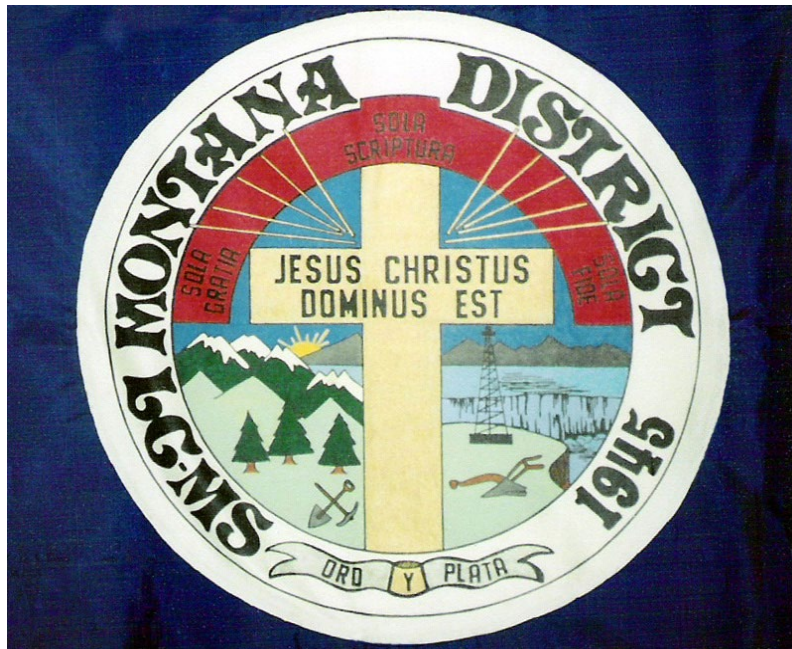


MONTANA DISTRICT
of the
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



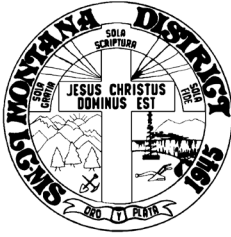
2025 CONVENTION WORKBOOK
June 9-12, 2025

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

The 2025 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 36th 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. Some 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 Romans 1:16, "I Am Not Ashamed." During the course of the convention we will read and discuss the Epistle of Romans as a way of exploring this theme. There will also be time for worship. Pastor Pullmann will be our reader. Pastor Wendt will be our chaplain and the Circuit Visitors will be preaching.

This year our meetings will take place at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings. 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, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ."

In His Service,

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

36th Montana District Convention Schedule

Billings, Montana

June 9-12, 2025

"I Am Not Ashamed"

(Romans 1:16)

Monday- June 9

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 8:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 | Opening Devotions (In Committees) |
| 9:15 | Floor Committees meet (District President visits) |
| 3:45 | Welcome |
| 3:50 | Romans 1-2 (Session # 1) |
| 4:45 | Introduce Staff and Support crew |
| 5:00 | Closing prayer |
| 7:00 pm | Opening Worship- Trinity Lutheran Church (537 Grand Ave) |

Tuesday- June 10

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8:00 | Opening Devotions (Pastor Behm) |
| 8:30 | Committee 7 – Registration and Credentials |
| 8:35 | Romans 3-4 (Session # 2) |
| 9:25 | Orientation- Parliamentary procedures |
| 9:35 | Convention Schedule |
| 9:45 | District President's Report and Address |
| 10:05 | District Treasurer's report |
| 10:15 | Introduction of all nominees to all offices |
| 10:25 | Election Committee |

10:35	Welcome of new members (Ordained, Commissioned, Congregations)
10:45	Committee # 1
11:25	Committee # 2
12:05	Closing Prayer
12:10	Noon Recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Brandt)
1:45	Romans 5-7 (Session # 3)
2:35	Set Apart To Serve
3:30	Break
3:45	Committee # 3
4:20	Report of Synodical President
5:05	Closing Prayer
6:30	Banquet – Amicus Christi Award

Wednesday June 11

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Pullmann)
8:30	Romans 8-9 (Session # 4)
9:20	Report of Synodical President
10:15	Break
10:30	Committee # 4
11:10	Committee # 5
11:50	Closing prayer

12:00	Noon recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Schultz)
1:45	Romans 10-13 (Session # 5)
2:35	Committee # 1
3:00	Break
3:15	Committee # 2
3:40	Committee # 3
4:05	Committee # 4
4:30	Committee # 5
4:55	Closing Prayer
5:00	Advisory delegates meet with Secretary to elect Synodical Convention Delegate (Con. XII .B, Bylaw 3.1.3.1)

Thursday June 12

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Sandersfeld)
8:30	Romans 14-16 (Session # 6)
9:30	Committees as needed
10:00	Break
10:15	Seminaries
10:30	Committees as needed
10:55	Committee # 7 Registration/Credentials- final report
11:00	Closing Worship- Memorial, Installations (Pastor Thomas)

Chaplain- Pastor Ryan Wendt
Reader- Pastor Arlo Pullmann

2025 District Convention Committee Assignments

"I Am Not Ashamed"

(Romans 1:16)

2025 Convention Committees

Floor Committee # 1

Chair- Jacob Berger Secretary- Gerald Paul

Pastor: Erik Iverson, Jim Mavis, Matthew Nelson, Joshua Reinke

Commissioned: Jennifer Boll, Sonja Reeves

Lay: Frank Allen, Justin Cook, Jacob Forke, Alicyn Hoyer, Scott Kimball, Todd Miller, Merrill Pfeifer, Frank Reichert

Floor Committee # 2

Chair- Russ Dewell Secretary- Russ Fitch

Pastor: Matthew Christensen, Timothy Christenson, Dennis Bauer, Larry Miller

Commissioned: Nicole Burns, Tristin Reinke

Lay: Tayler Baisch, John Foster, Michael Hoots, Christopher Huffman, Ron Imig, Ralph Monatano, Brian Schneidenbach, Timothy VanderMolen

Floor Committee # 3

Chair- Daniel Keinath Secretary- Brian Lee

Pastor: Willis McCall, Michael Musegades, Kenneth Stensrud

Commissioned: Sarah Elliott, Lorraine Roach

Lay: Crow Buck, Greyson Hill, Jim Iverson, Dennis Johnson, Jason Koval, Scott Norman, Mark Scott, Bryan Yamasaki

Floor Committee # 4

Chair- David Johnson Secretary- David Mews

Pastor: Greg Lucido, Kyle Winter, Kenneth Zoeller

Commissioned: Cameron Heiliger, Gidoen Schauer

Lay: Eric Corneliusen, Kerry Cutting, Zack Hollatz, Steven Lehman, Bill Mason, Jim Normark, Albert Pacella, Keith Smelser

Floor Committee # 5

Chair- Sam Grayl Secretary- Justin Herman

Pastor: Daniel Jacobs, Robert Lane, Andrew Eckert

Commissioned: Callie Peterson

Lay: Mellisa Abbey, Edward Croymans, Ken Holmlund, Joel Kempf, Timothy Martin, Randy Middlebrook, Alex Petrusaitis, Steven Stiff

Nominations and Elections

Chair- Kyle Whaley Secretary- Jerry Roseliep

Pastor: Paul Shupe

Commissioned: Laura White

Lay: Roy Arves

Credentials/Registration

Chair- Mark Schultz

Pastor- James Koss

Pastor- Michael Donnan

Pastor- Jason Menagh

District Secretary- Charles Lehmann

Technical:

Ryan Wendt

Mark Wiegert

Thomas Kosche

Erik Saunders

Office

Convention Manager- Ruth Kosche

Treasurer- Susan Loomans

Assistants- Andrea Heileger, Laura McCoy

Chaplain- Ryan Wendt

Reader- Arlo Pullmann

Preachers

Circuit Visitors-

David Behm, Chris Brandt, Gideon Pullmann,

Jonathan Schultz, Vern Sandersfeld, Steve Thomas

VOTING DELEGATES

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
Redeemer	Anaconda	Vacant	
Holy Trinity/ Grace	Belgrade Three Forks	Charles Lehman	Jerry Roseleip
Christ the King	Billings	Ryan Wendt	Michael Hoots
Hope Our Redeemer	Billings Worden	Robert Lane	Melissa Abbey
Mt. Olive	Billings	Willis McCall	John (Crow) Buck
Our Savior	Billings	Ken Zoeller	Christopher Huffman
Trinity	Billings	Daniel Keinath	Todd Miller
Faith	Boulder	Gideon Pullmann	Zack Hollatz
First	Bozeman	Samuel Grayl	
St. John St. Paul	Belfry Bridger	Paul Shupe	Merrill Pfeifer
St. Mark Zion	Butte Whitehall	James Mavis	Kerry Cutting
Christ Our Savior Shepherd of the Valley	Challis, ID Salmon, ID	Michael Musegades	Bryan Yamasaki
Zion St. Paul	Chinook Havre	Vacant	Christopher Moen
Mt Calvary	Colstrip	Vacant	James Iversen
Our Redeemer	Columbia Falls	Matthew Nelson	Joel Kempff
Faith Holy Cross	Condon Seeley Lake	Erik Iverson	Jim Normark
Church at Creston	Creston	Kyle Winter	Ron Imig
Crow Lutheran Ministry	Crow Agency		

Congregation Name	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Our Savior	Denton	Mark Wiegert	Jacob Forke
St. Paul	Lewistown	(Excused)	
Trinity	Stanford		
St. John	Deer Lodge	Vacant	Robert Akers
Living Water	Dillon	Kenneth Stensrud	Frank Allen
Shepherd of the Hills	Ennis		
Holy Cross	Eureka	David McCarthy (Excused)	Albert Pacella
St. John	Fairfield	Vacant	Keith Smelser
Zion	Power		
St. John	Fairview	John Baseley (Excused)	
Trinity	Sidney		
Grace	Fallon	Greg Lucido	Tayler Baisch
Our Savior	Glendive		
Concordia	Forsyth	Matthew Christensen	Dennis Johnson
First	Fort Benton	Joshua Reinke	Timothy Vander Molen
Peace/Christ	Great Falls		
Faith	Glasgow	Vacant	Alicyn Hoyer
Trinity	Plentywood		
Trinity	Wolf Point		
Trinity	Great Falls	Jonathan Schlutz	Roy Arves
Grace	Hamilton	Justin Herman	Alex Petrusaitis
Redeemer	Hardin	James Koss (Excused)	John Foster
Trinity	Harlowton	Terry Forke	Jason Koval
St. Paul	Roundup		
First	Helena	Larry Miller	Randy Middlebrook
Trinity	Hysham	Vacant	
Trinity	Kalispell	Brian Lee	Edward Croymans
Circle of Life	Lame Deer	Vacant	

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
St. John	Laurel	Arlo Pullmann	Greyson Hill
St. John	Libby	Steven Thomas	Frank Reichert
Emmaus	Livingston	Vacant	Justin Cook
Trinity	Miles City	Erik Saunders	Ken Holmlund
First	Missoula	David Johnson	Steven Stiff
Messiah Trinity	Missoula Superior	Russell Fitch	Scott Norman
St. Paul	Park City	Russel Dewell	Steven Lehman
Mt. Calvary Zion	Polson/ St. Ignatius	Kyle Whaley	Mark Scott
St. Paul	Ronan	Vacant	
Our Savior	Stevensville	Andrew Eckert	Scott Kimball
Shepherd of the Valley	Thompson Falls	Jakob Berger	Ralph Montano
St. Peter	Whitefish	Timothy Christenson	Timothy Martin
Concordia	Williston	David Behm	Eric Corneliusen

ADVISORY DELEGATES

Pastoral Advisory Delegates

Carlson, Rev. Steven (First, Missoula)
Donnan, Rev. John (Christ the King, Billings)
Klug, Rev. Timothy (Candidate)
Merz, Rev. Daniel (Candidate)
Mews, Rev. David (Trinity, Billings)
Potter, Rev. Jeffery (Candidate)
Paul, Rev. Dr. Gerald (Deployed Missionary)
Preus, Rev. Dr. David (Deployed Missionary)

Ordained Emeritus Advisory Delegates

Bauer, Rev. Dennis
Brandt, Rev. Christopher
Bren, Rev. Donald
Ebel, Rev. Al
Everson, Rev. Gale
Grunst, Rev. Mark
Kaelberer, Rev. Erich
Linderman, Rev. Bruce
Marshall, Rev. Blake
Menagh, Rev. Jason
Reiner, Rev. Darold
Rinderknecht, Rev. Daniel
Sandersfeld, Rev. Vernon
Schreibeis, Rev. Howard
Schultz, Rev. Mark
Tabbert, Rev. Christopher
Vallie, Rev. John
Wareham, Rev. Christopher
Wiegert, Rev. Raymond
Zagel, Rev. Bruce

Board of Directors Members

Rev. Terry Forke, President
Rev. Christopher Tabbert, First Vice-President
Rev. Ryan Wendt, Second Vice-President
Rev. Charles Lehman, Secretary
Susan Loomans, Treasurer
Rev. Matthew Nelson
Roy Arves
Eric Corneliusen
Kendall Hartman
Richard Thomas
Andrew Zoeller

Commissioned Advisory Delegates

Bergan, Linda
Boll, Andrew

Boll, Caroline
Boll, Jennifer
Boll, John
Burns, Nichole
Derricks, Serena
Elliott, Sarah
Erger, Lynne
Groeling, Sarah
Hensel, Tanya
Heiliger, Andrea
Heiliger, Cameron
Hobus, David
Holste, Kenneth
Johnson, Erin
Johnson, Melody
Kern, Becky
Kosche, Ken
Kosche, Thomas
Lee, Debbie
Loomans, Ted
McCoy, Laura
Ogilvie, Kianna
Peiffer, Clarie
Peterson, Callie
Rasmussen, Suzanne
Reeves, Sonja
Rehbein, Erika
Rehbein, Timothy
Reinke, Tristin
Roache, Lorraine
Schauer, Gideon
Scott, JeAnne
Taylor, Susan
Thomas, Richard
Van Luchene, Darrell
Van Luchene, Sue Zann
White, Laura

MT District Nominations Committee

Rev. Kyle Whaley, Chairman
Jerry Roseleip, Secretary
Laura White, Commissioned

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.

2025 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 2025 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 **70 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 \$65.00 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 \$65/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 \$200 maximum per night charge plus taxes. Itemized receipts are required for reimbursement. No lodging reimbursement will be provided for incidental charges.

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 \$15.00, 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 noting items. 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 6/7 and 6/13 are reserved for those traveling in 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 or Illegible 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 also keep a copy or the originals for your own records). Actual odometer readings are required by the IRS for mileage reimbursements.
3. Meals reimbursements are available as follows, unless prior authorization is received:
 - Breakfast, \$10.00 maximum, Sunday
 - Lunch, \$15.00 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 11, 2025.

