

Convention Announcements

- Dates:** December 5-7, 2021
- Location:** Sioux Falls Convention Center
- Theme:** “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving” Colossians 2:6-7
- 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, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5th, at Sioux Falls Lutheran School (Vaughn and JoAnn Meyer Performing Arts Center), Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Worship Service with Installation of Officers, 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 7 at the 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 | 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. Monday, December 6 |
| 2 nd Session | 1:15-3:00 p.m. Monday, December 6 |
| 3 rd Session | 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 6 |
| 4 th Session | 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 7 |
| 5 th Session | 10:30 – 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 7 |
| 6 th Session | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 7 |
| 7 th Session | 3:30 – 5:15 p.m., Tuesday, December 7 |
- Synodical Representative:** The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Convention Essayist:** The Reverend Michael Newman, District President
The Texas District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
- Convention Chaplain:** The Reverend Timothy Koch, Pastor
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota
- Convention Parliamentarian:** Mr. Matthew Naasz, Legal Counsel, The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Convention Manager:** Mr. Chad Zinnel, Business Manager, The South Dakota District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Public Relations Director:** Reverend Darren R. Olson
- 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 Photographer:** Mrs. Jamie Jacobsen, Lay Member, Faith Lutheran Church,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Convention Committees

Committee 1:	Administration Work Assignment: Committee Members:	President's Report; Treasurer's Report, Board of Directors Minutes Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman Reverend Marcus Ring DCE Joshua Schmitt Mrs. Bonnie Wagner Mr. Geoff Street
Committee 2:	Mission and Ministry Work Assignment: Committee Members:	Service Areas; Special Ministries; Minutes of Pastors and Teachers Conferences Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman Reverend Ray Greenseth DCE Hailey Jo Miller Mr. Terry Reck Mr. Erik Aker
Committee 3:	Registration, Credentials and Excuses Work Assignment: Committee Members:	Registration, Credentials and Excuses Reverend Brian Mosemann, Chairman Deaconess Amanda Korthase
Committee 4:	Nominations Work Assignment: Committee Members:	Develop Slates of Candidates for Offices to be filled by election, 2021 Convention Reverend Joshua Jones, Chairman Reverend Matthew Wurm Mr. Steve Fiechtner Mr. Davyd Titze Mr. Adam Weeman
Committee 5:	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: Correspondence regarding resolutions proposed by floor committees should be addressed to committee chairmen as listed below. If requested, floor committees may hold hearings Monday morning, December 6, 2021, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. at the Convention Center.

Committee 1: **Administration**
Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
846 7th Street
Spearfish, SD 57783
Telephone: (605) 642-2929
E-Mail: tbrown80@gmail.com

Committee 2: **Mission and Ministry**
Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman
St. Paul Lutheran Church
214 7th Avenue SW
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Telephone: (605) 225-1847
E-Mail: samuellbobby@yahoo.com

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

Sunday, December 5, 2021

- 4:30-6:00 p.m. Delegate Registration, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, Exhibit Hall #2
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. Opening Service – Sioux Falls Lutheran School (Vaughn and JoAnn Meyer Performing Arts Center) Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison – Preacher

Monday, December 6, 2021

- 8:00-9:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Floor committee hearings – Convention Center, Ballroom A
- 9:15-9:45 Orientation of Delegates – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
(Due to the introduction and practice of the electronic voting system, all delegates are expected to participate in the Orientation Session.)
- 9:00-5:00 p.m. Exhibits – Convention Center Ballroom A
- 10:00-Noon First Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- Noon-1:15 p.m. Recess/Noon Meal (meal ticket required) – Convention Center, Ballroom A
- 1:15-3:00 p.m. Second Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- 3:00-3:30 p.m. Recess/Coffee Break #1–Convention Center, Ballroom A
- 3:30-6:00 p.m. Third Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- 6:00 p.m. Recess/Dinner On Your Own

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet (meal ticket required) - Convention Center
- 8:00-3:30 p.m. Exhibits – Convention Center Ballroom A
- 8:00-10:00 a.m. Fourth Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. Recess/Coffee Break #2
- 10:30-Noon Fifth Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Recess/Noon Meal (meal ticket required)
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. Sixth Session – Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #2
- 3:00-3:30 p.m. Recess/Coffee Break #3 – Convention Center
- 3:30-5:15 p.m. Seventh Session – Convention Center
- 3:50 p.m. Adjournment
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Worship

The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Roster of Officers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: The Reverend Scott C. SailerElected Second Term 2018
1st Vice-President: The Reverend Randy R. Sturzenbecher Elected First Term 2018
2nd Vice-President: The Reverend Timothy J. Rynearson Elected First Term 2018
Secretary: The Reverend David G. OttenElected Second Term 2018
Treasurer: Mr. Jeff A. Siekmann..... Appointed Mid-Term 2011; Elected First Full Term 2012
Lay Member: Mr. Robert J. HerzElected Second Term 2018
Lay Member: Mr. David L. Zuercher..... Elected First Term 2018

Circuit Visitors

Circuit 1 Visitor..... Reverend Jordon Andreasen¹
Circuit 2 Visitor..... Reverend Matthew Wurm²
Circuit 3 Visitor.....Reverend Ray Greenseth
Circuit 4 Visitor..... Reverend John Fries
Circuit 5 Visitor..... Reverend Ryan Loeslie³
Circuit 6 Visitor..... Reverend Thomas Christopher
Circuit 7 Visitor.....Reverend Corey Aker⁴
Circuit 8 Visitor..... Reverend Steven Weispfennig⁵

¹Appointed to replace Reverend Tim Koch who accepted a call outside the Circuit.

²Appointed to replace Reverend David Knepfelkamp who accepted a call outside the District.

³Appointed to replace Reverend Mark Mischnick, who resigned, who had replaced Reverend Thomas Brown who accepted a call outside the Circuit.

⁴Appointed to replace Reverend Raymond Hartwig who resigned.

⁵Appointed to replace Reverend Jordon Andreasen who accepted a call outside the Circuit.

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

2021 Convention Nominating Committee

(Elected by the 2018 District Convention)

Pastors: Reverend Joshua Jones
 Reverend Matthew Wurm

Laymen: Mr. Steve Fiechtner
 Mr. Davyd Titze
 Mr. Adam Weeman

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
Andreasen, Jordon	Aberdeen, SD
Ascher, Christopher	Sioux Falls, SD
Asmus, Aaron	Sioux Falls, SD
Bauer, Micah.....	Brookings, SD
Bierman, Bret.....	Mansfield, Stratford and Aberdeen, SD
Bless, Matthew	Vermillion, SD
Bobby, Samuel	Aberdeen, SD
Brown, Thomas	Spearfish, SD
Deardoff, Sr., Daniel	Brandon, SD
Domenichelli, Jonah	Tea, SD
Drevlow, Ryan	Sioux Falls, SD
Edwards, Lucas	Rapid City, SD
Ford, Colin	Cresbard and Wecota, SD
Fries, John	Deadwood and Sturgis, SD
Gatnoor, Jenina	Lincoln, NE
Greenseth, Ray	Murdo, Draper and Presho, SD
Grimmer, Daniel	Mitchell, SD
Handschke, Samuel	Pierre, SD
Harr, Wade	Winner, Hamill and Reliance, SD
Heermann, William	Wagner and Fairfax, SD
Herzberg, Martin	Corona and Wilmot, SD
Hinckley, Robert	Chamberlain, SD
Hinners, Gregory	Norris, Midland and Philip, SD
Jenson, Jens.....	Armour, SD
Johnson, Kenneth.....	Avon and Springfield, SD
Jones, Joshua.....	Rapid City, SD
Keller, Brent	Alcester, SD
Koch, Timothy.....	Milbank, SD
Koester, Kevin	Huron, SD
Kurowski, Peter	Canistota and Montrose, SD
Laskowsky, Kurt	Centerville and Hurley, SD
Lehr, Gregory.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Lemcke, Brian.....	Delmont and Tripp, SD
Lindenberg, David	Rapid City, SD
Loeslie, Ryan	Dimock, SD
Makelin, Terry	Freeman, SD
McCarthy, Christopher.....	Wall and Creighton, SD
Meadows, Bryan	Rapid City, SD
Meyer, Wade	Sioux Falls, SD
Moore, Kevin.....	Redfield and Doland, SD
Mosemann, Brian	Menno, Scotland, Marion and Parker, SD
Navurskis, Christopher	Huron, SD

Nemera, Chera Sioux Falls, SD
 Neugebauer, Nathan Milbank and Reville, SD
 Nix, Matthew Sioux Falls, SD
 Nour, Nabil.....Hartford, SD

Otten, David.....Gettysburg and Lebanon, SD

Possehl, Iver Watertown, SD

Rajek, Cory Office of International Ministry, Eurasia
 Redhage, Lloyd Ferney and Britton, SD
 Rensner, Jason Sioux Falls, SD
 Richert, Jeremy Dakota Dunes, SD
 Ring, Marcus.....Gregory, SD
 Rynearson, Timothy Brookings, Flandreau and White, SD

Sailer, Scott Sioux Falls, SD
 Schroeder, Dean Tyndall and Utica, SD
 Slavens, Doug Sioux Falls, SD
 Smith, Jacob Aberdeen, SD
 Soyk, Kenneth Parkston and Emery, SD
 Spiehs, L. Scott Wolsey, Wessington Springs and Woonsocket, SD
 Strable, David Onida, Blunt and Harrold, SD
 Sturzenbecher, Randy.....Black Hawk, SD

Thole, Samuel.....Brookings, Flandreau and White SD
 Thorson, Clint Madison and Howard, SD

Utecht, Peter.....Hot Springs, SD

Warner, David.....Custer and Hill City, SD
 Weeman, Richard..... Wolsey, Wessington Springs and Woonsocket, SD
 Weispfennig, Steven..... Yankton, SD
 Welton, Adam Wentworth, SD
 Willms, Levi..... Yankton, SD
 Winckler, Paul..... Rapid City, SD
 Wurm, Matthew..... Brookings, SD

District Missionaries at Large

Olson, Darren Sioux Falls, SD
 Sutton, Albert Rapid City, SD
 Utecht, Andrew Rosebud, SD

Military Chaplains – Reserve

Jenson, Jens.....Armour, SD

Retired Pastors

Althoff, Albert Crooks, SD
 Anderson, Robert Custer, SD
 Andreasen, Phill Sioux Falls, SD
 Bauman, Gene Spearfish, SD

Boeder, Charles.....	Pipestone, MN
Bohlmann, Robert.....	Custer, SD
Cooper, Loren.....	Hill City, SD
Dell, Monty.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Denke, Glenn.....	Winner, SD
Doremus, Dwaine.....	Wentworth, SD
Ellis, David.....	Yankton, SD
Farden, John.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Gardner, Robert.....	Hot Springs, SD
Gies, Clark.....	Fairfax, SD
Goldammer, Gordon.....	Custer, SD
Grams, Craig.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Greinke, Kenneth.....	Lee's Summit, MO
Gunderson, David.....	Kansas City, MO
Hartman, Stephen.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Hartwig, Raymond.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Haugen, Paul.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Helling, Melbourne.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Jacobsen, Gary.....	Gregory, SD
Johnson, Larry.....	Webster, SD
Kramer, Charles.....	Canton, SD
Kumm, Michael.....	Sioux City, IA
Luttmann, Richard.....	Sioux Falls, SD
McKillop, Don.....	Winner, SD
Meadows, Philip.....	Rapid City, SD
Merrill, John.....	Hot Springs, SD
Mischnick, Mark.....	Mitchell, SD
Morfitt David.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Mueller, James.....	Yankton, SD
Naasz, Terry.....	Rapid City, SD
Paepke, William.....	Piedmont, SD
Pomplun, Ray.....	Aberdeen, SD
Sattgast, Dale.....	Huron, SD
Schmidt, Kenneth.....	Rapid City, SD
Schultz, Glenn.....	Rapid City, SD
Sestak, Peter.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Shane, Howard.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Uecker, Warren.....	Custer, SD
Warnier, Paul.....	Alcester, SD

Pastors – Candidate Status

Dawson, John.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Heckmann, Robert.....	Canton, SD
Howlett, Joseph.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Kalb, Jeffrey.....	Browns Valley, MN
Lessman, Bradley.....	Mitchell, SD

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned (Teachers)

Birkmire, Amber.....	Rapid City, SD
Deeter, Nicholas	Sioux Falls, 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
Lenz, Rod	Sioux Falls, SD
Miller, Heather	Sioux Falls, SD
Mlnarik, Kathryn.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Ockander, Marli	Sioux Falls, SD
Olson, Susan	Sioux Falls, SD
Pinn, Jon.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Solinsky, Ann	Rapid City, SD
Vercruysse, Britney	Sioux Falls, SD
Vogel, LeAnn	Rapid City, SD
Withee, Jane.....	Rapid City, SD

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Candidate

Dooley, Karen.....	Hot Springs, SD
Grimmer, Christine	Mitchell, SD
Holt, Sherlyn	Arlington, SD
Hoogland, Lacey.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Kolb, Linda.....	Big Stone City, SD
Larson, Eric.....	Gretna, NE
Loeslie, Valerie	Dimock, SD
Mercer, Dennis	Black Hawk, SD
Noble, Jennifer	Sioux Falls, SD
Schmitt, Ellen.....	Yankton, SD
Smith, Mavis	Sioux Falls, SD
Wendt, Nikol	Rapid City, SD
Wombold, Dawn	Rapid City, SD

Ministers of Religion – DCE

Miller, Haley Jo.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Peters, Elizabeth	Sioux Falls, SD
Peterson, Lorien	Rapid City, SD
Schmitt, Joshua	Yankton, SD

Ministers of Religion – Deaconess

Korthase, Amanda.....	Sioux Falls, SD
-----------------------	-----------------

Ministers of Religion Commissioned - Teacher Evangelist

Belitz, Larry.....	Hot Springs, SD
--------------------	-----------------

Ministers of Religion Commissioned – Emeritus

Allen, Marianne.....	Hot Springs, SD
Consoer, Paul.....	Prescott Valley, AZ
Geidel, David.....	Dimock, SD
Hoyme, Kristie.....	Dell Rapids, SD
Koopman, Karleen.....	Roswell, NM
Lafrentz, Louise.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Lenz, Tina.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Merrill, Kenlyn.....	Hot Springs, SD
Nielsen, George.....	Rapid City, SD
Palmreuter, Kenneth.....	Rapid City, SD
Palmreuter, Martha.....	Rapid City, SD
Peters, Joyce.....	North Sioux City, SD
Sayles, Priscilla.....	Rapid City, SD
Schilf, Paul.....	Brandon, SD
Schoenborn, Marlys.....	Rapid City, SD
Sopko, Darlene.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Tams, Sandra.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Uecker, Carol.....	Custer, SD
Withee, Roxanne.....	Rapid City, SD
Yung, Janice.....	Rapid City, SD

Roster of Congregations & Parishes by Circuit

Circuit 1 – 15 Congregations, 8 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	
Redfield, Messiah	Parish
Doland, Redeemer	

Circuit 2 – 12 Congregations, 7 Parishes

Brookings, Mount Calvary	Parish
Brookings, Peace	Parish
Flandreau, Redeemer	
White, Zion	
Corona, Trinity	Parish
Wilmot, Our Savior	
Milbank, Bethlehem	Parish
Reville, Saint John	
Milbank, Emanuel	Parish
Sisseton, Emanuel.....	Parish
Waubay, Zion	
Watertown, Mount Olive	Parish

Circuit 3 – 12 Congregations, 5 Parishes

Gettysburg, Emmanuel.....	Parish
Lebanon, Christ	

Midland, Saint Peter Parish
Norris, Saint John
Philip, Our Redeemer

Murdo, Messiah Parish
Draper, Saint Paul
Presho, Zion

Onida, Holy Cross Parish
Harrold, Immanuel
Blunt, Trinity

Pierre, Faith Parish

*(Reliance, Trinity***) in parish with Christ-Zion, Winner-Hamill, SD – Circuit 5*

Circuit 4 – 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

*(Philip, Redeemer***) in parish with St. Peter-St. John, Midland-Norris, SD – Circuit 3*

Rapid City, Bethlehem Parish

Rapid City, Our Redeemer Parish

Rapid City, Peace Parish

Rapid City, Zion Parish

Spearfish, Saint Paul Parish

Circuit 5 – 18 Congregations, 11 Parishes

Armour, Redeemer Parish

Chamberlain, Zion Parish

Hamill, Zion Parish
Winner, Christ
Reliance, Trinity

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	
Huron, Mount Calvary.....	Parish
Wolsey, Saint John	Parish
Wessington Springs, Zion	
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	

Circuit 6 – 13 Congregations, 7 Parishes

Alexandria, Saint Martin	Parish
Spencer, Trinity	
Canistota, Zion	Parish
Montrose, Saint John	
Freeman, Saint Paul	Parish
Hartford, Trinity.....	Parish
Marion, Bethesda	Parish
Parker, First English	
Menno, Immanuel	
Scotland, Saint Paul	
Howard, Saint John	Parish
Madison, Our Savior	
Wentworth, Saint Peter.....	Parish

Circuit 7 – 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 8 – 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
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-12 th Grade.....	Sioux Falls, SD
Risen Savior Lutheran – Preschool.....	Tea, SD
Saint John’s Lutheran – Preschool.....	Yankton, SD

District President's Report to the 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District, LCMS

President Scott C. Sailer

“Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving” Colossians 2:6-7

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6-7).

It is an honor to bring you this report at the end of my second term as the President of the beloved South Dakota District. It is a joy to serve the Lord with you in this good place.

In the past triennium, we have walked together under the theme from the 2018 convention: “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, who themselves received God’s unexpected and undeserved mercy, 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).

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 in the three-and-a-half years since our last convention, and we have had 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.”

Covid-19, the Unprecedented Challenge to Ministry in Our Time

We have experienced our Lord’s help, and we have witnessed of that help, in a time of an unprecedented challenge: the coronavirus that invaded our country and our lives early in 2020, and which has impacted how we conduct our ministries since then. At first, we didn’t know what we were dealing with, and so society virtually shut down. All our schools in the District ended in-person education from the middle of March until the end of the school year in 2020, and virtually all of our churches in the District suspended in-person activities, including worship services, at least for a few Sundays. When it became clear that the virus was making its way into our church members’ lives and that the virus could prove deadly, especially for the most vulnerable among us, our pastors and leaders did the best they could in determining when and how to conduct worship services, how to deal with the issue of masks and social distancing, and how to care for church members in their time of distress and loss.

I am so grateful to our wonderful God that we made our way quite well through this time of virus invasion. Pastors and church leaders and congregation members made decisions to the best of their ability, and they respected the decisions of other congregations as how to handle matters dealing with the pandemic. And so, by God’s grace and the Spirit’s direction, the proclamation of God’s Word continued, on-line or in-person. Moreover, the saints continued to give their offerings to the Lord, so that, in most cases, our ministries did not suffer financially. That some congregations “upped their game” when it comes to technology, including the use of on-line giving, was a surprising new benefit stemming from our having had to deal with Covid-19.

But I’m not blind to, nor am I insensitive to, the very serious difficulties and heartbreaks. Twenty-nine of our rostered pastors in the District, active or retired (about 25% of our pastors), along with several of our Lutheran school teachers, contracted Covid-19. Only God knows how many church members were so afflicted. Deaths due to Covid-19 were numerous. Home-bound members and those in nursing homes were truly shut in and isolated. What a burden it was for them to be cut off from the care of their pastors and from visits by family members and friends!

Pastors carried the burden of not being able to visit and commune these precious, lonely church members. When death came to the homebound and others, whatever the contributing factors, it was difficult to hold public funerals, and, in many cases, the attendance at funerals that were public was severely restricted. Sometimes, a brief graveside service was all that could be done.

Our Lutheran schools and early childhood centers carried the tremendous burden of how to educate the children and how to staff their ministries. When tuition wasn't coming in, how would they pay the bills? I'm very grateful to our school administrators, teachers, and staff for how they so patiently and creatively met these and countless other changes and challenges brought about by the pandemic. I'm grateful to our school children and school families for displaying the fruit of the Spirit (love, peace, kindness, patience, etc.), as they and their schools had to adjust to a strange new life under Covid-19.

The Opportunities Amid the Pandemic and the Unrest

But along with the difficulties have come opportunities. I loved the perspective of my pastor, Rev. Corey Aker, concerning the impact of the invasion of the virus into our lives. He had the perspective of "in spite of Covid," God was on the move. Pastor Aker wanted to move us church members out from under the dismal phrase "because of Covid," under which, it seemed, we were forced to live, as restrictions of various kinds were placed upon us. No, *in spite of Covid*, God was accomplishing great things. His message of Law and Gospel was marching forward. God was taking care of us, and we, His precious children, were being good neighbors to others.

And we can apply the phrase, *in spite of Covid*, to other great challenges in society the past couple of years, especially to the raging racial unrest and the gaping political divide. *In spite of these confusing, sin-tainted societal realities*, God's strong Word was and is marching on. Those societal challenges are significant components of the context for our involvement in God's mission right now and into the foreseeable future. They can serve as springboards to our giving witness to the wonderful plan for the abundant life in Christ that God wishes to bestow upon His human creation (cf. John 10:10).

But it sure is tempting to join the fray and start firing away on Facebook and Twitter, since our lives have been shaken by such phenomena as racial unrest and the political divide. There is another way! Instead of despising those who support other world views or another political party, let us see them as our neighbors, as our Lord Jesus bids us (Lev. 19:18; Prov. 14:21; Matt. 19:19; Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:10; James 4:12, et al.). He loves them. He died for them. Just like He loves us and has died for us. He wants them and us in His new heaven and new earth forever.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and because He pours out His grace upon us in His Word and Sacraments, we live in His unending love. His grace will bring us home to heaven someday. Until then, we are called to share the precious gift of God's undeserved love, forgiveness, and eternal life through His Son.

In the storm of life the past couple of troubled years, I am grateful that our churches and schools have faithfully shared that Good News. We members of the Body of Christ, the Church, have been blessed to learn and experience that God is on the move with His mercy and grace, *in spite of the unrest and confusion and in spite of Covid*.

Life in the Church Is Different, but There Is Much We Can Do: Pushing Aside Nostalgia and Pushing Ahead with the Gospel

I have fond memories of my boyhood church in North Dakota. Many of you have shared with me similar memories of how it was in South Dakota back in the day: lots of kids in Sunday school, the pews stuffed for Easter and Christmas and Mother's Day, teens (called "Walther Leaguers,"

dating back to the 1950's, 60's, and early 70's) getting together from all the churches in the Circuit, and so on. Those were the days!

But those days are no more. Today, it's different (and it's not just because of the pandemic we've endured). The Church is not the center of life, like it had been in days gone by. People think they are regular church attenders, these days, if they worship once a month. Some of our churches have no Sunday school because they have no children, and some churches haven't had a junior confirmand in the past five years.

Look at how things have gone in The South Dakota District in just the past twelve years; consider these statistics from 2009, 2016, and 2019 (reported in *The Lutheran Annual* – 2011, 2018, and 2021, respectively):

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2019</u>
Number of congregations:	114	107	107
Number of baptized members:	30,672	29,761	27,884
Ave. baptized membership:	269	278	261
Number of confirmed members:	24,085	23,251	21,508
Ave. confirmed membership:	211	217	201
Children baptized:	368	305	290
Juniors confirmed:	257	196	191
Adults confirmed:	229	107	68

Judging by the numbers, we are declining, a trend for the Synod at large and for mainline denominations across the board. And there's additional evidence of decline. Since 2019, we have closed two more congregations (St. John-Emery and First English-Aurora). On a positive note, we have planted one new congregation (Trinity-Belle Fourche). We now have 106 congregations.

In most cases, our congregations are smaller than they used to be and older than they used to be. Average worship attendance is down, with a few congregations showing an increase.

By the numbers, it would seem our congregations are not doing well. And yet, much can be done and much is being done by you faithful, serving children of God! In the May 2021 District insert in *The Lutheran Witness*, I wrote about what God has given us and what we can do as servants:

But all of our churches have God's Word of truth and promise. We all worship a risen Savior whose Easter triumph guarantees that sin, guilt, and shame are covered. ... by faith, we are incorporated into the once shamed but now honored Christ.

Your church is a place where you hear this message and you can invite your neighbors to hear it, too. This is a gift you can extend to others.

Your church is situated between individuals and their broader day-to-day lives. Your friends and neighbors work hard. They interact with government, schools, service organizations, and senior centers. All of these institutions have their place.

Your church's place is to be different than those institutions. The church is a place of grace, even a place of honor.

In the article I went on to give some examples of what you as individuals and what your congregations can do to extend the life-changing gifts of grace and honor to others:

You and your church can speak grace and give God-bestowed honor to the frazzled mom who can't control her kids: "Your heavenly Father cares for you and your kids. Because of Jesus and His saving work, you're His dear daughter. You are righteous – perfect – in His sight. Let me sit with you during the service and be an extra pair of hands for you."

You and your church can speak grace and give God-bestowed honor to the teen who missed out on making the team and the honor roll: "You may have failed to make the team, but you're not a failure. Your identity isn't in the team. No, it's in your being a precious child of God. You count so much to Him that He sent His Son to be Your Savior."

You and your church can speak grace and give God-bestowed honor to the new widow in town, without a church home and now without a husband: "Join us for quilting on Thursday mornings." Then bring her. Show her God's love. Demonstrate that your church is a place where she has another kind of family. It's a place of belonging and of experiencing God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ.

Yes, you as an individual and you and your congregation can make a difference in the lives of the folks around you, even if your church is a whole lot different, especially smaller, than it used to be.

Congregations Banding Together or Doing Something Novel in This New and Different Time

Congregations are adjusting to church life in the 21st century in other ways. Multi-congregation parishes are nothing new in South Dakota (we have 70 congregations in such arrangements), but even more of our congregations, for several reasons, are beginning to band together under new parish agreements. Why must they band together in new alignments? Chiefly, to call a pastor to serve them with the ongoing proclamation of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments. This, at a time when salaries and benefits for pastors are increasing in cost, and, as we have seen, church membership numbers have declined and so also has the population in many rural communities. Some congregations, therefore, need other congregations to assist them in keeping the church doors open and the Gospel proclaimed and taught.

In the last triennium, Christ-Winner, Zion-Hamill, and Trinity-Reliance have formed a new tri-point parish. Meanwhile, Immanuel-Menno, St. Paul-Scotland, First English-Parker, and Bethesda-Marion have formed a four-point parish. And at the time of the writing of this report, Our Redeemer-Philip, St. John-Norris, and St. Peter-Midland are well on their way to forming a tri-point parish. God's people and their pastors in these parishes understand that hearing God's Word and having the Sacraments properly administered in their midst is of life-giving and life-sustaining importance. They understand that God has something for them to do in their communities: share the Gospel and serve their neighbors with acts of kindness. They accept that they must align in new ways to continue this God-blessed ministry, for their own sake, and for the sake of others. And they're doing it. Praise God for our multi-point parishes and the faithful pastors who serve them!

Beyond the multi-congregation parish phenomenon, some congregations, circuits, and even the District itself, are doing something novel to carry out the mission of God in this world. Examples of this are:

- St. Paul-Spearfish is the mother church to Trinity-Belle Fourche, the first church plant in the District in eighteen years.
- Two congregations – Divine Shepherd-Black Hawk and St. Paul's-Aberdeen – have entered into the Specific Ministry Pastor program (SMP) to train men in their midst for bi-

- vocational, ordained ministry. Another congregation – Emmanuel-Gettysburg – is about to enter the SMP program.
- Laypeople and pastors in Circuit 1 (Aberdeen) have launched the Rural Gospel Initiative (RGI), whose purpose it is to support ministry staffing of congregations in the circuit for new or amplified efforts in rural and small town ministry, and to support and encourage education and training events concerning Christian witness and service (e.g., the Rural Field Seminar, this past September, held at St. Paul's-Aberdeen).
 - The SD District and Sioux Falls Lutheran School collaborated on a call for a missionary-at-large/school chaplain to plant a church in the ever-growing area of Northern Lincoln County and to serve as a spiritual resource for the school. This is a “first” for our District, and the only such effort that we’re aware of in the Synod, at this time

Lutheran Family Service: God’s Care for Us in a Special Way

From the beginning of the 2018-2021 triennium, our District has been working with Lutheran Family Service (LFS) to explore how we can join forces to support the mental and emotional health of our LCMS population in South Dakota. After much discussion with Rev. Max Phillips, the Executive Director of LFS, and others at the ministry, the Board of Directors of the District voted to enter into a ministry agreement with LFS, beginning in 2020, and renewed for 2021. LFS and their professional counselors have consulted with our pastors, assisting our pastors in giving counsel to church members. Our church workers themselves have turned to the counselors at LFS, via Telehealth, to work through mental health problems of their own. And LFS has brought some of their presentations into our District, although concerns about the pandemic have served to limit these opportunities.

What a blessing LFS has been to us! A resolution concerning LFS will be considered at the Convention, and so you as a convention delegate will help to determine our District’s ongoing relationship with this fine ministry, which is based in Fort Dodge, IA, and is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Missouri Synod.

Our Convention Theme in 2021 and the District’s Mission & Ministry Theme for 2021-2025: “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving”

The District President gets to develop the theme for District Conventions. For this particular Convention, I wanted a theme reflecting our dependable, faithful God, and how His unswerving care of us ought to result in our living thankful and productive lives. I also thought about how South Dakota is, by and large, an agricultural state, and how the Scriptures have much to say about our lives of faith, put in agricultural terms. Putting all of that together, concepts like rootedness, growth, and thankfulness came to mind – I wanted a theme bringing out those concepts.

As I searched God’s Word for ideas for a convention theme which could capture those concepts, I was drawn to Paul’s letter to the Colossians as the little garden plot from God’s Word, which would yield our theme and, I hope, will inspire in us thankfulness and spiritual growth and fruit-bearing. And so I settled on the theme: “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving.” I hope you like it. I hope it becomes for you and your congregation a theme for your lives of individual and corporate service for this triennium.

Looking Ahead to the Convention and to the 2021-2025 Triennium: Rooted (but Not Stuck) and Thankful!

By the end of July of this year, I had visited all but three of the congregations in the District over the course of my six-and-a-half years as District President. During the same period of time, I’ve had the privilege of preaching in eighty-one LCMS churches in South Dakota – some of them more than once. I feel like I’ve gotten to know the saints of The South Dakota District and they

have gotten to know me. Despite the shortcomings and challenges noted earlier, 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, Directors of Christian Education, and deaconesses. The laity are salt-of-the-earth. They want to hear God's Word purely preached and taught, and to have the Sacraments faithfully administered. They want their congregations to make a difference in their communities and throughout the world.

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:

- Remaining firmly rooted in Christ, in the Scriptures, and in the Lutheran Confessions while also moving outward with the Gospel, not being afraid to seize the opportunities to reach the unchurched and the de-churched, and to serve our neighbor with deeds of love;
- Strategizing with our congregations about their future and their opportunities for witness and mercy in a time when society is unstable and deeply divided;
- Equipping our lay people, including our young adults, to lead in the world as it exists today (it's a new world!); and
- Recruiting more people for church work careers and encouraging worker health for the workers we already have.

At the Convention, you'll hear many reports on the work we are doing together, including a report from our Synod President, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. The convention essayist, Rev. Michael Newman, President of the Texas District—LCMS, will show us, from the history of our Synod, how we've been a firmly-rooted, but not stuck, group of theologically sound Christians. From our beginning in the 1840's, the care of the soul has been regarded as the highest concern and the zeal to win souls our chief purpose.

Throughout the history of the LCMS, I think it's safe to say that we've demonstrated a great steadfastness in holding to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, with few wobbles along the way. Meanwhile, the Lord has used our church body as a beacon of the Gospel to all nations in countless ways, although we've had our times, it seems, when the purpose of winning souls could be far more zealously emphasized and carried out.

When we're together in Sioux Falls, December 5-7, you'll be educated, edified, challenged, and inspired. I pray you'll also be better equipped, through your experience at the Convention, to be a firmly rooted, thankful servant of Jesus, eager to share the Good News you've been blessed to receive and believe.

Until I see you at the Convention, I wish you God's richest blessings! May He continue to bless and keep you. May He fill you with His hope in Christ Jesus. And may you continue to "*walk in [Christ], rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving*" (from the Convention theme verse, Colossians 2:6-7).

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

District Mission Reports

Ministry to the Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD

Reverend Matthew W. Nix, Sioux Falls, SD

The past three years has brought many challenges and many blessings. The obvious challenge was COVID, which made entering houses, nursing homes and anything else impossible at times and a challenge at others. That being said, through it all Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf continued to meet regularly for worship. We have had a good combination of members and non-members in church on Sunday mornings. Shut-in and hospital visits have become as much for non-members as for members of our congregation, and counseling and other support ministries have become more of an outreach ministry to those less than comfortable joining a congregation. We have had the opportunity to work with a number of high school through upper twenty year old deaf in a variety of situations. We have covered everything from the normal teenage issues to the how and why do I survive this life. It is a great joy when, just as you thought you were not getting through, they are able to answer their own questions with a correct connection to Jesus.

We still have a number of deaf who live across our state. I do my best to make regular visits to them, but I also thank some of our hearing church pastors that have helped save a day trip by stopping in on our people with someone to interpret. Main Street Living continues to be a blessing, especially for the out of towners, allowing the deaf to see the Word of Christ shared in their own language as it is interpreted by my wife, Lynda.

I would like to thank the district and its members for the ongoing support of deaf ministry in South Dakota. Together we are bringing the saving Word of the Gospel to those who are deaf, yet hear the voice of Jesus.

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

Reverend Albert G. Sutton, Rapid City, SD

Our ministry is located about 60 miles from Rapid City. The trip to the Evergreen area takes us across the prairie and through a portion of the Badlands. This is a very arid climate but very beautiful in its own way. Summer brings the heat that evaporates all the pooled water from the spring rains. Everything turns brown. When a rain does come it just washes away more of the alkali dirt or stands in pools because the ground will not absorb much. Winter comes and the Badlands look like mirrors glistening in the sunlight with a fresh snow but with that comes the wind and frigid temperatures. Spring comes and I am amazed, the time when the cactus' flower. To see such a rugged environment produce such beauty and a crown of such a rugged and thorny plant. This reminds me of Easter! Our Savior lived a life as the suffering servant, took on a crown of thorns for us and then rose from the dead so that we might see the beauty of a new life. Most people think of the Easter lily as a symbol of Christ's resurrection. We see the blooming cactus as that symbol. The cactus is a tough plant that survives much in its harsh environment. It can do this because it has a good root system. We have had a very tough last couple of years as well because of covid but we have remained rooted in the source of all blessing, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Covid came in March and the Tribal leadership shut down the reservation to all visitors, even posting guards at the highway entrances. Our mission has not been able to worship together since last March. To make matters worse, the building that we used for church had a fire in it. Add to that the previous Tribal leadership was VERY anti-Christian. I felt like the man in Amos 5

who fled the lion to meet the bear, fled the bear and upon entering his house all winded from the fleeing, rested his hand on the wall only to be bitten by a serpent!

