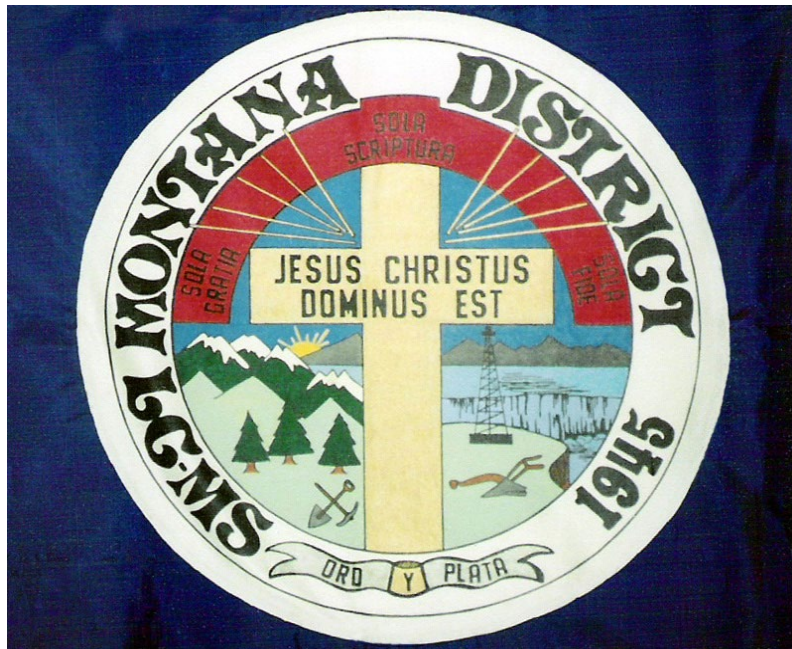


MONTANA DISTRICT
of the
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



2022 CONVENTION WORKBOOK
June 13-16, 2022

Montana District Office
759 Newman Lane, Suite 2
Billings, MT 59101
E-mail: office@mtdistlcms.org
www.mtdistlcms.org
Phone: (406) 259-2908

The 2022 Montana District Convention Workbook

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MONTANA DISTRICT
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

759 NEWMAN LANE, SUITE 2 - BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101

E-Mail: forke@mtdistlcms.org

Phone: 406-259-2908

Cell: 406-670-1101

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God's peace be with you! You have been chosen to serve as a delegate to the 35th Convention of the Montana District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This is a high honor and responsibility. You will be expected to be well prepared to deal with the issues that come before the convention. This Workbook will assist you in that endeavor. Please study its contents carefully.

I would like to encourage you to make an extra effort to study the reports contained in this workbook. Many of them call for specific action. Each of you has been assigned to a convention floor committee. The committees are also assigned to look at the reports to see if some action is called for during the convention.

The convention will also be a time of study and encouragement in the Word of God. Our theme is from Psalm 119:105 "Your Word." During the course of the convention we will read and discuss the Formula of Concord: Epitome, as a way of exploring this theme.

There will also be time for worship. Pastor Tabbert will be our chaplain and the Circuit Visitors will be preaching.

This year our meetings will take place at Trinity School at 2802 Belvedere in Billings. I want to thank the staff and members of Trinity for their gracious hospitality.

We want your stay in Billings to be pleasant. There will be a number of people to help. Our convention manager Ruth Kosche, my administrative assistant, will be your first source for all answers. Our District Treasurer, Susan Loomans will also be available to help with financial issues. Together they are willing and able to help with questions about convention or lodging matters. Please call the office, (406-259-2908) if you have questions prior to the convention.

I keep you and the entire convention in my prayers; that God will bless us with His Word, as He uses us to proclaim, "The truth came through Jesus Christ."

In His Service,

Terry Forke
President- Montana District LCMS
Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton

35th Montana District Convention Schedule

Billings, Montana

June 13-16, 2022

"Your Word"

(Psalm 119:105)

Monday- June 13

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 | Opening Devotions (In Committees) |
| 9:15 | Floor Committees meet (District President visits) |
| 3:45 | Welcome |
| 3:50 | Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 1) |
| 4:45 | Introduce Staff and Support crew |
| 5:00 | Closing prayer |
| 7:00 pm | Opening Worship-Christ the King |

Tuesday- June 14

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8:00 | Opening Devotions (Pastor Thomas) |
| 8:15 | Committee #7 - Registration and Credentials |
| 8:20 | Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 2) |
| 9:10 | Orientation- Parliamentary procedures |
| 9:20 | Convention Schedule |
| 9:30 | Report of Synodical President |
| 10:15 | District President's Report and Address |
| 10:35 | District Treasurer's report |
| 10:45 | Introduction of all nominees to all offices |

10:55	Election Committee
11:05	Welcome of new members (Ordained, Commissioned, Congregations)
11:15	Report of Synodical President
12:00	Closing Prayer
12:05	Noon Recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Brandt)
1:30	Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 3)
2:20	Concordia Plan Services
2:35	Break
3:05	Committee # 1 – Mission
4:05	Committee # 2 – Specialized Ministries
5:00	Closing Prayer
6:30	Banquet – Amicus Christi Award

Wednesday June 15

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Behm)
8:15	Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 4)
9:05	Committee # 3 – Human Care
10:00	Break
10:15	Committee # 4 – Education
11:00	Committee # 5 – Administration
11:45	Closing prayer
11:50	Committees meet
12:00	Noon recess

1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Larson)
1:30	Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 5)
2:20	Committee # 1 – Mission
2:50	Break
3:05	Committee # 2 – Specialized Ministries
3:30	Committee # 3 – Human Care
4:00	Committee # 4 – Education
4:30	Committee # 5 – Administration
5:00	Closing Prayer
5:05	Advisory delegates meet with Secretary to elect Synodical Convention Delegate (Con. XII. B, Bylaw 3.1.3.1)

Thursday June 16

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Merz)
8:15	Formula of Concord: Epitome (Session # 6)
9:15	Seminaries Present
9:30	Committees as needed
10:00	Break
10:15	Committees as needed
10:55	Committee #7 Registration/Credentials Committee – final report
11:00	Closing Worship- Memorial, Installations (Pastor Schultz)

2022 District Convention Committee Assignments

"Your Word"

(Psalm 119:105)

2022 Convention Committees

Floor Committee # 1 Mission

Chair- Arlo Pullmann *Secretary-* Jakob Berger

Pastor: David Behm, Russ Fitch, Brian Lee, James Mavis, Matt Nelson, Josh Reinke

Commissioned: Jennifer Boll

Lay: Kendall Hartman, Kerry Heppner, Diane Lee, Keith Meier, Chad Nauman, Bobbi Schenderline, Stephen Schultz, Roland Sweatman

Floor Committee # 2 Specialized Ministries

Chair- James Pierce *Secretary-* Sam Grayl

Pastor: Dennis Bauer, David Johnson, Bob Lane, Vern Sandersfeld, Ray Wiegert

Commissioned: Sue Eberhard

Lay: Tim Crosmer, Daniel Howard, Russ Lundgren, James Normak, Dale Rittierodt, Amy Schneider, Mark Scott, Walter Wareham

Floor Committee # 3 Human Care

Chair- Dan Rinderknecht *Secretary-* Michael Musegades

Pastor: Chris Brandt, Erik Iverson, Greg Lucido, Larry Miller, Jonathan Schultz, John Vallie

Commissioned: Sarah Elliott, Ted Loomans, Lorraine Roach, Laura White

Lay: Dudley Anderson, Eric Corneliusen, Darrell Greenwood, Steve Jarvis, Laura Krumdieck, Harry Miller, Otto Ratz, Allan Sipes

Floor Committee # 4 Education

Chair- Howard Schreibeis *Secretary-* Russ Dewell

Pastor: Tim Christenson, Michael Donnan, Gary Krumdieck, Dan Jacobs, Steve Thomas, Ken Zoeller

Commissioned: Nicolaus Harding

Lay: Alicyn Chapman, Gregg Hein, Daniel Horman, Keith Jakle, Ray Koschel, Michael McNulty, Brian Mittelstedter, Keith Myhre, Jerry Roseleip, Brady Smelser

Floor Committee # 5 Administration

Chair- Larry Miller *Secretary-* Matt Schiemann

Pastor: Andrew Eckert, James Koss, Dan Merz, Paul Shupe, Mark Wiegert

Commissioned: Cameron Heiliger

Lay: Keith Fletcher, John Foster, Thomas Halvorson, Tyler Larsen, Jerry Lehr, Chris Moen, Jerome Schelle, Bryan Yamasaki

Nominations and Elections Committee

Chair: Blake Marshall

Pastor: Kyle Whaley, Willis McCall

Commissioned:

Lay: Kale Bauer, Joel Olinghouse

Credentials/Registration Committee

Chair - Mark Schultz

Pastor - Rick Schneider

Technical

Chair - Pastor Wendt

Assistant - Tom Kosche

Trinity School and Church Support Crew

Rick Thomas, Jonathan Boll

Convention Musician - Ted Kober

Office

Convention Manager - Ruth Kosche

Treasurer - Susan Loomans

Assistants - Laura McCoy, Andrea Heileger

Chaplain

First Vice - President Tabbert

Reader

Second Vice - President Ryan Wendt

Preachers

Circuit Visitors

VOTING DELEGATES

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
Redeemer	Anaconda	Jim Pierce	
Holy Trinity/ Grace	Belgrade Three Forks	Charles Lehmann	Jerry Lehr
Emmaus Lutheran Mission	Big Timber/ Livingston	Daniel Merz	Brain Mittelsteder
Christ the King	Billings	Ryan Wendt	Kendall Hartman
Hope Our Redeemer	Billings Worden	Robert Lane	Jerome Schelle
Mt. Olive/ St. Paul	Billings/ Roundup	Willis McCall	Gregg Hein
Our Savior	Billings	Ken Zoeller	Keith Myhre
Trinity	Billings	Daniel Rinderknecht	Ray Koschel
Faith	Boulder	Vacant – Non-Calling	Keith Fletcher
First	Bozeman	Samuel Grayl	Stephen Schultz
St. John St. Paul	Belfry Bridger	Paul Shupe	Daniel Horman
St. Mark Zion	Butte Whitehall	James Mavis	Michael McAnulty
Zion St. Paul	Chinook Havre	Vacant-Called	Chris Moen
Mt Calvary Concordia Trinity	Colstrip Forsyth Hysham	Blake Marshall	Tyler Larsen
Our Redeemer	Columbia Falls	Matthew Nelson	
Faith Holy Cross	Condon Seeley Lake	Erik Iverson	Jim Normark
Church at Creston	Creston	Kyle Winter (Excused)	
Crow Lutheran Ministry	Crow Agency	Daniel Jacobs	Bobbie Schenderline

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
Our Savior	Denton	Mark Wiegert	Timothy Crosmer
St. Paul	Lewistown		
Trinity	Stanford		
St. John	Deer Lodge	Gary Krumdieck	Laura Krumdieck
Living Water	Dillon	Kenneth Stensrud	Joe Veland
Shepherd of the Hills	Ennis	(Excused)	
Holy Cross	Eureka	David McCarthy (Excused)	
St. John	Fairfield	Vacant – Non-Calling	
Zion	Power		
St. John	Fairview	Vacant-Called	Tom Halvorson
Trinity	Sidney		
Grace	Fallon	Greg Lucido	Brady Smelser
Our Savior	Glendive		
First	Fort Benton	Joshua Reinke	Darrell Greenwood
Faith	Glasgow	John Vallie	Kerrey Heppner
Trinity	Plentywood		
Trinity	Wolf Point		
Peace/Christ	Great Falls	Joshua Reinke	Darrell Greenwood
Trinity	Great Falls	Jonathan Schlutz	
Grace	Hamilton	Vern Sandersfeld	Steve Jarvis
Redeemer	Hardin	James Koss	John Foster
Trinity	Harlowton	Terry Forke	Dale Rittierodt
First	Helena	Larry Miller	Walter Warehman
Trinity	Kalispell	Brian Lee	Diane Lee
Circle of Life	Lame Deer	Dennis Bauer	Russel Lundgren
St. John	Laurel	Arlo Pullmann	Chad Nauman
St. John	Libby	Steven Thomas	Daniel Howard

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
Trinity	Miles City	Howard Schreibeis	Alicyn Chapman
First	Missoula	David Johnson	Dudley Anderson
Messiah	Missoula	Russell Fitch	Keith Jakle
St. Paul	Park City	Russel Dewell	Allan Sipes
Mt. Calvary Zion	Polson/ St. Ignatius	Kyle Whaley	Mark Scott
St. Paul	Ronan	Richard Schneider	Amy Schneider
Shepherd of the Valley	Salmon, ID	Michael Musegades	Bryan Yamasaki
Our Savior	Stevensville	Andrew Eckert	Harry Miller
Trinity	Superior	Russell Fitch	Keith Jakle
Shepherd of the Valley	Thompson Falls	Jakob Berger	Roland Sweatman
St. Peter	Whitefish	Timothy Christenson	Otto Ratz
Concordia	Williston	David Behm	Eric Corneliusen

ADVISORY DELEGATES

Pastoral Advisory Delegates

Brandt, Rev. Christopher (Mt. Olive, Billings)
Christensen, Rev. Matthew (Chaplain on Active Duty)
DiConti, Rev. Marc (Chaplain on Active Duty)
Keinath, Rev. Daniel (Trinity, Billings)
Klug, Rev. Timothy (Candidate)
Potter, Rev. Jeffery (Candidate)
Preus, Rev. David (Deployed Missionary)
Schiemann, Rev. Matthew (First, Bozeman)
Timber, Rev. Park

Ordained Emeritus Advisory Delegates

Bueltmann, Rev. Kevin
Christiansen, Rev. Eric
Donnan, Rev. John
Ebel, Rev. Al
Everson, Rev. Gale
Kaelberer, Rev. Erich
Larson, Rev. Raymond
Lehmann, Rev. Carl
Linderman, Rev. Bruce
Menagh, Rev. Jason
Nicolaus, Rev. M.M.
Reiner, Rev. Darold
Wareham, Rev. Christopher
Weishoff, Rev. Robert
Wieger, Rev. Raymond

Board of Directors Members

Rev. Terry Forke, President
Rev. Christopher Tabbert, First Vice-President
Rev. Ryan Wendt, Second Vice-President
Charles Lehmann, Secretary
Susan Loomans, Treasurer
Rev. Matthew Nelson
Roy Arves
Kendall Hartman
Keith Meier
Jerry Roseleip
Richard Thomas

Commissioned Advisory Delegates

Boll, Caroline
Boll, Jennifer
Boll, John
Bueltmann, Tawn
Colclasure, Richelle
Colclasure, Steven
Doucette, Rachel
Eberhard, Susan

Elliott, Sarah
Erger, Lynne
Groeling, Sarah
Harding, Nicholas
Hensel, Tanya
Heiliger, Andrea
Heiliger, Cameron
Hobus, David
Holste, Ken
Johnson, Erin
Johnson, Melody
Kern, Becky
Kosche, Ken
Kosche, Thomas
Lane, Julie
Lee, Debbie
Loomans, Ted
McCoy, Laura
Peiffer, Clarie (Hoy)
Rasmussen, Suzanne
Reeves, Sonja
Rehbein, Erika
Rehbein, Timothy
Roach, Lorraine
Scott, JeAnne (Faris)
Thomas, Richard
Van Luchene, Darrell
Van Luchene, Sue Zann
Wegner, Willem

MT District Nominations

Committee Rev. Blake Marshall,
Chairman
Rev. James Koss
Rev. Kyle Whaley
Kale Bauer
Joel Olinghouse

PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

The parliamentary process is intended to enable a group to conduct its business with the least possible confusion in order that everyone in the group may understand as clearly as possible what is being decided.

The parliamentary process also protects the rights of both minority and majority within an assembly. Unless the assembly creates special rules itself, the rules given in "Robert's Rules" are followed.

In order to help delegates understand parliamentary procedure we offer these few basic rules and procedures.

1. Always address the chairman, or the presiding officer. Debate between members is not permitted. Comments and discussion are addressed to the assembly.
2. Wait until the chairman has recognized you, and granted you permission to speak. "The chair recognizes Mr./Mrs. ____ " "You have the floor."
3. Main Motions require a majority vote, and are amendable.
4. Try to learn the basic language used in parliamentary procedure. This is given below for your use:

MAIN MOTION:

I move

I move the adoption of this report

I wish to present the following resolution _____. *I move its adoption, or I move the adoption of the proposition in the report.*

COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions presented by a convention committee do not require a motion or a second. The presumption is that this has already happened since the committee has formalized, adopted and presented the resolution to the convention.

The chairman says, "This resolution (motion) is now before the Convention" places any motion or resolution on the floor for discussion. *Prior to this announcement by the chairman any discussion is out of order.*

POSTPONE INDEFINITELY

I move to postpone this matter indefinitely. In effect kills a motion.

AMEND

I move to amend the motion by inserting ____ between ____ and ____.

I move to amend by adding ____ after ____.

I move to amend by striking out ____ and inserting ____.

I move to amend by striking out the motion and substituting this motion. (Read or state substitute motion)

COMMIT OR RE-COMMIT

I move that this matter be referred to a committee of ____ to be named by ____ with instruction ____.

