

# Montana District Reflections

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

A little more than eight months ago the Montana District in convention (you), elected me to serve as the Montana District President. Those months have been filled with joys and struggles, with new challenges, and a steep learning curve. I have often prayed for wisdom and patience to be able to serve in this role as the Lord desires. The 22 divisions of Psalm 119 have often been on my lips and are part of my regular reading and prayers. Recently, the first five verses of Lamedh have been comforting:

*“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.”*  
(119:98-94)

With this issue, we are re-starting the publication of the Montana District Reflections. There will be a new issue each quarter. It is my hope over the next few years that you can get to know a little bit more about each of the pastors whom you elected to serve in the district, beginning with the Praesidium. We will ask each man to tell us a little about himself and his family and then ask a few questions. As I travel in the district, I am enjoying getting to know many of you and I hope this issue will help you get to know me and my family a little bit as well.

Rev. Ryan D Wendt

Montana District President



## Montana District LCMS

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Devotion from the  
President

Changes in the District

District Calendar

Notes from the Office

Current Vacancies

Calling

Congregations/Schools

Called to Glory

Installations from  
Around the District

Church Worker Profile

Missionary News

District Convention

Announcements

Giving Summaries

## Devotions

**Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’**

### Matthew 9:37–38

If you have read the most recent *Lutheran Witness*, you encountered some sobering information about vacancies in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At the end of 2025, 20% of congregations Synod-wide—996 congregations—were vacant. Nearly 80% of those have been vacant for more than a year. Of those 996 congregations, only 38% (379 congregations) are currently able to call a pastor and provide for his ongoing care.

Here in Montana, six parishes (10 congregations total) are vacant and calling. Out of 69 congregations in the state, that means 14.5% are currently vacant.

It is important to know these numbers. At the same time, the devil is always looking for ways to use such information to cause doubt in God’s Word and promises, or to stir up fear about the future. Those doubts and fears can lead some to seek quick fixes for the pastoral shortage. Yet such solutions, however well-intentioned, often create more problems than they solve and rarely provide a faithful, long-term answer.

Others may be tempted to waver in our confession in an attempt to attract more members by **“saying what itching ears want to hear”** (2 Tim. 4:3). Shying away from or watering down the message in order to increase attendance is not what our Lord has called us to do.

So why share or talk about these numbers at all?

What I want you to hear and remember—especially those of you currently experiencing vacancy in your own congregation—is this: the Lord is faithful. Psalm 119:90 reminds us that His **“faithfulness endures to all generations.”** Jesus Himself told His disciples that the laborers would be few. Yet He also commanded them to pray to the Lord of the harvest—and promised that He would send out laborers into His harvest. He provides both hearers and preachers. He calls us to faithfulness, whether or not we see growth in numbers.

Numbers do not define the Church. Even the problems we face while living in the Church militant do not have the final word. The answer is always the same: return to the Lord, trust in Him, and cast your burdens upon Him for He cares for you.

His answers are not always as clear to our reason and senses as we would like. Often they come more slowly than we prefer. But He is faithful. His Church will not fail. He will not leave Himself without a voice—without called and ordained servants to proclaim His Word to His people who long to hear it.

As we call upon the Lord and wait for His provision, we continue to work together, to pray for, support, and care for each other, and to keep pulpits filled with faithful, trained men. We also keep working to raise up a new generation of pastors and teachers for our congregations and schools.

We do not despair. We do not turn from our confession. We do not fashion a golden calf to lead us through the wilderness simply because our Moses seems delayed. Rather, we lean more deeply into our confession and dig more diligently into the Scriptures. This is pleasing to God.

The Lord has provided faithful men to serve in the Montana District. They care deeply for one another and for you. Many of our retired pastors continue to recognize the need and generously give of their time, talents, and treasure to continue to serve. All of these men are gifts from the Lord—living reminders of His faithfulness as they preach, teach, and administer the Sacraments among us.

I confess that I too, have been tempted to doubt God’s promises and to worry about the future of the Church. Yet the Lord continually calls me to repentance, forgives my doubt and fear, and reminds me that He is faithful.

The hymn by William Cowper (LSB 765), “God Moves in a Mysterious Way,” beautifully expresses my doubts and fears and the Lord’s faithfulness. (You can read it or sing it with me just below.) We do not always see how the Lord is working, but He is working all things for good for those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.

So yes—the harvest is plentiful, AND, the laborers are few. But the Lord of the harvest knows this and He has promised that He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Be encouraged, dear saints of the Montana District. The Lord knows our needs, and He cares for us.

“God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.  
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;  
behind a frowning providence faith sees a smiling face.  
His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.  
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.  
You fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
the clouds you so much dread,  
are big with mercy and will break in blessings on your head.”

