205 | \$ 1,073,031 | 45.08 | 46.15 |

Comm. Members = Communicant Membership, as of December 31, 2016 per LCMS Statistical Dept.

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months 2017 | 12 Months 2016 | Avg / Per Comm. | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit A - Aberdeen | | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen | Our Savior | 328 | 1,000 | - | 1,140 | - | 3.48 |
| Aberdeen | St John | 86 | 1,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Aberdeen | St Paul | 838 | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 1.19 | - |
| Andover | Zion | 106 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Britton | St John | 152 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Columbia | St John | 103 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cresbard | Concordia | 54 | 2,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 83.33 | 83.33 |
| Ferney | St Paul | 164 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Groton | St John | 298 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 1.68 | 1.68 |
| Leola | St Paul | 71 | 200 | - | 71 | - | 1.00 |
| Mansfield | Trinity | 272 | 200 | 500 | - | 1.84 | - |
| Stratford | St Paul | 48 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wecota | Immanuel | 83 | 500 | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit A Totals | | 2,603 | 6,900 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,211 | 2.50 | 2.39 |
| Circuit B - Watertown | | | | | | | |
| Aurora | First English | 32 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brookings | Mt Calvary | 354 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 16.95 | 16.95 |
| Brookings | Peace | 212 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Corona | Trinity | 145 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Flandreau | Redeemer | 41 | 250 | 300 | 367 | 7.32 | 8.95 |
| Milbank | Bethlehem | 63 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Milbank | Emanuel | 882 | 250 | 406 | - | 0.46 | - |
| Reville | St John | 131 | 200 | 300 | 200 | 2.29 | 1.53 |
| Sisseton | Emanuel | 161 | 100 | - | 50 | - | 0.31 |
| Watertown | Mt Olive | 373 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Waubay | Zion | 118 | 100 | - | - | - | - |
| White | Zion | 99 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,390 | 12.12 | 14.04 |
| Wilmot | Our Savior | 164 | - | - | 2,755 | - | 16.80 |
| Circuit B Totals | | 2,775 | \$ 8,100 | \$ 8,206 | \$ 10,762 | 2.96 | 3.88 |
| Circuit C - Pierre | | | | | | | |
| Blunt | Trinity | 38 | - | 200 | 150 | 5.26 | 3.95 |
| Draper | St Paul | 22 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gettysburg | Emmanuel | 240 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Harrold | Immanuel | 32 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lebanon | Christ | 16 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Midland | St Peter | 44 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 6.82 | 6.82 |
| Murdo | Messiah | 84 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 2.38 | 2.38 |
| Norris | St John | 64 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Onida | Holy Cross | 115 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pierre | Faith | 1,568 | - | 1,500 | - | 0.96 | - |
| Presho | Zion | 95 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reliance | Trinity | 39 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rosebud | Rosebud Mission | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Seneca | St Paul | 0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit C Totals | | 2,357 | \$ 500 | \$ 2,200 | \$ 650 | 0.93 | 0.28 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months 2017 | 12 Months 2016 | Avg / Per Comm. | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit D - Huron | | | | | | | |
| Doland | Redeemer | 43 | 500 | - | - | - | - |
| Howard | St John | 117 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Huron | Mt Calvary | 776 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1.68 | 1.68 |
| Madison | Our Savior | 324 | 500 | - | - | - | - |
| Redfield | Messiah | 154 | - | 500 | - | 3.25 | - |
| Wssngtn Sprgs | Zion | 79 | 350 | 350 | - | 4.43 | - |
| Wolsey | St John | 216 | 700 | 700 | 691 | 3.24 | 3.20 |
| Woonsocket | Mt Olive | 11 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit D Totals | | 1,720 | \$ 3,350 | \$ 2,850 | \$ 1,991 | 1.66 | 1.16 |
| Circuit E - Black Hills | | | | | | | |
| Black Hawk | Divine Shepherd | 410 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Creighton | Emmanuel | 53 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Custer | Our Redeemer | 201 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Deadwood | Grace | 109 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hill City | Our Savior | 29 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hot Springs | Bethesda | 327 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Philip | Our Redeemer | 50 | - | 60 | - | 1.20 | - |
| Rapid City | Bethlehem | 474 | 500 | - | 2,614 | - | 5.51 |
| Rapid City | Our Redeemer | 120 | - | 335 | 405 | 2.79 | 3.38 |
| Rapid City | Peace | 495 | - | 1,402 | 1,271 | 2.83 | 2.57 |
| Rapid City | Zion | 1,085 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Spearfish | St Paul | 360 | 2,160 | 2,160 | 1,680 | 6.00 | 4.67 |
| Sturgis | Blessed Emmanuel | 38 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wall | First | 214 | 900 | 900 | 261 | 4.21 | 1.22 |
| Circuit E Totals | | 3,965 | \$ 3,560 | \$ 4,857 | \$ 6,231 | 1.22 | 1.57 |
| Circuit F - Mitchell | | | | | | | |
| Armour | Redeemer | 219 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Chamberlain | Zion | 404 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Delmont | Zion | 167 | 310 | 413 | 360 | 2.47 | 2.16 |
| Dimock | Immanuel | 186 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 3.23 | 3.23 |
| Emery | St Peter | 72 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gregory | St John | 271 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hamill | Zion | 56 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mitchell | Zion | 720 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Parkston | Faith | 198 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Plankinton | St Paul | 177 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tripp | Emmaus | 126 | - | - | - | - | - |
| White Lake | Trinity | 124 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Winner | Christ | 145 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit F Totals | | 2,865 | \$ 1,410 | \$ 1,513 | \$ 1,460 | 0.53 | 0.51 |

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| City | Congregation | Comm. Members | 2017 Intention | 12 Months 2017 | 12 Months 2016 | Avg / Per Comm. | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Circuit G - Freeman | | | | | | | |
| Alexandria | St Martin | 81 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Canistota | Zion | 234 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Emery | St John | 51 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Freeman | St Paul | 276 | 1,200 | 1,346 | 1,454 | 4.88 | 5.27 |
| Hartford | Trinity | 104 | - | 625 | - | 6.01 | - |
| Marion | Bethesda | 65 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Menno | Immanuel | 105 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Montrose | St John | 86 | - | 160 | - | 1.86 | - |
| Parker | First English | 37 | 200 | 115 | 200 | 3.11 | 5.41 |
| Scotland | St Paul | 38 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Spencer | Trinity | 71 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wentworth | St Peter | 180 | 3,733 | 3,733 | 3,734 | 20.74 | 20.74 |
| Circuit G Totals | | 1,328 | \$ 5,133 | \$ 5,979 | \$ 5,388 | 4.50 | 4.06 |
| Circuit H - Sioux Falls | | | | | | | |
| Brandon | Blessed Redeemer | 320 | 800 | 1,028 | 895 | 3.21 | 2.80 |
| Sioux Falls | Christ | 98 | - | 500 | 500 | 5.10 | 5.10 |
| Sioux Falls | Faith | 579 | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | 3.45 |
| Sioux Falls | Lord of Life | 193 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sioux Falls | Memorial | 688 | - | 1,021 | 6,843 | 1.48 | 9.95 |
| Sioux Falls | Our Redeemer | 378 | 3,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Sioux Falls | Resurrection | 223 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sioux Falls | Trinity | 36 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sioux Falls | Zion | 722 | 2,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Tea | Risen Savior | 85 | 100 | 200 | - | 2.35 | - |
| Circuit H Totals | | 3,322 | \$ 7,900 | \$ 2,749 | \$ 10,238 | 0.83 | 3.08 |
| Circuit I - Yankton | | | | | | | |
| Alcester | Peace | 123 | 500 | 400 | 500 | 3.25 | 4.07 |
| Avon | Zion | 178 | - | 580 | 838 | 3.26 | 4.71 |
| Centerville | First English | 99 | - | 207 | 187 | 2.09 | 1.89 |
| Dakota Dunes | Holy Cross | 155 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fairfax | Trinity | 71 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 7.04 | 7.04 |
| Hurley | Zion | 40 | 200 | 200 | - | 5.00 | - |
| Springfield | Our Savior | 27 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tyndall | St John | 166 | 100 | - | - | - | - |
| Utica | Martinus | 62 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vermillion | Concordia | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wagner | St John | 263 | - | - | 30 | - | 0.11 |
| Yankton | St John | 1,072 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Circuit I Totals | | 2,316 | \$ 1,300 | \$ 1,887 | \$ 2,055 | 0.81 | 0.89 |
| GRAND TOTALS | | 23,251 | \$ 38,153 | \$ 36,741 | \$ 44,986 | 1.58 | 1.93 |

Comm. Members = Communicant Membership, as of December 31, 2016 per LCMS Statistical Dept.

South Dakota District, LCMS
Comparative Monthly Remittance Report
REMITTANCE COMPARISON 2016 to 2017

MISSION RECEIPTS from CONGREGATIONS

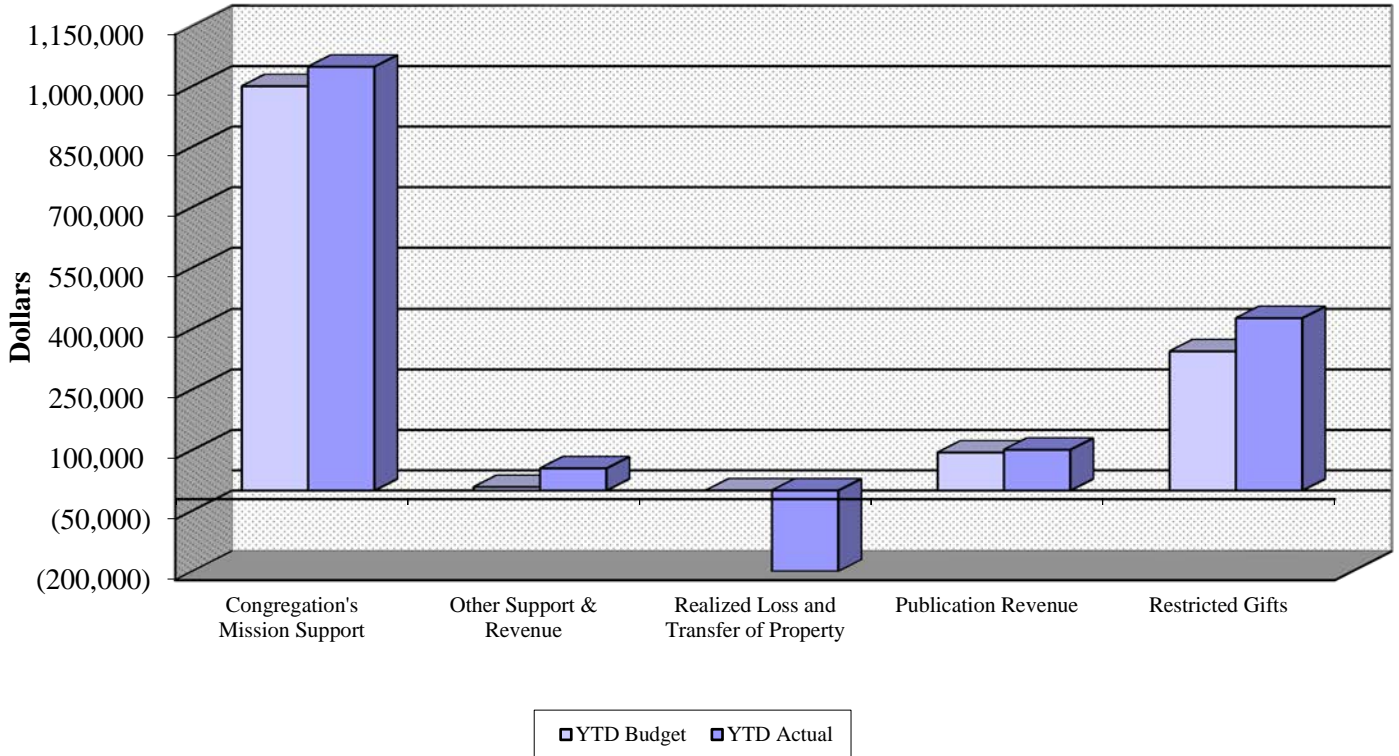
| Per | Month Ending | ACTUAL REMITTANCE | | | 17 over 16 by month | 2016 YTD | 2017 YTD | 17 over 16 BY YEAR | % '17' OVER '16' |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | | | | | |
| 1 | 14-Feb | 87,659 | 97,596 | 87,763 | (9,833) | 97,596 | 87,763 | (9,833) | -10.1% |
| 2 | 14-Mar | 64,260 | 81,099 | 89,655 | 8,556 | 178,695 | 177,418 | (1,277) | -0.7% |
| 3 | 14-Apr | 83,133 | 116,317 | 75,699 | (40,618) | 295,012 | 253,117 | (41,895) | -14.2% |
| 4 | 14-May | 105,163 | 64,886 | 92,148 | 27,262 | 359,898 | 345,265 | (14,633) | -4.1% |
| 5 | 14-Jun | 57,365 | 57,504 | 71,526 | 14,022 | 417,402 | 416,791 | (611) | -0.1% |
| 6 | 14-Jul | 116,665 | 100,399 | 103,670 | 3,271 | 517,801 | 520,461 | 2,660 | 0.5% |
| 7 | 14-Aug | 73,898 | 69,887 | 90,369 | 20,482 | 587,688 | 610,830 | 23,142 | 3.9% |
| 8 | 14-Sep | 64,797 | 78,055 | 74,458 | (3,597) | 665,743 | 685,288 | 19,545 | 2.9% |
| 9 | 14-Oct | 75,746 | 87,277 | 85,318 | (1,959) | 753,020 | 770,606 | 17,586 | 2.3% |
| 10 | 14-Nov | 79,779 | 81,007 | 47,922 | (33,085) | 834,027 | 818,528 | (15,499) | -1.9% |
| 11 | 14-Dec | 80,047 | 78,765 | 83,753 | 4,988 | 912,792 | 902,281 | (10,511) | -1.2% |
| 12 | 14-Jan | 196,620 | 160,239 | 145,924 | (14,315) | 1,073,031 | 1,048,205 | (24,826) | -2.3% |
| GRAND TOTALS | | 1,085,132 | 1,073,031 | 1,048,205 | (24,826) | | | | |

All T.I.M. MISSIONARY PROJECT RECEIPTS

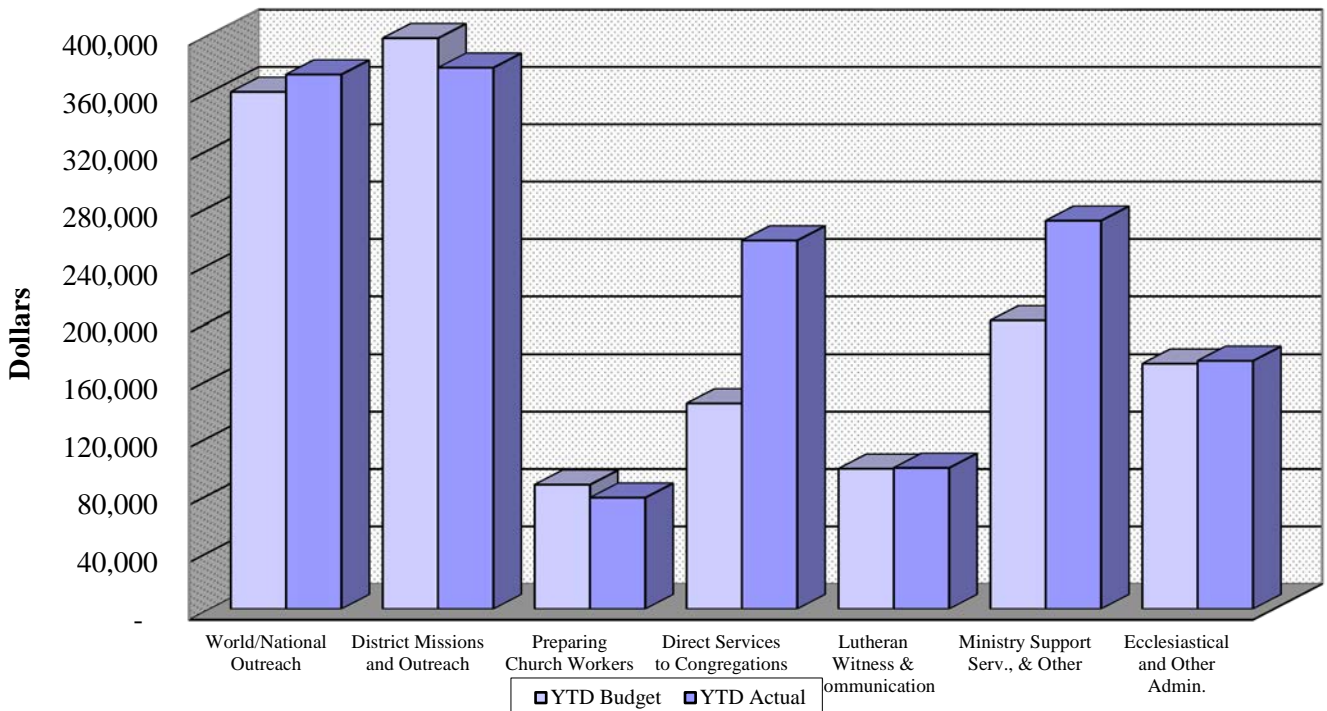
| Per | Month Ending | ACTUAL REMITTANCE | | | 17 over 16 by month | 2016 YTD | 2017 YTD | 17 over 16 BY YEAR | % '17' OVER '16' |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | | | | | |
| 1 | 14-Feb | 2,487 | 4,217 | 7,093 | 2,876 | 4,217 | 7,093 | 2,876 | 68.2% |
| 2 | 14-Mar | 2,810 | 1,733 | 2,498 | 765 | 5,950 | 9,591 | 3,641 | 61.2% |
| 3 | 14-Apr | 3,372 | 5,759 | 1,307 | (4,452) | 11,709 | 10,898 | (811) | -6.9% |
| 4 | 14-May | 2,563 | 3,206 | 3,497 | 291 | 14,915 | 14,395 | (520) | -3.5% |
| 5 | 14-Jun | 2,055 | 1,816 | 1,696 | (120) | 16,731 | 16,091 | (640) | -3.8% |
| 6 | 14-Jul | 1,474 | 4,332 | 850 | (3,482) | 21,063 | 16,941 | (4,122) | -19.6% |
| 7 | 14-Aug | 1,971 | 4,023 | 2,461 | (1,562) | 25,086 | 19,402 | (5,684) | -22.7% |
| 8 | 14-Sep | 587 | 3,293 | 492 | (2,801) | 28,379 | 19,894 | (8,485) | -29.9% |
| 9 | 14-Oct | 1,302 | 1,716 | 3,532 | 1,816 | 30,095 | 23,426 | (6,669) | -22.2% |
| 10 | 14-Nov | 2,335 | 2,204 | 3,162 | 958 | 32,299 | 26,588 | (5,711) | -17.7% |
| 11 | 14-Dec | 503 | 1,873 | 4,735 | 2,862 | 34,172 | 31,323 | (2,849) | -8.3% |
| 12 | 14-Jan | 10,847 | 11,842 | 5,418 | (6,424) | 46,014 | 36,741 | (9,273) | -20.2% |
| GRAND TOTALS | | 32,306 | 46,014 | 36,741 | (9,273) | | | | |

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, LCMS
GRAPHS FOR SUPPORT & REVENUE AND EXPENSES
 For The Twelve Months Ended January 14, 2018

Unrestricted Support & Revenue Compared to Budget

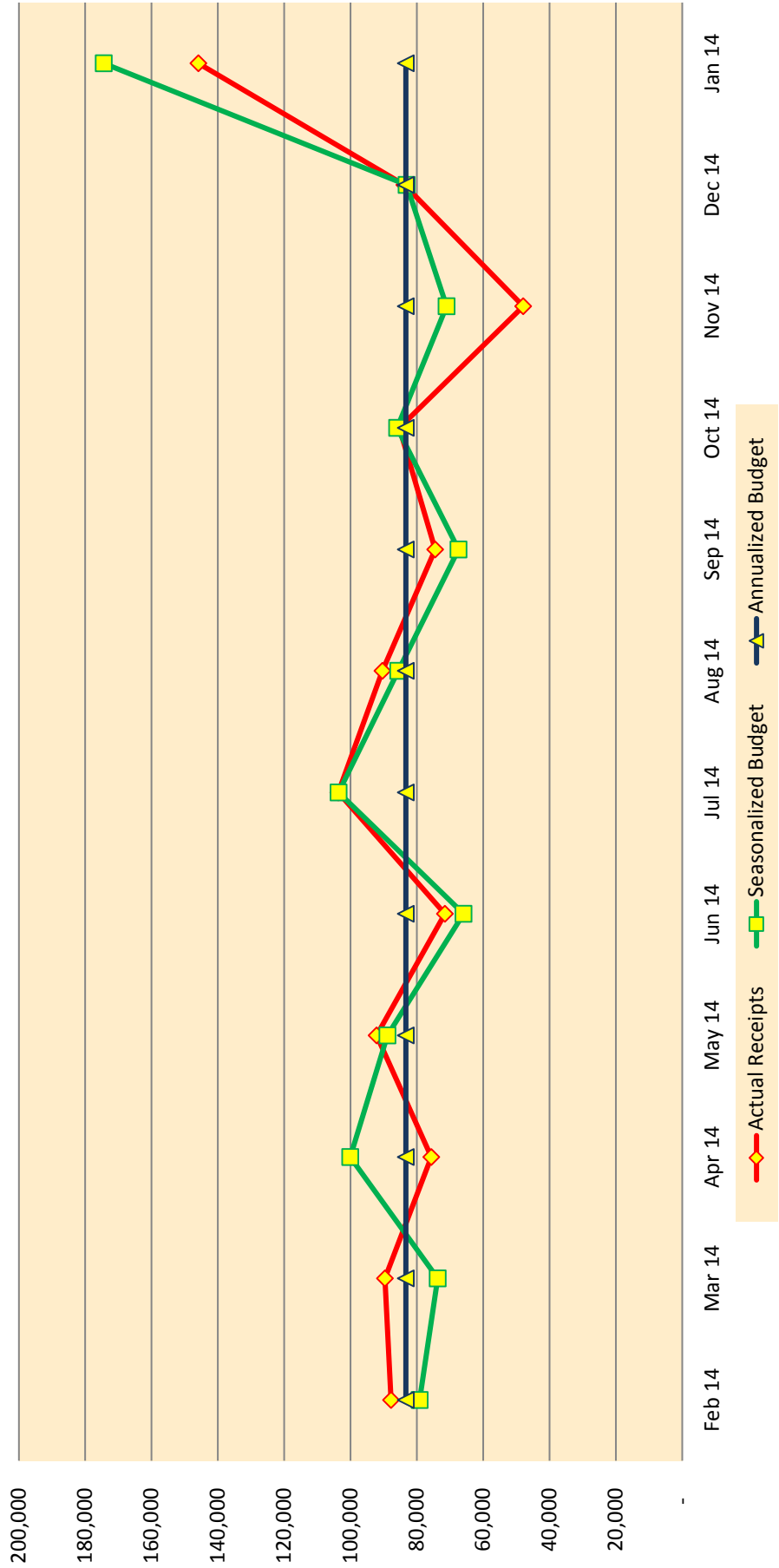


Unrestricted Expenses Compared To Budget

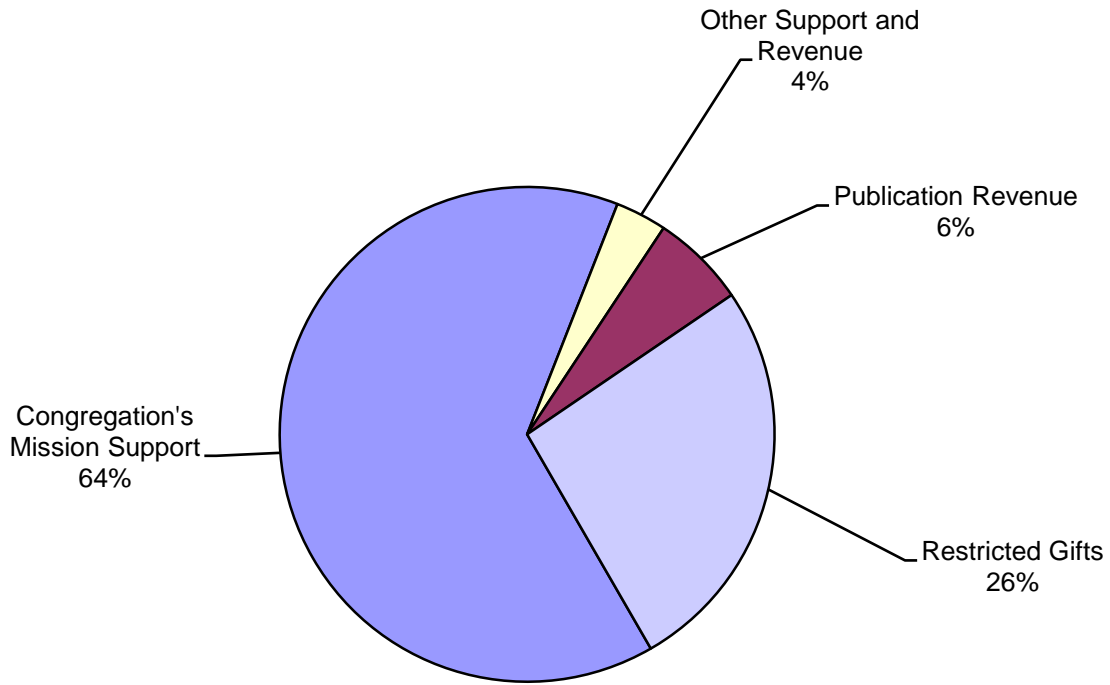


SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, LCMS
GRAPH OF MISSION RECEIPTS FROM CONGREGATIONS BY MONTH
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 14, 2018