The Serpent, that old evil foe, is alive and well. There was a time during all of this that I was not sure that I would have a mission to come back to. But our Savior is King at overcoming the Serpent and breathing new life into apparent dead things. I met with the Tribal leadership and pitched the idea of cleaning up and restoring the building we used. We would work together with the tribe to make a community building and in return, we would get to use it for our ministerial needs. They loved the idea. Not only that, they committed to putting it in writing and offered day labor and a dumpster service, basically anything they could do to help. I about fell off my chair, or at least the wall I had rested my hand on!

With the help of many volunteers across the state, we are on track to begin worship services and back to our old schedule of ministry by the end of September! For this we are abounding in thanksgiving for all that the Lord has provided for our mission.

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

As we are “Rooted In Christ, and Abounding in Thanksgiving,” our work in Rosebud continues to help those who are in the faith, grow their roots, and we abound in thanksgiving for the numerous baptisms, weddings, funerals, and regular worship and reception of the Lord’s Supper that continues in Rosebud. 2021 marks the 25th year of our family living in Rosebud, as my vicarage was here in 1996. It marks the 28th year of our mission.



One of the more significant things of our ministry in the last 3 years was a move of location of worship in Parmelee. We moved to a larger building in the center of town that is owned by a Chief Cornerstone Ministries. We have our worship on Sunday evening, with our Tuesday midweek Bible schools. We have often used this location for puppet shows, and worked with these people in community events, and this location works well for our worship, activities and food bank. Interestingly enough my family did puppet shows at this building when it was first built in the early 1970’s.

We continue with our summer VBS, our midweek Bible School, Radio devotions, and home visits. We also continue to host summer mission groups, and thank our partnership, especially with congregations in Brandon, Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Pierre, among others. We also continue the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair! The support from the LWML, and congregations of our South Dakota District is continually a blessing. We appreciate all of your support with such things from Portals of Prayer, My Devotions, quilts, to hats and gloves, school supplies, Christmas gifts, food, and a host of other things. Thank you from all of us.



During this triennium, I was officially called as Pastor to serve in Valentine, NE, as I have served the vacancy there since 1997. There are a number of families who are tribal members living in Valentine who worship with us. We also have started a group called REZ – Rosebud Encouragement Zone, to help people from Rosebud be encouraged as they live and work in Valentine. The church also does outreach to Native Americans in the community. The Valentine congregation has also supported a summer vicar to help with Bible Schools and such.

The pictures are from the Rosebud church. Things there are going well. We have some really good families that attend, and while we always pray for more growth, the people there are brothers and sisters in Christ, glad we share life together. They are “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving.”

I don't want to talk about Covid, so I won't except to say, that the tribe more closely followed the Federal guidelines, and did not have school. This has hurt the attendance of the children at both church and Bible School. But what a great time to live and share our Christian faith!

A few other things we “Abound in Thanksgiving” for: My son Titus was ordained, and called to Sherman Oaks, California. My son Justus was commissioned as a Lutheran school teacher in Norfolk, NE. So the ministry continues to grow from my father, to other generations!

Love In Christ,

Rev. Andrew Utecht

Campus Ministry SDSU, Brookings, SD

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

Mount Calvary has effectively become the home church of many South Dakota State University (SDSU) students. It is often the first congregation where they are truly accepted as full-fledged adults, and they become integrated in the worship and life of the church. They worship with us, learn with us, and serve with us.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, we have reached at least 70 college students, averaging 15 in worship each week and 10 in our LSF Bible study. In 2019-2020, we reached at least 87, averaging 21 in worship and 7 in Bible study. In 2018-2019, we reached at least 81, averaging 18 in worship and 6 in Bible study.

In addition to weekly worship and Bible study, we attend conferences, play dartball, host game nights for students and parishioners, gather for a monthly lunch, watch movies, etc. Our core group continues to grow in knowledge, closeness, and numbers. This year, we have 11 students who regularly come to our Book of Concord study, as well as our various events. They share apartments, have their own Snapchat group, and actually enjoy each other's company.

Covid has certainly made campus ministry more difficult. Before Covid, I would go on campus wearing my clerical collar every Thursday morning. I was allowed to reserve a space near other student organizations in the main area of the Student Union. I would offer to pray for people and answer questions. This way, I would usually visit with a few of our own students each week and meet maybe one or two others, as well. But now in 2020-2021, student organizations are not allowed to reserve this space anymore. I have still been visiting students and occasionally sitting somewhere else in the Union, but it's more difficult to be noticed. Another challenge is that in 2020 the LCMS removed Rev. Marcus Zill's position as the national head of campus ministries. This decision meant that the biennial LCMS-U conferences would no longer take place. Since then, the Synod has hired him back part-time, but it remains to be seen whether the conferences will resume.

In order to further our ministry to college students, we ask that, if any of your parishioners are in college, you let their local congregation(s) know. You can find their local congregations at <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/campus-ministry/lcms-u-chapter-map>. Giving us students' contact information is a significant initial step in helping them to remain faithful during this often-tumultuous time. Many students give into the temptation not 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 for your continued support.

Concordia Lutheran Church and Student Center USD, Vermillion, SD

Reverend Matthew A. Bless

A transition time is upon us in our District's University of South Dakota campus ministry. Rev. Matthew Bless was installed as the pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, on Sunday, September 5, 2021. Rev. Bless replaces Rev. Paul Albers who accepted a call to the Nebraska District—LCMS.

Rev. Bless, a 2018 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, comes to us from Merrill, WI, where he served as the associate pastor of St. John Lutheran Church. Matthew's wife, Janelle, has a baccalaureate degree in music education.

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). (2019 Handbook, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3, p. 57). During the past triennium, the following individuals were received into membership:

ORDAINED

2018
Samuel Handschke
M. Brent Keller
Andrew Wolfgram

2019
Colin Ford
Kevin Koester
Bryan Meadows
Doug Slavens

2020
Jonah Domenichelli
Kurt Laskowsky

2021
Jacob Smith

COMMISSIONED

2018
Scot Dobbs
Rebecca Wiemer

2019

2020
Jacqualyn Berg

2021
Amanda Korthase

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 2019 Handbook of the Synod, pages 54 - 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 two members. Rev. David Otten serves as Chairman, and Rev. Jordon Andreasen is the other committee member. Providing legal advice, particularly regarding the compliance of congregations' governing documents with the codified law for non-profit agencies in South Dakota, is the District's legal counsel. Mr. Tom Deadrick, a member of Faith, Pierre, served as legal counsel from 2015 until May, 2020. The District's Board of Directors appointed Mr. Matthew Naasz, a member of Peace, Rapid City, to succeed Mr. Deadrick.

--Reverend David G. Otten, Chairman, District Constitution Committee

Corporate Documents Approved by the Board of Directors

Bylaw 2.4.1 of the Synod, pp. 54 - 55 of the 2019 Handbook of the Synod, stipulates that the action of the District Board of Directors in approving the revised Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions, and By-laws of congregations be reported to the District Convention. The Board of Directors of the South Dakota District approved the following documents in the past triennium:

Aberdeen, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, October 15, 2021.

Belle Fourche, Trinity Lutheran Mission, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, March 1, 2021. These Articles of Incorporation are pending with the State of South Dakota.

Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. Amended Articles of Incorporation, December 9, 2019.

Dimock, Immanuel Lutheran Church. Amended Bylaws, October 15, 2021

Mitchell, Zion Lutheran Church. Amended Articles of Incorporation, December 7, 2020.

Sioux Falls, Christ Lutheran Church. Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, December 9, 2019.

Sioux Falls, Faith Lutheran Church. Amended Bylaws, June 8, 2020.

Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, September 22, 2020. These governing documents were revised and submitted a second time, and approved by the Board, March 16, 2021.

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 (a second submission in the triennium)

Custer, Our Redeemer

Deadwood, Grace

Gettysburg, Emmanuel

Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer (a third submission in the triennium)

Watertown, Mt. Olive

Pastoral Candidates Ordained and Installed

Bakat, Albert T. (St. Louis, MO EILT, 2021) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota as Assistant Pastor on October 10, 2021.

Domenichelli, Jonah J. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2020) ordained by Reverend Dr. Daniel J. Brege at Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana on June 17, 2020 and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Tea, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 12, 2020.

Ford, Colin E. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2019) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Concordia and Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Cresbard and Wecota, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on June 30, 2019.

Handschke, Samuel P. (St. Louis, MO 2018) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on June 17, 2018.

Keller, Michael B. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2018) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Peace Lutheran Church, Alcester, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on July 29, 2018.

Koester, Kevin W. (St. Louis, MO 2019) ordained by Reverend Randall Neal at Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins, Minnesota and installed by Reverend Thomas Brown at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on July 28, 2019.

Laskowsky, Kurt G. (Ft. Wayne, IN 2020) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at First English and Zion Lutheran Churches, Centerville and Hurley, South Dakota on June 28, 2020 as Sole Pastor.

Meadows, Bryan W. (St. Louis, MO 2019) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota on July 28, 2019 as Associate Pastor.

Slavens, Douglas J. (St. Louis, MO 2019) ordained by Reverend Dave Meggers at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brentwood, Missouri and installed by Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig at Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 30, 2019 as Associate Pastor.

Smith, Jacob E. (St. Louis, MO 2021) ordained and installed by Reverend Scott C. Sailer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota on July 11, 2021 as Associate Pastor.

Wolfgram, Andrew C. (St. Louis, MO 2018) ordained by Reverend Arie Bertsch at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, North Dakota and installed by Reverend Timothy J. Rynearson at St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches, Groton and Andover, South Dakota on July 22, 2018 as Sole Pastor.

Pastors Transferred from Other Districts

Andreasen, Phill E. (Minnesota South District) Emeritus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on March 19, 2020.

Bless, Matthew A. (North Wisconsin District) installed at Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on September 5, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Cooper, Loren D. (Nebraska District) Emeritus, Hill City, South Dakota on May 25, 2020.

Fritsch, Lyle H. (Minnesota South District) Emeritus, Tea, South Dakota on September 23, 2021.

Harr, Wade M. (Montana District) installed at Trinity, Zion and Christ Lutheran Churches, Reliance, Hamill and Winner, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on March 21, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Heermann, William G. (Nebraska District) installed at St. John and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Wagner and Fairfax, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on November 11, 2018 by Reverend Timothy Ryearson.

Herzberg, Martin J. (Oklahoma District) installed at Trinity and Our Savior Lutheran Churches, Corona and Wilmot, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on January 5, 2020 by Reverend Timothy Ryearson.

Howlett, Joseph F. (Texas District) Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 11, 2018.

Meadows, Phillip W. (Indiana District) Emeritus, Rapid City, South Dakota on September 23, 2021.

Merrill, John E. (Michigan District) Emeritus, Hot Springs, South Dakota on June 12, 2019.

Moore, Kevin D. (Northwest District) installed at Messiah and Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Redfield and Doland, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on November 7, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Mosemann, Brian M. (South Wisconsin District) installed at St. Paul, Immanuel, Bethesda and First English Lutheran Churches, Scotland, Menno, Marion and Parker, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on September 13, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Navurskis, Christopher A. (Northern Illinois District) installed at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota as Senior Pastor on June 3, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Rensner, Jason E. (Central Illinois District) installed at Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on May 9, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Richert, Jeremy D. (Lutheran Church of Canada, West Region) installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on February 17, 2019 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Schaekel, Timothy H. (Minnesota North District) installed at Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on May 13, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Strable, David F. (Iowa West District) installed at Holy Cross, Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Onida, Blunt and Harrold, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on December 27, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Warner, David M. (Montana District) installed at Our Redeemer and Our Savior Lutheran Churches, Custer and Hill City, South Dakota as Sole Pastor on January 10, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Willms, Levi R. (North Wisconsin District) installed at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota as Associate Pastor on December 9, 2018 by Reverend Timothy Rynearson.

Pastors Transferred to Other Districts

Albers, Paul F., April 12, 2021 (Sole Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District.

Borglum, Kent A., April 13, 2018 (Emeritus, Spearfish, South Dakota) to the Minnesota North District.

Davis, Jesse L., July 29, 2019 (Sole Pastor, First English and Zion Lutheran Churches, Centerville and Hurley, South Dakota) to the Minnesota South District.

Domke, Daniel M., May 21, 2018 (Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota) to the Minnesota North District.

Fitch, Josiah J., June 19, 2020 (Associate Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota) to the South Wisconsin District.

Heilmann, Steven J., January 22, 2020 (Emeritus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Mid-South District.

Janke, Ryan M., April 27, 2020 (Sole Pastor, Christ, Zion and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Winner, Hamill and Reliance, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District.

Janneke, Kory A., April 29, 2019 (Associate Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the South Wisconsin District.

Knefelkamp, David J., December 30, 2019 (Sole Pastor, Zion and First English Lutheran Churches, White and Aurora, South Dakota) to the North Wisconsin District.

Letsche, Jason M., October 15, 2018 (Associate Pastor, Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon, South Dakota) to the Iowa West District.

Morton, Douglas V., December 3, 2020 (Emeritus, Omaha, Nebraska) to the Nebraska District.

Obermann, Eric P., August 5, 2019 (Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer and Our Savior Lutheran Churches, Custer and Hill City, South Dakota) to the Iowa East District.

Resner, Matthew T., January 28, 2019 (Sole Pastor, Immanuel and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Menno and Scotland, South Dakota) to the Missouri District.

Schaekel, Timothy H., October 8, 2018 (Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Minnesota South District.

Schewe, Caleb W., May 20, 2019 (Sole Pastor, Our Savior and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Corona and Wilmot, South Dakota) to the Iowa East District.

Schwan, David E., August 15, 2018 (Emeritus, Rapid City, South Dakota) to the Indiana District.

Theiss, Benjamin J., September 9, 2019 (Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Churches of Onida, Blunt and Harrold, South Dakota) to the Missouri District.

Warpness, Barry G., December 3, 2018 (Emeritus, Monroe, Wisconsin) to the South Wisconsin District.

Wilshusen, James M., August 3, 2020 (Sole Pastor, Emmanuel and Zion Lutheran Churches, Sisseton and Waubay, South Dakota) to the Missouri District.

Wilson, Lynn J., August 1, 2020 (Chaplain, SD Army National Guard) to the Missouri District.

Wolfgram, Andrew C., October 3, 2021 (Sole Pastor, St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches, Groton and Andover, South Dakota) to the New Jersey District.

Pastoral Moves Within The District

Andreasen, Jordon M. (Sole Pastor, St. John and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Wagner and Fairfax, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of Our Savior and St. John Lutheran Churches, Aberdeen and Columbia, South Dakota on July 1, 2018 by Reverend Samuel Bobby.

Ascher, Christopher D. (Sole Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Senior/Administrative Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on October 10, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Bauer, Micah L. (Assistant Pastor, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, South Dakota) installed as Associate Pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, South Dakota on June 23, 2019 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Brown, Thomas C. (Senior Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, South Dakota on August 23, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Greenseth, Ray A. (Sole Pastor of Messiah, St. Paul and Our Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Murdo, Draper and Philip, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor at Messiah, St. Paul and Zion Lutheran Churches, Murdo, Draper and Presho, South Dakota (newly formed tri-point parish) on June 2, 2019 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Grimmer, Daniel P. (Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota) installed as Senior Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota on August 30, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Hinckley, Robert M. (Candidate) installed as Sole Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, South Dakota on March 31, 2019 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Hinners, Gregory S. (Sole Pastor, St. Peter and St. John Lutheran Churches, Midland and Norris, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of St. John, St. Peter and Our Redeemer Lutheran Churches of Norris, Midland and Philip, South Dakota (newly formed tri-point parish) on October 3, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Janke, Ryan M. (Sole Pastor, Christ and Zion Lutheran Churches, Winner and Hamill, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of Christ, Zion and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Winner, Hamill and Reliance, South Dakota (newly formed tri-point parish) on May 19, 2019 by Reverend Thomas Brown.

Koch, Timothy A. (Sole Pastor, Concordia and Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Cresbard and Wecota, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota on September 9, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Lessman, Bradley R. (Candidate) installed as Sole Pastor at Trinity and St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Plankinton and White Lake, South Dakota on August 5, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Olson, Darren R. (Executive Secretary, The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Missionary-at-Large/Campus Pastor Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (a newly created position) on September 2, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Rynearson Timothy J. (Administrative Pastor, Peace and Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Brookings and Flandreau, South Dakota) installed as Administrative Pastor of Peace, Redeemer and Zion Lutheran Churches; Brookings, Flandreau and White, South Dakota (newly formed tri-point parish) on January 3, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Thole, Samuel R. (Assistant Pastor, Peace and Redeemer Lutheran Churches of Brookings and Flandreau, South Dakota) installed as Assistant Pastor of Peace, Redeemer and Zion Lutheran Churches of Brookings, Flandreau and White, South Dakota on January 3, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Utecht, Andrew E. (Missionary-at-Large South Dakota District, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Valentine, Nebraska on August 19, 2018 by Reverend Richard Snow.

Utecht, Peter M. (Sole Pastor, Messiah and Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Redfield and Doland, South Dakota) installed as Sole Pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, South Dakota on May 16, 2021 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Weispfennig, Steven A. (Associate Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota) installed as Senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota on July 29, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Candidate Status Granted

Lessman, Bradley R., Pastor, St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Plankinton and White Lake, South Dakota; Candidate status granted August 2, 2021.

Schaekel, Timothy H., Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Candidate status granted September 24, 2018.

Wilson, Lynn J., Chaplain, South Dakota Army National Guard, Rapid City, South Dakota; Candidate status granted January 31, 2020.

Pastors Retired

Bauman, Gene D., Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, South Dakota retired September 2, 2019.

Domke, Daniel M., Pastor, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota retired May 21, 2018.

Doremus, Dwaine D., Pastor, Bethesda and First English Lutheran Churches, Marion and Parker, South Dakota retired September 14, 2020.

Farden, John W., Pastor, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Tea, South Dakota retired June 30, 2019.

Grams, Craig N., Pastor, St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches, Groton and Andover, South Dakota retired July 9, 2018.

Gunderson, David E., Senior Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, South Dakota retired July 16, 2018.

Jacobsen, Gary W., Pastor, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, South Dakota retired August 31, 2020.

Kumm, Michael L., Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota retired June 30, 2018.

Mischnick, Mark R., Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota retired June 24, 2018.

Morfitt, David C., Assistant Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired April 14, 2020.

Pastors Called to Glory

Adams, Raymond R., Emeritus, June 17, 2020.

Ahart, Neal K., Emeritus, April 26, 2019.

Anderson, Hyle R., Emeritus, January 23, 2021.

Dietz, William F.A., Emeritus, June 25, 2018.

Fedde, Robert H., Emeritus, October 10, 2020.

Werner, John T.P., Emeritus, May 22, 2019.

Pastors Removed from Roster

Idt, Brian W. (Candidate, Britton, South Dakota) resigned June 11, 2021

Teachers – DCE’s – Deaconess’ Commissioned & Installed

Berg, Jacquelyn M. (Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, 2020) commissioned and installed as Teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 17, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Dobbs, Scot D., (Concordia, St. Paul, Minnesota 2018) commissioned and installed as Teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota on November 21, 2018 by Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher.

Korthase, Amanda (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2021) commissioned and installed as Deaconess at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 8, 2021 by Reverend Darren R. Olson.

Uecker, Amanda R. (Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, 2018) commissioned and installed as Teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 26, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Wiemer, Rebecca, (Concordia, Chicago, Illinois 2018) commissioned and installed as Director of Christian Education at Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on July 22, 2018 by Reverend Darren R. Olson.

Wiggenhorn, Andrew D. (Concordia, Chicago, Illinois, 2018) commissioned and installed as Teacher at Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 26, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Teachers - DCE’s Transferred From Other Districts

Andreasen, Alison, (Missouri District) Candidate, Aberdeen, South Dakota on December 16, 2020.

Mercer, Dennis D., (Southeastern District) Candidate, Rapid City, South Dakota on May 27, 2020.

Merrill, Kenlyn, (Michigan District) Emeritus, Hot Springs, South Dakota on July 1, 2019.

Miller, Hailey Jo, (Director of Christian Education, Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, Texas) installed as Director of Christian Education at Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on September 9, 2018 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Navurskis, Miriam E., (Northern Illinois District) Candidate, Huron, South Dakota on June 1, 2018.

Nielsen, George R. (Northern Illinois District) Emeritus, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 1, 1997.

Robertson, Ruth E., (Minnesota South District) Candidate, Madison, South Dakota on June 16, 2021.

Schewe, Sarah E. (Northern Illinois District) Candidate, Corona, South Dakota on April 9, 2018.

Schilf, Paul R. (Minnesota South District) Emeritus, Brandon, South Dakota on July 23, 2019.

Slavens, Elizabeth A. (Missouri District) Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on September 26, 2019.

Withee, Jane M. (Rocky Mountain District) installed as Teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota on August 25, 2019 by Reverend Paul Winckler.

Yung, Janice J. (Texas District) Emeritus, Rapid City, South Dakota on April 10, 2019.

Teacher - DCE Moves Within The District

Lenz, Rod G., (Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Principal at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 17, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Olson, Susan K., (Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 17, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Slavens, Elizabeth A., (Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) installed as Teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 17, 2020 by Reverend Scott C. Sailer.

Teachers – DCE’s Transferred To Other Districts

Asmus, Alissa A., (Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Minnesota South District on September 7, 2021.

Baker, Jodene A., (Emeritus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the Iowa West District on February 17, 2020.

Bult, Derek W., (Principal, Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the South Wisconsin District on June 30, 2020.

Eberhard, Susan L., (Teacher, Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota) to the Montana District on May 28, 2018.

Henschen, Rhonda A., (Teacher, St. Paul’s Lutheran Lighthouse Preschool, Aberdeen, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District on March 27, 2018.

Hoppen, Faith K., (Teacher, Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota) to the Nebraska District on July 17, 2019.

Miller, Allison R., (Director/Teacher, St. Paul’s Lutheran Lighthouse Preschool, Aberdeen, South Dakota) to the Kansas District on July 1, 2018.

Preto, Kayla A., (Candidate, Papillion, Nebraska) to the Nebraska District on February 14, 2019.

Schewe, Sarah E., (Candidate, Corona, South Dakota) to the Iowa East District on May 3, 2019.

Wiemer, Rebecca, (Director of Christian Education), Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota) to the North Wisconsin District on August 1, 2020.

Wiggenhorn, Andrew D., (Teacher, Black Hills Lutheran, Rapid City, South Dakota) to the Southern Illinois District on July 16, 2019.

Candidate Status Granted

Asmus, Alissa A., Candidate Status granted August 1, 2011.

Dooley, Karen M., Candidate Status granted June 30, 2021.

Henschen, Rhonda A., Candidate Status granted March 27, 2018.

Hoogland, Lacey J., Candidate Status granted May 31, 2019.

Hoppen, Faith K., Candidate Status granted May 31, 2019.

Larson, Eric G., Candidate Status granted July 26, 2018.

Noble, Jennifer S., Candidate Status granted May 28, 2020.

Uecker, Amanda R., Candidate Status granted May 31, 2019.

Wiggenhorn, Andrew D., Candidate Status granted May 31, 2019.

Teachers – DCE’s Removed From the Roster

Althoff, Diane M., Candidate, Gregory, South Dakota resigned March 11, 2019.

Deeters, Dana N., Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota resigned March 19, 2018.

Singer, Kelly J., Teacher, Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, South Dakota, removed by action of the District President June 18, 2019.

Smith, Emily B., Candidate, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, removed by action of the District President May 10, 2019.

Uecker, Amanda R., Teacher, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, South Dakota, removed by action of the District President, October 10, 2019.

Teachers – Retired

Allen, Marianne M., Teacher, Bethesda Lutheran Church and School, Hot Springs, South Dakota retired May 23, 2021.

Baker, Jodene A., Director of Christian Education, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired January 10, 2020.

Lenz, Tina M., Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired May 28, 2020.

Tams, Sandra K., Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota retired May 28, 2020

Teachers – Called to Glory

Sopko, Marvin L., Emeritus, December 28, 2019.

Congregational Changes

Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, South Dakota; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Flandreau, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, White, South Dakota formed a new tri-point parish, January 3, 2021.

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Marion, South Dakota; First English Lutheran Church, Parker, South Dakota; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Scotland, South Dakota and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, South Dakota formed a new quad-point parish, September 13, 2020.

First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, South Dakota disbanded October 18, 2020.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Reliance, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, Presho, South Dakota dissolved their dual parish, May 19, 2019.

Christ Lutheran Church, Winner, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, Hamill, South Dakota dissolved their dual parish agreement, May 19, 2019.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Murdo, South Dakota; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Draper, South Dakota; and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Philip, South Dakota dissolved their tri-point parish agreement, May 8, 2019.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Reliance, South Dakota; Christ Lutheran Church, Winner, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, Hamill, South Dakota entered into a tri-point parish, May 19, 2019.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Murdo, South Dakota; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Draper, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church, Presho, South Dakota entered into a tri-point parish, June 2, 2019.

St. John Lutheran Church, Emery, South Dakota disbanded January 1, 2021.

St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, South Dakota and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Midland, South Dakota dissolved their dual parish agreement October 3, 2021.

St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, South Dakota, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Midland and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Philip, South Dakota entered into a tri-point parish, October 3, 2021.

Centennials – Congregations

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Flandreau, South Dakota, 1921

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, South Dakota, 1919

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Leola, South Dakota, 1921

Messiah Lutheran Church, Murdo, South Dakota 1920

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Philip, South Dakota, 1919

Zion Lutheran Church, Presho, South Dakota, 1920

125th Anniversaries – Congregations

Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota, South Dakota, 1885
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Emery, South Dakota, 1886
Trinity Lutheran Church, White Lake, South Dakota, 1884
St. John Lutheran Church, Wolsey, South Dakota, 1884

Anniversaries

In 2021 the following ordained and commissioned ministers will have observed 40 or more years of service to their Lord since ordination or commissioning.

Nielsen, George	Commissioned	1954
Reverend Phil Andreasen	Ordained	1975
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
Merrill, Kenlyn	Commissioned	1968
Reverend William Paepke	Ordained	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 Robert Anderson	Ordained	1974
Reverend Albert Althoff	Commissioned	1974
Carol Uecker	Commissioned	1975
Reverend Robert Gardner	Ordained	1976
Reverend Peter Sestak	Ordained	1977
Roxanne Withee	Commissioned	1977
Jane Withee	Commissioned	1978
Reverend Gordon Goldammer	Ordained	1978
Reverend Craig Grams	Ordained	1978
Reverend Peter Kurowski	Ordained	1978
Reverend Howard Shane	Ordained	1978
Reverend Albert Althoff	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
Reverend David Gunderson	Ordained	1981
Reverend Terry Naasz	Ordained	1981
Reverend Warren Uecker	Ordained	1981
Reverend Paul Warnier	Ordained	1981

Reports of Circuit Visitors

Circuit 1 (Aberdeen)

Reverend Jordon Andreasen, Circuit Visitor

In the last triennium the people, pastors and congregations of Circuit 1 of the South Dakota District have, by the grace of God alone, continued to walk in the same Christ Jesus we have received through the blessed Word and Sacraments. In spite of our sin, the brokenness of the world, and the devil and all his wiles, the Lord continues to be at work. Such work in the circuit includes:

- Addition of Redfield and Doland into the circuit since the breakup of the Huron Circuit following the 2018 District Convention.
- Circuit Worship Services take place in recognition of the fullness of our unity in the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus on Epiphany, the Vigil of Easter, Ascension Day and Reformation.
- Circuit Youth and Catechism Classes take place once a month. Led by circuit pastors and attended by students from around the circuit.
- Circuit Retreats and Presentations take place multiple times a year to encourage the growth of the Word of God in our midst.
- The formation of the “Rural Gospel Initiative” (RGI) which seeks to financially support the congregational ministry in NE South Dakota by providing grants for ministry related events.

Besides this work the Lord has been at work in His congregations:

Among the saints of Christ who gather at Concordia in Cresbard and Immanuel in Wecota, the Rev. Timothy Koch accepted a call in 2018 after 7 years among them. In September of 2019 the Lord of the harvest sent Rev. Colin Ford to serve as their pastor. That November the saints hosted a fundraiser to support the needs of one among them who had lost their home to fire.

Among the saints in Christ who gather at Messiah in Redfield and Redeemer in Doland the Lord called Rev. Peter Utecht from them to serve at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Hot Springs after 21 years of faithful service. In our Lord’s faithfulness He sent Rev. Kevin Moore from Brewster, WA to serve them, being installed on November 7, 2021.

Among the saints of Christ who gather at Our Savior in Aberdeen and St. John in Columbia, the Lord ended their vacancy of the Pastoral Office by sending Rev. Jordon Andreasen in July of 2018 to serve as their pastor. In 2020, the Our Savior used money provided by the district’s harvest grant to put on a Circuit Marriage Retreat. The congregations were also awarded a Lilly Endowment: Clergy Renewal Grant in 2021 to provide their pastor with a 3-month sabbatical in 2022; a blessing for pastor, his family, and the congregations.

Among the saints of Christ who gather at St. Paul in Leola, through a partnership with St. Paul in Aberdeen, began receiving service from SMP Vicar Ray Anderson in September 2019.

Among the saints of Christ who gather at St. John in Groton and Zion in Andover, with thanksgiving to God they celebrated the 125th Anniversary of St. John in Groton on July 8, 2018 at they same time they were thankful to God for the 24 years of service carried out by Rev. Craig Grams who retired. Soon after on July 22, 2018 Rev. Andrew Wolfgram was installed as their

new pastor. Rev. Andrew Wolfgram accepted the Lord's Call to serve in Bordentown, NJ. They are being served by Rev. Larry Johnson during their vacancy.

Among the saints in Christ who gather at St. John in Aberdeen, Trinity in Mansfield and St. Paul in Stratford; the Lord continues to be faithful in keeping them rooted in Christ Jesus, by His Word and Sacraments as they are served by Rev. Bret Bierman.

Among the saints in Christ who gather at St. Paul in Aberdeen, the Lord has brought several changes. In 2018 the secretary of 32 years, Mrs. Beverly Borchard, retired and Mrs. Cindy Jung replaced her. Also, in 2018 the Lighthouse Preschool saw changes after the departure of Ms. Allison Miller and the addition of Mrs. Alison Andreasen (Director) and Mrs. Jenelle Siebert (Teacher). The SMP partnership with St. Paul Leola began in September of 2019. In June of 2020 Rev. Josiah Fitch accepted a Call to Wisconsin and our Lord sent Rev. Jacob Smith in July of 2021 to serve as their assistant pastor. In January of 2021 they welcomed Mr. Michael Leapley as a DCE intern until January 2022. Finally, the Lord has worked a demonstration of His mercy through the "5 Loaves Meals" provided in part by the district's Harvest Grants.

Among the saints in Christ at St. John in Britton and St. Paul in Ferney the Lord has continued to bless the service of Rev. Lloyd Redhage among them. In spite of the pandemic the Lord has worked in His people the desire to make improvements which support the life and worship of God's people. At St. John a new organ was installed in March 2020 and at St. Paul a roof, which has caused problems over the last sixty years, was repaired.

The Lord has continued to drive His people in all His congregations in Circuit 1 to Christ and in the power of His Spirit, through His Word and Sacraments, He continues to root His people further in Christ and His eternal promises and so live with thanksgiving to God for all His blessings.

Circuit 2 (Watertown)

Reverend Matthew Wurm, Circuit Visitor

"Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving" is a fitting theme for the members of Circuit 2 and the farmland all around us. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24) Our faith is rooted in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and from faith in Him springs forth and abundance of fruits – for which we give thanks.

Our circuit has met regularly over the last triennium for monthly Winkels where we gathered for corporate worship, the study of Gospel of Matthew, the study of the Lutheran Confessions and Walther's Pastoral Ministry, and much casuistry. Our aim continues to be that we and our members remain rooted in Christ through the study of His Word.

Since the last District Convention, our circuit has welcomed two new active pastors, a couple of vicars, and an emeritus pastor. In September of 2018, Rev. Timothy Koch was installed as pastor at Emanuel, Milbank, concluding the vacancy served by Rev. Tim Rynearson and Rev. Samuel Thole of Peace, Brookings. May of 2019, Rev. Caleb Schewe took a call to Iowa and by January of 2020, Rev. Martin Herzberg of Oklahoma, accepted the call to be pastor of Our Savior's-Wilmot and Trinity-Corona where Rev. Schewe had been. In July of 2020, Rev. Jim Wilshusen accepted a call to Missouri and the vacancy at Emanuel-Sisseton and Zion-Waubay was covered by Rev. Larry Johnson of Webster, SD. In August of 2021, Tom Mueller was installed as a deferred vicar to serve those congregations during his final year of seminary formation.

In May of 2020, the congregation of First English-Aurora voted to dissolve and that process was completed by January, 2021. The altar-ware, paraments, altar, pulpit, baptismal font, and organ, were given to Risen Savior-Tea and were received by the members there with much

thanksgiving. The good work of planting done by the saints at First English at the font, pulpit, and altar for so many years continues on now at Risen Savior-Tea. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:6) In January of 2021, Zion-White became a tri-parish with Peace-Brookings and Redeemer-Flandreau. In April of 2021, Rev. Duane Doremus (emeritus), joined the ranks of Rev. Rynearson and Rev. Thole in care of their new tri-parish.

The pandemic served to strengthen our bond as pastors and congregations in the circuit as we uplifted each other in prayer and gave thanks for our Lord's protection and hidden blessings amid the time of strife. Rev. Tim Koch continued unabashedly with his organization and work with "Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ" (O AFC). Rev. Martin Herzberg did well in his care as a new pastor to his congregations as the pandemic hit. Rev. Nathan Neugebauer was able to maintain a level of public services through his work with congregational leaders. Rev. Larry Johnson continued in the good work of planting and watering by the Word of God that Rev. Jim Wilshusen had begun. Rev. Iver Possehl did an excellent job providing online recordings and resources for his members. Rev. Tim Rynearson and Rev. Sam Thole held an outdoor Easter Resurrection service in a snowstorm and continued multiple service options for their members. And Rev. Matthew Wurm and Rev. Micah Bauer worked with their leaders to offer a wide option of services to continue to administer God's gifts of word and sacrament to His people.

In reflection upon this last triennium there is much for which we can give God thanks. His Holy Spirit has deepened our roots in His word and promise.

Circuit 3 (Pierre)

Reverend Ray Greenseth, Circuit Visitor

Rooted in Christ, and Abounding in Thanksgiving

That was seen in Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, even with Covid going on they were very thankful for their Pastor David Otten, serving them so faithfully, even while doing a vacancy in Onida. The congregation and the Ottens are extremely thankful to be back in the parsonage, after lengthy repairs...and the congregation even helped Pastor Otten celebrate 25 years in the ministry on Aug. 15 of this year. What a blessing Emmanuel has been to Pastor Otten and Pastor Otten to this congregation, along with their sister congregation Christ Lutheran of Lebanon.

Rooted in Christ, and Abounding in Thanksgiving

Is being seen in the Onida, Blunt, Harrold congregations. They were blessed to get a new pastor, David Strable. What a joy he has been to be called as their pastor. Immanuel, Harrold as added new carpet, a blessing by all in the church, Trinity, Blunt, had a blessings by having church attendance increase, even with Covid, with Pastor Urbach during the vacancy and now by having their own pastor David Strable... Holy Cross, Onida, is just glad to be on a regular schedule again with everything going on. All three congregations are thankful to being served by the LORD through their pastor.