The MONTANA DISTRICT of the LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

2025 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: 2025 District Convention

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

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	continue on blank paper if necessary	
Dates:	6/7/2025	6/8/2025	6/9/2025	6/10/2025	6/11/2025	6/12/2025	6/13/2025	SUBTOTAL	TOTALS
<i>Odometer Reading</i>									
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 8/11/2025

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

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

2023

10	Emmaus Lutheran Church, Livingston
70	Faith, Boulder
135	St Mark, Butte
110	Zion, Chinook
50	Mt Calvary, Colstrip
75	First, Ft Benton
65	Faith, Glasgow
85	Our Savior, Glendive
110	St. John, Laurel
110	St. John, Libby
110	St. Paul, Park City
110	Zion, Power
45	Shepherd of the Valley, Salmon, ID
95	Trinity, Sidney
65	Zion, Whitehall
90	Concordia, Williston, ND
30	Our Redeemer, Worden

2024

65	Mount Olive, Billings
105	Trinity, Billings
95	First, Bozeman
95	Concordia, Forsyth
105	Grace, Hamilton
105	St Paul, Havre
70	Trinity, Stanford
70	Our Savior, Stevensville
65	St. Peter, Whitefish

2025

70	Holy Cross, Eureka
70	St. John, Fairfield
95	St. John, Fairview
105	Trinity, Harlowton
130	Trinity, Kalispell
25	Circle of Life, Lame Deer
125	First, Missoula
110	St. Paul, Ronan
65	Trinity, Superior
95	Trinity, Wolf Point

2025 ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

John Baseley	3	Darold Reiner	53
Dennis Bauer	43	Joshua Reinke	11
David Behm	13	Daniel Rinderknecht	42
Jakob Berger	10	Vern Sandersfeld	42
Christopher Brandt	44	Howard Schreibeis	40
Donald Bren		Jonathan Schultz	17
Steven Carlson	43	Mark Schultz	42
Matt Christensen	18	Paul Shupe	14
Timothy Christenson	14	Ken Stensrud	17
Russell Dewell	18	Christopher Tabbert	27
John Donnan	32	Steven Thomas	26
Al Ebel	37	John Vallie	25
Andrew Eckert	29	Christopher Wareham	45
Gale Everson	47	Ryan Wendt	21
Russell Fitch	16	Kyle Whaley	15
Terry Forke	42	Raymond Wiegert	66
Sam Grayl	21	Kyle Winter	9
Mark Grunst	44	Bruce Zagel	40
Erik Iverson	19	Ken Zoeller	26
Daniel Jacobs	39		
David Johnson	37		
Erich Kaelberer	14		
Daniel Keinath	16		
Timothy Klug	35		
James Koss	29		
Robert Lane	27		
Brian Lee	15		
Charles Lehmann	18		
Bruce Linderman	49		
Greg Lucido	25		
Blake Marshall	24		
James Mavis	32		
Willis McCall	16		
David McCarthy	11		
Jason Menagh	38		
Daniel Merz	9		
David Mews	10		
Larry Miller	42		
Michael Musegades	13		
Matt Nelson	21		
Gerald Paul	25		
Jeffery Potter	38		
David Preus	14		
Arlo Pullmann	38		
Gideon Pullmann	7		

2025 Commissioned - Ministers Anniversaries

Jennifer Boll	23
Nichole Burns	1
Serena Derricks	15
Sarah Elliott	19
Sarah Groeling	5
Andrea Heiliger	17
Cameron Heiliger	9
Tanya Hensel	11
Erin Johnson	4
Thomas Kosche	22
Debbie Lee	16
Ted Loomans	30
Laura McCoy	24
Kianna Ogilvie	4
Claire Peiffer	8
Callie Peterson	1
Sonja Reeves	10
Erika Rehbein	11
Tristin Reinke	1
Gideon Schauer	1
Susan Taylor	1
Laura White	15

2025 Circuit Statistics

Southern Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Belfry	St. John	50	48	15
Billings	Christ the King	143	118	87
	Hope	53	47	27
	Mt Olive	382	314	122
	Our Savior	85	71	44
	Trinity	1421	1104	321
Bridger	St. Paul	75	61	22
Crow Agency	Crow Ministry	70	39	1
Hardin	Redeemer	80	68	28
Harlowton	Trinity	31	28	18
Lame Deer	Circle of Life	72	40	15
Laurel	St. John	482	382	100
Park City	St. Paul	131	109	49
Roundup	St. Paul	14	13	9
Worden	Our Redeemer	20	16	16
TOTALS		15	3109	2458

Western Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Challis, ID	Christ of Savior	11	8	20
Condon	Faith	20	20	16
Hamilton	Grace	298	238	83
Missoula	First	565	483	158
	Messiah	70	65	30
Salmon, ID	Shepherd of the Valley	80	74	39
Seeley Lake	Holy Cross	42	36	20
Stevensville	Our Savior	70	37	55
Superior	Trinity	28	28	15
Thompson Falls	Shepherd	41	37	24
TOTALS		10	1225	1026

Eastern Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance	
Colstrip	Mt. Calvary	180	147	16	
Fairview	St. John	41	37	13	
Fallon	Grace	16	16	9	
Forsyth	Concordia	156	109	40	
Glasgow	Faith	20	19	11	
Glendive	Our Savior	279	231	88	
Hysham	Trinity	14	12	9	
Miles City	Trinity	421	298	98	
Plentywood	Trinity	65	53	15	
Sidney	Trinity	196	154	55	
Williston, ND	Concordia	93	78	47	
Wolf Point	Trinity	29	29	14	
TOTALS		12	1510	1183	415

Central Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance	
Chinook	Zion	62	57	28	
Denton	Our Savior	19	19	12	
Fairfield	St. John	20	20	11	
Ft. Benton	First	20	20	10	
Great Falls	Christ Lutheran for the Deaf	22	22	7	
	Peace	134	112	47	
	Trinity	326	262	143	
Havre	St. Paul	122	98	55	
Lewistown	St. Paul	126	103	35	
Power	Zion	49	49	15	
Stanford	Trinity	34	29	18	
TOTALS		11	934	791	381

Divide Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance
Anaconda	Redeemer	12	11	10
Belgrade	Holy Trinity	186	170	50
Boulder	Faith Lutheran	39	36	24
Bozeman	First Lutheran	398	344	139
Butte	St. Mark	187	147	39
Deer Lodge	St. John	107	97	40
Dillon	Living Water	18	18	16
Ennis	Shepherd	71	51	30
Helena	First Lutheran	596	465	201
Livingston	Emmaus Lutheran Church	24	18	15
Three Forks	Grace	106	92	15
Whitehall	Zion	85	76	31
TOTALS		12	1829	610

Flathead Circuit

City	Church	Baptized	Confirmed	Average Attendance	
Columbia Falls	Our Redeemer	270	200	135	
Creston	The Church at Creston	151	58	153	
Eureka	Holy Cross	142	138	44	
Kalispell	Trinity	795	630	350	
Libby	St. John	145	106	57	
Polson	Mt. Calvary	32	29	19	
Ronan	St. Paul	56	56	30	
St. Ignatius	Zion	27	21	18	
Whitefish	St. Peter	40	40	30	
TOTALS		9	1658	1278	836

**DISTRICT
TOTAL**

69 **10265** **8261** **3576**
Avg. Attend: 52

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – June to December 2022

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Baseley, John	Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Sidney) and St. John Lutheran Church (Fairview) on 06/12/22
Breitung, Dane	Ordained and Installed as Sole Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church (Chinook) and St. Paul Lutheran Church (Havre) on 07/10/22

Changes Within the District Transferred to Other Districts Called to Glory

Wegner, Wilhelm	Called to Glory on 10/11/22
Larson, Raymond	Called to Glory on 12/24/22

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District Changes with the District Transferred to Other Districts Called to Glory

CONGREAGTIONS

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – 2023

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Pullmann, Gideon	Installed as Sole Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (Boulder) on 10/01/23
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Weist, James	Installed as Sole Pastor of Circle of Life Lutheran Church (Lame Deer) on 12/03/23
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Changes Within the District

Donnan, John	Installed as Associate Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church (Billings) on 01/29/23
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Rinderknecht, Daniel	Active to Emeritus on 02/20/23
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Christensen, Matthew	Installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Kalispell) on 05/28/23
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Marshall, Blake	Active to Emeritus on 07/01/23
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Schreibeis, Howard	Active to Emeritus on 08/01/23
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Christensen, Matthew	Active to Candidate on 11/01/23
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Sandersfeld, Vernon	Active to Emeritus on 11/01/23
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Transferred to Other Districts

Called to Glory

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

Entered the District

Derricks, Serena	Transferred from the Northwest District on 01/16/23
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Changes Within the District

Derricks, Serena	Candidate to Active on 03/03/23
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Boll, Andrew	Installed as a Teacher at Mount Olive Lutheran School (Billings) on 03/26/23
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Doucette, Rachel	Removed (Candidate) on 04/30/23
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Rehbein, Timothy	Active to Candidate on 08/15/23
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Transferred to Other Districts

Harding, Nicolas	Trinity Lutheran Church (Indiana District) on 06/26/23
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Reihmann, Anna

Faith Community Lutheran School (Pacific
Southwest District) on 06/03/23

Eberhard, Susan

Woodburn Lutheran School (Indiana) on 07/06/23

CONGREAGTIONS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (Challis, ID) officially joined the LCMS on 08/20/23

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – 2024

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Saunders, Erik	Ordained and installed as Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Miles City) on 06/19/24
Mews, David	Installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Billings) on 08/04/24
Herman, Justin	Installed as Sole Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church (Hamilton) on 09/15/24

Changes Within the District

Bauer, Dennis	Active to Emeritus on 01/01/24
Musegades, Michael	Installed as Sole Pastor of Christ our Savior Lutheran Church (Challis, ID) on 04/19/24
Brandt, Christopher	Active to Emeritus on 05/02/24
Krumdieck, Gary	Active to Emeritus on 08/19/24
Vallie, John	Active to Emeritus on 09/30/24

Transferred to Other Districts

Pierce, James	Transferred to Emmaus & Messiah Lutheran Churches (Northwest District) on 02/19/24
Kerns, Douglas	Transferred to Faith Lutheran Church (Eastern District) on 03/03/24
Krumdieck, Gary	Transferred to Northwest District on 08/19/24
Schiemann, Matthew	Transferred to St. Paul Lutheran Church (Indiana District) on 11/18/24
Weist, James	Transferred to Lutheran Church of the Lakes (Michigan District) on 12/09/24

Called to Glory

Christiansen, Eric	Called to Glory on 01/10/24
Lehmann, Carl	Called to Glory on 10/04/24
Sprengeler, Erwin	Called to Glory on 10/08/24

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Burns, Nichole	Commissioned and Installed as a Teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church (Kalispell) on 01/07/24
Bergan, Linda	Transferred from the Minnesota North District on 03/07/24
Taylor, Susan	Commissioned and Installed as a Teacher and Principal at First Lutheran School (Helena) on 04/14/24
Schauer, Gideon	Commissioned and Installed as Director of Christian Education at Trinity Lutheran Church (Kalispell) on 07/07/24
Peterson, Callie	Commissioned and Installed as a Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School (Billings) on 08/24/24
Reinke, Tristin	Commissioned and Installed as a Director of Parish Music at Peace Lutheran Church (Great Falls) on 12/15/24

Changes Within the District

Lane, Julie	Removed (Candidate) from Roster on 01/01/24
Derricks, Serena	Installed as a Missionary (LBT) on 03/03/24
Boll, Andrew	Active to Candidate on 06/08/24
Thomas, Richard	Active to Emeritus on 07/13/24
Colclasure, Richelle	Removed (Candidate) from Roster on 08/26/24
Colclasure, Steven	Removed (Candidate) from Roster on 08/26/24

Transferred to Other Districts

CONGREAGTIONS

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (Colstrip), Concordia Lutheran Church (Forsyth), and Trintiy Lutheran Church (Hysham) agreed through a voters meeting on October 13, 2024, to dissolve the Tri Parish.

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – January to June 2025

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Changes Within the District

Jacobs, Daniel

Active to Emeritus on 01/01/25

Merz, Daniel

Active to Candidate on 02/10/25

Christensen, Matthew

Installed as Sole Pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church (Forsyth) on 03/30/25

Breitung, Dane

Removed from Roster on 04/09/25

Transferred to Other Districts

Schneider, Richard

Transferred to Redeemer Lutheran Church (Kansas District) on 04/21/25

Called to Glory

Green, Richard

Called to Glory on 04/30/2025

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Changes Within the District

Transferred to Other Districts

Called to Glory

CONGREAGTIONS

District President's Report 2025 Montana District Convention

"I Am Not Ashamed"

As President of the Montana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod it is my firm conviction that the confession made by our beloved Synod is a true exposition of the Holy Scriptures and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. With that conviction in mind it has been my endeavor, over the past 19 years, to oversee and facilitate a bold proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people under our purview as a district, both to those who are of the faith, and to those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord.

The religious climate of 21st century America is not welcoming of this message, so, to say the least, it has been a difficult journey. Yet, the saints of the Montana district are a tough, resilient bunch, who after reeling for a time as a result of the change from being cultural insiders to being cultural outsiders, have begun to learn how to stand firm in the face of the mockery and hatred of the world.

At this point, let me express my sincere thanks to the faithful Pastors, teachers and lay-members of the Montana district for allowing me to participate in their work of proclaiming Jesus to the nations at a pivotal time in our nation's history. I do believe these 19 years have included much of the pivot from a time when the Church was culturally powerful, to a time when the Church is disrespected and intentionally misunderstood. If that assessment were true, it would be a good time for a change in leadership in the district as we begin a new season of proclamation in a changed world. I will address this future position in my spoken words during the convention.

Congregations

During the past 19 years God has seen fit to grant four new congregations to the district, (Thompson Falls, Dillon, Livingston, Challis, ID.) We rejoice at the gift, and we pray for these fledgling congregations that God may grow them up strong and bold.

At the same time, we must acknowledge that the overall number of congregational members representing our district has shrunk. We grieve over the realities of this sin-bound world even as we pray that God would see fit to plant faith in more and more hearts. The reality is that our congregations are smaller than they used to be. That means that we have had to do things a bit differently than previously.

Around 85% of our congregations have fewer than 100 people in church on a weekend. Around 50% have fewer than 50 in average attendance. This is a significant number, because it means that most of our congregations are not able independently to support a Pastor. Consequently, around 70% of our congregations are in multi-parish relationships, that is, one Pastor serving two or three congregations.

While the proliferation of multi-point parishes may seem like doing things in a new way, it is more like "forward to the past." The history of the Montana district is full of Pastors serving many congregations. This time around, we have added a technological twist. At least six of

our congregations are using technology to deliver services, (without including the Lord's Supper) when the Pastor is not able to be present at every congregation he serves. I expect that number to go up. A number of our congregations have also been served by bi-vocational Pastors. These Pastors work at another job to supply much of their income. This is not unlike the circumstances of the Apostle Paul who proclaimed the Gospel and worked as a tent-maker.

Another new way of thinking about congregations in the Montana district is to recognize that the mission is very close, not necessarily far away. I am not degrading the need for foreign missions. However, more of our larger congregations are beginning to acknowledge that they can benefit the proclamation of the Gospel right here at home, by helping to keep our small, isolated congregations open. This may, and has happened either through formal relationships, or through occasional financial assistance. In my view, these intentional inter-district mission efforts are essential to the future of the Montana district. If we don't start drawing closer as district congregations, we may end up closing some.

The preceding paragraph provides an apt segway to outline the underlying philosophy of my approach to work in the Montana district. The practical result of my confidence in the rightness of our confession has led me to believe that we should seek to keep all of our congregations open, no matter how small. The sincere hope, perhaps even the plan, is that as other congregations in small town Montana find it necessary to close, our congregations may benefit from being the last Christian congregations standing. Finding ways to keep tiny, isolated congregations open has been the signature effort of the past 19 years.

Pastors

Much of the weight of serving small, isolated congregations falls on the Pastors of the district. They cover a lot of miles, and they don't get paid very much. Yet, they serve for the sake of the Good News of Jesus. Many thanks to them for their faithfulness to the confession and their selfless service to the saints of the district.

In this convention you will hear much about the need for Pastors. It is true that The LCMS has fewer Pastors than are needed to serve all its congregations. In my estimation, this does not mean that we should panic. It does not mean that we should lower the standards that we have established for the education of our Pastors. It does not mean that we should depend on institutions other than our seminaries to prepare our Pastors.