Receipts for Missions Compared to Budget



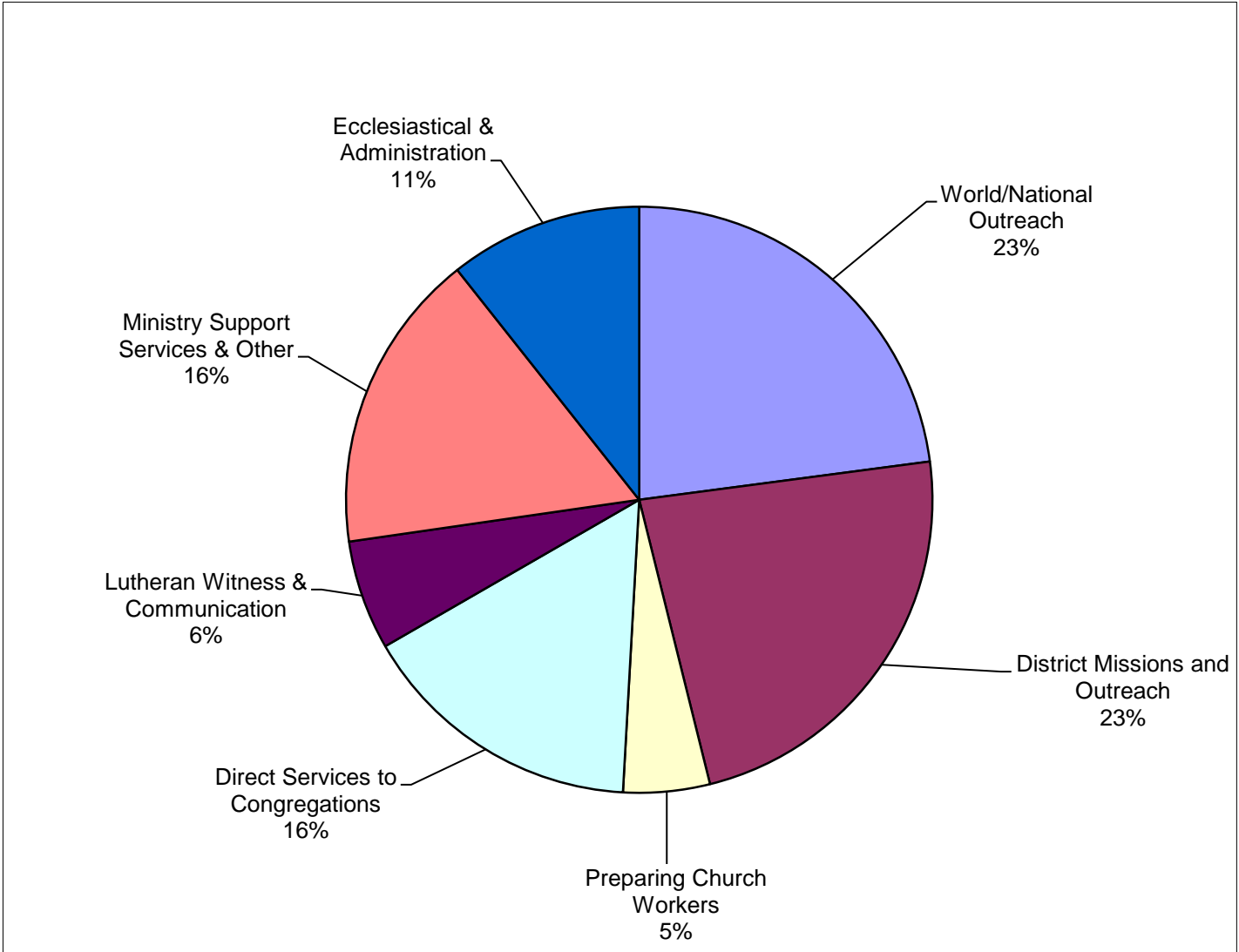
SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, LCMS
CHART OF UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT AND REVENUE
For The Twelve Months Ended January 14, 2018



| | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Congregation's Mission Support | 1,048,205 | * |
| Other Support and Revenue | 54,640 | * |
| Publication Revenue | 100,750 | * |
| Restricted Gifts | 426,949 | * |
| | | |
| Sub-Total | \$ 1,630,544 | |
| | | |
| Less: Realized Loss on Sale of Property | 17,890 | |
| Less: Transfer of Property Sale to Bd Funds | 213,339 | |
| | | |
| Total - Unrestricted Income | \$ 1,399,315 | |

* Denotes income categories presented in chart

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, LCMS
CHART OF UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES
For The Twelve Months Ended January 14, 2018



| | |
|--|---------------------|
| World/National Outreach | 372,167 |
| District Missions and Outreach | 376,878 |
| Preparing Church Workers | 77,455 |
| Direct Services to Congregations | 256,396 |
| Lutheran Witness & Communication | 98,212 |
| Ministry Support Services & Other | 270,077 |
| Ecclesiastical & Administration | 173,054 |
| Total | \$ 1,624,239 |

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Mrs. Lisa Asmus, President



It is a blessing to join with the South Dakota District LCMS in this convention to *Behold Your God* as we respond to the love that God shows to us, especially in sending Jesus to be the Savior to each of us – and the world! LWML seeks to respond by developing and maintaining a greater mission consciousness among women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, and service.

A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

Our primary focus is in the following three areas:

- **Nurturing Faith in Christ.** By God's grace we offer each woman opportunities to be in the Word and use her unique gifts in God's service.
- **Making Our Faith Meaningful.** We equip each woman to make a significant difference in the lives of all people.
- **Sharing Encouragement.** We value each other in Christ and we accept and encourage each woman to grow in her relationship with others.

LWML SD District offers opportunities for our women to be fed by the Word through Christian Life Workshops held every September/October, a district held retreat in April of odd numbered years, and at our district convention held the first weekend in June on even numbered years. As Lutheran Women in Mission we seek opportunities for Bible Study, fellowship, and service at our events.

This year our LWML SD Convention, is June 1-2, 2018 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Our theme, *Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation*, is based on Psalm 100:5 *For the Lord is Good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.* During this convention we will celebrate LWML South Dakota District's 75th year as being part of LMWL. Guests will include our keynote speaker, former LMWL President Linda Reiser. LWML Representative Leslie Jaseph, and LWML Pastoral Counselor, Robert Mundahl will be our Friday evening worship service proclaimer. We will also have mission moments with the Comfort Dogs, PABLO, Peace Lutheran Educational Ministries, Brookings, and Concordia St. Louis Food Bank. We will *Behold Your God* during our servant events, gathering of mite offerings, mission moments, Bible study, fellowship, break-out sessions, selecting new mission grants to support, Mite bites, and many other activities that will be available. I welcome and encourage you to come and take part.



When we collect Mite Box offerings, they get sent to LWML SD District where 75% of it stays to support our district work, and 25% goes to LWML to support the work of LWML. You can see the list of current LWML Mission Grant recipients by looking at LWML.org. This website has many

resources including Bible Studies, devotions, and other information about Lutheran Women in Mission. Our South Dakota Mission Grants can be viewed at sdlwml.org.

In June, nearly 100 women along with a hand full of gentlemen from South Dakota met at convention in Albuquerque. Among these were ten voting delegates, two Young Woman Representatives, Megan Fair and Pamela Baker, and two Heart to Heart (H2H) sisters. Louise Marie Mwendez was the first Heart to Heart sister from South Dakota to attend an LWML convention. Kay Nelson who attended as her interpreter, was also pinned as a H2H sister. What is the H2H program? The H2H program serves to motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for multicultural women to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness in the world, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Two of our ladies from South Dakota are serving on LWML committees on the national level. Former LWML SD President Arlene Naasz is serving as Structure Committee Chairman, and former LWML SD President Janell McKinstry is serving on the Mission Grants Committee. We thank God for the servant hearts of these Women in Mission!

Thank you, pastors, DCE's, and teachers for sharing the love of Jesus each day as you *Behold Your God* with your community. Thank you for your support of LWML in your congregations as you encourage women of all ages to be a woman in mission. If you have any questions about Lutheran Women in Mission, I would be happy to visit with you. I thank God for the opportunity to serve and support the work you all do in your congregations and schools. To God be the glory!

In His love and by His grace,
Lisa Asmus
LWML SD District President

“We are the Body of Christ! Each one of us is a part of it!” Romans 12:5



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.

Mrs. Jill Johnsen, President

Lutherans For Life of South Dakota (LFLSD) is a state affiliation of the national organization of Lutherans For Life (LFL), organized in 1978 as a non-profit, pan-Lutheran mission. Our purpose is to give witness to, and equip Lutherans to give witness to the truth of the God-given sanctity of human life found only in God's word. Therefore our mission statement is: "**Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices FOR LIFE.**" The message of LFL is the heart-changing truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the unique, primary message being, "Here is what God has done that gives value and dignity to all human life." LFL desires to pattern its manner after the Apostle Paul and "**speak the truth in love.**" LFL strives to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on the value and dignity of all human life from the youngest to the oldest, the preborn to the elderly, from the weakest to the strongest.

LFLSD is currently made up of several chapters and several Life Teams. Each group is encouraged to send representatives to an **Annual Meeting** every January to share ideas, nominate and elect a state board and to encourage each other. All friends of Life are urged to attend.

Education on life issues is our primary purpose. We encourage attendance at National LFL Life Conferences as well as at programs we develop on the state level. In 2017 several LFLSD members attended the Regional Life Conference in Lincoln NE and the organization sponsored **scholarships for young people** in South Dakota who were interested in attending. We have monthly articles in the South Dakota insert of the **Lutheran Witness**.

LFLSD has an ongoing campaign, **Life: A Better Choice**, where For-Life and Pro-Family ads are aired on television. Fundraising is an ongoing mission. Virtue Media produces the tasteful, educational ads. We have been blessed with funds to air ads in eastern South Dakota up to this point. These ads can be viewed on our website **www.lutheransforlifesd.org** where we have capability for on-line donations through Paypal. Nancy Bopenhagen is our webmaster.

Witness of the Crosses is an outdoor educational display which consists of 600-700 crosses. With two trailers containing the crosses, your community is encouraged to **use this display at no cost**. These crosses serve as a dramatic memorial to the babies whose lives are taken as a result of abortion in South Dakota each year. Their presence also serves as a reminder to the men, women, and families suffering after making an abortion decision that Jesus died to forgive them. The trailers also serve as a sign telling the most recent statistics of abortions performed in SD.

LFLSD encourages the observance of at least one **Life Sunday** each year in churches. The 2018 theme is Hope for Life. LFL resources are available through Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

New to South Dakota in the past 3 years is an **Essay Contest** on life issues for students 6th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades. Rules are available at **www.lutheransforlifesd.org** and prize money is awarded to first and second place in each age category. State winners are eligible for national competition. Contest is open to Lutheran students or students of SD Lutheran Schools. The **Annual State-wide Diaper Derby** provides friendly competition between Mothers Day and Fathers Day to collect disposable diapers and supplies. They are then delivered to a crisis pregnancy center or shelter, etc in local communities. This shows support for God's gift of life while helping moms and dads in need.

LFLSD appreciates and promotes the annual **Bike for Life** which helps fund the **Ultrasound Ministry** at a local crisis pregnancy center in eastern South Dakota.

Owen's Mission is an ongoing program of LFL with a goal of placing *Touch of Life fetal models* in every Lutheran elementary and high school in the United States. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Mr. Dutch TeSlaa, Director of Operations

This year, 2018, brings about another historic year for the Main Street Living ministry. Having completed 16 years of ministry to South Dakota and areas of bordering states, we now look far beyond the borders of our state to bring the message of love and forgiveness on television. This has been made possible due to the efforts of many dedicated people, area Pastors, countless supporters, and a great and gracious God. The theme of this convention "Behold Your God", is totally illustrated in the success of this program, from the time it was started until now, when the plans are to greatly expand this ministry.

Even though this effort at ministry is administrated by lay members of the church body, it would not be possible without the cooperation of a forwarding looking District staff and a very cooperative and dynamic group of Pastors that lead the community each week in a television worship service. A service that has become a very important part of the worship experience for thousands of people who can't or don't attend worship with their local congregations. This has become the "church" for many of these people.

In January of 2017 the program was expanded to a television station, KVRN, in Fargo North Dakota. This station brings the broadcast to the eastern North Dakota District and western Minnesota North District. This expansion was feasible due to the generosity of our viewers in South Dakota. A newly formed Lay Leadership Group was formed and they have taken over the administration of the program in their area. Just like South Dakota, they are utilizing Pastors from their districts, are recording hymns with local people, and are generating financial support from parishioners in their area. With all the challenges, they are now self-sustaining, and at this time we look at the Fargo effort as a total success.

The future looks bright for Main Street Living. In December of last year we received a major gift from the estate of Rose Wegehaupt, a viewer of the program who had passed away. The money is to be used to expand the program into other areas. The Board of Directors in South Dakota decided on a multi-point expansion. The first new station added is KJBR in Duluth, Minnesota. They started airing the program on January 7th, 2018 using the same structure and format that has worked so well in South Dakota for the last 16 years. It is a structure that will be used for all future expansions. With the receiving of the Wegehaupt gift, the South Dakota Board of Directors has identified another 15 LCMS Districts from Montana to St. Louis where expansion is probable. This will take years to complete, but to minimize the timeline, a new full-time position will be added this year to facilitate in the growth. A very aggressive schedule would have the expansion completed by 2022.

Looking back, the Main Street Living television ministry is a miracle in itself. It began on a suggestion from a television station that was trying to sell time on their station. It was conceptualized by a group of people, none of which had any broadcast experience. It was developed by a very small group of Christians who knew the importance of getting out the Word to the people of the area. It was supported by a generous clergy, willing to give of their time, talents, and training to proclaim an effective weekly message. Now, we have been given the financial resources to expand the coverage to nearly 1000 congregations, serving over 900,000 members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and others of all faiths. So, stand back, take a look, and "Behold Your God" and what He has accomplished.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Jeanette Stensland, Chairman, South Dakota Division of Orphan Grain Train

At any given moment there is a disaster occurring in the world and/or poverty and hunger but especially a hunger for the Good News of the Gospel.

For more than 25 years Orphan Grain Train has been working to meet the needs of suffering people both here in the US and around the world. We are shipping to 67 countries, serving 85 orphanages, 7 hospitals and 3 prisons in 5 countries. Our Orphan Grain Train collection center in Milbank, SD has been assisting in this ministry since 2005 but many individuals contributed even before that.

This past year in South Dakota we have continued to send clothing, shoes, blankets, medical supplies, quilts, school kits and hygiene supplies and shipped the Mercy Meals that are packaged in our building. More than 100 palletes of these goods as well as sleeping mats, bicycles, Bibles and cleaning supplies used for the clean-up after Hurricane Harvey were sent. We contributed

financial help as well as the loan of our disaster response trailer and its equipment to be used in the Houston, TX area after the disaster there. The value of these things was well over \$10,000. But also our volunteers at our warehouse gave well over 2500 hours of service this past year. That's not counting the work done at home sewing T-shirt diapers, pillow case dresses, quilts, crocheting the sleeping mats, caps, mittens and scarves as well as mending, which even a 90+ year-old does for us. The value of this work is priceless and gives an opportunity for retirees to continue to serve their Savior.

At present we have applied for an LWML grant to be able to assist in sending relief supplies to an impoverished area in Peru.

We are outgrowing our facility and with the donation of additional land and financial aid we hope to be expanding within the next year.

We are thankful for all the support given to us and that we are able to contribute in some small way to the extending of God's kingdom throughout the world.

1 **OVERTURE: 1-11**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND RESTATED ARTICLES OF
4 INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN
5 CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD, AND TO THEN APPROVE THE RESULTING REVISED
6 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT
7

8 **Background:** The 2016 Convention of the Synod adopted resolutions which require its member Districts
9 to amend the language in their governing documents regarding the District's relationship
10 to the Synod, asset disposition, and prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional
11 Matters (CCM) in amending such documents. Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements
12 for relationship and asset disposition language. Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior
13 review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod, of any
14 amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the Synod. This requirement has
15 been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of years. However, due to Synod
16 Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new subparagraph [b] under Bylaw
17 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be modified during a convention
18 and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the CCM. Should the CCM not
19 approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of Directors is empowered, after
20 the convention and by the District's Board of Directors two-thirds vote, to modify the
21 amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.
22

23 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention
24 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those
25 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2nd Restated
26 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND
27

28 **WHEREAS,** It is also the desire and obligation of The South Dakota District to honor the laws of the
29 State of South Dakota as a non-profit organization in the state (Romans 13:1-5), AND
30

31 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in
32 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's
33 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS
34 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.d), THEREFORE LET IT BE
35

36 **RESOLVED:** That Articles IX, X, and XI of the 2nd Restated Articles of The South Dakota District of The
37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be amended and adopted as follows:
38

39 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

40
41 [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE
42 AMENDMENTS.]
43
44

45 **ARTICLE IX**

46 **RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD**

47
48 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its
49 allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the
50 Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and
51 practiced in the Synod (Art. II), ~~and also the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws~~
52 ~~of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time. All~~

53 provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the
54 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.
55

- 56 ~~A. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of~~
57 ~~this corporation and the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod,~~
58 ~~as may hereafter be amended from time to time, the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws~~
59 ~~of the Synod shall control and govern.~~
60
61 ~~B. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in~~
62 ~~convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~
63

64 [NOTE: The following, formerly point "C," becomes a second paragraph in Article IX.]
65

66 ~~C. Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri~~
67 ~~Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor~~
68 ~~do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.~~
69
70
71

72 **ARTICLE X**

73 **DISSOLUTION**

- 74 ~~A. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is~~
75 ~~terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest~~
76 ~~in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall~~
77 ~~thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation~~
78 ~~covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and~~
79 ~~instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem~~
80 ~~reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the~~
81 ~~foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the~~
82 ~~Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~
83
84 A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the
85 assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with
86 applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may
87 be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.
88
89 B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri
90 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets
91 of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as
92 designated by the District's Board of Directors.
93
94

94 **ARTICLE XI**

95 **AMENDMENTS**

96 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called
97 meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,
98 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United
99 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
100 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the
101 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for
102 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.

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Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:

- A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters.
- B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.
- C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.
- D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters.
- E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters’ requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

**2nd Restated Articles of Incorporation
of The South Dakota District**

of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Revised by the 2018 Convention of the District.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the corporation shall be “THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD.”

ARTICLE II

PERIOD OF DURATION

The period of duration of this corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE III

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OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

This corporation is formed for the following objectives and purposes:

- A. To unite in a corporate body the congregations, and ordained and commissioned ministers of religion, who are members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, situated or residing within the geographical boundaries of The South Dakota District; and to perpetuate the good work of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

- B. To carry out within the South Dakota District the objectives of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (The Synod), to-wit:
 - 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; I Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
 - 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
 - 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
 - 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
 - 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support Synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;
 - 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
 - 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
 - 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
 - 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights; and
 - 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

- C. As a District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to carry out Synodical resolutions affecting the District.

- D. To purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease (as lessee or lessor), pledge, invest in, encumber, exchange, transfer, and dispose of real or personal property.

- 175 E. To borrow money, to issue, sell, or pledge its obligations, notes, bonds, and other evidences
176 of indebtedness, and to mortgage or pledge its property to secure the payment thereof.
- 177 F. To receive by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise any money or other property absolute or in
178 trust.
- 179 G. To have such powers as are permitted to it under the Statutes of the State of South Dakota,
180 as from time to time amended, except that said corporation shall be organized and operated
181 exclusively for the purposes specified in and qualified under Section 501 (C) (3) of the
182 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may hereafter be amended and
183 supplemented, and that said corporation shall operate exclusively for religious, educational,
184 charitable, and other non-profitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to
185 the benefit of any member. This corporation is specifically restricted to engage otherwise
186 than as an insubstantial part of its activities, in activities which are in furtherance of one or
187 more of the exempt purposes set out for such exempt organizations under the Internal
188 Revenue Code.

189

ARTICLE IV

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MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE

- 191 A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the congregations
192 and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—
193 Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.
- 194
- 195 B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish is
196 entitled to two votes: one cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. These
197 delegates shall be accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The
198 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the District.
- 199
- 200 C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who are
201 members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory delegates. Advisory
202 delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if appointed, and to voice
203 in the District Convention. Advisory delegates are expected to attend the District
204 Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

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ARTICLE V

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MEETINGS

- 209 A. An annual meeting of the members shall be held as may be provided by the Bylaws.
210
- 211 B. This corporation shall have a District Convention, in the years prescribed by the
212 Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The District
213 Convention may be considered an annual meeting. District Conventions are the
214 principal legislative assemblies, which amend the District's Articles of Incorporation
215 and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle
216 appropriate appeals.
- 217
- 218 C. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Synod or,
219 if a meeting is necessary or advisable under South Dakota state law, as provided in
220 this corporation's Bylaws.

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ARTICLE VI

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: OFFICERS

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A. The Board of Directors, of not less than three, shall be constituted as specified in the Bylaws and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws of this corporation.

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B. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents as specified by the Bylaws of this corporation, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as Bylaws may identify and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws.

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C. The duties of officers and directors and such other regulations and prohibitions regarding the qualifications of officers, as may be deemed necessary or expedient are or may be provided for in the Bylaws.

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D. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which may exercise all the powers granted it in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of said corporation and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings assembled.

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ARTICLE VII

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INDEBTEDNESS: LIABILITY

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A. The highest amount of indebtedness which this corporation shall incur shall in no event exceed the value of the assets owned by this corporation.

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B. All indebtedness contracted by this corporation shall be made and concurred in by the President and Treasurer of this corporation, and the President and Secretary of this corporation shall make all conveyances of real estate, and shall execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by this corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of this corporation.

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C. Private property of the members of this corporation shall not be subject to the payment of the corporate debts but shall be exempt from all liability therefore.

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ARTICLE VIII

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BYLAWS

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A. The Constitution of the Synod shall be a part of this corporation's Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the Bylaws of this corporation.

- 260 B. This corporation may adopt additional Bylaws and such rules and regulations for its
261 own conduct as are not in conflict with these Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the
262 State of South Dakota, or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.
263 These Bylaws and regulations and any subsequent changes shall be submitted to the
264 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval.
265
- 266 C. Such additional Bylaws shall be adopted, altered, amended or repealed by a majority
267 vote of the voting delegates present in the District Convention or at any special District
268 meeting. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative
269 assemblies for amendment of the Bylaws.
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ARTICLE IX

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RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

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276 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its
277 allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the
278 Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and
279 practiced in the Synod (Art. II). All provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and
280 Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the
281 Synod in convention.
282

283

284 Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
285 Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they
286 represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.
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ARTICLE X

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DISSOLUTION

- 290 A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the
291 assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with
292 applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may
293 be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.
294
- 295 B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri
296 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets
297 of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as
298 designated by the District's Board of Directors.
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ARTICLE XI

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AMENDMENTS

303 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called
304 meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,

305 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United
306 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
307 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the
308 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for
309 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.
310

311 Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:

312 A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt
313 a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote
314 at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod's
315 Commission on Constitutional Matters.

316 B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the
317 proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to
318 each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before
319 the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.

320 C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also
321 be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.

322 D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which
323 members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the
324 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

325 E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is
326 contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or
327 bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on
328 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the
329 adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with
330 the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

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Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **OVERTURE: 1-12**

2 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA
3 DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
4

5 **RATIONALE:** Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters
6 (CCM) of the Synod, of any amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the
7 Synod. This requirement has been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of
8 years. However, due to Synod Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new
9 subparagraph [b] under Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be
10 modified during a convention and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the
11 CCM. Should the CCM not approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of
12 Directors is empowered, after the convention and by the District Board of Directors two-
13 thirds vote, to modify the amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.
14 This prior review and approval of the District's bylaws by the CCM is clarified in the
15 proposed changes to Section VI (Amendments) of these bylaws. As the CCM did its prior
16 review of Section VI of the District's bylaws, the Commission found other details in our
17 bylaws that they recommended be changed. These are largely issues of nomenclature,
18 which this Convention must now consider.
19

20 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention
21 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those
22 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2nd Restated
23 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND
24

25 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in
26 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's
27 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS
28 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.c), THEREFORE LET IT BE
29

30 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
31 amended and adopted as follows:
32

33 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]
34

35 **BYLAWS GOVERNING THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**

36 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

37 **I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

38 1.01 Membership

39 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation of the
40 District and shall be the following:

- 41 a. The President who shall be a ~~pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.
42 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers of the Synod.
43 c. The Secretary who shall be a ~~pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.

- 44 d. The Treasurer who shall be a layman
- 45 e. Two additional laymen from the District at Large.
- 46 1.03 Parish Limitations
- 47 a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more congregations who
48 are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- 49 1.05 Succession to Office
- 50 a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First Vice-
51 President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office only once after
52 having served one full term.
- 53 b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of office.
- 54 1.07 Vacancies
- 55 a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be a member
56 of a voting congregation of the District; or he no longer resides within the geographic
57 boundaries of the District.
- 58 b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a majority
59 of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy shall
60 be appointed to the unexpired term of his predecessor in office.
- 61 1.11 Organization
- 62 a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such
63 other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 64 1.15 General Duties
- 65 a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri
66 Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise all the powers
67 granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of
68 said corporation, and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings
69 assembled.
- 70 1.17 Duties of Officers
- 71 a. The President shall perform the duties as prescribed in Section II, 2.05 of these Bylaws.
- 72 b. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of District Conventions for the permanent
73 records of the District and shall perform such other duties as are in keeping with his office.
74 He, together with the President, shall make and concur in conveyances of real estate, and
75 execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise
76 release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said
77 corporation.