Rooted in Christ, and abounding in Thanksgiving

Is continually being seen in St. John's, Norris, and St. Peters, Midland, as they are continued to be served by Pastor Greg Hinners...and they are looking forward to being a three point parish with Our Redeemer of Philip. By this convention it should be finalized. A blessing to all three congregations and in being thankful that they are being served so well by their pastor who is willing to do this work for the LORD.

Rooted in Christ, and abounding in Thanksgiving

Faith Lutheran in Pierre is thankful that they have a pastor now that Pastor Cory Rajek has taken a call. Pastor Samuel Handschke is very busy. But with the leadership in and of the congregation things are going well as the LORD is leading them on as they continue to be Rooted in Christ and to share that Word with others. The congregation was truly blessed by Pastor Cory, but as the

LORD has led him to other fields, they are abounding in Thanksgiving as they continue making His Name known to others.

Rooted in Christ, and abounding in Thanksgiving

Zion – Presho, St. Paul's – Draper, Messiah – Murdo, are abounding in thanksgiving as they are on their 2nd year of being a tri-parish. Their pastor is busy going here and there being Rooted in Christ, though that doesn't mean staying in one place, but staying solid in His Word.

Zion celebrated their 100th anniversary a year late because of Covid, but it was a success and so did Messiah celebrate their 100th anniversary. A lot going on in these 3 churches and the big number next year will be with the number **40!** So we'll see what happens... Covid has affected us all but we are dealing with it with the LORD's help and thankful that we are still here and sharing His Word with others.

Circuit 4 (Black Hills)

Reverend John Fries, Circuit Visitor

This past year the Black Hills has faithfully been “Rooted in Christ” as we met the challenge presented by Covid in all of our member congregations. Every church came up with their unique way to handle some very complicated situations. Many of our pastors caught it, and also a fair number of our Emeritus pastors. God watched over us all and gave us complete recoveries for all the effected. For that we are “abounding in thanksgiving!”

We are blessed with three new shepherds in our circuit. August 20th of 2020 brought Rev. Tom Brown to serve the saints at St. Paul Lutheran in Spearfish. January 10th found our missionary from Spain, Rev. David Warner, coming home to South Dakota to serve the dual parish of Our Redeemer, in Custer and Our Savior, in Hill City, and Rev. Peter Utecht was installed May 16, 2021 at Bethesda of Hot Springs. This left us with no vacancies in Circuit 4, for that we are truly thankful!

There was another reason for our “abounding in thanksgiving.” This year we also have installed a new Vicar to serve the growing needs of Divine Shepherd under the very capable tutelage of Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher. Our new Vicar is Dennis Mercer, a very “Rooted in Christ” addition to Circuit 4.

Circuit 5 (Mitchell)

Reverend Ryan Loeslie, Circuit Visitor

Zion Chamberlain: Bid farewell to Pastor Mischnick when he retired in June of 2018. Called new pastor (Robert Hinckley), March 31, 2019; COVID-19, March 21, 2020. - Pr. Robert Hinckley.

Building has been a theme the past few years at Immanuel, rural Dimock. A new addition on the east side of the church with an elevator, handicap-access bathrooms, and a social area was constructed. It has been a great blessing to our church and should be for many years to come. The church also received new siding and shingles, so our building has been kept updated and looks very beautiful. In early 2020 a new spacious 3-stall insulated garage was also constructed. In addition to being a solid, functional building for our congregation's and pastor's needs, it has served as a good shelter and fellowship area when we have outdoor activities. Such projects are not the ministry in themselves, but they will go a long way to support the ministry here, which continues at Immanuel as it has gone on for 139 years now. We are thankful for our Heavenly Father's loving kindness, which is always more than we deserve. Whenever the Gospel is proclaimed and the Sacraments are administered according to our Lord's institution, we know we have much to offer and reason to continue the Lord's work here. To God alone be the glory. - Pr. Ryan Loeslie

The tri-parishes of St. Johns, Wolsey; Zion, Wessington Springs and Mt. Olive, Woonsocket continue to be blessed by God as we serve His people. Zion, Wessington Springs received a District Grant and served many Wednesday night meals to High School students from the community. Mt. Olive, Woonsocket church building received a much-needed new roof. St. Johns, Wolsey started Live-streaming its worship services. - Pr. Scott Spiehs & Pr. Richard Weeman.

Redeemer - Armour. Rev. Jens Jenson serves Redeemer. It is the congregation's joy and privilege to serve the Lord and our country by way of the reserve chaplaincy ministry of Pastor Jenson.

Zion, Mitchell said farewell to Rev. Thomas Brown on August 16, 2020 and installed Rev. Daniel Grimmer as Senior Pastor on August 30, 2020. - Pr. Dan Grimmer.

At St. John's Gregory our long serving youth directors, John and Kristi Roeder have retired from that position. Their contribution in keeping our youth active and connected to the congregation cannot be overstated. Joann Serr and Kristy Ring have big shoes to fill. - Pr. Marcus Ring.

Christ, Winner and Zion, Hamill are once again part of tri-parish, as they celebrated the addition of Trinity, Reliance to the United Lutheran Parish in 2019. The year 2020 brought the departure of Rev. Ryan Janke, who accepted a call to Venus and Orchard, Nebraska. Rev. Wade Harr was installed as pastor March 21, 2021.

Mt. Calvary, Huron added 2 new pastors; Senior Pastor Chris Navurskis & Associate Pastor Kevin Koester; burned their Activities Center mortgage in June of 2018. Conducting live-stream services and ministry beginning in the summer of 2020.

Trinity – White Lake and St. Paul – Plankinton. They were served by Rev. Brad Lessman until August 1, 2021, when Rev. Lessman resigned his call. Rev. Charlie Adams is now serving as the parish's resident vacancy pastor.

Zion – Delmont and Emmaus – Tripp. Rev. Brian Lemcke serves this dual parish. The members of Zion, Delmont continue to rejoice in the Lord's goodness in having provided a new church building and parsonage after the destruction brought about by the tornado in 2015. The congregation thanks individuals and congregations throughout the District and Synod for their generosity and kindness in providing offerings to help with the construction.

No Report: Faith – Parkston and St. Peter's – (Clayton) Emery. They are served by Rev. Ken Soyk.

The Mitchell Circuit continues to celebrate a Circuit Reformation Festival in October. Among new efforts has been the decision to hold Winkel year-round, and there is an effort underway to do more collaborative youth ministry. Dartball and LWML continue to have good participation in the Mitchell Circuit. While rural circuits in our synod continue to face demographic challenges, we are greatly blessed in the Mitchell Circuit and have much optimism going into the future.

Circuit 6 (Freeman)

Reverend Tom Christopher, Circuit Visitor

Circuit 6 (Freeman) is comprised of the following congregations:

St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Alexandria, SD — Rev. Thomas Christopher
Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota, SD — Rev. Dr. Peter Kurowski
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Freeman, SD — Rev. Terry Makelin
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD — Rev. Nabil Nour
St. John Lutheran Church, Howard, SD — Rev. Clint Thorson
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Marion, SD — Rev. Brian Moseman

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, SD — Rev. Clint Thorson
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, SD — Brian Moseman
St. John Lutheran Church, Montrose, SD — Rev. Dr Peter Kurowski
First English Lutheran Church, Parker, SD — Rev. Brian Moseman
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Scotland, SD — Rev. Brian Moseman
Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer, SD — Rev. Thomas Christopher
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD – Rev. Adam Welton

I first of all want to thank the pastors of our Circuit, and of all the District, for their faithful service during the unprecedented challenges of the last year. Covid is by far not the worst or most challenging crisis to ever hit the Church, but it certainly is for our generation and it was a joy that brought much thanksgiving from this particular CV to see how our pastors helped navigate the saints of their parishes through these fearful times and continued to preach “do not be afraid!” in Jesus’ name to a people that were being bombarded by so many sources telling them to be very afraid. Thank you, pastors, for continuing to give Jesus to your people in these challenging times! He is the only hope we have in times when death draws near.

Several important changes have taken place in our circuit over the past triennium. We unfortunately saw the closing of one of our congregations: St. John in Emery, SD. The saints of St. John knew they were going to have to face the possibility of closing in a few years, but a severe infestation of mold in the building made them face the issue of closing sooner than expected. After evaluating all options for clean-up, the building was decommissioned and closed at a special worship service on August 18, 2019, with almost 100 members and friends in attendance. The saints of St. John then met in the facilities of the funeral home on Main Street in Emery for several months. The congregation formally closed on January 1, 2021 with the members transferring to their sister congregations of St. Martin’s, Alexandria and Trinity, Spencer. On a personal note, I wish to thank the members of St. John’s for their patience with their pastor; they were all ready to take the step of closing much sooner than I was and put up with my reluctance for almost a year before we finally took the step! So, thank you, saints of St. John’s!

After several years of ground-work and preparation, a four-point parish was formed by Bethesda in Marion, First English in Parker, Immanuel in Menno, and St. Paul in Scotland. Rev. Brian Moseman accepted the Call to serve as the first pastor of the new four-point, having been the second pastor called to the parish. As Circuit Visitor I wish to especially extend my thanks and appreciation for the work of the leadership and members of all four congregations in the new parish. With an eye toward supporting their own pastor they pooled their resources and were able to extend a Call to Pastor Moseman with full salary and benefits! What a blessing! Pastor Moseman’s installation took place on September 13, 2020.

We are so thankful to have had the service of Rev. Dwaine Doremus in our circuit for so many years! Not only is he a faithful man of God and shepherd of the Lord’s flock, but he makes a mean pot of Frogmore Stew, too! Pastor Doremus was serving as the Called pastor of First English in Parker and Bethesda in Marion. He had let it be known that he would not let his name stand for the Call to serve the new four-point parish, so upon the installation of Rev. Moseman, Rev. Doremus’s official transfer to “emeritus” in our circuit became official, although, as I like to say, “Old pastors never die, they just go vacant,” Pastor Doremus continues to keep very active in the ministry of the Word.

After action at the last District Convention, the congregations of Our Savior in Madison and St. John in Howard were added to our circuit and we have been blessed and privileged to have the saints of those congregations along with their pastor, Rev. Clint Thorson, as members of our circuit.

As everywhere, the Covid crisis was a great challenge for our congregations and circuit. Most of our congregations cancelled services for at least a week or two at the beginning, but by the end of the summer, 2020, almost all were back to full, in-person worship services, which continues to

be the case, thanks be to God. After having some serious issues being able to get in to see some of our shut-ins during the Covid year, the pastors of the circuit are happy to be able to make all their calls and visits once again.

With the exception of several missed Winkels in 2020 due to Covid, the pastors and wives of Circuit 6 meet monthly for study and worship, fellowship and mutual support, punctuated by meals and picnics and other social gatherings as often as possible. While the saints of the circuit congregations continue to support one another in many ways as the needs arise, the circuit's Lay Leadership Conferences, that were a part of our life together pre-Covid, have not yet been rebooted, but hopefully we can get those started back up again soon.

In these increasingly dark and threatening days in our nation and world, reflecting our convention theme, we do abound in thanksgiving every day that our Lord Jesus Christ has rooted us in Himself through Word and Sacrament and will continue to keep us through these same blessed Means and bring us into the eternal victory that has been promised! In the face of all the challenges of these days, God's Word is still being preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments still administered according to Christ's command, so what can be better than that? Thanks be to God!

Circuit 7 (Sioux Falls)

Reverend Corey Aker, Circuit Visitor

Thank God for deep roots! The continued proclamation of the precious Gospel has always and will continue to anchor our congregations as the tumultuousness of our times has threatens to knock us down. Here we stand! Perhaps a bit wind-worn, but stronger for having faced down all challenges in the strength of Christ. Pastor Deardoff and the saints of Blessed Redeemer continue to offer Word and Sacrament ministry to the people of Brandon. Although saying goodbye to Pastor Jason Letsche, they continually reach into the community with the love of Jesus. They are thankful for the ministry of their daycare and preschool. Pastor Nix lovingly shares the nourishment of Jesus with the hearing and non-hearing communities of Sioux Falls at Christ and Trinity respectively (look for more from Pastor Nix in his article within this workbook). Pastor Aker and Faith have celebrated 90 years of Mission work in north Sioux Falls, said goodbye to Pastor Janneke, hello to Pastor Rensner, and have witnessed the wonderful mercies of a gracious Lord who always provides! Pastor Meyer and Lord of Life offer vibrant worship and engaging preaching that highlights the latest in Christian music. Memorial is filled with blessings as Pastors Asmus and Slavens team up with DCEs Peters and Miller to bring the gifts of Jesus to their saints and neighborhood! Opening their doors to the community through love and service, Pastor Drevlow and Our Redeemer enjoy serving the people of Sioux Falls in creative ways such as VBS on the road, MOPS, and in being regularly in the community. To help them in their Christian care ministry, they have added Deaconess Amanda Korthase to their ministry team. Pastor Ascher and Resurrection reach out with the Gospel through their faithful activities and a vibrant daycare and preschool, His Ark. They have also constructed a nice park with gazebo available for the community and have added EIIT Pastor Albert to the staff. Risen Savior serves the Tea community and has called an excellent full-time pastor, Pastor Jonah Domenichelli. In addition to their Christ-centered worship, Risen Savior offers a wonderful preschool. Zion Lutheran, the mother of most of us, and Pastor Lehr along with DCEs Jacob and Chez invite the community to participate in the Nativity Story each year through their live nativity! In addition to excellent worship, they host a daycare, Main Street Living's studio, vibrant children's ministries, and much more! One major ministry in Sioux Falls is the blessing of Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS), of which many of our congregations are in association! Offering Christ-centered, faith building education to children birth through 12th grade on one brand new campus, our school provides the community with something no other school in the area does: the full Gospel of forgiveness and grace through Jesus Christ alone! Brand new to our circuit is a church plant to

northern Lincoln County led by someone quite well-known to us all in the SD District. Pastor Darren Olson has taken a unique call to serve as church planter with the hope of utilizing the beautiful chapel at SFLS as their sanctuary while also serving as the school chaplain. In addition to our full-time, called church workers, the Sioux Falls area is also home to a great many retired pastors who are certainly blessings in each of the congregations of the circuit! This snapshot of who we are merely scratches the surface of the tremendous work of the Lord in Circuit 7. I cannot imagine a better group of people to serve with than those we find rooted in Christ in Sioux Falls, Brandon, Tea, and Harrisburg! We abound in thanksgiving!

Circuit 8 (Yankton)

Reverend Steven Weispfennig, Circuit Visitor

Uniquely, since 2003, the Yankton Circuit has ordained and/or installed 11 new pastoral seminary candidates, who received their first call and began their ministries in this circuit. The past triennium was no different as our circuit welcomed seminary candidates Reverend (Michael) Brent Keller, ordained and installed to Peace, Alcester, in 2018, and Reverend Kurt Laskowsky, ordained and installed to First English, Centerville, and Zion, Hurley, in 2020.

In addition, the circuit also welcomed Reverend Bill Heermann to St. John's, Wagner and Trinity, Fairfax, and Reverend Levi Willms as Associate Pastor to St. John's, Yankton, in 2018, Reverend Jeremy Richert to Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, in 2019, and Reverend Matthew Bless to Concordia, Vermillion, in 2021.

Reverend Steven Weispfennig was installed as Senior Pastor to St. John's, Yankton, following the retirement of Reverend David Gunderson in 2018. Reverend Michael Kumm also retired in 2018 after serving Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes. Both emeriti pastors remained in the Yankton circuit. However, Reverend Gunderson recently moved to the Kansas City, MO, area. Reverend Paul Albers, Reverend Donald Meyer (Zion, Marcus, IA), and Reverend Charles Horkey, Pastor Emeritus, served the vacancy at Holy Cross.

Other vacancies in the circuit occurred when Reverend Jordon Andreasen of St. John's, Wagner, and Trinity, Fairfax, accepted a call to Our Savior, Aberdeen, and St. John, Columbia, in 2018. Reverend Clark Gies, Pastor Emeritus, served the vacancy. Reverend Jesse Davis of First English, Centerville, and Zion, Hurley, accepted a call to First Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN, in 2019. Reverend Paul Warnier, Pastor Emeritus, served the vacancy. Reverend Paul Albers of Concordia, Vermillion, accepted a call to Mount Olive, Omaha, NE in 2021. Reverend Paul Warnier served the vacancy.

Deaconess Andra Gates, who served her internship as a circuit deaconess under the supervision of Reverend Dean Schroeder, was commissioned in 2019 and received a call to serve as a winter deaconess at Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL.

The Ordained and Commissioned workers of the circuit meet regularly for "Winkel" gatherings. At the Winkel, they worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper together, share ministry joys and concerns, and study the Lutheran Confessions. Other matters of casuistry and study are taken up as needed. The church workers also gather for an annual summer picnic and Christmas party.

St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Yankton, received national LCMS school accreditation. It became the first stand-alone preschool in the South Dakota District to receive such an honor.

In November 2020, Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes celebrated its 25th Anniversary. All four pastors who have served the congregation were able to participate in the celebration.

Reverend Jordon Andreasen, who was elected to serve as Circuit Visitor and ratified at the 2018 District Convention, served the position for about a month due to accepting the call to Our Savior, Aberdeen, and St. John, Columbia. Reverend Ken Johnson was appointed Circuit Visitor to finish the term. He served for about one year until he resigned for personal matters. Reverend Steven Weispfennig was then appointed Circuit Visitor to finish the term. At its 2020 Circuit Forum, the circuit elected Reverend Steven Weispfennig as Circuit Visitor for the next triennium.

The past triennium celebrated many transitions for the circuit's church workers. With all the turnover and many transitions within the circuit, in addition to the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it could be easy to lose our footing. But by the grace of God, and rooted in Christ, we abound in thanksgiving that the Word of God continued to be proclaimed and taught and the Sacraments administered. Being rooted in Christ and the gifts of His forgiveness, life, and salvation is the stability in which the congregations of the Yankton Circuit stand and grow.

NOTE: These reports were written prior to the publication of the Convention Workbook; 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: "Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving," based on Paul's words of encouragement to the Colossian Christians: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7). The congregations, schools, professional church workers, and laypeople in our South Dakota District are firmly rooted in Christ through their adherence to the Word of God and their joyful participation in and reception of the Lord's blessings in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. God's free gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ leads us to abound in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. We are also led to rejoice in the work of ministry that God puts before us to do. This report will review the Gospel work that we have done together as The South Dakota District during the 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 led by a chairman who is appointed by the District President with the approval of the District Board of Directors. The Service Area chairman, then, is responsible, in consultation with the District President and Executive Secretary, for selecting two to four other members to serve on the Service Area with them. Those other members may be ordained pastors, commissioned ministers, or laypeople. Appointments to the Service Areas are for three years. The primary responsibility of the Service Areas is to provide District congregations and professional church workers encouragement, support, materials, education, resources, and assistance in their respective ministry areas. The District intentionally seeks opportunities to train and equip those serving on the Service Areas. The District provides support for members of the Service Areas to attend conference and receive training in their ministry areas. The Executive Secretary serves as a coordinator and resource for the Service Areas.

The South Dakota District Planning Conference in September 2020 revealed that the Service Areas are not operating as effectively as they could. Attendees to the Planning Conference expressed a desire to be more informed about what other congregations are doing in their ministries with things such as: Sunday school, Vacation Bible school, evangelism and outreach, stewardship, and the training of church officers. Revising the Service Areas responsibilities or the role of the Executive Secretary might help to better meet the needs of our District congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople. The District Board of Directors is taking steps to address this in order to provide greater service and assistance in the future.

Subsidized Congregations and Ministries

The South Dakota District has a number of different ministries that it provides subsidies to each year. What follows is a report on those subsidized ministries.

Congregations

In October 2017 Rev. Dr. Peter Meier from the Center for US Mission conducted two introductory workshops in Sioux Falls and Rapid City to help pastors and lay people learn the basics of beginning new ministries and/or planting a new church. In August 2018 Dr. Peter Meier conducted a "Churches Planting Churches" seminar in Spearfish, SD. What resulted from that seminar was the beginning of Trinity Mission in Belle Fourche, SD with the help and support of St.

Paul's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD. Trinity Mission has been served by Rev. Don McKillop as their pastor. The District would like to thank Pastor McKillop for his faithful pastoral service to this new congregation. The District Board of Directors has partnered with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Spearfish to financially support Trinity Mission. The District has also supported Trinity Mission through three Harvest Grants in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Circuit 7, the Sioux Falls Circuit, had discussions about the possibility of planting a new congregation in the Sioux Falls area. Two areas were identified: north of Sioux Falls in the Crooks/Dell Rapids area and south Sioux Falls around the community of Harrisburg. When Sioux Falls Lutheran School was constructing a new campus in south Sioux Falls near the I-29 and I-229 interchange, representative of Sioux Falls Lutheran School approached the District Board of Directors about a potential partnership. The proposal was for the District to attempt to start a new congregation by using the new Sioux Falls Lutheran School facilities as the meeting place. The new congregation could focus its outreach efforts to Sioux Falls Lutheran School families who did not belong to a church as well as to unchurched people in the south Sioux Falls area. This proposal culminated in a plan where the District Board of Directors created a Missionary at Large position and extended a call to Rev. Darren Olson to fill that position.

Discussions continue to be had about the potential for a new congregation in the Rapid Valley area of Rapid City. The Rapid Valley area continues to grow and develop and is certainly a prime area to focus on outreach and the possibility of a new church plant.

Campus Ministry

The South Dakota District continues to provide financial assistance to 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 financially supported 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, Madison, Watertown, Spearfish, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Yankton. 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 and contact information of their students with the LCMS congregations near them. Also, students interested in finding the campus ministry at the school that they will be attending, can find that information at: lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/campus-ministry. A listing of South Dakota congregations in communities that have institutions of higher education can be found on the District's website: sddlcms.org/mission-ministries/service-areas/young-adult-service-area/campus-ministry.

Congregations are also encouraged to remember those young men and women who choose instead to serve their country by enlisting in the Armed Forces. Information on how to support those serving in our branches of the military can be found on the Synod's website at: lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces.

Native American Ministry

Approximately 10% of the District's budget is earmarked for ministry on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota. Rev. Andrew Utecht has been serving for nearly 25 years on the Rosebud Reservation. Rev. 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, Rev. Utecht has been extremely involved in the Harvest Winds Sewing Factor that brings work and wages to those sewing Native American quilts for local businesses to sell. Rev. Utecht is also active in ministry to those recovering from drug or alcohol addiction.

Rev. Sutton has been working hard to negotiate with the tribe in Porcupine on Pine Ridge to secure a more permanent agreement for the ministry to meet in the community building in Evergreen. The District Board of Directors approved a plan to pay for extensive repairs to the Evergreen community building in exchange for an agreement that our Pine Ridge ministry can use the building for their ministry needs. The District would like to thank the many individuals and congregations who donated their time and talents to repair and upgrade that building.

COVID-19 impacted the ministry work on the Reservation in significant ways, like it did for many of our communities and congregations. For many months Rev. Utecht and Rev. Sutton could not even enter the Reservation. They were cut off from many of the people they were serving with the Gospel and serving in other ways. The effects of the pandemic will be felt on the Reservation, just like everywhere else, for years to come.

Please continue to keep Rev. Utecht and Rev. Sutton and his ministry team in your individual and corporate prayers asking that God would continue to bless their efforts to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Native American neighbors.

District Schools

Congregations or an association of congregations within the South Dakota District operate 5 early childhood centers, 15 preschools, 4 elementary schools, and 1 high school. A list of schools in the South Dakota District can be found in the District Convention Manual.

All of our Lutheran schools and early childhood centers see as their primary task the teaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to students and their families. They are also firmly committed to providing quality childcare and education. All of the elementary schools and the high school are either accredited by the state of South Dakota or in the process of receiving accreditation. Zion Lutheran School, Rapid City; Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; and St. John's Lutheran Preschool, Yankton have received accreditation from National Lutheran School Accreditation, the Lutheran school accrediting agency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In the last triennium, 2 schools within the District closed. Black Hills Lutheran School, a 6-12 grade school in Rapid City, closed in 2019. Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, 9-12 grade school in Sioux Falls, closed in 2020. Even though Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls closed, Lutheran high school education was able to continue in Sioux Falls when Sioux Falls Lutheran School expanded their school to include grades 9-12 and now operate as an early childhood center through 12th grade. Let us thank and praise God for the ministry of Black Hills Lutheran School and Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, their association congregations, their faculties and staffs, faithful supporters, and committed volunteers and give glory to God for the work they did in preparing students for lives of service in this world and sharing with them the way of life eternal through faith in Jesus Christ.

In the last triennium Sioux Falls Lutheran School has constructed a new campus and moved into its new location on Boe Lane near the I-29 and I-229 interchange in south Sioux Falls. Through many generous donations to a second capital campaign titled "Our Highest Gifts for the High School," Sioux Falls Lutheran School has also been able to add high school classrooms on their new campus. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The COVID-19 pandemic, of course, had a major impact on the students and families in our Lutheran schools. Many of our schools finished the 2020 school year by doing virtual instruction, while most of our self-standing preschools either closed for the remainder of the school year or sent home packets of materials for families to work on. Returning to in-person learned in the fall of 2020 was a blessing to our teachers, students, and families, even if they were required to wear masks. We thank God for the resiliency of our school faculties, our students, and their families during a very difficult time.

District Student Aid

The District provides tuition assistance to people enrolled in a professional 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. Our District continues to be one of the most generous District's for providing tuition assistance for those studying for careers in professional church work.

For each undergraduate student enrolled in a church work program the District provided student aid in the amount of: 2018-19: \$3,250; 2019-20: \$3,500; 2020-21: \$3,750. For men enrolled in the seminary the District provided student aid in the amount of: 2018-19: \$8,000; 2019-20: \$8,250; 2020-21: \$8,500. In the last triennium the South Dakota District has provided the following amounts in District Student Aid in total: 2018-19: \$77,500; 2019-20: \$48,000; 2020-21: \$55,500.

In addition to District Student Aid, the South Dakota District also provides financial assistance to individuals enrolled in other programs. The District covers 75% of the tuition cost for the Synod's Colloquy program. The Colloquy program provides training for those who wish to work in professional church work and become rostered ordained or commissioned ministers within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The District also covers 50% of the cost for men enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor Program at one of the Synod's two seminaries or in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) Program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

Pastors, DCE's, deaconesses, other professional church workers, family members, and laypeople are all encouraged to identify and actively recruit those people they think would be great candidates for the pastoral ministry or other areas of professional ministry within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Harvest Grants

In 2016 the South Dakota District Board of Directors established the Harvest Grant program and pledged to make \$100,000 a year for the next 5 years available to District congregations and schools who wished to reach out to their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by performing 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. In 2019 Harvest Grants were awarded to 24 congregations and 14 schools. In 2020 the Board of Directors reduced the amount of funds for Harvest Grants to \$75,000 and grants were awarded to 22 congregations and 9 schools. Because COVID-19 closed many congregations and schools for a period of time, many could not use their Harvest Grants. The District asked those who received Harvest Grants in 2020 and were not able to use the funds, to keep them for use in 2021 and to refrain from applying for a Harvest Grant in 2021. For that reason, the Board of Directors reduced the amount available for Harvest Grants in 2021 to \$50,000. In 2021 a total of 14 Harvest Grants were awarded to congregations and schools. 2021 was the final year of the Harvest Grant commitment. At the June 2021 meeting the District Board of Directors allowed the Harvest Grant program to expire and did not renew the program for 2022.

District Website and Social Media

The South Dakota District website continues to provide the latest information on District news and events as well as having many resources for professional church workers and laypeople. In June 2021 the District Office began publishing a bi-monthly e-newsletter that is e-mailed to those who subscribe to it. This e-newsletter is available to professional church workers and laypeople. It provides the latest news on what is happening in the District and in our District's congregations and schools. You can also follow the South Dakota District on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube under SD District LCMS.

Closing Remarks

At the time of the writing of this report, I have recently accepted the call from the District's Board of Directors to be a Missionary at Large in the Sioux Falls area. Working through Sioux Falls Lutheran School, I am charged with planting a new congregation. I ask that you would pray for this ministry and ask that God would open doors for the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been my honor to serve as the Executive Secretary for the South Dakota District for the past 9 years. This position allowed me to meet and work with many wonderful and faithful disciples of Jesus all around South Dakota. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and the Lord in this unique ministry. As we continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our congregations, schools, and communities, may we always be "Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving." Soli Deo Gloria.

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 thirteen 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 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 am truly thankful to be able to serve as our hospital chaplain in Sioux Falls. I am able to bring comfort to those suffering in so many ways, physically, spiritually, and mentally, when their pastors are unable to be there for them. Even with all lockdowns and such you have helped bring God's healing hand to those in need. God's grace brings comfort at the side of a hospice bed and the ICU bed of someone who's loved one was killed in the same wreck they were severely injured in. God's gifts are just as true, if it's someone celebrating the birth of twins or struggling in the neonatal Intensive care unit. Whether outside the doors of the hospital or in the hall on the way to surgery, God's word in prayer brings relief to the one who is not sure of what is about to happen.

As time goes on, it becomes more important that pastors and members alike, let me know when someone is coming to or is in Sioux Falls. Facilities are less and less helpful with sharing information. In fact, just last night I was at one of our hospitals making a visit on an out of town that I had just seen. I was told they were not in the records and asked if I had a room number that I thought was correct. Long story short, I contacted the pastor, he contacted the family and after a few more tries, we had a room number, and they found the person. What had happened was there was a confidentiality block on the records, so without a room number they didn't exist. So, when you contact me, please have as much information as possible so that I can make that visit for you.

Thank you again for allowing this ministry to happen. There are countless pastors and others who truly appreciate your support.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Randall L. Gayken, Regional Vice-President

SD - Member District of LCEF

On October 15, 2017 the Board of Directors for the South Dakota District LCMS (District) signed entry agreement documents enabling our South Dakota Church Extension Fund (CEF) to be transferred to Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and the District became a member District of the LCEF. On that date our South Dakota District no longer managed a CEF. As of that date all investors accounts and loans payable accounts are part of and managed by LCEF.

Each member District of the LCEF has an individual whose work is to promote the financial resources and ministry services that LCEF provides the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In early 2018 the District Board of Directors appointed Randy Gayken to hold this position and represent the District as its LCEF District Vice President.

Organization Overview

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 over \$2 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. Ministry Clarity, Consecrated Stewards Program, Immeasurably More Campaigns (or Capital Campaign), and Demographic studies 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.

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 and improvement loans, SMART loans, and lines of credit.

Financially Strong

LCEF wouldn't be able to help support Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries without the faithful support of our 60,000 investors. The strong and stable base means the important role LCEF plays in supporting the LCMS, through loans and ministry support services. For over 40 years, our mission is to ensure you have the resources available to fulfill your call for God's glory. These are the financial numbers as of June 30, 2020: \$2.01 Billion in Total Assets + \$1.77 Billion Investor Payable Portfolio + \$1.64 Billion Loan Portfolio + \$239 Million Net Assets + \$201 Million New Loans Closed + \$2.3 Million Kaleidoscope Fund Grants.

Pandemic Help

When the pandemic hit in early 2020 LCEF appointed a COVID Response Team to develop remedies and resources that could be used to assist LCEF borrowing customers. Remedies included temporary interest only payments, payment deferrals, lines of credit, as well as waving late charges when it was appropriate. In addition to loan remedies, LCEF provided 165 media kits to congregations to enable them to live stream their worship services, more than \$60,000 in LCEF gift cards to church worker families and food pantries, hosted educational webinar series on topics like SBA PPP loans, provided over 20 “Ministry Moments” designed to move ministries forward, and donated \$1 million through Synod’s Soldiers of the Cross—Amplified program to 35 Districts. Also, LCEF emphasized *Joyful Response* to help congregations utilize online giving as public worship services were interrupted.

President Bart Day, in his final report on COVID Response, noted:

- 258 loans with outstanding principal balance of \$400.3 million were approved for some form of relief
- \$8.5 million in foregone principal and / or principal and interest payments due from borrowers on their loans
- 30 Covid-19 Lines of Credit totaling \$3.5 million
- 11 Covid-19 Term Loans totaling \$695 thousand

Schedule of Current SD Loans Receivable

The following congregations/schools have outstanding loans with LCEF as of June 30, 2021:

Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	Rapid City, Peace
Brookings, Peace (*)	Sioux Falls, Christ (*)
Centerville, First English	Sioux Falls, Resurrection
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross	Sioux Falls Lutheran School (*)
Gettysburg, Emmanuel	Sisseton, Emanuel
Hartford, Trinity	Tea, Risen Savior
Montrose, St. John	Utica, Martinus
Rapid City, Our Redeemer (*)	

(*) *Indicates that congregation or school has multiple loans*

In Conclusion

LCEF has truly been blessed with positive financial results, loyal support from its investors and faithful commitment from its borrowers. Because of this partnership and support LCEF has been able to meet the loan needs of ministries within the LCMS and maintain its strong financial position. Management remains committed to supporting those ministries that need financial assistance and/or ministry support, confident that God will provide a path for congregations/schools *Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving* to fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel.

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 2019, Rev. Dr. Jeff Oswald was our Pre-Lent Speaker who presented on “Acts: for the Lenten Pastor.”

In 2020, Rev. Robert Bennett was our Pre-Lent Speaker who presented on “The Reason the Son of God Appeared Was to Destroy the Works of the Devil.”

In 2021, Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti was supposed to be our presenter who was going to present on the “Signs of Jesus in John” but the workshop was cancelled on account of Covid. Cancelling was the correct course of action as Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti was diagnosed with Covid on the very day he was supposed to present for the South Dakota District.

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 Reverend Timothy Koch at revtimkoch@gmail.com.

Church Worker Education Debt Assistance (CWEDA)

Rev. Scott C. Sailer, for the District 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, deaconesses, 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 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 \$21,500. Congregations, church groups, and individuals are encouraged to consider a gift to the CWEDA endowment fund.

The Board of Directors set aside \$20,000 for CWEDA grants in each of the last three years. An average of 21 church workers received grants each of those years. In 2018, the average grant was \$1,053. In 2019, the average grant was \$800, and in 2020, the average grant was \$1,111.

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 is a 10-course program that covers the Bible, Christian doctrine, Church history, teaching the Christian faith, missions and evangelism, and communicating the Gospel effectively. The cost to participate in an LLI course is \$200. The courses are taught by pastors and other professional church workers serving in the South Dakota District. Instructors and participants typically meet together in person on the first and last day of the class. The remainder of the course work is done through e-mail correspondence where the participants send in their coursework to the instructor and participate in conversations online.

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 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 (EIIT). A few SMP pastors and a few EIIT pastors in our District started out in our District's LLI program.

In February 2021, under direction from Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the LLI program was revised. The course on Homiletics (preaching) was eliminated from the program. A new course was developed entitled “Communicating the Gospel Effectively.” This course will focus on the effective communication of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, music, and the spoken and written word.

Thank you to the following people who have taught LLI courses over the last triennium: Old and New Testament: Rev. Tim Rynearson, Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings; Interpreting the Bible in Translation: Rev. Tim Koch, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank; Christian Doctrine: Rev. Micah Bauer, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings; Church History I and II: Rev. David Otten, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Gettysburg and Christ Lutheran Church, Lebanon; Fundamentals of Pastoral Care: Rev. Peter Kurowski, Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota and St. John's Lutheran Church, Montrose; Teaching the Christian Faith, DCE Joshua Schmitt, St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton; Mission Outreach in Context: Rev. Christopher Navurskis, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron; Homiletics: Rev. Brad Urbach, Pastor Emeritus, Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. A special thank you to Pastor Cory Rajek, Pastor Samuel Handschke, and the saints of Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre and Pastor Dan Grimmer and the saints of Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell for hosting our LLI courses and providing space for our classes to meet.