I would offer two practical actions that every one of us can use to respond to the shortage of Pastors. 1) We can do what Jesus told us to do. (Matthew 9:38) We can pray privately and in our Churches, that He will send us more Pastors. 2) We can actively participate by encouraging young men from Montana to become Pastors. Right now, we have four men from Montana studying for the ministry. I think we should be sending more men to study, because men from Montana will be better prepared to serve in small, isolated congregations.

Schools

Montana district congregations are supporting six Lutheran grade schools, and fourteen preschools. These are extremely important institutions because they are not only about excellent education. They are also, and primarily about the nurture and admonition of faith in Christ in the young people entrusted to our care. As the public education system gets drug further into the liberal social issues of the day, I predict that our schools will become more popular. This raises the need for a cautionary word. Our schools must have strong school boards and administrative staff that are willing to put the true confession of the faith ahead of enrollment numbers. A huge enrollment, at the cost of a compromised confession is an absolute failure. We exist to teach Jesus.

Teachers

Thank God for faithful Lutheran school teachers, (and other church workers who teach in one way or another). These are unsung heroes of the faith. Day in and day out they labor to find a way to present Jesus to their students in the context of their particular subject matter. This has been my charge to our teachers; whatever subject you teach you must find a way to teach Jesus as an integral part of that arena of life. And they do it! They do it because they love Jesus. They certainly do not do it for the sake of compensation. How could we ever compensate them for the hours and hours they spend devoted to our children? Please join me in thanking them for their service.

If you think the shortage of Pastors is having an impact on our Church, the shortage of teachers, and particularly principals is way worse. You will hear a presentation from the Director of the Synodical program “Set Apart to Serve” (SAS) during this convention. He will remind you that every congregation, whether you support a school or not, can encourage young people to enter full-time church work as teachers. The workers are few. The challenge is great. We want Montana teachers to come back to Montana.

Synod

Our beloved Synod, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a grand institution created by our forefathers in the faith, to support and encourage the congregations and the church workers in the essential task of the proclamation of the Gospel. It has weathered many storms in its 178 year history. The first 128 years we experienced rapid growth. The past 50 years have mostly exhibited decline. Satan is evil. The world is cruel. People are sinners. We should not despair. We should pray and trust that God will lead us to be faithful and bold in the one calling of the Church; proclaim Jesus.

This decline in numbers causes some people to panic and turn to less than faithful responses. I caution you against this. Panic is never productive. It is not time to turn to anything other than the power He has given us, His Word. The Word of God has seen the Church through the centuries and the Word alone will see us through this difficult time.

Neither is it time to turn inward, to take care of ourselves, to avoid contact with the world, to hunker down and hope there is something left over when we come out of these doldrums. Now is the time for bold proclamation, for fearless interaction with a mocking world, for shameless stands no matter the cost.

Please keep our beloved Synod in your prayers. In my estimation the greatest challenge before The LCMS is the loss of what it means to be a “Synodical Union.” (See preamble to The LCMS constitution.) When the Synod was formed there was a strong sense that our congregations and church workers needed each other, and for that reason they worked hard to maintain the true confession of faith. They realized that it was this confession that held them together.

Today The LCMS is less of a “Synodical Union,” and more of a federation of districts. Individual districts have headed off in their own direction in any number of ways, implying that they are not in fellowship with other districts, that everyone should follow their lead, and even creating their own methods for educating church workers. This constituent led theory of independent district action is absolutely contrary to the historical understanding of the “Synodical Union.” The Montana district has resisted independent action and has consistently stressed the need for a “Synodical Union” based on a common confession. Please join me in praying for a return to our historical roots on this matter.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, In Jesus you have all that you need. Do not be ashamed! Instead, glory in His name. Make His name known among the peoples. Rejoice and be glad. Your salvation has been procured. You belong to Him forever. No one can snatch you out of His hand. His Church will endure until the end. You are not small or insignificant to Him. He will keep you safe until He brings you home. To Him be all glory, praise and honor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

S.D.G.

Terry Forke 5.16.25

As an encouragement to the floor committees to think of other means of assisting our congregations, church workers and Synod, I include in this report the following appendices.

Appendix I

The problem of unsanctioned MDiv Programs in our Synod

Statement on Unsanctioned MDiv Programs

J. S. Bruss President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

May 07, 2025

Dear CTSFW Friends and Supporters,

Concerned members of our congregations have been asking me with increasing frequency, “What does Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), think about the two online MDiv programs that some in our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have been promoting?”

Study in one of those programs, Luther House of Study (LHOS), has been promoted among LCMS members by Unite Leadership Collective (ULC), a parachurch organization focused on developing local, congregational leadership. Meanwhile, the Center, another parachurch organization focused on outreach, is inviting LCMS members to study at the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership (CMPL), a venture under the umbrella of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). Students in these programs can earn the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree through online coursework and practicums in their home congregations. If you read no further, it’s important to know the following:

- Graduates from neither of these programs may be ordained or installed in an LCMS congregation or ministry.
- Neither of these seminaries is owned, operated, authorized, or governed by the LCMS.

Let me explain why that matters.

The Lord Christ has called His church to faithfulness in the things of God (John 8:31), to love toward one another (John 13:35), and to unity in His mystical Body, the Church (John 17:20-21, Ephesians 4:4-6). This unity is grounded in “continuing steadfast in the apostles’ teaching” (Acts 2:42).

To foster that unity, the LCMS has from its inception owned and operated two seminaries, CTSFW and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). They are the only two seminaries authorized by the LCMS to prepare and examine future pastors for the parishes and missions of our Synod. The Synod maintains—and the seminaries gladly accept—Synod governance so that they may be held to account for their fidelity to our shared doctrine and witness. In turn, our LCMS ordains into the ministry only those men whose doctrine and life have been formed and examined by them.

This arrangement has proven an inestimable blessing for the LCMS.

I’ve often put it this way:

- If your pastor confesses and teaches and believes that the Son of God really was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Blessed Virgin, bore your sin and death,

put them to death in His own death, and rose again bodily, and that bodily you will rise on the Last Day, thank God for our seminaries.

- If your pastor believes, teaches, and confesses that you are justified by faith alone in Christ alone, without any decision on your part or merit or worthiness in you, thank God for our seminaries.
- If your pastor believes, teaches, and confesses that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, thank God for our seminaries.
- If your pastor believes, teaches, and confesses that the host is the Body and the wine the Blood of Christ, and that they should not be administered to those with whom we disagree in doctrine, thank God for our seminaries.
- If your pastor pronounces the Absolution with the scriptural conviction that this Absolution forgives your sins, thank God for our seminaries.

Such things are hardly luxuries. They are eternal life and eternal salvation.

It is telling that both LHOS and CMPL stand and wish to stand outside of our long-established and beneficial Synod governance. They simply do not have the same responsibility or accountability to the Synod.

CMPL faculty and advocates of LHOS

- voice concerns about the dearth of LCMS pastors yet steer potential pastors away from the two LCMS seminaries and gladly receive tuition from LCMS men for an MDiv that cannot lead to LCMS ordination;
- decry the cost of seminary attendance, even as the two LCMS seminaries offer a tuition-free MDiv;
- characterize moving to seminary as an insurmountable hurdle, even as “no one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62), and movement is an inconvenience that a healthy ministerium must simply accept;
- champion the effectiveness of online education, even as the experience of COVID exposed its weaknesses and limitations;
- insist that they are only raising up “leaders,” not pastors, but steer students into a professional degree intended to lead to ordained pastoral ministry and, in the case of CMPL, present themselves as the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership;
- maintain that the micro-context of a single parish, often the student’s only experience with Lutheranism, can provide the theological and pastoral depth that our seminaries’ students gain from experience in their own congregation, their fieldwork congregation, and their vicarage congregation, and from a CTSFW faculty with over 230 years of cumulative pastoral experience and over 500 cumulative years of forming pastors;
- wish you to believe that their graduates’ Lutheran bona fides can be achieved by a liberal Lutheran faculty (LHOS) and an LCMS faculty that has willingly opted against LCMS governance (CMPL).

Some have suggested that the residential MDiv education and formation offered by CTSFW and CSL should be regarded as “the gold standard,” leaving the online MDiv programs as an

acceptable – albeit silver or bronze – standard. The history of our LCMS tells a different story: residential MDiv education and formation is simply the standard – it always has been.

But because of that, it's easy for the CMPL faculty and advocates for LHOS to claim otherwise. The fact is, the vast majority of LCMS Lutherans really know nothing but the teaching and sacramental administration of pastors residentially educated and formed at CTSFW and CSL. When CTSFW pastors “make it look easy” that's exactly what they're doing: making it look easy. Their deftness in handling the Word of God and applying it faithfully is based on hundreds of hours of formal study of God's Word, our Lutheran Confessions, Christian dogma, the history of the Church, and pastoral theology. They've been steeped in Lutheran liturgy and hymns. During seminary they've taken in over 600 sermons. And they've learned from expert pastors at their home churches, fieldwork congregations, and vicarage congregations how to apply the Word of God to different situations in the same place and to the same situation in different places in faithfulness toward God and in love toward the people.

That's because, by the grace of God, our LCMS seminaries know what we're doing. We've been doing it – and doing it exceedingly well – for nearly 180 years. Our seminaries are a “luxury” our church can't do without. So, if you'd like an LCMS pastor in your LCMS church today and twenty years down the road, support our seminaries with your prayers and financial resources. If you prize the unity of love and doctrine in our LCMS, treasure our seminaries. And if you're moved to serve the church as a pastor, contact us at CTSFW. The fields are white for harvest (John 4:35).

I know that as I write all this, I echo the studied perspective of my good friend and colleague at CSL, President Tom Egger, and invite you to take a moment to read his statement on this matter. Meanwhile, hold fast to Christ; and may the good and gracious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who raised Him from the dead, guard and keep you by the power of His Spirit in the one, true faith. Amen.

J. S. Bruss
President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Statement on the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership

Dr. Thomas J. Egger President Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

May 07, 2025

In recent weeks, I have received requests to respond to the public launch of the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership (CMPL), a non-LCMS, online theological program directly appealing to LCMS students and donors. In their promotion of this new program, CMPL leaders and faculty have made contradictory statements, vacillating between promising that their project will help address the pastoral shortage in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) on the one hand, and stressing that they are not claiming to qualify students for ministry in the LCMS on the other. I have serious concerns about this program, and I would encourage LCMS friends not to promote or support it.

A central purpose in the formation of the LCMS, nearly two centuries ago, was to share together in the task of preparing and recognizing LCMS pastors, whom LCMS congregations would then be free to choose and call for service in their midst. For this purpose, the LCMS has, from its beginning, supported and operated its own seminaries: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. This shared commitment to pastoral formation and pastoral “rostering” has served Christ’s mission well. As nearly every mainline denomination in America has lost its way and departed both from Scriptural faithfulness and from true missionary zeal, the LCMS has remained true to its confessional, Scriptural roots and to its missionary character and commitment. Thanks be to God — this is the Lord’s doing and grace.

Prior to organizing this new “Center” (CMPL), there was no consultation with the leadership of the LCMS, with the St. Louis seminary, with the Fort Wayne seminary, or with the body to which our Synod’s bylaws direct such endeavors, the LCMS Pastoral Formation Committee. None. Not a single conversation about this effort that seeks to reinvent pastoral formation for the LCMS.

This new self-authorized online school, CMPL, is a serious departure from our church’s mutual commitment to carry out pastoral formation together, a mutual commitment that we have repeatedly confirmed and emphasized through our history. Our most recent LCMS national convention resolved that “districts and members of the Synod honor, use, and promote Synod-approved programs and not create independent programs of pastoral preparation or direct men to a pastoral preparation program outside of our Synod’s seminaries” (2023 Resolution 6-02A).

Despite the involvement of respected brothers in this CMPL project, including some with former connections to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, I must say clearly to the church: Their project is ill-conceived and illegitimate and will cause division and confusion. What will members make of men serving as pastors in LCMS congregations who are not LCMS pastors? How can this not cause serious confusion and offense among our laity and within our church? It violates not only our explicit LCMS commitments to one another, but also the Apostle’s mandate that things in the church be done “decently and in order ... for God is not a God of confusion but of peace” (1 Cor. 14:33, 40 ESV). It will not result in a greater number of pastors

for LCMS congregations and mission starts, but fewer, as prospective future LCMS pastors are discouraged from attending our two LCMS seminaries, and as LCMS seminary donors are courted to fund instead this non-LCMS school.

Our LCMS seminaries already offer pastoral formation programs that answer the need for distance education alternatives in situations where this is genuinely needed. In 2007, the LCMS in convention created a partially online pastoral formation program, the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program. The SMP Program is offered by both LCMS seminaries, and we have no intention of discontinuing the SMP Program, despite false rumors to the contrary.

There is no reason not to direct all future candidates for pastoral ministry in the LCMS to the seminaries of the LCMS. The intense recruitment effort of our Synod, districts and seminaries in recent years is already beginning to bear fruit. The number of pastoral students at our LCMS seminaries is up over the last five years, compared to the five years prior, and we are pursuing additional measures to identify and open doors to prospective future pastors. If we continue to work together, instead of beginning to row in different directions, this will make a real difference.

To those LCMS brothers involved in this independent project, my consistent appeal has been and continues to be: Please stop recruiting men from within the LCMS who desire to serve as LCMS pastors to attend this non-LCMS program that doesn't qualify them for pastoral ministry in the LCMS. This is not walking together, and it will cause great confusion and further division in our Synod.

Those involved rationalize this project by claiming that our LCMS seminaries are not producing a sufficient number of pastors and that our LCMS seminaries are cost prohibitive. Yet, even while they are repeating these criticisms, they have been discouraging people from attending our LCMS seminaries and actively seeking to persuade LCMS seminary donors to fund their project instead. If they are genuinely trying to advance the mission and ministry of LCMS congregations, then such undermining of the seminaries of the LCMS is counterproductive — and divisive.

In closing, my appeal to LCMS friends is this: Let us continue to share together the vital work of pastoral formation for the LCMS, for the sake of a clear confession of Christ for our children and grandchildren and for the world. Please do not support the splintering of this effort into "every district for itself, every congregation for itself and every pastor for himself." Let's work together, in an orderly and honest way. This is what I strive for every day. That is what our seminaries were founded for. God grant it, for Jesus' sake. For additional insights on this matter, please read the statement issued by Dr. Jon Bruss, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Dr. Thomas J. Egger
President
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Appendix II

Other matters which the Montana District Convention may wish to address

1. Theological integrity-

Something could be said to the Synod about maintaining the purity of our confession.

Possible resolveds:

1. To encourage church workers to be faithful to their public confession.
2. To encourage church workers to have the integrity to leave the Synod if their confession is at variance with that of the Synod.
3. To encourage ecclesiastical supervisors to begin specific discussions with those known to teach contrary to the position of the Synod.
4. To call districts to recognize the Synod is not a federation of districts and therefore to submit to the will of the Synod.

2. Speaking the truth in love-

Something could be said to the Synod about the habit of publicly attacking reputations.

Possible resolveds:

1. To encourage Church workers to hold each other accountable to the eighth commandment.
2. To not be conformed to the world in our online activities

3. Four Year cycle

Something could be said to the Synod about holding Synodical conventions every fourth year instead of every 3 years. This would be a tremendous financial savings as well as increase the terms of service for Synodical officials, allowing another year of freedom from election pressures.

4. Supporting Lutheran Schools

Something could be said to the District or Synod about the fact that Lutheran Schools are a primary mission tool of the Synod. How can we better support them?