POSTPONE TO A SET TIME

I move that this matter be postponed to ____

I move that this matter be postponed to ____ meeting at (name time) and be made a Special Order of business. (2/3 vote is required)

PREVIOUS QUESTION

I move the previous question. (2/3 vote required)

SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. Only substantive amendments to a resolution shall be offered from the floor (those impacting its purpose or effect). Editorial corrections or non-substantive changes to introduced resolutions should be shared in writing with the Secretary. Until a resolution is presented to the delegates, any such changes should be suggested directly to the floor committee chair.
2. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
3. Delegates are encouraged to keep their comments on task. In order to facilitate this, the Chair may ask delegates to limit their debate time. No delegate or representative may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak a second time until all delegates and representatives 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 or her speech.
5. 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 why the committee believes the original motion is to be preferred. 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 if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion dies. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or adopt, the original motion is again considered.
6. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the convention.
7. A delegate may speak against a resolution which was drafted by a floor committee upon which the delegate serves.

2022 MT District – LCMS Convention Expense Reimbursements

The MT District will cover delegates' (Pastor, Lay, and Advisory), Board of Directors', parish ministry committee members', and special invited guests' travel, meals, and lodging expenses as indicated below. All other convention guests will attend at their own expense.

Expenses will be reimbursed on an accountable basis in accordance with IRS guidelines. In the case of lodging and meals, this requires itemized receipts for all claimed expenses. Mileage reimbursement requires beginning and ending odometer readings and days traveled. **Use of the 2022 District Convention Check Request Form is REQUIRED for all reimbursements,** and is located following these directions.

Travel.

- Delegates are encouraged to travel to and from the convention by privately owned vehicle. Please share rides when possible. Any alternate method of travel must be approved in advance through the MT District office.
- The district will reimburse eligible attendees at the rate of **48 cents per mile** to the driver/owner of the vehicle. In order to meet the IRS reporting requirements, the beginning and ending odometer reading and dates of use must be reported. Only the driver/owner of the vehicle will be reimbursed for mileage.
- Mileage allowance will be limited to the most direct route from the delegate/guest home to/from Billings.
- **Two-day travel is automatically authorized** for those individuals traveling more than 300 miles to the convention using the most direct route from their homes to Billings.

Lodging.

- The MT District will cover up to \$50.00 plus the applicable taxes and fees per night for lodging during the convention. No fees/charges (i.e. room service, movies, etc.) beyond covered lodging will be reimbursed.
- The MT District will cover costs of lodging from Sunday night through Wednesday night. If additional nights are required, reimbursement will require advance approval through the MT District office.
- **Covered lodging expenses for eligible attendees staying at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center will be billed directly to the MT District office.** Attendees will be required to pay any charges above the covered lodging expenses at checkout including \$50/night for single room request. **If you have no charges above the covered lodging expenses, you will not be required to make any payment at checkout.**
- Eligible attendees may choose to lodge at a different establishment and will be reimbursed as noted above. Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement of lodging expenses while traveling to and from the convention is limited to those individuals traveling over 300 miles from their homes to Billings. Lodging reimbursement during travel is limited to \$100 maximum per night charge plus taxes. Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement.

Meals.

- **All meals while in travel status and while attending the convention are included.** The convention banquet dinner is provided by the district at no cost to eligible attendees; meal reimbursement during the banquet is not available. Breakfast is provided Monday-Thursday for those lodging at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center and will not be otherwise provided or reimbursed.
- You are authorized a meal reimbursement of: **breakfast \$10.00, Sunday; lunch \$10.00, Sunday-Thursday; and dinner \$20, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.** Itemized receipts are required for all reimbursed meals (total of bill with tip and list of items). Alcoholic beverages are not eligible expenses. If you cover the meal costs of other delegates please include their names on the receipt. If your receipt includes the costs of ineligible guests, deduct their items from the total submitted for reimbursement. Meals consumed prior to leaving home and after returning home are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement of meals on 6/11 and 6/17 are reserved for those traveling an excess of 300 miles each way.

Check Request Form Instructions:

1. **Please print.** “Payable to,” “Date,” **full** “Mailing Address,” “From,” “Mode of transportation,” expense information, and “Signature” are required blanks. **Incomplete forms will result in delayed payment.**
2. Itemized receipts are required for all meal and lodging reimbursements. Original receipts **OR** copies may be submitted (the IRS recommends you keep a copy or the originals for your own records). Actual odometer readings are required for mileage reimbursements.
3. Meals reimbursements are available as follows, unless prior authorization is received:
 - Breakfast, \$10.00 maximum, Sunday
 - Lunch, \$10.00 maximum, Sunday-Thursday
 - Dinner, \$20.00 maximum, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - On Tuesday, a dinner banquet is provided; no other reimbursement will be authorized.
4. Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.
5. Your check request and receipts may be submitted one of two ways:
 - BY USPS
The Montana District LCMS
759 Newman Lane, Suite 2
Billings, MT 59101
 - BY EMAIL
Treasurer@mtdistlcms.org
6. **In accordance with IRS regulations on accountable reimbursement plans, reimbursement requests submitted after the 60-day grace period will not be accepted. Submit your reimbursement request postmarked or emailed no later than August 10, 2022.**

The MONTANA DISTRICT of the LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD 2022 DISTRICT CONVENTION CHECK REQUEST FORM

Mail completed form and documentation to: The Montana District – LCMS, 759 Newman Lane, Suite 2, Billings, MT 59101

Payable to: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Trip To: Billings From: _____

Reason: 2022 District Convention

Mode of Transportation (circle one): I drove I was a passenger

continue on blank paper if
necessary

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
Dates:	6/11/2022	6/12/2022	6/13/2022	6/14/2022	6/15/2022	6/16/2022	6/17/2022	SUBTOTAL		TOTALS
Odometer Reading										
Beginning										
Ending										
Mileage								=	X 0.48=	
Motel									Motel	
Meals									Meals	

ALL SUBMITTED MEAL AND MOTEL EXPENSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ITEMIZED RECEIPTS

Any expenses recorded in blue boxes require prior approval from the MT District office.

Submit Completed Form and Receipts to:

USPS
The Montana District-LCMS
759 Newman Lane, Suite 2
Billings, MT 59101
OR, EMAIL
Treasurer@mtdistlcms.org

Submit no later than 8/10/2022

Total of Above

To help further the Mission of the Church, please
deduct this amount from my check as a donation
to the MT District

Total Requested Payment

X

Signature of Person **Requesting** Reimbursement

X

Signature of Person **Authorizing** Payment (District President, Treasurer, or Board of

EXPENSE To Account: Program Expense: District Convention

CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

2019

60 Mount Olive, Billings
 100 Trinity, Billings
 90 First, Bozeman
 90 Concordia, Forsyth
 100 Grace, Hamilton
 100 St Paul, Havre
 65 Trinity, Stanford
 65 Our Savior, Stevensville
 60 St. Peter, Whitefish

2020

65 Holy Cross, Eureka
 65 St. John, Fairfield
 90 St. John, Fairview
 100 Trinity, Harlowton
 125 Trinity, Kalispell
 20 Circle of Life, Lame Deer
 120 First, Missoula
 105 St. Paul, Ronan
 60 Trinity, Superior
 90 Trinity, Wolf Point

2021

125 Redeemer, Anaconda
 105 St. John, Belfry
 55 Christ the King, Billings
 65 Our Redeemer, Columbia Falls
 55 Faith, Condon
 70 Our Savior, Denton
 90 Grace, Fallon
 60 Christ Lutheran for the Deaf, Great Falls
 65 Peace, Great Falls
 115 Trinity, Miles City
 55 Messiah, Missoula
 40 Mt. Calvary, Polson
 55 Holy Cross, Seeley Lake
 95 Grace, Three Forks

2022

20 Holy Trinity, Belgrade
 50 Hope, Billings
 40 Our Savior, Billings
 110 St. Paul, Bridger
 25 Crow Lutheran Ministry, Crow Agency
 40 Shepherd of the Hills, Ennis
 130 Trinity, Great Falls
 80 Redeemer, Hardin
 135 First, Helena
 80 Trinity, Hysham
 105 St. Paul, Lewistown
 110 Trinity, Plentywood
 110 St. Paul, Roundup
 75 Zion, St. Ignatius
 10 Shepherd of the Valley, Thompson Falls

2022 ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis Bauer	40	Arlo Pullmann	35
David Behm	10	Darold Reiner	50
Jakob Berger	7	Joshua Reinke	8
Christopher Brandt	41	Daniel Rinderknecht	39
Kevin Bueltmann	11	Vern Sandersfeld	39
Steven Carlson	40	Matthew Schiemann	6
Matt Christensen	15	Richard Schneider	6
Timothy Christenson	11	Howard Schreibeis	37
Eric Christiansen	31	Jonathan Schultz	14
Russell Dewell	15	Mark Schultz	39
John Donnan	29	Paul Shupe	11
Al Ebel	34	Ken Stensrud	14
Andrew Eckert	26	Christopher Tabbert	24
Gale Everson	44	Steven Thomas	23
Russell Fitch	13	Park Timber	11
Terry Forke	39	John Vallie	22
Sam Grayl	18	Christopher Wareham	42
Mark Grunst	41	Ryan Wendt	18
Erik Iverson	16	Kyle Whaley	12
Daniel Jacobs	36	Raymond Wiegert	63
David Johnson	34	Marcus Williams	5
Erich Kaelberer	11	Kyle Winter	6
Daniel Keinath	13	Bruce Zagel	37
Timothy Klug	32	Ken Zoeller	23
James Koss	26		
Robert Lane	24		
Raymond Larson	47		
Carl Lehmann	27		
Charles Lehmann	15		
Bruce Linderman	46		
Greg Lucido	22		
Blake Marshall	21		
James Mavis	29		
Willis McCall	13		
David McCarthy	8		
Jason Menagh	35		
Daniel Merz	6		
Larry Miller	39		
Michael Musegades	10		
Matt Nelson	18		
Mark Nicolaus	52		
Gerald Paul	22		
James Pierce	4		
Jeffery Potter	35		
David Preus	11		

2022 Commissioned - Ministers Anniversaries

Jennifer Boll	20
Susan Eberhard	8
Sarah Elliott	16
Sarah Groeling	2
Nicolas Harding	6
Andrea Heiliger	14
Cameron Heiliger	6
Tanya Hensel	8
Erin Johnson	1
Thomas Kosche	19
Debbie Lee	13
Ted Loomans	27
Laura McCoy	21
Kianna Ogilvie	1
Claire Peiffer (Hoy)	5
Sonja Reeves	7
Erika Rehbein	8
Timothy Rehbein	8
Richard Thomas	40
Laura White	12

2021 Circuit Statistics

Southern Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Belfry	St. John (2020)	50	48	15
Billings	Christ the King	120	102	77
	Hope (2018)	53	47	27
	Mt Olive	488	378	135
	Our Savior	104	85	52
	Trinity	1415	1100	286
Bridger	St. Paul (2019)	75	61	22
Crow Agency	Crow Ministry	73	43	1
Hardin	Redeemer (2020)	76	63	26
Harlowton	Trinity (2020)	23	23	13
Lame Deer	Circle of Life	72	40	15
Laurel	St. John	506	396	84
Park City	St. Paul	104	89	38
Roundup	St. Paul	14	12	7
Worden	Our Redeemer (2018)	20	16	16

Western Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Condon	Faith (2017)	20	20	16
Hamilton	Grace	371	314	88
Missoula	First	578	494	152
	Messiah	72	68	36
Salmon, ID	Shepherd of the Valley	131	128	39
Seeley Lake	Holy Cross	42	38	26
Stevensville	Our Savior (2017)	140	135	48
Superior	Trinity (2020)	29	29	14
Thompson Falls	Shepherd	38	35	25

Eastern Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Colstrip	Mt. Calvary (2020)	180	146	14
Fairview	St. John (2016)	41	37	13
Fallon	Grace	17	0	9
Forsyth	Concordia	198	147	44
Glasgow	Faith	40	32	11
Glendive	Our Savior	408	304	98
Hysham	Trinity	54	39	11
Miles City	Trinity (2019)	442	321	106
Plentywood	Trinity (2020)	71	58	18
Sidney	Trinity (2020)	104	90	55
Williston, ND	Concordia	123	96	50
Wolf Point	Trinity (2011)	29	29	14

Central Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Chinook	Zion (2017)	90	65	40
Denton	Our Savior (2017)	29	29	15
Fairfield	St. John (2019)	23	20	13
Ft. Benton	First (2005)	34	34	18
Great Falls	Christ Lutheran for the Deaf (2018)	24	24	6
	Peace	132	112	54
	Trinity	365	276	72
Havre	St. Paul (2016)	120	90	59
Lewistown	St. Paul (2019)	124	100	38
Power	Zion (2020)	98	80	25
Stanford	Trinity (2020)	34	29	18

Divide Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Anaconda	Redeemer	13	13	72
Belgrade	Holy Trinity (2020)	183	168	45
Big Timber/ Livingston	Emmaus Lutheran Church	32	27	32
Boulder	Faith Lutheran	32	29	20
Bozeman	First Lutheran	446	311	109
Butte	St. Mark	184	146	33
Deer Lodge	St. John (2017)	107	97	40
Dillon	Living Water	17	16	12
Ennis	Shepherd	69	50	31
Helena	First Lutheran (2020)	569	434	55
Three Forks	Grace (2018)	105	87	11
Whitehall	Zion	84	73	22

Flathead Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Columbia Falls	Our Redeemer	250	230	120
Creston	The Church at Creston (2020)	298	269	140
Eureka	Holy Cross (2020)	142	138	44
Kalispell	Trinity	1096	1086	300
Libby	St. John	122	80	37
Polson	Mt. Calvary	31	28	23
Ronan	St. Paul (2020)	85	85	25
St. Ignatius	Zion	35	34	22
Whitefish	St. Peter	41	39	29

TOTALS	68	11,335	9,365	3,281
			Avg. Att:	48

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT –June to December 2018

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Schiemann, Matthew	Installed as Associate Pastor of First Lutheran Church (Bozeman) on 07/11/18
Pierce, James	Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Anaconda) on 07/15/18
Wiegert, Mark	Ordained and Installed as SMP of St. Paul/Trinity/Our Savior Lutheran Church (Lewistown, Stanford, Denton) on 07/22/18
Behm, David	Installed as Sole Pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church (Williston, ND) on 11/05/18

Changes Within the District

Kaarre, Martin	Resigned from Roster 02/01/18
Flannery, Michael	Active to Emeritus 08/06/18

Transferred to Other Districts

DiConti, Marc	Northwest on 07/01/18
Flannery, Michael	Rocky Mountain District on 08/06/18

Called to Glory

Weishoff, Robert	Called to Glory on 10/20/18
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COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Eberhard, Susan	Installed as Principal at First Lutheran Classical School (Missoula) on 07/22/18
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Changes with the District

Rehbein, Timothy	Installed at Trinity Lutheran School (Kalispell) on 07/11/18
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Transferred to Other Districts

Edgar, Stephanie	Grace Lutheran School (Florida-Georgia District) on 07/01/18
Johnson, Ardith	Northwest District on 12/31/18

Called to Glory

Speed, Cynthia	Called to Glory on 09/12/18
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CONGREGATIONS

Trinity Lutheran Church (Harlowton) and St. Paul Lutheran Church formed a multi-congregation parish as of 11/25/18

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT - 2019

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Fitch, Russell	Installed as Sole Pastor of Messiah/Trinity Lutheran Church (Missoula, Superior) on 01/09/19
Zagel, Bruce	Transferred from the South Wisconsin District on 02/14/19 (Emeritus)
Christenson, Timothy	Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church (Whitefish) on 08/25/19
Berger, Jakob	Installed as Sole Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Thompson Falls) on 12/01/19

Changes Within the District

Forke, Terry	Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (Roundup) on 01/13/19
McCall, Willis	Installed as Senior Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church (Billings) on 04/07/19
Koss, James	Emeritus to Active on 05/05/19
	Installed as Sole Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Hardin) on 05/05/19
Mitchell, Robert	Active to Emeritus on 06/10/19
Salinas, Adam	Active to Candidate on 09/11/19
Tabbert, Christopher	Active to Emeritus on 11/01/19

Transferred to Other Districts

Peterson, Kevin	Zion Lutheran Church, Kansas, (Kansas District) on 05/20/19
Schopp, Chad	St. John/Bethlehem Lutheran Church (North Wisconsin District) on 05/27/19

Called to Glory

Iverson, Edwin	Called to Glory on 02/01/19
Schiefelbein, Herbert	Called to Glory on 04/29/19

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Harding, Nicolas	Installed as a Director of Music and Teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church & School (Billings) on 07/07/19
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Boll, Jennifer	Installed as a Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School (Billings) on 08/18/19
White, Laura	Installed as Principal of Trinity Lutheran School (Kalispell) on 09/08/19
Transferred to Other Districts	
Braaten, Rebecca	St. Paul Lutheran Church (Northwest District) on 07/15/19

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – 2020

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Musegades, Michael	Installed as Sole Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Salmon, ID) on 03/01/20
McCarthy, David	Installed as Sole Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Eureka) on 05/17/20
Brandt, Christopher	Transferred from the Wyoming District (Emeritus) on 06/20/20
Merz, Daniel	Installed as Sole Pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church (Big Timber/Livingston) on 08/23/20
Reinke, Joshua	Installed as Sole Pastor of Peace/Christ Lutheran for the Deaf on 11/29/20

Changes Within the District

Schlund, Steven	Active to Emeritus on 04/27/20
Preus, Rolf	Active to Emeritus on 08/10/20
Paul, Gerald	Installed as a Missionary to the Cayman Islands on 09/06/20
Brandt, Christopher	Emeritus to Active on 11/08/20
	Installed as an Associate Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church on 11/08/20