TOGETHER IN MISSION

Reverend David Warner, Former Missionary to Spain

Dear Pastors and Congregations of the South Dakota District:

In the summer of 2017, as my wife Shelee and I were on our first Home Service, visiting congregations and talking about the mission work of the LCMS in Spain, some of the pastors of the South Dakota District whose congregations supported our work in Spain arranged for me to be invited to a Pastors' Conference in Mitchell. The conference organizers very graciously gave me a slot to speak about the Lutheran Mission in Spain. At your subsequent convention the District voted to include us as one of your Together in Mission partners, and South Dakota became our largest single supporter. Shelee and I and the entire Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Española (IELE) gives thanks to God for your support of faithful Lutheran Missions in Spain.

While our service in Spain has now ended as of October 2020, the impact of your support goes on. During our five and one-half years of service in Spain, we were blessed to see the Holy Spirit work through His Gospel to grow His Church in numbers, in maturity and in faith.

Upon our arrival there were about 70 members of IELE, and just one Spanish pastor, a bi-vocational minister who served the church without salary. Our members were scattered in 15 different cities across Spain, with three clusters of members forming small congregations in Seville, Madrid and Cartagena. There were only 1 or 2 Lutheran Divine Services offered per month in all of Spain, and 4 or 5 lay led devotional services.

During my service in Spain, I focused on pastoral ministry, outreach, and pastoral formation. The Church chose to elect me the President and Bishop of IELE, and in my time I had the privilege of ordaining two Spanish men into the pastoral ministry, and the pleasure of working with many more in various stages of pastoral formation and seminary instruction. Our main resource for seminary was a Spanish online pastoral formation program, FPH-SMP, run jointly out of our Fort Wayne Seminary and the new Spanish language Lutheran seminary in the Dominican Republic.

Along with my fellow LCMS missionary pastor, Adam Lehman, and the Spanish pastors and lay leaders, we were able to greatly increase the frequency of Word and Sacrament ministry. During our last years in Spain, there were normally Divine Services celebrated in three or more cities. In addition to the three existing congregations, mission points were established in four new cities. Our 70 members grew to 135, spread across 25 different cities in Spain. Spain is a large country, roughly the size of California, so the travel challenges involved in the mission are considerable.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Spain hard in March of 2020, and my normally busy travel schedule was cut to zero for months. Thankfully, we were already extensively using Facebook and Zoom to extend our ministry, so we were able to maintain digital contact with our members, even when government travel and gathering bans prevented in person ministry. We offered multiple services, Bible Studies and digital coffee klatches throughout the week, trying to keep God's Law and Gospel in people's ears and hearts.

We began to return to in person, socially distanced and masked worship services in July of 2020, but even today, travel restrictions and new Covid outbreaks are limiting the ability of IELE to function. But the Lord is faithful, in Spain as in the U.S., and the mission goes on.

Currently there are no LCMS missionaries in Spain, as the Lehman family has transferred to our LCMS mission in Puerto Rico. There are plans in the work to send more LCMS pastors to serve in Spain. But the best news is that with three Spanish pastors, and one Venezuelan pastor sent from our partner church with LCMS support, with another Spanish man scheduled to be ordained in October, and two more men entering seminary, the Mission continues.

Spain, with its peculiar Roman Catholic history and its current rapid secularization, desperately needs the proclamation of the pure Gospel rediscovered by Luther. I encourage the District to continue praying for the Spanish Lutheran Church, her people, pastors and ministry, and to consider ways to financially support as well. The Venezuelan pastor, Rev. Isaac Machado, would be one excellent option, and could be supported through the Together in Mission program, as his financial support is managed through the LCMS Office of International Mission.

Throughout the world, the Mission of Christ goes forward as the Good News of free forgiveness and real communion with God through His Means of Grace sounds forth from faithful Lutheran congregations and missions. Thank you and God be praised for your continued focus on and support of Lutheran Mission, both in the District, and around the world.

Peace and Joy in Christ to you all,
Pastor David Warner

Former Missionary to Spain
Pastor, Our Redeemer and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches
Custer and Hill City, South Dakota

TOGETHER IN MISSION

Reverend Dr. Daniel Jastram, Missionary to Japan and Asia

Dear Pastors and Congregations of the South Dakota District:

God continues to accomplish his mission work through the South Dakota District in mysterious and wonderful ways, even to the farthest corners of the globe!

Both of my parents, Robert and Phyllis (nee Matthies), grew up as members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hartford, South Dakota, where they were married and commissioned for service as LCMS missionaries to Japan, where I was born and raised as a missionary child. Then, as I followed in my father's footsteps to the pastoral ministry, theological education—perhaps even in the mission field—beckoned and led me to further graduate studies and to teaching at Concordia University, St. Paul MN, as professor of New Testament and Religious Studies.

Initial contact with the LCMS Office of International Mission followed after thirteen years of teaching and another twelve years as parish pastor. When my background in Japan as the child of missionary parents converged with requests from our Japan partner church for a missionary teacher of theology at their seminary in Tokyo, the stage was set for my call to missionary service, in the fall of 2014, to facilitate theological education both in Japan and in the whole region of Asia.

During my mission network preparations in 2015, South Dakota District congregations became generous partners through my visitations at 42 of the 114 district congregations. This support made it possible to establish our mission station in Tokyo and visit most of our seven partner church seminaries in Asia, which served to renew our mission relationships and support for theological education in Asia.

These visits (including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, and India) recognized that the priority of first-generation mission work was to establish mission preaching stations, plant churches, provide congregational ministry, then to assist with building national church bodies with their own seminaries, schools, and all the necessary elements of self-supporting, self-governing, self-perpetuating church bodies. The operative mission principle bore its God-given fruit: the Lutheran Church carries out Lutheran mission leading to Lutheran congregations which teach and practice the Lutheran faith and worship. What follows is a continuing mission assistance in subsequent generations: to walk beside our partner—or emerging partner—church bodies, assisting and supplementing their development for the sake of their well-being in doctrine and practice. We are accommodating this development through our focus on theological education and by making much-needed Lutheran resources of theological and worship available wherever possible.

My location in Tokyo Japan has also allowed me to visit most of the thirty-three congregations and their twenty-three pastors within our Japan partner church. At the same time, I have established contact with some of the other church bodies in Japan to explore with them the possibilities for theological education and resources. During the prolonged months of COVID travel precautions, my visitation work has given way to more time with facilitating translation projects. For example, we are currently more than half-way through the work of translating Walther's Law and Gospel into Japanese, and are already coordinating plans for our next Japanese project. Meanwhile, this same effort goes on with a score of other LCMS missionaries in Asia as well: Lutheran resource projects in development throughout Asia numbering well over one hundred.

God has also wonderfully arranged connections with international Tokyo expats, of both military and non-military backgrounds. These have resulted in meetings at parks and coffee-shops for devotion and catechetical studies, alternating with gatherings for Lutheran worship in our apartment chapel services.

Mission efforts like these depend on your generous Together In Mission (TIM) district partnership. Your partnership, and the additional sustaining contributions of individuals, congregations, and LWML groups make this mission work possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your TIM partnership and for the contributions of individuals and church groups throughout the South Dakota District.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram
Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator
Office of International Mission
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
Webpage: <https://www.lcms.org/jastram>

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI
SYNOD**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

JANUARY 14, 2021 and 2020

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 14, 2021**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Scott C. Sailer

Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

Rev. Tim Rynearson

Rev. David Otten

Jeffrey A. Siekmann

Robert J. Herz

David Zuercher

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Independent Auditor's Report	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Activities	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Statement of Functional Expenses	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7

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, 2021, and the related statement of activities, statement of functional expenses 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, 2021, 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, 2020 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated June 15, 2020. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended January 14, 2020, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.



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

July 14, 2021

**SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JANUARY 14, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 263,817	\$ 170,974
Accounts Receivable	653	1,055
Accrued Interest Receivable	8,348	11,540
Prepaid Expenses	13,485	13,386
Contributions Receivable (Note 2)	743,031	662,897
Short-term Investments (Note 4)	3,492,661	3,086,254
Current Maturities-Loans Receivable	8,851	4,250
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>4,530,846</u>	<u>3,950,356</u>
LONG TERM ASSETS		
Long-Term Investments (Note 4)	450,000	825,000
Gifts Receivable (Note 2)	237,906	227,004
Loans Receivable (Note 3)	30,312	13,753
Less: Current Maturities	<u>(8,851)</u>	<u>(4,250)</u>
TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS	<u>709,367</u>	<u>1,061,507</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
Property & Equipment	688,089	686,865
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(489,030)</u>	<u>(461,794)</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>199,059</u>	<u>225,071</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>\$ 5,464,272</u>	<u>\$ 5,261,934</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 125,632</u>	<u>\$ 92,251</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>125,632</u>	<u>92,251</u>
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	974,825	999,151
Designated by the Board	1,947,263	1,920,668
With Donor Restrictions		
Purpose Restrictions	1,650,832	1,490,938
Perpetual in Nature	<u>765,720</u>	<u>758,926</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>5,338,640</u>	<u>5,169,683</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 5,464,272</u>	<u>\$ 5,261,934</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, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
	<u>Jan. 14, 2021</u>	<u>Jan. 14, 2020</u>	
<u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND GAINS/LOSSES:</u>			
Support:			
District Congregations	\$ 476,331	\$ 784,758	\$ 1,261,089
Synodical Entities & Out of State Congregations	49,224	20,821	70,045
Other	99,805	28,508	128,313
Revenue:			
Lutheran Witness	89,458		89,458
Conventions, Conferences and Workshops	800		800
Interest Income	9,796		9,796
Investment Income	41,809	25,907	67,716
Other	3,537	50,300	53,837
Net Unrealized and Realized Gains/(Losses)	5,890	55,920	61,810
TOTAL - SUPPORT, REVENUE, and GAINS/LOSSES	<u>776,650</u>	<u>966,214</u>	<u>1,742,864</u>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>799,526</u>	<u>(799,526)</u>	
<u>EXPENSES:</u>			
Program Services (See Functional Expenses)	894,976		894,976
Supporting Services (See Functional Expenses)	678,931		678,931
TOTAL - EXPENSES	<u>1,573,907</u>		<u>1,573,907</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>2,269</u>	<u>166,688</u>	<u>(43,473)</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	<u>2,919,819</u>	<u>2,249,864</u>	<u>5,213,156</u>
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,922,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,416,552</u>	<u>\$ 5,169,683</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, 2021 and 2020**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ 168,957	\$ (43,473)
Charges and credits to change in net assets not affecting cash		
Depreciation	27,236	28,151
Loss (gain) on disposal of property		306
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	402	1,336
Interest receivable	3,192	(265)
Contributions receivable	(80,134)	18,517
Prepaid expenses	(99)	(6,342)
Gifts receivable	(10,902)	(16,034)
Accounts payable	<u>33,381</u>	<u>(20,713)</u>
NET CASH FROM (USED FOR) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>142,033</u>	<u>(38,517)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Decrease (Increase) in loans receivable	(16,559)	(9,388)
Purchases of investments	(962,060)	(2,050,752)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(48,348)	(83,212)
Proceeds from sales of investments	979,000	2,150,000
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>(1,223)</u>	<u>(938)</u>
NET CASH FROM (USED FOR) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>(49,190)</u>	<u>5,710</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	92,843	(32,807)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>170,974</u>	<u>203,781</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 263,817</u>	<u>\$ 170,974</u>

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JANUARY 14, 2021

	<u>2021</u>			<u>2020</u>		
	<u>PROGRAM SERVICES</u>		<u>SUPPORTING SERVICES</u>			
	<u>World and National Missions</u>	<u>Preparing Church Workers</u>	<u>Congregational Services</u>	<u>Synodical Budget</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
EXPENSES:						
Salaries and Wages	\$		\$ 269,527	\$	\$ 149,333	\$ 418,860
Employee Benefits			104,216		60,837	165,053
Payroll Taxes					11,292	11,292
Subsidies, Grants and Other Assistance	49,067	90,995	206,693	353,518		700,273
Building and Office Expenses					51,594	51,594
Communications, Publications and Promotion			93,212			93,212
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops and Meetings			13,684			13,684
Information Technology					9,218	9,218
Insurance			1,999		4,271	6,270
Professional Services		35,000			7,333	42,333
Travel, Mileage			28,193		6,592	34,785
Miscellaneous					97	97
Total expenses before Depreciation and Losses	49,067	125,995	717,524	353,518	300,567	1,546,671
Depreciation Expense			2,390		24,846	27,236
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets						(306)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 49,067	\$ 125,995	\$ 719,914	\$ 353,518	\$ 325,413	\$ 1,573,907
						\$ 1,751,553

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, 2021 AND 2020**

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 Organization has adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016-14 – *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. This update addresses the complexity and understandability of net asset classification, deficiencies in information about liquidity and availability of resources, and the lack of consistency in the type of information provided about expenses and investment return between not-for-profit entities. A key change required by ASU 2016-14 are the net asset classes used in these financial statements. Amounts previously reported as unrestricted net assets are now reported as net assets without donor restrictions and amounts previously reported as temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets, if applicable, are now reported as net assets with donor restrictions.

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor restrictions. Board-designated net assets represent amounts the District has set aside for a specific purpose.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

Net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

Contributions and Revenue Recognition

The District recognizes contributions when received or unconditionally pledged. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been substantially met.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates, and those differences could be material.

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. As of January 14, 2021, the amount held in this bank was not in excess of FDIC limits. The District also had trust account balances in money market mutual funds, not subject to federal deposit insurance, totaling \$15,505 and \$15,422 at January 14, 2021 and 2020, 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 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 (personal automobile) is acquired with the loan proceeds. Personal loans do not require collateral. Any loan payment that is 30 or more days past due, the borrower will be charged a late payment fee for each month the payment is past due. The business office will send a delinquency notice to the borrower reporting the action taken with a copy of notice to the District president. Due to the uncertainty regarding collection of fees, delinquency fees are recognized as income when received.

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 are 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. However, the financial statements do not reflect the value of these contributed services because they do not meet recognition criteria prescribed by generally accepted accounting principles.

Revenue Recognition

The Organization has adopted Accounting Standards Updates (ASU) No. 2014-09 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)* and (ASU) No. 2018-08 *Not-for-Profit Entities: Clarifying the Scope and the Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made (Topic 605)* as management believes the standards improve the usefulness and understandability of the Organization's financial reporting. Analysis of various provisions of these standards resulted in no significant changes in the way the organization recognizes revenue, and therefore no changes to the previously issued audited financial statements were required on a retrospective basis.

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, 2021 and 2020. The contributions receivable is recorded at net realizable value of \$743,031 and \$662,897 as of January 14, 2021 and 2020, 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 donor-imposed perpetual restricted support if the gift is for an endowment and any other gift as donor-imposed time or purpose restricted support. 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 donor-imposed restricted net assets in the statements of activities and changes in net assets.

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, the present value of irrevocable deferred gifts is as follows:

	2021	2020
One to five years	\$ 67,973	\$ 64,858
More than five years	169,933	162,146
	<u>\$ 237,906</u>	<u>\$ 227,004</u>

NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020 loans receivable consist of loans at a rate of 4.0%. as follows:

	2021	2020
Assistance Loans		
Number of loans	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Total loan value	<u>\$ 30,312</u>	<u>\$ 13,753</u>

Annual maturities of loans receivable are as follows:

	Amount
Current	\$ 8,851
Non-Current	<u>21,461</u>
	<u>\$ 30,312</u>

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, investments are stated at fair value and summarized as follows:

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Bank certificates of deposit	\$ 1,478,812	\$ 1,478,812	\$ 2,325,752	\$ 2,325,752
Edward Jones Annuity	96,000	100,000		
	<u>1,574,812</u>	<u>1,578,812</u>	<u>2,325,752</u>	<u>2,325,752</u>
Lutheran Church Extension Fund				
Demand notes	<u>1,695,270</u>	<u>1,695,270</u>	<u>1,322,660</u>	<u>1,218,912</u>
LCMS Foundation				
Standard funds - aggressive	165,051	201,862		
Standard funds - fixed income	431,864	415,625	363,728	319,906
Standard funds - equity growth	49,635	51,092	49,635	46,684
	<u>646,550</u>	<u>668,579</u>	<u>413,363</u>	<u>366,590</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 3,916,632</u>	<u>\$ 3,942,661</u>	<u>\$ 4,061,775</u>	<u>\$ 3,911,254</u>

Included in the accompanying statement of financial position for the years ended January 14, 2021 and 2020 investments are listed as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Short term investments	\$ 3,492,661	\$ 3,086,254
Long term investments	450,000	825,000
Total investments	<u>\$ 3,942,661</u>	<u>\$ 3,911,254</u>

The return on investment and its classification in the statements of activities and changes in net assets for the years ended January 14, 2021 and 2020, respectively, is summarized as follows:

	2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Investment income	\$ 41,809	\$ 25,907	\$ 67,716
Net realized and unrealized gains	5,890	55,920	61,810
Total investment return	<u>\$ 47,699</u>	<u>\$ 81,827</u>	<u>\$ 129,526</u>

	2020		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Investment income	\$ 33,891	\$ 26,998	\$ 60,889
Net realized and unrealized gains	2,577	39,074	41,651
Total investment return	<u>\$ 36,468</u>	<u>\$ 66,072</u>	<u>\$ 102,540</u>

The Board of Directors has interpreted state law as requiring only the original amount of a gift is retained as the corpus for perpetuity endowments. Realized gains as well as net appreciation of perpetuity 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 donor-imposed restricted net assets has been recognized as donor-imposed restricted revenue, and, if restrictions were met, transferred to net assets without donor 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, 2021.

	<u>Fair Value Measurements</u>			Total
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Other Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Invested assets				
Bank certificates of deposit	\$ 1,478,812	\$	\$	\$ 1,478,812
Total Bank	<u>1,478,812</u>			<u>1,478,812</u>
Edward Jones				
Annuity		100,000		100,000
LCMS Foundation				
Standard fund-aggressive		201,862		201,862
Standard fund-fixed income		415,625		415,625
Standard fund-equity growth		51,092		51,092
Total Foundation investments		<u>768,579</u>		<u>\$ 768,579</u>
Lutheran Church Extension Fund				
Demand note	1,695,270			1,695,270
Total LCEF	<u>1,695,270</u>			<u>1,695,270</u>
Total invested assets	<u>\$ 3,174,082</u>	<u>\$ 768,579</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 3,942,661</u>

The following table sets forth by level, within fair value hierarchy, invested assets as of January 14, 2020:

	<u>Fair Value Measurements</u>			Total
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Other Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Invested assets				
Bank certificates of deposit	\$ 2,325,752	\$	\$	\$ 2,325,752
Total Bank	<u>2,325,752</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>2,325,752</u>
LCMS Foundation				
Standard fund-fixed income		319,906		319,906
Standard fund-equity growth		46,684		46,684
Total Foundation investments		<u>366,590</u>		<u>366,590</u>
Lutheran Church Extension Fund				
Demand note	1,218,912			1,218,912
Total LCEF	<u>1,218,912</u>			<u>1,218,912</u>
Total invested assets	<u>\$ 3,544,664</u>	<u>\$ 366,590</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 3,911,254</u>

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, property and equipment consist of the following:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
District office land and building	\$ 550,295	\$ 550,295
Equipment	116,732	115,508
Automobiles	21,062	21,062
Total	<u>688,089</u>	<u>686,865</u>
Accumulated Depreciation	(489,030)	(461,794)
Net Book Value	<u>\$ 199,059</u>	<u>\$ 225,071</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 donor restricted, and the 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 2021 and 2020.

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, the carrying value and estimated fair value of real estate investments described above are as follows:

	2021		2020	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
With Donor Restriction - Land	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,159,939	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,207,149
	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,159,939</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,207,149</u>

NOTE 8 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, net assets with donor restrictions for specific purposes are as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Congregation Pledged Support for District and Synod	\$ 700,000	\$ 600,000
Pine Ridge Ministry, Facility Rent or Humanitarian Need	512,840	498,277
General Student Aid	160,266	128,488
Irrevocable Deferred Gifts for District Programs	89,627	83,518
Mercy Fund for Professional Church Workers	70,819	70,049
New Mission Start or Site Purchase	24,915	24,699
Circuit Rider Ministry	20,107	19,755
Seminary Student Aid	21,656	15,619
Rosebud New Ministries and VBS Program	10,880	10,880
Circuit Pastor Meetings & Forums	9,759	9,115
Orphan Housing Funding	8,718	3,290
Camp Minneboji	5,841	6,096
Lutheran Family Services of Iowa	5,445	6,016
Deaf Interpreter Program	4,555	4,555
Disaster Relief and Orphan Housing	2,154	7,149
International Friends of Sioux Falls	1,501	1,451
Special District Office Need Fund	908	908
Short Term International Mission Trips Travel	491	491
Promoting Ministerial Health	225	225
CWEDA Grant Funding	75	
Protect My Ministry	51	51
Higher Things, Youth Conference		306
Total	<u>\$ 1,650,833</u>	<u>\$ 1,490,938</u>

NOTE 9 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS-PERPETUAL IN NATURE

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, net assets with donor restrictions-perpetual in nature, the income from which is expendable to support specific purposes as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
General Student Aid	\$ 523,615	\$ 522,615
Deferred Gifts Through LCMS	130,512	125,719
Seminary Student Aid	54,674	54,674
Martin Luther Orphan Asylum Trust	35,839	35,838
C.W.E.D.A. Endowment Fund	20,580	19,580
Barnabus Rural Ministry	500	500
Total	<u>\$ 765,720</u>	<u>\$ 758,926</u>

NOTE 10 – BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, the Board of Directors designated net assets without donor restrictions as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Board Designated- General		
CEF Balance Remaining after Consolidation	\$ 800,339	\$ 779,714
Special Fund - Lilly Smith Estate	370,081	456,730
Sale of Tea Property/Future Church Plant	224,978	221,212
Gain on Sale of Rapid City Property	218,994	213,931
Assistance Loan Fund	215,350	208,648
Niedemyer Estate Gift Fund	80,426	
Special Fund - Kurt Huber Trust	10,000	10,000
Master Work Comp Policy Dividend	16,889	18,249
Synodical Convention	6,298	6,896
District/National Youth Gatherings	2,363	2,363
Rural Ministry Workshops	1,375	1,375
Singles' Retreat	170	170
Pastors' Conference		790
Lay Institute Training		590
	<u>1,947,263</u>	<u>1,920,668</u>
Current Operating	830,761	830,212
Property	144,064	168,939
Total	<u>\$ 2,922,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,919,819</u>

NOTE 11 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS RELEASED

Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the years ended January 14, 2021, and 2020, by incurring expenses satisfying the specific donor restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. Net assets with donor restrictions were released for the specific purposes as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Program Restrictions Accomplished		
General Student Aid	\$ 65,784	\$ 65,206
Indian Ministry	58,400	41,929
Together in Mission (T.I.M.)	49,067	43,030
Disaster Relief	7,999	18,614
Mercy Fund for Professional Church Workers	7,000	5,000
Lutheran Family Services of Iowa	4,008	
Circuit Pastor Meetings or Forums	3,406	5,223
Seminary Student Aid Funding	1,500	
Rosebud Mission	975	1,539
New Mission Starts	466	2,012
Higher Things, Youth Conference	306	1,145
C.W.E.D.A. Grant Funding	298	1,323
Camp Minneboji	256	74,541
Protect My Ministry	61	
Circuit Rider Ministry		17
International Friends of Sioux Falls		2,020
Chaplaincy Ministry		168
Total Restrictions Accomplished	<u>199,526</u>	<u>261,767</u>
Time Restrictions Expired		
Passage of Specified Time - Congregation Pledges	<u>600,000</u>	<u>650,000</u>
	<u>\$ 799,526</u>	<u>\$ 911,767</u>

NOTE 12 – OPERATING LEASES

The District entered into a farmland lease agreement effective December 21, 2019 through December 20, 2022, which requires the lessee to pay the District \$50,300 annually. For the fiscal year ended January 14, 2021, \$50,300 was received on the previous farmland lease.

NOTE 13 – FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION EXPENSES

The costs of providing the various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs, have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

NOTE 14 – 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>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Concordia Health Plan	\$ 110,714	\$ 101,248
Concordia Retirement Plan	31,205	30,765
Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan	8,070	7,956
Concordia Travel Accident Insurance Plan	170	212

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

trusteed 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.

NOTE 15 – 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 \$353,518 and \$360,619 to the Synod for the years ended January 14, 2021 and 2020, respectively. As of January 14, 2021, and 2020, \$56,903 and \$55,609, respectively, were included in accounts payable in the accompanying statements of financial position for this purpose.

NOTE 16 – VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS

As of January 14, 2020, the total market value of endowment pooled investments was less than the total original value of endowment gifts received over the years by approximately \$40,638. This deficiency had resulted primarily from declines in the financial markets.

As of January 14, 2021, the total market value of endowment pooled investments increased over the total original value of endowment gifts received over the years. This increase has absorbed the deficiency from prior years by \$22,029.80.

NOTE 17 – COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements include certain January 14, 2020 comparative information. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the organization's financial statements for the year ended January 14, 2020 from which the summarized information was derived.

NOTE 18 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a global health emergency because of a new strain of coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China (the COVID-19 outbreak) and the risks to the international community as the virus spreads globally beyond its point of origin. In March, 2020, the WHO classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic, based on the rapid increase in exposure globally.

The full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve as of the date of this report. As such, it is uncertain as to the full magnitude that the pandemic will have on the organization's financial condition and liquidity. Given the daily evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak and the global responses to curb its spread, the organization is not able to estimate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on its financial condition or liquidity for fiscal year 2021 and future years.

NOTE 19 – AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

The organization strives to maintain liquid financial assets sufficient to cover 90 days of general expenditures. Financial assets in excess of daily cash requirements are invested in certificates of deposit, money market funds and other short-term investments.

The following table reflects the organization's financial assets as of January 14, 2021 and 2020, reduced by amounts that are not available to meet general expenditures within one year of the statement of financial position date because of contractual restrictions or internal board designations. In the event the need arises to utilize the board-designated funds for liquidity purposes, the reserves could be drawn upon through board resolution. Amounts not available to meet general expenditures within one year also may include net assets with donor restrictions.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Financial Assets	\$ 5,240,213	\$ 5,011,863
Investments with liquidity greater than one year	(450,000)	(825,000)
Loans Receivable with liquidity greater than one year	(21,461)	(9,503)
Contributions Receivable with liquidity greater than one year	(169,933)	(162,146)
Board Designated funds	(1,947,263)	(1,920,668)
Donor Restrictions perpetual	(765,720)	(758,926)
Donor Restrictions conditional	<u>(1,650,832)</u>	<u>(1,490,938)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 235,004</u>	<u>\$ (155,318)</u>

In addition to financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next 12 months, the organization operates with a balanced budget and anticipates collecting sufficient revenue to cover general expenditures not covered by donor-restricted resources.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Dr. Patty Peters, President

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. The ladies of the South Dakota District are rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ by doing Bible studies that are published in the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. Each quarter one of the Bible studies is published in Spanish. In March 2021 our District hosted a virtual Bible study on the Book of Esther and about 36 people attended.

The majority of groups and zones across the District did not meet in person for several months because of the COVID19 pandemic, but thankfully they could meet virtually and carry on with the work of Christ. The 2020 District LWML Convention was not held but the mission grants and new officers were voted upon. The board meetings were held virtually as the months of the pandemic rolled by. Now as the fall of 2021 is upon us, the Fall Rallies and Retreats are being held in person.

The District's Christian Life Retreat is planned for September 17-18, 2021, at Faith Lutheran in Pierre. The theme is "God's Quilt of Comfort—Wrapping Up in the Psalms." This takes the place of the spring retreat and the fall workshops. The District Counselors, Rev. Grimmer and Rev. Thorson, are the speakers. The ladies plan to work on blankets that can be given away as gifts of the heart.

The District LWML Convention will be held June 3-4, 2022, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton. The conventions are held in even numbered years and move around the District so that each Zone can be the host. At the convention new mission grants will be selected for the 2022-2024 biennium.

Our District has 12 mission grants that were selected in 2020 for a total of \$52,500. Those are listed on the website, sdlwml.org. So far 5 grants are paid, one of which is a \$5,000 grant for Sioux Falls Lutheran Schools for playground equipment and musical instruments.

The LWML national convention was held in Lexington, Kentucky, on June 24-27, 2021, with the theme "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus." The decision to hold the convention in person was made in March and about 2700 people attended with about 60-70 from South Dakota. The mission goal of \$2,150,000 was adopted along with 28 mission grants. These grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 and are given to places in the US and around the world. See the lwml.org website for a complete list.

Our District now has 2 trained Heart 2 Heart Sisters, Kay Nelson and Brooke Aker, who can assist groups and zones to reach out to women of all ethnic groups. We want all women to be part of the LWML and its Bible studies and mission work.

We have a program called Young Women Representatives, which encourages young women at every level of the organization to be involved in service and Bible studies. Janelle Lafrentz and Elizabeth Schmidt, both from Sioux Falls, represented SD at the national convention in 2021.

LWML has gift planning counselors who can assist people in making plans for their legacy when God calls them home to heaven. The website is lwmlgiftplan.org.

The Puppet Place at the SD State Fair is going to be 50 years old in 2022. I am so thankful for the Utecht family, including Reverends Bob, Andrew and Peter, who spread the Gospel with puppet shows, music, magic, and juggling. Ladies from across the District help to clean and maintain the building on the fairgrounds and also help during the State Fair. If you have not attended a puppet show, you should!

As President of the LWML SD District I am so very thankful to God for the faithful women and men who serve Jesus by serving their fellowman with gifts and projects of all kinds. At each level—groups at the local level, Zones across the District, the District, and the national-- women and men serve with their time, talents, and treasures. To God be the glory, for great things He has done.

Patricia Peters
LWML SD District President

MAIN STREET LIVING

Jay Schaefer, Executive Director

On September 12, 2001, nine people gathered for a meeting: seven congregation representatives of the Sioux Falls area, a grant writer, and the president of the South Dakota District, LCMS. They gathered to organize and plan a television program, featuring a worship service faithful to Scripture and in-keeping with our Lutheran form of worship, that was scheduled to air on local television in only four months. It was decided that the project would temporarily carry the working title “Main Street Living,” and that this group should meet weekly because of the size of the task. District President, Rev. Vernon Schindler, opened the meeting in prayer, asking that God would direct and guide the efforts of this group.

Direct and guide us, God has surely done! Now, twenty years later, through God’s blessing and guidance, Main Street is broadcast on ten television stations in six states and eight LCMS districts. With the addition of the Eau Claire & La Crosse, WI, markets in 2000, six different regional programs are produced each week in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. It is estimated that the program is viewed weekly in about 20,000 households, with approximately 37,000 viewers. Each week, local pastors proclaim the Good News of Jesus and invite the viewing audience to attend local services in the congregations they serve.

The Main Street Living can be viewed each Sunday morning in:

South Dakota - Sioux Falls (KDLT) & Rapid City (KEVN)

North Dakota - KVRN, WDAYx, & KCPO

Iowa - Sioux City (KCAU):

Nebraska - Lincoln (KLKN) & Omaha (WOWT / COZI):

Southern Minnesota - FOX (WFTC):

Wisconsin – Eau Claire & La Crosse (WLAX/WEUX FOX25/48):

The program can also be viewed anytime online at www.mainstreetliving.com and on Facebook. All of this is only possible due to the cooperation and generous gift of time and talent from the pastors and volunteers in these LC--MS districts: South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota North, Minnesota South, Iowa District West, Nebraska, North Wisconsin, and South Wisconsin.

In June of 2021, Arlen (“Dutch”) Te Slaa, one of the founders and the driving force behind this ministry, retired as the Executive Director. We thank the Lord of the Church for raising up Dutch to work so tirelessly and effectively to begin and expand the reach of the Good News of Jesus Christ, via television, throughout the upper Great Plains.

The Board of Directors of Main Street Living chose Jay Schaefer from Fargo, North Dakota, to succeed Dutch as the Executive Director. Jay is an LCMS trained and rostered teacher and DCE who has produced and edited the North Dakota broadcasts for the past five years. He began editing and distributing all six markets two years ago.

Finally, we thank the pastors who proclaim God's Word on the program, keep this ministry in front of their congregations, and support us with their prayers. Main Street Living strives to provide production and administration, but it is the pastors who share the message that the world needs: forgiveness, life, hope, and salvation through Christ alone.

In 2001, Main Street Living was started to assist ministers with a witness to their shut-in members, but God had much more in mind! It is He who has furthered the reach of Main Street Living into the entire region via television and into the world via the Main Street Living on-line platforms.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support of this ministry.

1 **OVERTURE: 1-02**
2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS
5

6 **WHEREAS,** During the triennium following the 2018 61st Convention of The South Dakota
7 District, the following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran
8 Church – Missouri Synod – Ministers of Religion – Ordained;
9

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Samuel Handschke	Colin Ford	Jonah Domenichelli	Jacob Smith
Michael Keller	Kevin Koester	Kurt Laskowsky	
Andrew Wolfgram	Bryan Meadows		
	Doug Slavens		

10 AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** During the same triennium, the following individuals became rostered members of
13 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Ministers of Religion – Commissioned:
14

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Scot Dobbs		Jacquelyn Berg	Amanda Korthase
Rebecca Wiemer			

15
16 AND

17
18 **WHEREAS,** The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of
19 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT
20

21 **RESOLVED:** That this 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the
22 above individuals as partners in the Gospel; AND BE IT FINALLY
23

24 **RESOLVED:** That we pray God's richest blessings upon these workers that the Holy Spirit would
25 use them to extend God's kingdom here on earth.
26

27 Respectfully Submitted,
28

29 _____
30 Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman
31

32 _____
33 Reverend Marcus Ring
34

35 _____
36 DCE Joshua Schmitt
37

38 _____
39 Mrs. Bonnie Wagner
40

41 _____
Mr. Geoff Street

1 **OVERTURE: 1-03**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
5 REGARDING THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT
6 PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

7

8 **Background:** The 2018 Convention of the District adopted a resolution concerning a new
9 process for nominating the two Vice-Presidents of the District. The Synod's
10 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) subsequently approved the process
11 (CCM Opinion 19-2901), found in section 5.05.d. of the District's Bylaws.
12 However, the 2018 District Convention failed to approve a new election process
13 for the Vice-Presidents, necessitated by the change in the nominating process.
14 The District Board of Directors approved an election process in their December
15 2019 meeting, and subsequently presented the proposed election process to the
16 CCM for their prior approval. In the CCM's review of the proposed election
17 process, which they ultimately did approve (CCM Opinion 20-2953), they found
18 other needed revisions to Bylaw 5.05, which are included here for approval by the
19 Convention.