Possible resolveds:

1. To encourage the support of Lutheran Schools
2. To consider opening schools.
3. To encourage support of the Montana District Schools fund and Lutheran Schools Scholarship fund.

5. Report on the teaching of evolution in institutions of higher education

Something could be said to the Synod about giving our congregations assurance that the teaching of evolution is not being tolerated in our institutions of higher education. I know we have consistently spoken on this issue, but nothing has changed. (I have a possible overture from the Denver Creation Society)

Possible resolveds:

1. To require the President of Synod report on the results of his visits to our schools with respect to the teaching of evolution.
2. To encourage Regents, Professors, and ecclesiastical supervisors to be faithful to Synodical confession
3. To require the President of the Synod to appoint a committee to investigate what is being taught.

6. Seminaries

Something could be said to the Synod about supporting our Seminaries. The dependence of seminaries on restricted funds is dangerous.

Possible resolveds:

1. To encourage larger contributions from Synod to seminaries.
2. To abandon current accreditation system inasmuch as it may require seminaries to perform in ways that are not in line with our confession.
3. To call our seminaries to protect professors from undue pressure to perform academically, thereby inadvertently driving them to come up with something new.

7. Sunday School Curriculum

Something could be said to the Synod about producing a Sunday School curriculum for very small congregations.

Possible resolveds:

1. To call for the production of a Lutheran, lectionary based curriculum that could be easily applied when children show up for an occasional service.

8. Christian Nationalism

Something could be said about the evils of mixing the Christian faith with nationalistic fervor.

Possible resolveds:

1. To declare that the United States of America does not have favored nation status with God.
2. To condemn racial divisions that suggest some people are not worthy of hearing the Gospel or of our care.

9. Adoption

Something could be said to the about the need for Christians to adopt children. There are approximately 368,500 children in the foster care system in the U.S. These children want and need parents to care for them.

Possible resolveds:

1. To declare that Christians have an obligation to care for the widowed and orphaned.
2. To encourage adoption as a life choice.
3. To encourage the support of adoptive families.

10. Need for Church Workers

The LCMS has roughly half the number of students studying for fulltime Church work that we had in 2004. Montana has roughly 20% vacancy rate. We need Pastors and teachers.

Possible resolveds:

1. To encourage every Montana District congregation to use Set Apart to Serve Materials

11. Gender Theory and its impact on the family

Something could be said about God's creation of two genders and the destructive forces at work in ungodly sexual behavior and the purported change of gender.

Possible resolveds:

1. To declare that there exist only two genders created by God.
2. To declare that a sexually pure and decent life consists of living within these two genders.
3. To call for protection of our children from this radical gender identity theory.

12. Synodical Union

Something could be said about reclaiming a beneficial understanding of our Synodical Union.

Possible resolve

1. To direct the President's office to produce a study of what it means to be part of a Synodical Union.

Summary of Presidential Activity 2022-2025

Official Acts

Ordinations 2
Installations 9
Suspensions 1

District Activities

Congregational visits	109
Cong. Member visits	78
Preaching visits	23
School visits	5
Pastor visits	161
Comm. Minister visits	12
Local Pastor's mtg	53
Circuit meetings	23
Circuit Visitor mtg	6
District Conferences	7
Other District level mtg	65
Vice-Pres meeting	13

Synodical Activities

Council of President meetings	13
Other synodical level meetings	48

Pastoral Activities

Serve as called Pastor to Trinity, Harlowton and St. Paul Roundup
Serve as vacancy Pastor to St. Paul, Havre, and Zion, Chinook

Special Activities

Serve on local and state Lutherans for Life committees
Testify at Montana State Legislature
Speaker at various venues
Red Lodge Camp

First Vice President's Triennium Report 2025 Montana District Convention

“Plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose” – “The more things change, the more they stay the same”, is an often-quoted French proverb. It is NOT Holy Scripture. However, this thought is not very different from Ecclesiastes (1:9), “That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done. And there is nothing new under the sun.” And this quote is, indeed, Holy Scripture.

And yet, change in our world, our nation, even in our own daily lives, seems always to be taking place. It seems inevitable “under the sun.” Look in the bathroom mirror each morning, and over a period of time you will see it happening quite clearly and personally. It can be unsettling, at times even frightening.

Likewise in our world, our nation, the Church, and yes, even here in our own Montana District, change can be unsettling, and even frightening. And the challenges that change brings are always present in a world fallen and broken by sin.

Wars and rumors of wars, political turmoil, a volatile economy, poverty, pandemics, and the unceasing attacks of a secular and increasingly anti-Christian culture against the Church and against the Gospel, can seem both relentless and overwhelming. But even as these may change in form and fashion, they are nonetheless unchanging. They have always been so – since the Fall in Eden. The challenges of the world, the flesh and the devil always come, seemingly new, and yet always the same.

And yet, against all of this, we have the certain, unchanging Word, gifts, and promises of God.

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (Psa. 90:1-2) God says, “I am the Lord, I do not change.” (Mal. 3:6)

And, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)

And chief among these gifts, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16)”

And as with the Father and the Holy Spirit, “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.” (Heb. 13:8)

Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (Jn. 16:33) And Jesus promises, “Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:20.

May these Words of our Lord strengthen and encourage each of you, our Montana District as we meet in Convention, our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and all God’ people everywhere, no matter what changes may come.

What a privilege and blessing it has been for me during this past triennium to continue 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 this past triennium have included participation in District Planning Meetings, Circuit Visitor Meetings, 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.

Now, on a personal note of change as I step away from my office of service to the District, may God grant each and all of you continued joy and comfort in our Savior Jesus Christ; and may He keep us always steadfast in His Word.

Respectfully, in our Lord's service,

Rev. Chris Tabbert

Second Vice President's Triennium Report 2025 Montana District Convention

Greetings in the Name of our Risen and Ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Paul writes, "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." (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

As the Second Vice-President of the Montana District, I serve at the direction of the District President. My responsibilities include attending Board of Directors meetings, participating in budget and life-together discussions, serving on special committees, reviewing congregational constitutions and bylaws, offering counsel, representing the President at official functions as needed, advising on technology issues, and fulfilling other tasks as requested or assigned.

I take Paul's words to Timothy to heart and regularly pray for our District President, elected leaders, staff, congregations, pastors, and church workers. It is an honor to serve the Lord and you in this District. I deeply appreciate your prayers and trust in me.

In Christ,

Ryan Wendt

Triennium Treasurer's Report 2025 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 2021-2023 (audited) and 2024 (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, etc.). This assists in keeping budgetary planning focused not just on the coming year, 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:

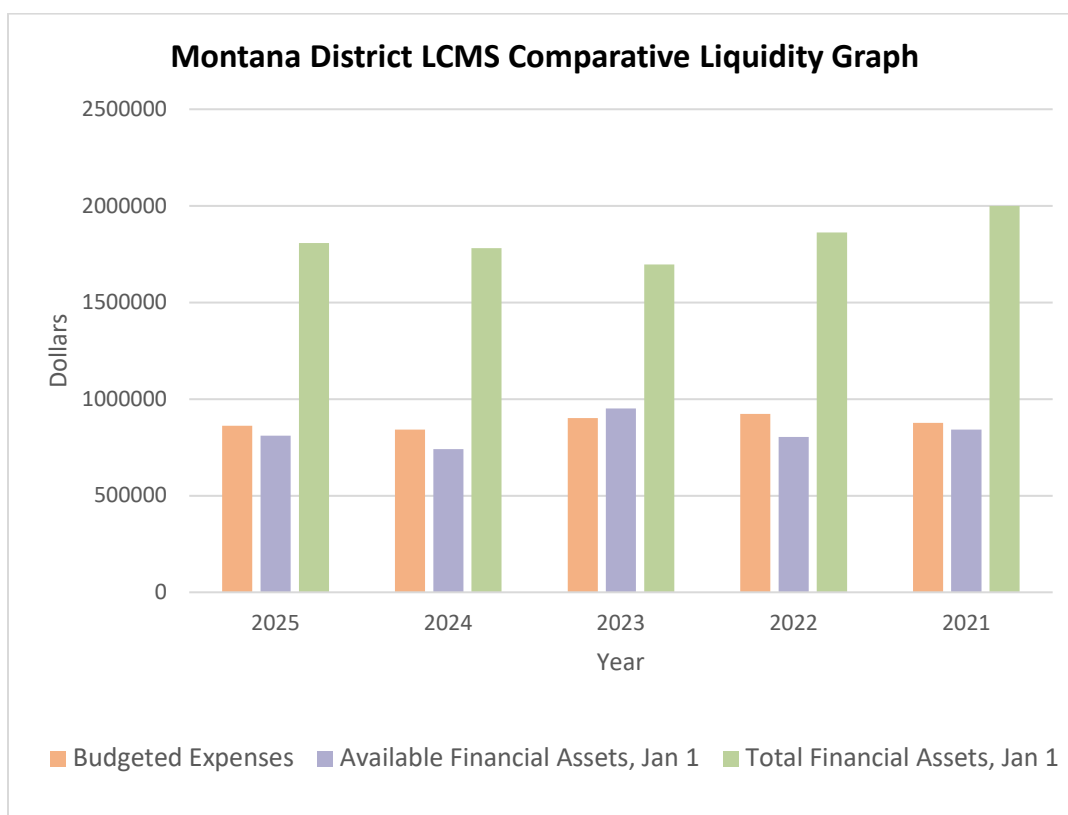
2022-2024 Highlights

- A periodic review of financial procedures and internal controls was conducted and updates were made as recommended.
- External audits were conducted each year, and all audits concluded that no material misstatements exist. The 2024 audit is engaged but not completed as of the printing of the convention book.
- \$81,522 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 \$97,727 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 dollars.
- Lutheran schools in Montana District applied for and received \$9,824 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.

- \$2,000 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. \$981 was sent to Lutherans for Life, \$154 supported religious freedom in Montana (travel and lodging to testify with the state legislature), \$916 was used to provide CI-128 informational pamphlets to MT District congregations in advance of the 2024 election in support of life issues, \$466 was expended in participating in the Life Conference in DC, and \$1,500 was invested in religious freedom through Alliance Defending Freedom.
- 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 \$221,367 in subsidies supporting Circle of Life, with \$9,304 sent in support from District congregations, and \$116,190 in subsidies supporting Crow Lutheran Ministries, with \$8,842 sent from District congregations.
 - Emmaus Lutheran Mission serving Livingston was begun in a previous triennium. This support has continued through this triennium. \$179,251 has been spent in support of this ministry. MT District congregations and individuals sent \$11,502 to the district office to support this subsidy, and LCEF supported the district subsidy in the amount of \$8,110.
 - 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 \$155,756. This subsidy was funded by MT District congregational support of the subsidy in the amount of \$5,352, and LCEF funding in the amount of \$8,110.
- Congregational convention assessments of \$46,157 were collected over the triennium, with \$34,012 expended for the 2022 District Convention and \$21,756 for the 2023 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, the Board directed \$18,000 in support of three missionaries.
- As directed in 2022 District Convention Resolution 4-02 the Montana District sends funds in support of the preparation of pastors through the Joint Seminary Fund. Over the triennium, 46,115.

- As directed in 2003 District Convention Resolution 3-01, the Montana District sends 25% of the unrestricted congregational giving to the MT District to Synod: \$434,273 over the triennium.
- In addition, the Montana District collected benevolent funds and distributed them in support of a MT District church worker in acute need in the amount of \$9,674, and in support of lay individuals in need in the amount of \$1000.
- \$11,000 in grants were issued to MT District Lutheran schools in tuition assistance for student families in financial need.



- 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 was \$30K. \$30K from the Church Worker Scholarship Fund was an Available Financial Asset reported in purple, and \$630K was *not available* to meet expenses in 2022. The full \$660K was reported in green in Total 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 of the LCMS

Statements of Financial Position

	2024 (Unaudited)	2023 (Audited)	2022 (Audited)	2021 (Audited)
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	638701	691559	873557	638548
Restricted cash	38278	47536	47536	55742
Prepaid Expenses (short term)			8775	8775
Accounts Receivable	427	681	0	0
Total Current Assets	677406	739776	929868	703065
Property and Equipment				
Land				31382
Buildings and improvements				135219
Leasehold Improvements	10218	10218	10218	0
Office equipment		6596	6596	6596
Vehicles	26399	26399	26399	26399
Total Property and Equipment	36617	43213	43213	199596
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(14843)	(18278)	(15117)	(135966)
NET Property and Equipment	21774	24935	28096	63630
Other Assets				
Right-of-use asset - Operating Lease	204166	220833	237500	
Prepaid Expenses (long term)				125000
Other Investments	1130316	1041691	776064	1168549
Total Other Assets	1334482	1262524	1013564	1293549
Total Assets	2033662	2027235	1971528	2060244
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	20494	22824	11791	22211
Accrued Compensation Expense	102	94	28	1735
Total Current Liabilities	20596	22918	11819	23946
Net Assets				
Without Donor Restrictions				
Investments in land, buildings, and equipment	21774	24935	28096	63630
Board designated	1039364	1038325	741703	1149161
Undesignated	746923	734743	951996	533872
Total Without Donor Restrictions	1808061	1798003	1721795	1746663
With Donor Restrictions	205007	206314	237914	289635
Total Net Assets	2013068	2004317	1959709	2036298
Total Liability and Net Assets	2033664	2027235	1971528	2060244

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

Montana District of the LCMS

Statements of Activities

	2024 (Unaudited)			2023 (Audited)			2022 (Audited)			2021 (Audited)		
	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT												
District Congregations' contributions	573643	27539	601182	578123		578123	585329		585329	594150		594150
Individual donations and other contributions	42326	17329	59655	38655	17186	55841	123548	17404	140952	10014	28774	38788
Fees and assessments	28186		28186	27703		27703	4522		4522	35		35
In-kind donations	2128		2128	2440		2440	1616		1616	1362		1362
Investment return, net	97201		97201	113852		113852	(163925)		(163925)	105081		105081
Gain on sale of asset			0			0	215068		215068	0		0
(Loss) on sale of contributed property			0			0	18753			0		0
Net assets released from restrictions	46175	(46175)	0	48786	(48786)	0	69125	(69125)	0	53611	(53611)	0
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	789659	(1307)	788352	809559	(31600)	777959	854036	(51721)	802315	764253	(24837)	739416
EXPENSE												
Program Services	457651		457651	407580		407580	512529		512529	463370		463370
Support Services	321692		321692	325520		325520	366249		366249	291828		291828
Fundraising	258		258	251		251	126		126	126		126
Total Expense	779601	0	779601	733351	0	733351	878904	0	878904	755324	0	755324
Change in Net Assets - Increase (Decrease)	10058	(1307)	8751	76208	(31600)	44608	(24868)	(51721)	(76589)	8929	(24837)	(15908)
Net Assets - Beginning	1798003	206314	2004317	1721795	237914	1959709	1746663	289635	2036298	1737734	314472	2052206
Net Assets - Ending	1808061	205007	2013068	1798003	206314	2004317	1721795	237914	1959709	1746663	289635	2036298
Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements Are Available at: https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/												

