

1                                   **To Emphasize the Teaching of Law and Gospel**

2   **Resolution 2-01**

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

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

10          WHEREAS, Without the proper distinction of Law and Gospel the Holy Scriptures  
11 remain a closed book<sup>1</sup>; and

12          WHEREAS, The suggestion has been made that “two kinds of righteousness” is a  
13 better paradigm than law and gospel for preaching and teaching, which suggestion  
14 has caused discussion around our synod; and

15          WHEREAS, The law/gospel structure of sermons has been cast as outdated in some  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

17          WHEREAS, As few as 34% of the teachers in the K-12 school of our Synod are  
18 rostered Lutheran teachers<sup>2</sup>; and

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

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

24          *Resolved*, That Pastors and teachers of the Montana District be encouraged to  
25 keep this teaching with great diligence through proper instruction and supervision;  
26 and

27          *Resolved*, That pastors of churches in the Montana District which operate schools  
28 engage with school leaders to ensure that teachers are instructed in the proper  
29 application of Law and Gospel in teaching; and be it finally

30          *Resolved*, That pastors of churches in the Montana District which operate schools  
31 engage with school leaders to ensure that teachers receive adequate supervision in  
32 the proper application of Law and Gospel in teaching.

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<sup>1</sup> Walther, C.F.W, *Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*, “Concordia Publishing House: 1986”, page 60.

<sup>2</sup> “LCMS School Ministry — Lutheran School Statistics — 2020-21 School Year.” *lcms.org*, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, <https://files.lcms.org/f/FE73327C-9F50-4F74-BD96-83CD394F885C>. June 13, 2022.

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34 Chair: Jim Pierce

35 Secretary: Sam Grayl