78 c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all monies of the
79 District in keeping with sound modernized accounting procedures. He, together with the
80 President, shall make and concur in all indebtedness contracts by the District. The
81 Treasurer shall confer with the Business Manager of the Board on all fiscal transactions
82 of the District and the Synod.

83 d. Additional duties and guidelines not inconsistent herewith shall be prescribed and
84 provided by the Board of Directors.

85 1.21 Meetings

86 a. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four times a year. A majority of the Board
87 shall constitute a quorum, provided that all members have been duly notified as to the
88 time and place of the meeting. Generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure
89 administered in Christian love shall prevail.

90 1.25 Responsibility

91 a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the District for its official actions and shall
92 render a report of its activities to the District Convention or as often as the District may call
93 upon it to do so.

94 b. The Board of Directors shall consult and plan with the Executive Secretary regarding all
95 matters of program development, especially in the area of missions, stewardship and
96 education, and the Business Manager regarding financial development.

97 c. The setting of the budget shall be done by the Board of Directors taking into consideration
98 the recommendations of the Planning Process of the District.

99

100

101 1.27 Relationship with Synod

102 a. Where operating committees exist they shall cooperate with the respective Board of the
103 Synod and ordinarily shall be represented at their conferences.

104

105 **III. DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

106 2.01 Office

107 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.

108 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod, the
109 following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)

110 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District. He shall
111 be responsible for:

- 112 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, the work of all
113 committees and personnel of the District.
- 114 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction with the
115 Treasurer.
- 116 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any, of
117 property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages
118 and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said corporation, in conjunction
119 with the Secretary.
- 120 b. Counseling The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the ministry
121 to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.
- 122 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments affecting the
123 church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our day.
- 124 d. Representation The District President should regard himself as the representative
125 spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and whenever the
126 opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life in the District may be
127 given.
- 128 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

129 2.07 Election

- 130 a. His election shall conform to Section V of these Bylaws. The District Board of Directors shall
131 present his Diploma of Election. His term of office shall be three years. He may succeed
132 himself without limitation as to terms.

133

134 2.09 Vacancy in Office

- 135 a. If the President is unable to serve because of illness or disability, or should he decline the
136 Diploma of Election offered pursuant to his election, the duties of his office shall be assumed
137 by the First Vice-President, as herein provided. Disability or illness sufficient to cause a
138 vacancy shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 139 b. In the event of vacancy as defined herein, the First Vice-President shall immediately assume
140 the duties of the President on a part-time basis. If the unexpired term of the President is
141 more than a calendar year and the vacancy is filled by the First Vice-President who was
142 elected to his office, the same Vice-President may elect to resign his pastorate and become
143 full-time President. In all other cases, the Vice-President assuming the duties of the Office
144 of the President shall serve on a part-time basis until the next regular Convention of the
145 District, when a full-time President shall be elected to the unexpired term.

146 2.11 Salary

- 147 a. The initial salary of the President shall be set by the Convention on the recommendation of
148 the Board of Directors.

149 b. The Board of Directors shall make an annual review of the salary and compensation and
150 may adjust the same.

151 2.15 Miscellaneous

152 a. The Board of Directors shall determine the extent of vacation, leaves of absences and such
153 activities of the President as are not specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod
154 and the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of this corporation.

155 **III. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

156 3.01 Appointment and Responsibility

157 a. The Executive Secretary of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors with the
158 approval of the then District President, to be its Executive Officer, and as such shall be under
159 its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him with a job description and guideline
160 of his duties.

161 3.03 Term of Office

162 a. His term of office shall be for three years, reckoned from the first regular meeting of the
163 Board of Directors, following an election Convention.

164 **IV. BUSINESS MANAGER**

165 4.01 Appointment and Responsibility

166 a. The Business Manager of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors to be its Fiscal
167 Officer, and as such shall be under its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him
168 with a job description and guidelines of his duties.

169 4.03 Term of Office

170 a. His term of office shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors and his performance shall
171 be examined periodically on a merit basis.

172 **V. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

173 5.01 Time of Election and Term of Office

174 a. The President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the two laymen on the
175 Board of Directors shall be elected in the District Convention, ~~following the regular election~~
176 ~~of the officers of the Synod.~~

177 b. All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve for terms of three years or
178 until their successors shall have qualified.

179 5.03 Order of Election

180 a. The order for electing District officers shall be as follows:

181 1. President

- 182 2. Vice-Presidents
- 183 3. Secretary
- 184 4. Treasurer
- 185 5. Two Laymen for Board of Directors
- 186 6. Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors
- 187 7. District Member of Synodical Nominating Committee (as required)
- 188 8. Other committees (as necessary).

189

190 5.05 Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

191 a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following manner:

- 192 1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ~~clergyman~~ ordained minister
193 from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.
- 194 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots
195 for nominating these candidates.
- 196 3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting
197 congregations and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than two months
198 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 199 4. The Secretary of the District together with the Chairman of the Committee on
200 Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the Convention by
201 means of the Convention's manual the names of all ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers who
202 have received at least five nominating votes for the Office of President.

203 b. Candidates for the Office of President

- 204 1. Candidates for the Office of President shall be in each instance the
205 three ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the
206 nominating ballots of the congregations.
- 207 2. The Secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval
208 in writing, within 10 days, for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot and indicate
209 willingness to serve if elected.
- 210 3. In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee
211 having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.
- 212 4. In the event of a tie for the third position among the candidates, all names involved in
213 the tie shall be listed as candidates.

214 5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief biographies of
215 the three candidates for President giving adequate information on each candidate. This
216 report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in
217 the District, present position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of
218 ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church
219 affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the office.

220 6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by
221 amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior
222 written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall
223 immediately submit to the Secretary of the District this document and written pertinent
224 information concerning his nominee as detailed in 5.05 b.5.

225

226 c. Election of President

- 227 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President.
- 228 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- 229 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the
230 highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

231 d. Election of Vice-Presidents

232 1. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for nominations for
233 District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on which each
234 voting ~~pastor~~ ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the name of a
235 ~~pastor~~ ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the District. After
236 the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the Convention decides the
237 number of candidates to be placed on the slate election ballot. A minimum of two
238 candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-Presidents. Ballots shall then be
239 distributed and the election of the Vice-Presidents shall proceed without delay.

240 5.07 Election of ~~Counselors~~ Circuit Visitors

241 a. The process for the election of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors by District Conventions and the
242 appointment of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors when vacancies occur shall be the process
243 established by the Bylaws of the Synod, as from time to time promulgated by the Synod and
244 incorporated herein by this reference.

245 5.09 Elections of Other Officers

246 a. Elections of all officers other than District President, Vice-Presidents, and
247 Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors shall be from the slate of candidates developed by the
248 Committee on Nominations or as otherwise specified.

249 b. Names of candidates are to be placed on the slate in alphabetical order without distinctive
250 marks, subject to approval by the Convention. Additional candidates may be placed in
251 nomination by the Convention, such nominations to include the written consent of the
252 nominee to serve.

- 253 c. A majority of all votes cast (disregarding voided ballots) shall be required to elect.
- 254 d. In the event that no candidate receives the required majority vote, balloting shall continue
255 until there is an election, in which case the candidate(s) receiving the smallest number of
256 votes shall be eliminated from the balloting in each instance.
- 257 e. There shall be no balloting during recess or after adjournment.

258 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 259 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held shall be
260 elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall recommend to the
261 Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on Nominations consisting of
262 four ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and five laymen. Additional candidates may be placed in
263 nomination by the Convention. Of these candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot
264 two ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and three laymen.
- 265 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two candidates
266 for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
267 Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession, experience, and place of
268 residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on Nominations and presented to the
269 Convention. The Committee on Nominations shall obtain the consent of persons nominated
270 for the various offices.
- 271 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the respective
272 classifications of ordained ministers or laymen) in the order of the number of votes received
273 by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by the Board of Directors.

274 5.21 Committee on Elections

- 275 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business session of the
276 Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of the Judge of Elections
277 to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes cast, and report without delay the
278 results of the voting to the Convention. The Judge of Elections shall have the right of the
279 floor of the assembly whenever his duties may demand, and he shall have the privilege to
280 appoint his assistants.
- 281 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately, according
282 to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

283 **VI. AMENDMENTS**

284 6.01 How Made

- 285 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have received
286 prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod, and provided they
287 are –
- 288 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and Bylaws
289 of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;
- 290 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

291 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor committee;
292 and

293 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention, provided the resolution is contingent on
294 approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended bylaws become
295 effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on
296 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve
297 the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to
298 comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirement, upon their two-
299 thirds vote.

300 6.03 Former Bylaws

301 a. All Bylaws governing this corporation are herewith repealed and these Bylaws adopted in
302 lieu thereof.

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305
306
307
308
309
310
311

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-13**
- 2 **SUBJECT:** THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHURCH EXTENSION FUND AND LUTHERAN CHURCH
3 EXTENSION FUND
- 4 **WHEREAS,** It is our Christian joy to be a good steward of all of God's gracious gifts: "His master said
5 to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set
6 you over much. Enter into the joy of your master,'" St. Matthew 25:21 (ESV); AND
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota Church Extension Fund (CEF) has faithfully served The South Dakota
8 District since 1907 A.D.; AND
- 9 **WHEREAS,** A number of mitigating circumstances challenge our District's ability to continue to provide
10 a quality church extension ministry on our own, including: increasing regulations upon
11 church extension funds, including filing requirements with the state and the need to
12 purchase banking liability insurance; our CEF assets not being sufficient to approve loan
13 requests exceeding \$600,000; our CEF's limited portfolio of investment options; CEF's
14 need to purchase an appropriate banking computer system to enable investors to have
15 online accounts in a secure website environment; and the pending retirement of Randy
16 Gayken, our SD District Business Manager and CEF manager; AND
- 17 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church Extension Fund – Missouri Synod (LCEF) was formed by the Synod
18 in Convention in 1977 in order to bring the Church Extension Funds of the various Districts
19 of the Synod into one organization of the Synod, providing the administration and the loan
20 and investment products and services Districts cannot afford or provide because of the
21 limited assets the fund has or because of regulations in their states; AND
- 22 **WHEREAS,** LCEF provides a broad portfolio of individual and congregational investor products and
23 ministry services, doing so with high ratings in the industry; AND
- 24 **WHEREAS,** A "Future of the CEF" committee was appointed by the District President, in 2016, to make
25 a recommendation to the District Board of Directors as to whether we should keep our CEF
26 in its current form, or whether we should transfer CEF's loan receivable, investor payables,
27 and net asset balance to Synod's Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to carry out the
28 ministries of church extension in our District. (This committee consisted of Mr. Jim Schnaidt
29 of Menno; Mr. John Mills of Brookings; Mr. Randy Gayken, our District Business Manager;
30 Rev. L. Scott Spiehs of Wolsey, 2nd Vice-President of the District; Rev. Brad Urbach of
31 Pierre; and Rev. Scott Sailer, our District President.); AND
- 32 **WHEREAS,** The "Future of the CEF" committee recommended unanimously that the South Dakota
33 District CEF should consolidate into and become a member District of the LCEF; AND
- 34 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors, at its June 2017 regular meeting, voted
35 unanimously to consolidate our District CEF into LCEF; AND
- 36 **WHEREAS,** The consolidation was finalized on October 15, 2017; THEREFORE BE IT
- 37 **RESOLVED:** That we express our deep appreciation and thanks to all the past District Boards of
38 Directors, CEF Committees, staff, and investors over the past 110 years that made this
39 fund a blessing for all the congregations and schools who received loans from CEF to build
40 or make improvements to their facilities for worship, education and fellowship; AND BE IT
41 FURTHER

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42 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the extraordinary efforts of Randy Gayken and Chad Zinnel,
43 resulting in the smooth transfer of records and accounts from our South Dakota CEF to
44 LCEF; AND BE IT FURTHER

45 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations, schools, and rostered church workers of the District be encouraged
46 to consider the investor products and ministry services of LCEF, as faithful stewards of the
47 resources God has given them; AND BE IT FINALLY

48 **RESOLVED:** That we acknowledge the ministry of LCEF as a valued partner in the Gospel to assist us
49 in proclaiming in our District and throughout the earth, “Behold your God! What help! What
50 hope!”

51

52

Respectfully Submitted,

53

54

55

56

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE:** 1-14
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION
4 CIRCUITS AND THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF SAME
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist of . . . 7 to 20 member
7 congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to
8 10,000; AND
9
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where communicant
11 membership is taken into account; AND
12
- 13 **WHEREAS,** The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership” for wherever the
14 Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to
15 Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church, even if there are only
16 two or three gathered together in His name (AC VIII; *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409;
17 Mat 18:20); AND
18
- 19 **WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of numbers of communicant members, share equally in the
20 authority and power of the Church, that is, the Office of the Keys, and are the possessors
21 of the priesthood and all church power, even if there are only two or three believers in
22 them (*Kirche und Amt*, Part One, Theses IV, VI, VII, Part Two, Thesis VII)
23
- 24 “As visible congregations that still have the Word and the sacraments essentially
25 according to God’s Word bear the name “church” because of the true invisible
26 church of sincere believers that is found in them, so also they possess the power
27 [authority] that Christ has given to His whole church, on account of the true
28 invisible church hidden in them, even if there were only two or three [believers]”
29 (*Ibid*, Part 1, VII), AND
30
- 31 **WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of number of communicant members, are equally members
32 of Synod and District, equally bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod and
33 District, equally obligated to fulfill the requirements of Synodical membership, equally
34 asked to financially support the work of Synod and District, equally called upon to uphold
35 the confessional position of the LCMS, and equally entitled to the benefits of Synodical
36 membership, nor are there any communicant membership requirements stated for
37 member congregations in Synod (LCMS Constitution, Article V, VI, VII, LCMS Bylaws,
38 1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.4.1, 1.3.5, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1); AND
39
- 40 **WHEREAS,** All member congregations of Synod, regardless of number of communicant members,
41 are considered voting members of Synod (LCMS Constitution Article V, LCMS Bylaw
42 1.2.1 (x)); AND
43
- 44 **WHEREAS,** The only individual persons who are members of Synod are “ministers of religion –
45 ordained” and “ministers of religion – commissioned” (LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1(l), 2.6); AND
46
- 47 **WHEREAS,** Communicant members of a congregation are not members of Synod and do not fall
48 under the ecclesiastical authority of District or Synod, but remain under the authority of

- 49 the congregation, nor do the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws or the LCMS Dispute
50 Resolution Process (except for the exceptions specified in Bylaw 1.10.2) hold any
51 authority over individual communicant members of congregations (LCMS Bylaws 1.1.1,
52 1.3.1, 1.10.2); AND
53
- 54 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is
55 inconsistent with our doctrine of the Church (see above); AND
56
- 57 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations, especially in the rural districts of our Synod, are dwindling in
58 numbers of communicant members, yet there are still “two or three” gathered in the name
59 of Christ within them; AND
60
- 61 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is
62 becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts, requiring electoral circuits of
63 ever-increasing geographic size; AND
64
- 65 **WHEREAS,** The increasing geographic distances required to form electoral circuits of at least 1,500
66 communicant members is becoming an obstacle to efficient communication within the
67 circuit, especially with the expectation that electors visit the congregations of the circuit,
68 which could require significant travel, and since many of the older and/or isolated rural
69 members of our congregations do not have email, cell phones, or other means of
70 electronic communication; AND
71
- 72 **WHEREAS,** Close personal and congregational relationships are formed within circuits that greatly
73 promote the stated goals of Bylaw 5.1.1 and these relationships are disrupted whenever
74 there are changes to the formation of the circuit; AND
75
- 76 **WHEREAS,** These personal and congregational relationships often extend to the auxiliaries of Synod
77 (LWML and ILLL) operating within the circuits, which relationships are also disrupted with
78 when there are changes to the formation of circuits; AND
79
- 80 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Bylaws allow all congregations/parishes, regardless of the number of
81 communicant members, equal voice and vote in the nomination and election of the LCMS
82 President and Vice-Presidents (Bylaw 2.12); AND
83
- 84 **WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(b) allows the Synodical President to make exceptions to the requirements of
85 electoral circuits, which has been done in the past and caused much turmoil and dissent
86 within Synod; THEREFORE BE IT
87
- 88 **RESOLVED:** That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the Bylaws
89 be amended to reflect this change; AND BE IT FURTHER
90
- 91 **RESOLVED:** That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated; AND BE IT
92 FURTHER
93
- 94 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 3.1.2 be revised to read:
95

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96 "Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each circuit.",
97 AND BE IT FURTHER
98

99 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaws 3.1.2 (a) and 3.1.2 (b) be eliminated; AND BE IT FINALLY
100

101 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 5.1.3 be added which shall read:
102

103 "A circuit shall consist of from 7 to 20 congregations and, except during a
104 pastoral vacancy in (a) member congregation(s), at least 7 pastors."
105

106
107 Respectfully Submitted by
108

109 St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
110 PO Box 126, Alexandria, SD 57311

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-15**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO DISBAND CIRCUIT D (“HURON CIRCUIT”), ASSIGN ITS CONGREGATIONS TO
4 ADJACENT CIRCUITS, AND RE-LETTER CIRCUITS
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two
7 adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the
8 basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20
9 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from
10 1,500 to 10,000” AND
11
- 12 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that ‘walks
13 together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service,
14 coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational
15 participation in God’s mission” AND
16
- 17 **WHEREAS,** The current configuration of Circuit D (the “Huron Circuit”) was established at the 2009
18 Convention of The South Dakota District (Resolution 1-03) by including Our Savior
19 Lutheran Church in Madison and St. John’s Lutheran Church in Howard, both of former
20 Circuit E (the “Brookings Circuit”) in order to meet or exceed the minimum Synod
21 requirements of an electoral circuit both in numbers of member congregations and
22 confirmed membership; AND
23
- 24 **WHEREAS,** For the 2016 Convention of Synod, The South Dakota District Board of Directors
25 determined that Circuit D (the “Huron Circuit”), which barely met Synod’s requirements
26 for an electoral circuit, and Circuit G (the “Freeman Circuit”), which fell below Synod’s
27 requirements for an electoral circuit, would be combined into one electoral circuit; AND
28
- 29 **WHEREAS,** With the exception of a joint circuit forum of Circuit D and Circuit G, during which the
30 delegates for the 2016 Convention of Synod were elected, these two circuits have had no
31 other joint circuit activity; AND
32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** During the current triennium, some of the congregations of Circuit D actively have
34 reviewed the baptized and confirmed membership of their congregations with the result
35 that their adjusted total memberships have been reduced significantly, consequently
36 dropping the total confirmed membership of Circuit D below the minimums noted in
37 Synod Bylaw 3.1.2(a); AND
38
- 39 **WHEREAS,** With three multiple-point parishes and only one single-point parish within Circuit D, there
40 is a limited number of pastors to participate in Circuit Pastoral Conferences (“Winkels”)
41 and the kind of networking described in Synod Bylaw 5.1.1; AND
42
- 43 **WHEREAS,** While the limited interactions between a select few of the circuit congregations are
44 primarily related to activities of The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)
45 groups, there are no other common geographic, demographic, or commercial influences
46 which generally bring the geographically wide-spread congregations of Circuit D together;
47 AND
48
- 49 **WHEREAS,** The disbanding of Circuit D and the assignment of its congregations to neighboring
50 circuits will provide greater opportunities for the pastors and the congregations to interact

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-16**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE LARGER CIRCUITS**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Districts throughout Synod continue to struggle with Circuit Realignment each convention
6 year; AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** Declining membership and smaller congregations are prevalent throughout the Synod;
9 AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** Smaller and financially distressed congregations, often review their membership numbers,
12 or even create multiple membership categories to reduce the amount they pay for
13 Convention costs; AND
14
15 **WHEREAS,** Synod Conventions continue to increase in expense, and a larger number of delegates
16 costs more than a smaller number of delegates; AND
17
18 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 based purely on the higher end of congregations necessary for
19 Electoral Circuits (20 Congregations of 6,101 Total) we could get close to only 306
20 Electoral Circuits (612 delegates); AND
21
22 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 based purely on the higher end of confirmed membership
23 necessary for Electoral Circuits (1,000 members of 1,609,100) we could get close to only
24 161 Electoral Circuits (322 delegates); AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 there is a maximum and minimum requirement and it can consist
27 either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits (which allows for shorter distanced meetings
28 within visitation circuits); AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** Our sinful nature maybe inclined to do the bear minimum possible, and do the least amount
31 to get by, we should look to be better; THEREFORE BE IT
32
33 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District set an example to other districts to reduce the number of
34 Electoral Circuits trying to be closer to the Maximum requirement range; AND BE IT
35 FURTHER
36
37 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to
38 encourage all Districts to organize their Electoral Circuits based on the least number of
39 Circuits possible; AND BE IT FINALLY
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to
42 encourage all Congregations to maintain only two classifications of membership (Baptized
43 and Communicant).
44

45 Respectfully Submitted,
46
47

48 _____
49 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND
50 Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD
Watertown Circuit Forum

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-17**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO REALIGN INTO LARGER CIRCUITS**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** The Huron Circuit (D) has expressed concerns about disbanding; AND
6
7 **WHEREAS,** The Freeman Circuit (G) (1,410 communicant members) does not have enough
8 membership required for an Electoral Circuit (1,500 communicant members); AND
9
10 **WHEREAS,** An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be
11 determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements:
12 each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an
13 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000; AND
14
15 **WHEREAS,** 54 of 107 Congregations in our District are serving in communities with fewer than 1,000
16 people; AND
17
18 **WHEREAS,** 32 of 107 Congregations in our District are serving in communities with fewer than 500
19 people; AND
20
21 **WHEREAS,** 36 out of 62 Parishes in our District show a decline in membership since 2012; AND
22
23 **WHEREAS,** 6 out of 62 Parishes in our District have average worship attendance less than 50; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** 81 out of 107 Congregations in our District have average worship attendance less than
26 100; AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** 29 out of 62 Parishes in our Beloved South Dakota District have average worship
29 attendance less than 100 (which is the recommended minimum attendance to be able to
30 support a full-time Pastor); THEREFORE BE IT
31
32 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District continue to encourage our small congregations and parishes
33 across the district to be mission outposts to their communities; AND BE IT FURTHER
34
35 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District be organized into 6 Circuits which would be arranged as
36 follows: Circuit A (Black Hills) include Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk; Emmanuel, Creighton
37 and First, Wall; Our Redeemer, Custer and Our Savior's, Hill City; Grace, Deadwood and
38 Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis; Bethesda, Hot Springs; Bethlehem, Rapid City; Our
39 Redeemer, Rapid City; Peace, Rapid City' Zion, Rapid City; St. Paul, Spearfish; St. Paul,
40 Draper and Messiah, Murdo; Our Redeemer, Philip; and St. Peter, Midland and St. John,
41 Norris (18 Congregations with 4,346 Membership)
42
43 Circuit B (Pierre Mitchell) include Emmanuel, Gettysburg; Christ Lebanon; Faith, Pierre;
44 Trinity, Blunt; Holy Cross, Onida; Immanuel, Harrold.; Zion, Presho; Trinity, Reliance; Zion,
45 Chamberlain; Zion, Hamill; Christ, Winner; Trinity, White Lake; St. Paul, Plankinton; Zion,
46 Wessington Springs; Mount Olive, Woonsocket; St. John, Wolsey; Mt. Calvary, Huron; St.
47 John, Gregory; and Zion, Mitchell (19 congregations with 5,260 membership)
48
49 Circuit C (Aberdeen) include Our Savior's, Aberdeen; St. John, Columbia; St. Paul,
50 Aberdeen; St. John, Aberdeen; Trinity, Mansfield; St. Paul, Stratford; Zion, Andover; St.
51 John, Groton; St. John, Britton; St. Paul, Ferney; Concordia, Cresbard; Immanuel, Wecota;
52 St. Paul, Leola; Messiah, Redfield; Redeemer, Doland (15 Congregations with 2,794
53 membership)
54

55 Circuit D (Watertown Brookings) include First English, Aurora; Zion, White, Mt. Calvary,
56 Brookings; Peace, Brookings; Redeemer, Flandreau; Our Savior's, Wilmot; Trinity, Corona;
57 Emanuel, Milbank; Bethlehem, Milbank; St. John, Revillo; Mt. Olive, Watertown; St. John,
58 Howard; Our Savior, Madison; Emanuel, Sisseton; Zion, Waubay; and St. Peter,
59 Wentworth, (16 Congregations with 3,338 membership)
60

61 Circuit E (Sioux Falls Yankton) include Blessed Redeemer, Brandon; Christ, Sioux Falls;
62 Trinity, Sioux Falls; Faith, Sioux Falls; Lord of Life, Sioux Falls; Memorial, Sioux Falls; Our
63 Redeemer, Sioux Falls; Resurrection, Sioux Falls; Zion, Sioux Falls; Risen Savior, Tea;
64 Trinity, Hartford; Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes; Concordia, Vermillion; St. John's, Yankton;
65 Peace, Alcester; Zion, Hurley; First English, Centerville; Immanuel, Menno; St. Paul,
66 Scotland; (19 Congregations with 5,478 membership)
67

68 Circuit F (Armour Freeman) include St. Peter, Emery; Faith, Parkston; Trinity, Spencer; St.
69 Martin, Alexandria; St. John, Emery; Immanuel, Dimock; Redeemer, Armour; Zion,
70 Delmont; Emmaus, Tripp; Trinity, Fairfax; St. John, Wagner; St. John, Tyndall; Martinus,
71 Utica; Zion, Avon; Our Savior, Springfield; Bethesda, Marion; First Parker; St. John,
72 Montrose; Zion, Canistota; St. Paul, Freeman (20 Congregations with 2,832 membership);
73 AND BE IT FINALLY
74

75 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District continue to encourage each of these Circuits to identify a
76 new mission plant in the District.
77

78 Respectfully Submitted,
79

80 _____
81 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND
82 Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-18**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE SOLE PLACEMENTS FROM SEMINARIES**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** The number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary
6 candidates; AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** Due to retirements and demographics, there is no immediate change to these numbers for
9 the foreseeable future; AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Word and sacraments are already being delivered by a called and ordained servant of
12 the Word in those congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor; AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** (AC V & AC XIV) the Word and sacraments are not being delivered to the same degree in
15 a strictly vacant congregation; AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** The filling of vacancies (Romans 10) puts undue hardships on the families and
18 congregations of those vacancy pastors filling said vacancies; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** Serving in a congregation as a sole pastor will better prepare a man for future service to
21 the Church at large as opposed to specialized ministry in a larger congregation; AND
22
23 **WHEREAS,** Having vacancies in a Circuit causes stress and fear in other congregations, as Circuits
24 continue to walk together for the mission of Christ; AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** Winkels should be a place to help and support pastors handling new and different parts of
27 the ministry; THEREFORE BE IT
28
29 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District encourage winkels to be faithful, open, and supportive
30 places for pastors to find help and encouragement in their various struggles; AND BE IT
31 FURTHER
32
33 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District encourage congregations who are in need of additional
34 pastoral staff to consider the needs of congregations in need of a pastor; AND BE IT
35 FINALLY
36
37 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to instruct
38 the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, to give preference to those
39 congregations calling sole pastors from the Seminary as opposed to those congregations
40 calling an assistant/associate pastor from the Seminary.