Transferred to Other Districts

Cutler, Mark	St. John Lutheran Church (South Wisconsin District) on 01/28/20
Thompson, Douglas	Trinity/St. Paul Lutheran Church (Minnesota North District) on 02/29/20
Salinas, Adam	Indiana District on 05/15/20
Schlund, Steven	Indiana District on 08/06/20
Preus, Rolf	Minnesota North District on 08/10/20

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Groeling, Sarah	Commissioned and Installed as a Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School (Kalispell) on 09/13/20
Hobus, David	Transferred from the California/Nevada/Hawaii District on 12/17/20 (Emeritus)

Changes Within the District

Cutler, Joann

Active to Candidate on 01/26/20

Erger, Lynne

Active to Emeritus on 07/01/20

Transferred to Other Districts

Cutler, Joann

South Wisconsin District on 1/28/2020

Salinas, BethAnn

Indiana District on 05/15/20

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – 2021

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Schultz, Jonathan	Installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Great Falls) on 07/18/21
Lee, Brian	Installed as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Kalispell) on 07/25/21
Sprengeler, Erwin	Transferred from the Northwest District on 11/01/21 (Emeritus)

Changes Within the District

Reinke, Joshua	Installed as Sole Pastor of First Lutheran Church (Fort Benton) on 4/21/21
Grunst, Mark	Active to Emeritus on 07/31/21
Bren, Donald	Reinstated to the Roster on 09/01/21

Transferred to Other Districts

Warner, David	Our Savior/Redeemer Lutheran Church (South Dakota District) on 01/01/21
Harr, Wade	United Lutheran Parish-Christ/Zion/Trinity Lutheran Church (South Dakota District) on 03/08/21

Called to Glory

Bliese, Williams	Called to Glory on 09/26/21
Mitchell, Robert	Called to Glory on 12/11/21

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Elliott, Sarah	Installed as a Teacher of Trinity Lutheran School on 09/12/21
Johnson, Erin	Commissioned and Installed as a Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School on 09/12/21
Ogilvie, Kianna	Commissioned and Installed as a Teach at Trinity Lutheran School on 09/12/21

Changes Within the District

Renken, Alyssa	Removed from Roster on 11/30/21
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Transferred to Other Districts

Van Andel, Judith	Minnesota South District on 04/11/21
Van Andel, Roger	Minnesota South District on 04/11/21

Called to Glory
Schreck, Gerald

Called to Glory on 12/16/21

CONGREGATIONS

Peace Lutheran Church (Great Falls)/Christ for the Deaf Lutheran Church (Great Falls)/First Lutheran Church (Fort Benton) formed a multi-congregation parish as of 04/11/21

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT -January to May 2022

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Krumdieck, Gary

Installed as Sole Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church (Deer Lodge) on 05/15/22

Changes Within the District

Bueltmann, Kevin

Active to Emeritus on 02/07/22

Transferred to Other Districts

Williams, Marcus

Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church (English District) on 04/25/22

Called to Glory

Stenzel, Kent

Called to Glory on 03/29/22

Nicolaus, Mark

Called to Glory on 04/27/22

“Thy Word”

President’s Report 2022 Montana District Convention

Unmoored- our nation has been chewing away at the line that has provided safe anchor from the beginning. For centuries believers and unbelievers alike had some sense that the Word of God contained wisdom that stood the nation and its citizens in good stead. No more! We are completely unmoored from God’s Word. No one outside of the Church any longer finds value in God’s Word. What is more, huge swaths of “the Church” have abandoned God’s Word for their own understanding. Without this anchor we are subject to the wind, waves, tides, and terrors of this world. The authors of the Formula of Concord rightly reminded us that the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Let’s take a few minutes to look at what Psalm 119, the source of our theme verse, has to say about the Word of God.

I. His Word.

A. God’s Word gives life.

1. “My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!” V25
2. “I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word!” V 107

The Word of God created all life in the beginning when He spoke it into existence. His Word alone gives life when it is spoken as the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As you receive physical life by God’s creation, so you receive spiritual life when He creates faith in Christ in you by the power of His Word.

B. God’s Word never changes.

1. “Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.” V89
2. “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” V160

The Word of God is the only permanent fixture of truth upon which we can build our lives. Our culture presses science forward as the final arbiter of truth, but this can only lead you away from the truth of God’s Word. Scientific truths change from age to age as observations change, but the Word of God is always true and fixed by God’s command.

C. God’s Word directs our life.

1. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” V 105
2. “The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.” V 130

Book stores are crammed full of self-help tomes. The Word of God does not teach you how to help yourself. It teaches you how God has helped you through the work

of Jesus and how it continues to help you by strengthening your faith. He provides the answers you need to live your life in faith in Jesus who is the light of the world.

D. God's Word gives salvation.

1. "My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." V 81

2. "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word." V 114

The Word of God teaches the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith means to see what can be only seen through faith. It is not based on evidence, but on the Word of God. Consequently, Christians are alive in hope. We hope in Jesus to have all that we need for this life and the next.

E. God's Word gives strength

1. "My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!"

V 28

2. "Then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word."

V 42

Do you sometimes get weary with the drag and stress of this daily life? Where do you turn for strength? The psalmist reminds us that the Word of God is our strength. We cannot find strength in ourselves or in our own words. Likewise, the words of worldly voices may sound cute, and perhaps even wise, but only the Word of God can give the strength you need to endure in faith through this sinful world.

F. God's Word gives joy.

1. "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

V103

2. "I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil." V 162

The world depends on happiness to make it through the day. Happiness, however, is dependent on the circumstances of this life. If the circumstances are not what you envisioned, you will not be happy. Joy is not based the circumstances of life, but on the Word of God. We hear that we are forgiven in Jesus, and we rejoice despite the circumstances of life.

II. His Word in the Church

As the pressures on the Church grow as result of living in a world that is less respectful of the faith, it will become more and more significant that Christians are steeped in the Word of God. It is the only source of strength, peace, and endurance for the days ahead. This is why we listen to the Word during the Sunday services and bible class. This is why we attend weekly bible studies and hold family devotions. That is why, even at district conventions we devote so much time to the study of God's Word.

The problem is that sinners forget God's Word. Even in the most dramatic of circumstances we can forget what God has said to us. The ladies went to the tomb on Easter morning and the angel said, *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."* Luke 24:5-7. If the ladies who cared for Jesus had to be reminded of His Word how much more so do we, who in the busyness of our lives lose track of what He has to say to us, need to be reminded.

This is one reason that God invented the Office of Pastor. God sends Pastors to congregations to remind us of His Word, to deliver the gifts of Word and Sacrament so that we can regularly hear what God has to say to us. Pastors, as God's stewards, not only speak to the church members God has given them, but they also speak to a world that is lost in sin. Teachers in our Lutheran schools also teach God's Word daily to the children in their care.

Much has been written about how the Church is in decline. While the number of Americans who claim to be Christians fell from 70% in 1950 to 60% in 2020, the overall percentage of Americans attending church fell from 23% to 8% during the same time period.¹ Furthermore, the number of Americans claiming no religious affiliation grew from 36 million in 2007 to 56 million in 2014. Estimates are that 3500 people are leaving the church every day.

One perspective on this decline is to wring our hands, descend into a depression, and calculate the days until the Church disappears. On the other hand, we could begin to calculate how many people need to hear about Jesus. The answer, of course, is all of them. This ought to remind us that Jesus said, *"The fields are white for the harvest."* John 4:35 There is much for us to do.

When Jesus contemplated the harvest of those who were yet to know Him, He did not wring His hands. Instead, He folded them, and encouraged you to do likewise. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* Luke 10:2

In 2022 we can again say that the laborers are few. From 2004 to 2018 enrollment for pre-seminary (undergraduates) students declined 59% and for Lutheran school teacher 61%. Enrollment at the seminaries has declined 55%.² Furthermore, 44% of active ordained men are over 55 years of age.

With these statistics in mind The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has initiated a program entitled "Set Apart to Serve" (SAS). It's goal is to encourage young men and women to go into full time church work. The program's early research has found that the top four influences that lead young people into church work are: Pastors,

¹ Church information from "The Development of Lutheran Faith Formation for the Next Generation: A synopsis of the Generation to Generation Project of the Mid-South District LCMS."

² Set Apart to Serve research

Commissioned workers, Family, Lutheran School teachers. They have also discovered that youth going into church work are generally deciding in late middle school to early high school years. Resources for this program can be found at the LCMS website.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Church workers, parents, grandparents, congregational members, for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel please prayerfully consider how you may encourage young people to consider church work. I sincerely hope that this convention will adopt a resolution encouraging congregations to participate in "Set Apart to Serve."

III. His Word in the Home.

Worldly pressures are not only growing on the Church but also on the Christian family. There are forces that have proudly, publicly announced their desire to eradicate the nuclear family. These are generally anti-marriage forces. They believe that marriage harms their opportunities to function in the world as they desire. Christian families have only begun to feel this force. A more ubiquitous, if not widely recognized, force is that of extra-curricular activities that compete with Christian worship and education and fracture the family with a constant busyness. Many Christian parents have been convinced by the spirit of the age that they are being good parents when they enroll their children in multiple activities that just happen to preclude attendance at Sunday worship or catechism instruction. Somehow making it into a good university, or gaining a scholarship, has become more important than investing in an eternal welfare.

In contrast, listen to what God says about the responsibilities of parents. God commands parents to train children in the Word. *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4 Long before Paul, Moses wrote, *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* Deuteronomy 6:6-9. At its 2019 convention The LCMS called for parents to take these texts to heart in its Resolution 12-03a "Resolved, that congregations should encourage and train parents, guardians, and members to be active teachers and life-long learners of the faith..." (Emphasis added)

If Christian parents were to take this charge seriously perhaps we could head off a looming crisis. The family is in trouble in the United States. Although there is ample evidence, very few people seem to admit the significance of the father of the family actively living the Word of God.³ If a father does not go to Church, even if the mother does only 2% of the children will become a regular worshipper in adulthood. If a father does attend, regardless of what the mother does over 66% of the children will become

³ Family information from "The Development of Lutheran Faith Formation for the Next Generation: A synopsis for the Generation to Generation Project of the Mid-South District LCMS.

regular worshippers. If a mother is the first person in a family to become a Christian, there is a 17% probability the household will follow. If a father is the first person in a family to become a Christian, there is a 93% probability that the household will follow. These hard statistics are not meant to diminish the role of the mother, they are simply a much-ignored reality.

These statistics also reflect how households in America have changed. Fewer than 25% of households are traditional nuclear families.⁴ Our Lutheran school Teachers experience the fallout of this truth daily. They are also undoubtedly aware that 33% of American children are born out of wedlock.

How can Christian parents prepare their children for life with Jesus while at the same time help fend off the decline of our culture? The answer is not rocket science. Simply put, do what our Father has told us to do, read, study, and discuss His Word in our families. Consider the following statistics. If the Word of God is not taught and discussed in the family around 20% of the children will continue in the faith. If the Word of God is taught and discussed in the family around 65% of the children will continue in the faith. When both parents attend Sunday School 72% of their children will attend Sunday School when grown. When neither parent attends Sunday School 6% of their children will attend when grown. I sincerely hope that this convention will adopt a resolution encouraging, and equipping parents to raise their children in the faith.

IV. His Word in the Lutheran School.

One of the most overlooked jewels in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is our Lutheran schools. These schools cannot take the place of Christian parents, but they are a marvelous supplement, and are pledged to the teaching of God's Word. We all know and agree that religion cannot be taught in public schools, but Lutheran Schools are places where God's Word is taught in every subject. Even if you do not have school age children you should be aware that our Lutheran Teachers seek to relate the Word of God to every subject taught in school. Jesus is not relegated to "religion" class. He is real in every subject.

In addition to godly subject matter, Lutheran Schools are also places where teachers model the love of Christ. Children are not subjected to the latest fads of the godless world in Lutheran schools. Instead, they are taught to avoid the ways of the world. This is not only taught. It is modelled in the words and lives of their teachers. Sometimes these attitudes are more readily caught than taught.

Lutheran Schools do not drive a wedge between the students and their parents. They are places where families are supported through the Word. A lateral benefit of Lutheran Schools is that because they follow the Word of God, they are also in the process of encouraging and enabling families to function as God calls them to function.

⁴ Pew Research Group in "The Development of Lutheran Faith Formation for the Next Generation: A synopsis of the Generation to Generation Project of the Mid-South District LCMS.

I sincerely hope that this convention will adopt a resolution encouraging the support of our Lutheran grade and high schools.

One more issue should be drawn to your attention. Lutheran Schools depend on orthodox education of their teachers. I have already noted the dire statistics regarding the number of Lutheran Teachers available. This is not a matter of numbers only. Many of you will be aware of the difficulties that our LCMS universities have been experiencing. Most of them are educating a very low percentage of Lutheran Church workers. Some have struggled with outside forces like gender-theory and critical race theory. If their primary objective is not to educate Lutheran Church workers, the pressure to compromise His Word in favor of one program or another is great. At our 2018 Montana District convention we adopted a resolution calling for a study of our LCMS universities. It was not acted on by the 2019 Synodical convention. I sincerely hope that this convention will adopt a resolution calling for a thorough study of the LCMS university system, with an eye toward prioritizing the education of Lutheran Church workers.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters, I conclude by encouraging you not to despair. Despite the severe statistics I have shared, we know that God's Word is victorious. The Word was put in the tomb once before, but death could not hold it there. He is risen! *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* Hebrews 4:12-13.

This sword is at work in you and in the world, and it will continue to be victorious. You can always depend on it for it is truly a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

Summary of Presidential Activity 2018-2022

Official Acts

Ordinations	0
Installations	5

District Activities

Congregational visits	127
Pastor Visits	207
Commissioned visits	10
School visits	6
Board of Director mtgs	19
Circuit Visitor meetings	8
Vice-President meetings	5
Circuit Winkels	18
Preaching	29
Other meetings	102
Pastor to Trinity, Harlowton and St. Paul, Roundup	

Synodical Activities

Council of Presidents	39
Other Synod level mtgs	59

First Vice President's Triennium Report 2022 Montana District Convention

“Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.” How many times have you heard these words of Apostolic Greeting? Probably more than you can count, as you listened to the opening words of many of our pastors’ sermons.

But these words are more than merely an introduction to a sermon. You might say they are a whole message in themselves. This is God’s grace we speak of, our Lord’s own loving desire to bless and save; this is God’s own mercy through our Lord Jesus that comes by His death on the cross to pay the price for our sins; and this is the peace that God declares to us in our Lord’s glorious resurrection; peace with our Lord, forgiveness and reconciliation in Him for everlasting life. These words bring the Gospel itself!

It is this proclamation of God’s grace, mercy and peace – both in word and witness - that our Montana District of the LCMS has the blessed task of assisting, guiding, and encouraging through the work of our congregations, pastors and people - all of us together.

What a privilege and blessing it has been for me during this past triennium (quadrennium?!) to serve our District as 1st Vice President. As always, the 1st Vice-President serves at the direction of the president in pursuing our District’s objectives, providing counsel when requested, and representing the President at times as may be needed. Activities have also included participation in District Committee Planning Meetings, Circuit Visitors Meetings, Church Worker Compensation analysis, and Congregational Constitution reviews.

The 1st Vice-President also serves as a voting member of the District Board of Directors. The Board meets quarterly to attend to District business.

One very special part of this business for me has been the opportunity to purposively support our work to enhance existing missions, and especially to seek to develop new ones. Even as we all need to continue hearing the message of God’s grace, mercy and peace in our Lord Jesus, there are many more, right here in Montana, that still need to hear it.

May God grant each and all of us continued joy, encouragement, and comfort in our Lord Jesus Christ, and keep us steadfast in His Word.

Respectfully, in our Lord’s service,

Rev. Chris Tabbert

Second Vice President's Triennium Report 2022 Montana District Convention

Fellow believers in Christ in the Montana District, greetings in the Name of our Risen and Ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Paul says to Timothy, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:1-5)

As the Second Vice-President of the Montana District, I serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors and as requested at the discretion and pleasure of the District President. In addition to attending and contributing to Board meetings and assisting with the review of congregational constitutions and bylaws, I have provide counsel when requested, represent the President at official functions, and fulfill other duties when assigned by the District President.

I take the words of Paul to Timothy very seriously. I regularly pray for our District President and all of the other elected officials and staff of the Montana District. I also pray for each congregation, pastor, and church worker in the district. It is my privilege to do this.

I thank you for having entrusted me with these duties. I have enjoyed serving you in this way.

In Christ,

Rev. Ryan Wendt

Triennium Treasurer's Report 2022 District Convention

The importance of the relationship of service and oversight that exists between the Montana District and the District Congregations, expressed in part during District Conventions, is invaluable. Over the past triennium, in keeping with the Board of Directors (BOD, Board) focus on transparency and faithful stewardship, the Office of the Treasurer has pursued providing clear and useful financial information regarding the district finances and relevant financial information for use by congregational treasurers and their congregations. Included in the Triennium Report (expanded into four years) are comparative financial statements of The Montana District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, reporting years 2018-2020 (audited) and 2021 (unaudited). Through generous gifts, donations, and bequests from our district congregations and individual donors, as well as investment income, the Montana District has been able to both meet its financial obligations and plan for future ministry with confidence. This is possible both through the faithfulness of the Board in honoring the mission of the District and the faithfulness of the District Congregations in providing direction to the Board. For instance, the by-laws of the Montana District, proposed by the Board and approved at a District Convention, prevent any Board of the Montana District from engaging a loan to conduct operating activities (salary, office expenses, purchase of fixed assets for operations, etc.). This assists in keeping budgetary planning focused not just on the year ahead, but on the effect of the budget on future ministry years.