Montana District of the LCMS Statements of Cash Flows

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Net Assets Increase (Decrease)	8751	44608	(76589)	(15908)
Depreciation and amortization expense	3161	3161	3920	4762
Right-of-use asset - Operating lease - (increase)	16667		(237500)	
Accounts receivable - (increase) decrease	253	(681)		
Accounts payable - increase (decrease)	(2331)	11033	(10420)	6790
Accrued compensation expense - increase (decrease)	8	66	(1707)	1721
Prepaid Expenses - increase (decrease)		8775	125000	(133775)
(Gain) on sale of asset			(215068)	
Other noncash adjustments		(13320)		
Realized and unrealized (gains) losses on investments	(35113)	(49344)	242431	(17340)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(8604)	4298	(169933)	(153750)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Property investments - proceeds				
Improvements			(10218)	
Proceeds from sale of assets			256900	
Other investments - proceeds	108126	33972	220055	147375
Other investments - (purchases)	(161638)	(220268)	(70001)	(54909)
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	(53512)	(186296)	396736	92466

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Net Cash (Used) by Financing Activities	0	0	0	0
Net Increase in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash	(62116)	(181998)	226803	(61284)
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year	739095	921093	694290	755574
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash at End of Year	676979	739095	921093	694290

Supplemental Disclosures:

Income taxes paid
Interest paid

**Montana District of the LCMS
Statements of Functional Expenses**

2024 (Unaudited)

	Program Services		Support Services		Fundraising	Total 2024 (Unaudited)
	National/ International Mission	MT District Mission	Synodical General Fund	Management and General		
Board of directors expense	14896	3015		12777		30688
Congregational resources		50		1000		1050
Convention expenses		180				180
Depreciation & Amortization				3161		3161
Ecclesiastical services	2577	25333		2569		30479
Employee benefits	4615	12583		15416	18	32632
Grants and support	25209	284901	143411			453521
Insurance				6372		6372
Ministry boards and committees		15313				15313
Miscellaneous				1141		1141
Office expense				12850		12850
Operating Lease Expense				16667		16667
Payroll taxes		756		4607	20	5383
Professional fees				214		214
Repairs and maintenance				1705		1705
Salaries and wages	16744	51478		97034	220	165476
Utilities				2769		2769
Total Expense	\$64,041	\$393,609	\$143,411	\$178,282	\$258	\$779,601

2023 (Audited)					
	Program Services		Support Services		Total 2023 (Audited)
	National/ International Mission	MT District Mission	Synodical General Fund	Management and General	Fundraising
Grants and support	30725	240177	144530		
Salaries and wages	15811	46732		92200	221
Employee benefits	4405	11630		14987	12
Convention expenses	21756	4330			
Occupancy				22875	
District Leadership	2600	12173		3246	
Ministry boards and committees		13045		400	
Board of directors expense	78			10541	
Office expense				9152	
Professional fees				8249	
Insurance				6240	
Education & training				5416	
Taxes		544		4361	18
Depreciation & Amortization				3161	
Circuit Visitors		3042			
Congregational resources	498				
Bank Fees	7	27		142	
Miscellaneous				20	
Total Expense	\$75,880	\$331,700	\$144,530	\$180,990	\$251

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Board Designated Funds				
Building Fund				125,000
Car Replacement Fund	36,000	34,000	28,000	24,000
Convention Assessments	61,638	38,691	37,416	69,885
District School Scholarship	32,475	36,475	39,475	10,234
Mission and Ministry Fund	257,573	334,256	119,939	319,104
Church Worker Scholarship Fund	456,190	410,351	346,061	447,914
MT District School Grants	147,515	138,722	125,829	152,522
Pastor/Teacher & Circuit Conf		1,356	23	
Pastor Wives Retreat			232	197
Student Loan Repayment Fund	40,000	40,000	41,220	
Technology Replacement Fund	7,973	4,474	3,508	305
Total Board Designated Funds	1,039,364	1,038,325	741,703	1,149,161
Funds With Donor Restrictions				
Campus Ministry Support				1,146
Disaster Relief		160	160	160
Education Ministry	255	1,273	1,273	1,018
Indian Ministry				-
Mercy Fund	48,753	47,553	46,053	44,353
Church Worker Scholarship Fund	130,949	157,278	190,378	212,471
SOTC-Covid-19, LCEF				28,500
Student Loan Repayment Fund	5,000			
Youth Ministry	50	50	50	50
W/P/G Fund	20,000			
MT District School Grants				1,937
Total Donor Restricted Funds	205,007	206,314	237,914	289,635
Total Designated and Rest Funds	1,244,371	1,244,639	979,617	1,438,796
General Fund	563,351	536,827	717,540	424,043
Total Funds	1,807,722	1,781,466	1,697,157	1,862,839
	2024	2023	2022	2021

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

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report 2022-2025

Circuit Name: Southern Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Christopher Brandt

Congregational Visits:

Regular:
Special Issues:
Phone counsel:
School visits:
Email counsel:

Conferences:

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

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:
Forums:
Convocations:
Other:

Vacancies and Calls:

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

Notes:

I visited all the congregations of the Southern Circuit during this triennium except Crow Lutheran Ministries, which I regret missing.
I participated in the installation of three Pastors of the Circuit.
I tended to the retirements of three Pastors of the Circuit.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report 2022-2025

Circuit Name: Western Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Vernon Sandersfeld

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	9
Special Issues:	3
Phone counsel:	6
School visits:	1

Conferences:

Winkel:	19
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	2
District Pastors:	2
Synodical:	

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	3
Forums:	1
Convocations:	
Other:	

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	1
Current vacancies:	
Meetings regarding calls:	
Installation/Ordinations:	1

Notes:

I became CV upon the passing of Rev. Ray Larson on Christmas Eve of 2022 who had served our circuit for more than 10 years. In 2023 I retired from pastoral ministry and have served as CV until this time when Rev. Andrew Eckert (elected November of 2024) will assume those duties.

I am very grateful to be part of the Montana District starting with my vicarage under Pastor Reiner in 81-82 and later service in Whitefish (88-97) and Hamilton (2006-2023).

Western Circuit – Circuit Visitor Report

Rev. Ray Larson had served as circuit visitor for over a decade until he passed away on Christmas Eve 2022. We sincerely miss Ray at our Winkels and Rosanne at our Winkel suppers. In the spring of 2023 Rev. Sandersfeld was assigned and assumed duties of the CV. Regular Winkel meetings have been held each September through May 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and now 2024-2025. We gather at 10:45, worship together, eat lunch and then explore an exegetical study most often based on the 3-year readings to come, a study in the Book of Concord (Formula-Solid Declaration) and then most recently Quinstedt on the Atonement. We spend from 20 – 45 minutes in personal family/congregation/health updates and sometimes report or reflect on books or articles recently read. We try to dismiss by 4:30 and then may gather locally for supper.

In 2023 Christ our Savior, Challis, Idaho was officially established and the circuit celebrated that Sunday afternoon event. In April of 2023 I was also blessed to preach and officiate at the installation of Rev. Michael Musegades at Challis. He is now faithfully serves the new, dual parish of Salmon and Challis, serving Salmon each Sunday morning and Challis in the afternoon. The Challis congregation itself was officially established in 2023 after time as a preaching station persistently done under Pastor Musegades. Such work at Challis had been sporadic for perhaps 30 years depending on the pastor and people living in Challis; this proved to be God's time.

Since assuming duties I have filled pulpits at 6 of our circuit congregations: Messiah, Missoula, Shepherd of the Valley T. Falls, Faith, Condon and Holy Cross, Seely Lake and Grace, Hamilton. Not necessarily with official business, but I have been in every congregation over these last two years and have been blessed by the preaching of brother Pastors. On Reformation Sunday 2023 I retired from Grace, Hamilton (which I had served since 2006) after 40 years of active ministry, ordination and marriage to my wife Dee in 1983. Rev. Andrew Eckert of Stevensville faithfully filled that vacancy until Rev. Justin Herman was called and installed in September of 2024. There have been no other vacancies in the circuit.

In November of 2024 I presided over a Circuit Conference at which Rev. Andrew Eckert was duly elected by pastors and representatives from all of our 7 parishes to serve as Circuit Visitor once ratified by the District Convention. We now have 3 dual parishes in our circuit for a total of 9 congregations. We have 1 associate pastor, Steve Carlson at First, Missoula. We have 3 more emeritus pastors: Ray Wiegert, Jim Knapp (seasonally) and myself, Vern Sandersfeld. We have 7 active full-time pastors in our circuit: Berger, Iverson, Fitch, Johnson, Eckert, Herman and Musegades. I have been honored and humbled to serve among these men and in the District under President Forke, blessed staff and faithful God's people by the grace of God alone.

Might I take this moment to say how truly grateful I am to have a faithful Synod and District, faithful pastor-brothers who have surrounded me, blessed years starting as a vicar under Pastor Reiner in Kalispell, (where I met my wife!) as Missionary at Large and then dual parish pastor in ND, Pastor at Whitefish, Sherwood, Oregon and now back home in Hamilton, Montana. I pray God gives you a true heart of thankfulness for our church, your brother pastors and God's

people. I pray God gives you the eyes to see the blessing we have as pastors to simply serve others and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Dee and I have indeed seen that God has worked all things for good

Sincerely, In Christ alone,

Rev. Vern Sandersfeld

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report

2022-2025

Circuit Name: Eastern Circuit

Visitor: Rev. David M. Behm

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	0
Special issues:	1
Phone counsel:	9
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	17
Dual Circuit (South/East):	3
District Pastors/ All Workers:	3
Synodical:	1

Meetings:

Circuit Visitors:	4
Forums:	1
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	5
Current vacancies:	3
Meetings regarding calls:	4
Installation/Ordinations:	2

Notes: The Tri-point Parish of Concordia (Forsyth, MT)/Trinity (Hysham, MT)/Mt. Calvary (Colstrip, MT) dissolved their tri-point parish in October of 2024 and has become three separate parishes.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report 2022-2025

Circuit Name: Central Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Jonathan G. Schultz

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	3
Special Issues:	5
Phone counsel:	34
School visits:	1

Conferences:

Winkel:	20
Circuit (Quad):	3
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	3

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	4
Forums:	2
Convocations:	1
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	2
Current vacancies:	2 (Power-Fairfield, Havre-Chinook)
Meetings regarding calls:	2
Installation/Ordinations:	1 (Rev. Dane Breitung – Havre-Chinook)

Notes: Havre-Chinook became vacant on December 31, 2024.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report

2022-2025

Circuit Name: Divide Circuit

Visitor: Rev. Gideon Pullmann (As of February 2025)

Congregational Visits:

Regular: 0

Special Issues: 0

Phone counsel: 0

School visits: 0

Conferences:

Winkel: 2

Circuit (Quad): 1

District Pastors: 2

Synodical: 0

Meetings:

Circuit Visitor: 1

Forums: 1

Convocations: 0

Other: 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium: 0

Current vacancies: 3 (Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Livingston)

Meetings regarding calls: 1

Installation/Ordinations: 0

Notes: Appointed by President Forke on February 7, 2025 to fill the vacant Circuit Visitor position per Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1. Report current as of April 8th, 2025.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report

2022 -2025

Circuit Name: Flathead Circuit

Visitor: Rev. Steven Thomas

Congregational Visits:

Regular: 5

Special Issues: 2

Phone counsel: 14

School visits: 0

Conferences:

Winkel: 25

Circuit (Quad, South/East): 3

District Pastors: 3

Synodical: 0

Meetings:

Circuit Visitors: 3

Forums: 2

Convocations: 0

Other: 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium: 0

Current vacancies: 1

Meetings regarding calls: 0

Installation/Ordinations: 0

Summary Minutes Montana District Board of Directors 2022-2025

June 8, 2022

Meeting conducted through electronic means. Kendall Hartmann authorized to sign closing documents on sale of District Office. Mileage rate for District Convention set to \$0.48/mile.

July 25, 2022

Finances are good despite a net quarterly loss due to market volatility for invested funds. Recommended to LCEF that they provide resources to church workers for financial planning and student loan debt relief. Annual audit showed no discrepancies. Scholarships were awarded to two students. School fund grants were approved. District Compensation guidelines for 2023 were adopted. Montana District offered to administer the sale of Emmaus Lutheran Mission's building in Big Timber with net proceeds remitted to the District. Susan Loomans appointed Treasurer. Per diem hotel rate changed to \$200/night.

October 13, 2022

Net loss to District assets due to negative market returns, expenses, and return of Soldier of the Cross funds (which were unused) to Synod. Constitution and bylaws for Mount Olive in Billings approved. Kendall Harman appointed as Board Representative to Synod Convention. Bylaw amendments recommended by Commission on Constitutional Matters recommended to next District Convention. District campus ministry funds given to First Lutheran in Bozeman for use in their campus ministry. Student Loan Repayment Grants fully funded and dispersed. Budget passed. Emmaus Lutheran required to compensate pastor at full level indicated in their subsidy request. District priorities passed. Mileage policy amended to limit reimbursement to the cost of the least expensive airfare. Per diem for lunch increased to \$15.

January 30, 2023

Total decrease in assets in 2022 was \$98K, mostly due to poor market returns. Proceeds from sale of Broadwater property added to Mission and Ministry Fund. Adjustments made to 2023 budget due to discrepancies between anticipated and real expenses at new District Office. Standing committee chair appointments in progress. Wendt, Tabbert, and Zoeller to work on a committee reviewing subsidized congregations. Board will visit Native American Missions (Lame Deer and Crow Agency) at May 9th BOD meeting.

May 8, 2023

Net increase in assets over first quarter. Constitution for Christ Our Savior in Challis, Idaho approved. They are now a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Subsidized ministries criteria discussed. Articles of Incorporation amended to update address.

Lehmann and Forke to develop Child Protection Policy. Bylaw change suggested to amend 2nd VP Vacancy procedures.

July 23, 2023

Small net loss to assets. Finances are in good shape. CCM approved changes to Articles of Incorporation. Audit completed. No material errors. One adjustment. Challis application to join LCMS approved. Russ Dewell, Steve Jarvis, and William Warberg approved as district reconcilers. School grants approved. Scholarships for three students approved. Church Worker Compensation guidelines approved. James Holowach nominated to CCM.

August 10, 2023

Meeting conducted through electronic means. Scholarships were awarded to four students. Dennis Bauer was appointed District Reconciler.

October 18, 2023

Slight decrease in District assets due to expected expenses. Finances in good shape. Susan Loomans and Ruth Kosche appointed to attend LCEF meeting. Student Loan Repayment Grants approved. Amendments made to Subsidized Ministry Proposal. Emmaus required to pay money owed to Concordia Plans in order to receive 2024 District subsidy. Child Protection Policy adopted. Forke and Wendt to work on Church Worker Scholarship Policy. Douglas Bauman nominated for Board of National Mission. Eric Loftsgaarden nominated for LCMS Foundation Board of Directors. Budget adopted.

January 29, 2024

District ended 2023 with a net income of 44.6K. Subsidized Ministries Policy adopted. Anaconda subsidy adjusted due to vacancy. Susan Loomans appointed Quickbooks Administrator (so that she can officially communicate with the company). Tabbert and Forke to represent district in visitation by Boards for National and International Mission. Brian Lee, Sam Grayl, and Ryan Wendt to serve on Set Apart to Serve committee. Funds sent to Joint Seminary Fund from District General Fund (per District Convention action).

May 10, 2024

Net income in first quarter of 2024. Constitution and Bylaws for Concordia Williston approved. District expanded enrollment parameters in the CRSP to include all paid employees of the District. Treasurer authorized to replace District Copier. District Treasurer moved to hourly wage.

August 5, 2024

Slight loss in net access. Finances of District still good. Constitution and Bylaws for First Lutheran, Bozeman approved. Church Worker Scholarship Policy approved. Margaret Skoog appointed Parish Nurse Representative. Church Worker Scholarships awarded to three students. President Forke to be paid through July 31, 2025 (per bylaws).