41
42 Respectfully Submitted,
43
44

45 _____
46 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND
Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-01**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS, PROFESSIONAL CHURCH
4 WORKERS, AND LAY PEOPLE TO LOOK TO GOD AND POINT OTHERS TO HIM FOR
5 HIS HELP AND HOPE
6
7 **WHEREAS,** The theme of the 61st Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod has been chosen to urge congregations, schools, ministries, church
9 workers, and individual members of our congregations to take to heart God’s message to
10 “Behold Your God!”, who is our Help and Hope (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** The fields “are already white unto harvest,” as people outside the Church, near and far, do
13 not trust God for the help and hope He wishes to give to all people, especially for the
14 forgiveness and salvation He provides through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 4:35, NKJV);
15 AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** “Whoever believes in [God’s Son, Jesus Christ] is not condemned, but whoever does not
18 believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son
19 of God” (John 3:18); AND
20
21 **WHEREAS,** The Gospel is the “power of God for salvation for everyone who believes”
22 (Romans 1:16); AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Besides needing the Gospel, our neighbors near and far have a great need for food,
25 clothing, shelter, and other human necessities, and may lack the resources to obtain them;
26 AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** God’s people who have been shown mercy are to show mercy to fellow Christians and to
29 others in their time of need through sacrificial, joy-filled acts of kindness and through
30 sharing the Good News of their Savior (Galatians 6:10; II Corinthians 1:3-5, 5:17-20,
31 8:1-5); AND
32
33 **WHEREAS,** Unbelievers can meet the living God in the person of a transformed believer and his or her
34 modest examples of Christian faithfulness, kindness, and forgiveness
35 (Matthew 5:16; I Peter 2:12); AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** The Church is God’s “Zion” today, who, while continually beholding and trusting its gracious
38 God, is to encourage our neighbors near and far to also behold Him for His salvation
39 through the Cornerstone of Zion, Jesus Christ, and the manifold other blessings He wishes
40 to provide for them (Isaiah 28:16, 49:6, 60:1-3; Ephesians 2:19-22;
41 Hebrews 12:22); AND
42
43 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of our Synod states, “In grateful response to God’s grace and
44 empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran
45 Church – Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed
46 within our churches, communities, and the world,” and our District is the Synod in this place
47 (cf. 2016 Handbook of the Synod, Bylaw 4.1.1.1); THEREFORE BE IT
48
49 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, parish, ministry, and school in The South Dakota District be
50 encouraged to offer at least one weekly Bible study to help lift the eyes of God’s people to
51 “Behold [Their] God!”, as God, through His Word, helps them to “grow in the grace and
52 knowledge of [their] Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18); AND BE IT FURTHER
53

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54 **RESOLVED:** That individual circuits or adjoining circuits in the District endeavor to equip God’s people
55 to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed by utilizing Synod and
56 District resources such as the “Everyone His Witness” workshop, LCMS Rural and Small
57 Town Mission (RSTM), and the District’s Outreach Service Area, coordinating such efforts
58 through the Executive Secretary of the District; AND BE IT FINALLY
59

60 **RESOLVED:** That congregations and schools in the District be encouraged to apply for a District Harvest
61 Grant to be used for events and ministries that reach out into their communities and
62 contexts with “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).
63

64 Respectfully Submitted,
65
66

67 _____
68 The Board of Directors of
69 The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-05**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT NON-CHURCH WORKER ATTENDANCE IN THE
4 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
5
6 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District already very generously supports students pursuing church work
7 degrees; AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** The Lord has called people of various vocations into His Kingdom; AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Scriptures teach that the Lord gives differing gifts to be used in the church, the body
12 of Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27); AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** We acknowledge the need for well trained lay people for service in the church and world;
15 AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** The Concordia University System (CUS) institutions offer a large number of non-church
18 worker degrees to the aforementioned ends; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** The education and opportunities provided at our Universities help to equip lay people for
21 service not only in the world, but in their future congregations and church at large; AND
22
23 **WHEREAS,** The District already supports non-church work members attending state schools through
24 our campus ministries; AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** There is no support for non-church work students at CUS institutions from the District; now,
27 THEREFORE BE IT
28
29 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District continue to encourage the young
30 people of our congregations to consider attending a Concordia to prepare for church work
31 to meet the great need in the church; AND BE IT FURTHER
32
33 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the South Dakota District youth to consider a CUS school for
34 non-church work degrees; AND BE IT FURTHER
35
36 **RESOLVED:** That congregations seek to encourage attendance and also seek to support their own (and
37 other) students attending a CUS university regardless of church or non-church work paths,
38 AND BE IT FINALLY
39
40 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of the South Dakota District seek a means to provide a district
41 scholarship for members of district congregations who are and will be attending a
42 Concordia University System institution for non-church work degrees.
43

44 Respectfully Submitted,
45

46 _____
47 Circuit I
48 Yankton Circuit

- 1 **OVERTURE:** 2-06
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION AND ENCOURAGE
4 LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE
5
6 **WHEREAS,** God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he
7 will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** The Lord Jesus Christ invited children to come into his presence when he said, “Let the
10 children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark
11 10:14); AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church we must have and maintain Christian
14 schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain
15 Christian Schools,” 1524); AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a strong tradition of assisting parents
18 in their God-given vocation of educating their children through Lutheran schools; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** LCMS schools (early childhood centers, elementary, and high schools) are the second-
21 largest parochial educational system in the United States, operating 1,150 early childhood
22 centers, 793 elementary schools, 86 high schools, and 3 international high schools (Hong
23 Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi), serving students and their families; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in The South Dakota District operate 17 early childhood centers/preschools,
26 4 elementary schools, and 2 high schools, all of which provide their students with an
27 excellent educational experience while also faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
28 with students and their families; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) assists schools to become education
31 centers of excellence through the NLSA process and has accredited 802 Lutheran schools
32 in the LCMS: 244 Lutheran early childhood centers, 501 Lutheran elementary schools, and
33 57 Lutheran high schools; AND
34
35 **WHEREAS,** Several Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District have greatly benefitted from
36 completing the NLSA process: Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John’s
37 Lutheran Preschool, Yankton (the first preschool/early childhood center in the District to
38 earn NLSA accreditation); Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran School,
39 Rapid City; AND
40
41 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District that have completed the NLSA process have
42 shown that they excel in providing a quality education while also sharing the Gospel of
43 Jesus Christ, which is demonstrated by Rev. David Schwan and Rev. Paul Winckler, Zion
44 Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, being nominated for the NLSA “School
45 Shepherd” award and Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls being named a “School of
46 Distinction” by NLSA; AND
47
48 **WHEREAS,** Terry Schmidt has faithfully served Lutheran schools in the LCMS as the Associate Director
49 of School Ministry (2003-2013) and the Director of School Ministry (2013-2018), all the
50 while overseeing the National Lutheran School Accreditation process, and plans to retire
51 in June 2018; THEREFORE BE IT
52
53 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention thank God for Terry Schmidt’s love of and
54 dedication to Lutheran education, commend him for his faithful and dedicated service to

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55 Lutheran schools in the District and around the LCMS, and wish him a blessed retirement;
56 AND BE IT FURTHER

57
58 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention recognize the hard work that Lutheran
59 schools in the District have done to earn NLSA accreditation and commend the
60 administrators, faculties, and staffs of Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John's
61 Lutheran Preschool, Yankton; Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran
62 School, Rapid City for achieving National Lutheran School Accreditation; AND BE IT
63 FINALLY

64
65 **RESOLVED:** That all Lutheran early childhood centers, preschools, elementary schools, and high
66 schools in The South Dakota District be encouraged to continue being education centers
67 of excellence and that they continue to share Jesus Christ with their students in Word and
68 deed, and that they consider pursuing National Lutheran School Accreditation as a way to
69 ensure excellence in their schools.

70
71 Respectfully Submitted,

72
73 _____
74 The Board of Directors of
75 The South Dakota District, LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-07**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF**
4 **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, SEWARD, NEBRASKA**
5
6 **WHEREAS,** Since its founding on November 18, 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia
7 University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as
8 an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and
9 world; AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to
12 locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the
13 local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; AND
14
15 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading
16 preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more
17 graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries
18 of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the
21 pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that,
22 historically, each year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual
23 preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those
24 serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** The God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to
27 equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in
28 business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their
29 home and the communities where they reside; AND
30
31 **WHEREAS,** The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by
32 enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate
33 academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school
34 partners and online; AND
35
36 **WHEREAS,** The God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000
37 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith
38 and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these
39 men and women during their educational studies; AND
40
41 **WHEREAS,** The God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of
42 thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers,
43 generous gifts and referral of students; AND
44
45 **WHEREAS,** The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record numbers
46 of undergraduate and graduate students—2,757 in 2016-17. THEREFORE, BE IT
47
48 **RESOLVED:** That the 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
49 Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty
50 God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its
51 students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care; AND BE IT
52 FINALLY
53
54 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to
55 declare November 17, 2019 as a synodwide “Concordia University, Nebraska Sunday,”
56 encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student referrals to

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be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its treasured universities.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District

1 **OVERTURE: 3-04**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE WORK OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL ON NATIVE
4 AMERICAN RESERVATIONS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

5
6 **PREAMBLE:** Since the 1960's The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The South Dakota
7 District have coordinated intentional ministry among the Native American people in South
8 Dakota. Throughout the years several individuals and their families have been influential
9 in Native American ministry in The South Dakota District. Reverend W. Walter Weber was
10 called by the LCMS in 1964 to be its National Indian Ministry Consultant. He established
11 his office first in Pierre, SD and then in 1965 in Sioux Falls, SD. In 1966 Reverend Clark
12 Gies was called by the LCMS and The South Dakota District to be the Coordinator of
13 Religious Activities and Missionary At-Large on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South
14 Dakota. Pastor Gies and his family lived in the town of Pine Ridge during that time.
15 Reverend Gies was called in 1971 to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD and to
16 be Missionary on the Yankton Sioux Reservation where he served until 2002. In 1966
17 Reverend Bill Paepke was assigned as an Indian Ministry Vicar to Ascension Lutheran
18 Church, Rapid City, SD. Reverend Paepke's work among the Native Americans continued
19 in 1968 when he was called to St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, SD and Parmelee, SD to
20 be the pastor and Missionary At-Large on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1970 Larry Belitz
21 was called by The South Dakota District as a Worker-Priest to serve on the Pine Ridge
22 Reservation where he taught school in Pine Ridge. To this day, Larry and his wife, Doris,
23 participate in the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In the late 1980's and early
24 1990's Reverend Tom Zeller of St. John's Lutheran Church, Norris, SD was ministering to
25 Native Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend Zeller requested that The South
26 Dakota District consider calling someone to full-time missionary service on the Rosebud
27 Reservation. In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to
28 Reverend Robert Utecht to be the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native
29 Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1994 Reverend Utecht, along with the help of
30 his wife, Donna, and Larry and Doris Belitz, also began ministering to Native Americans on
31 the Pine Ridge Reservation. Reverend Utecht and his family were familiar with the
32 Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. In the 1970's Reverend Utecht and his family
33 traveled through the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations doing puppet shows for the
34 Native Americans. Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, faithfully served as missionaries
35 to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht's retirement in 2012. In 1997 The South
36 Dakota District called Reverend Andrew Utecht, Robert and Donna's son, to be the full-
37 time missionary to the Native American people on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend
38 Utecht, with the assistance of his wife, Lori, and their children throughout the years,
39 continues to serve on the Rosebud Reservation. In 2012 The South Dakota District called
40 Reverend Albert Sutton to be a part-time missionary to the Pine Ridge Reservation and he
41 works with his team of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and Diane Falin. We
42 thank God for these and many other servants of Christ who have brought the Gospel of
43 Jesus Christ to our Native American neighbors. We also rejoice that the Holy Spirit
44 continues to work through God's Word, as God has promised, to bring our Native American
45 neighbors to faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

46
47 **WHEREAS,** The theme for the 61st Convention of The South Dakota District is "Behold Your God! What
48 Help! What Hope!" (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15) and was chosen to urge
49 congregations, schools, ministries, professional church workers, and individual members
50 of our congregations to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their communities through
51 Word and deed; AND

52

53 **WHEREAS,** Jesus instructs his disciples, “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring
54 them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd”
55 (John 10:16); AND

56
57 **WHEREAS,** Jesus also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all people throughout the
58 world when he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go
59 therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and
60 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
61 And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:18-20); and “Thus it
62 is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that
63 repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
64 beginning from Jerusalem,” (Luke 24:46-47); and St. John, describing his vision of eternal
65 life, says, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from
66 every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
67 before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out
68 with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
69 (Revelation 7:9-10); AND

70
71 **WHEREAS,** Beginning in the 1960’s, intentional efforts were made by The Lutheran Church—Missouri
72 Synod, The South Dakota District, and individual congregations to share the Gospel of
73 Jesus Christ with Native Americans on the Native American reservations of South Dakota;
74 AND

75
76 **WHEREAS,** In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to Reverend Robert
77 Utecht to serve as the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native Americans on
78 the Rosebud Reservation and Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, served as faithful
79 missionaries to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht’s retirement in 2012; AND

80
81 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation continues to this
82 day through the faithful ministry of Reverend Andrew Utecht whom The South Dakota
83 District Board of Directors called to serve as a District missionary in 1997, and whose
84 ministry is assisted by his wife, Lori, and their children; AND

85
86 **WHEREAS,** November 2018 will mark the 25th anniversary of District funded mission work on the
87 Rosebud Reservation and July 2017 was the 20th anniversary of Reverend Andrew
88 Utecht’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation; AND

89
90 **WHEREAS,** In 1994 Reverend Robert Utecht, with the help of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz and
91 others, also began sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Pine Ridge Reservation; AND

92
93 **WHEREAS,** In 2012 The South Dakota District Board of Directors called Reverend Albert Sutton to be
94 a part-time missionary to continue the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and
95 he works along with his ministry team: Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and
96 Diane Falin; AND

97
98 **WHEREAS,** 2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of the current District funded mission work on the
99 Pine Ridge Reservation; AND

100
101 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations in The South Dakota District support the District’s mission work
102 among the Native Americans with their continual prayers, with their financial support, and
103 by sending mission teams to assist in the missionary efforts; THEREFORE BE IT

104

105 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the missionary efforts of all of those in The South Dakota District
106 who have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Native American neighbors; AND BE
107 IT FURTHER

108
109 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, professional church workers, and lay people of the District be
110 encouraged to continue their support of the mission work on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge
111 Reservations through their corporate and individual prayers, through corporate and
112 individual financial gifts, and through personal missionary efforts; AND BE IT FINALLY

113
114 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution, the assembly will express its thanks to God
115 for His blessings of faith and salvation in Jesus Christ made available to our Native
116 American neighbors through the mission efforts of the Rosebud and Pine Ridge
117 Reservation missions and missionaries by rising to sing “Christ the Eternal Lord” (LSB
118 #829, Stzs. 1, 3):

119
120 Christ the eternal Lord,
121 Whose promise here we claim,
122 Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
123 On all who name Your name;
124 With thankfulness and praise
125 We stand before Your throne,
126 Intent to serve You all our days
127 And make Your glory known.

128
129 Christ the redeeming Son,
130 Who shares our human birth,
131 And by His death salvation won
132 For ev’ry child of earth;
133 Inspire our hearts, we pray,
134 To tell Your love abroad,
135 That all may honor Christ today
136 And follow Him as Lord.

137
138 Respectfully Submitted,

139
140 _____
141 The Board of Directors of
142 The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-06**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO COMMEND AND ENCOURAGE THE WORK OF LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE**
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our gracious heavenly Father “richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support
6 this body and life,” (Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, Explanation of the First Article of the
7 Apostles Creed); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** David exhorts God’s people to find comfort and refuge in the Lord during times of disaster
10 when he writes, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes
11 refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by”
12 (Psalm 57:1); AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Disaster Response serves as a Christian faith-based emergency relief and long-
15 term assistance effort following natural and man-made disasters, engaging LCMS
16 congregations, districts, recognized service organizations, and partner churches in a
17 shared ministry of mercy, with an objective of opening doors to the proclamation of the
18 Gospel; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in The South Dakota District have benefitted greatly from the work of LCMS
21 Disaster Response, namely Zion Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs and Zion Lutheran
22 Church, Delmont; AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Scott Spiehs, Senior Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wolsey, Zion
25 Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs, and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Woonsocket
26 faithfully serves the District as its Disaster Response Coordinator; AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Spiehs conducted a Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) at Faith Lutheran
29 Church, Pierre in September 2017 to prepare and train people to respond to disasters and
30 emergencies when they happen in their communities and elsewhere; AND
31
32 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District was one of 21 LCMS districts to receive a disaster response
33 trailer as the result of a generous gift to LCMS Disaster Response from The Lutheran
34 Women’s Missionary League (LWML), which is fully equipped and ready to assist in clean
35 up and relief efforts when needed; AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** The opportunity to point those who are suffering to the comfort of the Gospel and to make
38 use of financial resources to bring physical and emotional healing to disaster victims has
39 never been greater; THEREFORE BE IT
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention give thanks to God for the work of LCMS
42 Disaster Response nationally and internationally, for the generous gift of the disaster-
43 response trailer from the LWML, and for the faithful disaster response ministry in The South
44 Dakota District by Rev. Scott Spiehs; AND BE IT FINALLY
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations, schools, professional church workers, and lay people of The South
47 Dakota District be encouraged to continue to support the mercy work of LCMS Disaster
48 Response with prayer for all those who suffer from all forms of disasters, to participate in
49 LERT training as able, to offer volunteer assistance when the opportunity arises, and to
50 provide financial resources to assist those in need, as we show Christ’s love through our
51 acts of mercy.
52
53
54

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Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District, LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-07**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF REVEREND DAVID WARNER AND REVEREND
4 DANIEL JASTRAM THROUGH TOGETHER IN MISSION
5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Son of Man came into the world to seek and to save that which is lost (cf. Luke 19:10).
7 He did this so that people should not perish but have eternal life (cf. John 3:16); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** Through His Word, Jesus promised that His followers would be His witnesses to the end
10 of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig is serving as a missionary to the people of Siberia and is retiring
13 from his missionary activities and his retirement leaves open the opportunity to assist other
14 missionaries through the Together In Mission Program (TIM); AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The past eight conventions of the South Dakota District have resolved that the
17 congregations of the South Dakota District collectively support the missionary activities of
18 Amy (Hartwig) Kashenov and Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig through TIM over and above their
19 regular mission offerings enabling them to serve as witnesses to the Gospel; AND
20
21 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Southeast Asia, and Pastor
22 David Warner, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Spain have ties to the South Dakota
23 District; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
24
25 **RESOLVED:** That this convention express its thanks to God for Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig's service to
26 the people of Siberia and to the many congregations of The South Dakota District for their
27 support of him through the Together in Mission Program; AND BE IT FURTHER
28
29 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations adopt as new recipients of TIM offerings for the next triennium the
30 following: Reverend David Warner, missionary to Spain and Reverend Daniel Jastram,
31 missionary to Southeast Asia; AND BE IT FURTHER
32
33 **RESOLVED:** That the offering amount given by the congregations of the South Dakota District for the
34 Together in Mission Program be divided equally between Reverend Jastram and Reverend
35 Warner. If either of these missionaries should retire or return from the mission field, the
36 balance of the TIM funds will go to support the worker remaining in the mission field. If
37 both of these workers should retire or return from the mission field The South Dakota
38 District Board of Directors will determine a new missionary to support for the remainder of
39 the triennium; AND BE IT FINALLY
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember these
42 missionaries in corporate and individual prayers and to provide an annual commitment to
43 the Together in Mission Program along with their regular support of District and Synod
44 missions.
45

46 Respectfully Submitted,
47

48 St. Paul Lutheran Church
49 Spearfish, South Dakota
50

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- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-08**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TOGETHER IN MISSION SUPPORT TO REVEREND DAN JASTRAM
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord has given His church the mission to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins
6 in His name to all nations (Luke 24:47); AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** The congregations of the South Dakota District have been faithful in this ministry by
9 supporting a Together In Mission (TIM) missionary; AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Together In Mission missionary has always had South Dakota connections; AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** The father of Reverend Dan Jastram served in Gettysburg, South Dakota and Dan himself
14 lived in Gettysburg; AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** Dan's mother and sister are members of Messiah Lutheran Church, Redfield, South
17 Dakota; AND
18
19 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Dan Jastram has visited over forty (40) congregations in the South Dakota
20 District; AND
21
22 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Dan Jastram is serving in Japan and East Asia to carry out our Lord's command
23 to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** Japan and East Asia desperately need the Gospel and the freedom Jesus Christ gives;
26 now, THEREFORE BE IT
27
28 **RESOLVED:** That the Congregations of the South Dakota District join Together In Mission (TIM) to
29 support Reverend Dan Jastram as he serves the Lord in Japan and East Asia; AND BE IT
30 FINALLY
31
32 **RESOLVED:** That Reverend Dan Jastram be the official Together In Mission missionary of the
33 Congregations of the South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
34
35 Respectfully Submitted by Messiah Lutheran Church of
36 Redfield, South Dakota by action of its voters' assembly
37 on October 22nd
38
39 Identical Overture submitted by Redeemer Lutheran
40 Church of Doland by action of its voters' assembly on
41 October 22nd

- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-09**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO DESIGNATE THE NEXT TRIENNIUM'S TOGETHER IN MISSION FUNDS TO
4 MISSIONARY THE REVEREND DOCTOR DANIEL JASTRAM
5
6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus tells His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray
7 earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers in to his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-
8 38); AND
9
10 **WHEREAS,** Disciples are made by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:19-20; AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** The difference between seeds that fall upon the good soil and seeds that fall along the path
13 and are snatched away by the evil one is a matter of understanding the Word of God
14 (Matthew 13:19, 23); AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The Ethiopian eunuch was unable to understand the Scriptures because he had no one to
17 guide him (Acts8:31); AND
18
19 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram who has strong ties to the South Dakota District through his wife,
20 Joan, a native of South Dakota, and other family, and is now serving as a missionary on
21 behalf of The Lutheran Church -0 Missouri Synod (LCMS) throughout Asia, based in Tokyo,
22 Japan; AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic mission
25 plan for this area. He coordinates theological education opportunities and supervises and
26 evaluates theological educators throughout Asia. When needed, Daniel teaches courses
27 at Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary, Tokyo; AND
28
29 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram, who in addition to these duties must also now raise his own funding
30 and would benefit greatly from significant continual financial support; AND
31
32 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District resolved at the last convention to support the mission work of
33 the Reverend Alan Ludwig with their Together In Mission fundraising efforts; AND
34
35 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Alan Ludwig (is retiring/has retired) from his work in Siberia; THEREFORE
36 BE IT
37
38 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri
39 Synod designate their Together in Mission support to Pastor Daniel Jastram for this next
40 triennium at the level of up to \$40,000 per year, not to exceed the total amount of the
41 congregation support for Together in Mission.
42

43 Respectfully Submitted,
44

45 _____
46 Christ Lutheran Church
47 Sioux Falls, SD

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1 **RESOLUTION: 1-01 (President’s Report – Convention Workbook, pp. 22-26)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ESTABLISH THE CONVENTION THEME OF “BEHOLD YOUR GOD! WHAT HELP!
4 WHAT HOPE!”