20

21 **WHEREAS,** The 2018 Convention of the District approved a new process for nominating Vice-
22 Presidents, but did not approve a new election process; AND

23

24 **WHEREAS,** The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod approved the new
25 process of nominating, and later, pre-approved the new process for electing the
26 Vice-Presidents and several other changes to section 5.05 of the District's Bylaws;
27 AND

28

29 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments concerning the nomination and election processes
30 for District President and Vice-Presidents, having been granted prior approval by
31 the CCM, may now be considered by the District in Convention, and, if adopted,
32 are in effect for the current Convention (cf. CCM Opinion 19-2901: "These then
33 could be adopted by the convention prior to the election of the vice-presidents of
34 the district."). THEREFORE LET IT BE

35

36 **RESOLVED:** That section 5.05 of the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
37 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 5.05 Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

45 a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following
46 manner:

47 1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister
48 from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.

49 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the
50 District ballots for nominating these candidates.

- 90 d. Nominations for Vice-Presidents
91
92 1. Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained
93 minister from the clergy of the District as a candidate for Vice-
94 Presidents.
95
96 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of
97 the District ballots for nominating these candidates.
98
99 3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the
100 Secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the
101 Secretary of the District not later than two months prior to the
102 opening date of the Convention.
103
104 4. The Secretary of the District together with the chairman of the
105 committee on Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and report
106 to the convention by means of the convention's manual the names of
107 the ordained ministers who have received least five nominating votes
108 for the office of Vice-President.
109
110 e. Candidates for the Office of Vice-president
111
112 1. Candidates for the Office of Vice-President shall be in each instance
113 the four ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in
114 nominating ballots of the congregations.
115
116 2. The secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall
117 secure his approval in writing within 10 days, for inclusion of his
118 name on the convention ballot and indicate willingness to serve if
119 elected.
120
121 3. In the event of a tie for the fourth position among the candidate, all
122 names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.
123
124 4. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the convention manual
125 brief biographies of the four candidates for Vice-Presidents giving
126 adequate information on each candidate.
127 5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief
128 biographies of the four candidates for Vice-President giving adequate
129 information on each candidate. This report shall contain such pertinent
130 information as age, residence, number of years in the District, present
131 position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of ordination,
132 former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-
133 church affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the
134 office.
135 6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time
136 by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall
137 have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to
138 nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of

139 the District this document and written pertinent information concerning his
140 nominee as detailed in 5.05 e.5.

141 f. Election of Vice-Presidents

- 142
- 143 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for
144 First Vice-President.
 - 145
 - 146 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be
147 declared elected.
 - 148
 - 149 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate
150 with the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will
151 continue until a candidate receives a majority.
 - 152
 - 153 4. The Ballot for Second Vice-President will be comprised of the Vice-
154 President candidates who were not elected to First Vice-President.
 - 155
 - 156 5. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for
157 Second Vice-President.
 - 158
 - 159 6. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared
160 elected.
 - 161
 - 162 7. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the candidate with
163 the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will continue
164 until a candidate receives a majority.
 - 165

166 [HERE FOLLOWS THE FORMER PROCESS OF ELECTING VICE-PRESIDENTS, BUT WHICH
167 PROCESS IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW (PROPOSED) PROCESS OF NOMINATING THE
168 VICE-PRESIDENTS IN 5.05.d. IT THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE REMOVED.]

169 ~~d. —Election of Vice-Presidents~~

- 170 ~~4. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for~~
171 ~~nominations for District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on~~
172 ~~which each voting ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the~~
173 ~~name of an ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the~~
174 ~~District. After the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the~~
175 ~~Convention decides the number of candidates to be placed on the election~~
176 ~~ballot. A minimum of two candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-~~
177 ~~Presidents. Ballots shall then be distributed and the election of the Vice-~~
178 ~~Presidents shall proceed without delay.~~

179
180
181
182
183
184

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-04**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IV (“MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING
4 PRIVILEGE”) OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH
5 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
6
7 **Background:** The 2019 Convention of the Synod adopted a number of amendments to the
8 Constitution of the Synod concerning the definition of membership in the Synod
9 and concerning the representation of congregations and parishes at meetings of
10 the Synod and the Districts by voting and advisory delegates.
11
12 **WHEREAS,** Article V of the Constitution of the Synod defines membership in the Synod as held
13 by “congregations and individuals, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of
14 religion—commissioned, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and
15 accept the confessional basis of Article II;” AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** Articles IX and XII.10 of the Constitution of the Synod define representation at
18 meetings of the Synod and the Districts; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** References to pastors being voting members must reflect their being individual
21 members that vote only on account of their being the pastoral delegates of member
22 congregations; AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** Article X.10.B. of the Constitution of the Synod now allows congregations of multi-
25 congregation parishes other than the one to which the voting lay delegate belongs
26 to send an advisory lay delegate to the district convention; AND
27
28 **WHEREAS,** The following proposed amendments have received prior approval by the
29 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod (Opinion 20-2953A);
30 THEREFORE LET IT BE
31
32 **RESOLVED:** That Article IV (“Membership and Voting Privilege”) of the Articles of Incorporation
33 of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
34 amended and adopted as follows

35 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]
36
37

38 **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE**

- 39 A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the
40 congregations and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The
41 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.
42
43 B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish
44 is entitled to two votes: one cast by one of its called and installed pastors ~~the~~
45 ~~pastor~~ and the other by the voting lay delegate. These delegates shall be
46 accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran
47 Church—Missouri Synod and the District.
48
49 C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who
50 are individual members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory
51 delegates. Each congregation in a multi-congregation parish that does not

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62

supply the voting lay delegate may be represented by an advisory lay delegate.
Advisory delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if
appointed, and to voice in the District Convention. Individual members of the
Synod who qualify to be advisory delegates are expected to attend the District
Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 52 1.01 Membership
- 53 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation
54 of the District and shall be the following:
- 55 a. The President who shall be an ordained minister of the Synod.
- 56 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ordained ministers of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 57 c. The Secretary who shall be an ordained minister of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 58 d. The Treasurer who shall be a ~~layman~~ layperson.
- 59 e. Two additional ~~laymen~~ laypeople from the District at Large.
- 60 1.03 Parish Limitations
- 61 a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more
62 congregations who are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member
63 of the Board of Directors.
- 64 1.05 Succession to Office
- 65 a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First
66 Vice-President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office
67 only once after having served one full term.
- 68 b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of
69 office.
- 70 1.07 Vacancies
- 71 a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be
72 a member of a voting congregation of the District; ~~or he no longer resides within~~
73 ~~the geographic boundaries of the District.~~
- 74 b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a
75 majority of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill
76 the vacancy shall be appointed to the unexpired term of his predecessor in office.
- 77 1.11 Organization
- 78 a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman
79 and such other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 80 1.15 General Duties
- 81 a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –
82 Missouri Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise
83 all the powers granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization,
84 subject to the Bylaws of said corporation, and the decision of its members at
85 Convention or other meetings assembled.

- 123 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.
- 124 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod,
125 the following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)
- 126 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District.
127 He shall be responsible for:
- 128 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, of the
129 work of all committees and personnel of the District.
- 130 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction
131 with the Treasurer.
- 132 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any,
133 of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all
134 mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said
135 corporation, in conjunction with the Secretary.
- 136 b. ~~Counseling~~ The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the
137 ministry to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.
- 138 b. Ecclesiastical Supervision The District President shall, as further defined in the
139 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, provide evangelical supervision, counsel,
140 and care for the members of the Synod in the District, especially by acquainting
141 himself with the religious conditions of and arranging for official visits to the
142 congregations of the District, and by supervising the doctrine, life and
143 administration of office of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District.
- 144 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments
145 affecting the church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our
146 day.
- 147 d. Representation The District President should regard himself as the representative
148 spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and
149 whenever the opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life
150 in the District may be given. shall represent the Synod in the District, as further
151 defined in Synod Bylaw 4.4.
- 152 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

153

154 [A LARGE SECTION OF THE BYLAWS ARE HERE OMITTED, AS NO AMENDMENTS ARE CALLED
155 FOR IN THIS PART OF THE BYLAWS.]

156

157 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 158 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held
159 shall be elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall

160 recommend to the Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on
161 Nominations consisting of four ordained ministers and five ~~laymen~~ laypeople.
162 Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by the Convention. Of these
163 candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot two ordained ministers and three
164 ~~laymen~~ laypeople.

165 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two
166 candidates for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in
167 these Bylaws. Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession,
168 experience, and place of residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on
169 Nominations and presented to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations
170 shall obtain the consent of persons nominated for the various offices.

171 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the
172 respective classifications of pastors or ~~laymen~~ laypeople) in the order of the number
173 of votes received by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by
174 the Board of Directors.

175

176 5.21 Committee on Elections

177 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business
178 session of the Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of
179 the Judge of Elections to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes
180 cast, and report without delay the results of the voting to the Convention. The
181 Judge of Elections shall have the right of the floor of the assembly whenever his
182 duties may demand, and he shall have the privilege to appoint his assistants.

183 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately,
184 according to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

185 VI. AMENDMENTS

186 6.01 How Made

187 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have
188 received prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod,
189 and provided they are –

190 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and
191 Bylaws of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;

192 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

193 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor
194 committee; and

195 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention.

196 b. Amendments arising in the course of a convention, or during the course of a
197 convention being made to previously approved proposals, may be adopted by a

198 majority vote of the convention, provided the resolution is contingent on approval
199 by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended ~~bylaws~~ Bylaws
200 become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission
201 on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not
202 approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the
203 amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters'
204 requirement, upon their two-thirds vote.

205 c. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may also be adopted by a two-thirds
206 majority of the District Board of Directors, when necessitated by amendments to
207 the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of
208 the Synod in Convention. Such amendments shall have been ~~be~~ drafted by the
209 Secretary of the District and approved in advance by Synod's Commission on
210 Constitutional Matters.

211 Respectfully Submitted,

212 _____
213 The Board of Directors
214 The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-06**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT: TO REALIGN THE CIRCUITS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**
- 4 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two
5 adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors
6 on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent
7 from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed
8 membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND
- 9 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that
10 ‘walks together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical
11 encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of
12 greater congregational participation in God’s mission;” AND
- 13 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.2 states: “Districts shall establish visitation circuits according to
14 geographical criteria;” AND
- 15 **WHEREAS,** The 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District resolved (Resolution 1-15) “that
16 the District Board of Directors appoint a committee after the 2019 Synodical
17 Convention to:
- 18 • Consider demographic realities, travel, and ministry relationships
19 between congregations and within existing circuits; and
 - 20 • Bring a plan for circuit alignment for the South Dakota District to the
21 2021 Convention of the District that recommends visitation circuits
22 which fulfill the requirements to exist as electoral circuits;” AND
- 23 **WHEREAS,** congregations review and adjust membership that result in reduced membership
24 totals contributing to the reality of declining membership, especially in rural areas;
25 AND
- 26 **WHEREAS,** the unique population and geographical demographics of the state of South Dakota
27 necessitates some large geographical areas to meet the above criteria; AND
- 28 **WHEREAS,** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Phillip is in a tri-point parish with St. Peter
29 Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran Church of Norris; AND
- 30 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill and Christ Lutheran Church of Winner are in a tri-
31 point parish with Trinity Lutheran Church of Reliance; AND
- 32 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, Trinity
33 Lutheran Church of Reliance, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion
34 Lutheran Church of Chamberlain have an established common ministry
35 relationship via The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) with Zion
36 Lutheran Church of Presho, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Draper, Messiah Lutheran
37 Church of Murdo, St. Peter Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran
38 Church of Norris; AND
- 39 **WHEREAS,** The combined confirmed membership of the congregations in the Freeman Circuit:
40 Circuit #6 exceeds the minimum requirement for an electoral circuit by a little more
41 than 100 confirmed members; AND
- 42 **WHEREAS,** The Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6 is a model visitation circuit; AND
- 43 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1st English Lutheran Church of Centerville
44 share similar geographic and ministry demographics with the congregations of the
45 Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6; THEREFORE BE IT
- 46 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in Convention assign the following congregations
47 as follows:

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59

- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Philip, Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion Lutheran Church of Chamberlain to the Pierre Circuit: Circuit #3
- Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1st English Lutheran Church of Centerville to the Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-07**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO ALLOW GRANTS FROM THE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE FUND TO CHURCH
4 WORKERS TO PAY DOWN STUDENT LOANS
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** For many years prior to 1970 the South Dakota District operated a “self-supporting
7 rotating fund” for pastors to be able to buy a car; AND
8
- 9 **WHEREAS,** At the 1970 South Dakota District Convention this fund was changed to allow not
10 only car loans but other types of loans because “the need for financial assistance
11 has arisen in the past for newly ordained pastors just out of the seminaries, as well
12 as pastors present within the district, in areas other than funds to purchase a car;
13 and the Board of Directors feels that in many of these cases it has a moral
14 obligation to assist these pastors in need of funds”¹; AND
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,** The 1970 Convention gave the responsibility for the operation of the fund to the
17 Board of Directors which has expanded those eligible for the funds to include
18 “pastors, teachers, and executive staff of the District”²; AND
19
- 20 **WHEREAS,** Over time the needs of pastors and church workers have changed. The 1970
21 resolution spoke of the challenge for pastors “in need of financial assistance....
22 can seldom afford the expense of a commercial high interest loan.” For the last few
23 years and up to the present moment it has not been the greatest challenge for
24 church workers to get loans. Over the last 20 years there has been little use of the
25 Assistance Fund with no more than a handful of loans at any one time; AND
26
- 27 **WHEREAS,** The greatest need for new graduates of any of our church work programs is now
28 student loan debt reduction; AND
29
- 30 **WHEREAS,** In (year unknown or convention perhaps 2012) the South Dakota District started a
31 program to help with the challenge of debt (Church Worker Educational Debt
32 Assistance—CWEDA). Since its inception the fund has helped about 20 families
33 a year to pay off principal on their loans; AND
34
- 35 **WHEREAS,** The District Assistance Fund has grown over the years through interest and loan
36 repayments to approximately \$200,000 of which less than 10% has been loaned
37 out recently; AND
38
- 39 **WHEREAS,** One of the resolutions from 1970 stated that “Additions to or deletions from this
40 fund other than from interest gains or gifts to the Fund can be made only by action
41 of the District Convention;” THEREFORE BE IT
42
- 43 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors be granted permission by the 2021 South Dakota
44 District Convention to annually transfer a portion of the balance of the Assistance
45 fund to be used to supplement the Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance
46 grants; AND BE IT FINALLY
47
- 48 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors continue to be “responsible for the development of
49 policies relating to the operation of the South Dakota District Assistance Fund, as

¹ Memorial 5-02, page A-25, 1970 South Dakota District Convention

² Board of Directors of the South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Guidelines (2020 revision), p. 17.

50 well as the procedures necessary to qualify for the grant of the loan”³, and that
51 they also are to set up policies determining how much of the Assistance Fund can
52 be used for grants to church workers to pay down the principal on their student
53 loans.

54
55
56
57
58
59

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

³ 1970 Convention Resolution 5-02.

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-10**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION
4 CIRCUITS AND THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF
5 SAME
6
7 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or
8 two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of
9 directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall
10 represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed
11 membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where
14 communicant membership is taken into account; AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership” for wherever
17 the Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered
18 according to Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church,
19 even if there are only two or three gathered together in His name (AC VIII;
20 *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409; Mat 18:20); AND
21
22 **WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of numbers of communicant members, share
23 equally in the authority and power of the Church, that is, the Office of the Keys,
24 and are the possessors of the priesthood and all church power, even if there are
25 only two or three believers in them (*Kirche und Amt*, Part One, Theses IV, VI, VII,
26 Part Two, Thesis VII)
27
28 “As visible congregations that still have the Word and the sacraments
29 essentially according to God’s Word bear the name “church” because of
30 the true invisible church of sincere believers that is found in them, so
31 also they possess the power [authority] that Christ has given to His
32 whole church, on account of the true invisible church hidden in them,
33 even if there were only two or three [believers]” (*Ibid*, Part 1, VII); AND
34
35 **WHEREAS,** All congregations, regardless of number of communicant members, are equally
36 members of Synod and District, equally bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of
37 Synod and District, equally obligated to fulfill the requirements of Synodical
38 membership, equally asked to financially support the work of Synod and District,
39 equally called upon to uphold the confessional position of the LCMS, and equally
40 entitled to the benefits of Synodical membership, nor are there any communicant
41 membership requirements stated for member congregations in Synod (LCMS
42 Constitution, Article V, VI, VII, LCMS Bylaws, 1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.4.1, 1.3.5, 2.1.1,
43 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, etc.); AND
44
45 **WHEREAS,** All member congregations of Synod, regardless of number of communicant
46 members, are considered voting members of Synod (LCMS Constitution Article
47 V, LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1 (y)); AND
48
49 **WHEREAS,** The only individual persons who are members of Synod are “ministers of religion
50 – ordained” and “ministers of religion – commissioned” (LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1(m),
51 2.6); AND
52
53 **WHEREAS,** Communicant members of a congregation are not members of Synod and do not
54 fall under the ecclesiastical authority of District or Synod, but remain under the

55 authority of the congregation, nor do the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws or the
56 LCMS Dispute Resolution Process (except for the exceptions specified in Bylaw
57 1.10.2) hold any authority over individual communicant members of
58 congregations (LCMS Bylaws 1.1.1, 1.3.1, 1.10.2); AND
59
60 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Bylaws allow all congregations/parishes, regardless of the number of
61 communicant members, equal voice and vote in the nomination and election of
62 the LCMS President and Vice-Presidents (Bylaw 3.12.2); AND
63
64 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is
65 inconsistent with our doctrine of the Church (see “whereas” #3, above); AND
66
67 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations, especially in the rural districts of our Synod, are dwindling
68 in numbers of communicant members, yet there are still “two or three” gathered
69 in the name of Christ within them; AND
70
71 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is
72 becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts where, due to population
73 and membership trends, electoral circuits of ever-increasing and burdensome
74 geographic size are required, as is acknowledged in Bylaw 3.1.2.1; AND
75
76 **WHEREAS,** The increasing geographic distances required to form electoral circuits of at least
77 1,500 communicant members is becoming an obstacle to efficient
78 communication within such circuit, especially with the expectation that electors
79 visit the congregations of the electoral circuit both to determine the sentiments of
80 the congregations (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(a)) and to report individually to each
81 congregation represented at convention (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(d)), which could require
82 significant time and travel; AND
83
84 **WHEREAS,** Close personal and congregational relationships are formed within circuits that
85 greatly promote the stated goals of Bylaw 5.1.1 and these relationships are
86 disrupted whenever there are changes to the formation of the circuit;
87 THEREFORE BE IT
88
89 **RESOLVED:** That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the
90 Bylaws be amended to reflect this change by eliminating the words “electoral”
91 and “visitation” in reference to the circuit; AND BE IT FURTHER
92
93 **RESOLVED:** That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated;
94 AND BE IT FURTHER
95
96 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 3.1.2(c) be revised to read:
97
98 “Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layperson from
99 each circuit. These pastoral and lay delegates and their alternates shall
100 be elected according to the regulations of the Synod (Bylaw 3.1.2.1).”
101 AND BE IT FURTHER
102
103 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 3.1.2(a) be amended to read:
104
105 “A circuit shall consist of from 7 to 20 member congregations and, except
106 during times of pastoral vacancy, at least 7 pastors.” AND BE IT
107 FURTHER
108
109 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 3.1.2 (b) be eliminated; AND BE IT FINALLY
110

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120

RESOLVED: That Bylaw 5.1.2 be amended to read:

“Districts shall establish circuits best suited to the circumstances and geography
of the district”

Respectfully Submitted,

Circuit 6 (Freeman) Circuit Forum

1 **OVERTURE: 2-01**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
4 (LCMS) WITH LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE CONCERNING COUNSELING
5 AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES
6

7 **Background:** The South Dakota District was involved in social ministry throughout its history. Prior
8 to 1985, the District worked with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota (LSS)
9 helping those who were “in the twilight years of this life,” imprisoned, confined in
10 various state institutions, and especially “to minister, wholly and holy, to our
11 brother, the American Indian.”¹ The District gave through its budget as well as
12 gifts from congregations to support this work. In 1969, the amount was \$10,000
13 (which would be \$73,350 in today’s dollars). During those days, the District elected
14 a pastoral and lay delegate to the Board of Directors of LSS. We also had one of
15 our pastors as a chaplain at the Human Services Center in Yankton as well as
16 others serving on the various reservations. Also in every convention manual there
17 was a report from the Director of LSS.
18

19 At the 1985 District Convention, Resolution 3-06, entitled “to Readjust LC-MS
20 Relationship with LSS” was passed. The first resolved was: “That the South
21 Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod withdraw from official
22 district involvement and affiliation with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.”²
23 Among the various reasons given for this change were: (1) “LSS of South Dakota
24 by its own admission cannot, due to employment policies as well as stated
25 interests and goals entirely live up to LC-MS expectations and (2) “LSS by its own
26 plans and projections anticipates moving into areas of interest and service which
27 will further conflict with Missouri Synod principles and practice.”³
28

29 So from 1985 on the District was not directly involved in adoption services,
30 counseling services or work in the various state institutions. The District has
31 funded a chaplain for the Sioux Falls Hospitals and set up ministries on both the
32 Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations.
33

34 In 2018, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the
35 South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South
36 Dakota. LFS is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church
37 Missouri Synod. They are owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and
38 receive support from the Iowa East and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not
39 receive funding from any governmental organization and so are free to practice
40 our common Christian faith.
41

42 To determine interest in some sort of partnership visits were made with every
43 Circuit Pastors’ Conference (Winkels). Discussion was held about the ministry of
44 LFS as well as the needs in South Dakota. Out of this came the overwhelming
45 response that there was a need for Christian Counseling Services. The District
46 then entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be
47 available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work
48 of the parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that
49 those individuals and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling
50 with counselors from LFS in Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help

¹ 1970 South Dakota District Convention. Report of the Department of Social Welfare. Pg. SW 1.

² 1985 South Dakota District Convention p. 117A.

³ Ibid. p. 117A.

- 51 others in various areas such as Elder Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage
52 challenges. The agreement was for a year at the cost of \$35,000. The agreement
53 was renewed again in December 2020 for \$40,000.
54
- 55 LFS has been leading workshops, counseling with individuals and families, and
56 providing consulting services throughout the last two years. They are looking to
57 expand their ministry in South Dakota by perhaps opening a counseling center in
58 Sioux Falls or in other areas. They are also looking to partner with other
59 neighboring districts to find ways to help with Mental Health and Marriage issues
60 throughout our region.
61
- 62 The question before us now is what form will this partnership take in the future and
63 what will the cost be.
64
65
- 66 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, spent a significant portion of his ministry healing
67 people with various illnesses, diseases, and conditions and he also described his
68 people as those who care for people who are hungry, thirsty, sick or in prison
69 (Matthew 25:31-40), AND
70
- 71 **WHEREAS,** God’s people in the South Dakota District have been involved in service to others
72 who struggled with physical, emotional, and mental challenges throughout its
73 history, AND
74
- 75 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran Family Service (LFS), a Recognized Service Organization, owned by
76 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations, mission is to “walk with people
77 who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been
78 there for us,” AND
79
- 80 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
81 agreement in 2019 and 2020 for LFS to provide counseling services and training
82 to pastors, church workers and lay people in South Dakota, AND
83
- 84 **WHEREAS,** LFS and the South Dakota District are seeking ways to expand this service to
85 others in the coming years both in South Dakota and throughout our geographic
86 region, THEREFORE BE IT
87
- 88 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT
89 FURTHER
90
- 91 **RESOLVED:** That we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to
92 whatever other good works “which God has prepared in advance, that we should
93 walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER
94
- 95 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District will commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022, \$75,000 for
96 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this ministry
97 with the goal being that after that a good portion of the costs would be taken care
98 of by fees for services and gifts from individuals and congregations, AND BE IT
99 FURTHER
100
- 101 **RESOLVED:** That half of the commitment, for 2022-2024, would come from gifts and bequests
102 that the District has received over the years and the other half would come from
103 the congregations of the South Dakota District as “an over and above” giving
104 similar to our present “Together in Mission (TIM)” gifts, AND BE IT FINALLY

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119

RESOLVED: That this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term partnership would be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE 2-02**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION
4 AND TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT THE
5 TOGETHER IN MISSION PROJECT
6
7 **Background:** Since the 53rd Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in
8 Convention has adopted resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of
9 mission fields. The initial District Convention resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994),
10 resolved that the financial gifts given to Together In Mission by District
11 congregations were to be “over and above” each congregation’s regular offerings
12 for Synod and District mission support. Those missionaries or projects receiving
13 support from District congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have
14 been:
15
 - 16 • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
 - 17 • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk,
18 Russia (2013-14)
 - 19 • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia
20 (2015-2018)
 - 21 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner,
22 serving in Spain (2018-2021)
23 Again, for the 2021 District Convention, convention delegates are asked to
24 consider renewing their congregation’s commitment to join with other
25 congregations in the South Dakota District to support mission efforts at home and
26 abroad.
27
28 **WHEREAS,** It is our Lord’s desire to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and the Lord is not
29 willing for anyone to perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9),
30 and the Lord desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1
31 Timothy 2:4); AND
32
33 **WHEREAS,** It is the Lord’s intention to use His Church to reach every “nation, tribe, language,
34 and people” (Revelation 7:9) through Word and Sacrament (Epitome, Formula of
35 Concord, Article XI.13); AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** Jesus bids His people to “lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for
38 harvest” (John 4:35); AND
39
40 **WHEREAS,** In Article 3.2, “Objectives,” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
41 Constitution it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their
42 members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the
43 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;”
44 AND
45
46 **WHEREAS,** Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is
47 faithful to Christ’s desire for His Church and Synod’s stated objectives;
48 THEREFORE BE IT
49
50 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission
51 work of the last triennium’s (2018-2021) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr.
52 Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, missionary
53 to Spain; AND BE IT FURTHER
54
55 **RESOLVED:** That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to
56 Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, missionary to Eurasia, as the recipients

57 of the District's Together In Mission offerings, in equal measure, for the next
58 triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
59

60 **RESOLVED:** Should either of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return
61 from the mission field, the balance of the Together In Mission offerings will go to
62 the missionary remaining in the field. If both of these workers should retire or
63 return from the mission field, The South Dakota District Board of Directors will
64 determine a new missionary to support for the remainder of the triennium; AND BE
65 IT FINALLY
66

67 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember
68 the work of missionaries Jastram and Rajek in their corporate and individual
69 prayers and to provide an annual commitment to Together In Mission over and
70 above their regular support of Synod and District missions.
71

72 Respectfully Submitted,
73

74 _____
75 The Board of Directors of
76 The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **OVERTURE: 2-04**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO CONSIDER STRUCTURES FOR THE SUPPORT OF WORKERS AND
4 MINISTRIES, CURRENTLY DONE VIA SERVICE AREAS

5

6 **WHEREAS,** The structure of how The South Dakota District of the LCMS is to provide support
7 and ministry resources to church workers, congregations, and schools is not
8 mandated in either the Bylaws of the Synod or of the District; AND

9 **WHEREAS,** The current Service Area system of providing support and ministry resources has
10 been in place in The South Dakota District since the 2006 District Convention (cf.
11 2006 Res. 1-34); AND

12 **WHEREAS,** Such Service Areas were then defined as:

13 1) Outreach Services (including the areas of Evangelism, Rural Ministry, and
14 World Missions);

15 2) Parish Services (including the areas of Christian Education, Stewardship,
16 and Human Care);

17 3) Young Adult and Youth Services (including the areas of Youth and Campus
18 Ministry); AND

19 **WHEREAS,** While the Service Area structure has provided many blessings since its inception,
20 the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers,
21 congregations, and schools has changed dramatically in this electronic age; AND

22 **WHEREAS,** Today's culture is vastly different than it was only a short time ago; AND

23 **WHEREAS,** The structures of providing support and ministry resources should be evaluated in
24 view of the current needs and priorities of our congregations and schools and of
25 our neighbors near and far, whom we are called to serve by our deeds of love and
26 by sharing the life-giving message of the Gospel; THEREFORE BE IT

27 **RESOLVED:** That the Service Area structure be suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium; AND
28 BE IT FURTHER

29 **RESOLVED:** That, in place of the Service Areas this triennium, the District President appoint a
30 Mission and Ministry Council, by the end of March, 2022, accountable to him and
31 the District's Board of Directors and supervised by the Executive Secretary. This
32 Council shall be comprised of representatives from every circuit in The South
33 Dakota District, to:

34 1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors,
35 especially that of hearing and believing the Gospel;

36 2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church
37 workers and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations,
38 schools, and other ministries in South Dakota;

39 3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and
40 opportunities in the 2022-2025 triennium;

41 4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and
42 opportunities (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting
43 workshops, producing resources); and

44 5) Consider possible structures to provide support and ministry
45 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and other
46 ministries beyond 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That the funding of the activities of the Mission and Ministry Council comes from
48 monies already budgeted for the work of the Service Areas in 2022, and that a
49 commensurate amount of money be available for the activities of the Council in
50 2023, 2024, and 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council bring a recommendation for the District's
52 ongoing structure in providing support and ministry resources to the District's
53 Board of Directors by the time of the Board's March 2024 meeting; AND BE IT
54 FINALLY

55 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of The South Dakota District bring a plan for such a
56 structure to the 2025 Convention of the District.

57

Respectfully Submitted,

58

59

60

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

61

62

63

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-05**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OF THE
4 SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CONTINUED
5 SUPPORT
6
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The theme for the Sixty-Second Convention of The South Dakota District of The
8 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in
9 Thanksgiving;” AND
10
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The Apostle Paul reported to the Colossian Christians that they thanked God for
12 their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints (Col. 1:3-4) and later Paul
13 exhorts the Colossians to remain rooted and built up in Christ and to abound in
14 thanksgiving (Col. 2:6-7); AND
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,** The congregations of The South Dakota District are rooted in the true Gospel of
17 Jesus Christ and abound in thanksgiving to God for His generous and gracious
18 favor, which is shown through the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension
19 of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; AND
20
- 21 **WHEREAS,** “Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran
22 Church—Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another
23 and to work together in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives” (LCMS
24 2019 Handbook, Bylaw 1.1.1); AND
25
- 26 **WHEREAS,** Through discussion and collaboration at District Planning Conferences, through
27 action at District Conventions, and through action and implementation of the Board
28 of Directors of The South Dakota District on behalf of the congregations of the
29 District, the congregations of The South Dakota District have agreed to work
30 together to undertake and support various mission and ministry endeavors,
31 including the following (numbers from the 2021 District Work Program):
32
 - 33 • Support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (\$330,000)
 - 34 • Mission Work with Native Americans—Rosebud (\$133,165)
 - 35 • Mission Work with Native Americans—Pine Ridge (\$27,587)
 - 36 • Mission Work with the Deaf—(\$53,881)
 - 37 • New Mission Starts, Outreach Service Area, Administration (\$173,558)
 - 38 • University Student Ministry Support (\$28,000)
 - 39 • Preparing Church Workers—Education Assistance (\$117,000); AND
- 40 **WHEREAS,** Each of these mission and ministry endeavors is being used by God to carry out
41 the mission of Christ and His Church to seek and to save the lost (cf. Luke 19:10);
42 AND
43
- 44 **WHEREAS,** Support of the mission and ministry endeavors listed above is in addition to support
45 for direct services to congregations that totals \$471,500, which supports Lutheran
46 Witness subscriptions, Service Areas, Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplain, and
47 conferences and conventions and for District administration (\$454,439); AND
48
- 49 **WHEREAS,** The 2006 South Dakota District Convention Resolution 2-06 (adopted without
50 dissenting vote) resolved “That the congregations of The South Dakota District be
51 encouraged to consider an annual increase in their pledges to the Work Program
52 of The South Dakota District equal to the annual cost of living increase;” AND
53
- 54 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors creates the Work Program planning
55 on \$1 million in mission receipts from district congregations and the congregations
56 have been generous in their offerings to The South Dakota District and their giving
57 to the Lord in the last triennium equaled:

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88

- 2018: \$1,059,380
- 2019: \$1,092,784
- 2020: \$1,071,266; AND

WHEREAS, The South Dakota District Board of Directors thanks God and thanks the district congregations for their generous offerings and support of The South Dakota District Work Program; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That every congregation of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to thank God for the generosity of our district congregations, thank God for the mission and ministry opportunities that He has provided us to accomplish together, and ask God to provide more opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in South Dakota; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That every district congregation be encouraged to continue supporting the District Work Program by prayer and by generous gifts that come from faithful stewardship; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the congregations of The South Dakota District be encouraged to prayerfully and intentionally set as a priority an annual increase in their mission giving for the District Work Program equal to the annual cost of living increase or in an amount that is commensurate with their congregation's financial situation and that practices faithful stewardship of God's generous gifts.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-06**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—calls and utilizes sinful, but
6 baptized and redeemed people to serve Him as ordained and commissioned
7 ministers within His Church; AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** Ordained and commissioned ministers find much joy and satisfaction in serving
10 the Lord Jesus Christ in His Church, however they can also experience difficult
11 times of disappointment, loneliness, and frustration; AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** A 2017 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Church Worker Wellness Survey
14 revealed that some professional church workers struggle in a variety of areas in
15 their personal and professional lives
16
 - 17 • 40% question whether their work has any real impact.
 - 18 • 32% admit that the busyness of life gets in the way of their relationship
19 with God.
 - 20 • 55% have experienced stress from financial concerns.
 - 21 • 75% have a body mass index considered overweight or obese.
 - 22 • 26% have experienced serious marital difficulties while in ministry.
 - 23 • 24% have been told by a professional that they suffer from anxiety and
24 depression; AND
25 **WHEREAS,** Ordained and commissioned ministers have an obligation to maintain their
26 spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, and physical wellness so that they do not
27 provide the devil any opportunity to sabotage their ministry, but rather can
28 effectively serve the Lord to the best of their God-given abilities; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other places of ministry also have the
31 responsibility of caring for the needs of their professional church workers and to
32 provide them with help and support to assist them in maintaining a healthy, well-
33 balanced life; THEREFORE BE IT
34
35 **RESOLVED:** That ordained and commissioned ministers take their spiritual, emotional,
36 relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness seriously and be
37 encouraged to seek out help, support, and encouragement when they need it; AND
38 BE IT FURTHER
39
40 **RESOLVED:** Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other ministries are encouraged to be
41 proactive and delight in caring for their ordained and commissioned ministers, and
42 are also encouraged to be mindful and vigilant to their professional church worker's
43 wellness and needs; AND BE IT FURTHER
44
45 **RESOLVED:** Ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools are
46 strongly encouraged to become familiar with and utilize the various tools and
47 supports at their disposal to restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual,
48 emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness. A list of tools
49 and supports for all areas of wellness can be found at www.lcms.org/wellness and
50 includes but is not limited to:
51
52 *Spiritual:* Regular times of Scripture reading and prayer, faithful participation in
53 worship and the Means of Grace
54 *Emotional and Vocational Wellness:* Employee Assistance Program available
55 through the Concordia Health Plan, Pastoral Support Network, PALS, Doxology,
56 Lutheran Family Service of Iowa and Grace Place Wellness Ministries

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-07**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND LUTHERAN SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
4
5 **WHEREAS,** God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he
6 is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** The Lord Jesus Christ invited children to come into his presence when he said,
9 “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom
10 of God” (Mark 10:14); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church we must have and maintain
13 Christian schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They May
14 Establish and Maintain Christian Schools,” AE, Vol.45; pg.347-378); AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a strong tradition of assisting
17 parents in their God-given vocation of educating their children through Lutheran
18 schools; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** LCMS schools (early childhood centers, preschools, elementary, and high
21 schools) are the second-largest parochial educational system in the United States,
22 where LCMS congregations operate a total of 1,741 early childhood
23 centers/preschools, 828 elementary schools, and 97 high schools; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in the South Dakota District operate 5 early childhood centers, 15
26 preschools, 4 elementary schools, and 1 high school, all of which provide their
27 students with an excellent educational experience while also faithfully sharing the
28 Gospel of Jesus Christ with students and their families; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, SD was started in 2011 by an association
31 of seven LCMS congregations in the Black Hills area, but closed in 2019 after 8
32 years of providing Lutheran education; AND
33
34 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, SD was started in 2010 by an
35 association of six LCMS congregations, but closed in 2020 and was incorporated
36 into Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association beginning in the Fall of 2020;
37 THEREFORE BE IT
38
39 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention thank and praise God for the ministry
40 of Black Hills Lutheran School and Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, their
41 association congregations, their faculties and staffs, faithful supporters, and
42 committed volunteers and give glory to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for
43 preparing students for lives of service in this world and sharing with them the way
44 of life eternal through faith in Jesus Christ; AND BE IT FURTHER
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention commend all district congregations
47 involved in Christian education through early childhood centers, preschools,
48 elementary schools, and high school and thank and praise God for the work of
49 these Lutheran schools who teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare
50 students through education to be faithful Christian servants in the world; AND BE
51 IT FINALLY
52
53
54 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this overture/resolution the delegates and guests of
55 the convention rise and sing, “Shepherd of Tender Youth” stanzas 1, 5:

Shepherd of tender youth,

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78

Guiding in love and truth
Through devious way;
Christ our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing
And here our children bring
To join Your praise.