October 7, 2024

Third quarter showed a loss due to replacement of copier, but YTD shows a gain. Scholarship granted to late applicant. Church Worker Scholarship Policy amended to allow Board to take extenuating circumstances into account when awarding scholarships. Congregation subsidy levels discussed and set. Budget approved. Convention mileage rate set at \$.48/mile.

January 27, 2025

Net income of \$8,751 for 2024. Susan Loomans appointed representative to LCEF conference. Montana District Staff granted discretion to adjust subsidies of subsidized congregations of district. Severance set for Pastor Merz. Housing allowance for DP increased to \$2,500/month beginning February 1st. Audit received for 2023. New auditing firm will be employed.

Nominations for District President and Vice President

The slate for District President

Nominations for District President (listed in alphabetical order)

Rev. Dennis Bauer – **declined** the nomination

Rev. Matthew Nelson – **declined** the nomination

Rev. Gerald Paul – **accepted** the nomination

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

Rev. Matthew Schiemann – **declined** the nomination

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

The slate for 1st VP

Nominations for 1st VP (listed in alphabetical order)

Rev. Dennis Bauer – **declined** the nomination

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

Rev. Russ Dewell – **declined** the nomination

Rev. Samuel Grayl – **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Matthew Nelson – **declined** the nomination

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

Rev. Chris Tabbert – **declined** the nomination

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

Rev. Kyle Winter – **declined** the nomination

Circuit Visitor Elections

Central – Rev. Jonathan Schlutz

Divide – Rev. Daniel Merz, Divide (Declined subsequent to nomination)

Incumbent Rev. Gideon Pullmann

Eastern – Rev. David Behm

Flathead – Rev. Steven Thomas

Southern – Rev. Russell Dewell

Western – Rev. Andrew Eckert

Nominations for the Board of Directors

The Slate for District Secretary:

Rev. David Behm-Concordia, Williston — **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Charles Lehmann-Holy Trinity, Belgrade/Grace, Three Forks — **declined** the nomination

The Slate for Ordained Minister of Religion Member of the BOD:

Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht-Retired-Trinity, Billings — **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Jonathan Schultz-Trinity, Great Falls — **accepted** the nomination

Rev. Kyle Winter- Church at Creston-Lutheran, Creston — **accepted** the nomination

The Slate for Commissioned Minister of Religion Member of BOD:

David Hobus-Retired -Trinity, Kalispell — **accepted** the nomination

Tom Kosche-Trinity, Billings — **accepted** the nomination

Sonja Reeves- First, Missoula — **accepted** the nomination

The Slate for Lay Members of the BOD:

Chad Anderson- St. Paul, Havre — **accepted** the nomination

Roy Arves-Trinity, Great Falls — **declined** the nomination

Eric Corneliusen*- Concordia, Williston — **accepted** the nomination

Kendall Hartman*- Christ the King, Billings — **accepted** the nomination

Brian Schneidenbach-Holy Trinity, Belgrade — **accepted** the nomination

Mark Scott-Mt. Calvary, Polson — **accepted** the nomination

Andrew Zoeller*-Our Savior, Billings — **accepted** the nomination

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Paul

He was born on April 19, 1966, in Piet Retief, South Africa;

Baptized on May 4, 1966, Wittenberg Lutheran Congregation, Wittenberg, South Africa;

Confirmed on December 6, 1979, Wittenberg Lutheran Congregation, Wittenberg, South Africa; Married to Heidi Voigts on July 4, 1992, at St. John Lutheran Congregation, Shelley Beach, South Africa. They have three children, Angelika, Matthias, Emma.

Education:

- Wittenberg Primary School, Wittenberg, South Africa
- Piet Retief High School, Piet Retief, South Africa, 1984
- University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, BA – Greek, Hebrew, 1994
- Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, MDiv, 1998
- Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, PhD in Missiology, 2020

Service as pastor/missionary:

- Vicar at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN, 1996-97
- Vicar at St. John's Lutheran Congregation, Kempton Park, South Africa, 2000
- Ordained in 2000
- Pastor at Wittenberg Lutheran Congregation (German), with a church plant in Piet Retief (Afrikaans) and mission in Pongola (English) 2000-2006
- Wyoming District missionary/church planter, Star Valley, WY, 2006-2011
- Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT, 2011-2020
- Vacancy Pastor Zion Lutheran Church, Power, MT and St. John Lutheran Church, Fairfield, MT, intermittently 2011-2019
- Senior Pastor in the ministry partnership between Trinity, Great Falls and Zion and St. John, Power and Fairfield, MT, 2017-2020
- LCMS Office of International Missions missionary/church planter, Safe Harbour Lutheran Church, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 2020-present

Other service:

- Greek tutor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, 1998-1999
- Chairman of the Ministry to Teenagers of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa, 2001-2006
- Dean of the District Lutheran Summer Youth Camp, for the Wyoming District, 2007-2009
- German – English translation for CPH, 2007-2008

- Wyoming District Advisory Delegate to the LCMS Synodical Convention, 2010
- Member of the District Mission and Evangelism Committee, Montana District, 2011-2020, Chairman 2018-2020
- Montana District Voting Delegate to the LCMS Synodical Convention, 2019
- Circuit Visitor, Central Circuit, Montana District, 2020
- Adjunct professor at Concordia the Reformer Seminary, Dominican Republic, 2021-present
- Instructor in the distance learning program FPH (Formación Pastoral para Hispanoamérica), 2021- present
- German, English – Spanish editorial work for the VDMA project, 2023-present

Other Experience:

- National Service: 1st Parachute Battalion, SADF, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1988-1989
- Financial Controller, HL&H Sawmill, Piet Retief, South Africa, 1990-1991

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA DISTRICT PRESIDENT

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 LC-MS
- 2006-2010: 1st Vice-President of the Montana District of The LC-MS
- 2007 and 2004: Delegate to The LC-MS 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 LC-MS
- 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 PRESIDENT

Rev. Ryan D. Wendt

He was born August 27th, 1974 in Kansas City, MO; baptized September 8th, 1974 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church where he also attended grade school, was confirmed (April 24th, 1988), married (August 1st, 1998 to Sara Jaschen), and ordained (April 12th, 2004). The Lord has granted Ryan and Sara four children to nurture and raise – Samuel, Elizabeth, Lydia, and Rachel – six others are with the Lord.

Education:

- Concordia College, Seward, NE (1994-98) B.S. in Education, LTD, Business, Theology
- Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2000-04) M.Div., Exegetical and Systematic Theology, Class President

Teaching and Pastoral Service:

- Called Teacher, Rockford Lutheran HS, Rockford, IL (1998-00)
 - Math, Religion, Business, Computers, Jr. High Chapel Leader, Varsity Soccer Coach, JV Baseball Coach, Chess Club, Information Technology Coordinator
 - Who's Who Among America's Teachers (1998-99)
- Headmaster and Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church/School, Kearney, NE (2004-06)
- Pastor, Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Billings, MT (2006-Present)
- Vacancy Pastor, Mount Calvary, Colstrip, MT (August 2008 – April 2009)
- Visiting Teacher, Lutheran Church of Uganda Seminary, Jinja, Uganda (February 2020)

District Service:

- Campus Ministry Committee Chairman and District HS Task Force (2006-09)
- MT Representative: LCEF Annual Meeting (2012), LCMS Stewardship (2014, 2015)
- Pastors' Conference Program Committee (2008-15), Conference President (2013-15)
- IT/Technical Advisor (2008-Present)
- Board of Directors (2015-Present), 2nd Vice President (2018-Present)

Synodical Service:

- LCMS Convention, Southern Circuit Voting Pastoral Delegate (2010, 2013, 2016)
- LCMS Convention, Floor Committee #5 CTCR (2016)
- MT District Representative to the "Set Apart to Serve" Initiative (2024-Present)
- Occasional author for *Lutheran Witness*, *Concordia Pulpit*, and the *Billings Gazette*.

Community Service:

- *Pro Bono* computer services to LCMS and other non-profits in Rockford, IL, Kearney, NE, and Billings, MT, including the MT District Office (1998 – Present)
- Golden Eagle Water Users' Association, Board of Directors, (2008-21)
- Regular contributor at meetings of the Billings South Side Task Force (2007-21)

Hobbies:

Camping and Hiking with family, Hunting and Fishing, Reading, Shooting and Reloading, Stained Glass, Welding, and fixing things.

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 7, 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 (8/2020-6/2022)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, Montana (6/2022)
- Trinity Lutheran Church (Plentywood, Montana), Trinity Lutheran Church (Wolf Point, MT), & Faith Lutheran Church (Glasgow, Montana), (Administrative; 10/2024-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)
- Conference Committee Member (10/2022-Present)

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

Synod Service:

- Convention Delegate (2023)
- Convention Floor Committee (Structure & Administration, 2023)

Community Service:

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

Rev. Arlo Pullmann

See bio under Nominees for Montana District President

Rev. Ryan D. Wendt

See bio under Nominees for Montana District President

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

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 7, 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 (8/2020-6/2022)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, Montana (6/2022)
- Trinity Lutheran Church (Plentywood, Montana), Trinity Lutheran Church (Wolf Point, MT), & Faith Lutheran Church (Glasgow, Montana), (Administrative; 10/2024-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)
- Conference Committee Member (10/2022-Present)

Synod Service:

- Convention Delegate (2023)
- Convention Floor Committee (Structure & Administration, 2023)

Community Service:

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

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PASTOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht-Retired

He was born October 15, 1954, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He married Cathy Schiefelbein in 1977 and they have been blessed by the Lord with four children, Kessie, Holly, Ditzia and Luke.

Education:

- 1979 - Graduated from Concordia College, St. Paul
- 1983 - Graduated from Concordia Seminary, in St. Louis
- 1994- Began course work for a Doctor of Ministry through Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne.

Service:

- 1983 Vicar at Trinity, Davison, Michigan
- 1983-2003 – Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Beach Corner, AB, Canada
- 2003-2023 – Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, MT

Other Activities:

- 1986-1996 – Circuit Counselor
- 1991-1996 – Chairman of No. Alberta Church Workers Conference
- 1997-2003 – Vice President of Lutheran Church-Canada
- 1997-2003 – Member of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church –Canada
- 1997-2003 – Chairman of the Board of Regents for Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Canada:
- Fall 1999 – Taught at Lutheran Seminary, in Kamenka, Ukraine for six weeks.
- 2002 -Elected First Vice President of Lutheran Church-Canada

Rev. Jonathan Schultz-Trintiy, Great Falls

Personal

- Born on October 23, 1981 in McCook, NE
- Baptized on November 8, 1981 at St. John Lutheran Church, Culbertson, NE
- Confirmed on April 14, 1996 at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Ronan, MT
- Married on July 23, 2005 to Amy Van Velson at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church – North Platte, NE. Jonathan and Amy have five children.

Education

- B.A. - Concordia University, Seward, NE – 2004
- M.Div. - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO – 2008
- 21 Credits towards a Master of Sacred Theology (STM) - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO – 2008-2010

Pastoral Experience

- Vicarage at Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (2006-2007)
- Ordained on March 22, 2009 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Vernal, UT
- Trinity Lutheran, Rangely, CO (2009-2014)
- Our Saviour Lutheran, Vernal, UT (2009-2017)
- Mount Calvary Lutheran, Estes Park, CO (2017-2021)
- Chaplain, US Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve (August 2020-present)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT (July 2021-present)
- Vacancy Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Fairfield, MT and Zion Lutheran Church, Power, MT (April 2024-present)

Offices Held

- LWML RMD Western Zone Counselor (2010-2012)
- LWML RMD Pastoral Counselor (2012-2016, 2020-2021)
- RMD Western Circuit Visitor (2013-2017)
- MT Central Circuit Visitor (2022-present)
- LWML MT District Pastoral Counselor (2024-Present)

Service in the Community

- President of the Board of Directors, New Eden Pregnancy Care Services, Rangely, Colorado
- President, Estes Park Elementary School PTO, Estes Park, Colorado
- BSA Merit Badge Counselor for Family Life

Rev. Kyle Winter- Church at Creston-Lutheran Creston

Rev. Kyle Winter

Rev. Kyle Winter was born on October 20, 1986, and baptized in April 1987. He was confirmed in 2000 at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE. In 2012, he married Lisa (Gebauer), and together they have been blessed with five children.

Pastor Winter earned a B.A. in Psychology and Behavioral Science from Concordia University, Nebraska (2009) and received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2016). Since that time, he has served as the sole pastor of The Church at Creston Lutheran in Kalispell, Montana.

His service to the church includes work on the district youth board and representing his circuit as a delegate to the Synodical Convention in both 2018 and 2023. In the broader community, he serves as chaplain for the Creston Fire Department. His personal interests include music, hiking, pulling weeds from his garden and tending chickens.

TEACHER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David A Hobus, M.Ed.-Retired -Trinity Kalispell

70 yrs old now emeritus (served Lutheran schools for 43 years)

Served 17yrs as principal of Trinity Lutheran School Kalispell, MT

Last place of service Principal Emmanuel Lutheran school Maui, HI

Served as President for ten years with The Montana Federation of Independent Schools

District offices held:

- Chairman nominations committee (NE District)
- Chairman constitution review committee
- Assistant to the President (MT District) for Lutheran Schools (assisted with the startup of Lutheran schools during that tenure in Missoula, Miles City and Helena)
- Ten years of service on Montana District Board of Directors

Tom Kosche-Trinity Billings

Mr. Thomas Kosche was born in 1980 in Wisconsin. He married Ruth Truitt in 2006, and they have been blessed by the Lord with five children, Abigail, Hannah, Lydia, Isabella, and Theodore. He graduated from Concordia University, Wisconsin, with a Bachelor of Education (6-12 Secondary Education and Math), and has been a Lutheran school teacher for 23 years, serving at Trinity Lutheran School, Billings, since 2008. He currently teaches 8th grade and coaches boys basketball and cross country.

Sonja Reeves- First Missoula

Mrs. Sonja Reeves has been a member of First Lutheran Church in Missoula since 2003. Her and her husband Matt have two children, Savannah (19) and Riley (17) and live in the Bitterroot Valley. In 2013 she began her distance deaconess studies at Concordia Theological Seminary--Fort Wayne. After graduating in 2015 she was called as a deaconess to First Lutheran Church and was installed in August of 2015. She joyfully serves the members of First and following her Lord wherever He leads.

NOMINEES FOR MONTANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LAY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Chad Anderson- St. Paul, Havre

Chad Anderson, Havre, MT has been blessed to be a life-long member of the LCMS and active with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Havre, MT since childhood. He has a BS-ChemE from MSU-Bozeman and at age 52, is married for 12 years and has three busy children (ages 7,4,1). He has been serving as an Elder of St. Paul for the past 10 years and lay leader for worship services as needed. Prior to that he served as a church trustee for over 10 years and is gladly involved in many activities and functions of the church including Thrivent Action Team events. He was responsible for setting up the technical system to livestream worship services. Chad has worked full time in management for Lincare (home oxygen and medical equipment) for 21 years. He enjoys the great outdoors, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, gardening, spending time with family and playing with his children.

Mr. Eric Cornelius-Concordia, Williston

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, currently working as an engineer for Oneok, and have spent most of my career in the oil and gas industry in eastern Montana and Western North Dakota.

I have called Williston, ND my home for the last 16 years along with my wife of 11 years Melissa who is a high school science teacher. I have 3 sons: Zack is a Chiropractor in the Seattle area, Leif is a Nuclear Test Engineer for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, WA, and Jonah is a 9th grader at Dawson County High 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.