5
6 **WHEREAS,** “Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!” (Isaiah 40:9, 53:2; John 3:14-15) has been
7 chosen as the theme of this 61st Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
8 Church – Missouri Synod; AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** For over one hundred and ten years, the men and women of our beloved South Dakota
11 District have beheld and experienced the great blessings of our faithful God; AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** The devotions, Bible study, and many reports of the convention will reflect upon these
14 blessings extended to the congregations, schools, and ministries of the District; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** Our convention theme will also shape our ministry in The South Dakota District for the
17 next three years; THEREFORE BE IT

18
19 **RESOLVED:** That “Behold your God! What Help! What Hope!” be the overall theme and the underlying
20 spirit of this convention.

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23
24 Respectfully Submitted,

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29 _____
30 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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35 Reverend David Otten

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40 Mr. Gordon Krause

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Mr. Glenn Harnisch

RESOLUTION: 1-02 (Convention Workbook pg. 32)

SUBJECT: TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS

WHEREAS, During the triennium following the 2015 60th Convention of The South Dakota District, the following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—Ministers of Religion—Ordained:

| <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jesse L. Davis | Paul F. Albers | Christopher R. McCarthy |
| Daniel P. Grimmer | Micah L. Bauer | Samuel R. Thole |
| Jason M. Letsche | William L. Cornelius | |
| Matthew T. Resner | Josiah J. Fitch | |
| James M. Wilshusen | Ryan M. Janke | |
| | Jens B. Jenson | |
| | Eric P. Obermann | |
| | Benjamin J. Theiss | |

WHEREAS, During the same triennium, the following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Ministers of Religion—Commissioned:

| <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Christina R. Sereda | | Allison R. Miller |
| Emily B. Smith | | Joshua M. Schmitt |
| Brian M. Weyers | | Britney C. Vercruyse |

WHEREAS, The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That this 61st Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the above individuals as partners in the Gospel; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That we pray God’s richest blessings upon these workers that the Holy Spirit would use them to extend God’s kingdom here on earth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

Mr. Gordon Krause

Mr. Glenn Harnisch

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-03 (President’s Report – Convention Workbook, pp. 44-46)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE PASTORS’ AND TEACHERS’ ANNIVERSARIES,
4 CONGREGATIONAL CENTENNIALS AND 125TH ANNIVERSARIES OF
5 CONGREGATIONS

6
7 **WHEREAS,** Many District pastors and commissioned ministers have been privileged to serve a
8 number of milestone years (Convention Workbook pages 44-46); AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** Seven South Dakota District congregations have celebrated 125th anniversaries and four
11 congregations celebrated their centennials during the past triennium (Convention
12 Workbook, page 44); THEREFORE BE IT

13
14 **RESOLVED:** That we recognize these pastors, commissioned workers, congregational centennials,
15 and 125th anniversaries of congregations; AND BE IT FINALLY

16
17 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this Resolution the assembly will rejoice with these pastors,
18 commissioned workers and congregations by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

19
20 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
21 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
22 Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
23 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
24 (LSB #805)

25
26 Respectfully Submitted,

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32 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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37 Reverend David Otten

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42 Mr. Gordon Krause

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Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-04 (Convention Workbook, pp. 33-34)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REPORT OF CORPORATE DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY
4 THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Paragraph 2.4.2, p. 54 of the “2016 Handbook” of the Synod stipulates that the action of
7 the District Board of Directors approving revised Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions
8 and Bylaws be reported to the District Convention; AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** The Board of Directors has approved the documents of the congregations listed on page
11 34 of the Convention Workbook; THEREFORE BE IT

12
13 **RESOLVED:** That the Convention acknowledge the Board of Directors’ action and the receipt of this
14 report; AND BE IT FINALLY

15
16 **RESOLVED:** That each congregation contemplating the revision of its Constitution, Articles of
17 Incorporation and/or Bylaws is reminded to follow the requirements of the Synod with
18 respect to review of said Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and/or Bylaws.

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20 Respectfully Submitted,

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24 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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28 Reverend David Otten

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32 Mr. Gordon Krause

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36 Mr. Glenn Harnisch
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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-05 (Convention Workbook, pp. 23 and 70)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK CERTAIN SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Chad Zinnel, has served thirteen years as Office Accountant at The South Dakota District
6 Office, Wayne Steensma has served ten years as the District Archivist, Sherree Gayken
7 served thirty-one years as the District Office Custodian, and Susan Bresee has served
8 one-and-a-half years as the District Office Custodian; AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** These servants of God have carried out their work joyfully and faithfully; THEREFORE
11 BE IT

12
13 **RESOLVED:** That the District in Convention thank God for the gifts He gives to all His people for the
14 common good, and that we thank His servants in the South Dakota District Office - Chad,
15 Wayne, Sherree, and Susan – for their good and faithful service.

16
17 Respectfully Submitted,

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21 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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25 Reverend David Otten

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29 Mr. Gordon Krause

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33 Mr. Glenn Harnisch
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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-22, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-06 (Convention Workbook, pages 23 and 71)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK GOD FOR THE 37 ½ YEAR CAREER OF RANDALL L.
4 GAYKEN AS DISTRICT BUSINESS MANAGER

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Randy Gayken began his service to The South Dakota District, Lutheran Church –
7 Missouri Synod on October 28, 1980; AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** As District Business Manager, Mr. Gayken has been a constant, steady, and reliable
10 presence for The South Dakota District over these 37 ½ years through many changes in
11 District leadership, including five District Presidents and four District Executive Secretaries
12 as well as numerous changes in business practices and technology; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Gayken has faithfully and diligently performed his duties as District Business Manager
15 and manager of the South Dakota District Church Extension Fund; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** The District and its leadership, its congregations and schools, and its professional church
18 workers have been greatly blessed by Mr. Gayken's diligent and faithful stewardship and
19 partnership in ministry and mission; AND

20
21 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Gayken will be retiring from service as District Business Manager on May 31, 2018;
22 THEREFORE BE IT

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That we thank Mr. Gayken for his faithful, dedicated service to the District and the support
25 of the mission of Christ over these many years and many changes; AND BE IT FINALLY

26
27 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution the assembly will show its appreciation to Mr.
28 Randy Gayken for his service and thanks to God for His blessings, by rising and singing
29 the Common Doxology.

30
31 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
32 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
33 Praise Him above ye, heav'nly host:
34 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
35 (LSB #805)

36
37 Respectfully Submitted,

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41 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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45 Reverend David Otten

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49 Mr. Gordon Krause

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53 Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-07 (Convention Workbook, page 23)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK GOD AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JULIE PIKE'S
4 SERVICE AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Julie Pike began her service to The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –
7 Missouri Synod on September 17, 1987; AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** As Administrative Assistant, Julie has continuously provided dedicated and faithful service
10 to the District through numerous changes in District and Synod, including five District
11 Presidents and four District Executive Secretaries, with a spirit of patience and joy over 30
12 years; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Julie maintains efficient administration of the duties and responsibilities of her position for
15 the benefit of the Synod and District, her congregations, ordained ministers, commissioned
16 ministers, and church members; AND

17
18 **WHEREAS,** The District and its leadership, its congregations, and its professional church workers have
19 been greatly blessed by Julie's diligent and faithful stewardship and partnership in ministry
20 and mission and Julie continues to be a tremendous blessing to the staff of the District
21 Office and the congregations, schools, and ministries of The South Dakota District;
22 THEREFORE BE IT

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That we thank Julie for her faithful, dedicated service to the District and the support of the
25 mission over these many years and many changes; AND BE IT FINALLY

26
27 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution the assembly will show its appreciation to Mrs.
28 Julie Pike for her service and thanks to God for His blessings, by rising and singing the
29 Common Doxology.

30
31 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
32 Praise Him all creatures here below;
33 Praise Him above ye, heav'nly host:
34 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
35 (LSB #805)

36
37 Respectfully Submitted,

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42 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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46 Reverend David Otten

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50 Mr. Gordon Krause

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53 Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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RESOLUTION: 1-08 (Convention Workbook, pp. 22-26; 82-119)

SUBJECT: TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT, TREASURER’S REPORT, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

WHEREAS, The aforementioned reports and minutes have been submitted to the Convention; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That we accept the Reports and Minutes of the above entities; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That we give thanks and praise to God for the dedicated service of these entities of our beloved South Dakota District.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

Mr. Gordon Krause

Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-09 (Convention Workbook, pp. 47-60)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE WORK OF THE CIRCUIT VISITORS

4
5 **WHEREAS,** The Office of Circuit Visitor continues to be an important position within the structure of
6 our Synod, oftentimes requiring substantial amounts of time and effort; AND

7
8 **WHEREAS,** A number of District pastors have willingly served in this capacity during the past three
9 years; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** These Circuit Visitors have submitted reports to the Convention (Convention Workbook,
12 pages 47-60) which not only inform of Circuit activities but also of dedicated service on
13 the part of these men; THEREFORE BE IT

14
15 **RESOLVED:** That the labors of these men be recognized by The South Dakota District as work well
16 done.

17
18 Respectfully Submitted,

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24 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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28 Reverend David Otten

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32 Mr. Gordon Krause

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Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-10 (President’s Report, Convention Workbook, pp. 22-26)**
2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
4

5 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Scott C. Sailer has provided our District with faithful pastoral leadership
6 during the past triennium; AND
7

8 **WHEREAS,** The District President has shared his thoughts with us of what it means to be “Called Into
9 Partnership: For MERCY” in his Convention report, in his articles in the Lutheran Witness
10 and the District President’s On-Line, in his visitations and preaching in many
11 congregations for special occasions, and in his presence and leadership in many District
12 meetings; THEREFORE BE IT
13

14 **RESOLVED:** That we thank Reverend Sailer for his faithful pastoral leadership; AND BE IT FURTHER
15

16 **RESOLVED:** That we accept our District President’s Report with thanks; AND BE IT FINALLY
17

18 **RESOLVED:** That we give thanks to God for His servant, the Reverend Scott C. Sailer.
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22 Respectfully Submitted,
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27 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman
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32 Reverend David Otten
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37 Mr. Gordon Krause
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42 Mr. Glenn Harnisch

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-11 (Overture 1-11)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND RESTATED ARTICLES OF
4 INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN
5 CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD, AND TO THEN APPROVE THE RESULTING REVISED
6 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT
7

8 **Background:** The 2016 Convention of the Synod adopted resolutions which require its member Districts
9 to amend the language in their governing documents regarding the District's relationship
10 to the Synod, asset disposition, and prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional
11 Matters (CCM) in amending such documents. Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements
12 for relationship and asset disposition language. Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior
13 review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod, of any
14 amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the Synod. This requirement has
15 been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of years. However, due to Synod
16 Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new subparagraph [b] under Bylaw
17 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be modified during a convention
18 and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the CCM. Should the CCM not
19 approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of Directors is empowered, after
20 the convention and by the District's Board of Directors two-thirds vote, to modify the
21 amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.
22

23 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention
24 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those
25 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2nd Restated
26 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND
27

28 **WHEREAS,** It is also the desire and obligation of The South Dakota District to honor the laws of the
29 State of South Dakota as a non-profit organization in the state (Romans 13:1-5), AND
30

31 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in
32 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's
33 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS
34 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.d), THEREFORE LET IT BE
35

36 **RESOLVED:** That Articles IX, X, and XI of the 2nd Restated Articles of The South Dakota District of The
37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be amended and adopted as follows:
38

39 [~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING]

40
41 [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE
42 AMENDMENTS.]
43
44

45 **ARTICLE IX**

46 **RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD**

47
48 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its
49 allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the
50 Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and
51 practiced in the Synod (Art. II), ~~and also the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws~~
52 ~~of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time. All~~

53 provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the
54 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.
55

- 56 ~~A. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of~~
57 ~~this corporation and the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod,~~
58 ~~as may hereafter be amended from time to time, the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws~~
59 ~~of the Synod shall control and govern.~~
60
61 ~~B. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in~~
62 ~~convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~
63

64 [NOTE: The following, formerly point "C," becomes a second paragraph in Article IX.]
65

66 ~~C. Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri~~
67 ~~Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligations of this corporation nor~~
68 ~~do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.~~
69
70
71

72 **ARTICLE X**

73 **DISSOLUTION**

- 74 ~~A. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is~~
75 ~~terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest~~
76 ~~in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall~~
77 ~~thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation~~
78 ~~covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and~~
79 ~~instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem~~
80 ~~reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the~~
81 ~~foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the~~
82 ~~Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~
83
84 A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the
85 assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with
86 applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may
87 be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.
88
89 B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri
90 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets
91 of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as
92 designated by the District's Board of Directors.
93
94

94 **ARTICLE XI**

95 **AMENDMENTS**

96 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called
97 meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,
98 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United
99 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
100 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the
101 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for
102 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.

103
104

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:

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106
107
108

A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

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112

B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.

113
114

C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.

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116
117

D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

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E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

125

2nd Restated Articles of Incorporation

126

of The South Dakota District

127

of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

128

Revised by the 2018 Convention of the District.

129

130

ARTICLE I

131

NAME

132
133

The name of the corporation shall be "THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD."

134

ARTICLE II

135

PERIOD OF DURATION

136

The period of duration of this corporation is perpetual.

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ARTICLE III

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OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

This corporation is formed for the following objectives and purposes:

- A. To unite in a corporate body the congregations, and ordained and commissioned ministers of religion, who are members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, situated or residing within the geographical boundaries of The South Dakota District; and to perpetuate the good work of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

- B. To carry out within the South Dakota District the objectives of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (The Synod), to-wit:
 - 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; I Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
 - 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
 - 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
 - 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
 - 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support Synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;
 - 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
 - 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
 - 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
 - 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights; and
 - 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

- C. As a District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to carry out Synodical resolutions affecting the District.

- D. To purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease (as lessee or lessor), pledge, invest in, encumber, exchange, transfer, and dispose of real or personal property.

- 175 E. To borrow money, to issue, sell, or pledge its obligations, notes, bonds, and other evidences
176 of indebtedness, and to mortgage or pledge its property to secure the payment thereof.
- 177 F. To receive by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise any money or other property absolute or in
178 trust.
- 179 G. To have such powers as are permitted to it under the Statutes of the State of South Dakota,
180 as from time to time amended, except that said corporation shall be organized and operated
181 exclusively for the purposes specified in and qualified under Section 501 (C) (3) of the
182 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may hereafter be amended and
183 supplemented, and that said corporation shall operate exclusively for religious, educational,
184 charitable, and other non-profitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to
185 the benefit of any member. This corporation is specifically restricted to engage otherwise
186 than as an insubstantial part of its activities, in activities which are in furtherance of one or
187 more of the exempt purposes set out for such exempt organizations under the Internal
188 Revenue Code.

189

ARTICLE IV

190

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE

- 191 A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the congregations
192 and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—
193 Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.
- 194
- 195 B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish is
196 entitled to two votes: one cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. These
197 delegates shall be accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The
198 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the District.
- 199
- 200 C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who are
201 members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory delegates. Advisory
202 delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if appointed, and to voice
203 in the District Convention. Advisory delegates are expected to attend the District
204 Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

205

206

207

ARTICLE V

208

MEETINGS

- 209 A. An annual meeting of the members shall be held as may be provided by the Bylaws.
210
- 211 B. This corporation shall have a District Convention, in the years prescribed by the
212 Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The District
213 Convention may be considered an annual meeting. District Conventions are the
214 principal legislative assemblies, which amend the District's Articles of Incorporation
215 and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle
216 appropriate appeals.
- 217
- 218 C. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Synod or,
219 if a meeting is necessary or advisable under South Dakota state law, as provided in
220 this corporation's Bylaws.

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222
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ARTICLE VI

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: OFFICERS

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A. The Board of Directors, of not less than three, shall be constituted as specified in the Bylaws and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws of this corporation.

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B. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents as specified by the Bylaws of this corporation, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as Bylaws may identify and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws.

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C. The duties of officers and directors and such other regulations and prohibitions regarding the qualifications of officers, as may be deemed necessary or expedient are or may be provided for in the Bylaws.

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D. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which may exercise all the powers granted it in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of said corporation and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings assembled.

243

ARTICLE VII

244

INDEBTEDNESS: LIABILITY

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A. The highest amount of indebtedness which this corporation shall incur shall in no event exceed the value of the assets owned by this corporation.

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B. All indebtedness contracted by this corporation shall be made and concurred in by the President and Treasurer of this corporation, and the President and Secretary of this corporation shall make all conveyances of real estate, and shall execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by this corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of this corporation.

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C. Private property of the members of this corporation shall not be subject to the payment of the corporate debts but shall be exempt from all liability therefore.

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ARTICLE VIII

256

BYLAWS

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A. The Constitution of the Synod shall be a part of this corporation's Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the Bylaws of this corporation.

- 260 B. This corporation may adopt additional Bylaws and such rules and regulations for its
261 own conduct as are not in conflict with these Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the
262 State of South Dakota, or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.
263 These Bylaws and regulations and any subsequent changes shall be submitted to the
264 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval.
265
- 266 C. Such additional Bylaws shall be adopted, altered, amended or repealed by a majority
267 vote of the voting delegates present in the District Convention or at any special District
268 meeting. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative
269 assemblies for amendment of the Bylaws.
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ARTICLE IX

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RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

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This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod (Art. II). All provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.

282

283

Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.

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ARTICLE X

289

DISSOLUTION

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A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.

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B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as designated by the District's Board of Directors.

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ARTICLE XI

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AMENDMENTS

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Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,

304

305 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United
306 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—
307 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the
308 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for
309 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.
310

311 Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:

312 A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt
313 a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote
314 at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod's
315 Commission on Constitutional Matters.

316 B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the
317 proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to
318 each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before
319 the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.

320 C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also
321 be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.

322 D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which
323 members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the
324 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

325 E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is
326 contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or
327 bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on
328 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the
329 adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with
330 the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

331 Respectfully Submitted,

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336 _____
337 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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341 _____
342 Reverend David Otten

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346 _____
347 Mr. Gordon Krause

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351 _____
Mr. Glenn Harnisch

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-12 (Overture 1-12)**

2 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA
3 DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
4

5 **RATIONALE:** Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters
6 (CCM) of the Synod, of any amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the
7 Synod. This requirement has been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of
8 years. However, due to Synod Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new
9 subparagraph [b] under Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be
10 modified during a convention and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the
11 CCM. Should the CCM not approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of
12 Directors is empowered, after the convention and by the District Board of Directors two-
13 thirds vote, to modify the amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.
14 This prior review and approval of the District's bylaws by the CCM is clarified in the
15 proposed changes to Section VI (Amendments) of these bylaws. As the CCM did its prior
16 review of Section VI of the District's bylaws, the Commission found other details in our
17 bylaws that they recommended be changed. These are largely issues of nomenclature,
18 which this Convention must now consider.
19

20 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention
21 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those
22 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2nd Restated
23 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND
24

25 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in
26 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's
27 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS
28 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.c), THEREFORE LET IT BE
29

30 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
31 amended and adopted as follows:
32

33 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]
34

35 **BYLAWS GOVERNING THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**

36 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

37 **I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

38 1.01 Membership

39 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation of the
40 District and shall be the following:

- 41 a. The President who shall be a ~~pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.
42 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers of the Synod.
43 c. The Secretary who shall be a ~~pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.

- 44 d. The Treasurer who shall be a layman
- 45 e. Two additional laymen from the District at Large.
- 46 1.03 Parish Limitations
- 47 a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more congregations who
48 are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- 49 1.05 Succession to Office
- 50 a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First Vice-
51 President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office only once after
52 having served one full term.
- 53 b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of office.
- 54 1.07 Vacancies
- 55 a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be a member
56 of a voting congregation of the District; or he no longer resides within the geographic
57 boundaries of the District.
- 58 b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a majority
59 of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy shall
60 be appointed to the unexpired term of his predecessor in office.
- 61 1.11 Organization
- 62 a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such
63 other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 64 1.15 General Duties
- 65 a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri
66 Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise all the powers
67 granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of
68 said corporation, and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings
69 assembled.
- 70 1.17 Duties of Officers
- 71 a. The President shall perform the duties as prescribed in Section II, 2.05 of these Bylaws.
- 72 b. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of District Conventions for the permanent
73 records of the District and shall perform such other duties as are in keeping with his office.
74 He, together with the President, shall make and concur in conveyances of real estate, and
75 execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise
76 release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said
77 corporation.

78 c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all monies of the
79 District in keeping with sound modernized accounting procedures. He, together with the
80 President, shall make and concur in all indebtedness contracts by the District. The
81 Treasurer shall confer with the Business Manager of the Board on all fiscal transactions
82 of the District and the Synod.

83 d. Additional duties and guidelines not inconsistent herewith shall be prescribed and
84 provided by the Board of Directors.

85 1.21 Meetings

86 a. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four times a year. A majority of the Board
87 shall constitute a quorum, provided that all members have been duly notified as to the
88 time and place of the meeting. Generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure
89 administered in Christian love shall prevail.

90 1.25 Responsibility

91 a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the District for its official actions and shall
92 render a report of its activities to the District Convention or as often as the District may call
93 upon it to do so.

94 b. The Board of Directors shall consult and plan with the Executive Secretary regarding all
95 matters of program development, especially in the area of missions, stewardship and
96 education, and the Business Manager regarding financial development.

97 c. The setting of the budget shall be done by the Board of Directors taking into consideration
98 the recommendations of the Planning Process of the District.

99

100

101 1.27 Relationship with Synod

102 a. Where operating committees exist they shall cooperate with the respective Board of the
103 Synod and ordinarily shall be represented at their conferences.

104

105 **III. DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

106 2.01 Office

107 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.

108 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod, the
109 following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)

110 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District. He shall
111 be responsible for:

- 112 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, the work of all
113 committees and personnel of the District.
- 114 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction with the
115 Treasurer.
- 116 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any, of
117 property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages
118 and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said corporation, in conjunction
119 with the Secretary.
- 120 b. Counseling The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the ministry
121 to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.
- 122 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments affecting the
123 church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our day.
- 124 d. Representation The District President should regard himself as the representative
125 spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and whenever the
126 opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life in the District may be
127 given.
- 128 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

129 2.07 Election

- 130 a. His election shall conform to Section V of these Bylaws. The District Board of Directors shall
131 present his Diploma of Election. His term of office shall be three years. He may succeed
132 himself without limitation as to terms.

133

134 2.09 Vacancy in Office

- 135 a. If the President is unable to serve because of illness or disability, or should he decline the
136 Diploma of Election offered pursuant to his election, the duties of his office shall be assumed
137 by the First Vice-President, as herein provided. Disability or illness sufficient to cause a
138 vacancy shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 139 b. In the event of vacancy as defined herein, the First Vice-President shall immediately assume
140 the duties of the President on a part-time basis. If the unexpired term of the President is
141 more than a calendar year and the vacancy is filled by the First Vice-President who was
142 elected to his office, the same Vice-President may elect to resign his pastorate and become
143 full-time President. In all other cases, the Vice-President assuming the duties of the Office
144 of the President shall serve on a part-time basis until the next regular Convention of the
145 District, when a full-time President shall be elected to the unexpired term.

146 2.11 Salary

- 147 a. The initial salary of the President shall be set by the Convention on the recommendation of
148 the Board of Directors.

149 b. The Board of Directors shall make an annual review of the salary and compensation and
150 may adjust the same.

151 2.15 Miscellaneous

152 a. The Board of Directors shall determine the extent of vacation, leaves of absences and such
153 activities of the President as are not specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod
154 and the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of this corporation.

155 **III. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

156 3.01 Appointment and Responsibility

157 a. The Executive Secretary of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors with the
158 approval of the then District President, to be its Executive Officer, and as such shall be under
159 its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him with a job description and guideline
160 of his duties.

161 3.03 Term of Office

162 a. His term of office shall be for three years, reckoned from the first regular meeting of the
163 Board of Directors, following an election Convention.

164 **IV. BUSINESS MANAGER**

165 4.01 Appointment and Responsibility

166 a. The Business Manager of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors to be its Fiscal
167 Officer, and as such shall be under its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him
168 with a job description and guidelines of his duties.

169 4.03 Term of Office

170 a. His term of office shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors and his performance shall
171 be examined periodically on a merit basis.

172 **V. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

173 5.01 Time of Election and Term of Office

174 a. The President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the two laymen on the
175 Board of Directors shall be elected in the District Convention, ~~following the regular election~~
176 ~~of the officers of the Synod.~~

177 b. All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve for terms of three years or
178 until their successors shall have qualified.

179 5.03 Order of Election

180 a. The order for electing District officers shall be as follows:

181 1. President

- 182 2. Vice-Presidents
- 183 3. Secretary
- 184 4. Treasurer
- 185 5. Two Laymen for Board of Directors
- 186 6. Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors
- 187 7. District Member of Synodical Nominating Committee (as required)
- 188 8. Other committees (as necessary).

189

190 5.05 Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

191 a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following manner:

- 192 1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ~~clergyman~~ ordained minister
193 from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.
- 194 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots
195 for nominating these candidates.
- 196 3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting
197 congregations and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than two months
198 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 199 4. The Secretary of the District together with the Chairman of the Committee on
200 Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the Convention by
201 means of the Convention's manual the names of all ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers who
202 have received at least five nominating votes for the Office of President.