So now, and till we die,
Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong,
Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our King!

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-08**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE THE RECRUITMENT OF CHURCH WORKERS IN DISTRICT
4 CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus instituted and mandated the pastoral office (John 20:21) and St. Paul and
7 St. Peter expound on the Lord’s institution of the pastoral office (Romans 10:14-
8 17; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-
9 11); AND
10
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran church confesses concerning the pastoral office, “Concerning
12 church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or
13 administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Augsburg Confession,
14 Article XIV; The Book of Concord; Kolb/Wengert; pg.46); AND
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,** There is only one pastoral office that has been established and commanded by
17 God, but often the pastor does not serve alone. The church, to assist the pastor
18 in ministry, has established various auxiliary offices, which are “established in love
19 by the church to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist the faithful in
20 their God-given vocations” (LSB Agenda, pgs. 214, 218); AND
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,** Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in students
23 enrolled in our Concordia University church worker programs:
24
- 25 • Pre-Seminary (-59%)
26 • Lutheran Teacher (-61%)
27 • Director of Christian Education (-71%)
28 • Deaconess (-43%)
29 • Lay Ministry (-95%)
30 • Director of Parish Music (-47%)
31 • Director of Family Life (-65%) AND
32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in men enrolled
34 in our two seminaries:
35
- 36 • Master of Divinity (MDiv) Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) (-61%);
37 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) (-44%)
38 • Combined MDiv loss (-55%)
39 • CSL total loss including Alternate Route (AR) and non-residential
40 enrollments (-34%)
41 • CTSFW total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-44%)
42 • Combined total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-38%)
43 (Source: 2019 LCMS Convention Resolution 6-01) AND
44
- 45 **WHEREAS,** The number of students going into professional church work from South Dakota
46 who receive tuition assistance from the district has remained steady, with a total
47 of 9-13 professional church work students per year receiving student aid from
48 2012-2020); AND
49
- 50 **WHEREAS,** Fifty percent (50%) of all active ordained pastors are over 55 years old; and with
51 current enrollment trends into the seminary and active pastor retirement trends,
52 the active pastor population in the LCMS could decrease from 6,000 to 3,000
53 active pastors in the next 15 years; AND
54
- 55 **WHEREAS,** The current enrollments will not support graduating classes sufficient to meet the
56 needs of the church in terms of filling upcoming vacancies for ordained and
57 commissioned ministers of religion; THEREFORE BE IT

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94

RESOLVED: That congregations, schools, all professional church workers, and laypeople of the district be encouraged to earnestly petition the Lord of the harvest in corporate and individual prayer to send out laborers into His harvest field as Jesus bids His disciples to do (Luke 10:2); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That district congregations and schools be encouraged to instill in their people that church worker vocations are a sacred and joyful vocation, a vocation to which God, through His church, calls those who have been properly trained and equipped; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to remain steadfast in their love, support, encouragement, and care for their professional church workers, understanding that a spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy church worker can be a great influence on the next generation of church workers; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to identify, inspire, and support young people to consider church worker vocations and creatively discover ways to highlight and lift up the importance of church worker vocations for the ongoing life and ministry of the church; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That district congregations, schools, professional church workers, and laypeople be encouraged to give an offering to the South Dakota District's Student Aid Fund to provide ongoing financial support to students from South Dakota who are studying for professional church work vocations and preparing for service in the Lord's church.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-09**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
4 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS IN
5 2022
6
7 **WHEREAS,** April 26, 2022, will be the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod; AND
9
10 **WHEREAS,** An anniversary is a celebration of God’s blessing in the past, as well as a time of
11 joyful anticipation of what the Lord of the Church has in store for His people in the
12 future; AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exists to conserve and promote the unity
15 of the true faith; strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
16 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy
17 Spirit; to recruit and train professional church workers; to provide opportunities for
18 showing Christian love and compassion by meeting human needs; to aid and
19 develop processes for thorough Christian education for all age levels; and for many
20 other benefits to congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople
21 (Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Article III: Objectives);
22 AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod says, “In grateful
25 response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and
26 sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to
27 make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,
28 communities, and the world;” AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod joyfully
31 proclaim the Gospel message of salvation by God’s grace through faith in the
32 merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; AND
33
34 **WHEREAS,** Jesus invites us to “lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest”
35 (John 4:35); AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord is always able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine,
38 according to the power at work within us to His glory in the church throughout all
39 generations (Eph. 3:20-21); THEREFORE BE IT
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District Office assist and aid district congregations in
42 celebrating the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by
43 promoting the anniversary and by sharing any special materials or projects created
44 and developed by the Synod; AND BE IT FINALLY
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention commend and encourage the
47 observance of the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to
48 all our district congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople and that
49 we join in corporate and individual prayer asking that God would continue to bless
50 the Gospel work of our Synod, its congregations and schools, and its people and
51 provide us with new opportunities to share the life-saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus
52 Christ for the extension of His kingdom and to the glory of His holy name.

53
54 Respectfully Submitted,
55
56
57

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

58
59
60

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE:** **2-10**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD’S MISSION
4 AND MINISTRY EMPHASIS OF *MAKING DISCIPLES FOR LIFE*
5
6 **WHEREAS,** No person, because of original sin, can choose or decide to become a disciple of
7 Jesus on their own (John 15:16; Romans 8:7; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9;
8 Augsburg Confession, Article II, Kolb/Wengert, pg.36, 38; Apology, Article II.3,
9 Kolb/Wengert, pg. 112; Apology, Article IV. 17-18; 53-56, Kolb/Wengert, pg.122-
10 123, 128-129); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** Jesus alone, through the Holy Spirit, graciously calls and invites each person to
13 become a disciple of His through God’s Word and the sacraments of Holy Baptism
14 and the Lord’s Supper (John 14:6; Romans 6:1-4; Romans 10:17; Luther’s *Large*
15 *Catechism*, “The Third Article,” Kolb/Wengert, pg. 437-439); AND
16
17 **WHEREAS,** Being a disciple of Jesus is not merely the doing of personal spiritual practices
18 such as prayer, daily reading of Scripture, or fasting, but is the conforming of a
19 person’s whole life, public and private, to the image of Jesus Christ and Him
20 crucified (Mark 8:34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; Hebrews 12:2); AND
21
22 **WHEREAS,** Jesus has given the task and duty of making disciples to His Church as He has
23 said in Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in
24 heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of
25 all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
26 Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold,
27 I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” And as LCMS Synod President
28 Harrison has written in “*A Theological Statement for Mission in the 21st Century*,”
29 “Bearing witness to the saving good news of God for us in Jesus is the fundamental
30 task of the church (Matthew 28:19). This leads to the making of disciples.” (*Journal*
31 *of Lutheran Mission*, September, 2016, Volume 3, No.2, pg. 62-73); AND
32
33 **WHEREAS,** The theme of *Making Disciples of Life* encompasses two areas:
34 1. Strengthening the faith of those who are already disciples of Jesus and
35 building up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:12-17; 1
36 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Jude 20-23).
37 2. Inviting unbelievers and those who have fallen away from Christ to
38 become disciples of the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 52:7; Mark 16:15-16; Luke
39 24:45-48; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-17); AND
40
41 **WHEREAS,** Our commitment to one another as LCMS congregations, professional church
42 workers, and laity is to walk together with the Word of God as our only norm and
43 guide for doctrine and practice; AND
44
45 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Constitution and Bylaws give primary responsibility for church planting
46 and national mission to districts and congregations, and the national Synod has
47 the responsibility of providing resources to aid these efforts (LCMS Constitution
48 Article 3.2 and 3.6); THEREFORE BE IT
49
50 **RESOLVED:** That the district, congregations, and schools be encouraged to explore
51 opportunities in their communities and contexts for *Making Disciples for Life* which
52 would include, but not be limited to:
53 • Evangelize and disciple the lost
54 • Retain the faithful, deepen their faith, and build up the Body of Christ
55 • Strengthen and or revitalize congregations and schools
56 • Plant new congregations and schools wherever possible
57 • Perform acts of mercy or service in their local communities

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78

- Support and promote district mission activities and efforts
- Support and promote international mission activities; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of the Synod’s *Making Disciples for Life* resources and tools as these become available and can be found online at <https://makingdisciples.lcms.org/>; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of other resources developed by the LCMS Office of National Mission (e.g. Mission Field: USA for church planting; Re:Vitality for church revitalization; Everyone His Witness for evangelism and outreach; Rural and Small Town Mission for congregations in rural and small towns), and the LCMS Office of International Mission, and Concordia Publishing House.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Directors of
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE:** **2-11**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO FACTOR THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE INTO THE SUBJECT OF
4 CLIMATE CHANGE
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus as the Agent of Creation created the universe out of nothing, solely by His
7 almighty Word, and continues to preserves it and holds every atom together (Col
8 1:15-17, Heb 1:2-3, 11:3); AND
9
- 10 **WHEREAS,** Jesus works every detail in history together for the good of His bride the Church
11 (Rom 8:28, Eph 1:22) and knows all things including the number of hairs on the
12 heads of every human being (Mat 10:30); AND
13
- 14 **WHEREAS,** The last day of history and this earth has already been set by our heavenly
15 Father (Mark 13:32, Acts 1:7) and no matter what mankind may or may not do,
16 history and this earth will not end one single second before that time and day set
17 by God when our Lord Jesus, the Lord of the universe, shall return in glory with
18 His holy angels to close the curtain on this fallen world and usher in the new
19 heaven and new earth where His elect saints shall live forever in glorified
20 resurrection bodies (1 Peter 3:1-13; Rev 21) AND
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,** Concerning this earth, God has promised “While the earth remains, seedtime and
23 harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (Gen
24 8:22) AND
25
- 26 **WHEREAS,** In His created order God gave humanity dominion over the earth as stewards, to
27 work it and take care of it (Gen 1:26, 2:15): AND
28
- 29 **WHEREAS,** After the fall into sin, human beings cannot save themselves, let alone save this
30 planet, and our stewardship of this planet often becomes motivated by pride,
31 profit and self-gain rather than careful stewardship of God’s creation; AND
32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** Climate change has been part of the natural course of this world since the fall
34 into sin when Adam’s sin cursed the earth (Gen 3:17; consider, for example, the
35 major ice ages following Noah’s flood; the “Roman Warm Period” of 250BC to
36 450AD; the “little ice age” of the 13th to 19th centuries; 1816, the “year without a
37 summer” the drought years of the 1930s, etc.); AND
38
- 39 **WHEREAS,** Throughout the Old Testament, God, through His Son Who is the One Mediator
40 between God and man, frequently caused massive climate change to call people
41 to turn away from evil and turn toward His pardoning love (cf. Gen 6:1ff, Genesis
42 37-50, 1 Kings 8:35, 17:1, ect); THEREFORE BE IT
43
- 44 **RESOLVED:** That the SD District in convention remind the saints of our congregations, and all
45 people, that Jesus Christ, as Creator of the cosmos, remains the Lord of all
46 creation and all things in this creation, including any climate change, are under
47 His direct control and happen only by His permission; AND BE IT FURTHER
48
- 49 **RESOLVED:** That the love of Christ would move us to be the best stewards of this earth as we
50 can be as we care for the water, air, and soil God has given to us as a gift and
51 realize that even in the context of a fallen world fatalism (the theology that
52 everything is pre-determined and we can’t change the outcome of things such as
53 climate change no matter what we do) is out of step with the Gospel and the
54 vocation of stewards of the earth into which God has called us; AND BE IT

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72

FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the saints of God be encouraged to read and study the 2010 CTCR Report, *Together With All Creatures: Caring for God's Living Earth*, AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That in the face of all changes, climatic and otherwise, on this tired old earth increasingly burdened by the weight of Adam's sin, we celebrate the glorious news of a coming restoration of this broken planet and that the new heaven and new earth will be even better than Eden before the fall, in part, because we will never again be tempted to sin!

Respectfully Submitted,

Circuit 6 (Freeman) Circuit Forum

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

OVERTURE: 2-13

SUBJECT: TO DECLARE ALL GODLY VOCATIONS AS “ESSENTIAL” AND ENCOURAGE PRAYER FOR OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, Within the Lutheran understanding of vocation, all godly work is a holy calling from God Himself and every vocational calling, no matter how humble it may seem, is essential to the care of creation and the service of human beings (there is no such thing as “non-essential” labor in God’s economy – see 1 Peter 4:7-11, Col 3:23,24); AND

WHEREAS, Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the unfortunate and unclear language of “essential” versus “non-essential” workers came into our public forum serving as a subjective and arbitrary way of devaluing countless vocational callings by declaring them “non-essential” and ushering into our public discourse many unintended and destructive consequences for both Church and society; AND

WHEREAS, The “essential” versus “non-essential” language caused government leaders in many places in our nation to declare the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament “non-essential” and worship services as dangerous to the public safety, issuing stringent lock-downs of churches which not only ran contrary to our freedom under the First Amendment, but also relegated the Communion of the Saints and the Holy Spirit’s work of preparing souls for eternity through His Word and Sacrament as “non-essential;” AND

WHEREAS, This “essential” versus “non-essential” caste-system language made its way into our churches, causing the saints themselves to regard certain vocations and the gathering together of the Church for Word and Sacrament as “non-essential,” thereby hampering the “salt and light” (Matt 5) work of Christians to serve as the hands and voice of Christ in their vocational callings and bring hope and healing in Jesus' name to mankind; AND

WHEREAS, Especially in times of pandemic and the fear of sickness and death the proclamation of the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ and the administration of the holy Sacraments are of utmost importance, for only in Christ given to us in Word and Sacrament do we know that God has not abandoned us to death but fills us with eternal hope in the midst of a hopeless world and the promise of eternal life in glory to comfort us when the threat of temporal death presses hard; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That God’s saints be encouraged to, in faith and trust in His mercy and grace, continue to boldly and wisely gather together for Word and Sacrament no matter what threat to life or labor may bear down upon them and despite the efforts of any government to separate them from the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament by which alone God prepares us for death and gives us the hope of eternal life; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the saints of God be encouraged to give thanks to God for the vocational calling of all people and regard the work to which God has called each person, no matter how humble it may seem, as holy in His sight and essential to the care of creation and humanity; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the saints of God be encouraged to contact their government officials whenever those officials seem to be overstepping their authority, especially when

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

such abuse of authority gives birth to language and actions that muzzle the Gospel and restrict the free assembly of the Church under our First Amendment rights or any other godly right or freedom guaranteed us by the Constitution of the United States; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District in convention thank all of our pastors and congregations that continued as best they could, and according to our Confessions, the faithful preaching of the holy Word and administration of the blessed Sacraments despite the fear and alarm that raged during the Covid-19 crisis, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District request the appropriate synodical agency to prepare a Bible study that addresses the various ministry challenges that have made themselves known during the unprecedented pandemic fears of the last several months and that such study address specifically 1) how we maintain our confessional and scriptural worship practices and ministry in unusual crisis conditions, 2) how Christians, especially pastors, should respond when governmental entities make efforts to shut down churches and stop the ministry of Word and Sacraments in our midst; and 3) how, as salt and light, Christians are called by the Spirit through the Gospel to joyfully and courageously glorify God and serve their neighbor in their "essential" vocational callings and so bring the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are crippled by the fear of death; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That we continually and constantly encourage public and private prayers for our leaders (1 Tim 2) that, guided by God's providential hand, they will be led to make the right choices and be informed by the life-enhancing, life-saving, love-bestowing Word of God rooted in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, Who alone offers us the one thing needful (Luke 10:41-42; John 6:29; Hebrews 11:6).

Respectfully Submitted

Circuit 6 (Freeman) Circuit Forum

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-01 (President’s Report – Convention Workbook, pp 22-27)**

2 **SUBJECT:** TO ESTABLISH THE CONVENTION THEME OF “ROOTED IN CHRIST,
3 ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING”

4 **WHEREAS,** “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6-7) has been chosen
5 as the theme of this 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
6 Church – Missouri Synod; AND

7 **WHEREAS,** For over one hundred and ten years, the men and women of our beloved South
8 Dakota District have beheld and experienced the great blessings of our faithful
9 God; AND

10 **WHEREAS,** The devotions, essay, and many reports of the convention will reflect upon these
11 blessings extended to the congregations, schools, and ministries of the District;
12 AND

13 **WHEREAS,** Our convention theme will also shape our ministry in the South Dakota District for
14 the next three years; THEREFORE BE IT

15 **RESOLVED:** That “Rooted in Christ Abounding in Thanksgiving” be the overall theme and the
16 underlying spirit of this convention.

17

18

Respectfully Submitted,

19

20

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

21

22

23

Reverend Marcus Ring

24

25

DCE Joshua Schmitt

26

27

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

28

29

Mr. Geoff Street

30

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-02**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE SOUTH
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS

5
6 **WHEREAS,** During the triennium following the 2018 61st Convention of The South Dakota
7 District, the following individuals became rostered members of The Lutheran
8 Church – Missouri Synod – Ministers of Religion – Ordained;

9
 2018 2019 2020 2021
 Samuel Handschke Colin Ford Jonah Domenichelli Jacob Smith
 Michael Keller Kevin Koester Kurt Laskowsky
 Andrew Wolfgram Bryan Meadows
 Doug Slavens

10 AND

11
12 **WHEREAS,** During the same triennium, the following individuals became rostered members of
13 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Ministers of Religion – Commissioned:

14
 2018 2019 2020 2021
 Scot Dobbs Jacqualyn Berg Amanda Korthase
 Rebecca Wiemer

15
16 AND

17
18 **WHEREAS,** The membership of the above individuals is held in The South Dakota District of
19 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; THEREFORE BE IT

20
21 **RESOLVED:** That this 62nd Convention of The South Dakota District recognize and welcome the
22 above individuals as partners in the Gospel; AND BE IT FINALLY

23
24 **RESOLVED:** That we pray God's richest blessings upon these workers that the Holy Spirit would
25 use them to extend God's kingdom here on earth.

26
27 Respectfully Submitted,

28
29
30 _____
 Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

31
32 _____
 Reverend Marcus Ring

33
34 _____
 DCE Joshua Schmitt

35
36 _____
 Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

37
38 _____
 Mr. Geoff Street

39
40
41

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-03**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
5 REGARDING THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT
6 PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

7

8 **Background:** The 2018 Convention of the District adopted a resolution concerning a new
9 process for nominating the two Vice-Presidents of the District. The Synod's
10 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) subsequently approved the process
11 (CCM Opinion 19-2901), found in section 5.05.d. of the District's Bylaws.
12 However, the 2018 District Convention failed to approve a new election process
13 for the Vice-Presidents, necessitated by the change in the nominating process.
14 The District Board of Directors approved an election process in their December
15 2019 meeting, and subsequently presented the proposed election process to the
16 CCM for their prior approval. In the CCM's review of the proposed election
17 process, which they ultimately did approve (CCM Opinion 20-2953), they found
18 other needed revisions to Bylaw 5.05, which are included here for approval by the
19 Convention.

20

21 **WHEREAS,** The 2018 Convention of the District approved a new process for nominating Vice-
22 Presidents, but did not approve a new election process; AND

23

24 **WHEREAS,** The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod approved the new
25 process of nominating, and later, pre-approved the new process for electing the
26 Vice-Presidents and several other changes to section 5.05 of the District's Bylaws;
27 AND

28

29 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments concerning the nomination and election processes
30 for District President and Vice-Presidents, having been granted prior approval by
31 the CCM, may now be considered by the District in Convention, and, if adopted,
32 are in effect for the current Convention (cf. CCM Opinion 19-2901: "These then
33 could be adopted by the convention prior to the election of the vice-presidents of
34 the district."). THEREFORE LET IT BE

35

36 **RESOLVED:** That section 5.05 of the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran
37 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 5.05 Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

45 a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following
46 manner:

47 1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister
48 from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.

49 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the
50 District ballots for nominating these candidates.

- 90 d. Nominations for Vice-Presidents
91
92 1. Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained
93 minister from the clergy of the District as a candidate for Vice-
94 Presidents.
95
96 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of
97 the District ballots for nominating these candidates.
98
99 3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the
100 Secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the
101 Secretary of the District not later than two months prior to the
102 opening date of the Convention.
103
104 4. The Secretary of the District together with the chairman of the
105 committee on Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and report
106 to the convention by means of the convention's manual the names of
107 the ordained ministers who have received least five nominating votes
108 for the office of Vice-President.
109
110 e. Candidates for the Office of Vice-president
111
112 1. Candidates for the Office of Vice-President shall be in each instance
113 the four ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in
114 nominating ballots of the congregations.
115
116 2. The secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall
117 secure his approval in writing within 10 days, for inclusion of his
118 name on the convention ballot and indicate willingness to serve if
119 elected.
120
121 3. In the event of a tie for the fourth position among the candidate, all
122 names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.
123
124 4. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the convention manual
125 brief biographies of the four candidates for Vice-Presidents giving
126 adequate information on each candidate.
127
128 5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief
129 biographies of the four candidates for Vice-President giving adequate
130 information on each candidate. This report shall contain such pertinent
131 information as age, residence, number of years in the District, present
132 position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of ordination,
133 former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-
134 church affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the
135 office.
136
137 6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time
138 by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall
 have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to
 nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of

139 the District this document and written pertinent information concerning his
140 nominee as detailed in 5.05 e.5.

141 f. Election of Vice-Presidents

- 142
- 143 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for
144 First Vice-President.
 - 145
 - 146 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be
147 declared elected.
 - 148
 - 149 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate
150 with the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will
151 continue until a candidate receives a majority.
 - 152
 - 153 4. The Ballot for Second Vice-President will be comprised of the Vice-
154 President candidates who were not elected to First Vice-President.
 - 155
 - 156 5. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for
157 Second Vice-President.
 - 158
 - 159 6. The candidate receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared
160 elected.
 - 161
 - 162 7. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the candidate with
163 the lowest votes is removed for the next ballot. This will continue
164 until a candidate receives a majority.
 - 165

166 [HERE FOLLOWS THE FORMER PROCESS OF ELECTING VICE-PRESIDENTS, BUT WHICH
167 PROCESS IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW (PROPOSED) PROCESS OF NOMINATING THE
168 VICE-PRESIDENTS IN 5.05.d. IT THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE REMOVED.]

169 ~~d. —Election of Vice-Presidents~~

- 170 ~~4. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for~~
171 ~~nominations for District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on~~
172 ~~which each voting ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the~~
173 ~~name of an ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the~~
174 ~~District. After the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the~~
175 ~~Convention decides the number of candidates to be placed on the election~~
176 ~~ballot. A minimum of two candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-~~
177 ~~Presidents. Ballots shall then be distributed and the election of the Vice-~~
178 ~~Presidents shall proceed without delay.~~

179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-04**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IV (“MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING
4 PRIVILEGE”) OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH
5 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
6

7 **Background:** The 2019 Convention of the Synod adopted a number of amendments to the
8 Constitution of the Synod concerning the definition of membership in the Synod
9 and concerning the representation of congregations and parishes at meetings of
10 the Synod and the Districts by voting and advisory delegates.
11

12 **WHEREAS,** Article V of the Constitution of the Synod defines membership in the Synod as held
13 by “congregations and individuals, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of
14 religion—commissioned, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and
15 accept the confessional basis of Article II;” AND
16

17 **WHEREAS,** Articles IX and XII.10 of the Constitution of the Synod define representation at
18 meetings of the Synod and the Districts; AND
19

20 **WHEREAS,** References to pastors being voting members must reflect their being individual
21 members that vote only on account of their being the pastoral delegates of member
22 congregations; AND
23

24 **WHEREAS,** Article XII.10.B. of the Constitution of the Synod now allows congregations of multi-
25 congregation parishes other than the one to which the voting lay delegate belongs
26 to send an advisory lay delegate to the district convention; AND
27

28 **WHEREAS,** The following proposed amendments have received prior approval by the
29 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod (Opinion 20-2953A);
30 THEREFORE BE IT
31

32 **RESOLVED:** That Article IV (“Membership and Voting Privilege”) of the Articles of Incorporation
33 of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be
34 amended and adopted as follows

35 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]
36
37

38 **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE**

39 A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the
40 congregations and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The
41 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.
42

43 B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish
44 is entitled to two votes: one cast by one of its called and installed pastors ~~the~~
45 ~~pastor~~ and the other by the voting lay delegate. These delegates shall be
46 accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran
47 Church—Missouri Synod and the District.
48

49 C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who
50 are individual members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory
51 delegates. Each congregation in a multi-congregation parish that does not

52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74

supply the voting lay delegate may be represented by an advisory lay delegate.
Advisory delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if
appointed, and to voice in the District Convention. Individual members of the
Synod who qualify to be advisory delegates are expected to attend the District
Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-05**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD,
5 ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND
6 AMENDING THE BYLAWS

7
8 **RATIONALE:** The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod reviewed the
9 Bylaws of the District three times in the last triennium and found various items to
10 clarify or improve, including, but not limited to:

- 11
12 1) Adding a greater emphasis on the ecclesiastical supervision work of the
13 District President over against his administrative work (CCM Opinion 20-
14 2953); and
15
16 2) District Bylaw VI (“Amendments”) must be updated to reflect a change in
17 LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2., due to 2019 Synod Convention action. This change
18 regards times when the
19 Synod in Convention makes changes in such a way that the Bylaws of the
20 District must be adjusted, generally in an obvious way, into compliance. An
21 example would be the fairly recent change of circuit *counselor* to circuit *visitor*.
22 For such changes to the District’s Bylaws, the District’s Board of Directors
23 would be able to submit such “expressly directed” amendments to the District
24 Bylaws for approval by the CCM, and subsequently adopt them, without
25 waiting for the District Convention or involving the Convention in routine and
26 obligatory amendments to the District Bylaws.

27
28 Finally, since women are allowed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Synod,
29 changes in terminology are recommended in several locations in the District Bylaws
30 to reflect gender neutrality regarding those who hold lay offices on the District’s
31 Board of Directors.

32
33 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS
34 convention resolutions and the resulting changes to the *Handbook of the Synod*,
35 including those that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS
36 Bylaw 1.3.6, 2nd Restated Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District,
37 Article III.C); AND

38
39 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of
40 Directors in their meeting of June 14, 2021, after having received prior approval by
41 the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters (Opinion 20-2953A) in their
42 meeting of May 25, 2021 (LCMS Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.c); THEREFORE BE IT

43
44 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
45 Synod be amended and adopted as follows

46 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

47
48 [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE
49 AMENDMENTS.]

50

51

I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

52

1.01 Membership

- 53 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation
54 of the District and shall be the following:
- 55 a. The President who shall be an ordained minister of the Synod.
- 56 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ordained ministers of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 57 c. The Secretary who shall be an ordained minister of the ~~Synod~~ District.
- 58 d. The Treasurer who shall be a ~~layman~~ layperson.
- 59 e. Two additional ~~laymen~~ laypeople from the District at Large.
- 60 1.03 Parish Limitations
- 61 a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more
62 congregations who are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member
63 of the Board of Directors.
- 64 1.05 Succession to Office
- 65 a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First
66 Vice-President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office
67 only once after having served one full term.
- 68 b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of
69 office.
- 70 1.07 Vacancies
- 71 a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be
72 a member of a voting congregation of the District; ~~or he no longer resides within~~
73 ~~the geographic boundaries of the District.~~
- 74 b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a
75 majority of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill
76 the vacancy shall be appointed to the unexpired term of their predecessor in
77 office.
- 78 1.11 Organization
- 79 a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman
80 and such other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 81 1.15 General Duties
- 82 a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church –
83 Missouri Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise
84 all the powers granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization,
85 subject to the Bylaws of said corporation, and the decision of its members at
86 Convention or other meetings assembled.

- 124 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.
- 125 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod,
126 the following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)
- 127 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District.
128 He shall be responsible for:
- 129 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, of the
130 work of all committees and personnel of the District.
- 131 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction
132 with the Treasurer.
- 133 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any,
134 of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all
135 mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said
136 corporation, in conjunction with the Secretary.
- 137 b. ~~Counseling The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the~~
138 ~~ministry to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.~~
- 139 b. Ecclesiastical Supervision The District President shall, as further defined in the
140 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, provide evangelical supervision, counsel,
141 and care for the members of the Synod in the District, especially by acquainting
142 himself with the religious conditions of and arranging for official visits to the
143 congregations of the District, and by supervising the doctrine, life and
144 administration of office of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District.
- 145 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments
146 affecting the church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our
147 day.
- 148 d. Representation ~~The District President should regard himself as the representative~~
149 ~~spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and~~
150 ~~whenever the opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life~~
151 ~~in the District may be given. shall represent the Synod in the District, as further~~
152 ~~defined in Synod Bylaw 4.4.~~
- 153 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

154

155 [A LARGE SECTION OF THE BYLAWS ARE HERE OMITTED, AS NO AMENDMENTS ARE CALLED
156 FOR IN THIS PART OF THE BYLAWS.]

157

158 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 159 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held
160 shall be elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall

161 recommend to the Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on
162 Nominations consisting of four ordained ministers and five ~~laymen~~ laypeople.
163 Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by the Convention. Of these
164 candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot two ordained ministers and three
165 ~~laymen~~ laypeople.

166 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two
167 candidates for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in
168 these Bylaws. Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession,
169 experience, and place of residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on
170 Nominations and presented to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations
171 shall obtain the consent of persons nominated for the various offices.

172 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the
173 respective classifications of pastors or ~~laymen~~ laypeople) in the order of the number
174 of votes received by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by
175 the Board of Directors.

176

177 5.21 Committee on Elections

178 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business
179 session of the Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of
180 the Judge of Elections to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes
181 cast, and report without delay the results of the voting to the Convention. The
182 Judge of Elections shall have the right of the floor of the assembly whenever duties
183 may demand, and shall have the privilege to appoint assistants.

184 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately,
185 according to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

186 VI. AMENDMENTS

187 6.01 How Made

188 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have
189 received prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod,
190 and provided they are –

191 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and
192 Bylaws of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;

193 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

194 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor
195 committee; and

196 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention.

197 b. Amendments arising in the course of a convention, or during the course of a
198 convention being made to previously approved proposals, may be adopted by a

199 majority vote of the convention, provided the resolution is contingent on approval
200 by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended ~~bylaws~~ Bylaws
201 become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission
202 on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not
203 approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the
204 amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters'
205 requirement, upon their two-thirds vote.

206 c. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may also be adopted by a two-thirds
207 majority of the District Board of Directors, when necessitated by amendments to
208 the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of
209 the Synod in Convention. Such amendments shall have been ~~be~~ drafted by the
210 Secretary of the District and approved in advance by Synod's Commission on
211 Constitutional Matters.

212

213

Respectfully Submitted,

214

215

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

216

217

218

Reverend Marcus Ring

219

220

221

DCE Joshua Schmitt

222

223

224

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

225

226

227

Mr. Geoff Street

228

229

1 **RESOLUTION: 1-06**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO REALIGN THE CIRCUITS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

4 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two
5 adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors
6 on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent
7 from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed
8 membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND

9 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that
10 ‘walks together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical
11 encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of
12 greater congregational participation in God’s mission;” AND

13 **WHEREAS,** LCMS Bylaw 5.1.2 states: “Districts shall establish visitation circuits according to
14 geographical criteria;” AND

15 **WHEREAS,** The 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District resolved (Resolution 1-15) “that
16 the District Board of Directors appoint a committee after the 2019 Synodical
17 Convention to:

- 18 • Consider demographic realities, travel, and ministry relationships
19 between congregations and within existing circuits; and
- 20 • Bring a plan for circuit alignment for the South Dakota District to the
21 2021 Convention of the District that recommends visitation circuits
22 which fulfill the requirements to exist as electoral circuits;” AND

23 **WHEREAS,** congregations review and adjust membership that result in reduced membership
24 totals contributing to the reality of declining membership, especially in rural areas;
25 AND

26 **WHEREAS,** The unique population and geographical demographics of the state of South
27 Dakota necessitates some large geographical areas to meet the above criteria;
28 AND

29 **WHEREAS,** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Phillip is in a tri-point parish with St. Peter
30 Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran Church of Norris; AND

31 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill and Christ Lutheran Church of Winner are in a tri-
32 point parish with Trinity Lutheran Church of Reliance; AND

33 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, Trinity
34 Lutheran Church of Reliance, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion
35 Lutheran Church of Chamberlain have an established common ministry
36 relationship via The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) with Zion
37 Lutheran Church of Presho, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Draper, Messiah Lutheran
38 Church of Murdo, St. Peter Lutheran Church of Midland and St. John Lutheran
39 Church of Norris; AND

40 **WHEREAS,** The combined confirmed membership of the congregations in the Freeman Circuit:
41 Circuit #6 exceeds the minimum requirement for an electoral circuit by a little more
42 than 100 confirmed members; AND

43 **WHEREAS,** Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1st English Lutheran Church of Centerville
44 share similar geographic and ministry demographics with the congregations of the
45 Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6; THEREFORE BE IT

46 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in Convention assign the following congregations
47 as follows:

48
49
50
51

52
53
54

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68

- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Philip, Zion Lutheran Church of Hamill, Christ Lutheran Church of Winner, St. John Lutheran Church of Gregory, and Zion Lutheran Church of Chamberlain to the Pierre Circuit: Circuit #3
- Zion Lutheran Church of Hurley and 1st English Lutheran Church of Centerville to the Freeman Circuit: Circuit #6

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 1-07**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ALLOW GRANTS FROM THE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE FUND TO CHURCH
4 WORKERS TO PAY DOWN STUDENT LOANS
5
6 **WHEREAS,** For many years prior to 1970 the South Dakota District operated a “self-supporting
7 rotating fund” for pastors to be able to buy a car; AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** At the 1970 South Dakota District Convention this fund was changed to allow not
10 only car loans but other types of loans because “the need for financial assistance
11 has arisen in the past for newly ordained pastors just out of the seminaries, as well
12 as pastors present within the district, in areas other than funds to purchase a car;
13 and the Board of Directors feels that in many of these cases it has a moral
14 obligation to assist these pastors in need of funds”¹; AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The 1970 Convention gave the responsibility for the operation of the fund to the
17 Board of Directors which has expanded those eligible for the funds to include
18 “pastors, teachers, and executive staff of the District”²; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** Over time the needs of pastors and church workers have changed. The 1970
21 resolution spoke of the challenge for pastors “in need of financial assistance....
22 can seldom afford the expense of a commercial high interest loan.” For the last few
23 years and up to the present moment it has not been the greatest challenge for
24 church workers to get loans. Over the last 20 years there has been little use of the
25 Assistance Fund with no more than a handful of loans at any one time; AND
26
27 **WHEREAS,** The greatest need for new graduates of any of our church work programs is now
28 student loan debt reduction; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** In 2000 the South Dakota District started a program to help with the challenge of
31 debt (Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance—CWEDA). Since its inception
32 the fund has helped about 20 families a year to reduce their educational debt; AND
33
34 **WHEREAS,** The District Assistance Fund has grown over the years through interest and loan
35 repayments to approximately \$200,000 of which less than 10% has been loaned
36 out recently; AND
37
38 **WHEREAS,** One of the resolutions from 1970 stated that “Additions to or deletions from this
39 fund other than from interest gains or gifts to the Fund can be made only by action
40 of the District Convention;” THEREFORE BE IT
41
42 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors be granted permission by the 2021 South Dakota
43 District Convention to annually transfer a portion of the balance of the Assistance
44 fund to be used to supplement the Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance
45 grants; AND BE IT FINALLY
46
47 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors continue to be “responsible for the development of
48 policies relating to the operation of the South Dakota District Assistance Fund, as
49 well as the procedures necessary to qualify for the grant of the loan”³, and that

¹ Memorial 5-02, page A-25, 1970 South Dakota District Convention

² Board of Directors of the South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Guidelines (2020 revision), p. 17.