A brief review of the financial highlights of the past triennium, expanded, includes the following:

2018-2021 Highlights

- Periodic review of financial procedures and internal controls was conducted and updates were made as recommended.
- New FASB standards were enacted during the triennium and the District reporting was updated for implementation; the goal of these new standards is transparency in expense and liquidity reporting. Beginning with 2018, the Statement of Functional Expenses is included with District reporting.
- \$93,605 in scholarships were awarded to church worker program students at Concordia Seminaries and Universities. These scholarships were funded through donations, bequests, and investment revenue received from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation where the monies are held in investment to maintain a scholarship program supporting the training in ministry of members of Montana District Congregations.

- Montana District awarded \$97,423 in student loan repayment grants to church workers serving Montana District congregations to support both district church workers and their congregations. These awards were funded primarily through LCEF Operating Results given to the District, and in part General Fund monies.
- Lutheran schools in Montana District applied for and received \$15,774 in grants in support of their programs. This fund was begun with donor money, increased with Board directed General Funds, and is held with LCMS Foundation to maximize income on the balance to maintain the grant program.
- The BOD directed \$25,584 in assistance to MT District congregations for various financial difficulties over the expanded triennium.
- \$15,116 in Mercy Fund Grants were awarded during the triennium. The Mercy Fund was created to aid MT District called workers who are facing catastrophic medical costs beyond their ability and their congregations' capacity to assist. This fund is fully supported by individual and congregational restricted donations.
- The BOD has been active in supporting pro-life ministry and in supporting religious freedom in Montana and nationally. \$934 was sent to Lutherans for Life, \$335 supported religious freedom in Montana and the Montana Life Coalition, and nationally \$2,250 was invested in religious freedom through Alliance Defending Freedom.
- To support District congregations in communicating the truths of God's word on His creation of men and women, the BOD purchased and provided 200 copies of God Made Boys and Girls by Marty Machowski. LCEF provided funding to support this.
- Montana District has four congregations that are subsidized mission foci of the District: Crow Lutheran Ministry, Circle of Life Lutheran Church, Emmaus Lutheran Mission and Redeemer Lutheran Church.
 - To support Indian ministry congregations, the Board directed \$308,494 in subsidies supporting Circle of Life, with \$4,146 sent in support from District congregations, and \$206,148 in subsidies supporting Crow Lutheran Ministries, with \$3,596 sent from District congregations.
 - Emmaus Lutheran Mission serving Big Timber and Livingston was begun in a previous triennium. This support has continued through this triennium. \$279,502 has been spent in support of this ministry as well as \$49,000 to assist in providing facilities for worship. MT District Congregations and individuals sent \$14,937 to the District office to support this subsidy, and LCEF supported the District subsidy in the amount of \$27,416.
 - During the Triennium, the BOD initiated a revitalization mission effort in Anaconda, Montana, through Redeemer Lutheran Church. The Montana District subsidizes this effort and has invested \$227,102. This subsidy was

funded by MT District congregational support of the subsidy in the amount of \$1,919, and LCEF funding in the amount of \$9,616.

- Congregational convention assessments of \$45,100 were collected over the triennium, with \$26,976 expended for the 2018 District Convention and \$25,386 for the 2019 Synodical Convention.
- As directed through resolution 1-04 at the 2015 District Convention, the MT District sends support for missionaries called out of service in Montana District to the mission field. During the Triennium and 2021, the Board directed \$35,000 in support of 6 missionaries.
- In 2019, the District vehicle was destroyed by hail and replaced. The Board sets aside General Funds into a Vehicle Replacement Fund during every month with positive unrestricted net income to be prepared for such events, and the vehicle was replaced using these monies.
- The District office is moving locations in Billings. The BOD has signed a contract with Christ the King Lutheran Church, paying \$250,000 taken from the General Fund for 15 years rent in advance at a flat rental fee to rent office space in their new building, and anticipates moving into the facility in the Spring of 2022. The BOD plans to sell the current District facility within 2022.

Montana District of the LCMS

Statements of Financial Position

	2021 (Undaudited)	2020 (Audited)	2019 (Audited)	2018 (Audited)
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	638549	697891	593200	571324
Restricted cash	55742	57683	28930	29303
Prepaid Expenses (short term)	8775			
Accounts Receivable	0	0	652	200
Total Current Assets	703066	755574	622782	600827
Property and Equipment				
Land	31382	31382	31382	31382
Buildings and improvements	135219	135219	135219	123501
Office equipment	6596	6596	6596	6596
Vehicles	26399	26399	26399	26387
Total Property and Equipment	199596	199596	199596	187866
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(135966)	(131203)	(126441)	(133609)
NET Property and Equipment	63630	68393	73155	54257
Other Assets				
Prepaid Expenses (long term)	125000			
Other Investments	1168548	1243674	1337008	1249400
Total Other Assets	1293548	1243674	1337008	1249400
Total Assets	2060244	2067641	2032945	1904484
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	22211	15421	13786	13201
Accrued Compensation Expense	1735	14	15	1671
Total Current Liabilities	23946	15435	13801	14872
Net Assets				
Without Donor Restrictions				
Investments in land, buildings, and equipment	63630	68393	73155	54257
Board designated	1149162	1189812	1136153	1094398
Undesignated	533870	479529	511056	405008
Total Without Donor Restrictions	1746662	1737734	1720364	1553663
With Donor Restrictions	289636	314472	298780	335949
Total Net Assets	2036298	2052206	2019144	1889612
Total Liability and Net Assets	2060244	2067641	2032945	1904484

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>

Montana District of the LCMS
Statements of Activities

	2021 (Unaudited)			2020 (Audited)			2019 (Audited)			2018 (Audited)		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT												
District Congregations' contributions	594150		594150	569504		569504	600960		600960	571347		571347
Individual donations and other	10015	28774	38789	14966	42420	57386	47430	10914	58344	44677	11770	56447
Fees and assessments	35		35	26129		26129	26300		26300	11643		11643
In-kind donations	1362		1362	273		273	1433		1433	2318		2318
Investment return, net	105080		105080	123397		123397	203057		203057	6160		6160
Gain on sale of asset			0			0	409		409	(62875)		(62875)
(Loss) on sale of contributed property			0			0				(16980)		(16980)
Net assets released from restrictions	53611	(53611)	0	26728	(26728)	0	48083	(48083)	0	44283	(44283)	0
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	764253	(24837)	739416	760997	15692	776689	927672	(37169)	890503	600573	(32513)	568060
EXPENSE												
Program Services	463369		463369	476539		476539	487315		487315	401207		401207
Support Services	291827		291827	266597		266597	273542		273542	277868		277868
Fundraising	128		128	491		491	114		114	156		156
Total Expense	755324	0	755324	743627	0	743627	760971	0	760971	679231	0	679231
Change in Net Assets - Increase (Decrease)	8929	(24837)	(15908)	17370	15692	33062	166701	(37169)	129532	(78658)	(32513)	(111171)
Net Assets - Beginning	1737734	314472	2052206	1720364	298780	2019144	1553663	335949	1889612	1632321	368462	2000783
Net Assets - Ending	1746663	289635	2036298	1737734	314472	2052206	1720364	298780	2019144	1553663	335949	1889612

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>

Montana District of the LCMS

Statements of Cash Flows

	2021 (Unaudited)	2020 (Audited)	2019 (Audited)	2018 (Audited)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>				
Net Assets Increase (Decrease)	(15908)	33062	129532	(111171)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:				
Depreciation expense	4762	4762	6040	8912
Accounts receivable - (increase) decrease		652	(452)	2720
Accounts payable - increase (decrease)	6790	1635	585	(1593)
Accrued compensation expense - increase (decrease)	1721	(1)	(1656)	1671
Prepaid Expenses (short term)	(8775)			
(Gain) on sale of asset			(409)	
Loss on sale of contributed property				16980
Realized and unrealized (gains) losses on investments		(79610)	(152787)	106873
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(11410)	(39500)	(19147)	24392
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u>				
Property investments - proceeds				97828
Improvements			(11718)	
Pocceeds from sale of vehicle			2279	
Insurance proceeds received for damage to vehicle			11308	
Vehicle - (purchased)			(26399)	
Prepaid Expenses (long term)	(125000)			
Other investments - proceeds	121101	193994	133735	63476
Other investments - (purchases)	(45975)	(21050)	(68555)	(111929)
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	(49874)	172944	40650	49375
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u>				
Commitments - (payments)				(51800)
Net Cash (Used) by Financing Activities	0	0	0	(51800)
Net Increase in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash	(61284)	133444	21503	21967
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year	755574	622130	600627	578660
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash at End of Year	694290	755574	622130	600627
Supplemental Disclosures:				
Income taxes paid				
Interest paid				

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>

Montana District of the LCMS
Statements of Functional Expenses

2021 (Unaudited)					
Program Services		Support Services			Total 2021 (Unaudited)
National/ International Mission	MT District Mission	Synodical General Fund	Management and General	Fundraising	
Board of directors expense	226	4734	9995		14955
Congregational resources		321			321
Convention expenses			140		140
Depreciation			4762		4762
Ecclesiastical services	15675	17274	2384		35333
Employee benefits	4148	10667	14405	10	29230
Grants and support	8000	347237	148537		503774
Insurance			5187		5187
Ministry boards and committees		5828			5828
Miscellaneous		204	205		409
Office expense			12132		12132
Payroll taxes	7	108	3862	9	3986
Professional fees			7853		7853
Real estate taxes			319		319
Repairs and maintenance			147		147
Salaries and wages	13448	35493	80022	108	129071
Utilities			1877		1877
Total Expense	\$41,504	\$421,866	\$148,537	\$127	\$755,324

2020 (Audited)					
Program Services		Support Services			Total 2020 (Audited)
National/ International Mission	MT District Mission	Synodical General Fund	Management and General	Fundraising	
Board of directors expense		58388	1279		59667
Congregational resources		639			639
Convention expenses					0
Depreciation			4762		4762
Ecclesiastical services	4857	12959	650		18466
Employee benefits	4322	11208	14698	36	30264
Grants and support		322322	142376		464698
Insurance			4846		4846
Ministry boards and committees		11049	1239		12288
Miscellaneous	210	197	131		538
Office expense			4166	37	4203
Payroll taxes	7	323	3746	34	4110
Professional fees			7931		7931
Real estate taxes			350		350
Repairs and maintenance			266		266
Salaries and wages	13112	36946	77077	384	127519
Utilities			3080		3080
Total Expense	\$22,508	\$454,031	\$142,376	\$491	\$743,627

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>

Montana District of the LCMS
Statements of Functional Expenses

2019 (Audited)						
Program Services			Support Services			
National/ International Mission	MT District Mission	Synodical General Fund	Management and General	Fundraising	Total 2019 (Audited)	
Board of directors expense	320	7110	5799		13229	
Congregational resources			163		163	
Convention expenses	25361	457			25818	
Depreciation			6040		6040	
Ecclesiastical services	970	24933	1809		27712	
Employee benefits	3923	10189	13550	9	27671	
Grants and support		355601	150240		505841	
Insurance			4156		4156	
Ministry boards and committees		13990			13990	
Miscellaneous			161		161	
Office expense			5577		5577	
Payroll taxes	7	278	3589	7	3881	
Professional fees			8183		8183	
Real estate taxes			335		335	
Repairs and maintenance			315		315	
Salaries and wages	11487	32689	70605	98	114879	
Utilities			3020		3020	
Total Expense	\$42,068	\$445,247	\$150,240	\$123,302	\$114	\$760,971

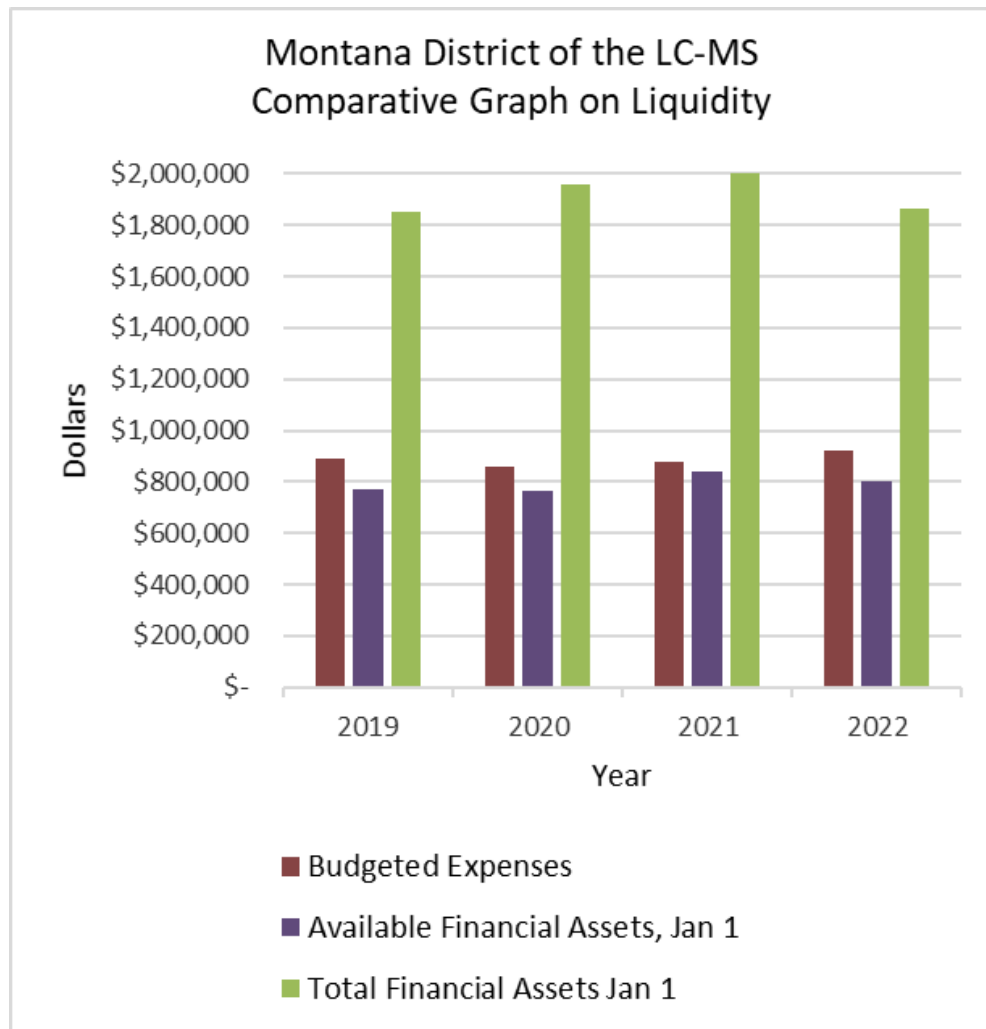
2018 (Audited)						
Program Services			Support Services			
National/ International Mission	MT District Mission		Synodical General Fund	Management and General	Fundraising	Total 2018 (Audited)
Board of directors expense	778	40586		5740		47104
Congregational resources		655				655
Convention expenses	25	26379				26404
Depreciation				8912		8912
Ecclesiastical services	3874	25773		443		30090
Employee benefits	3719	9646		12709	8	26082
Grants and support		219146	142837			361983
Insurance				3434		3434
Ministry boards and committees		26939		5858		32797
Miscellaneous				114		114
Office expense		284		12481	34	12799
Payroll taxes	7	294		3643	9	3953
Professional fees				7988		7988
Real estate taxes				326		326
Repairs and maintenance				182		182
Salaries and wages	11244	31858		70304	105	113511
Utilities				2897		2897
Total Expense	\$19,647	\$381,560	\$142,837	\$135,031	\$156	\$679,231

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>

Montana District of the LCMS
End of Year Fund Reports

Funds Report, December 31				
	2021	2020	2019	2018
Board Designated Funds				
Building Fund	125,000	105,000		
Car Replacement Fund	24,000	20,188	13,188	24,000
Convention Assessments	69,885	70,025	41,689	44,740
District School Scholarship	10,234	13,134	15,634	15,634
Mission and Ministry Fund	319,104	445,217	571,620	621,992
Church Worker Scholarship Fund	447,914	392,058	329,485	243,953
MT District School Grants	152,522	139,507	124,605	105,406
Pastor/Teacher & Circuit Conf		456		856
Pastor Wives Retreat	197	162	127	92
Student Loan Repayment Fund			37,740	37,484
Technology Replacement Fund	305	4,065	2,065	241
Total Board Designated Funds	1,149,162	1,189,812	1,136,154	1,094,398
Funds With Donor Restrictions				
Campus Ministry Support	1,146	1,146	1,520	1,520
Disaster Relief	160	160		
District School Scholarship		1,000		2,000
Education Ministry	1,018			
Indian Ministry				100
Mercy Fund	44,353	46,362	42,860	41,683
Church Worker Scholarship Fund	212,471	231,315	245,526	275,526
SOTC-Covid-19, LCEF	28,500	28,500		
Youth Ministry	50	50	500	
MT District School Grants	1,937	5,939	8,374	15,120
Total Donor Restricted Funds	289,636	314,473	298,781	335,950
Total Designated and Rest Funds	1,438,797	1,504,285	1,434,934	1,430,347
General Fund	424,042	494,964	524,857	419,880
Total Funds	1,862,839	1,999,249	1,959,792	1,850,227
	2021	2020	2019	2018

Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>



- Financial Assets include checking, savings, certificates of deposit, mutual funds and stocks, and accounts receivable. Financial Assets exclude property, plant, and equipment and prepaid expenses.
- Available Financial Assets exclude donor restricted and board designated funds in excess of the planned budgetary expenses for the year.
 - For example, on January 1, 2022, the Church Worker Scholarship Fund had a balance of \$660K. The budgeted scholarship expense for 2022 is \$30K. \$30K from the Church Worker Scholarship Fund is an Available Financial Asset reported in purple and \$630K is *not available* to meet expenses in 2022, but the full \$660K is reported in green as a Financial Asset.
 - The General Fund makes up the majority of Available Financial Assets each year. The majority of the budgeted expenses are paid out of the General Fund. The General Fund is supported almost wholly through the monies sent to the District by MT District Congregations in accordance with their Congregational Plans of Support.
 - For more information on the fund balances that the Financial Assets are divided into, please see the previous page. The Board of Directors uses funds to assist in planning for future budget years.