203 b. Candidates for the Office of President

- 204 1. Candidates for the Office of President shall be in each instance the
205 three ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the
206 nominating ballots of the congregations.
- 207 2. The Secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval
208 in writing, within 10 days, for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot and indicate
209 willingness to serve if elected.
- 210 3. In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee
211 having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.
- 212 4. In the event of a tie for the third position among the candidates, all names involved in
213 the tie shall be listed as candidates.

214 5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief biographies of
215 the three candidates for President giving adequate information on each candidate. This
216 report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in
217 the District, present position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of
218 ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church
219 affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the office.

220 6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by
221 amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior
222 written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall
223 immediately submit to the Secretary of the District this document and written pertinent
224 information concerning his nominee as detailed in 5.05 b.5.

225

226 c. Election of President

- 227 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President.
- 228 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- 229 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the
230 highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

231 d. Election of Vice-Presidents

232 1. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for nominations for
233 District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on which each
234 voting ~~pastor~~ ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the name of a
235 ~~pastor~~ ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the District. After
236 the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the Convention decides the
237 number of candidates to be placed on the slate election ballot. A minimum of two
238 candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-Presidents. Ballots shall then be
239 distributed and the election of the Vice-Presidents shall proceed without delay.

240 5.07 Election of ~~Counselors~~ Circuit Visitors

241 a. The process for the election of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors by District Conventions and the
242 appointment of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors when vacancies occur shall be the process
243 established by the Bylaws of the Synod, as from time to time promulgated by the Synod and
244 incorporated herein by this reference.

245 5.09 Elections of Other Officers

246 a. Elections of all officers other than District President, Vice-Presidents, and
247 Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors shall be from the slate of candidates developed by the
248 Committee on Nominations or as otherwise specified.

249 b. Names of candidates are to be placed on the slate in alphabetical order without distinctive
250 marks, subject to approval by the Convention. Additional candidates may be placed in
251 nomination by the Convention, such nominations to include the written consent of the
252 nominee to serve.

- 253 c. A majority of all votes cast (disregarding voided ballots) shall be required to elect.
- 254 d. In the event that no candidate receives the required majority vote, balloting shall continue
255 until there is an election, in which case the candidate(s) receiving the smallest number of
256 votes shall be eliminated from the balloting in each instance.
- 257 e. There shall be no balloting during recess or after adjournment.

258 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 259 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held shall be
260 elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall recommend to the
261 Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on Nominations consisting of
262 four ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and five laymen. Additional candidates may be placed in
263 nomination by the Convention. Of these candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot
264 two ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and three laymen.
- 265 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two candidates
266 for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
267 Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession, experience, and place of
268 residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on Nominations and presented to the
269 Convention. The Committee on Nominations shall obtain the consent of persons nominated
270 for the various offices.
- 271 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the respective
272 classifications of ordained ministers or laymen) in the order of the number of votes received
273 by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by the Board of Directors.

274 5.21 Committee on Elections

- 275 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business session of the
276 Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of the Judge of Elections
277 to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes cast, and report without delay the
278 results of the voting to the Convention. The Judge of Elections shall have the right of the
279 floor of the assembly whenever his duties may demand, and he shall have the privilege to
280 appoint his assistants.
- 281 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately, according
282 to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

283 **VI. AMENDMENTS**

284 6.01 How Made

- 285 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have received
286 prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod, and provided they
287 are –
- 288 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and Bylaws
289 of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;
- 290 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

291 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor committee;
292 and

293 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention, provided the resolution is contingent on
294 approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended bylaws become
295 effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on
296 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve
297 the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to
298 comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirement, upon their two-
299 thirds vote.

300 6.03 Former Bylaws

301 a. All Bylaws governing this corporation are herewith repealed and these Bylaws adopted in
302 lieu thereof.

303
304 Respectfully Submitted,

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306 _____
307 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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309 _____
310 Reverend David Otten

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312 _____
313 Mr. Gordon Krause

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315 _____
316 Mr. Glenn Harnisch

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1 **RESOLUTION: 1-13 (Overture 1-13)**

2 **SUBJECT:** THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHURCH EXTENSION FUND AND LUTHERAN CHURCH
3 EXTENSION FUND

4 **WHEREAS,** It is our Christian joy to be a good steward of all of God's gracious gifts: "His master said
5 to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set
6 you over much. Enter into the joy of your master,'" St. Matthew 25:21 (ESV); AND

7 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota Church Extension Fund (CEF) has faithfully served The South Dakota
8 District since 1907 A.D.; AND

9 **WHEREAS,** A number of mitigating circumstances challenge our District's ability to continue to provide
10 a quality church extension ministry on our own, including: increasing regulations upon
11 church extension funds, including filing requirements with the state and the need to
12 purchase banking liability insurance; our CEF assets not being sufficient to approve loan
13 requests exceeding \$600,000; our CEF's limited portfolio of investment options; CEF's
14 need to purchase an appropriate banking computer system to enable investors to have
15 online accounts in a secure website environment; and the pending retirement of Randy
16 Gayken, our SD District Business Manager and CEF manager; AND

17 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church Extension Fund – Missouri Synod (LCEF) was formed by the Synod
18 in Convention in 1977 in order to bring the Church Extension Funds of the various Districts
19 of the Synod into one organization of the Synod, providing the administration and the loan
20 and investment products and services Districts cannot afford or provide because of the
21 limited assets the fund has or because of regulations in their states; AND

22 **WHEREAS,** LCEF provides a broad portfolio of individual and congregational investor products and
23 ministry services, doing so with high ratings in the industry; AND

24 **WHEREAS,** In 2016 the District President appointed a "Future of the CEF" committee to make a
25 recommendation to the District Board of Directors as to whether the District should keep
26 its CEF in its current form, or whether the District should transfer CEF's loan receivable,
27 investor payables, and net asset balance to Synod's Lutheran Church Extension Fund
28 (LCEF) to carry out the ministries of church extension in our District. (This committee
29 consisted of Mr. Jim Schnaidt of Menno; Mr. John Mills of Brookings; Mr. Randy Gayken,
30 our District Business Manager; Rev. L. Scott Spiehs of Wolsey, 2nd Vice-President of the
31 District; Rev. Brad Urbach of Pierre; and Rev. Scott Sailer, our District President.); AND

32 **WHEREAS,** The "Future of the CEF" committee recommended unanimously that the South Dakota
33 District CEF should consolidate into and become a member District of the LCEF; AND

34 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors, at its June 2017 regular meeting, voted
35 unanimously to consolidate our District CEF into LCEF; AND

36 **WHEREAS,** The consolidation was finalized on October 15, 2017; THEREFORE BE IT

37 **RESOLVED:** That we express our deep appreciation and thanks to all the past District Boards of
38 Directors, CEF Committees, staff, and investors over the past 110 years that made this
39 fund a blessing for all the congregations and schools who received loans from CEF to build
40 or make improvements to their facilities for worship, education and fellowship; AND BE IT
41 FURTHER

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

42 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the extraordinary efforts of Randy Gayken and Chad Zinnel,
43 resulting in the smooth transfer of records and accounts from our South Dakota CEF to
44 LCEF; AND BE IT FURTHER

45 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations, schools, and rostered church workers of the District be encouraged
46 to consider the investor products and ministry services of LCEF, as faithful stewards of the
47 resources God has given them; AND BE IT FINALLY

48 **RESOLVED:** That we acknowledge the ministry of LCEF as a valued partner in the Gospel to assist us
49 in proclaiming in our District and throughout the earth, “Behold your God! What help! What
50 hope!”

51

52

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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Reverend David Otten

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Mr. Gordon Krause

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Mr. Glenn Harnisch

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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-14 (Overture 1-14)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD TO ELIMINATE
4 THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION CIRCUITS AND THE
5 COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF SAME

6
7 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist of . . . 7 to 20 member
8 congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to
9 10,000; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where communicant
12 membership is taken into account; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership,” for wherever the
15 Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to
16 Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church, even if there are only
17 two or three gathered together in His name (Matthew 18:20; AC VIII; *Christian*
18 *Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409); AND

19
20 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is
21 becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts, requiring electoral circuits of
22 ever-increasing geographic size; THEREFORE BE IT

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the Bylaws
25 of the Synod be amended to reflect this change; AND BE IT FURTHER

26
27 **RESOLVED:** That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated and that
28 circuits be defined in these terms in the Bylaws of the Synod: “a circuit shall consist of
29 from 7 to 20 congregations and, except during a pastoral vacancy in (a) member
30 congregation(s), at least 7 pastors.”; AND BE IT FINALLY

31
32 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention submit this Resolution to the 2019
33 Convention of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for action.

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35 Respectfully Submitted,

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39 _____
40 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

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44 _____
45 Reverend David Otten

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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Mr. Gordon Krause

Mr. Glenn Harnish

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-15 (Overtures 1-15, 1-16 and 1-17)**
2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO REALIGN CIRCUITS OF SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND ENCOURAGE
4 CONGREGATIONS WITHIN EACH CIRCUIT TO WORK TOGETHER
5

6 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two
7 adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the
8 basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20
9 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from
10 1,500 to 10,000”; AND
11

12 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that ‘walks
13 together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service,
14 coordination, resources, and counsel – all for the sake of greater congregational
15 participation in God’s mission”; AND
16

17 **WHEREAS,** For the benefit of the ministry of the South Dakota District and her circuits, the Huron
18 Circuit petitions the South Dakota District to disband the circuit and assign its
19 congregations to other circuits; THEREFORE BE IT
20

21 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention disband the Huron Circuit and assign its
22 congregations as follows:
23

- 24 • Our Savior Lutheran Church of Madison and St. John’s Lutheran Church of Howard
25 to the Freeman Circuit.
- 26 • Messiah Lutheran Church of Redfield and Redeemer Lutheran Church of Doland to
27 the Aberdeen Circuit
- 28 • Mount Calvary Lutheran Church of Huron, St. John Lutheran Church of Wolsey, Zion
29 Lutheran Church of Wessington Springs, and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church of
30 Woonsocket to the Mitchell Circuit; AND BE IT FURTHER
31

32 **RESOLVED:** That the Circuits of the South Dakota District be identified in the following way, congruent
33 with Synod’s Circuit designations:
34

- 35 • Aberdeen Circuit: Circuit #1
- 36 • Watertown Circuit: Circuit #2
- 37 • Pierre Circuit: Circuit #3
- 38 • Black Hills Circuit: Circuit #4
- 39 • Mitchell Circuit: Circuit #5
- 40 • Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6
- 41 • Sioux Falls Circuit: Circuit #7
- 42 • Yankton Circuit: Circuit #8;

43 AND BE IT FINALLY
44

45 **RESOLVED:** That the District Board of Directors appoint a committee after the 2019 Synodical
46 Convention to:
47

- 48 • Consider demographic realities, travel, and ministry relationships between
49 congregations and within existing circuits; and
- 50 • Bring a plan for circuit alignment for the South Dakota District to the 2021 Convention
51 of the District that recommends visitation circuits which fulfill the requirements to exist
52 as electoral circuits.
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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman

Reverend David Otten

Mr. Gordon Krause

Mr. Glenn Harnisch

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-18 (Overture 1-18)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO DECLINE OVERTURE 1-18 "TO ENCOURAGE SOLE PLACEMENTS FROM
4 SEMINARIES"

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary
7 candidates, and due to retirements and demographics, it is anticipated that need will
8 continue to present a challenge to the Church, the Body of Christ, as a whole into the
9 foreseeable future; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Pastoral vacancies put undue hardship on all pastors filling vacancies, regardless of sole
12 pastorates or team ministries, and hinders effective Word and Sacrament ministry,
13 pastoral care, and evangelism in any ministry setting; THEREFORE BE IT

14
15 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention decline Overture 1-18.
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18 Respectfully Submitted,
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22 _____
23 Reverend Paul Winckler, Chairman
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27 _____
28 Reverend David Otten
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32 _____
33 Mr. Gordon Krause
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37 _____
38 Mr. Glenn Harnisch

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01 (Overture 2-01)**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS, PROFESSIONAL CHURCH
4 WORKERS, AND LAY PEOPLE TO LOOK TO GOD AND POINT OTHERS TO HIM FOR
5 HIS HELP AND HOPE
6
7 **WHEREAS,** The theme of the 61st Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod has been chosen to urge congregations, schools, ministries, church
9 workers, and individual members of our congregations to take to heart God’s message to
10 “Behold Your God!”, who is our Help and Hope (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** The fields “are already white unto harvest,” as people outside the Church, near and far, do
13 not trust God for the help and hope He wishes to give to all people, especially for the
14 forgiveness and salvation He provides through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 4:35, NKJV);
15 AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** “Whoever believes in [God’s Son, Jesus Christ] is not condemned, but whoever does not
18 believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son
19 of God” (John 3:18); AND
20
21 **WHEREAS,** The Gospel is the “power of God for salvation for everyone who believes”
22 (Romans 1:16); AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Besides needing the Gospel, our neighbors near and far have a great need for food,
25 clothing, shelter, and other human necessities, and may lack the resources to obtain them;
26 AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** God’s people who have been shown mercy are to show mercy to fellow Christians and to
29 others in their time of need through sacrificial, joy-filled acts of kindness and through
30 sharing the Good News of their Savior (Galatians 6:10; II Corinthians 1:3-5, 5:17-20, 8:1-
31 5); AND
32
33 **WHEREAS,** Unbelievers can meet the living God in the person of a transformed believer and his or her
34 modest examples of Christian faithfulness, kindness, and forgiveness (Matthew 5:16; I
35 Peter 2:12); AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** The Church is God’s “Zion” today, who, while continually beholding and trusting its gracious
38 God, is to encourage our neighbors near and far to also behold Him for His salvation
39 through the Cornerstone of Zion, Jesus Christ, and the manifold other blessings He wishes
40 to provide for them (Isaiah 28:16, 49:6, 60:1-3; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:22); AND
41
42 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of our Synod states, “In grateful response to God’s grace and
43 empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran
44 Church – Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed
45 within our churches, communities, and the world,” and our District is the Synod in this place
46 (cf. 2016 Handbook of the Synod, Bylaw 4.1.1.1); THEREFORE BE IT
47
48 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, parish, ministry, and school in The South Dakota District be
49 encouraged to offer at least one weekly Bible study to help lift the eyes of God’s people to
50 “Behold [Their] God!”, as God, through His Word, helps them to “grow in the grace and
51 knowledge of [their] Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18); and BE IT FURTHER
52
53 **RESOLVED:** That individual circuits or adjoining circuits in the District endeavor to equip God’s people
54 to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed by utilizing Synod and

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55 District resources such as the “Everyone His Witness” workshop, LCMS Rural and Small
56 Town Mission (RSTM), and the District’s Outreach Service Area, coordinating such efforts
57 through the Executive Secretary of the District; and BE IT FINALLY
58

59 **RESOLVED:** That congregations and schools in the District be encouraged to apply for a District Harvest
60 Grant to be used for events and ministries that reach out into their communities and
61 contexts with “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).
62

63 Respectfully Submitted,
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66 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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69 Reverend Cory Rajek
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72 Mr. Dave Daberkow
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75 Mrs. Elizabeth Peters
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78 Mr. Mark Rutter
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1 **RESOLUTION: 2-02 (Executive Secretary’s Report, Convention Workbook, pp. 61-65)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our Executive Secretary, the Reverend Darren Olson, has carried out his many duties
6 and tasks in a faithful and evangelical manner to extend the Lord’s kingdom; AND

7
8 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has taken special leadership in directing the Lay Leadership Institute;
9 AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has demonstrated his commitment to the four service areas: youth,
12 young adult, outreach, and congregational; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has assisted the Christian education of our District from pre-school to
15 high school and beyond, including guiding schools in the accreditation process; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has displayed many tireless acts of mercy for The South Dakota District;
18 THEREFORE BE IT

19
20 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for Reverend Darren Olson as the servant-leader in the position of
21 Executive Secretary in our beloved District.

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24 Respectfully Submitted,

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30 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

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35 Reverend Cory Rajek

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40 Mr. Dave Daberkow

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45 Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

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Mr. Mark Rutters

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-03 (Convention Workbook pp. 65-78)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE WITH THANKSGIVING THE SPECIAL MINISTRIES AND DISTRICT
4 SERVICE AREAS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, DISTRICT ARCHIVES
5 REPORT, SIOUX FALLS HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM REPORT,
6 CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT, CHURCH WORKER EDUCATION DEBT
7 ASSISTANCE REPORT; LAY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT;
8 CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES REPORT, YOUTH SERVICES REPORT AND
9 OUTREACH SERVICES REPORT

10
11 **WHEREAS,** The District Archives Report, Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplaincy Program Report,
12 Continuing Education Report, Church Worker Education Debt Assistance (CWEDA)
13 Report; Lay Leadership Institute Report; Congregational Services Report, Youth Services
14 Report and Outreach Services Report have been submitted to the Convention; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Wayne Steensma, District Archivist, who continues to maintain the District Archives;
17 AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Matthew Nix, who serves faithfully as the South Dakota District Hospital
20 Chaplain in Sioux Falls; AND

21
22 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Timothy Koch has provided opportunities for professional growth for
23 pastors of the District through his work in continuing education organizing opportunities
24 for; AND

25
26 **WHEREAS,** The District Board of Directors has faithfully administered the CWEDA program which
27 has provided grants to church workers, AND

28
29 **WHEREAS,** The current members of the four service areas consist of Youth, Reverend Randy
30 Sturzenbecher and Reverend Thomas Brown; Outreach Services, Reverend Aaron
31 Asmus, Krista Erickson, and Reverend Jordon Andreason; Young Adult, Reverend
32 Samuel Bobby and Reverend David Knefelkamp; and the three areas of Congregational
33 Services: Human Care and Disaster Relief, Reverend L. Scott Spiels and Reverend
34 Adam Welton; and Stewardship, Reverend Kory Janneke; AND

35
36 **WHEREAS,** We thank the many teachers of the Lay Leadership Institute; AND

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Reports have been submitted to these ministry service areas and specialized ministries;
39 THEREFORE BE IT

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That we accept these Reports with thanksgiving to God; AND BE IT FINALLY

42
43 **RESOLVED:** That we give thanks and praise to God for the dedicated service of these individuals and
44 entities of our beloved South Dakota District.

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46 Respectfully Submitted,

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51 _____
52 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-05 (Overture 2-05)**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT NON-CHURCH WORKER ATTENDANCE IN THE
4 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Lord has called people of various vocations into His Kingdom; AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** The Scriptures teach that the Lord gives differing gifts to be used in the church, the body
9 of Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27); AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** We acknowledge the need for well trained lay people for service in the church and world;
12 AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** The Concordia University System (CUS) institutions offer a large number of non-church
15 worker degrees to the aforementioned ends; AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** The education and opportunities provided at our CUS Institutions help to equip lay people
18 for service not only in the world, but in their future congregations and church at large;
19 THEREFORE BE IT
20
21 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the South Dakota District continue to encourage the young
22 people of our congregations to consider attending a CUS Institution to prepare for church
23 work to meet the great need in the church; AND BE IT FURTHER
24
25 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the South Dakota District encourage their youth to consider a
26 CUS Institution for non-church work degrees; AND BE IT FINALLY
27
28 **RESOLVED:** That congregations seek to encourage attendance and also seek to support their own (and
29 other) students attending a CUS Institution regardless of church or non-church work paths.
30
31 Respectfully Submitted,
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34 _____
35 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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38 _____
39 Reverend Cory Rajek
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43 Mr. Dave Daberkow
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47 Mrs. Elizabeth Peters
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50 _____
51 Mr. Mark Rutter
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- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-06 (Overture 2-06)**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION AND ENCOURAGE
4 LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE
5
6 **WHEREAS,** God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he
7 will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** The Lord Jesus Christ invited children to come into his presence when he said, “Let the
10 children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark
11 10:14); AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church we must have and maintain Christian
14 schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain
15 Christian Schools,” 1524); AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a strong tradition of assisting parents
18 in their God-given vocation of educating their children through Lutheran schools; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** LCMS schools (early childhood centers, elementary, and high schools) are the second-
21 largest parochial educational system in the United States, operating 1,150 early childhood
22 centers, 793 elementary schools, 86 high schools, and 3 international high schools (Hong
23 Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi), serving students and their families; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in The South Dakota District operate 17 early childhood centers/preschools,
26 4 elementary schools, and 2 high schools, all of which provide their students with an
27 excellent educational experience while also faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
28 with students and their families; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) assists schools to become education
31 centers of excellence through the NLSA process and has accredited 802 Lutheran schools
32 in the LCMS: 244 Lutheran early childhood centers, 501 Lutheran elementary schools, and
33 57 Lutheran high schools; AND
34
35 **WHEREAS,** Several Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District have greatly benefitted from
36 completing the NLSA process: Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John’s
37 Lutheran Preschool, Yankton (the first preschool/early childhood center in the District to
38 earn NLSA accreditation); Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran School,
39 Rapid City; AND
40
41 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District that have completed the NLSA process have
42 shown that they excel in providing a quality education while also sharing the Gospel of
43 Jesus Christ, which is demonstrated by Rev. David Schwan and Rev. Paul Winckler, Zion
44 Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, being nominated for the NLSA “School
45 Shepherd” award and Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls being named a “School of
46 Distinction” by NLSA; AND
47
48 **WHEREAS,** Terry Schmidt has faithfully served Lutheran schools in the LCMS as the Associate Director
49 of School Ministry (2003-2013) and the Director of School Ministry (2013-2018), all the
50 while overseeing the National Lutheran School Accreditation process, and plans to retire
51 in June 2018; THEREFORE BE IT
52
53 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention thank God for Terry Schmidt’s love of and
54 dedication to Lutheran education, commend him for his faithful and dedicated service to

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55 Lutheran schools in the District and around the LCMS, and wish him a blessed retirement;
56 AND BE IT FURTHER

57
58 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention recognize the hard work that Lutheran
59 schools in the District have done to earn NLSA accreditation and commend the
60 administrators, faculties, and staffs of Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John's
61 Lutheran Preschool, Yankton; Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran
62 School, Rapid City for achieving National Lutheran School Accreditation; AND BE IT
63 FINALLY

64
65 **RESOLVED:** That all Lutheran early childhood centers, preschools, elementary schools, and high
66 schools in The South Dakota District be encouraged to continue being education centers
67 of excellence and that they continue to share Jesus Christ with their students in Word and
68 deed, and that they consider pursuing National Lutheran School Accreditation as a way to
69 ensure excellence in their schools.

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71 Respectfully Submitted,

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75 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

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79 Reverend Cory Rajek

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83 Mr. Dave Daberkow

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87 Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

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91 Mr. Mark Rutter

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- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-07 (Overture 2-07)**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF
4 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, SEWARD, NEBRASKA
5
6 **WHEREAS,** Since its founding on November 18, 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia
7 University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as
8 an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and
9 world; AND
10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to
12 locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the
13 local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; AND
14
15 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading
16 preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more
17 graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries
18 of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the
21 pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that,
22 historically, each year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual
23 preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those
24 serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; AND
25
26 **WHEREAS,** The God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to
27 equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in
28 business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their
29 home and the communities where they reside; AND
30
31 **WHEREAS,** The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by
32 enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate
33 academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school
34 partners and online; AND
35
36 **WHEREAS,** The God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000
37 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith
38 and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these
39 men and women during their educational studies; AND
40
41 **WHEREAS,** The God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of
42 thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers,
43 generous gifts and referral of students; AND
44
45 **WHEREAS,** The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record numbers
46 of undergraduate and graduate students—2,757 in 2016-17; THEREFORE, BE IT
47
48 **RESOLVED:** That the 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
49 Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty
50 God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its
51 students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care; AND BE IT
52 FINALLY
53
54 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to
55 declare November 17, 2019 as a synodwide “Concordia University, Nebraska Sunday,”
56 encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student referrals to

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be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its treasured universities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

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1 **RESOLUTION: 2-08**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS TO MAKE REGULAR VISITATION IN THEIR PARISH
4 AND CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT THEIR PASTORS IN THE SAME

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Pastoral visitation is a vitally important part of the pastoral ministry and mission of the
7 Church, giving the pastor insight into the lives of the saints of the parish and the
8 opportunity to minister to them individually according to their needs under the Law and
9 Gospel; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** It is important for pastors to visit face to face with the members of their parish regularly,
12 and especially important for them to make regular and faithful visits to the shut-in, the
13 sick, and the dying; AND

14
15 **WHEREAS,** There are many opportunities for contact with members of our parishes that were not
16 available in the past; AND

17
18 **WHEREAS,** A faithfully calling pastor teaches the saints of his parish by example to watch out for and
19 care for one another; AND

20
21 **WHEREAS,** The saying is still true that a calling pastor makes for a church-going parish; AND

22
23 **WHEREAS,** There are so many things in our modern world that can distract a pastor from making the
24 necessary visits and contacts with the saints of his parish, consuming his time with
25 unnecessary distractions; AND

26
27 **WHEREAS,** Especially in the rural areas of our state a pastor may put on a significant number of
28 miles to make necessary visits; THEREFORE BE IT

29
30 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District give thanks to God for the ministry of all faithful pastors
31 who watch over the saints of the Church by faithful preaching and teaching and regular
32 and personal pastoral contact and visits with the saints of their parishes; AND BE IT
33 FURTHER

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District encourage all pastors to make regular and frequent
36 face-to-face visits with all the members of their parishes, especially with the shut-in, the
37 sick, and the dying, and to take advantage of the opportunities for contact supplied by
38 email, text messaging, and telephone calls to keep in personal contact with all the saints
39 of their parishes; AND BE IT FURTHER

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That, recognizing the distractions that can keep pastors from making parish visits and the
42 value of peer accountability, pastors be encouraged to ask their Board of Elders, church
43 workers, and other parish volunteers to hold them accountable and assist with parish
44 visitation and that pastors be encouraged to hold one another accountable for visitation
45 within their circuits; AND BE IT FURTHER

46
47 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District, in consideration of the number of miles many pastors
48 must drive in the faithful exercise of their ministry, encourage all congregations/parishes

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of the District to pay the full number of their pastor's business miles at the IRS rate each year; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That included in the South Dakota District salary guidelines there be instructions as to how to define and report business miles; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That The South Dakota District memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod convention to encourage the same of all LCMS pastors and congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-09**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COPYRIGHT LICENSE FEES FROM
4 CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE FOR RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
5 OF THE LCMS

6
7 **WHEREAS:** “To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that
9 agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the
10 LCMS” (www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations); AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** Since 1869 Concordia Publishing House (CPH) has been the publishing arm of the
13 LCMS, providing faithfully Lutheran publications and supplies to our LCMS congregations
14 and other entities; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** The services and work of both CPH and our RSOs are valuable assets to our Synod in
17 reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** There are at times significant copyright licensing fees paid by the RSOs for use of CPH
20 copyrighted material; AND

21
22 **WHEREAS,** The copyright laws and procedures are at times complicated and many times
23 inadvertently and innocently broken by LCMS congregations and entities; THEREFORE
24 BE IT

25
26 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention thank both CPH and the Synod’s RSOs for
27 their valuable work in the support of the Gospel outreach of our church in the world; AND
28 BE IT FURTHER

29
30 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, RSOs, and all entities of the LCMS pay careful attention to the
31 copyright laws and procedures and, when there are any questions regarding copyright
32 and fair use, to contact the copyright department of CPH for their friendly advice and
33 help; AND BE IT FURTHER

34
35 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District ask Concordia Publishing House to waive as many
36 copyright license fees as possible for the Synod’s RSOs when materials for which CPH
37 owns the copyright are being distributed free of charge and in a manner, style, language,
38 or location which represents no significant competition to CPH for sales; AND BE IT
39 FURTHER

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That, recognizing the complex nature of copyright laws and there may be other entities
42 holding copyrights for parts of CPH copyrighted work, CPH work closely with Synod’s
43 RSOs to establish copyright license fees that are as low as possible for their intended
44 use; AND BE IT FURTHER

45
46 **RESOLVED:** That any money saved in this way by the RSOs of Synod be used to further the valuable
47 work of that RSO; AND BE IT FINALLY

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District memorialize the LCMS in convention to encourage the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-10**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL OFFERINGS TO
4 SUPPORT THE LCMS JOINT SEMINARY FUND ON THE OCCASIONS OF THE
5 ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF PASTORS OR PASTORS' ORDINATION
6 ANNIVERSARIES.