Mr. Kendall Hartman-Christ the King, Billings

Kendall is married to Dee Ann (51 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 (7 years, currently serving)

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. (10 years)

Elder Christ the King Lutheran Church in Billings, Mt (12 years)

Mr. Brian Schneidenbach-Holy Trinity, Belgrade

Brian is married to Barb (48 years), three kids (Luke 46, Josh 46, and Curt 45) and three grandchildren. Brian is an elder at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Belgrade. He has been a member there for 10 years. Prior to this he was a member at First Lutheran in Bozeman and Trinity Lutheran in Great Falls.

Brian worked in missile systems and as an engineer in the Air Force (active duty and reserves) for 25 years. In the Gallatin Valley, Brian worked in construction.

Church Service:

Elder: Holy Trinity Lutheran, Belgrade; Trinity Lutheran, Great Falls.

Trustee: First Lutheran, Bozeman; Trinity Lutheran, Great Falls.

Mr. Mark Scott-Mt. Calvary, Polson

Mark was chairman of the trustees while at Grace Lutheran in Hamilton. While in Ravalli County he served their Search and Rescue, is still a volunteer Reserve Deputy Lt., Sheriff Dept., SRO (School Resource Officer) substitute, and past member on the Board of Directors of Sapphire Lutheran Homes. He is a man of numerous hobbies and interests!

Mr. Andy Zoeller-Our Savior, Billings

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.

Committee for Convention Nominations

The last election to take place during the Montana District Convention plenary sessions is that of a delegate and an alternate delegate to the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations. See details of the position below.

This election will be effected by a nominating ballot and succeeding election. Please do some thinking prior to the convention about whom you may nominate for this very important position.

The members of the 2026 Committee for Convention Nominations (CCN) of the Synod are elected by district conventions according to Bylaws 3.12.3–3.12.3.3 (2023 Handbook, pp. 189–90). Districts elect one (1) member of the committee and one (1) alternate through their regular nomination and election procedures. This member must be either a professional church worker (ORD/COM, that is, an ordained or commissioned minister) or a layperson (LAY) as follows:

3.12.3.2 3.12.3.3 In preparation for the following, odd-numbered regular convention (e.g., 69th in 2026), the remaining districts shall elect in the same manner:

Eastern – LAY

New Jersey – ORD/COM

English – ORD/COM

Iowa East – LAY

Kansas – ORD/COM

Michigan – LAY

Mid-South – ORD/COM

Minnesota North – LAY

Montana – ORD/COM

New England – LAY

North Dakota – LAY

Ohio – ORD/COM

Rocky Mountain – LAY

South Wisconsin – ORD/COM

Southeastern – LAY Pacific

Southwest – ORD/COM

Southern Illinois – LAY

Texas – ORD/COM

One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a professional church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every six years

Limitations on holding multiple offices in the Synod do not apply (Bylaw 3.12.3).

Meeting Requirements:

Persons elected to this committee must be prepared to serve at the call of the Secretary of the Synod at least six (6) months prior to the next Synod convention and to participate in one or more meetings, as needed, in St. Louis in the months immediately following. We anticipate the first meeting to be held on Jan. 15-17, 2026, and ask that the elected members hold these dates (for arrival on Wednesday evening, Jan. 14, and departure no earlier than Saturday evening, Jan. 17) in their calendars for this purpose. Online registration, with final travel details, will take place in late summer 2025.

Responsibilities:

The CCN will be responsible for selecting two (2) or more candidates and at least one alternate for all elective offices, boards, and commissions to be filled by the convention except President, First Vice-President, and regional vice-presidents. The committee will base its decisions upon review of biographical and evaluative information regarding candidates whose names were submitted by persons from throughout the Synod. Members of the committee should be able to work closely with other committee members for the common good of the Synod and be willing to set aside personal interests as appropriate in order to place into nomination those candidates most qualified to carry out the responsibilities of the offices being filled. Members of the Committee for Convention Nominations (CCN) may also be asked to serve at the time of the convention to process nominations from the floor.

1 **To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing “Divine Calls” to**
2 **Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and**
3 **the Administration of the Sacraments**

4 **Overture 1-01**

5 WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confession (AC) Article V “The Ministry” states, “So that
6 we may obtain this faith [that our sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, in Article IV], the
7 ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted;”¹; and

8 WHEREAS, AC Article XIV “Order in the Church” states, “Our churches teach that no
9 one should publicly teach in the church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly
10 ordered call;” and

11 WHEREAS, “The Power and Primacy of the Pope” (The Treatise), states, “The Gospel
12 assigns those who preside over churches the command to teach the Gospel [Matthew
13 28:19], to forgive sins [John 20:23], to administer the Sacraments, and also to exercise
14 jurisdiction;” and

15 WHEREAS, The Smalcald Articles Part III Article X teach that “...[the bishops] do not
16 even want to be true bishops, but worldly lords and princes, who will neither preach,
17 nor teach, nor baptize, nor administer the Lord’s Supper, nor perform any work or
18 office of the church;” and

19 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod accepts these confessions as a true and
20 unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God; and

21 WHEREAS, The office ministry is rightly called a divine office because it was divinely
22 instituted by Christ [Ephesian 4:11, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23], and other offices not instituted
23 by Christ but instituted by men, which the Church has freedom to create by human
24 arrangement [Treatise, ¶¶ 60-82], should not be called divine offices; and

25 WHEREAS, A number of “called” positions within Synod and its auxiliaries do not
26 require teaching the Word or administering the Sacraments; and

27 WHEREAS, The practice of issuing calls to positions that are not in the direct service
28 of the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments conflicts with
29 the referenced portions of the confessions, and creates confusion regarding the nature of
30 the call; therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the Montana District Convention memorialize the LCMS convention
32 in 2026 to direct the President of the LCMS to appoint a committee consisting of at least
33 one (1) theological professor from each seminary and one (1) district president to study
34 how the practice of issuing calls, (Bylaw 3.11.1) to positions without direct involvement
35 in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments may be
36 amended to comply with the confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That by July 30, 2026 this committee make its recommendations to the LCMS Board of Directors (BOD) regarding LCMS practice on the calls it issues; and be it finally

Resolved, That these recommendations, together with the BOD response to the recommendations be reported to the LCMS convention in 2029.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, Montana

¹All references from *Concordia The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord* Second Edition, as cited (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006), 3

To Support the Acquisition of a Parsonage for the Congregations at Wolf Point, Plentywood, and Glasgow

Overture 1-02

WHEREAS, The Montana District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod committed at its 2003 convention to give 25% of all funds received from congregational pledges to the synodical budget “for the work of the kingdom” (2003 Montana District Resolution 3-01); and

WHEREAS, The Montana District has a three-point parish located in Wolf Point, Plentywood, and Glasgow which serves about one tenth of the state of Montana; and

WHEREAS, This parish recently lost its pastor of 13 years because of ill health; and

WHEREAS, The previous pastor had his housing needs met outside of the compensation he received from the parish; and

WHEREAS, Good housing is essential to the parish's ability to call and provide for a pastor; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Office of National Mission has offered a potential \$20,000 toward the cost of a parsonage; and

WHEREAS, The actual cost of a suitable parsonage will approach \$300,000 (Letter of President Forke to Pastors of the District, 11/8/24); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montana District Board of Directors memorialize the District Convention to authorize it to assist in the location and purchase a parsonage for the Wolf Point/Plentywood/Glasgow parish; and be it further

Resolved, That the funding for this purchase be provided by the potential \$20,000 grant from Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the district as well as individual members thereof, be invited to participate in supporting the purchase of a parsonage for these congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That further necessary funding be provided by reducing the district pledge to the synod to 20%, beginning in fiscal year 2025, until the mortgage is fully paid; and be it finally

Resolved, That the district pledge to synod return to 25% once the mortgage is fully paid.

The Montana District LCMS Board of Director

To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process

Overture 2-01

Preamble

Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.

WHEREAS, One of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3); and

WHEREAS, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

WHEREAS, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

WHEREAS, Those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are responsible to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined and approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod, agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize and affirm the validity of Bylaws 1.6–1.8; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the same; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to require that process used by the various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Synod be made transparent and publicly available; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that unless those under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of their ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that their approval be assumed; and be it further

Resolved, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the candidate be given every opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it finally

Resolved, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that if such a violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate District President as that individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the appropriate processes to restore the erring brother or sister so that one deemed unworthy to teach at one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain on the roster or serve a congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of step with Synod.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Montana

To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r)

Overture 2-02

WHEREAS, THE Commission on Constitutional Matters in its 2022 review of the Montana District Bylaws recommended that Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r) be amended, saying, “MT Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r): For elections other than that of the district president and vice-presidents, the procedure of (Synod) Bylaw 4.7.3 should be used;” therefore be it

Resolved, that Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r) be amended as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Conventions, Elections, and Conferences

1.3.2 Nominations and Elections

m. The Election of the Secretary

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall propose the names of Ordained Ministers for the office of Secretary, and the election shall take place following the above procedure (j.4).

n. Election of the Circuit Counselors (See Synodical Handbook)

The election of the Circuit Counselors shall take place at a Circuit Forum not less than four months prior to the District Convention. The slate of Circuit Counselors shall be ratified at the District Convention which shall constitute election.

o. Election of Board of Directors

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall propose names for each director to be elected, and the election shall take place following the above procedure (j.4) for ordained and commissioned minister members, and by majority vote for lay members.

p. Election of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

The Elections committee shall propose names for each position to be elected, and the election shall proceed according to the above procedure (j.4).

q. Election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Synodical Handbook.

The election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Synodical Handbook.

r. Election of Advisory Delegates to the Convention Synod

The election of advisory delegates to the convention of Synod shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Synodical Handbook.

s. For elections other than that of the district president and vice-presidents, the procedure of (Synod) Bylaw 4.7.3 should be used.

The Montana District LCMS Board of Directors

To Reject the Use of AI Created Sermons in All Montana District Congregations.

Overture 3-01

WHEREAS, The capabilities and regular use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) have dramatically increased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, These tools are being experimented with and now commonly used in many industries and across many vocations; and

WHEREAS, These tools are advertised to Pastors as time-saving devices for the writing of sermons; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called to spend more time in God's Word not less; and

WHEREAS, It has pleased God to call flesh and blood men, created in His image, baptized and redeemed in the blood of Jesus, to search for lost sheep, to call sinners to repentance, to announce forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name, and to be His preachers and teachers in this world, (Mt. 28:18-20, Jn. 20:19-23, Acts 1:8, AC V and XIV); and

WHEREAS, It is contrary to God's establishment of the Office of the Ministry and His design and plan for His church to be served by an AI created in the image and likeness of men (Eph. 4:4-15); and

WHEREAS, The primary duties of the called and ordained pastor are the in-person preaching of the Lord's Word to the congregation(s) entrusted to his care, the visitation of the sick and dying, and the administration of the Lord's Sacraments according to the Lord's institution, (2 Tim. 4:1-5); and

WHEREAS, No AI can replace this incarnational, relational, in-person work; and

WHEREAS, Those pastors who would use AI and LLMs to craft a complete sermon are turning away from the very work of the ministry that they have been called to do; and

WHEREAS, Those pastors who would use AI and LLM's to craft a complete sermon espouse – knowingly or unknowingly – a functional view of the Office of the Ministry, deny the incarnational reality of the Lord's ministry among His people, while not walking in concord but walking apart from their brothers in the Office of Ministry who labor at faithful preaching and administration of His sacraments; therefore be it

Resolved, That the elders and other leaders of each congregation in the Montana District recognize the wolf in technological clothing and discuss with their pastor the great dangers of the use of AI for creating a complete sermon; and be it further

Resolved, That the elders and other leaders of each congregation in the Montana District declare without equivocation that the congregation will not accept AI created sermons preached from their pulpits under any circumstances; and be it further

Resolved, That each pastor in the Montana District reject every public and private temptation to make use of this and other such tools in the delivery of God's Law and Gospel to His people; and be it finally

Resolved, That the MT District in convention ask the LCMS in convention to adopt and make this resolution their own that the Synod can walk together on this issue.

The Montana District LCMS Dual Circuit Conference

To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 2.1.3.3

Overture 3-02

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters in its 2022 review of the Montana District Bylaws recommended that Bylaw 2.1.3.3 be amended, saying, “MT Bylaw 2.1.3.3: It should be noted that the responsibility of stewardship cannot be left unassigned (Bylaw 4.6.1);” therefore be it

Resolved, that Bylaw 2.1.3.3 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING:

Appointments

2.1.3.3 District Committees with the exception of Stewardship may include:

1. Campus
2. Education
3. Evangelism
4. Human Care
5. Indian
6. Missions
7. *Stewardship(In accordance with Synod Bylaws a committee dealing with stewardship is required.)
8. Youth

The Montana District LCMS Board of Directors

To Request an Apology for the Publication of *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications (LLCACA)* and to Republish it in Modified Form

Overture 4-01

WHEREAS, Romans 16:17 says, "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them;" and

WHEREAS, 1 Timothy 2:12 says, "And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence;" and

WHEREAS, Galatians 5:9 says, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump;" and

WHEREAS, *LLCACA* was created in response to a request by the Synod in convention, tasking the CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) with producing a new edition of the Large Catechism with explanations to aid understanding; and

WHEREAS, According to online advertising for *LLCACA*, it was "Developed and written primarily for Lutheran pastors, church workers, and seminary students." (Amazon.com product description 1/29/2025 *); and

WHEREAS, The introduction in *LLCACA* says, "Luther's Large Catechism itself, together with the annotations and essays that follow, seeks to teach the baptized. This is not a book primarily for pastors, though we hope it will be a helpful resource for all called church workers, including pastors. This is for the whole church – for the ordinary layperson who wants to grow deeper in faith and understanding and be able to give 'a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). It is the goal of this book both to edify or build up readers with a deeper understanding of God's Word and to equip them with knowledge so they can respond to challenges to the confession of the Lord's truth in our culture." (General Introduction by John T. Pless and Larry M. Vogel, Editors). *LLCACA* is therefore a Catechetical book for laity as well as clergy, teaching everyone and anyone the faith taught in our Catechism; and

WHEREAS, A number of people have defended and upheld the publication of *LLCACA*, including the Rev. President Matthew Harrison, who said, "I have had time to re-evaluate the controverted sentences and found that while some things might have been expressed more clearly, nevertheless, there is nothing in the content of the volume promoting critical race theory (CRT), confusion of sexuality issues, or any theological position at odds with biblical and confessional Lutheranism. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's doctrine is established only by the Scriptures and confessed in the *Book of Concord*. By God's grace we remain steadfast in this eternal truth and confession as we await the return of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. Frankly, I think each reader will be astounded at the content and quality of the volume.;" and

39 WHEREAS, There was nonetheless an indiscriminate use of authors to teach our
40 clergy and lay people; and

41 WHEREAS, Women teachers contributed to *LLCACA*, and were thus put in the
42 position of catechizing our lay people, seminarians, and pastors (whether the ladies'
43 content is good or not); and

44 WHEREAS, Because *LLCACA* is intended to teach our people the true faith, it is
45 especially a very serious cause of offense that at least one author from outside our
46 Synod who is known to be a false teacher was allowed to catechize our people by
47 writing essays in *LLCACA*; and

48 WHEREAS, This individual, Steven Paulson, who is an ELCA pastor, has denied
49 the substitutionary atonement, thereby following the teachings of Gerhard Forde, who
50 also taught that the death of Christ was not a payment made for our sins, when in an
51 essay he said, "Forde Lives!" Paulson also said, "The stupefied atonement question -
52 Why could God not just up and forgive? - is answered simply: He did!" (*The Essential*
53 *Forde: Distinguishing Law and Gospel*, eds. Nicholas Hopman, Mark C. Mattes, and
54 Steven D. Paulson, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019, p. 29); and