Montana District LCMS
Budget Overview
January through December 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
PUBLIC SUPPORT			
Contributions			
District Congregations	565,000.00		565,000.00
Individual Donations	1,200.00		1,200.00
In Kind Contribution	1,000.00		1,000.00
District Subsidized Ministries		5,300.00	5,300.00
Indian Ministry MT District		50.00	50.00
LCEF	30,000.00		30,000.00
Mercy Fund		3,000.00	3,000.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	200.00		200.00
Trust Income Meinhardt Found	700.00		700.00
Trust Income Wegner Found	2,000.00		2,000.00
Total Contributions	600,100.00	8,350.00	608,450.00
Fees and Assessments	9,625.00		9,625.00
Total PUBLIC SUPPORT	609,725.00	8,350.00	618,075.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	71,830.00		71,830.00
Net Assets Released frm Restrict			
Satisfaction of Program Restr	48,483.00	(48,483.00)	0.00
Total Net Assets Released frm Restrict	48,483.00	(48,483.00)	0.00
Total Income	730,038.00	(40,133.00)	689,905.00
Gross Profit	730,038.00	(40,133.00)	689,905.00
Expense			
PROGRAM EXPENSE			
SYNOD SUPPORT - 25% Cong Spt	141,250.00		141,250.00
CONVENTIONS	40,000.00		40,000.00
ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES			
CIRCUIT VISITORS	6,850.00		6,850.00
DISTRICT CONFERENCES	13,700.00		13,700.00
DISTRICT PRESIDENT			
Cell Phone	1,300.00		1,300.00
District Planning Meetings	6,000.00		6,000.00
District President Misc	250.00		250.00
District Reconciler	500.00		500.00
Church Worker Assistance	5,000.00		5,000.00
President Hospitality	250.00		250.00
Religious Liberty	1,250.00		1,250.00
Synod Assessments-Dist Office	1,500.00		1,500.00
Synod PIF/SET Data Base Program	600.00		600.00
Vehicles-Insurance/Registration	1,500.00		1,500.00
President Travel	9,300.00		9,300.00
Total DISTRICT PRESIDENT	27,450.00		27,450.00
Total ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES	48,000.00		48,000.00
GRANTS & MISSIONS SUPPORT			
Circle of Life - Lame Deer	76,344.00		76,344.00
Crow Lutheran Ministry	52,056.00		52,056.00
Emmaus Lutheran Mission	85,008.00		85,008.00
Redeemer Lutheran Church	73,622.00		73,622.00
Dist Lutheran Schl Scholarships	8,000.00		8,000.00
Mercy Fund	10,000.00		10,000.00
Missionary Support	8,000.00		8,000.00
Scholarship Grants	30,000.00		30,000.00
School Fund Grants	4,800.00		4,800.00
Student Loan Repayment Grants	30,000.00		30,000.00
Total GRANTS & MISSIONS SUPPORT	377,830.00		377,830.00
Total PROGRAM EXPENSE	607,080.00		607,080.00

Montana District LCMS
Budget Overview
January through December 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL
	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 22
DISTRICT OFFICERS AND ADMIN			
BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
Board Meetings	10,500.00		10,500.00
BOD Misc.	40.00		40.00
BOD Secretary Synod Assessment	600.00		600.00
TAIP - Travel/Accident Ins Prog	550.00		550.00
Thrivent Choice - Luth for Life	200.00		200.00
District Historical Archives	200.00		200.00
Office Building			
Office Rental	13,889.00		13,889.00
Bldg & Janitor Supplies	240.00		240.00
Bldg Repair & Maintenance	250.00		250.00
Insurance-Property	4,800.00		4,800.00
Taxes-SIDs	0.00		0.00
Utilities	1,725.00		1,725.00
Total Office Building	20,904.00		20,904.00
Total BOARD OF DIRECTORS	32,994.00		32,994.00
PRESIDENT OFFICE ADM			
ADM Assist Payroll Expense	42.00		42.00
ADM Assist Salary	19,625.00		19,625.00
ADM Assist Training	1,300.00		1,300.00
Computer Support	660.00		660.00
District Office - Misc	250.00		250.00
DP Cont Ed. & Resource Mat.	1,500.00		1,500.00
Equipment Maintenance	1,000.00		1,000.00
Office Supplies	600.00		600.00
Office Telephone/Internet	1,500.00		1,500.00
Postage & Shipping	1,300.00		1,300.00
President CPS Benefits	31,280.00		31,280.00
President Payroll Expense	42.00		42.00
President Salary	84,487.00		84,487.00
President Salary Housing Allow	12,000.00		12,000.00
Total PRESIDENT OFFICE ADM	155,586.00		155,586.00
TREASURER			
Accounting/Bookkeeping Costs	700.00		700.00
Auditing Service	8,000.00		8,000.00
Computer Support	400.00		400.00
Conference - Synod Assessment	300.00		300.00
Conferences and Workshops	2,000.00		2,000.00
Congregational Resources	1,200.00		1,200.00
Depreciation Expense	3,409.00		3,409.00
District Payroll Expenses	7,260.00		7,260.00
Pay Pal - Mercy Fund Trans Fees	75.00		75.00
Periodicals & Resource Mat	500.00		500.00
Treasurer- CPS Benefits	4,482.00		4,482.00
Treasurer - Payroll Expenses	42.00		42.00
Treasurer Salary	34,445.00		34,445.00
Total TREASURER	62,813.00		62,813.00
VICE PRESIDENTS	250.00		250.00
Total DISTRICT OFFICERS AND ADMIN	251,643.00		251,643.00
MINISTRY BOARD AND COMMITTEES			
EDUCATION MINISTRY	11,850.00		11,850.00
INDIAN MINISTRY	4,219.00		4,219.00
MISSIONS/EVANGELISM MINISTRY	17,800.00		17,800.00
STEWARDSHIP/HUMAN CARE MINISTRY	14,500.00		14,500.00
YOUTH & CAMPUS MINISTRY	16,650.00		16,650.00
Total MINISTRY BOARD AND COMMITTEES	65,019.00		65,019.00
Total Expense	923,742.00		923,742.00
Net Ordinary Income	(193,704.00)	(40,133.00)	(233,837.00)
Net Income	(193,704.00)	(40,133.00)	(233,837.00)

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2108-2022

Due to multiple transitions in the position of Circuit Visitor, not all circuits have submitted a report for the triennium. As stated in the “Notes” sections below, reports may be not represent the either triennium, as they represent the truncated length of service by the current Circuit Visitor.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2108-2022

Circuit Name: Southern Circuit

Visitor: Rev. Christopher Brandt (report submitted by Pastor Daniel Jacobs)

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	6
Special Issues:	2 (1 with pastor, 1 with congregation)
Phone counsel:	1
School visits:	2
Email counsel:	2

Conferences:

Winkel:	18
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	3
District Pastors:	1
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	2
Forums:	2
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	2
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	4
Installation/Ordinations:	2

Notes:

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2018-2022

Circuit Name: Western Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Raymond Everet Larson, Sr.

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	3
Special Issues:	1
Phone counsel:	7
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	16
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	3
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Visitors:	3
Forums:	1
Convocations:	1
Other:	2

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	2
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	6
Installation/Ordinations:	2

Notes:

Topics discussed at our Winkels these four years consisted mainly of parts of the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord. We also finished up our study of the Synod's publication, **"This We Believe."**

While the Covid restrictions did hamper some of the gatherings we would normally have had during these years we were able to use our annual Circuit Reformation Service as a center piece of a modified Convocation. The turn out was almost as good as on a normal year.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2108-2022

Circuit Name: Eastern Circuit

Visitor: Rev. David M. Behm

Congregational Visits:

Regular: 0

Special issues: 0

Phone counsel: 7

School visits: 0

Conferences:

Winkel: 4

Circuit (Dual): 0

District Pastors: 1

Synodical: 0

Meetings:

Circuit Visitors: 2

Forums: 0

Convocations: 0

Other: 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium: 1

Current vacancies: 1

Meetings regarding calls: 1

Installation/Ordinations: 0

Notes: Appointed by President Forke on June 14, 2021 to fill the vacant Circuit Visitor position per Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1. Report current as of February 20, 2022

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2108-2022

Circuit Name: Divide Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Daniel Merz

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	0
Special Issues:	0
Phone counsel:	5
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	5
Circuit (Quad):	2
District Pastors:	2
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	3
Forums:	1
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	0
Current vacancies:	3 (Whitehall, Deer Lodge, Boulder)
Meetings regarding calls:	3
Installation/Ordinations:	0

Notes: Elected by the Divide Circuit Forum 14 November 2020. Report current as of February 21, 2022.

**Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form
2108-2022**

Circuit Name: Flathead Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Steven Thomas

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	4
Special Issues:	0
Phone counsel:	12
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	26
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	3
District Pastors:	4
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	3
Forums:	2
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	3
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	8
Installation/Ordinations:	3

Summary Minutes Montana District Board of Directors 2018 – 2022

July 23, 2018

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. School grants were awarded. Discussion of the recent District Convention and the future of the Montana district. Discussion of need to repair the office parking lot.

October 19, 2018

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Redeemer, Hardin constitution and bylaws approved. MSA to send scholarship money directly to educational institutions. Proceeds of sale of River of Life, Laurel properties were distributed to the district schools fund, the Lutheran school student scholarships fund, the district church worker scholarships fund and the mission and ministry fund. Grant to Stanford, Denton, and Lewistown congregations for live streaming capabilities approved. Grants to five district church workers for student loan repayments approved. Distribution of LCEP operating results approved. 2019 Montana district budget approved.

January 28, 2019

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Constitutions of First, Missoula and First, Helena approved. Approved contract with Alliance Defending Freedom for services regarding legal advice and defense. Policies for Lutheran School Student Scholarship fund and Student Loan Repayment program amended.

June 5, 2019

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Pastor Charles Lehmann appointed as district secretary. Appointed President Forke and Principal Thomas to investigate moving the district office into the new facility that Christ the King, Billings is building.

August 12, 2019

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. District school grants awarded. Church worker scholarships awarded to two students. Compensation guidelines for Pastors approved. Lutheran School Student scholarships awarded. Agreed to suspend the work of district committees during the pandemic.

October 3, 2019

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Distribution of LCEF operating results approved. 2020 Montana District

Budget approved. Approved assistants for mission trip to Uganda by Pastor Wendt. Approved purchase of new district vehicle.

January 27, 2020

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Approved the constitution of Trinity, Billings. Appointed Pastor Forke as district camp director for 2020. Signed formal agreement with Christ the King, Billings to provide for new district offices in its new building. The budget surplus from 2019 was dedicated to the needs of the new office building.

May 8, 2020

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Meeting held primarily by electronic means, due to corona virus concerns. Approved granting Emmaus Lutheran Mission \$50,000 for the purchase of a building.

July 27, 2020

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Meeting held primarily by electronic means. Constitution of Our Savior, Billings approved. Lutheran School grants and Church Worker scholarship grants approved. Lutheran School Student scholarship policy amended. Red Lodge camp to discontinue offering children's camps. Inability to acquire adequate staff and increasing liability cited. Compensation guidelines for Pastors for 2021 adopted.

October 12, 2020

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Constitutions of Shepherd of the Valley, Salmon, Idaho and St. Paul, Ronan approved. Adopted budget for 2021. Student Loan Repayment Policy amended. Distribution of LCEF operating funds approved. Discussion of new church opening on the highline. Huber bequest designated to the Mission and Ministry fund.

December 2, 2020

Meeting held primarily by electronic means. Adopted proposal to postpone the scheduled 2021 Montana District convention until June of 2022 due to coronavirus concerns.

January 25, 2021

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Approved the constitution of St. John, Libby. Appoint Sue Eberhard to Education committee. Grant to First, Bozeman for help with reconciliation efforts approved.

May 3, 2021

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Education committee reported that it will sponsor a traveling VBS team in summer 2021. Approved the purchase of 200 copies of the book God Made Boys and Girls to be distributed to congregations, schools and called workers.

August 9, 2021

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Constitutions of First, Missoula and Holy Cross, Eureka approved. LCEF reimbursed the Montana District for the purchase of the books, God Made Boys and Girls. Audit shows no problems. Church Worker scholarships, School Grants and Lutheran School Student scholarships all approved. Compensation guideline for Pastors approved. Student Loan Repayment program policy amended.

October 11, 2021

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. District Board of Directors internal policy on attendance adopted. Student Loan Repayment grants approved. LCEF operating results distribution and LCEF Enhanced distribution requests approved. District budget for 2022 adopted.

December 6, 2021

Requested meeting with leaders of Mount Olive, Billings to answer questions they submitted regarding subsidized ministries.

January 24, 2022

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Mercy Fund policy amended. Technology fund and car replacement fund both had maximums increased. Adopted three overtures to be submitted to the 2022 Montana district convention: Curriculum for Lutheran Schools, Care for Outgoing District President, and Emphasizing the Teaching of Law and Gospel.

March 29, 2022

Meeting conducted primarily by electronic means. Special Standing Rules for convention adopted. Approved assistance for Christ the King vicar. Approved bonus of old computers to Ruth and Susan.

May 3, 2022

Complete review of finances offered no concerns. District finances are in good shape. Constitutions of First, Bozeman and Mount Olive, Billings approved. Dedication of new office. Electoral circuit arrangements for the 2023 Synodical convention approved. Agreed to work with Emmaus Lutheran Mission regarding ceasing work in Big Timber. Agreed to postpone the sale of the old office building in case it was needed for Christ the King's vicar.

Nominations for District President and Vice President

The slate for District President

Nominations for District President (listed in alphabetical order)

Rev. Andrew Eckert - **declined** the nomination

Rev. Terry Forke - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Arlo Pullmann - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Ryan Wendt - **declined** the nomination

The slate for 1st VP

Nominations for 1st VP (listed in alphabetical order)

Rev. David Behm - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Chris Brandt - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Robert Lane - **declined** the nomination

Rev. Rick Schneider - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Howard Schreibeis - **declined** the nomination

Rev. Chris Tabbert - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Ryan Wendt - **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Marcus Williams - **declined** the nomination

Circuit Visitor Elections

Central – Rev. Jonathan Schlutz

Divide – Rev. Daniel Merz

Eastern – Rev. David Behm

Flathead – Rev. Steven Thomas

Southern – Rev. Christopher Brandt

Western – Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr.

Nominations for the Board of Directors

The Slate for District Secretary:

Rev. Charles Lehmann Accepted

The Slate for Pastor Member of the Board of Directors

Rev. Matthew Nelson Accepted

Rev. Richard Schneider Accepted

The Slate for Teacher Member of the Board of Directors

Mr. Richard Thomas Accepted

The Slate for Lay Member of the Board of Directors

Mr. Roy Arves Accepted

Mr. Eric Corneliusen Accepted

Mr. Kendall Hartman Accepted

Mr. Stephen Schultz Declined

Mr. Andy Zoeller Accepted

Nominations for the Convention Nominating Committee

The Slate for Pastor Member of Convention Nominating Committee

Rev. Kyle Whaley Accepted

The Slate for Lay Member of Convention Nominating Committee

Mr. Jerry Roseleip Accepted

The Slate for Teacher Member of Convention Nominating Committee

Mrs. Laura White Accepted

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Terry Forke

He was born on February 7, 1956 in Omaha Nebraska. He was raised in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and married Cheryl Koschmann on April 7, 1979. They have five children Joshua, Jacob, Ruth, Judy, and Christal, and twelve grandchildren.

Education:

St. Paul's College in Concordia, MO from 1974 to 1976; received AA
Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan; received BA
Concordia Seminary; 1983; received MDiv; 1989 received STM

Congregations Served:

Ordained in 1983
Grace/Shepherd of the Hills in Three Forks/Ennis, Montana from (1983-1993)
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls, Montana (1993-2006)
Trinity, Harlowton, Montana (2011- present) St. Paul, Roundup 2018-present

Service within the Montana District:

- Chairman of the Youth Committee
- Chairman of the Stewardship Committee
- Member of the Indian Ministry Committee
- Member Nominations Committee
- Chair Task Force on Vacancies
- Chair Committee on Constitutions
- Chair Montana District 60th Anniversary Committee
- Member Ablaze Task Force
- Circuit Counselor for the Flathead Circuit (1993-2000)
- 2nd Vice President Montana District LCMS (2000-2002)
- 1st Vice President Montana District LCMS (2002-2006)
- President of the Montana District LCMS (2006-present)
- Has been active in Lutherans for Life in various capacities for 33 years.

Community Service:

- Board of Directors of Three Rivers Health Care
- Three Forks Youth Task Force
- School Board Building Committee Columbia Falls
- Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity Flathead Valley
- High School Junior Varsity Soccer Coach
- Billings Family Action Committee

Published:

Numerous articles in the "Lutheran Witness" and other LCMS publications.