7
8 **WHEREAS,** Well trained pastors are essential for the ongoing work of Word and Sacrament ministry
9 in our congregations; AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been blessed by God with two seminaries for
12 the training and equipping of parish pastors and every congregation in our beloved
13 District and Synod has and continues to benefit from the work of our seminaries in
14 training and equipping parish pastors; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** Every congregation in our beloved District and Synod has and continues to benefit from
17 the ministry and service of well-trained pastors from our Synod's seminaries; AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** As the cost of seminary education continues to rise, the LCMS continues to search for
20 ways to cover the costs of maintaining the quality of the pastoral education of our
21 seminaries without unduly increasing the financial burden of the students; AND

22
23 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund was established as a vehicle to allow congregations and
24 individuals to contribute to the support of our seminaries in an orderly and systematic
25 way; AND

26
27 **WHEREAS,** The occasions of ordinations and/or installations and the ordination anniversaries of
28 pastors provide wonderful opportunities for congregations to show their thankfulness to
29 God for a pastor to carry out the Word and Sacrament ministry in its midst;
30 THEREFORE, BE IT

31
32 **RESOLVED:** That congregations of the South Dakota District be encouraged to take a special thank
33 offering on the occasion of the installation and/or ordination of a new pastor or the
34 anniversary of their pastor's ordination to support the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund; AND
35 BE IT FINALLY

36
37 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
38 convention to encourage the same of all Synod congregations.

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40 Respectfully Submitted,

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45 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

To the 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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RESOLUTION: 3-01 (Convention Workbook, pp. 27-31)

SUBJECT: TO RECOGNIZE AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE DISTRICT MISSIONS

WHEREAS, The reports of the mission congregations, special service ministries, campus ministries, and missionaries-at-large (Convention Workbook, pages 27-31) clearly show their faithfulness in serving the people of our South Dakota District; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That this Convention gratefully accept their reports; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the people of The South Dakota District continue to prayerfully and with good stewardship support these outreach efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

Reverend Bret Bierman

Ms. Crystal Bormann

Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-02 (Convention Workbook, pp.121-124)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE SPECIAL MINISTRIES OF SOUTH
4 DAKOTA LUTHERANS FOR LIFE, ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN, AND MAIN STREET
5 LIVING

6
7 **WHEREAS,** The theme of the Sixty-First Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod is “Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!”; AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota Lutherans For Life, Orphan Grain Train, and Main Street Living have
11 been vital partners in sharing the work and ministry of mercy in the South Dakota District
12 and beyond; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Jill Johnsen, Mrs. Jeanette Stensland, and Mr. Dutch TeSlaa have submitted reports
15 of activities of The South Dakota Lutherans For Life, Orphan Grain Train, and Main Street
16 Living to the Convention of this District (see pp. 121-124) of the Convention Workbook);
17 THEREFORE BE IT

18
19 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the service of The South Dakota Lutherans For Life, Orphan Grain
20 Train, and Main Street Living in “making known the love of Christ by word and deed
21 within our churches, communities, and the world” (LCMS Mission Statement); AND BE IT
22 FINALLY

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That we encourage our congregations and all men and women of the District to be
25 generous in supporting these ministries with their time, talents, and treasures.

26
27 Respectfully Submitted,

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31 _____
32 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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37 Reverend Bret Bierman

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42 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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47 Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-03 (Convention Workbook, pg. 120-121)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE SERVICE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA
4 DISTRICT LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an auxiliary organization of the
7 LCMS; AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** The theme of the Sixty-First Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
10 Church—Missouri Synod is "Behold Your God! What Help! What Hope!"; AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** The LWML continues to recognize new mission and mercy opportunities in various parts
13 of the world and The South Dakota District; AND

14
15 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Lisa Asmus has submitted a report of activities of The South Dakota District LWML
16 to the Convention of this District (see pages 120-121 of the Convention Workbook);
17 THEREFORE BE IT

18
19 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the service of the LWML "in making known the love of Christ in
20 word and deed within our churches, communities, and to the world" (LCMS Mission
21 Statement); AND BE IT FINALLY

22
23 **RESOLVED:** That we encourage all women of the District to take advantage of the education,
24 inspiration, and opportunities for service offered them by membership in the LWML.

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28 Respectfully Submitted,

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33 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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38 Reverend Brett Bierman

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43 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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48 Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-04 (Overture 3-04)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE WORK OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL ON NATIVE
4 AMERICAN RESERVATIONS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

5
6 **PREAMBLE:** Since the 1960's The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The South Dakota
7 District have coordinated intentional ministry among the Native American people in South
8 Dakota. Throughout the years several individuals and their families have been influential
9 in Native American ministry in The South Dakota District. Reverend W. Walter Weber was
10 called by the LCMS in 1964 to be its National Indian Ministry Consultant. He established
11 his office first in Pierre, SD and then in 1965 in Sioux Falls, SD. In 1966 Reverend Clark
12 Gies was called by the LCMS and The South Dakota District to be the Coordinator of
13 Religious Activities and Missionary At-Large on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South
14 Dakota. Pastor Gies and his family lived in the town of Pine Ridge during that time.
15 Reverend Gies was called in 1971 to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD and to
16 be Missionary on the Yankton Sioux Reservation where he served until 2002. In 1966
17 Reverend Bill Paepke was assigned as an Indian Ministry Vicar to Ascension Lutheran
18 Church, Rapid City, SD. Reverend Paepke's work among the Native Americans continued
19 in 1968 when he was called to St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, SD and Parmelee, SD to
20 be the pastor and Missionary At-Large on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1970 Larry Belitz
21 was called by The South Dakota District as a Worker-Priest to serve on the Pine Ridge
22 Reservation where he taught school in Pine Ridge. To this day, Larry and his wife, Doris,
23 participate in the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In the late 1980's and early
24 1990's Reverend Tom Zeller of St. John's Lutheran Church, Norris, SD was ministering to
25 Native Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend Zeller requested that The South
26 Dakota District consider calling someone to full-time missionary service on the Rosebud
27 Reservation. In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to
28 Reverend Robert Utecht to be the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native
29 Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1994 Reverend Utecht, along with the help of
30 his wife, Donna, and Larry and Doris Belitz, also began ministering to Native Americans on
31 the Pine Ridge Reservation. Reverend Utecht and his family were familiar with the
32 Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. In the 1970's Reverend Utecht and his family
33 traveled through the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations doing puppet shows for the
34 Native Americans. Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, faithfully served as missionaries
35 to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht's retirement in 2012. In 1997 The South
36 Dakota District called Reverend Andrew Utecht, Robert and Donna's son, to be the full-
37 time missionary to the Native American people on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend
38 Utecht, with the assistance of his wife, Lori, and their children throughout the years,
39 continues to serve on the Rosebud Reservation. In 2012 The South Dakota District called
40 Reverend Albert Sutton to be a part-time missionary to the Pine Ridge Reservation and he
41 works with his team of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and Diane Falin. We
42 thank God for these and many other servants of Christ who have brought the Gospel of
43 Jesus Christ to our Native American neighbors. We also rejoice that the Holy Spirit
44 continues to work through God's Word, as God has promised, to bring our Native American
45 neighbors to faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

46
47 **WHEREAS,** The theme for the 61st Convention of The South Dakota District is "Behold Your God! What
48 Help! What Hope!" (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15) and was chosen to urge
49 congregations, schools, ministries, professional church workers, and individual members
50 of our congregations to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their communities through
51 Word and deed; AND
52

53 **WHEREAS,** Jesus instructs his disciples, “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring
54 them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd”
55 (John 10:16); AND

56
57 **WHEREAS,** Jesus also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all people throughout the
58 world when he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go
59 therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and
60 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
61 And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:18-20); and “Thus it
62 is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that
63 repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
64 beginning from Jerusalem,” (Luke 24:46-47); and St. John, describing his vision of eternal
65 life, says, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from
66 every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
67 before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out
68 with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
69 (Revelation 7:9-10); AND

70
71 **WHEREAS,** Beginning in the 1960’s, intentional efforts were made by The Lutheran Church—Missouri
72 Synod, The South Dakota District, and individual congregations to share the Gospel of
73 Jesus Christ with Native Americans on the Native American reservations of South Dakota;
74 AND

75
76 **WHEREAS,** In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to Reverend Robert
77 Utecht to serve as the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native Americans on
78 the Rosebud Reservation and Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, served as faithful
79 missionaries to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht’s retirement in 2012; AND

80
81 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation continues to this
82 day through the faithful ministry of Reverend Andrew Utecht whom The South Dakota
83 District Board of Directors called to serve as a District missionary in 1997, and whose
84 ministry is assisted by his wife, Lori, and their children; AND

85
86 **WHEREAS,** November 2018 will mark the 25th anniversary of District funded mission work on the
87 Rosebud Reservation and July 2017 was the 20th anniversary of Reverend Andrew
88 Utecht’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation; AND

89
90 **WHEREAS,** In 1994 Reverend Robert Utecht, with the help of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz and
91 others, also began sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Pine Ridge Reservation; AND

92
93 **WHEREAS,** In 2012 The South Dakota District Board of Directors called Reverend Albert Sutton to be
94 a part-time missionary to continue the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and
95 he works along with his ministry team: Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and
96 Diane Falin; AND

97
98 **WHEREAS,** 2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of the current District funded mission work on the
99 Pine Ridge Reservation; AND

100
101 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations in The South Dakota District support the District’s mission work
102 among the Native Americans with their continual prayers, with their financial support, and
103 by sending mission teams to assist in the missionary efforts; THEREFORE BE IT

104

105 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the missionary efforts of all of those in The South Dakota District
106 who have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Native American neighbors; AND BE
107 IT FURTHER

108
109 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, professional church workers, and lay people of the District be
110 encouraged to continue their support of the mission work on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge
111 Reservations through their corporate and individual prayers, through corporate and
112 individual financial gifts, and through personal missionary efforts; AND BE IT FINALLY

113
114 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution, the assembly will express its thanks to God
115 for His blessings of faith and salvation in Jesus Christ made available to our Native
116 American neighbors through the mission efforts of the Rosebud and Pine Ridge
117 Reservation missions and missionaries by rising to sing “Christ the Eternal Lord” (LSB
118 #829, Stzs. 1, 3):

119
120 Christ the eternal Lord,
121 Whose promise here we claim,
122 Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
123 On all who name your name;
124 With thankfulness and praise
125 We stand before your throne,
126 Intent to serve You all our days
127 And make Your glory known.

128
129 Christ the redeeming Son,
130 Who shares our human birth,
131 And by His death salvation won
132 For ev’ry child of earth;
133 Inspire our hearts, we pray,
134 To tell Your love abroad,
135 That all may honor Christ today
136 And follow Him as Lord.

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138 Respectfully Submitted,

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143 _____
144 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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149 Reverend Bret Bierman

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154 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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159 Mr. Ron Neeman

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE REPORTS OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS CONFERENCE

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Floor Committee 3 has reviewed minutes from the Pastors and Teachers conferences as
6 follows:

- 7
8 2015 Fall Pastors Conference Minutes
9 2017 Spring Pastors Conference Minutes
10 2017 All Workers Conference Minutes
11 2015 Fall Teachers Conference Minutes
12 2016 Fall Teachers Conference Minutes
13 2017 All Workers Conference Minutes; AND

14
15 **WHEREAS,** To the best of our knowledge, the conference chairmen and secretaries have accurately
16 presented the submitted proceedings as they occurred; THEREFORE BE IT

17
18 **RESOLVED:** That the above conference proceedings be approved by The South Dakota District
19 Convention.
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23 Respectfully Submitted,

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29 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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34 Reverend Bret Bierman

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39 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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Mr. Ron Neeman

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 3-06 (Overture 3-06)**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND AND ENCOURAGE THE WORK OF LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our gracious heavenly Father “richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support
6 this body and life,” (Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, Explanation of the First Article of the
7 Apostles Creed); AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** David exhorts God’s people to find comfort and refuge in the Lord during times of disaster
10 when he writes, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes
11 refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by”
12 (Psalm 57:1); AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Disaster Response serves as a Christian faith-based emergency relief and long-
15 term assistance effort following natural and man-made disasters, engaging LCMS
16 congregations, districts, Recognized Service Organizations, and partner churches in a
17 shared ministry of mercy, with an objective of opening doors to the proclamation of the
18 Gospel; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in The South Dakota District have benefitted greatly from the work of LCMS
21 Disaster Response, namely Zion Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs and Zion Lutheran
22 Church, Delmont; AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Scott Spiehs, Senior Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wolsey, Zion
25 Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs, and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Woonsocket
26 faithfully serves the District as its Disaster Response Coordinator; AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Spiehs conducted a Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) at Faith Lutheran
29 Church, Pierre in September 2017 to prepare and train people to respond to disasters and
30 emergencies when they happen in their communities and elsewhere; AND
31
32 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District was one of 21 LCMS districts to receive a disaster response
33 trailer as the result of a generous gift to LCMS Disaster Response from The Lutheran
34 Women’s Missionary League (LWML), which is fully equipped and ready to assist in clean
35 up and relief efforts when needed; AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** The opportunity to point those who are suffering to the comfort of the Gospel and to make
38 use of financial resources to bring physical and emotional healing to disaster victims has
39 never been greater; THEREFORE BE IT
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention give thanks to God for the work of LCMS
42 Disaster Response nationally and internationally, for the generous gift of the disaster-
43 response trailer from the LWML, and for the faithful disaster response ministry in The South
44 Dakota District by Rev. Scott Spiehs; AND BE IT FINALLY
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations, schools, professional church workers, and lay people of The South
47 Dakota District be encouraged to continue to support the mercy work of LCMS Disaster
48 Response with prayer for all those who suffer from all forms of disasters, to participate in
49 LERT training as able, to offer volunteer assistance when the opportunity arises, and to
50 provide financial resources to assist those in need, as we show Christ’s love through our
51 acts of mercy.
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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

Reverend Bret Bierman

Ms. Crystal Bormann

Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-07 (Overture 3-07)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF REVEREND DAVID WARNER AND REVEREND
4 DANIEL JASTRAM THROUGH TOGETHER IN MISSION

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The Son of Man came into the world to seek and to save that which is lost (cf. Luke 19:10).
7 He did this so that people should not perish but have eternal life (cf. John 3:16); AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** Through His Word, Jesus promised that His followers would be His witnesses to the end
10 of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8); AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** The past eight District conventions have resolved that the congregations of The South
13 Dakota District collectively support the missionary activities of Amy (Hartwig) Kashenov
14 and then Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig through Together In Mission over and above their
15 regular mission offerings enabling them to serve as witnesses to the Gospel; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig is serving as a missionary to the people of Siberia and is retiring
18 from his missionary activities and his retirement leaves open the opportunity for The South
19 Dakota District to assist other missionaries through Together In Mission; AND

20
21 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Southeast Asia, and Pastor
22 David Warner, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Spain have ties to the South Dakota
23 District; THEREFORE BE IT

24
25 **RESOLVED:** That this convention express its thanks to God for Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig's service to
26 the people of Siberia and to the many congregations of The South Dakota District for their
27 support of him through Together in Mission; AND BE IT FURTHER

28
29 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations adopt as new recipients of Together In Mission offerings for the
30 next triennium the following: Reverend David Warner, missionary to Spain, and Reverend
31 Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia; AND BE IT FURTHER

32
33 **RESOLVED:** That the offering amount given by the congregations of The South Dakota District for
34 Together in Mission be divided equally between Reverend Jastram and Reverend Warner.
35 If either of these missionaries should retire or return from the mission field, the balance of
36 the Together In Mission offerings will go to support the worker remaining in the mission
37 field. If both of these workers should retire or return from the mission field, The South
38 Dakota District Board of Directors will determine a new missionary to support for the
39 remainder of the triennium; AND BE IT FINALLY

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember these
42 missionaries in corporate and individual prayers and to provide an annual commitment to
43 Together in Mission over and above their regular support of District and Synod missions.

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45 Respectfully Submitted,

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51 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman
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To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

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Reverend Bret Bierman

Ms. Crystal Bormann

Mr. Ron Neeman

To The 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

RESOLUTION: 3-08 (Overtures 3-08 and 3-09)

SUBJECT: TO DECLINE OVERTURES 3-08 AND 3-09 REGARDING TOGETHER IN MISSION
MISSIONARY SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Overtures 3-08 and 3-09 desire to direct Together In Mission offerings from
District congregations to Reverend Daniel Jastram; AND

WHEREAS, Resolution 3-07 directs Together In Mission offerings, in part, be directed to
Reverend Daniel Jastram; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That Overtures 3-08 and 3-09 be declined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

Reverend Bret Bierman

Ms. Crystal Bormann

Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION 3-09**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO SYNOD PRESIDENT THE REVEREND DR.
4 MATTHEW C. HARRISON FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AND REPORT TO THE
5 CONVENTION
6

7 **WHEREAS,** The delegates and guests at the Sixty-First Convention of The South Dakota District of The
8 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have gained much insight, growth, and information
9 through the report shared by The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The
10 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and have been edified by his sermon at the Opening
11 Service; THEREFORE BE IT

12
13 **RESOLVED:** That we thank The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison for joining us at our South Dakota
14 District Convention and for his work and time preparing and presenting at the Convention;
15 AND BE IT FINALLY

16
17 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in Convention thank God for the leadership and service
18 that Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison provides to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
19

20 Respectfully Submitted,

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24 _____
25 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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30 Reverend Bret Bierman

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35 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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40 Mr. Ron Neeman
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To the 61st Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
April 19-21, 2018

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-10 (Convention Bible Study)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESENCE AND PRESENTATION OF THE
4 CONVENTION ESSAYIST/BIBLE STUDY LEADER

5
6 **WHEREAS,** The delegates and guests at the Sixty-First Convention of The South Dakota District of
7 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have gained much insight and growth through the
8 essay/Bible Study shared by The Reverend Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Senior Pastor of St.
9 Michael's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN; THEREFORE BE IT

10
11 **RESOLVED:** That we thank The Reverend Dr. R. Reed Lessing for joining us at our South Dakota
12 District Convention and for his work and time in preparing and presenting at the
13 Convention.
14

15
16 Respectfully Submitted,
17

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21 _____
22 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman
23

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26 _____
27 Reverend Bret Bierman
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31 _____
32 Ms. Crystal Bormann
33

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36 _____
Mr. Ron Neeman

1 **RESOLUTION: 3-11 (Convention Workbook Page 40)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF REVEREND EDWARD W. KNUTH
4 AND REVEREND ORLETT D. BRACK

5
6 **WHEREAS,** God has blessed His church through the faithful service of His servants the Reverend
7 Edward W. Knuth and the Reverend Orlett D. Brack; AND

8
9 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord has now received these good and faithful servants into eternal rest;
10 THEREFORE BE IT

11
12 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for their service in a variety of venues; AND BE IT FINALLY

13
14 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution, the assembly will rise and sing:

15
16 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
17 All who by faith before the world confessed,
18 Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
19 Alleluia! Alleluia!

20
21 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
22 You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
23 You, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
24 Alleluia! Alleluia!
25 (LSB#677, Stanzas 1 and 2)

26
27
28 Respectfully Submitted,

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33 _____
34 Reverend Dan Deardoff, Chairman

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38 _____
39 Reverend Bret Bierman

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43 _____
44 Ms. Crystal Bormann

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Mr. Ron Neeman

District President Nominations

South Dakota District Bylaw 5.05 specifies that the names of all clergymen who have received at least 5 nominating votes for the Office of District President be reported to the Convention by means of the Convention Manual. The clergymen who received five or more nominating votes are:

Scott C. Sailer, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The same Bylaw specifies that the candidates for the Office of President shall be the three clergymen who received the highest number of nominating votes from the congregations of the District. These three men must each give their written consent to be placed on the official ballot and must also indicate their willingness to serve as full time District President if elected. The three clergymen who have received the most nominating ballots and who have consented to have their names placed on the official ballot are:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Thomas Christopher, Alexandria, South Dakota | 1 nomination received |
| Ray Greenseth, Murdo, South Dakota | 2 nominations received |
| Scott C. Sailer, Sioux Falls, South Dakota | 43 nominations received |

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel L. Bobby, Secretary
The South Dakota District LCMS

Biographical Data

Thomas D. Christopher

Born November 3, 1961

Family:

Wife: Jane Marie (nee: Jacobs) Christopher
Married August 5, 1989
John (1988)
Michaela (1991)
Joshua (1994)

Education:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| University of North Dakota | BA - 1986 |
| Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN | MDiv - 1990 |

Service to the Church:

Parish Ministry:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Redeemer, St. Cloud, MN | 1990-1996 |
| St. Martin-Trinity, Alexandria-Spencer, SD | 1996-2011 |
| St. Martin-Trinity-St. John, Alexandria-Spencer-Emery, SD | 2011-Present |

District Service:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Secretary of Fall Pastors Conference, SD District | 1999 and 2006 |
| Circuit Counselor | 2009 |
| District Convention Floor Committee Member | 2012 |
| District Reconciler | 2010-Present |
| Circuit Visitor | 2016-Present |

Synod Service:

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Delegate to Synod Convention | 2001 |
|------------------------------|------|

Auxiliaries:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Board of Directors – Good Shepherd Lutheran Home, Sauk Rapids, MN | |
| President SE SD Lutherans for Life | 2004-2011 |
| Pastoral Advisor SD LLL | 2006 |

Community Service:

Alexandria, SD Library Board
Trap Instructor, 4-H Shooting Sports

Questions for Candidates for the Office of District President

1. Describe your commitment to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The officially-stated doctrine and practice of our Synod is, for the most part, solid and firmly Scriptural and Confessional, therefore my commitment to it is also solid. We must always remember, however, that due diligence must be maintained by both pastors and the lay people of our Synod to keep the LCMS firmly rooted in the Scriptures and Confessions so that we do not drift away from our Lutheran identity and practice as so many formerly solid Lutheran churches have done.

2. What challenges and opportunities do you see facing our South Dakota District?

Since I could probably go on for several pages on this topic, I will list just two challenges and opportunities that I see right now in our Synod/District.

First: The primary challenge that we all face is to not lose hope in our Lord Jesus Christ; He is still and always will be the Lord of the Church and our only hope; He has His Church in His hand and will not let her fall. So in our congregations we must continue to faithfully maintain the Word and Sacrament ministry, which is the means whereby our Lord keeps His Church and fills us with hope in Himself. Word and Sacrament ministry must be maintained in our communities as long as possible and we need to continue to work together to find creative ways to help and support one another in the Gospel work of continuing to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to an ever-darkening world in these latter days. Our strength lies in Christ and in our support of one another. If I may quote the great philosopher Red Green: "I'm pulling for you; we're all in this together!" That is "synod" – all being in this together and pulling for one another. And that is our opportunity as we see one another not in competition for members, but as fellow heirs of eternal life and help each other out as best we can to keep confessing the truth and reaching out with that truth into our communities. I will also say that our district's emphasis on education and outreach and mercy with programs such as the Lay Leadership Institute and the "Harvest Grants" are wonderful efforts to continue this walk together. Working together, we can continue to come up with creative ways of supporting one another as we faithfully reach out to the lost for their eternal salvation.