55 WHEREAS, Paulson rejects the so-called "legal scheme" of the vicarious
56 satisfaction throughout his book *Lutheran Theology*, thereby rejecting vicarious
57 satisfaction as confessed in many places in the Book of Concord; and

58 WHEREAS, Paulson also teaches antinomianism, as convincingly demonstrated
59 and refuted by Dr. David P. Scaer, "Is Law Intrinsic to God's Essence?" *Concordia*
60 *Theological Quarterly*, volume 82, Number 1-2, January / April 2018; and

61 WHEREAS, Even though Paulson does not appear to explicitly teach these things
62 in *LLCACA*, he does however teach about the Third Commandment, so antinomianism
63 surely colors some of what he says, most importantly with what he neglects to say; and

64 WHEREAS, Additionally, the denial of the substitutionary atonement must always
65 color everything a man teaches, even if it is not referred to; and

66 WHEREAS, Paulson, as a teacher in the ELCA, officially stands with the official
67 teachings of the ELCA, including denying the inerrancy of Scripture, acceptance of
68 women and gay clergy, etc.; and

69 WHEREAS, Perhaps most dangerously, even if Paulson's words in *LLCACA*
70 happen to be orthodox by themselves, by using him as a teacher in an official
71 publication, laymen may be unsuspectingly led to assume that the Synod endorses him
72 and that there is nothing wrong with his theology thereby leading them to read more of
73 his harmful materials; and

74 WHEREAS, Those authorities who have now publicly endorsed or supported the
75 publication of *LLCACA* include 1) the CTCR by producing it, 2) Concordia Publishing
76 House (CPH) by publishing it, 3) the Synod President by praising it; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montana District in convention memorialize the Synod in Convention that those entities who have publicly endorsed or supported the publication of *LLCACA* give public apology for their part in endorsing, supporting, and/or publishing catechetical material by false-teaching and/or inappropriate authors; and be it further

Resolved, That CPH cease the sale of *LLCACA* as it currently exists; and be it finally

Resolved, That a new version containing only the Large Catechism portion of *LLCACA* be published which does not include the essays.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Montana

*https://www.amazon.com/Luthers-Catechism-Annotations-Contemporary-Applications/dp/0758672519/ref=sr_1_5?adgrpid=1229255023055252&dib=eyJ2JlJoiMSJ9.ugGWRRJc5g5oY51kCXG-vxPc0r4KdN7umZl23LRWpQN8pc7Dp-URg8AZ1eA7oSdu4wRgMUbBkRObZ8DNcDbXCraOArpExXGAR-6b_3LSnhvEgAuNkHjc9D4RqXgW8MkLd2-QoKiORkdZyLGDBVlb17Zyob9SigbpMNAtyxGn0wCotn8S6vuWNOYdXZ8sSNGz._K2O4a5yqJh-PR8bTpAdphtGVI3cHlIDyo8aSc7cUHo&dib_tag=se&hvadid=76828570703145&hvbmt=bp&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=110189&hvnetw=s&hvmqmt=e&hvtargid=kwd-76828721486314%3Aloc-190&hydadcr=16765_13528482&keywords=large+catechism+with+annotations&msclickid=17a586a2b4c919859525e1382545863b&qid=1738185356&sr=8-5

To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast

Overture 5-01

WHEREAS, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and Ryan Dumperth (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the *Stone Choir* podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and Dumperth to function as “the very stones” who must “cry out” because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and

WHEREAS, The issues about which the *Stone Choir* accuses the pastors and leadership of the LCMS of remaining silent on include the supposed necessity of the reintroduction of racial segregation; the supposed sinfulness of interracial marriage; the supposed pernicious nature of the Jewish race today; and the supposedly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the National Socialists during World War II; and

WHEREAS, None of *Stone Choir*’s positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture, and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and

WHEREAS, *Stone Choir* hosts Mahler and Dumperth are active on Twitter/X, and *Stone Choir* listeners are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and Dumperth teach on the *Stone Choir* podcast, but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and

WHEREAS, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and Dumperth, among other outrageously offensive behaviors, openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great offense to Christian consciences; and

WHEREAS, Through their activity on the *Stone Choir* podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and Dumperth have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and

WHEREAS, Mahler and Dumperth have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as “either apostate or derelict” and on their podcast and on Twitter have attempted to turn their listeners against their pastors; and

WHEREAS, Mahler and Dumperth are not currently active members of any LCMS congregation and are therefore beyond the reach of church discipline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Divide Circuit of the Montana District memorialize the District in Convention to publicly condemn the *Stone Choir* podcast and its hosts, Corey J. Mahler and Ryan Dumperth, for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, That the Divide Circuit of the Montana District memorialize the District in Convention to warn the laity of the Montana District against the *Stone Choir* podcast and its

hosts, and that the pastors of the Montana District be encouraged to admonish members of their congregations whose approval of *Stone Choir* and its hosts has become known; and be it further

Resolved, That the Divide Circuit of the Montana District memorialize the District in Convention to encourage the Montana District President to bring under discipline pastors of the Montana District who may be found to be promoting the *Stone Choir* podcast or its hosts for the offense they cause thereby; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR and seminary faculties of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the teachings of *Stone Choir* according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how *Stone Choir* is in error; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast and its hosts and followers and to take action against pastors who promote the same.

The Montana District LCMS Divide Circuit Forum

To Amend Montana District Bylaw 2.2.2.2

Overture 5-02

WHEREAS, The bylaws of the Montana District currently call for a vacancy in the office of the Second Vice-President of the district to be filled on the basis of number of nominations at the previous convention; and

WHEREAS, This practice does not follow the Synodical prescription that “matters determined by a convention are to be determined by a majority vote”ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, The current Montana District bylaw does not reference previous votes, but instead previous nominations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Montana District LCMS Bylaw 2.2.2.2 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING

District Vice-Presidents

2.2.2.2 Vacancies

A vacancy in the office of First Vice-President shall be filled by the Second Vice-President. ~~A vacancy in the office of Second Vice-President shall be filled by the individual member of the District receiving the highest number of nominations for Second Vice-President at the previous convention~~ A vacancy in the office of Second Vice-President shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors of the Montana District.

The Montana District LCMS Board of Directors

ⁱⁱCCM Opinion (20-2941)

Regarding Bylaw 3.01 (d), the commission notes that requiring a vacancy to be filled by appointment of a candidate receiving a minority of votes in the past election does not reflect the will of the majority of the convention. The position should be filled by appointment, not by a determination made by less than a majority of the district convention. Matters determined by a convention are to be determined by a majority vote. (Const. Art. VIII C). See Synod Bylaw 3.3.2.4, in which a vacancy in the office of vice-president is filled by the president in consultation with elected representatives of the region. (CCM Op. 17-2862)

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Eric M Christiansen

Rev. Eric M Christiansen was called to Glory on January 10, 2024, in Libby, MT. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 1991, after a career in law enforcement. He served in Wyoming, North Dakota, and at St. John Lutheran Church in Libby.

Rev. Richard F Green

Rev. Richard F Green was called to Glory on April 30, 2025, in Laurel, MT. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, in 1974, and accepted his first Call to the dual parish of St. Paul and St. John in Bridger and Belfry. He served in Washington for 30 years before returning to Montana in 2022, where he attended St. John Lutheran Church, Laurel.

Rev. Raymond Everet Larson, Sr

Rev. Raymond Everet Larson, Sr was called to Glory on December 24, 2022. He began his ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyceville, WI, after which he served 20 years as an Army Chaplain, then as a parish pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville. He was very active in the Montana District and Synod, serving as a Circuit Visitor and chair of the District Missions Committee, and as a representative for Operation Barnabas, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and Rural and Small Town Ministry.

Rev. Carl Alan Lehmann

Rev. Carl Alan Lehmann was called to Glory on October 8, 2024, in Lewistown, MT. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in 1995. He came to the Montana District as a candidate, after serving as a teacher in Florida and pastor in Nebraska. He served as organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lewistown.

Rev. Erwin Carl Sprengeler

Rev. Erwin Carl Sprengeler was called to Glory on October 10, 2024. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1963 and serves parishes in Canada, Washington, Montana, Oregon, and Minnesota. He came to Whitehall, Montana as an emeritus pastor in 2021.

Mr. Wilhelm Wegner

Mr. Wilhelm Wegner was called to Glory on October 11, 2022. In 1971 he completed studies at the Lay Training Institute in Milwaukee, WI for service in the church as a consecrated lay worker. He served as a Missionary-at-Large for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Wisconsin, and served Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Troy, and Christ for the Deaf, Great Falls, MT.

AMICUS CHRISTI – Rev. Terry and Cheryl Forke

“Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.”

There are few people that have embodied and lived this prayer from the hymn verse more consistently than Rev. Terry Forke. Fewer still are those whose entire life and ministry have steadfastly led, taught, encouraged, and pointed others to the centrality of this same saving Word.

Ordained to the office of the holy ministry in 1983, he has served God’s people faithfully and energetically(!) here in our Montana District since that time, first as parish pastor. Then, in addition, over the years, he has served on or chaired virtually every Committee and Task Force in the District. And of course, this includes his roles as Circuit Counselor, 2nd and 1st Vice Presidents, and as District President since 2006.

In addition, Rev. Forke’s many contributions have reached beyond the Church - parish, district, and Synod. His civic involvement and leadership, providing strong Christian witness and moral compass on critical issues that have reached through local communities to state government entities, and even nationally. For example, many of us know of his unwavering and exemplary involvement in Lutherans for Life, and related life issues, for more than three decades

Most of us also know of his extraordinary service as our District President for nearly two decades. The absolute integrity of his administration of District business, the breadth of his knowledge, practical wisdom, and consistent Christian leadership, along with confessional commitment, are well-known, even well beyond Montana’s borders.

Especially to our pastors and church workers, Rev. Forke’s theological guidance, through writings, essays and articles and personal counsel, have been a blessing to many. But more than this, his compassion and Gospel focus, not merely as “District executive” but as a true “pastor to the pastors” has been a tremendous blessing.

Ultimately however, his personal concern for the faith and well-being of all of God’s people entrusted to his care has been the hallmark of his ministry. With all of his accomplishments over the years, his activities, contributions, positions of service and responsibility, with all the many miles he has driven (and indeed there have been many!) and the many hours he has served, Terry Forke is first and foremost a Pastor.

He continues to serve the parishes in Harlowton and Roundup. Recently he has also taken on the vacancy at the dual parish of Havre and Chinook. It’s fair to say his relentless level of dedication has been an example to many. But especially, his level of energy has been an astonishment to us all!

Finally, though, we recognize his humility as a true servant, committed to God’s Word, and thus, a true friend of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil All the days of her life." Proverbs 31*

There is much confusion in the world today with regards marriage and the role, (for some, even the unique reality), of women in this world. Even so, the reality and importance of "woman" and "wife" was divinely established in Eden before the Fall.

Then until now, the absolute necessity of a blessed relationship between husband and wife remains the essential component of family and of humanity, especially for God's people.

And to this day even the Fallen world acknowledges that, "Behind every great man, there is a great woman."

Now, while we recognize there is no "official" synodical, or churchly office, designated as "pastor's wife", that God-given role is no less important in the life of the Church, and in the lives of its pastors, (whether they are "great men" or not!) just as it is in the world.

Now, Mrs. Cheryl Forke, first and foremost is a faithful, baptized child of God. And like our lady in Proverbs 31, she is also a woman of many talents, and many gifts, who has lived and served her Lord in many ways throughout her life – as wife and partner to her husband Terry for more than 46 years, as mother, grandmother, teacher, leader, Christian friend, encourager and Godly example, especially to many women, including other pastors' wives.

As Lutheran school teacher, she has taught the children in our District's schools. She has served, and served with, the many faithful women of the LWML.

Alongside her husband she has championed the sanctity of life through Lutherans for Life, and has lived that dedication. And Cheryl Forke has organized and led retreats for the pastors' wives of our District, and actively served our families and children at the Red Lodge camp and other events.

Finally, it is completely obvious, and appropriate, to remind our retiring District President – and all of us in the Montana District - that she has been "his rib" alongside him, and a "great woman" behind him, as well as a wonderful and faithful Christian sister and witness to us all. And so, it is certainly fitting that we recognize her as a true servant and Friend of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMICUS CHRISTI –Ernie Theodore Hergett

Ernest “Ernie” Hergett was born in June 1938 in Park City, MT. He was baptized on July 7th, 1938 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Park City, MT. His family moved to the Belfry area when he was two years old. He was raised on a farm outside of Belfry with two older brothers and one older sister. He attended grade school at Pioneer Country School in Wyoming followed by Belfry High School. After graduating he worked on the farm.

On June 15th, 1958 Ernie married Dora (Mill). The Lord blessed them with five children and 62 years of marriage before He called Dora home.

In 1967 Ernie and Dora moved their young family to Billings transferring their membership to the newly organized mission congregation of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church with their former pastor, Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg. Ernie worked for various companies in Billings over the next fifty years.

Ernie has been a faithful and active member of a Lutheran congregation his entire life. He is the longest serving elder of Christ the King and will celebrate 50 years of service as an elder in 2026 (1970-1984, 1990-Present). Ernie has held nearly every elected office at Christ the King, he has been a Sunday School teacher, and he rarely misses a work day or an opportunity to serve the Lord by caring for His church and pastor. He has been a long-time supporter of the LWML, traveling with his wife and other women of the congregation to numerous gatherings. He is a humble servant who is willing to do anything to help.

Ernie has also quietly assisted at every Montana District Convention since 2006. Helping with the testing of microphones, with the setup of the projection screens and video equipment, and with the video taping of the convention. He has also served as a voting delegate numerous times.

Ernie is a blessing to the members of Christ the King, the Montana District, and to all the men who have served him as a pastor. He has set a Godly example of what it is to be a dedicated and faithful servant of Christ who uses his time, talents, and treasure in service to the Lord. Ernie is a true “Friend of Christ.”

AMICUS CHRISTI –Rev. Jason Menagh

He has served in the District for many years, first as a faithful pastor, and now as the archivist. Even in the midst of his own pain and suffering he has often stepped in to help his fellow pastors by hosting the Lutheran Preaching Practicum, where pastors gathered to improve their preaching, and by offering wise and gentle support. He has recently served as president of Emmaus Lutheran Church in Livingston and regularly plays the organ there. His generous offers of hospitality, comfort, and support to the pastors in the Divide Circuit are well known. Jason has certainly demonstrated his love for Christ and his neighbor through his length of service, dedication, sacrifice, humility, and joy.

AMICUS CHRISTI –Rev. John Vallie

When St. Paul spoke of running the race while keeping the faith, he must have had Rev. Vallie in mind. He served Concordia, Forsyth and Trinity, Hysham as a dual parish for 10 years. (2000-2010) In his most recent parish – a tri-point parish consisting of Faith, Trinity, and Trinity in Glasgow, Wolf Point, and Plentywood – Rev. Vallie was singlehandedly covering nearly 10% of the state of Montana, a trip consisting of over 290 miles round trip. Nevertheless, he made the sacrifice for many years in order that his members and the folks in the surrounding communities could hear the Gospel of their salvation and know that Jesus died for them. In addition he served as a vacancy Pastor for a congregation in Canada. His travel-time and mileage alone for this tri-point served in Montana would make him a worthy candidate for the Amicus Christi award, but his stellar and faithful care for the saints throughout his time and service in Montana put him over the top. On duty or off you could find Pastor Vallie boldly proclaiming God's Word in Christ in his kind and soft-spoken way, wherever the Lord would place him – and never seeking fame or glory for doing so.