Rev. Arlo Pullmann

Born on March 13, 1962, Whitefish, MT;

Baptized on March 23, 1962, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Eureka, MT; Confirmed on June 6, 1976 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Billings, MT;

Married on August 13, 1983 to Nanette Marie Groene at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington MO. They have six children and 13 grandchildren.

Education:

MDiv: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, 1987 BA: Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI, 1983 AA: St. Paul's College, Concordia, MO, 1981

High School Diploma: St. Paul's College High, Concordia, MO, 1980 Elementary school: Trinity Lutheran School, Billings, MT

Service as parish pastor:

1992-present: Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Laurel, MT

1987-1992: Pastor at Saving Grace, Canora, SK and St. Paul's, Springside, SK Lutheran

Parish 1985-1986: Vicar at Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY, under Pastor Arthur Dueker.

Other Service:

2010-present: Member of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The LCMS

2006-2010: 1st Vice-President of the Montana District of The LCMS

2007 and 2004: Delegate to The LCMS Convention

2006-2007: Chairman of Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of Montana

2005-2006: 2nd Vice-President of the Montana District of The LCMS

2004-2005: Member of Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of Montana

1996-2000: Chairman, District Worship Committee

1996-2000: Member of District Board of Parish Education

1994-2005: Southern Circuit Counselor

1993-1997, 2011-2014: Pastoral Advisor of Montana District, Southern Zone, LWML

1993-1996: Pastoral Advisor of Lutherans For Life of Montana

1991-1992: Secretary of Central District, Lutheran Church - Canada

1988: Delegate, Constituting Convention of Lutheran Church - Canada

1987-1992: Member of the Board of Jackfish Lutheran Camp, Assiniboine Circuit, Central District, Lutheran Church - Canada

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. David M. Behm

Personal:

Born: Cleveland, Ohio, January 28, 1986 to Randall & Cheryl Behm

Baptized: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio, March 9, 1986

Confirmed: Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio, April 16, 2000

Ordained: Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio, July 22, 2012

Married: Sarah Elizabeth (Eckert), Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Montana, June 6, 2019

Education:

Lakewood Lutheran School, Lakewood, Ohio (Pre-K-8; 1990-2000)

Lutheran High School West, Rocky River, Ohio (9-12; 2000-2004)

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa (2004-2008; Bachelor of Arts in Psychology)

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana (2008-2012; Master of Divinity)

Ministry:

Vicar:

- Peace Lutheran Church, Fresno, California (8/2010-7/2011)

Sole Pastor:

- Trinity Lutheran Church, Morris Plains, New Jersey (7/2012-11/2018)
- Concordia Lutheran Church, Williston, North Dakota (11/2018-Present)

Vacancy Pastor:

- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Randolph, New Jersey (4/2013-7/2014)
- St. John Lutheran Church, Fairview, Montana (8/2020-Present)

District Service:

New Jersey District

- Congregational Services Board (1/2013-6/2015)
- Stewardship Task Force (5/2013-3/2014)
- District Convention Committee (2015, 2018)
- Circuit Visitor (Central Jersey Circuit, 6/2015-11/2018)
- Stewardship Chairman (10/2015-11/2018)

Montana District

- Circuit Visitor (Eastern Circuit, 6/2021-Present)

Community Service:

St. Clare's Hospital System Community Advisory Group (Morris County, NJ; 2/2016-11/2018)

Rev. Christopher Brandt

Christopher Brandt was born Feb. 27, 1956 Sioux City, Iowa, to Rev. Maynard Brandt and Mary Pauling Brandt. He graduated from Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, in 1977, with a Bachelor's of Science in Education. He then graduated from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO 1981.

Rev. Brandt married Kimberly (nee Bull) in 1980 of Baldwin, Michigan. They have six children, some grandchildren.

He served parishes in Palmer, NE; Bridger and Belfry, MT; Havre and Chinook, MT; and Lovell, WY, before retiring on May 1, 2020.

Rev. Brandt presently serves as Associate Pastor at Mt Olive Lutheran, Billings and Circuit Counselor for the Southern Circuit of the Montana District.

Rev. Richard J Schneider Jr

Rev. Schneider serves as the pastor for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ronan MT, where he was placed upon graduation from Seminary in 2016. In 2021, he was appointed and serves as the Chaplain for the Ronan Police Department. He is married to Amy, has two adult children, and two granddaughters.

Prior to entering Seminary, Rev. Schneider spent ten years in the allied health field of pharmacy technology, and twelve years in law enforcement. Rev. Schneider served on the Board of Directors for Peace Officer Ministries (a Christian law enforcement chaplaincy ministry) for over ten years and was involved with the Boy Scouts of America for thirteen years, as a Scoutmaster and Chaplain among other positions. Capstone events in Scouting include serving as a Chaplain at the National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2010, and supervising both his son's Eagle Award Project, and his daughter's Gold Award Project. He also supervised a training staff of ten for an on-sight advanced management course. He has completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Since coming to the Montana District, in addition to his regular duties, Rev. Schneider has attended training with Ambassadors of Reconciliation, Mental Health First Aid USA, Doxology's Take Heart Retreat, one phase of the reVitality program, and First Responder Chaplaincy (NPFCA Org.), among others. He is in his second term as an Officer (VP) for the Pastors' Conference.

Rev. Christopher Tabbert

Personal

Born: New York, NY, March 7, 1951

Grew up in and around NYC and New Jersey

Moved to Texas to attend University in 1969; lived in N. Texas for 25 years.

Married Cheryl Hollabaugh, 1973.

We have been blessed with three daughters, and ten grandchildren (to date!)

Education

* University of Texas at Arlington, B.A. 1973, Psychology

* U. of Texas, Arlington, 30 hours graduate work in Experimental Psychology ('74-'75)

Professional Experience prior to Seminary (1975-1994)

* Television production, broadcast engineering, writing and consulting (4 years).

* Senior manager positions in corporate training, marketing communications, product marketing, and new business venture development for a world-wide telecommunications manufacturer (15 years).

Also:

Served on Board of Elders, Jr. High Sunday School Teacher, Nursing Home Devotions Leader

and Family "Cell Group" Careciple Leader in home congregation, prior to Seminary.

Seminary/Ministry

* Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN; 1994-1998. MDiv. 1998.

* Serving as pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Eureka, MT, 1998-2019 (retired)

District Activities

Flathead Circuit Counselor 2003- 2009

Flathead Circuit Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Conventions (2001, 2007 and 2013)

District Pastoral Representative to Synodical Theological Convocations (2004 and 2008)

Chaired District Theological Convocation, 2005

Served on Pastors' Conference Program Planning Committee

Elected 2nd Vice-President at 2009 MT District Convention

Filled out term as 1st Vice-President 2010-2012

Elected to office of 1st Vice-President at 2012 District Convention-Present

Since retirement November of 2019, have continued as 1st VP of district,
and also have provided pulpit supply and vacancy support.

Eureka/Lincoln County Community Activities

Good Samaritan Mountain View Manor Nursing Home, Advisory Board Member, 2004-Present

Eureka/Tobacco Valley Ministerial Association, 1998-Present

Horizons Community Leadership Program (Member, Steering Committee, 1 year)

Lincoln County Disaster Board (Community Planning Committee, 1 year)

Rev. Ryan David Wendt

Born in late August of 1974 in North Kansas City, Missouri to Curtis and Elenita Wendt. Baptized September 8th, 1974. Confirmed April 24th, 1988. Married to Sara (Jaschen) August 1st, 1998. Ordained April 12th, 2004. The Lord has granted Ryan and Sara four children to nurture - Samuel, Elizabeth, Lydia, and Rachel. Six others are with the Lord.

Education: Holy Cross Lutheran School, Kansas City, MO: K-8 (1979-1988). Kansas City Lutheran High School, Kansas City, MO, (1988-1992). University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, (1992-1994). Concordia College, Seward, NE, (1994-1998): B.S. in Secondary Education with Middle School Endorsement and a Lutheran Teaching Diploma with concentrations in Business, Computers, and Theology. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, (2000-2004): M.Div., Exegetical and Systematic Theology. Vicarage (2002-2003): Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Billings MT. Continuing Education courses twice per year (2004-Present).

Ministry:

(1) Lutheran Teacher, Rockford Lutheran High School, Rockford, IL. Math, Religion, Business, Computers, Jr. High chapel coordinator, HS varsity soccer coach, JV baseball coach, Information Technology coordinator (1998-2000). Who's Who Among America's Teachers (1998-1999).

(2) Associate Pastor and Head Master, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (PK-8), Kearney, NE. (2004-2006).

(3) Pastor, Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings MT, (May 2006-present). Vacancy Pastor, Mount Calvary, Colstrip, MT, fall 2008 – Easter 2009. Visiting Professor – Lutheran Church of Uganda Seminary, Jinja, Uganda (February 2020).

District Service: 2nd Vice President (2018-Present), Board of Directors (2015-2018); IT/Technical Advisor (2008-present); Montana District Pastors' Conference Program Committee, (2008-2013), Pastors' Conference President (2013-2015); MT District Representative to LCMS Stewardship Conferences, (2014, 2015). Chairman of the Campus Ministry Committee and of the MT District High School Task Force (2006-2009).

Synod Service: Montana District Southern Circuit Voting Pastoral Delegate: 2010, 2013, and 2016 LCMS Conventions. Floor Committee #5 (CTCR) 2016 LCMS Convention. Occasional author for *Lutheran Witness*, *Concordia Pulpit*, and the *Billings Gazette*.

Other Service: *Pro Bono* computer services to numerous non-profits in Rockford, IL, Kearney, NE, and Billings, MT, including the LCMS MT District Office (1998-present). Golden Eagle Water Users' Association – Board of Directors (2008-2021). Regular participant at the meetings of the Billings South Side Task Force (2007-present).

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

Rev. Charles Lehmann

I was born in Whitefish, Montana and was baptized and confirmed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. After graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1991, I attended Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska where I earned a B.A in 1995 and a Lutheran Teacher Diploma in 1999. I attended one year of seminary at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis (1995-1996) and decided that at that time I did not want to be a pastor.

From 2000 to 2004, I taught theology and English at Lutheran High Schools in Springfield, Illinois and Lansing, Illinois. During this time my pastor told me that I needed to finish seminary. In the fall of 2004, I enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. In 2007 I graduated and served my first call as a pastor in Fort Collins, Colorado where I was a campus pastor at Colorado State and worked with the educational program at Peace With Christ Lutheran Church. From 2008 to 2012, I served at Saint John Lutheran Church, Accident, Maryland and planted Saint John Lutheran Church in Clarksburg, West Virginia in 2009. Since 2012 I have served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Three Forks and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Belgrade.

In 2006, my first book, *God Made It For You* was published by Concordia Publishing House. I did freelance work for them (bible studies, another book, sermon studies, book reviews, sermon outlines, and articles) until 2015. From 2012 to 2016, I was chaplain for the Big Sky Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. From 2013 to 2016, I was spiritual director of Saint Catherine's Pregnancy Resource Center and Family Health Care Clinic in Belgrade, Montana. I am currently in my third year of doctoral study at the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, South Dakota. From 2014 through 2019, I was Divide Circuit Visitor, and I have served as District Secretary since my appointment in 2019.

My hobbies are writing; philosophy; hiking; reading C.J. Box & Michael Connelly novels; and memorizing Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised and the Synodical Handbook.

I enjoy my work as District Secretary very much. I have never served with such a group of godly, diligent men. It is a joy to be among them.

PASTOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Matthew Nelson

Matt Nelson is pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, MT where he has served for 15 years. His previous call was as Missionary-at-Large in southern Utah where he served as a circuit rider. He attended Concordia Theological Seminary

in Fort Wayne, IN from 2000-2003. Prior to seminary, he worked as a forester and hydrologist in Idaho, Colorado, and southern Illinois. He has been married to Diane since 1988 and they have three children – Claire, Megan (+), and Andrew. They are blessed with four grandchildren.

Rev. Richard Schneider

See bio under Nominees for Montana District Vice President

TEACHER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Richard Thomas

Rick was born in Bryan, Ohio in 1958. He grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His education was entirely through the Lutheran school system.

When asked who influenced Rick to become a Lutheran school teacher, he said it was his fifth grade teacher, Mr. Don Hendrickson.

Rick is married to Suzie, the Kindergarten teacher at Trinity. They have four grown children, and 7 grandchildren. Rick is just finishing his 40th year of teaching.

Rick's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10. "Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth!"

LAY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Roy Arves

Roy has held the offices of President of the congregation, Trustee, Elder, Head elder, Sunday School Superintendent and now Grounds Keeper. He has participated in other activities such as choir and Easter breakfast. He is retired and enjoys hunting and fishing. Roy served as a delegate from the Central Circuit to the 2013 Synodical Convention. He has served on the Montana District Board of Directors since 2018.

Mr. Eric Cornelius

I was born, baptized, and confirmed in Glendive, MT. I was raised on the family farm/ranch Southwest of Glendive and attended Our Savior Lutheran Church in Glendive. My education began in a one room country school for grades 1-8. After I graduated from Dawson County High School, I attended Dawson Community College and received my Associates Degree. After that, I attended Montana State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am a registered Professional Engineer and have spent most of my career in the oil and gas industry in eastern Montana and Western North Dakota. I am currently an Engineering Manager for Hess Corporation, where I lead a team of engineers and technicians who focus on the maintenance and reliability of all the surface assets of the company in ND.

I have called Williston, ND my home for the last 12 years along with my wife of 7 years Melissa who is a high school science teacher. I have 3 sons: Zack is a Chiropractor student in Minneapolis, MN, Leif is a Nuclear Test Engineer for Puget Sound Naval

Shipyard in Bremerton, WA, and Jonah is a 6th grader at Washington middle school in Glendive.

I am currently Chairman of the Congregation at Concordia Lutheran Church here in Williston and serve on the Board of Elders as well. I have also served as Head Elder and on the Board of Trustees. I am Chairman of the Mechanical Maintenance Advisory Board for Bismarck State College. While living in Glendive, I was elected to the Board of Trustees for Dawson Community College where I served for 1 year before moving to Williston.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking and gardening, especially my Trinidad Scorpion Peppers that are used in my own line of hot sauces branded under Weird Beard Pepper Company. I also enjoy hunting and fishing and spending time with my family. We also enjoy spending time on our land around Glendive where we are currently building a log cabin for retirement.

Mr. Kendall Hartman

Kendall is married to Dee Ann (47 years), two kids (Travis 41 and Kari 37) and three grandchildren. Kendall was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings and was an original member of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Kendall was a member at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Park City, MT before transferring back to Christ the King Lutheran in Billings. His son, daughter and family all attend Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Work History:

Manager of Knox Lumber Company in Billings, Mt for 25 years. Supervised up to 100 employees. Responsible for product purchasing, sales, delivery, training of staff, human resource management, budget planning and administration. Area manager of Knox Lumber Company overseeing stores in Billings, Mt, Fargo, ND, and Sioux Falls, SD. Was Business Consultant with the State of Montana (13 years) working with businesses on issues with human resources, hiring, firing, layoffs, employee retention, and labor laws.

Boards and Associations:

B.E.A.R. (Business Expansion and Retention with Big Sky Economic Development) (10 years)

Rural B.E.A.R. (Business Expansion and Retention with Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development) (10 years)

Stillwater County Planning Board (2 years)

Bach Group Home Board of Directors (5 years)

Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development Board of Directors (10 years)

In Christ:

Montana District Board of Directors (3 years)

Montana District Stewardship/Human Care Committee member (2 years)

Youth Advisor/ Chaperone "River of Life" youth gathering in San Antonio, Texas

President St Paul's Lutheran Church in Park City, Mt. (2 years)

Treasurer Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings, Mt. (2 years)
Vice President Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings, Mt (1 year)
President Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings, Mt. (6 years, currently serving)
Elder Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings, Mt (8 years, currently serving)

Mr. Andy Zoeller

Husband to Crystal and father of three young boys. He is a faithful member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Billings, serving on the parish council as the financial secretary. He is currently employed as the Finance Director for the City of Billings. He has prior experience as an auditor of local Montana governments and non-profits. He was a part of the audit team that was responsible for auditing the Montana District from 2009-2015. He is a Certified Public Accountant in Montana, licensed in 2014.

NOMINEES FOR THE CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

PASTOR MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Kyle Whaley

I was born in 1965 in Billings, Montana into a family with a strong Lutheran heritage. From Kindergarten until the 8th grade I was in a parochial school run by our church. I attended Trinity Lutheran School, (Billings & Kalispell). I attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell. My family moved to Bigfork, Montana. I graduated from Bigfork High School in 1983. I moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana.

At 33 years of age, I joined the United States Navy. I was trained as an Electronics Technician with a specialty in satellite communications. I travelled around the world visiting over 22 countries.

When I joined the Navy, I was fortunate enough to have Lutheran chaplains available to me. I thrived in the service and even devoted my free time to assisting the Chaplains in their service whenever possible. I became good friends with my Chaplain and colleague and am still in contact with him today.

My enlistment period was coming to an end and it was time for me to re-enlist or move on to other opportunities. I had completed my bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. At that time, I decided to return to school, specifically the Seminary.

I moved to St. Louis to attend the Concordia Seminary as a Master's of Divinity student. I graduated from Concordia Seminary on May 27, 2010 with a Masters of Divinity degree. I was called to the two parishes of St. Ignatius and Polson, MT.