Second: We also face the challenge of remaining faithful to the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions and identity while at the same time continuing to reach out with the Gospel into an increasingly hostile world. One of the great blessings God has given our church is a body of doctrine that is faithful to the Scriptures and written for us plainly and clearly in our Lutheran Confessions and other writings. Despite this, there is unfortunately an increasing amount of doctrinal and practical disagreement in our Synod, especially in the areas of church fellowship, Communion practices, issues related to the Office of the Holy Ministry, and, I would say, the importance of actually *being* Lutheran in our public confession and practice and some of this disagreement inevitably makes its way into our district congregations. The question we all must answer, then, is whether being truly Lutheran is important and valuable enough in today's culture and society to actually keep us truly Lutheran in our doctrine and practice, that is, to keep us projecting and confessing a specifically Lutheran identity to the world around us (I would contend it is!). Therein lies also our opportunity. It is our Lutheran identity, doctrine, and practice that sets us apart from the generic and often Christ-less evangelical Christianity that we see so much in our society. What an opportunity for us to proclaim Christ crucified! Our sacramental, Law/Gospel theology and practice is right on the mark and is what distinguishes the Lutheran Church as the true church on earth. It is exactly this orthodox and true doctrine and practice that is the greatest opportunity we have to proclaim the truth of the Gospel and our greatest challenge as Satan hates this doctrine and will do all he can to silence it. Yet, again, Christ is Lord of the Church and will uphold her in that struggle through His blessed Means of Grace!

3. What is your vision for the South Dakota District?

Hmm. The word "vision" makes me cringe, just like the word "passion" does. It is vision and passion that get so many church leaders into trouble and lead to all kinds of dubious practices and false theologies in church. The Church doesn't need visionaries it needs faithfulness, so why don't we get rid of the word "vision" and replace it with "faithfulness" instead - in fact, that's my vision . . . and I'm passionate about it. What we need is faithfulness to the doctrines and practices of the Lutheran Church. I like the sainted Rev. Barry's motto: "Get the message straight, Missouri. Get the message out, Missouri." How about if our vision were simply to attain and maintain doctrinal and practical orthodoxy, unity, and faithfulness and then help and support one another in getting that message out into our congregations, communities and beyond? So, first, keep our message straight, and, second, get our message out. That would

be my vision for our District (I know it's pretty much plagiarizing Rev. Barry and it all sounds pretty cliché, but it's what our Lord wants of us so what other vision do we need?).

4. How do you see the role of District President?

First of all, the office of District President, as all synodical offices, is a corporate, man-made office that is useful and necessary for our ecclesiastical structure as it stands now but has no mandate in the Holy Scriptures. The Office of the Holy Ministry is the highest office in the Church, therefore, speaking personally, I would regard the election to the office of District President not as a "promotion," as I have heard some say, but, within the Church, actually a step down, as it were. Having said that, however, someone must serve in the office and I give thanks to God for the honorable service of Rev. Sailer and all who have and will serve our District and Synod in the office of District President. While I would humbly accept that office and serve to the best of my ability if actually elected to it, I would do so reluctantly and not without some degree of regret and sadness. I love being a parish pastor, I love the people of my parish and, as Circuit Visitor, the pastors and people of this circuit; to be a full-time synodical officer would be quite a change. I let my name stand in nomination for District President out of respect for those who trust me enough to have nominated me, yet I do so with a great amount of hesitancy.

Now, to answer the question at hand, the role and responsibilities of the District President are clearly given to us in the Synod's bylaws (Bylaw 4.4). I have neither the power nor authority to change these so anything else I would like to add or change is superfluous. I would uphold this stated and agreed-upon role to the best of my ability.

5. How would you assist the congregations and church workers of the District to remain theologically and confessionally strong?

First of all, by keeping myself theologically and confessionally strong. Of all people in the District, the District President should know his Lutheran theology and how that theology is reflected in our practice, therefore regular and devoted time spent in reading and studying the Scriptures and the Confessions is of utmost importance for this office. I give thanks for our current District President, Rev. Sailer, who is faithful in this regard and whom I have never found in error and always open to discussion when there is disagreement!

Second, by faithfully praying for each of the congregations and pastors in the District. This is especially important if conflicts should arise when it is easy to begin to see others as enemies and adversaries. You cannot long hold bad feelings for someone for whom you are praying.

Third, being a friendly Gospel presence! Visitation, friendly reminders of our mutual promise to remain faithful to the doctrine and practice of our Synod, fraternal admonition when required, but most of all an open communication between fellow pastors and parishes in our Synod and District are essential for maintaining theologically and confessionally strong pastors and congregations. I have never been District President, so I do not know how great is the workload, but I put a high priority on contact and visits with the members of my parish as pastor; I would intend to do the same with the members of the District if I were to ever serve as District President, at least as much as is possible with the other duties of the DP.

Fourth, in those unfortunate and hopefully rare times when there is clearly error on the part of a pastor or congregation and repeated discussion and Gospel admonition has been fruitless, when absolutely necessary the Law also must be applied and erring congregations and/or pastors who refuse to repent of obvious sin or false doctrine or to be faithful to the promises made when they became a member of Synod must be dealt with according to the currently agreed upon procedures for such disputes.

Biographical Data

Ray A. Greenseth

Born: December 13, 1953

Family:

Married Patti J. (nee: Geigle) Greenseth on February 14, 1996.

Children: Morgan (1984)
Joshua (1987)
Kodi Geigle (1984)
Hope Geigle (1983)
Jacob Geigle (1986)
Colleen (1997)

Education:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Concordia, Milwaukee, WI | AA - 1976 |
| Concordia, Ann Arbor, MI | BA - 1978 |
| Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO | MDiv - 1982 |

Ministries Served:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| St. Paul-Trinity, Wakefield-Altona, NE | 1982-1986 |
| Our Savior-Trinity, Carmi-McLeansboro, IL | 1986-1991 |
| First-Emmanuel, Wall-Creighton, SD | 1991-2001 |
| Messiah-St. Paul, Murdo-Draper, SD | 2007-2011 |
| Messiah-St. Paul-Our Redeemer, Murdo-Draper-Phillip, SD | 2011-Present |

District Service:

Dialog Evangelism
Education Program Area, Chairman

Community Service:

Ministerial Alliances
Kiwanis
American Legion
Volunteer Fire Department
Ambulance Driver
Lions Golf League
Food Bank
Chamber of Commerce

Military Service:

United States Air Force 1972-1974

Questions for Candidates for the Office of District President

- 1. Describe your commitment to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church --- Missouri Synod.**
I fully support the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church --- Missouri Synod.
- 2. What challenges and opportunities do you see facing our South Dakota District?**
The challenges that I see areministering to the people who don't come to church.
... ministering to young families

... ministering to those who are getting older and are in care facilities and letting them know that the LORD and His church still cares for them.

... continually reaching out to others as our numbers are declining.

... seeing where we can start new missions.

3. What is your vision for the South Dakota District?

to keep it all about "JESUS" as it is all about Him!

To help our churches and families be better at sharing their faith in Jesus with others.

To see that churches look beyond the borders of their own area or town and remember that Christ suffered, died and rose for all ,even those who are not like us, i.e. different color, ethnic background. That we see the "Mission Field" as not only being over there but also here in our own yard.

4. How do you see the role of the District President?

I see the District President as a servant of Christ who is here to help us. He is on our side leading and guiding us in the way that we need to go, one who is in the Word and always willing to share God's Word with others as he leads, guides, and prays for the people of South Dakota and of our Synod.

5. How would you assist the congregations and church workers of the District to remain theologically and confessionally strong?

To make it a priority to visit every congregation and pastor in the coming triennium.

To attempt to attend the Circuit Pastor's conferences

To be there and be open in discussions with what is going on with them and be there to encourage them and their congregations as we are all here because it's all about "Jesus"

Biographical Data

Scott C. Sailer

Family Information:

- Born in Renton, WA, on March 24, 1959, to Calvin and Kathleen (nee Kraenzel) Sailer.
- Raised in western North Dakota. Graduated from South Heart (ND) High School in 1977.
- My home congregation is Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND.
- Married Sarah M. Meyer on December 28, 1982, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN.
- Sarah is the assistant principal at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.
- Sarah and I have three sons: Tim (31), a professional actor at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA; Aaron (29), the Director of Finance at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha, Nebraska, and married to Lisa nee Haberberger, June 26, 2015; and Daniel (27), a percussion performance student in a Masters program at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX. All three sons are graduates of Concordia University System institutions.

Occupation, Education, Employment History, Involvement in the Church:

- President of The South Dakota District—LCMS since 2015.
- BA (1981), Biblical Languages and Literature, Concordia-St. Paul, MN.
- M Div (1985), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.
- Ministries served –
Vicarage at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Royal Oak, MI (1983-1984);
Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Howard, SD (1985-1989);
Pastor at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, SD (1989-1994);
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Admission Office (1994-1998);
Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD (1999 – 2015).

Other service in the Church:

- 1st Vice-President of The South Dakota District (2013-2015).
- 2nd Vice-President of The South Dakota District (2012-2013).
- Secretary of The South Dakota District (2006-2012).
- Circuit Counselor, Brookings Circuit (ca. 1987-1989); Sioux Falls Circuit (ca. 2000-2005).
- District Nominating Committee (past service).
- Synodical Nominating Committee (1992).
- Advisory Delegate to the 2013 Synodical Convention.
- Chairman of several District Pastoral Conferences, the last being the Fall Conference, 2014.
- District Youth Ministry and Missions/Evangelism Task Forces (ca. 1987-1993).
- District Church Worker Recruitment Committee (ca. 1985-1990).
- District Continuing Education Committee (ca. 2000-2005).
- Community Life Builder, 2001 Synodical Youth Gathering.
- Chairman of the Feasibility Committee and of the Planning Committee for Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls (2005-2008).
- Member of the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Alumni Council (2004-2010).
- District CWEDA Chairman (Church Worker Education Debt Assistance) (2004-present).
- Camp Minneboji Staff (1986-2013), including Dean of the Camp (1999-2013).

Service in the Community:

- Howard, SD, Service Club (1985-1989).
- Howard, SD, Ministerial Association (1985-1989).
- Hot Springs, SD, Kiwanis Club (1989-1994).

- Intermittent Chaplain at the Hot Springs VA Hospital (1989-1994).
- Little League Baseball Coach (2001-2002).
- YMCA Basketball Coach (2000-2003).
- Sioux Falls Lincoln High School Band Parents (2001-2009), Booster Club (2008-2009).

Questions for Candidates for the Office of District President

1. Describe your commitment to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. God has made us a church body that honors Him by holding fast to His Word and sharing the hope we have in Christ, who is the Savior of the world. I believe we in the LCMS rightly understand and teach God's Word, properly dividing and applying His Law and His Gospel. I fully accept the Holy Scriptures as the inspired, unchanging, and inerrant Word of God, and the Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition and interpretation of God's Word. I am fully committed to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I believe I demonstrate such commitment sensitively, confidently, and winsomely. This is the evangelical tone I think we all would do well to employ in giving witness to the hope we have in Christ, if we are to impact the ever-changing, unsteady world with His Gospel.

2. What challenges and opportunities do you see facing our South Dakota District? Declining membership and fewer worshipers challenge many of our congregations. And yet, by God's grace, our churches are still standing, and, in some cases, are the only remaining church in town. Still, it is challenge is to keep our churches open as population and membership numbers decline, and so we District and Circuit leaders need to strategize with our congregations about their future and their opportunities for witness and mercy. Our numbers may be down, but there is still so much we can do to share the love of Jesus in word and deed.

The demographic challenge is not only a reality for the LCMS, but it has struck all the mainline denominations hard. There will be folks from other Christian traditions left without a church, as churches close. What an opportunity this presents for us in the Missouri Synod to be available to and warmly welcome these people. Our pastors can be their pastor and our churches can be their church! An attitude adjustment may be required of us. We will all need to remember that our churches are really not "our" churches, they are Christ's churches. Congregations exist not only to nourish their own, but, like the mission of the Son of Man, we are used by Him to "seek and save those that are lost." It seems to follow, from this outward-looking mission emphasis of Jesus, that we have the call to warmly minister to our friends in Christ who no longer have a church home in their town, when they approach us.

Another reality in South Dakota is that there are plenty of unchurched and de-churched folks all around us who need the hope that only Jesus can give them. This is true in the rural areas and in the cities of our state. The Sioux Falls metro area alone has 97,000 people who claim no church affiliation. This is a challenge! But what a privilege and opportunity this is for us to reach out to these precious souls with God's love.

Finally, another hard reality is that the Church no longer holds a high position in society. Unfortunately, it also holds a lower place than it ought to even among our church members. We, too, are being infected with the disease of secularism. Recent research by the Pew Research Center shows that LCMS members reflect the attitudes of the rest of the culture on such issues as abortion, homosexuality, and same-sex marriage. This is a challenge, and it is an opportunity. Clear teaching on the basis of God's Word is what we are called to convey, because it can change hearts and minds. However, this will take great patience and a posture of love over against the false beliefs we encounter.

Retaining our often wandering sheep takes a great deal of going and finding and listening, and not a mere waiting for them to settle back into our pews.

3. **What is your vision for The South Dakota District?**
 - a) To continue to provide a solidly Lutheran Christian witness throughout the state of South Dakota, but taking care to forge relationships with our neighbors and our communities, so that they are more willing to listen to the treasured Gospel God has given us;
 - b) To have congregations, pastors and lay people who love and trust one another, as we work together for the sake of the Gospel, recognizing that our covenant as “synod” does not preclude using creative, impactful ministries in whatever county of the state God has placed us;
 - c) To continue to partner as congregations in providing Gospel-centered, servant ministries, such as our Native American work, the Sioux Falls hospital chaplaincy, campus ministry, and, increasingly, short-term mission trips; and
 - d) To stand together with non-LCMS South Dakota Christians in witness and service where our Biblical and Lutheran Confessional witness is not compromised, in this increasingly secular society. Life issues, the Biblical definition of marriage, and disaster response are examples of places where we can stand arm-in-arm with other Christians.

4. **How do you see the role of District President?** The District President is the chief servant-leader of the District and representative of the Synod, who lives and serves in South Dakota. He is the chief liaison between the International Center and the saints of God in our congregations, and between our saints of God and the International Center. He is a faithful Christian and pastor who loves and understands South Dakotans and, especially, LCMS pastors, teachers, DCEs, and deaconesses, and laypeople in South Dakota. He visits, advises and guides; he does not dictate. He is an encourager and provides correction, when needed, on the basis of God’s Word. He empowers and trusts his fellow workers in the District Office to do their work, which they are far better at doing than he.

5. **How would you assist the congregations and church workers of the District to remain theologically and confessionally strong?** Congregations and schools will remain theologically and confessionally strong only if the pastors, teachers, DCEs and other workers are theologically and confessionally strong. To remain strong, we must know and study God’s Word and the Confessions. To that end, I would encourage our pastors and teachers to practice the disciplines of study and prayer. I would emphasize that our pastors should attend the Winkels and the twice-annual district pastors’ conferences, and that our teachers and DCEs should attend their conferences. I would remind the pastors that continuing education opportunities are available for them, and they must make this a priority. Congregations, for their part, must lovingly insist that their pastors properly proclaim God’s Law and Gospel. They should expect the pastors to conduct Bible studies, and the people must avail themselves of these studies. Ted Kober, in his new book from CPH, *Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation*, provides evidence that the healthiest congregations are those in which a significant percentage of worshipers and leaders are involved in Bible study on a regular basis. This commitment to Bible study is the #1 factor in a congregation’s health, according to Kober’s research. Such study will contribute to our having theologically and confessionally healthy congregations and workers, too.

Nominations for Circuit Visitors

The following are the results of the nominating process for Circuit Visitors carried out throughout The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod according to Bylaw 5.2.2 of the 2016 Synodical Handbook (pages 186-187). The list is submitted by the District Secretary and is subject to ratification by this District Convention.

Circuit A

Reverend Timothy Koch
Concordia-Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Cresbard-Wecota, SD

Circuit B

Reverend David Knefelkamp
Zion-First English Lutheran Churches, White-Aurora, SD

Circuit C

Reverend Ray Greenseth
Messiah-St. Paul-Our Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Murdo-Draper-Philip, SD

Circuit D

Reverend Dale Sattgast
Emeritus, Huron, SD

Circuit E

Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, SD

Circuit F

Reverend Thomas Brown
Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD

Circuit G

Reverend Thomas Christopher
St. Martin-Trinity-St. John Lutheran Churches, Alexandria-Spencer-Emery, SD

Circuit H

Reverend Raymond Hartwig
Emeritus, Sioux Falls, SD

Circuit I

Reverend Jordon Andreasen
St. John-Trinity Lutheran Churches, Wagner-Fairfax, SD

Report of the Nominating Committee

This slate of nominees, together with pertinent biographical information, is provided for the offices of: District Secretary; District Treasurer; District Board of Directors (lay member) – 2 to be elected. A change of circumstances (i.e. the departure of a nominee from the District) may necessitate a change in this report prior to or during the Convention.

FOR DISTRICT SECRETARY

NAME: Reverend David G. Otten

BIOGRAPHY: **Family Information:**

Wife – Heather

Children – Anna, Dorothy, Esther, Irene, Marlys, Gerhard

Church Membership:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, SD

Church Experience/Positions:

MDiv, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN 1996

Vicarage at St. John Lutheran Church, Plymouth, WI

Pastor at Messiah-St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Murdo-Draper, SD 1996-2004

Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dimock, SD 2004-2016

Pastor at Emmanuel-Christ Lutheran Churches, Gettysburg-Lebanon, SD 2017-Present

Camp Minneboji Staff

District Constitution Committee

Voting Delegate 2001 and 2007 and 2013 Synodical Conventions

Circuit Counselor 2006-2012

District Secretary 2012-2015

LWML District Counselor

LWML Zone Counselor

Lions Club

NAME: Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher

BIOGRAPHY: **Family Information:**

Wife – Vonda

Children – Ryan, Megan

Church Membership:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, SD

Church Experience/Positions:

MDiv, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO 2001

Vicarage at Trinity, Persia, IA, and St. John, Honey Creek, IA

Pastor at First English, Centerville, SD and Zion, Hurley, SD 2001-2006

Pastor at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, Black Hawk, SD 2006-Present

District Youth Board and Chair

CWEDA Secretary

LWML Jr. and Sr. Counselor

Circuit Visitor

Parish Services Committee, 2015 District Convention

Higher Things Catechist and Chaplain

Black Hills Lutheran School Pastoral Advisor

2016 Circuit E Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention

FOR **DISTRICT TREASURER**

NAME: James W. Schnaidt

Church Membership:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, SD

Occupation:

Banker

Church Experience/Positions:

Elder

Treasurer

Member of District "Future of the CEF" Committee

Other Experience/Positions:

Menno-Olivet Care Center Board of Directors

Menno City Council

Menno School Board

Menno Ambulance Service

NAME: Jeff Siekmann

Church Membership:

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD

Occupation:

Special Assistant to the VP for Finance and Business/CFO at SDSU

Church Experience/Positions:

Current Treasurer of SD District LCMS

Current Treasurer of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Elder

Congregational Vice President

Church Council

Building Committee

Board of Stewardship

Endowment Fund Committee

Circuit Delegate to LCMS Synodical Convention

Other Experience/Positions:

Thrivent Congregational Advocate

Thrivent Builds Volunteer

ADVANCE Board of Directors

ADVANCE Foundation Board of Directors

Past Assistant Scoutmaster – Boy Scout Troop 14

Past Den Leader – Cub Scout Pack 4

FOR **LAY MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (TWO TO BE ELECTED)**

NAME: Dale Hemminger

Church Membership:

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD

Occupation:

Retired Educator

Church Experience/Positions:

Elder
Congregational President
Secretary
Sunday School and Bible Class Teacher
Lutheran Youth Fellowship Counselor
SD Lutherans for Life Board Member
Black Hills Lutheran School Board Member

Other Experience/Positions:

Beadle County Thrivent Board President
Spearfish Food Pantry Board Member
Onward Wolsey President
Wolsey Lions' President
Wolsey-Wessington Boosters President
TriState Museum Member

NAME: Robert J. Herz

Church Membership:

Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD

Occupation:

Retired Educator

Ministries Served:

Principal/Teacher in Lutheran Schools – 25 years

Church Experience/Positions:

Congregational Chairman – 4 terms
Chairman Board of Lay Ministry – 3 terms
Board of Stewardship – 1 term
District Board of Missions and Evangelism – Missouri District
Chairman North Wisconsin District Teacher's Conference
One floor committee for the North Wisconsin District Convention
Two floor committees for the South Dakota District Conventions
Delegate to the Synodical Convention twice
Delegate to the SD District Convention – 3 times
Served as a facilitator for Synod's Dispute Resolution Process
Serving as a Lay Member to the SD District's Board of Directors

Other Experience/Positions:

President of Post 22 American Legion Baseball Parent's Inc.
Board of Directors for Timberline Little League

NAME: Pauline Sumption

Church Membership:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, SD

Occupation:

Municipal Finance Officer for Rapid City, SD

Church Experience/Positions:

Sunday School Teacher
Congregational Secretary and Treasurer
South Dakota Youth Ministry Task Force
Financial Review Committee

Other Experience/Positions:

United Way of the Black Hills (Chairman)
Rapid City YMCA (Secretary)
Rapid City Area Schools Financial Advisory Council
SD Municipal League (1st Vice President)
SD Government Finance Officers Association (President)

NAME: David L. Zuercher

Church Membership:

Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD

Occupation:

Retired Attorney (United States Department of Justice, Supervisory Assistant
United States Attorney, District of South Dakota; State of South Dakota Assistant
Attorney General)

Church Experience/Positions:

Board of Stewardship
Board of Elders, Chairman (many terms)
Adult Bible Class Teacher; numerous committees
LCMS District/Synod: South Dakota District Lay Voting Delegate
Lay Voting Delegate Synodical Convention 2016

Other Experience/Positions:

United Way Board of Directors
Community Banquet Server
South Dakota State Bar Association Ethics Committee
US Attorney's Office Ethics Advisor and Professional Responsibility Officer

FOR PASTORAL MEMBER, DISTRICT CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021
(2 to be elected)

NAME: Joshua Jones

PARISH SERVED: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota; Sole Pastor 2007-Present

BIOGRAPHY: 2007 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Currently working on a Doctor of Ministry degree;
Service with Habitat for Humanity
Special needs and disabilities organizations

NAME: Lloyd Redhage

PARISH SERVED: Holy Cross-St. John Lutheran Churches 1983-1987
Onida-Agar, SD
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1987-1997
Black Hawk, SD
Zion-St. Paul Lutheran Churches, 1997-2017
Andover-Ferney, SD
St. John-St. Paul, 2017-Present
Britton-Ferney, SD

BIOGRAPHY: 1983 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN

District Youth Ministry Task Force
Constitution Committee
Rural Ministry Program Area
Circuit Counselor
4-H Leader in the community
LLI Instructor

NAME: Steven Weispfennig

PARISH SERVED: St. John's Lutheran Church, 2008-Present
Yankton, SD

BIOGRAPHY: 2008 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

SD District Youth Board 2011-2014
LWML SD District Counselor 2014-Present
DCE Intern Supervisor 2013-2015
Yankton Area Ministerial Association
Camp Minneboji Honors Camp Counselor 2009

NAME: Matthew E. Wurm

PARISH SERVED: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 2013-Present
Brookings, SD
Trinity Lutheran Church, 2008-2013
Bemidji, MN

BIOGRAPHY: 2008 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
DOXOLOGY Collegium member 2014-Present

FOR LAY MEMBER, DISTRICT CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021
(3 to be elected)

NAME: Steven Fiechtner

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD

BIOGRAPHY: **Faith, Pierre** – Congregational Chair/Vice-Chair/Board of Elders/Board of Stewardship/Board of Education. Congregational member for 20 years

Holy Cross, Onida – Congregational Chair. Congregational member for 9 years.

Other – State Department of Education Director for 17 years
Public School Principal for 11 years
Public School teacher for 13 years

NAME: Douglas Klipfel

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD

BIOGRAPHY: ASNT Ultrasonic Level III NDT

Congregational Vice Chairman – 2018-Present
Congregational Chairman – 2014-2018
Sunday School Teacher – 2000 – Present
Board of Elders
Board of Social Ministry

NAME: Terry Reck

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Elder, Lay Leadership Institute, Level III Certification (SD District)

Board of Education
Youth Group Leader
Fire Chief

NAME: Davyd Titze

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Currently serve as President of the congregation, Camp Minneboji staff (media coordinator/website), and Worship team musician. Serve/served on committees including Constitution, Mission, Music, Nominations and etc. 2012 and 2015 Lay delegate to SD District Conventions, 2016 Lay delegate to LCMS National Convention. Former LYF Youth Leader and Board of Elders

Former small business owner and manager (Flower shop and landscape garden center). Former Board member of Oscar Howe Arts Center and Mitchell Area Arts Council. Served on several municipal Boards and Committees.

NAME: Adam Weeman

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Financial Planner

Financial Secretary

Chairman

Elder

Adoption Ministry Team Member

Former Advisory Committee Member to South Dakota District Church Extension Fund