³ 1970 Convention Resolution 5-02.

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69

they also are to set up policies determining how much of the Assistance Fund can be used for grants to church workers to pay down the principal on their student loans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

RESOLUTION: 1-08 (Convention Workbook, pp. 33-34)

SUBJECT: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REPORT OF CORPORATE DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, Paragraph 2.4.2, p. 55 of the “2019 Handbook” of the Synod stipulates that the action of the District Board of Directors approving revised Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and Bylaws be reported to the District Convention; AND

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has approved the documents of the congregations listed on page 34 of the Convention Workbook; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Convention acknowledge the Board of Directors’ action and the receipt of this report; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That each congregation contemplating the revision of its Constitution, Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws is reminded to follow the requirements of the Synod with respect to review of said Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions and/or Bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

RESOLUTION: 1-09 (Convention Workbook, pp. 22-27; 71-91)

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 Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

RESOLUTION: 1-10

SUBJECT: TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION CIRCUITS AND THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF SAME

WHEREAS, LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” AND

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where communicant membership is taken into account; AND

WHEREAS, The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership” for wherever the Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church, even if there are only two or three gathered together in His name (AC VIII; *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409; Mat 18:20); AND

WHEREAS, All congregations, regardless of numbers of communicant members, share equally in the authority and power of the Church, that is, the Office of the Keys, and are the possessors of the priesthood and all church power, even if there are only two or three believers in them (*Kirche und Amt*, Part One, Theses IV, VI, VII, Part Two, Thesis VII)

“As visible congregations that still have the Word and the sacraments essentially according to God’s Word bear the name “church” because of the true invisible church of sincere believers that is found in them, so also they possess the power [authority] that Christ has given to His whole church, on account of the true invisible church hidden in them, even if there were only two or three [believers]” (*Ibid*, Part 1, VII); AND

WHEREAS, The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is inconsistent with our doctrine of the Church (see “whereas” #3, above); AND

WHEREAS, The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts where, due to population and membership trends, electoral circuits of ever-increasing and burdensome geographic size are required, as is acknowledged in Bylaw 3.1.2.1; AND

WHEREAS, The increasing geographic distances required to form electoral circuits of at least 1,500 communicant members is becoming an obstacle to efficient communication within such circuit, especially with the expectation that electors visit the congregations of the electoral circuit both to determine the sentiments of the congregations (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(a)) and to report individually to each congregation represented at convention (Bylaw 3.1.2.2(d)), which could require significant time and travel; AND

WHEREAS, Close personal and congregational relationships are formed within circuits that greatly promote the stated goals of Bylaw 5.1.1 and these relationships are disrupted whenever there are changes to the formation of the circuit; THEREFORE BE IT

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82

RESOLVED: That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the Bylaws be amended to reflect this change by eliminating the words “electoral” and “visitation” in reference to the circuit; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That The South Dakota District in convention submit this Resolution to the 2023 Convention of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for action

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

RESOLUTION: 1-11

SUBJECT: TO THANK GOD FOR THE SERVICE OF REVEREND DARREN OLSON AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, ROOTED IN CHRIST FOR 9 YEARS

WHEREAS, Reverend Darren Olson began his service as executive secretary to the South Dakota District in June 2012; AND

WHEREAS, As executive secretary, Reverend Olson has continuously supervised and supported commissioned ministers, schools, and that he always served abounding in thanksgiving; AND

WHEREAS, Reverend Olson has accepted a call to serve as South Dakota District Missionary at Large and Chaplain to Sioux Falls Lutheran School; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That we thank Reverend Olson for his faithful, dedicated service to the District and the support of the Church's mission over these past years; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That following the adoption of this resolution the assembly will show its appreciation to Reverend Darren Olson for his service and thanks to God for His blessings, by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye, heav'nly hosts:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. (LSB #805)

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Brown, Chairman

Reverend Marcus Ring

DCE Joshua Schmitt

Mrs. Bonnie Wagner

Mr. Geoff Street

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO CONTINUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
4 (LCMS) WITH LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE CONCERNING COUNSELING
5 AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES
6

7 **Background:** The South Dakota District was involved in social ministry throughout its history.
8 Prior to 1985, the District worked with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota
9 (LSS) helping those who were “in the twilight years of this life,” imprisoned,
10 confined in various state institutions, and especially “to minister, wholly and holy,
11 to our brother, the American Indian.”¹ The District gave through its budget as well
12 as gifts from congregations to support this work. In 1969, the amount was \$10,000
13 (which would be \$73,350 in today’s dollars). During those days, the District elected
14 a pastoral and lay delegate to the Board of Directors of LSS. We also had one of
15 our pastors as a chaplain at the Human Services Center in Yankton as well as
16 others serving on the various reservations. Also in every convention manual there
17 was a report from the Director of LSS.
18

19 At the 1985 District Convention, Resolution 3-06, entitled “to Readjust LC-MS
20 Relationship with LSS” was passed. The first resolved was: “That the South
21 Dakota District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod withdraw from official
22 district involvement and affiliation with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.”²
23 Among the various reasons given for this change were: (1) “LSS of South Dakota
24 by its own admission cannot, due to employment policies as well as stated
25 interests and goals entirely live up to LC-MS expectations and (2) “LSS by its own
26 plans and projections anticipates moving into areas of interest and service which
27 will further conflict with Missouri Synod principles and practice.”³
28

29 So from 1985 on the District was not directly involved in adoption services,
30 counseling services or work in the various state institutions. The District has
31 funded a chaplain for the Sioux Falls Hospitals and set up ministries on both the
32 Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations.
33

34 In 2018, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) approached the Board of Directors of the
35 South Dakota District about the possibility of working cooperatively in South
36 Dakota. LFS is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church
37 Missouri Synod. They are owned by Missouri Synod congregations in Iowa and
38 receive support from the Iowa East and West Districts of the LCMS. They do not
39 receive funding from any governmental organization and so are free to practice
40 our common Christian faith.
41

42 To determine interest in some sort of partnership visits were made with every
43 Circuit Pastors’ Conference (Winkels). Discussion was held about the ministry of
44 LFS as well as the needs in South Dakota. Out of this came the overwhelming
45 response that there was a need for Christian Counseling Services. The District
46 then entered into an agreement with LFS in December 2019 for LFS (1) to be
47 available to consult with pastors and other church workers in the counseling work
48 of the parish, (2) to work with church workers and their families about issues that
49 those individuals and families are struggling with through telehealth counseling
50 with counselors from LFS in Iowa, and (3) to train people in South Dakota to help

¹ 1970 South Dakota District Convention. Report of the Department of Social Welfare. Pg. SW 1.

² 1985 South Dakota District Convention p. 117A.

³ Ibid. p. 117A.

51 others in various areas such as Elder Care, Dementia, Addictions, and Marriage
52 challenges. The agreement was for a year at the cost of \$35,000. The agreement
53 was renewed again in December 2020 for \$40,000.

54
55 LFS has been leading workshops, counseling with individuals and families, and
56 providing consulting services throughout the last two years. They are looking to
57 expand their ministry in South Dakota by perhaps opening a counseling center in
58 Sioux Falls or in other areas. They are also looking to partner with other
59 neighboring districts to find ways to help with Mental Health and Marriage issues
60 throughout our region.

61
62 The question before us now is what form will this partnership take in the future and
63 what will the cost be.

64
65
66 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, spent a significant portion of his ministry healing
67 people with various illnesses, diseases, and conditions and he also described his
68 people as those who care for people who are hungry, thirsty, sick or in prison
69 (Matthew 25:31-40), AND

70
71 **WHEREAS,** God's people in the South Dakota District have been involved in service to others
72 who struggled with physical, emotional, and mental challenges throughout its
73 history, AND

74
75 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran Family Service (LFS), a Recognized Service Organization, owned by
76 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations, mission is to "walk with people
77 who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been
78 there for us," AND

79
80 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District and Lutheran Family Service have had a partnership
81 agreement in 2019 and 2020 for LFS to provide counseling services and training
82 to pastors, church workers and lay people in South Dakota, AND

83
84 **WHEREAS,** LFS and the South Dakota District are seeking ways to expand this service to
85 others in the coming years both in South Dakota and throughout our geographic
86 region, THEREFORE BE IT

87
88 **RESOLVED:** That the current partnership be continued for the next triennium, AND BE IT
89 FURTHER

90
91 **RESOLVED:** That we will seek to expand this ministry by asking God to open our eyes to
92 whatever other good works "which God has prepared in advance, that we should
93 walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10), AND BE IT FURTHER

94
95 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District will commit to LFS \$75,000 for 2022, \$75,000 for
96 2023, and \$50,000 for 2024 to fund start-up costs and the operation of this ministry
97 with the goal being that after that a good portion of the costs would be taken care
98 of by fees for services and gifts from individuals and congregations, AND BE IT
99 FURTHER

100
101 **RESOLVED:** That half of the commitment, for 2022-2024, would come from gifts and bequests
102 that the District has received over the years and the other half would come from
103 the congregations of the South Dakota District, committing "an over and above"
104 giving similar to our present "Together in Mission (TIM)" gifts, AND BE IT FINALLY

105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130

RESOLVED: That this partnership would be regularly evaluated by the District Board of Directors and that at the 2025 Convention of the District a long-term partnership would be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-02**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TOGETHER IN MISSION
4 AND TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT THE
5 TOGETHER IN MISSION PROJECT (Overture 2-02 and 2-03)
6
- 7 **Background:** Since the 53rd Convention of The South Dakota District (1994), the District in
8 Convention has adopted resolutions to partner with missionaries in a variety of
9 mission fields. The initial District Convention resolution, Resolution 1-02 (1994),
10 resolved that the financial gifts given to Together In Mission by District
11 congregations were to be “over and above” each congregation’s regular offerings
12 for Synod and District mission support. Those missionaries or projects receiving
13 support from District congregations through Together In Mission since 1994 have
14 been:
15
 - 16 • Amy Kashenov serving in Kazakhstan (1994-2012)
 - 17 • Global Seminary Initiative, seminaries in Tanzania, Africa and Novosibirsk,
18 Russia (2013-14)
 - 19 • Rev. Dr. Alan Ludwig, instructor at Lutheran seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia
20 (2015-2018)
 - 21 • Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, serving in Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner,
22 serving in Spain (2018-2021)
- 23 Again, for the 2021 District Convention, convention delegates are asked to
24 consider renewing their congregation’s commitment to join with other
25 congregations in the South Dakota District to support mission efforts at home and
26 abroad.
- 27
- 28 **WHEREAS,** It is our Lord’s desire to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and the Lord is not
29 willing for anyone to perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9),
30 and the Lord desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1
31 Timothy 2:4); AND
- 32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** It is the Lord’s intention to use His Church to reach every “nation, tribe, language,
34 and people” (Revelation 7:9) through Word and Sacrament (Epitome, Formula of
35 Concord, Article XI.13); AND
- 36
- 37 **WHEREAS,** Jesus bids His people to “lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for
38 harvest” (John 4:35); AND
- 39
- 40 **WHEREAS,** In Article 3.2, “Objectives,” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
41 Constitution it states that the Synod shall “strengthen congregations and their
42 members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the
43 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;”
44 AND
- 45
- 46 **WHEREAS,** Continued support by District congregations of a Together In Mission project is
47 faithful to Christ’s desire for His Church and Synod’s stated objectives;
48 THEREFORE BE IT
- 49
- 50 **RESOLVED:** That the District in convention express its thanks to God for blessing the mission
51 work of the last triennium’s (2018-2021) Together In Mission recipients: Rev. Dr.
52 Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia and Rev. David Warner, missionary
53 to Spain; AND BE IT FURTHER
- 54
- 55 **RESOLVED:** That the District congregations adopt Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to
56 Southeast Asia, and Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, missionary to Eurasia, as the recipients

57 of the District's Together In Mission offerings, in equal measure, for the next
58 triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER
59

60 **RESOLVED:** Should either of these missionaries retire from active missionary service or return
61 from the mission field, the balance of the Together In Mission offerings will go to
62 the missionary remaining in the field. If both of these workers should retire or
63 return from the mission field, The South Dakota District Board of Directors will
64 determine a new missionary to support for the remainder of the triennium; AND BE
65 IT FINALLY
66

67 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember
68 the work of missionaries Jastram and Rajek in their corporate and individual
69 prayers and to provide an annual commitment to Together In Mission over and
70 above their regular support of Synod and District missions.
71

72 Respectfully Submitted,
73

74 _____
75 The Board of Directors of
76 The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-04**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO CONSIDER STRUCTURES FOR THE SUPPORT OF WORKERS AND
4 MINISTRIES, CURRENTLY DONE VIA SERVICE AREAS

5

6 **WHEREAS,** The structure of how The South Dakota District of the LCMS is to provide support
7 and ministry resources to church workers, congregations, and schools is not
8 mandated in either the Bylaws of the Synod or of the District; AND

9 **WHEREAS,** The current Service Area system of providing support and ministry resources has
10 been in place in The South Dakota District since the 2006 District Convention (cf.
11 2006 Res. 1-34); AND

12 **WHEREAS,** Such Service Areas were then defined as:

- 13 1) Outreach Services (including the areas of Evangelism, Rural Ministry, and
14 World Missions);
- 15 2) Parish Services (including the areas of Christian Education, Stewardship,
16 and Human Care);
- 17 3) Young Adult and Youth Services (including the areas of Youth and
18 Campus Ministry); AND

19 **WHEREAS,** While the Service Area structure has provided many blessings since its inception,
20 the types, sources, and delivery of ministry resources for church workers,
21 congregations, and schools has changed dramatically in this electronic age; AND

22 **WHEREAS,** Today's culture is vastly different than it was only a short time ago; AND

23 **WHEREAS,** The structures of providing support and ministry resources should be evaluated in
24 view of the current needs and priorities of our congregations and schools and of
25 our neighbors near and far, whom we are called to serve by our deeds of love and
26 by sharing the life-giving message of the Gospel; THEREFORE BE IT

27 **RESOLVED:** That the Service Area structure be suspended for the 2022-2025 triennium; AND
28 BE IT FURTHER

29 **RESOLVED:** That, in place of the Service Areas this triennium, the District President appoint a
30 Mission and Ministry Council, by the end of March, 2022, accountable to him and
31 the District's Board of Directors and supervised by the Executive Secretary. This
32 Council shall be comprised of representatives from every circuit in The South
33 Dakota District, to:

- 34 1) Identify the pressing human and spiritual needs of our neighbors,
35 especially that of hearing and believing the Gospel;
- 36 2) Identify the pressing personal and ministry needs of LCMS church
37 workers and the needs and opportunities of LCMS congregations,
38 schools, and other ministries in South Dakota;
- 39 3) Prioritize the needs and plan ways to address those needs and
40 opportunities in the 2022-2025 triennium;
- 41 4) Make provision to implement vehicles to address needs and
42 opportunities (e.g., assigning ad hoc committees, conducting
43 workshops, producing resources); and

44 5) Consider possible structures to provide support and ministry
45 resources to church workers and congregations, schools, and
46 other ministries beyond 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

47 **RESOLVED:** That the funding of the activities of the Mission and Ministry Council comes from
48 monies already budgeted for the work of the Service Areas in 2022, and that a
49 commensurate amount of money be available for the activities of the Council in
50 2023, 2024, and 2025; AND BE IT FURTHER

51 **RESOLVED:** That the Mission and Ministry Council bring a recommendation for the District's
52 ongoing structure in providing support and ministry resources to the District's
53 Board of Directors by the time of the Board's March 2024 meeting; AND BE IT
54 FINALLY

55 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of The South Dakota District bring a plan for such a
56 structure to the 2025 Convention of the District.

57

58 Respectfully Submitted,

59

60

61

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

62

63

64

Reverend Ray Greenseth

65

66

67

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

68

69

70

Mr. Terry Reck

71

72

73

Mr. Erik Aker

74

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-05**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OF THE
4 SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CONTINUED
5 SUPPORT
6
- 7 **WHEREAS,** The theme for the Sixty-Second Convention of The South Dakota District of The
8 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in
9 Thanksgiving;” AND
10
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The Apostle Paul reported to the Colossian Christians that they thanked God for
12 their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints (Col. 1:3-4) and later Paul
13 exhorts the Colossians to remain rooted and built up in Christ and to abound in
14 thanksgiving (Col. 2:6-7); AND
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,** The congregations of The South Dakota District are rooted in the true Gospel of
17 Jesus Christ and abound in thanksgiving to God for His generous and gracious
18 favor, which is shown through the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension
19 of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; AND
20
- 21 **WHEREAS,** “Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran
22 Church—Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another
23 and to work together in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives” (LCMS
24 2019 Handbook, Bylaw 1.1.1); AND
25
- 26 **WHEREAS,** Through discussion and collaboration at District Planning Conferences, through
27 action at District Conventions, and through action and implementation of the Board
28 of Directors of The South Dakota District on behalf of the congregations of the
29 District, the congregations of The South Dakota District have agreed to work
30 together to undertake and support various mission and ministry endeavors,
31 including the following (numbers from the 2021 District Work Program):
32 • Support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (\$330,000)
33 • Mission Work with Native Americans—Rosebud (\$133,165)
34 • Mission Work with Native Americans—Pine Ridge (\$27,587)
35 • Mission Work with the Deaf—(\$53,881)
36 • New Mission Starts, Outreach Service Area, Administration
37 (\$173,558)
38 • University Student Ministry Support (\$28,000)
39 • Preparing Church Workers—Education Assistance (\$117,000); AND
40
- 41 **WHEREAS,** Each of these mission and ministry endeavors is being used by God to carry out
42 the mission of Christ and His Church to seek and to save the lost (cf. Luke 19:10);
43 AND
44
- 45 **WHEREAS,** Support of the mission and ministry endeavors listed above is in addition to support
46 for direct services to congregations that totals \$471,500, which supports Lutheran
47 Witness subscriptions, Service Areas, Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplain, and
48 conferences and conventions and for District administration (\$454,439); AND
49
- 50 **WHEREAS,** The 2006 South Dakota District Convention Resolution 2-06 (adopted without
51 dissenting vote) resolved “That the congregations of The South Dakota District be
52 encouraged to consider an annual increase in their pledges to the Work Program
53 of The South Dakota District equal to the annual cost of living increase;” AND
54
- 55 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors creates the Work Program planning
56 on \$1 million in mission receipts from district congregations and the congregations

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

57 have been generous in their offerings to The South Dakota District and their giving
58 to the Lord in the last triennium equaled:

- 59
60 • 2018: \$1,059,380
61 • 2019: \$1,092,784
62 • 2020: \$1,071,266; AND

63
64 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District Board of Directors thanks God and thanks the district
65 congregations for their generous offerings and support of The South Dakota
66 District Work Program; THEREFORE BE IT

67
68 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—
69 Missouri Synod be encouraged to thank God for the generosity of our district
70 congregations, thank God for the mission and ministry opportunities that He has
71 provided us to accomplish together, and ask God to provide more opportunities to
72 proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in South Dakota; AND BE IT FURTHER

73
74 **RESOLVED:** That every district congregation be encouraged to continue supporting the District
75 Work Program by prayer and by generous gifts that come from faithful stewardship;
76 AND BE IT FINALLY

77
78 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District be encouraged to prayerfully
79 and intentionally set as a priority an annual increase in their mission giving for the
80 District Work Program equal to the annual cost of living increase or in an amount
81 that is commensurate with their congregation's financial situation and that
82 practices faithful stewardship of God's generous gifts.

83
84 Respectfully Submitted,

85
86
87 _____
88 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

89
90 _____
91 Reverend Ray Greenseth

92
93 _____
94 DCE Hailey Jo Miller

95
96 _____
97 Mr. Terry Reck

98
99 _____
100 Mr. Erik Aker

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-06**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS
4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—calls and utilizes sinful, but
6 baptized and redeemed people to serve Him as ordained and commissioned
7 ministers within His Church; AND
8
9 **WHEREAS,** Ordained and commissioned ministers find much joy and satisfaction in serving
10 the Lord Jesus Christ in His Church, however they can also experience difficult
11 times of disappointment, loneliness, and frustration; AND
12
13 **WHEREAS,** A 2017 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Church Worker Wellness Survey
14 revealed that some professional church workers struggle in a variety of areas in
15 their personal and professional lives
16
 - 17 • 40% question whether their work has any real impact.
 - 18 • 32% admit that the busyness of life gets in the way of their relationship
19 with God.
 - 20 • 55% have experienced stress from financial concerns.
 - 21 • 75% have a body mass index considered overweight or obese.
 - 22 • 26% have experienced serious marital difficulties while in ministry.
 - 23 • 24% have been told by a professional that they suffer from anxiety and
24 depression; AND
25 **WHEREAS,** Ordained and commissioned ministers have an obligation to maintain their
26 spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, and physical wellness so that they do not
27 provide the devil any opportunity to sabotage their ministry, but rather can
28 effectively serve the Lord to the best of their God-given abilities; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other places of ministry also have the
31 responsibility of caring for the needs of their professional church workers and to
32 provide them with help and support to assist them in maintaining a healthy, well-
33 balanced life; THEREFORE BE IT
34
35 **RESOLVED:** That ordained and commissioned ministers take their spiritual, emotional,
36 relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness seriously and be
37 encouraged to seek out help, support, and encouragement when they need it; AND
38 BE IT FURTHER
39
40 **RESOLVED:** Congregations, Lutheran schools, and other ministries are encouraged to be
41 proactive and delight in caring for their ordained and commissioned ministers, and
42 are also encouraged to be mindful and vigilant to their professional church worker's
43 wellness and needs; AND BE IT FURTHER
44
45 **RESOLVED:** Ordained and commissioned ministers, congregations, and Lutheran schools are
46 strongly encouraged to become familiar with and utilize the various tools and
47 supports at their disposal to restore, maintain, and increase their spiritual,
48 emotional, relational, financial, vocational, and physical wellness. A list of tools
49 and supports for all areas of wellness can be found at www.lcms.org/wellness and
50 includes but is not limited to:
51
52 *Spiritual:* Regular times of Scripture reading and prayer, faithful participation in
53 worship and the Means of Grace
54 *Emotional and Vocational Wellness:* Employee Assistance Program available
55 through the Concordia Health Plan, Pastoral Support Network, PALS, Doxology,
56 Lutheran Family Service of Iowa and Grace Place Wellness Ministries

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-07**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND LUTHERAN SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
4
5 **WHEREAS,** God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he
6 is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) AND
7
8 **WHEREAS,** The Lord Jesus Christ invited children to come into his presence when he said,
9 “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom
10 of God” (Mark 10:14); AND
11
12 **WHEREAS,** Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church we must have and maintain
13 Christian schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They May
14 Establish and Maintain Christian Schools,” AE, Vol.45; pg.347-378); AND
15
16 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a strong tradition of assisting
17 parents in their God-given vocation of educating their children through Lutheran
18 schools; AND
19
20 **WHEREAS,** LCMS schools (early childhood centers, preschools, elementary, and high
21 schools) are the second-largest parochial educational system in the United States,
22 where LCMS congregations operate a total of 1,741 early childhood
23 centers/preschools, 828 elementary schools, and 97 high schools; AND
24
25 **WHEREAS,** Congregations in the South Dakota District operate 5 early childhood centers, 15
26 preschools, 4 elementary schools, and 1 high school, all of which provide their
27 students with an excellent educational experience while also faithfully sharing the
28 Gospel of Jesus Christ with students and their families; AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, SD was started in 2011 by an association
31 of seven LCMS congregations in the Black Hills area, but closed in 2019 after 8
32 years of providing Lutheran education; AND
33
34 **WHEREAS,** Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, SD was started in 2010 by an
35 association of six LCMS congregations, but closed in 2020 and was incorporated
36 into Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association beginning in the Fall of 2020;
37 THEREFORE BE IT
38
39 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention thank and praise God for the ministry
40 of Black Hills Lutheran School and Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, their
41 association congregations, their faculties and staffs, faithful supporters, and
42 committed volunteers and give glory to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for
43 preparing students for lives of service in this world and sharing with them the way
44 of life eternal through faith in Jesus Christ; AND BE IT FURTHER
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention commend all district congregations
47 involved in Christian education through early childhood centers, preschools,
48 elementary schools, and high school and thank and praise God for the work of
49 these Lutheran schools who teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare
50 students through education to be faithful Christian servants in the world; AND BE
51 IT FINALLY
52
53
54 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this overture/resolution the delegates and guests of
55 the convention rise and sing, “Shepherd of Tender Youth” stanzas 1, 5:

Shepherd of tender youth,

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89

Guiding in love and truth
Through devious way;
Christ our triumphant king,
We come Your name to sing
And here our children bring
To join Your praise.

So now, and till we die,
Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong,
Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our King!

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-08**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE THE RECRUITMENT OF CHURCH WORKERS IN DISTRICT
4 CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus instituted and mandated the pastoral office (John 20:21) and St. Paul and
7 St. Peter expound on the Lord’s institution of the pastoral office (Romans 10:14-
8 17; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-
9 11); AND
10
- 11 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church confesses concerning the pastoral office, “Concerning
12 church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or
13 administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Augsburg Confession,
14 Article XIV; The Book of Concord; Kolb/Wengert; pg.46); AND
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,** There is only one pastoral office that has been established and commanded by
17 God, but often the pastor does not serve alone. The Church, to assist the pastor
18 in ministry, has established various auxiliary offices, which are “established in love
19 by the Church to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist the faithful in
20 their God-given vocations” (LSB Agenda, pgs. 214, 218); AND
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,** Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in students
23 enrolled in our Concordia University church worker programs:
24
- 25 • Pre-Seminary (-59%)
26 • Lutheran Teacher (-61%)
27 • Director of Christian Education (-71%)
28 • Deaconess (-43%)
29 • Lay Ministry (-95%)
30 • Director of Parish Music (-47%)
31 • Director of Family Life (-65%) AND
32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** Enrollment statistics from 2004 to 2018 demonstrate a decrease in men enrolled
34 in our two seminaries:
35
- 36 • Master of Divinity (MDiv) Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) (-61%);
37 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) (-44%)
38 • Combined MDiv loss (-55%)
39 • CSL total loss including Alternate Route (AR) and non-residential
40 enrollments (-34%)
41 • CTSFW total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-44%)
42 • Combined total loss including AR and non-residential enrollments (-38%)
43 (Source: 2019 LCMS Convention Resolution 6-01) AND
44
- 45 **WHEREAS,** The number of students going into professional church work from South Dakota
46 who receive tuition assistance from the district has remained steady, with a total
47 of 9-13 professional church work students per year receiving student aid from
48 2012-2020); AND
49
- 50 **WHEREAS,** Fifty percent (50%) of all active ordained pastors are over 55 years old; and with
51 current enrollment trends into the seminary and active pastor retirement trends,
52 the active pastor population in the LCMS could decrease from 6,000 to 3,000
53 active pastors in the next 15 years; AND
54
- 55 **WHEREAS,** The current enrollments will not support graduating classes sufficient to meet the
56 needs of the Church in terms of filling upcoming vacancies for ordained and
57 commissioned ministers of religion; THEREFORE BE IT

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108

- RESOLVED:** That congregations, schools, all professional church workers, and laypeople of the district be encouraged to earnestly petition the Lord of the harvest in corporate and individual prayer to send out laborers into His harvest field as Jesus bids His disciples to do (Luke 10:2); AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations and schools be encouraged to instill in their people that church worker vocations are a sacred and joyful vocation, a vocation to which God, through His Church, calls those who have been properly trained and equipped; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to remain steadfast in their love, support, encouragement, and care for their professional church workers, understanding that a spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy church worker can be a great influence on the next generation of church workers; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, and laypeople be encouraged to identify, inspire, and support young people to consider church worker vocations and creatively discover ways to highlight and lift up the importance of church worker vocations for the ongoing life and ministry of the Church; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations be encouraged to use the electronic resources produced by the Synod’s Church Worker Recruitment Initiative (2019 Synod Res. 6-01), AND BE IT FINALLY
- RESOLVED:** That district congregations, schools, professional church workers, and laypeople be encouraged to give an offering to the South Dakota District’s Student Aid Fund to provide ongoing financial support to students from South Dakota who are studying for professional church work vocations and preparing for service in the Lord’s Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-09**
2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO COMMEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
4 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS IN
5 2022
6
7 **WHEREAS,** April 26, 2022, will be the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran
8 Church—Missouri Synod; AND
9
10 **WHEREAS,** An anniversary is a celebration of God’s blessing in the past, as well as a time of
11 joyful anticipation of what the Lord of the Church has in store for His people in the
12 future; AND
13
14 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exists to conserve and promote the unity
15 of the true faith; strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold
16 witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy
17 Spirit; to recruit and train professional church workers; to provide opportunities for
18 showing Christian love and compassion by meeting human needs; to aid and
19 develop processes for thorough Christian education for all age levels; and for many
20 other benefits to congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople
21 (Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Article III: Objectives);
22 AND
23
24 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod says, “In grateful
25 response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and
26 sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to
27 make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,
28 communities, and the world;” AND
29
30 **WHEREAS,** The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod joyfully
31 proclaim the Gospel message of salvation by God’s grace through faith in the
32 merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; AND
33
34 **WHEREAS,** Jesus invites us to “lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest”
35 (John 4:35); AND
36
37 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord is always able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine,
38 according to the power at work within us to His glory in the Church throughout all
39 generations (Eph. 3:20-21); THEREFORE BE IT
40
41 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District Office assist and aid district congregations in
42 celebrating the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by
43 promoting the anniversary and by sharing any special materials or projects created
44 and developed by the Synod; AND BE IT FINALLY
45
46 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in Convention commend and encourage the
47 observance of the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to
48 all our district congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople and that
49 we join in corporate and individual prayer asking that God would continue to bless
50 the Gospel work of our Synod, its congregations and schools, and its people and
51 provide us with new opportunities to share the life-saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus
52 Christ for the extension of His kingdom and to the glory of His holy name.

53
54 Respectfully Submitted,
55

56
57 _____
 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

To the 62nd Convention of
The South Dakota District of
The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod
December 5-7, 2021

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-10**
2
- 3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD’S MISSION
4 AND MINISTRY EMPHASIS OF *MAKING DISCIPLES FOR LIFE*
5
- 6 **WHEREAS,** No person, because of original sin, can choose or decide to become a disciple of
7 Jesus on their own (John 15:16; Romans 8:7; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9;
8 Augsburg Confession, Article II, Kolb/Wengert, pg.36, 38; Apology, Article II.3,
9 Kolb/Wengert, pg. 112; Apology, Article IV. 17-18; 53-56, Kolb/Wengert, pg.122-
10 123, 128-129); AND
11
- 12 **WHEREAS,** Jesus alone, through the Holy Spirit, graciously calls and invites each person to
13 become a disciple of His through God’s Word and the sacraments of Holy Baptism
14 and the Lord’s Supper (John 14:6; Romans 6:1-4; Romans 10:17; Luther’s *Large*
15 *Catechism*, “The Third Article,” Kolb/Wengert, pg. 437-439); AND
16
- 17 **WHEREAS,** Being a disciple of Jesus is not merely the doing of personal spiritual practices
18 such as prayer, daily reading of Scripture, or fasting, but is the conforming of a
19 person’s whole life, public and private, to the image of Jesus Christ and Him
20 crucified (Mark 8:34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; Hebrews 12:2); AND
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,** Jesus has given the task and duty of making disciples to His Church as He has
23 said in Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in
24 heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of
25 all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
26 Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold,
27 I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” And as LCMS Synod President
28 Harrison has written in “*A Theological Statement for Mission in the 21st Century*,”
29 “Bearing witness to the saving good news of God for us in Jesus is the fundamental
30 task of the church (Matthew 28:19). This leads to the making of disciples.” (*Journal*
31 *of Lutheran Mission*, September, 2016, Volume 3, No.2, pg. 62-73); AND
32
- 33 **WHEREAS,** The theme of *Making Disciples for Life* encompasses two areas:
34 1. Strengthening the faith of those who are already disciples of Jesus and
35 building up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:12-17; 1
36 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Jude 20-23).
37 2. Inviting unbelievers and those who have fallen away from Christ to
38 become disciples of the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 52:7; Mark 16:15-16; Luke
39 24:45-48; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-17); AND
40
- 41 **WHEREAS,** Our commitment to one another as LCMS congregations, professional church
42 workers, and laity is to walk together with the Word of God as our only norm and
43 guide for doctrine and practice; AND
44
- 45 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Constitution and Bylaws give primary responsibility for church planting
46 and national mission to districts and congregations, and the national Synod has
47 the responsibility of providing resources to aid these efforts (LCMS Constitution
48 Article 3.2 and 3.6); THEREFORE BE IT
49
- 50 **RESOLVED:** That the district, congregations, and schools be encouraged to explore
51 opportunities in their communities and contexts for *Making Disciples for Life* which
52 would include, but not be limited to:
53 • Evangelize and disciple the lost
54 • Retain the faithful, deepen their faith, and build up the Body of Christ
55 • Strengthen and or revitalize congregations and schools
56 • Plant new congregations and schools wherever possible
57 • Perform acts of mercy or service in their local communities

58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89

- Support and promote district mission activities and efforts
- Support and promote international mission activities; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of the Synod’s *Making Disciples for Life* resources and tools as these become available and can be found online at <https://makingdisciples.lcms.org/>; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That district congregations and schools be encouraged to make use of other resources developed by the LCMS Office of National Mission (e.g. Mission Field: USA for church planting; Re: Vitality for church revitalization; Everyone His Witness for evangelism and outreach; Rural and Small Town Mission for congregations in rural and small towns), and the LCMS Office of International Mission, and Concordia Publishing House.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-11**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** CARING FOR GOD'S LIVING EARTH (IN RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S LOVE
4 INSTEAD OF FEAR)

5
6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus as the Agent of Creation created the universe out of nothing, solely by His
7 almighty Word, and continues to preserve it and holds every atom together (Col
8 1:15-17, Heb 1:2-3, 11:3); AND

9
10 **WHEREAS,** And we know that for those who love God all things works together for good for
11 those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) AND

12
13 **WHEREAS,** The last day of history and this earth has already been set by our heavenly Father
14 (Mark 13:32, Acts 1:7) and no matter what mankind may or may not do, history
15 and this earth will not end one single second before that time and day set by God
16 when our Lord Jesus, the Lord of the universe, shall return in glory with His holy
17 angels to close the curtain on this fallen world and usher in the new heaven and
18 new earth where His elect saints shall live forever in glorified resurrected bodies (1
19 Peter 3:1-13; Rev 21) AND

20
21 **WHEREAS,** Concerning this earth, God has promised "While the earth remains, seedtime and
22 harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Gen
23 8:22) AND

24
25 **WHEREAS,** In His created order God gave humanity dominion over the earth as stewards, to
26 work it and take care of it (Gen 1:26, 2:15): THEREFORE BE IT

27
28 **RESOLVED:** That the SD District in convention remind the saints of our congregations that the
29 love of Christ would move us to be the best stewards of this earth as we can be as
30 we care for the water, air, and soil God has given to us as a gift, AND BE IT
31 FURTHER

32
33 **RESOLVED:** That the saints of God be encouraged to read and study the 2010 CTCR Report,
34 *Together With All Creatures: Caring for God's Living Earth*, AND BE IT FINALLY

35
36 **RESOLVED:** That in the face of all changes, climatic and otherwise, on this tired old earth
37 increasingly burdened by the weight of Adam's sin, we celebrate the glorious news
38 of a coming restoration of this broken planet and that the new heaven and new
39 earth will be even better than Eden before the fall, in part, because we will never
40 again be tempted to sin!