LAY MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Jerry Roseleip

Jerry Roseleip, 62, is a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He is baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignatius, Montana and served as President, Vice -President, Secretary and Treasurer of that congregation over the years. He currently is a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Three Forks. He served on the Montana District LCMS Board of Directors from 2000-2009 and 2012-2022. He served the District as a member of the Stewardship-Human Care Committee working with Prison Ministry in the District from 2009-2012. He served as a delegate from the Divide Circuit to the 2010 Synodical Convention. Jerry and his wife, Billye, farmed in St. Ignatius for many years and Jerry was a Dairy Supervisor for Montana Correctional Enterprises in Deer Lodge, until 2019. They have five grown children and 14 grandchildren.

TEACHER MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Laura White

Laura White is currently serving as principal at Trinity Lutheran school In Kalispell. She grew up in Billings and is happy to be back in the great state of MT after having served as principal at Faith Lutheran in Lacey, WA and Pilgrim Lutheran in Beaverton, OR. Laura is a graduate of Concordia University in Portland

**To Support Shepherd of the Valley (Salmon, ID) Lutheran Church's Mission
Ministry to the People of Challis, ID**

Overture 1-01

WHEREAS, Jesus Himself gives us the imperative command to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, The 2019 LCMS Convention passed four National Witness resolutions, including Res. 1-02, "To Encourage the Planting of Churches; and

WHEREAS, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Salmon Idaho has a history over the past decades of providing mission ministry and prayer support to the people of Challis, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, There is a current need for mission work to the people of Challis (60 miles upriver, South of Salmon); and

WHEREAS, The congregation of Shepherd of the Valley has been conducting worship services in the Challis Community Church twice a month since Easter, 2021 with an average attendance of 18.5 people, making it the highest attended worship service of any Christian denomination in Challis; and

WHEREAS, The congregation of Shepherd of the Valley has recently voted to expand the mission ministry efforts to the people of Challis to include weekly worship services, confirmation classes, Sunday school and, God willing, the eventual planting of a new LCMS church; and

WHEREAS, The congregation of Shepherd of the Valley has thus far been the sole provider of all Pastoral support, worship assistance personnel, worship service materials/resources, time, travel and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, The MT District President has obtained the blessing from the NW District President for the expansion of mission work into this area of Idaho; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all congregations in the MT District will diligently pray for the mission work that the Holy Spirit is doing in the people of Challis through Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Salmon; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That, when and if needed, financial assistance from the MT District be provided to help defray the costs of needed supplies, renting and heating the place of worship, travel costs, and the purchase of LSB hymnals to be used in Challis.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon, ID

To Repent of Prejudice that We May Serve the Gospel

Overture 1-02

To clarify, in this overture "division" is defined as standing apart, usually with some hostility. This is not to be confused with "difference", which is to acknowledge (and hopefully respect) that everyone is different in some way. For example, respecting that there is difference between female and male, and that there is blessing in the difference; whereas with division between female and male tends to lead to sexism and other abuses of one another.

WHEREAS, God created the human race, male and female, from one (Genesis 2:7 and Acts 17:26) in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-28), and, therefore, all people are equal by virtue of creation; and

WHEREAS, Because of Adam's disobedience, everyone is infected by sin and comes short of the glory of God, yet God gave His Son to reconcile to Himself all people (II Corinthians 5:19, John 3:16, and Genesis 3:15), and, therefore, all people are equal by virtue of Christ's redemptive work; and

WHEREAS, It is God's desire to have all people live in His salvation (Ezekiel 18:32, I Timothy 2:4, Titus 2:11 and II Peter 3:9) and, therefore, the Gospel is for all people; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that the only true division between humans is whether they are in Christ or not, because of our sinful nature, generally people throughout history have in some way divided into "us" and "them" based on many factors, such as, ethnicity, sex, physical characteristics, economic status, nationality, or "race", and

WHEREAS, Because of the continuum of sinful divisions, an "us" group is prejudice for its own group and is typically prejudice against "them" groups; and, when an "us" group has dominance, it will commonly mistreat the "them" groups by behavior ranging from apathy to paternalism to genocide, therefore be it;

Resolved, That we the people of the Montana District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod confess our sins of prejudice and divisiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a fruit consistent with repentance, we the people of the Montana District strive, by the grace of God, always to respect all people for the potential of God restoring them to His image in Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we of the Montana District continue our efforts in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ both to those in Christ and those who are still outside of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That we of the Montana District continue to baptize and teach all whom God enables us to reach so that they may be renewed to the image of God, and so we may live together the in unity of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That, as God enables us, we of the Montana District would aid our neighbors physically (Deuteronomy 15: 11) and spiritually (Galatians 6:1-5) as God continue to train us fully to love our neighbors as ourselves; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Montana District memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be gathered in convention in 2023 by submitting this resolution to same.

Crow Lutheran Ministries, Crow Agency

To Emphasize the Teaching of Law and Gospel

Overture 2-01

WHEREAS, The Montana District devoted time to the study of the Formula of Concord, Epitome at its 2022 District Convention; and

WHEREAS, This confession placed special emphasis on the teaching of the Law and the Gospel by saying, in part, “We believe, teach and confess that the distinction between the Law and the Gospel is to be kept in the Church with great diligence as a particularly brilliant light.” (Formula of Concord Epitome Art. V.); and

WHEREAS, The law/gospel structure of sermons has been cast as outdated in some circles, in favor of more creative rhetorical approaches; and

WHEREAS, This “particularly brilliant light” offers a key understanding of the “Good News” to both catechumens and seasoned believers; therefore be it

Resolved, That delegates to the 2022 Montana District Convention rejoice in being renewed in this article of doctrine by sharing it in their reports to their congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That Pastors and teachers of the Montana District be encouraged to keep this teaching with great diligence by evaluating sermons and class presentations in terms of law and gospel.

Montana District Board of Directors, Billings, MT

**To Believe, Teach, and Confess the Biblical Practice of Frequent Holy
Communion with Proper Pastoral Care, and To Completely Reject and
Condemn the Schismatic Teaching and Practice of Virtual (online)
Communion**

Overture 2-02

WHEREAS, The churches of the Lutheran Confession have diligently and respectfully followed the practice of frequent communion in the midst of a gathered local congregation served by local pastors who are “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God,” (1 Cor. 4:1) as was handed down by Jesus to St. Paul and the first Apostles and to us; and

WHEREAS, These local pastors “are to be found trustworthy” (1 Cor. 4:2) and have vowed “to administer the holy sacraments in accordance with their divine institution,”¹; and

WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Confession teaches specifically regarding Holy Communion:

[83] But this “blessing” or the recitation of the Words of Institution of Christ by itself does not make a valid sacrament if the entire action of the Supper, as Christ administered it, is not observed (as, for example, when the consecrated bread is not distributed, received, and eaten but is instead locked up [in the tabernacle], made into a sacrifice, or carried around in a procession). [84] On the contrary, Christ’s command, “Do this,” must be observed without division or confusion. For it includes the entire action or administration of this sacrament: that in a Christian assembly bread and wine are taken, consecrated, distributed, received, eaten, and drunk, and that thereby the Lord’s death is proclaimed, as St. Paul presents the entire action of the breaking of the bread or its distribution and reception in 1 Corinthians 10:16 [85] In order to preserve this true Christian teaching on the Holy Supper and to avoid and eliminate many kinds of idolatrous abuses and perversions of this testament, this useful rule and guide is taken from the Words of Institution: nothing has the character of a sacrament apart from the use [*usus*] instituted by Christ or the divinely instituted action [*actio*]. (That is, when Christ’s institution is not observed as he established it, there is no sacrament.) This rule dare not be rejected in any way, but it can and should be followed and preserved in the church of God with great benefit.²; and

WHEREAS, It is not possible to provide in-person pastoral care or complete the “entire action or administration” of the sacraments “in a Christian assembly” when members of the congregation participate remotely using the internet or other electronic means; and

WHEREAS, The sacraments were instituted by Christ to destroy doubt and bring the certainty of His forgiveness; and

WHEREAS, “Virtual” or “online” communion, as it has been variously called, is a rejection of proper pastoral care and oversight, breaks the “useful rule and guide” established by our Lutheran Confession, and creates uncertainty, doubt, and a division of the local gathered body of believers and a division in practice between congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents unanimously adopted the resolution: “To Encourage Advocating In-Person Communion,”³ wherein the final resolved encourages congregations and pastors “to refrain from the practice of online communion,”; therefore be it

41 *Resolved*, That the Pastors and congregations of the Montana District take up again a careful
42 Biblical and catechetical instruction regarding Holy Communion along with the duties of a pastor
43 and that of the congregation in this matter; and be it further

44 *Resolved*, That the congregation of the Montana District, clearly and unequivocally reject and
45 condemn the practice of virtual (online) communion by teaching members of the specific dangers,
46 and be it further

47 *Resolved*, That the President of the Montana District (the Ecclesiastical Supervisor), seek
48 information from all Montana District congregations about this practice and begin specific
49 discussions to dissuade any congregation of this district that is considering, teaching, or
50 practicing virtual (online) communion; and be it finally

51 *Resolved*, That that this resolution be forwarded to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to
52 broaden its scope to include every District and adopted at its 2023 convention.

53
54 Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings, MT

55 ¹ Supplement to the Diploma of Vocation

56 ² Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). *The Book of Concord: the confessions of the*
57 *Evangelical Lutheran Church* (pp. 607–608). Fortress Press.

58 ³ <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/6CAF272D-692A-4653-9005-A5C931CD045B?>

To Direct Synod in Convention to Establish a Health Sharing Community Group

Overture 3-01

WHEREAS, Concordia Health Plans (CHP) only offers health insurance for church staff and professional church workers employed by LCMS congregations, schools, districts and other approved Synod entities; and

WHEREAS, The cost of providing CHP health care coverage often proves cost prohibitive to many smaller congregations/schools and/or restricts the viability and growth of their respective ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act (ACT) requires the purchase of health insurance that complies with government regulations but also allows for health sharing communities to provide such health care coverage, often at a more reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, Government bureaucrats in the future may require all health insurance providers to pay for medical procedures that violate solid and clear Biblical teachings and values, such as abortions or sex change operations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montana District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in convention request the Synod at its 2023 convention to appoint a commission to establish a health sharing community open to all members of Synod, as well as all individual members of LCMS congregations, with the aim of lowering health care costs and encouraging LCMS congregations and schools to add staff and expand their ministries.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Miles City

**To Believe, Teach, and Confess the Biblical Practice of Gathered Local
Congregations with Rightly Called Local Pastors and To Completely Reject
and Condemn the Schismatic Teaching and Practice of Remote Membership
and Virtual Communities of Faith.**

Overture 3-02

WHEREAS, The churches of the Lutheran Confession have consistently maintained membership rosters for the sake of good order and pastoral care; and

WHEREAS, Local congregations have long striven to work with one another fraternally and for the sake of good order in regard to transfers and changes in membership, as well as honoring church discipline when such has been necessary; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are instructed to “shepherd the flock of God that is *among* you, exercising oversight,” (1 Peter 5:2, italics added) and they have vowed to “perform the functions of a pastor in an evangelical manner; to aid, counsel, and guide members of all ages and social conditions; to visit the sick and the dying; to admonish the indifferent and the erring,”¹; and

WHEREAS, A pastor who is not physically *among* “his” people is not able to shepherd the flock by visiting the sick and the dying or to exercise oversight or to administer the sacraments with a “member” or “member family” that lives hundreds or thousands of miles away from their “online pastor,”; and

WHEREAS, The foreign practice of congregations seeking and receiving as members those who are geographically distant, especially when there is a local congregation near such individuals, creates confusion and division in congregations, circuits, and districts while generating many questions about pastoral oversight and visitation, care at the time of death, and Christian burial, etc.; and

WHEREAS, There are already a number of “churches”² in the quickly expanding online world of “the metaverse” with avatar pastors who teach and guide virtual members; and

WHEREAS, A growing number of Christians are choosing to join virtual churches and participate exclusively online, and our Lutheran congregations are not immune from this temptation to abandon the traditional gathered body of believers; and

WHEREAS, The writer to the Hebrews teaches, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near,” (Hebrews 10:24-25); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pastors and congregations of the Montana District study God’s Word and our Lutheran Confessions to be reminded what it means to be a Christian congregation and a member of the body of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the Montana District, clearly and unequivocally reject and condemn the practices of remote membership and virtual congregations by teaching our members the specific dangers; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Montana District (the Ecclesiastical Supervisor), seek information from all Montana District congregations about these practices and begin specific discussions to dissuade any congregation of this district that is considering or has begun to function in this way; and be it finally

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for adoption at its 2023 convention.

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings

¹ Supplement to the Diploma of Vocation

² For example: [Life.church/metaverse](https://life.church/metaverse)

**To Identify, Support, and Pray for Men in the Montana District that the Lord
Would Use as Pastors in His Church.**

Overture 3-03

WHEREAS, Jesus says, “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:37-38); and

WHEREAS, 34% of LCMS pastors currently serving in the Montana district are within four years of 66 years of age ⁱ; and

WHEREAS, total pastoral vacancies in the LCMS (not including “non-calling” congregations) have hovered around 500 vacancies per year since 1998 (There were 476 pastoral vacancies on November 16th, 2021)ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, this trend is expected to continue and get progressively worse as more clergy reach retirement age, as a recent “Set Apart to Serve” initiative states: “50% of the Synod’s current active pastors are 55 years or older. If seminary enrollment and pastor retirements continue at their current rates, the Synod could go from 6,000 to 3,000 pastors in the next 15 years,” ⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, enrolled M.Div. students decreased by 55% from 2004 to 2018 ^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, the population of Montana continues to grow and the percentage of those who are unchurched also continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul explains to the Romans:

“For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:13-17)

WHEREAS, our Lutheran Confession teaches, “To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments,” (AC V) ^v; therefore be it

Resolved, that the congregations of the Montana District be encouraged to petition the Lord each week in the corporate prayers of the church, that He would call into His service and send out laborers into His harvest; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations of the Montana District be encouraged to diligently seek to identify men, both young and old, who are concerned for a faithful preaching and teaching of God’s Word and who have an interest in serving the Lord; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations of the Montana District in conjunction with the Board of Directors and their committees directly engage these identified men, encourage them to consider

such a vocation and service, support them financially in exploring how the Lord may be leading them to serve, and then pray diligently for them; and be it further

Resolved, that those men who are of High School age be encouraged and financially supported by the Montana District to attend an on-campus event at one of our seminaries such as Christ Academy^{vi} or Vocatio^{vii}; and be it further

Resolved, that those men who are older be encouraged and financially supported by the Montana District to attend an on-campus visitation event intended for adults, such as Prayerfully Consider^{viii} or Contemplate^{ix}; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Montana District through the Board of Directors also pray at each meeting that the Lord would send out workers into His harvest field and seek means of increasing the existing support funds so as to strengthen the financial support that is available for these men, both pre and post seminary engagement.

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings

ⁱ Statistical Information from Rev. Forke, 2-9-2022

ⁱⁱ <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/ozWmH8si0B4d837BnZxiylqvTFQWCXGp?>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://reporter.lcms.org/2021/set-apart-to-serve-church-worker-recruitment-initiative-gets-new-name/>

^{iv} LCMS Reporter Supplement — September 2021 — Pastoral Education: Are Pastors Really Necessary? <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/15tzYwYmqpzu9gPW1BvNqy1K77gCMvqN?>

^v Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). The Book of Concord: the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (p. 40). Fortress Press.

^{vi} <https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/christ-academy/>

^{vii} <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/vocatio/>

^{viii} <https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/prayerfully-consider-visit/>

^{ix} <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/contemplate/>

To Develop Biblically Faithful Textbooks/Curricula for Our Day Schools, High School, and Home Schools

Overture 4-01

WHEREAS, Education in all subject areas is first and foremost about what is taught, namely that which is good, true, and beautiful; and

WHEREAS, Secular education in all subject areas is increasingly subject to forces from anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-family, pro-death, amoral, anti-truth, and even anti-beauty perspectives; and

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures provide the norm and framework for knowledge in all subject areas, all being interwoven in significant ways with right theology, ethics, history, and human nature as revealed by God therein; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has the second largest system of parochial schools in America, but too often they are using secular textbooks/curricula, or publications from non-Lutheran traditions; and

WHEREAS, Many Lutheran parents who homeschool their children find good, biblically faithful textbook/curricula options to be sorely lacking; and

WHEREAS, Christian schools and home schools in general would benefit greatly from having more biblically faithful Christian textbook/curricula options; and

WHEREAS, The natural sciences, especially biology and earth sciences, are prone to the grievous errors of Darwinism which directly undermine the integrity of the Scriptures, and the Gospel itself by putting Death before the Fall; and

WHEREAS, The *Discovery Works* science textbooks available from Concordia Publishing House (the only day school curricula available from CPH besides Religion Curriculum and some Lesson Plans) are outdated (© 1999) and rather limited (Grades 1-6); and

WHEREAS, The need is urgent, for surveys show that sixty percent of young adults raised as Christian are rejecting the faith,ⁱ their doubts arising in middle school and high school when Darwinism and its many related false “-isms” are taught by the secular textbooks but either no counter arguments for biblical truth are available or those presented are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has a university system and two seminaries comprising expertise across all subject areas, including early childhood education, for producing excellent textbooks/curricula for grades K-12 as well as providing theologically sound editorial oversight to ensure content is biblically faithful in its Christian apologetic; and

Whereas, The LCMS has its own publishing house; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montana District of the LCMS memorialize the Synod in convention to direct and coordinate the preparation and production of biblically faithful textbooks/curricula across all subject areas, for grades K-12; and be it finally

Resolved, That this curriculum be ready for market by 2024.

Montana Board of Directors, Billings, MT

ⁱ Ham, K., Beemer B., Hillard, T. (2009). *Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it*. Master Books.

1 **To Encourage Both LCMS Seminaries to Continue Training Men for**
2 **Faithful Service and To Petition the Synod to Dramatically Increase Funds**
3 **Sent to Undesignated Seminary Operations.**

4 **Overture 4-02**

5 WHEREAS, Both of our LCMS Seminaries continue to teach and prepare theological pastors
6 who understand, believe, and teach the Lutheran Confession faithfully; and

7 WHEREAS, Our seminaries have increasingly been forced to secure their own funding for
8 operations, necessitating the formation of separate development offices and staff; and

9 WHEREAS, One of the reasons for the formation of a Synod was the common and truthful
10 belief that congregations could do together what none could do alone, including providing
11 seminaries for the training of pastors in the Synod ⁱ; and

12 WHEREAS, The LCMS model of residential seminary education has served the Synod well
13 since its founding and has become a model for seminaries around the world, with partner
14 churches calling for aid and counsel in providing similar educational opportunities and standards
15 for their students ⁱⁱ; and

16 WHEREAS, Congregations of the Synod and global missions will always need well-educated
17 pastors and experienced and gifted faculties; and

18 WHEREAS, The cost of maintaining academic standards, recruiting and teaching future
19 pastors, and operating residential seminaries continues to increase; and

20 WHEREAS, Many other church bodies in the United States are abandoning residential models
21 and moving to online teaching and remote learning while requiring less overall education and
22 training in the sacred texts and doctrine of the Christian Church to the detriment of pastoral
23 formation; and

24 WHEREAS, Many in our Synod are also tempted to close a seminary and find cheaper and
25 more expedient ways to solve the short-term clergy shortage that we face; and

26 WHEREAS, Such short-term thinking can provide some relief for the immediate crisis, but
27 often has unintended consequences and creates greater struggles for the future; and

28 WHEREAS, Jesus has told us that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, to pray to
29 Him to send out labors into His harvest field; and

30 WHEREAS, The Lord, in His mercy, has faithfully and generously provided these seminaries
31 for the preaching and teaching of His Word, and they are a great blessing to confessional
32 Lutheranism in the United States and throughout the world; therefore be it

33 *RESOLVED*, That letters of encouragement be sent to each seminary from the MT District
34 BOD thanking them for their faithfulness to our Lutheran Confession and the formation of
35 pastors, while also encouraging them to continue this work; and be it further

RESOLVED, That congregations of the MT District be encouraged to consider generous contributions to the Joint Seminary Fundⁱⁱⁱ, a fund that provides roughly one million dollars per fiscal year to each seminary^{iv}, or directly to one or both of the seminaries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the MT District petition the Synod in convention to return to the earlier practice of our Synod when seminaries were mostly funded by unrestricted monies given to the Synod at large by districts, member congregations, and individuals. Specifically, that the Synod would cut funding from other areas as necessary so as to make our seminaries a priority by providing for 50% of each seminary's budget beginning in 2024, with a stated goal of increasing that percentage at each convention until both seminaries are fully funded by the Synod budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the MT District lead this effort by example and contribute 5% of unrestricted giving from District congregations to the Joint Seminary Fund beginning in fiscal year 2023; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to be strengthened for adoption at its 2023 convention.

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings

ⁱ The fifth reason listed under “Reasons for forming a Synodical Organization” of the first Synodical Constitution reads, “5.To make possible the promotion of common church projects. (Seminary, agenda, hymnal, Book of Concord, schoolbooks, Bible distribution, mission projects within and outside the Church.).”

ii “Today, the single most frequent and fervent request received by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from partner and non-partner Lutheran church bodies around the world is to share our theological treasures.” <https://www.lcms.org/makeagift/gsi>

iii <https://www.lcms.org/seminary-education/seminary-topics/lcms-joint-seminary-fund>

^{iv} <https://reporter.lcms.org/2020/reporter-supplement-pastoral-education-the-truth-of-christ-is-that-important/>

**To Amend the Montana District Bylaws to Provide for the Care of an
Outgoing District President in a Manner Consistent with the Care Given by
Synod to an Outgoing President, First Vice President, or Secretary**

Overture 5-01

WHEREAS, Montana District Bylaw 2.2.1.4.c reads “If the District President is not reelected, he shall continue to receive his full salary and benefits for a period not to exceed ninety days from the day the newly elected President takes office. If he finds other employment, accepts a call, or retires before the end of ninety days, his salary and benefits from the District shall end by the first of the month following his assumption of such employment, call, or retirement”; and

WHEREAS, The equivalent bylaw (3.2.4.1.a-b) in the Synod bylaws provides for an outgoing President, First Vice President, or Secretary for a period of six months; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montana District Board of Directors propose that Bylaw 2.2.1.4.c of the District Bylaws be amended as follows:

2.2.1.4.c If the District President is not re-elected, he shall continue to receive his full salary and benefits for a period not to exceed six months from the day the newly elected President takes office. If he finds other employment, accepts a call, or retires before the end of six months, his salary and benefits from the District shall end by the first of the month following his assumption of such employment, call, or retirement.

Montana District Board of Directors, Billings, MT

**To Prevent the Reinstatement and Colloquization of a Man into the Office of
Public Ministry who has Unbiblically Divorced his Wife**

Overture 5-02

WHEREAS, Christ our Lord says with regards to marriage, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate," (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9; cf. Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 57:11b); and

WHEREAS, The only exception given by our Lord is on the grounds of adultery, (Matthew 75:32; Matthew 19:9); and

WHEREAS, Men called into the Office of the Public Ministry are also called to be above reproach. Specifically with regards to marriage, this requires him to be the husband of no more than one wife, (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6); and

WHEREAS, Unbiblical divorce and remarriage disqualifies a man from the Office of the Public Ministry, (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6); and

WHEREAS, The decision whether or not to reinstate a former member of the Synod rests at the sole discretion of the Council of Presidents, (Bylaw 2.18.1); and

WHEREAS, The decision to declare applicants for colloquy to be qualified for the pastoral ministry and to certify such men for placement rests at the sole discretion of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, (Bylaw 3.10.2.2.b); and

WHEREAS, In the action of reinstating or not reinstating a former member of the Synod, the Council of Presidents does so as an officially established advisory body of the Synod, (Bylaw 201.2.1.g); and

WHEREAS, By the actions of reinstating and colloquizing, the Council of Presidents and Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, respectively, state that a man is qualified for the Office of the Public Ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. As this is an assignment given to them by the members of the Synod in convention (having been codified in the Bylaws of the Synod), they do so as representatives of the members of the Synod (Bylaw 263.10.1.4; Bylaw 2.18.1); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents not reinstate a man into the Office of the Ministry who has unbiblically divorced his wife; and be it further; and be it further

Resolved, That the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry not colloquize a man into the Office of the Public Ministry who has unbiblically divorced his wife; and be it further

Resolved, That when a man is readmitted into the Office of the Public Ministry, the reason for readmission be articulated in official Synodical publications and the vote of each member of the Council of Presidents be made public; and be it further

Resolved, That when a man is colloquized into the Office of the Public Ministry, the reason for colloquization be articulated in official Synodical publications and the vote of each member of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry be made public, and be it finally

Resolved, That the Montana District in convention adopt this overture and submit it to the Synod Convention for adoption.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MT

OVERTURE 5-03

41 “Dost thou hold and profess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as laid down in the Symbols
42 contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, to wit, the three Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg
43 Confession, the Apology of the same, the Smalcald Articles, the Small and Large Catechism, and the
44 Formula of Concord, to be the true doctrine of the Holy Scriptures? *Answer:* I do so hold and profess.”

45 “Art thou determined to discharge faithfully the duties of the holy ministry [in this Congregation] in full
46 accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the said Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? *Answer:* I
47 have so determined by the grace of God.”

48 **The Ordination and Installation of a Minister:**

49 “Dost thou believe the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament to be the inspired Word of God
50 and the only infallible rule of faith and practise? *Answer:* I do so believe.”

51 “Dost thou hold and profess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as laid down in the Symbols
52 contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, especially the three Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg
53 Confession, the Apology of the same, the Smalcald Articles, the Small and Large Catechism, and the
54 Formula of Concord, to be the true doctrine of the Holy Scriptures? *Answer:* I do so hold and profess.”

55 “Art thou determined to discharge faithfully the duties of the holy ministry in this Congregation in full
56 accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the said Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? *Answer:* I
57 have so determined by the grace of God.”

58 **The Installation of a Pastor:**

59 “I ask thee, therefore, dear Brother, in the presence of God and this Congregation: Art thou willing and
60 ready to take upon thee the charge of this Congregation, and to perform faithfully all the duties of thy
61 ministry? *Answer:* I am.”

62 “Wilt thou preach and teach the pure Word of God in accordance with the Confessions of the Evangelical
63 Lutheran Church, and adorn the doctrine of our Savior by a godly and holy life? *Answer:* Yes, with the
64 help of God.”

65 (TLH Liturgy and Agenda, CPH 1921, pg. 375 – 385)

66 ⁱⁱ “Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine; will you
67 forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you; will
68 you minister faithfully to the sick and dying; will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready
69 ministry, admonish the people to a lively confidence in Christ and holy living? *Response:* I will with the
70 help of God.”

71 (LW Agenda, CPH 1984, pg. 205-221)

72 ⁱⁱⁱ “Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you
73 forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you?
74 Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and
75 ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively
76 confidence in Christ and in holy living?” *Response:* Yes, I will, with the help of God.”

77 (LSB Agenda, CPH 2006, pg. 160-181)

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Dr. William Melvin Bliese

Rev. Dr. William Melvin Bliese was called to Glory on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at his home in Bozeman.

His service to the church led him to congregations in Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and Montana, where he assisted at First Lutheran Church, Bozeman.

Rev. Bliese is survived by three of his sons and their spouses, Karl (Nancy), Rick (Nina), and John (Melody), and a total of eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 13 at First Lutheran Church in Bozeman.

Rev. Edwin Iverson

Rev. Edwin Iverson was called to glory on Friday, February 1, 2019.

Pastor Iverson served mostly with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod except for a six year period in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. He served in Norfolk, NE, Eden, ID, Angel, OR, Schuyler, NE, Rapid City, SD, Boscobel, WI, La Valle, WI, and Montana. He retired in 2009 due to health issues.

His memorial service was held at Mr. Olive Lutheran Church, Billings on Monday, February 18th at 10am.

Rev. Robert Mitchell

Rev. Robert Mitchell was called to glory on December 11, 2021.

Pastor Mitchell taught and served as a Director of Christian Education, before becoming a pastor and serving his first call at First Lutheran Church, Bozeman. He then served St. John Lutheran Church, Deer Lodge for 10 years before retiring in 2019. Pastor Mitchell is survived by his wife, Michele, three daughters, Genelle, Kathryn, Keren and son, Matthew.

His funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church on January 2, 2022.

Rev. Dr. Mark Nicolaus

Rev. Dr. Mark Nicolaus was called to glory on April 28, 2022.

Pastor Nicolaus graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, and was ordained in 1970. He served congregations in Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Montana District; including, Peace (Great Falls and Ronan), Shepherd of the Valley (Thompson Falls), Trinity (Sidney), St. John (Fairview), and Concordia (Williston). He was preceded in death by his lovely wife, Jane, and is survived by children, Leah, Micah, and Sarah.

His funeral will be held in Wisconsin.

Rev. Herbert Schiefelbein

Rev. Herbert Schiefelbein was called to glory on April 29, 2019.

He was ordained in 1952, and served congregations in Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, and Montana (Holy Cross, Seely Lake and Faith, Condon), before retiring in 1995. He continued to serve vacancies in Minnesota and Montana, eventually, settling in Billings, where he was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Frances and son, Dennis.

The funeral was held on at Trinity Lutheran Church on May 6, 2019.

Mr. Jerry Schreck

Mr. Jerry Schreck, long-time lay-minister at Trinity, Kalispell, was called to Glory on December 16, 2021.

Jerry served His Lord faithfully at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell from 1991 to his retirement 17 years later. Prior to his serving Trinity as a Lay Minister, Jerry had attended Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin, for two years to acquire certification to serve in that capacity. Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, in 2005. Jerry spent the later part of his life at the Hidden Meadow Care Center, between Whitefish and Columbia Falls.

His Memorial Service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Dec 28, 2021 and burial at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Mrs. Cynthia Speed

Mrs. Cynthia (Cindy) Speed was called to glory on September 12, 2018.

Cindy served of the Director of Parish Music for Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Billings. Cindy was a devoted follower of Christ and provided a shining example of her faith throughout her life. Family and friends remember Cindy as vibrant, energetic, cheerful, generous, and loyal. Cindy loved her family fiercely and was an adoring daughter, sister, mother, and proud grandmother.

Her memorial service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church on September 19, 2018.

Rev. Kent Stenzel

Rev. Kent Stenzel was called to glory on March 29, 2022.

Pastor Stenzel graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1973, and went on to serve congregations in Idaho, Nebraska, Indiana, Missouri, and Montana; including Trinity (Sidney and Great Falls) and St. John (Fairview). He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their children, Kara, Roger, and James.

His funeral was held at Grace Lutheran Church, Hamilton, on April 22, 2022.

Rev. Robert Weishoff

Rev. Robert Weishoff was called to glory on October 20, 2018.

He was born in 1935 in Black Creek, Wisconsin. He received his education through Wartburg College and Seminary, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. His first call was to Christ Lutheran, Irvington, NE, after which he served various congregations in California before he came to serve the multiple parish of Trinity, Stanford, Our Savior, Denton, and St. Paul, Lewistown. Prior to his death, Rev. Weishoff served as the supervising pastor to Pastor Mark Wiegert, as he completed his SMP training to serve the multi-parish. He is survived by his wife, Lois, their four children, and numerous grandchildren.

His Memorial Service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown, on October 26th, 2018.

AMICUS CHRISTI – Mr. Kenneth Holste

Born and raised on a small farm in northwestern Kansas, the second of six siblings, five boys and a girl (poor Betty) and attended one and two room Lutheran Elementary schools. After graduating from Atwood High School, attended Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, graduating with a Science and Math degree in Secondary Education thinking I wanted to teach in a Lutheran High School.

The Lord had other plans...being assigned to Trinity Lutheran School in 'Cowsbell' (Kalispell) MT, teaching math in grades 3-8 and science in K-8. It was a bit scary that week, after man first walked on the moon, for someone who had never been farther west than Denver to head for the Flathead Valley having no idea what or where the Flathead Valley was but after 1100 miles, all 2 lane highways, and topping the hill on Hwy 93 at Polson with Flathead Lake and the mountains in front of me, was an experience not to be forgotten. That same summer the Lord sent a young parish worker (Carol Bluhm) from northeastern Kansas to Trinity and after working together for three years we started our life together on June 25, 1972.

The month of July was camp counselor time until the mid 90's with both of our sons living with us in our one room cabin at Trinity Lutheran Camp. We took a break in the summers of the early 80's as I earned my Masters degree from Concordia, Seward, (no on-line courses then). The opportunity to work with hundreds (?thousands) of youth from across the State of Montana and beyond was wonderful and during this time the Basketball Camp was born which is still going strong 30+ years later.

During the late 70's and 80's I had the privilege of serving on the MT District Board of Directors, being able work with and learn from many gifted servants of our Lord. For the majority of my time at Trinity, I have been a part of the Board of Christian Day School as the Assistant Principal or in an Interim role as Principal, and since retiring from the classroom after 43 years, have become a part of the Board of Directors of TLC. Driving the school bus still gives opportunity for lots of contact with the students (including our grandkids).

It has truly been a team ministry with my wife Carols' support and encouragement ever present throughout the journey. Her, and consequently my, involvement with the Developmentally Disabled program at Trinity and the Pro-Life stance in the Flathead Valley have been a part of our lives since the early 70's.

I thank God for the many blessings He has given us and pray that we can continue to further the spreading of His Kingdom in Montana and the Flathead Valley now and in the future.

AMICUS CHRISTI – Pat Lewis

Patrick “Pat” Lewis was Baptized into Christ in 1975 at Pilgrim Luther Church in Santa Monica, California. He completed LCMS adult confirmation at St John’s Lutheran Church (PLC), Rome New York circa 1983. In the summer of 1989 his family and he were accepted into membership at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana.

Shortly after becoming a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Pat volunteered to serve as a Trustee until moving to Hawaii in 1993. Upon his return to Peace in 1996, he resumed duties as a Trustee. A short time later, the Pastor encouraged him to serve on the Board of Elders which Pat has done so for over 20 years.

Over the years Pat has taught adult Bible studies and youth pre-confirmation classes. He has served as a lay assistant to previous Pastors during worship services at Peace. Most notably, he was one of a few laymen from Peace to lead worship services at both Peace and First Lutheran in Fort Benton during their Pastoral vacancies. To this day, he continues to do so during Pastoral absences.

In 2002 he began serving as a Synodical Reconciler and currently serves as a Synodical Dispute Resolution Panel Facilitator. He has assisted Pastors at Peace Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church in Power Montana, and Messiah Lutheran Church, Missoula, Montana in facilitating Parish planning. Finally, he served two separate three-year terms on the Montana District Board of Directors.

Pat is married to Helen Lewis (MT Lutherans for Life and Peace Lutheran Church’s LWML). They have three grown children: Brandon, Jennifer and Michael, and eight grandchildren.