41
42
43 Respectfully Submitted,

44
45 _____
46 Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

47
48 _____
49 Reverend Ray Greenseth

50
51 _____
52 DCE Hailey Jo Miller
53

54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-12**

2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO AFFIRM THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF GENDER

4

5 **WHEREAS,** Jesus, as the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5; Col 1:15-17)
6 created human beings in mind, body, and spirit as one of only two genders: Male
7 and Female, at the very beginning of history (Gen 1:26-27); AND

8

9 **WHEREAS,** Thousands of years later, shortly before He went to the cross to atone for
10 mankind’s sin, Jesus reiterated to religious leaders His stamp of approval upon
11 creation from the beginning as being one of two genders: Male and Female (Mat
12 19:4); AND

13

14 **WHEREAS,** Jesus’ creation of two genders is a profound prophetic picture of the relationship
15 of the Church, the Bride of Christ, and her Bridegroom (Eph 5:22-33) and the
16 eternal Messianic marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:9) THEREFORE BE IT

17

18 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
19 convention joyfully affirms the Christ-centered cosmic creation that reveals there
20 are only two genders and Jesus, as Lord over history, is working everything
21 together for the good of His Bride, the Church (Eph 1:22), AND BE IT FINALLY

22

23 **RESOLVED:** That we compassionately and faithfully minister to those struggling with sexuality
24 outside God’s design.

25

26

27

Respectfully Submitted,

28

29

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

30

31

Reverend Ray Greenseth

32

33

34

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

35

36

37

Mr. Terry Reck

38

39

40

Mr. Erik Aker

41

42

43

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

RESOLUTION: 2-13

SUBJECT: TO DECLARE ALL GODLY WORK IS A HOLY CALLING (VOCATION) AND TO
DECLARE WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY AS NECESSARY, CRITICAL,
AND INDISPENSABLE

WHEREAS, Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the unfortunate and unclear language of “essential”
versus “unessential” workers came into our public forum serving as a subjective
and arbitrary way of devaluing countless vocational callings by declaring them
“unessential” and ushering into our public discourse many unintended and
destructive consequences for both Church and society; AND

WHEREAS, This “essential” versus “unessential” language made its way into our churches,
causing division regarding certain vocations and the gathering together of the
Church for Word and Sacrament. AND

WHEREAS, In times of fear, sickness, and death the proclamation of the Holy Gospel of
Jesus Christ and the administration of the holy Sacraments are of utmost
importance, for only in Christ given to us in Word and Sacrament do we know
that God has not abandoned us to death but fills us with eternal hope in the midst
of a hopeless world and the promise of eternal life in glory to comfort us when the
threat of temporal death presses hard; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the saints of God be encouraged to give thanks to God and regard as
necessary, critical, and indispensable the vocational calling of all people and
Word and Sacrament ministry; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District in convention thank all of our pastors, church
workers, and congregations that continued as best they could, and according to
our Confessions, the faithful preaching of the holy Word and administration of the
blessed Sacraments, AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the South Dakota District in convention request that the District President
assign a committee to develop a Bible study concerning the content of this
resolution for use in the District and made available throughout the Synod.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Samuel Bobby, Chairman

Reverend Ray Greenseth

DCE Hailey Jo Miller

Mr. Terry Reck

Mr. Erik Aker

District President and Vice-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 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
Randy R. Sturzenbecher, Black Hawk, South Dakota

The same Bylaw specifies that the candidates for the Office of President shall be three clergymen who received the highest number of nominating votes from congregations of the District. These three men must each have given 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 the most nominating ballots and have consented to be on the ballot are:

David Gene Otten, Gettysburg, South Dakota
Scott C. Sailer, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Randy R. Sturzenbecher, Black Hawk, South Dakota

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 Vice-President be reported to the Convention by means of the Convention Manual. The clergymen who received five or more nominating votes are:

Timothy J. Rynearson, Brookings, South Dakota
Randy R. Sturzenbecher, Black Hawk, South Dakota

The same Bylaw specifies that the candidates for the Office of Vice-President shall be four clergymen who received the highest number of nominating votes from congregations of the District. These four men must each have given their written consent to be placed on the official ballot and must also indicate their willingness to serve as Vice-President if elected. Because of a tie in the balloting, five candidates are eligible for election. The five clergymen who have the most nominating ballots and have consented to be on the ballot are:

Aaron Asmus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Thomas Christopher, Alexandria, South Dakota
Timothy Rynearson, Brookings, South Dakota
Randy Sturzenbecher, Black Hawk, South Dakota
Matthew Wurm, Brookings, South Dakota

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend David Gene Otten, Secretary
The South Dakota District LCMS

Presidential Candidate Biographical Data

David Gene Otten

Family Information:

Born in Westwood, NJ, on September 23, 1969, to Carl and Deann (nee Kozinski) Otten
Raised in New Haven MO, attended Immanuel Lutheran School graduating in 1983.
Graduated from Washington High (MO) in 1987
Married Heather K Ferguson on June 27, 1999, at Messiah Lutheran Church Murdo SD.
Heather is and has been a stay-at-home mother.
Heather and I have five daughters and one son. Anna (21), student at Southeast Tech in
Sioux Falls taking Law Enforcement Science. Dorothy (19), student at Southeast Tech in
Sioux Falls taking Computer Programming. Esther (17), a Junior at Sioux Falls Lutheran
School. Irene (15) homeschooled in Gettysburg SD. Marlys (13), a Seventh grader in
Gettysburg Middle School. Gerhard (8), a Second Grader at Gettysburg Grade School.

Occupation, Education, Employment, Involvement in the Church:

BA (1992) Theology Concordia River Forest, IL
M Div., (1996) Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
Ministries served-
Vicarage at St John Lutheran Church, Plymouth, WI (1994-1995)
Pastor at Messiah Murdo, SD and St Paul's Draper, SD (1996-2003)
Pastor at Immanuel Dimock, SD (2004-2017)
Pastor at Emmanuel Gettysburg, SD and Christ Lebanon, SD (2017-present)

Other Service in the Church:

Rural Ministry Committee (1997-1998)
Constitution Committee (1999-2006, 2006-2012 Chairman, 2019-present Chairman)
LWML District Counselor (2000-2004)
Camp Minneboji Staff 1998 – Present (Business Director since 2001)
Delegate to Synodical Conventions 2001, 2007, 2013, 2019
Circuit Visitor Mitchell Circuit 2006-2012
Secretary of the South Dakota District 2012-2015, 2018-present
Concordia Plan Services 2019- present
Chairman and Secretary of Pastors Conferences, the last being Spring Conference,
2005.
Committee to Re-alignment of Circuits in South Dakota (2006-2009, 2018)
Floor Committees for District Conventions (Elections, Administration)

Service in the Community:

Murdo Lions Club (1996-2003)
Lois Weber Charities (1998-2003) setting up transportation for Elderly to Doctors visits
from Murdo.
Gettysburg Rotary Club (2017-present)

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 doctrine and practice of the Synod is solidly established by Scripture. In my lifetime it has been harder to stand up for the doctrine and practice of Synod. Over my lifetime other questions about Synod's doctrine and practice have arisen, I have tried to study and defend the doctrine and practice of the Synod.

2. What challenges and opportunities do you see facing our South Dakota District?

Having served in smaller towns in the district having people to fill the offices of the congregation. In smaller church there are fewer people, and the same people hold an office in the church. Over time people get worn out from always being the one who has an office. I have heard this challenge on the Constitution Committee from congregation. St Paul puts "Let us not grow weary of doing good." Galatians 6:9

The churches in South Dakota are getting fewer and fewer. This is an opportunity; a congregation might have to cover more area to draw people from to the congregation. The congregation and the pastor must work together to keep people coming to church for the Word of God and the Sacraments.

3. What is your vision for the South Dakota District?

I am taking the vision to be what is the future of the South Dakota District. The district has many congregations who are working hard in the place there are. This needs to be encouraged to have congregation each out and do works of mercy in the town or city. Pastors and people need to see the hope each congregation has in the district.

4. How do you see the role of the District President?

The District President has the role as officer of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He is to serve as an equal to the pastors in the district and help them in the Office of the Ministry. Their office being the highest as stated in Scripture. The District President is to help the congregations with finding a new pastor if the congregation is vacant. He must know the congregation to be able to help them to do this.

5. How would you assist the congregations and church workers of the district to remain theologically and confessionally strong?

Encourage the congregations and workers to spend time studying the Word of God, especially the Gospel. Only the power of the Gospel can change and keep us in the one true faith. The more time spent with the Gospel, we know God will keep us and the congregation in the one true faith.

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.
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND, is my boyhood home congregation.
- Married Sarah M. Meyer on December 28, 1982, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN.
- Sarah is a mostly-retired Lutheran educator, but often is a substitute teacher at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.
- Sarah and I have three sons: Tim (35), a professional actor at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, MN; Aaron (33), the Director of Finance at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha, Nebraska, and married to Lisa nee Haberberger; and Daniel (31), a music instructor (percussion) at Augustana University, in Sioux Falls.

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 being rooted in 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 being in full agreement with 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. The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated this. 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 a challenge to keep some of 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. Congregations would do well to collaborate with one another in some areas of ministry. In many cases, our numbers are 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 pastors and our churches can be their churches! 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 100,000 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 some of our church members. We LCMS people, 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 caring 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 brainstorming and implementing impactful witness and mercy 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, short-term mission trips, and our church planting efforts in Belle Fourche and northern Lincoln County; 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. Disaster response, life issues, affirming and advocating the Biblical definition of marriage and of gender 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, using resources like *The Treasury of Daily Prayer* from CPH. 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 are to be encouraged to avail themselves of these studies. Such study will contribute to our having theologically and confessionally healthy congregations and workers, too.

Biographical Data

Randy R. Sturzenbecher

Personal:

Born: August 31st, 1964

Grew up on the family dairy farm near Parker, SD

Family:

Married Vonda (nee:Berg) Sturzenbecher on July 27th 1985 Vonda is the Administrative Assistant at Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City.

Children: Ryan Sturzenbecher, Sioux Falls SD. Graduated Dakota State University, Madison SD 2016. Ryan works Quality Assurance for Northwest Education Assessment, Portland OR.

Megan (nee:Sturzenbecher) Sutton, Binghamton NY. Graduated from Binghamton University, Decker School of Nursing. Binghamton, NY. 2020. RN, Labor and Delivery nurse. Lourdes Hospital Binghamton, NY. Engaged to Dylan Zwiers

Education:

Parker Grade School, High School, Parker SD	1982
SouthEast Vo Tech, Sioux Falls, SD, Diesel Mechanics	1984
Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD	AA-1997
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	MDiv-2001
Vicarage Trinity, St. Johns Persia, Honey Creek IA.	2000

Ministries Served:

First English, Zion, Centerville, Hurley SD	2001-2006
Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk SD	2006 Present

District Service:

Continuing Education Committee	
LWML Zone Counselor	
LWML District Jr, Sr, Counselor	
Youth Services Area Chairman	
CWEDA Secretary	
Secretary of Fall Pastors Conference	
Circuit 4 Circuit Visitor (Black Hills)	
Delegate to Synodical Convention	2016
Black Hills Lutheran School Chaplain	
Short term Missionary to Hong Kong	
District Realignment Committee	
Vice President Higher Things	2021
1 st Vice President SD District	2018- Present

Community Service:

Rotary Vice President
Kiwanis Member

Questions for Candidates for the Office of District President

1. Describe your commitment to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

On a hot July day in 2001 District President Schindler asked me these question at my ordination.

Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church?

And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

My answer then and now is the same. *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.* It is the Word of God only, that accomplishes and succeeds in seeking and saving the lost. Isaiah 55:11 Luke 19:10

2. What challenges and opportunities do you see facing our South Dakota District?

Three years ago, when these questions were answered there was no mention of Cancel Culture, Woke or Critical race theory. These things were not on our horizon. Covid, continually tries to reorder our world, isolating and disconnecting people from the good and precious gifts of God and each other. Gender issues fiercely battle with our created and Baptismal identity. Dwindling rural communities and churches and an over secularized society are just a few of the challenges the beloved South Dakota District has faced and will continue to battle against.

Jesus tells us “the gates of hell shall not prevail against” Christ’s Church. Matthew 16:18 St Paul reminds us “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37 While the battle is fierce the victory is won in Christ Jesus.

For every “challenge” the evil one throws in front of us there is a clear, hopeful answer from God’s Word.

God has blessed us with unending opportunities to share the good news of Jesus breaking into our world in flesh and blood to be our perfect sacrifice. He had died for us. Forgiven us. Risen from the dead for us and promises that with every challenge He is with us always even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20 We do face these challenges alone.

God has blessed us with faithful Pastors, DCE's and Deaconesses, to bring hope to the hurting and forgiveness to the forsaken. God has blessed us with faithful Lutheran Schools and Lutheran school teachers that teach and catechize. The very foundations of faith are taught in our Lutheran Early Childhood Centers, Preschools, and daycares. Let's not forget the countless, faithful parents and laypeople that shine brightly with the light of Christ as their hope, as they go to work! As our communities become more diverse ethnic ministry opportunities abound.

The opportunities to tell the good news and offer hope are endless. Thanks be to God that He has put us here in this beloved South Dakota District redeemed by the words of eternal life, so we may live in peace and serve our neighbor. And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia! For all the Saints LSB 677 vs 5

3. What is your vision for The South Dakota District?

Joshua said it best. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," Joshua 24:15

In every vocation God has given us, we are lead and guided by God's Word. My vision for the South Dakota District is that in every vocation, especially the position of District President, we let the treasure of God's Word guide and lead us.

My vision is we keep doing what we do so well. We continue faithfully preaching and teaching the eternal and unchanging hope we have through Christ Jesus. We celebrate when one receives faith in Holy Baptism or receives Absolution through the blood of Christ. We are strengthened when the very body and blood of Jesus are placed in our hands and on our lips. We are blessed to have faithful people and pastors that are not ashamed of the Gospel.

My vision is that we keep looking for new opportunities to meet people with the promises of Christ.

My cross-focused vision for the District is one that encourages all people to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament regularly and continually looks for ways to serve and love our neighbors. Because the world in which we live is ever changing we must be intentional and creative in our reach into new areas with this Gospel hope. I envision, more church plants or other creative ways, such as preaching station or something like circuit riders of the 19th century, so all people may hear of the forgiveness and hope that we have in Jesus. I pray that we will build Gospel centered relationships in the many ethnic groups that are growing in South Dakota. I pray that we will support our pastors with resources that will help them stay healthy, physically as well as emotionally. All these things will be guided and directed by God's Word and the confessions I mentioned above.

4. How do you see the role of District President?

The work of the Church is done by faithful pastors at the altar, fount, and pulpit. AC VII. The church is where God gives His good and precious gifts to His people. The District President is to be a servant leader who supports and equips the ongoing ministry of the church. His role is supportive in providing information,

council, and resources so the work of the church can move forward with the message of Christ. His role is to encourage pastors and congregations that struggle against the pressures of the world seeking to reform the church into its own image. His role holds pastors and congregations accountable to the Word of God and the Confessions for purity of doctrine and unity of the believers. Romans 16:17 Ephesians 4:14 His role is reconciler, always working to keep communication open and honest. His role is liaison between Synod and congregation. The District President is one who rejoices with God's people, weeps with God's people, calls God's people to repentance, and walks with them. It is a position that demands adherence to the Word of God and humble service.

5. How would you assist the congregations and church workers of the District to remain theologically and confessionally strong?

Several years ago I was talking to an elderly man at a funeral. He asked what "kind" of Lutheran I was. I told him LCMS. He replied with one word. "Solid." That does not happen by accident. The LCMS remains fully committed to God's Word and the Confessions by careful and ongoing study of God's Word. I would encourage a faithful confession, in doctrine and practice, through constant communication with God's People. Through electronic media or the printed word, through sermon or supper with saints, the message is the same. "Faithfulness to God's Word." Revelation 2:10

Where we stand united, we give thanks to God. On those rare occasions when those called to lead fail in this, the goal is repentance, reconciliation, and restoration. This will require personal contact, admonition, and prayer. While the District President does play a role in the Synod at large, it is the President's first duty to ensure the workers under his supervision are cared for, guided, and shaped for faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Biographical Information for Vice-Presidential Nominations

Aaron Asmus

Born: February 2, 1960

Family:

Married: Lisa (nee: Schafer) Asmus on June 16, 1984
Children: Andrew (1987)
Alissa (1989)
Adam (1990)
Alan (1995)

Education:

Concordia, St. Paul, MN BA – 1982
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO MDiv – 1986

Ministries Served:

Peace-Mt. Moriah, Claremont-Byron, MN 1986-1990
Zion, Ft. Myers, FL 1990-1997
Shepherd of the Pines, Rice, MN 1997-1999
Memorial, Sioux Falls, SD 1999-Present

District Service:

Circuit Youth Advisor; Conference Evangelism Rep (MNS); Special Event Planning (FG); Evangelism Program Area Chairman 2000-2001 (SD); Keyboard accompanist for many District events; Pastors Conference Secretary 2008; 2015 Convention Floor Committee Chairman; LWML Zone Counselor 2012-Present; Music leader at SD Camp Minneboji 2000-2013; served with the District Mission/Outreach Service area 2017-Present

Community Service:

Religious Task Force – Coalition for Drug Free Lee County- Ft. Myers; service in Sioux Falls Clergy Association; many and various service activities throughout the Sioux Falls community, such as: St. Francis House service, serving at the Banquet, Chamber of Commerce membership, Rake the Town, volunteer Painting at Washington Pavilion, connections to Family Heritage Alliance, Alpha Center Support, Life Chan and other Life related activities including Lutherans For Life support, involvement with Community Outreach, local High School activities; Emcee for Catfish Bay Water Ski Show 2010-Present

Thomas Christopher

Born: November 3, 1961

Family:

Married: Jane (nee: Jacobs) Christopher
Children: John (1988)
Michaela (1991)
Joshua (1994)

Education:

University of North Dakota BA – 1986
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN MDiv – 1990

Ministries Served:

Redeemer, St. Cloud, MN	1990-1996
St. Martin-Trinity, Alexandria-Spencer, SD	1996-2011
St. Martin-Trinity-St. John, Alexandria-Spencer-Emery, SD	2011-2020
St. Martin-Trinity, Alexandria-Spencer, SD	2020-Present

District Service:

Secretary Fall Pastors Conference – SD District 1999; Secretary Fall Pastors Conference SD District 2006; Circuit Counselors; 2009 and 2012 District Convention Floor Committee; District Reconciler 2010-2013; Circuit Visitor 2014-Present

Community Service:

Alexandria, SD Library Board; Trap Instructor; 4-H Shooting Sports; Board of Directors – Good Shepherd Lutheran Home, Sauk Rapids, MN; President, SE SD Lutherans for Life 2004-2011; Pastoral Advisor, SD LLL 2006

Timothy Rynearson

Born: October 17, 1959

Family:

Married:	Ruth (nee: Theiss) Rynearson on June 25, 1982
Children:	Sara (1993) Michael (1997)

Education:

Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI	BA – 1981
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	MDiv & S.T.M. – 1985

Ministries Served:

Concordia-St. John, Wessington-Wolsey, SD	1985-1996
Peace, Brookings, SD	1996-2011
Peace-Redeemer, Brookings-Flandreau, SD	2011-2021
Peace-Redeemer-Zion, Brookings-Flandreau-White, SD	2021-Present

District Service:

Circuit Counselor 1986-1996; SD Youth Task Force Chairman 1987-2004; Parish Services Commission; Young Adult Service Area Chairman 2005-2010; 2nd VP SD District 2018-Present; SD LLI Instructor: Old and New Testament

Community Service:

Chaplain, Brookings Fire Department 2013-Present; Served on the Board and was Chairman of East Central Mental Health and Chemical Dependency 1997-2007; Served on the Board and was Chairman of ADVANCE 2003-2009.

Randy R. Sturzenbecher

Born: August 31st, 1964

Grew up on the family dairy farm near Parker, SD

Family:

Married Vonda (nee: Berg) Sturzenbecher on July 27th 1985 Vonda is the Administrative Assistant at Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City.

Children: Ryan Sturzenbecher, Sioux Falls SD. Graduated Dakota State University, Madison SD 2016. Ryan works Quality Assurance for Northwest Education Assessment, Portland OR.
Megan (nee:Sturzenbecher) Sutton, Binghamton NY. Graduated from Binghamton University, Decker School of Nursing. Binghamton, NY. 2020. RN, Labor and Delivery nurse. Lourdes Hospital Binghamton, NY. Engaged to Dylan Zwiers

Education:

Parker Grade School, High School, Parker SD	1982
SouthEast Vo Tech, Sioux Falls, SD, Diesel Mechanics	1984
Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD	AA-1997
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	MDiv-2001
Vicarage Trinity, St. Johns Persia, Honey Creek IA.	2000

Ministries Served:

First English, Zion, Centerville, Hurley SD	2001-2006
Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk SD	2006 Present

District Service:

Continuing Education Committee	
LWML Zone Counselor	
LWML District Jr, Sr, Counselor	
Youth Services Area Chairman	
CWEDA Secretary	
Secretary of Fall Pastors Conference	
Circuit 4 Circuit Visitor (Black Hills)	
Delegate to Synodical Convention	2016
Black Hills Lutheran School Chaplain	
Short term Missionary to Hong Kong	
District Realignment Committee	
Vice President Higher Things	2021
1 st Vice President SD District	2018- Present

Community Service:

Rotary Vice President
Kiwanis Member

Matthew Wurm

Born: August 29, 1981

Family:

Married Kyra (nee: Anderson) Wurm November 24, 2007
Children: Micah (2010)
Annika (2013)
Aubrey (2015)
Isaac (2017)
Elena (2019)
Benjamin (2019)

Education:

Concordia University, Wisconsin – Mequon	Pre-Sem 2003
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	MDiv – 2008

Ministries Served:

Trinity, Bemidji, MN	2008-2013
Mt. Calvary, Brookings, SD	2013-Present

District Service:

2011-2012 Lutheran Island Camp Board of Directors (MNN District); circuit Visitor 2019-Present

Community Service:

DOXOLOGY Collegium Fellow 2014-Present; Trail Life USA Troop SD5511 Senior Ministry Leader 2020-Present

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 2019 Synodical Handbook. The list is submitted by the District Secretary and is subject to ratification by this District Convention.

Circuit 1 (Aberdeen)
Reverend Jordan Andreasen
Our Savior-St. John Lutheran Churches, Aberdeen–Columbia, SD

Circuit 2 (Brookings-Milbank)
Reverend Matthew Wurm
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD

Circuit 3 (Pierre)
Reverend David Gene Otten
Emmanuel-Christ Lutheran Churches, Gettysburg-Lebanon, SD

Circuit 4 (Black Hills)
Reverend John Fries
Grace-Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Churches, Deadwood-Sturgis, SD

Circuit 5 (Mitchell)
Reverend Ryan Loeslie
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dimock, SD

Circuit 6 (Freeman)
Reverend Thomas Christopher
St. Martin-Trinity Lutheran Churches, Alexandria-Spencer, SD

Circuit 7 (Sioux Falls)
Reverend Cory Aker
Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Circuit 8 (Yankton)
Reverend Steven Weispfennig
St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, 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 MICAH BAUER

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD

Education:
M. Div., 2015, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
S.T.M., 2016, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Church Experience/Positions:
Vicarage at Our Savior, Carbondale, IL
Pastor at Mount Calvary, Brookings, SD, 2016–present
Lay Leadership Institute Instructor (Christian Doctrine)
Presenter at LCMS–U “Witness” Conference, 2019
DOXOLOGY Classic Program

NAME: REVEREND RYAN DREVLLOW

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Education:
M. Div., 2009, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Church Experience/Positions:
Vicarage at Apostles Lutheran Church, Glendale, AZ
Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Breckenridge, MN, 2009–2014
Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, 2014–present
LWML Counselor, Fergus Falls Circuit, 2012–2014
Sioux Falls Circuit Secretary, 2018–present
Camp Minneboji Honors Camp Counselor, 2019

NAME: REVEREND STEVEN WEISPFENNIG

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD

Education:
M. Div., 2008, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Church Experience/Positions:
Vicarage at St. Paul, McAllen, TX
Pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD, 2008–Present
SD District Youth Board, Co-Chair, 2011–2014
LWML SD District Counselor, 2014–2020

DCE Intern Supervisor, 2013–2015
Yankton Area Ministerial Association
Camp Minneboji Honors Camp Counselor, 2009
Circuit Visitor, 2019–present

FOR **DISTRICT TREASURER**

NAME: KENT HARNISCH

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Occupation:
CPA (Certified Public Accountant)

Church Experience/Positions:
Treasurer
Vice Chairman
Board of Stewardship Chairman
Sunday School Teacher

Other Experience/Positions:
Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association Board as Treasurer
Trustee for Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association
Thrivent/Lutheran Brotherhood/AAL Board Member

NAME: JAMES SCHNAIDT

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, SD

Occupation:
Banker

Church Experience/Positions:
Elder
Treasurer
Member of SD 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

FOR LAY MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (TWO TO BE ELECTED)

NAME: DAVID ANDREWS

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD

Occupation:

Retired; US Air Force and Deputy Sherriff (Minnehaha County)

Church Experience/Positions:

Board of Elders
Board of Education and Sunday School Teacher
Church Security Committee, Chairman
Lay Delegate to the 2019 Synodical Convention
Lay Representative 2020 SD District Planning Conference

Other Experience/Positions:

Adjunct Instructor, SD Law Enforcement Academy
Board of Directors, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera
Police Officer, City of Wagner
Park Ranger, US Army Corps of Engineers
US Air Force First Sergeant
Commandant, US Air Force Senior NCO Academy
Command Chief Master Sergeant, 11th Air Force/Alaskan Command
Awarded Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, many others

NAME: DOUG KLIPFEL

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD

Occupation:

Non-Destructive Testing/American Society for Nondestructive Testing Level III

Church Experience/Positions:

Sunday School Teacher
Congregational Chairman
Congregational Vice Chairman
Board of Elders
Board of Social Ministry

Other Experience/Positions:

Husband
Father
Basketball Coach
Ambassadors of Reconciliation Training

NAME: KEVIN MAXWELL

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Occupation:

Business Performance Specialist at Sanford Health, Sioux Falls

Church Experience/Positions:

Finance Committee Chairman
Congregational Treasurer
Bible Bowl Coach
Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board Treasurer
Endowment Fund Committee
Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board Member
Sunday School Teacher

Other Experience/Positions:

Parks Board Member, City of Harrisburg, SD
City Council Member and President, City of Harrisburg, SD

NAME: DAVID ZUERCHER

BIOGRAPHY: **Church Membership:**
Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD

Occupation:

Retired Attorney (United States Dept. of Justice, Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of SD; State of SD Assistant Attorney General)

Church Experience/Positions:

Board of Stewardship
Board of Elders
Adult Bible Class Instructor; Numerous Committees
SD District Lay Voting Delegate
Lay Voting Delegate Synodical Convention, 2016

Other Experience/Positions:

United Way Board of Directors
Community Banquet Server
SD State Bar Association Ethics Committee
U.S. Attorney's Office Ethics Advisor and Professional Responsibility Officer

FOR PASTORAL MEMBER, DISTRICT CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2025
(2 to be elected)

NAME: Christopher Ascher

PARISH SERVED: Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Sole Pastor 2005-Present
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota; Assistant Pastor 2003-2005

BIOGRAPHY: 2003 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
SD Youth Mission Area 2003-2005
Chair of Stewardship Service Area 2005-2013
Fall Pastor's Conference Chair 2011 and 2015
SD Convention Floor committee 2012
Camp Minneboji Staff 2003-2006 and 2013-Present
LLI Homiletics Instructor 2012 and 2015

NAME: Samuel Bobby

PARISH SERVED: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota Senior Pastor 2015-Present
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota 2010-2015
Messiah Lutheran Church, Beloit, Wisconsin 2008-2010

BIOGRAPHY: 2008 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Young Adult Service Area Chairman
Secretary of District
Circuit Visitor
Pastoral Advisor Black Hills Lutheran Middle School
SMP Mentor
Community Advisory Board of Salvation Army, Beloit, WI

NAME: Daniel Grimmer

PARISH SERVED: Zion Lutheran Church Mitchell, SD; Senior Administrative Pastor 2015-Present

BIOGRAPHY: 2015 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
LWML Counselor 2018-Present
Doxology Grad 2021

NAME: David Lindenberg

PARISH

SERVED: Peace Lutheran Church, 2008-Present
Rapid City, South Dakota; Sole Pastor

St. Andrew Lutheran church, 2001-2008
Van Horne, Iowa; Sole Pastor

BIOGRAPHY: 2001 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Regional Disaster Response Training – SD District 2008
Police Chaplain, Rapid City Police Department, 2013-2017
Author – CPH Lenten Devotions; 2021

FOR LAY MEMBER, DISTRICT CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2025
(3 to be elected)

NAME: David Andrews

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Currently serving as Elder for St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD
Previous Service: Board of Education for St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD
Sunday School Teacher for St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD
Congregational Lay Representative for St. John and Circuit 8 (Yankton) to Synod Convention

Other – Deputy Sheriff (Minnehaha County, SD); City Police Officer (Wagner, SD), Park Ranger (US Army), Command Chief Master Sergeant 11th AF (US Air Force); Active Duty USAF 27 years. Currently adjunct instructor, SD Law Enforcement Training Center (part-time, Pierre, SD)

NAME: Craig Cassens

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, SD

BIOGRAPHY: School Administration

Sunday School Teacher – St. Paul's, Freeman (5 years)
Sunday School Teacher, Immanuel, Wecota (12 years)
Congregational chairman, Immanuel, Wecota (13 years)
Current Sunday morning Adult Bible Study Leader

Various Boards and Committees of SDHSAA, SDIAAA, and SDASSP for past 18 years

NAME: Janet Larson

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Preschool Director/Teacher at Faith Lutheran Preschool, Pierre, SD

Music Director for Sunday School, Faith, Pierre, SD
VBS Teacher, Faith, Pierre, SD
Choir and Bell Choir Member, Faith, Pierre, SD
LWML Groups and Zone President
SD LWML vice President Gospel Outreach
Delegate to District and National LWML Conventions
Building committee Member
Country Fair Chairman
4-H Leader
Christian Women's Club chairman
Master Gardner's chairman for Prairie Potters Club
Fine Arts Booster Club Member

NAME: Richard J. Rathert

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, South Dakota

BIOGRAPHY: Financial Advisor, Retired

10 years on Church Council, serving as Stewardship Chair for 5 years, Council Chair for 5 years; Congregational President for 5 years; Building Program Coordinator for 4 years, ECC Board Advisor

Black Hills Lutheran School Board – 2 years
Prior church council 7 years, other congregation (Wisconsin)

NAME: James Schnaidt

CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, SD

BIOGRAPHY: Banker (43 years), Retired

Congregational Treasurer, 10+ years
Congregational Elder, 10+ years

Menno City Council, Alderman
Menno-Olivet Care Center – Board of Directors
Menno School Board, Chairman
Menno Ambulance Service, EMT

**NOMINEES FOR LCMS COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS, LAY MEMBER
(DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE)**

NAME: ALAN CHRISTENSEN

BIOGRAPHY: Church Membership:
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD

Occupation:
Retired

Church Experience/Positions:
Sunday School Teacher
VBS Teacher
Directory of Children's Christmas Program
Confirmation Teacher
Choir
Elder
Treasurer
Director of Worship
Lay Delegate to District Convention
Lay Delegate to Synodical Convention
SD Lay Delegate to Synodical Reorganization Task Force

Other Experience/Positions:
Black Hills Lutherans for Life Vice President
Black Hills Lutheran Schools Board President

NAME: ROBERT HERZ

BIOGRAPHY: Church Membership:
Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD

Occupation:
Retired Educator

Church Experience/Positions:
Principal/Teacher in Lutheran Schools for 25 years
Congregational Chairman
Board of Lay Ministry Chairman
Board of Stewardship
MO District Board of Missions and Evangelism
North WI District Teachers Conference Chairman
North WI District Convention Floor Committee
SD District Convention Floor Committees
Delegate to the Synodical Convention
Delegate to the SD District Convention
Synodical Dispute Resolution Process Facilitator
Lay Member SD District Board of Directors

Other Experience/Positions:
President Post 22 American Legion Baseball Parents Inc.
Board of Directors for Timberline Little League

NAME: STEVEN TIMMERMAN

BIOGRAPHY: Church Membership:
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD

Occupation:
Pharmacist for the Brookings Health System

Church Experience/Positions:
Elder
Congregational President
Sunday School Teacher
Lay Delegate to District Conventions
Lay Delegate to Synodical Convention

Other Experience/Positions:
Brookings Police Department Foundation (Secretary)
Brookings County Right to Life
Boy Scouts Assistant Scout Master
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (Boards and Committees)