Rev. Ryan D. Wendt  
Montana District President

## **CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT**

### Installations

- Rev. Dr. Matthew Christensen-March 30, 2025: Concordia, Forsyth
- Rev. Ryan D Wendt-June 11, 2025: District President of the Montana District—LCMS (Sole to Associate Pastor of Christ the King, Billings)
- Rev. Jacob “Riley” Corrigan-June 27, 2025: Emmaus Lutheran Church, Livingston (Ordination)
- Rev. Edward Wright-September 7, 2025: St. Peter, Whitefish
- Rev. Matthias Wollberg-November 16, 2025: Christ the King, Billings
- Rev. Robin Fish-December 7, 2025: St. John, Fairfield/Zion, Power
- Rev. Gideon Pullmann-February 1, 2026: Zion, Whitehall

### Removal/Resignation

- Rev. Dane Breitung-April 9, 2025
- Mrs. JeAnne Faris-October 31, 2025
- Rev. John Baseley-December 14, 2025

## District President's Calendar

March 1: Christ the King, Billings  
March 4-7: Regional DP meetings, Sioux Falls, SD  
March 8: Concordia, Forsyth  
March 8: Trinity, Hysham-Closing service  
March 9: Eastern Circuit Winkel  
April 13: Southern Circuit Winkel  
April 24-30: COP meetings, St. Louis/Ft. Wayne

## Reminders & Notes from the District Office

- **President Voter Registration (1 Pastor & 1 Lay) closes MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Congregations, please notify the district office of phone and email changes
- Congregational Statistics are due. The deadline has been extended to March 31<sup>st</sup> but please do not delay! Submit your data through the LISN portal
- Please remit your congregational assessments. These assessments are based on your most recently submitted congregational statistics, and are used to fund the district convention and church worker conferences
- Montana District Schools Fund Grant applications are due by May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Montana District Church Worker Scholarship applications are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Synodical Convention preparations are underway. The convention will take place in Phoenix, AZ, July 18-23, 2026. President Wendt will serve as the vice-chair of the CTCR floor committee
- The Montana District Reflections are back and will now be a quarterly newsletter. Please submit district news to: [office@mtdistlcms.org](mailto:office@mtdistlcms.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, July, October, and January, to be included in the subsequent issue.

## CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT

### Transfers Out

- Rev. James Weist-December 9, 2024: Michigan District
- Rev. Richard Schneider-April 21, 2025: Kansas District
- Rev. Charles Lehmann-July 14, 2025: Southern District
- Rev. Blake Marshall-December 29, 2025: Northwest District

### Status Changes

- Rev. Daniel Merz-February 10, 2025: Active to Candidate
- Mrs. Susan Taylor-July 1, 2025: Active to Candidate
- Ms. Kianna Ogilvie-July 19, 2025: Active to Candidate
- Rev. James Mavis-August 18, 2025: Active to Emeritus
- Rev. Timothy Christenson-September 8, 2025: Active to Emeritus
- Rev. John Donnan-December 30, 2025: Active to Emeritus

### Candidate Extensions

- Rev. Timothy Klug
- Rev. Jeffrey Potter
- Mrs. Lorraine Roach

## Congregation/School Changes

- Our Savior Lutheran Preschool, Stevensville, was closed as of May 24, 2024
- Mt. Calvary, Colstrip, Concordia, Forsyth, and Trintiy, Hysham have agreed through a voters meeting on October 13, 2024, to dissolve the Tri Parish
- Mt. Calvary, Colstrip & Circle of Life, Lame Deer formed a dual parish, as of June 15, 2025
- Trinity, Great Falls, St. John, Power, and Zion, Fairfield have agreed through a voters meeting on August 17, 2025, to dissolve the Tri Parish. St. John and Zion remain a Dual Parish
- First Lutheran Classical School, Missoula, was closed as of September 28, 2025
- St. Mark, Butte and Zion, Whitehall have agreed through a voters meeting on December 14, 2025, to dissolve the Dual Parish
- Trinity, Hysham and Concordia, Forsyth have agreed through a voters meeting on January 31, 2025, to merge and worship at Concordia
- Faith, Boulder & Zion, Whitehall formed a dual parish, as of January 4, 2026
- St. Mark, Butte & St. John, Deer Lodge formed a parish, as of February 1, 2026

## Calling Congregations/Schools

- Our Redeemer, Anaconda
- Holy Trinity, Belgrade/Grace, Three Forks
  - Pastor Eric Stinnett has accepted the Call
- Trintiy Lutheran School, Billings-Principal
  - Trinty has called Mr. Peter Lorenz of Brookfield, WI
- St. Mark, Butte & St. John, Deer Lodge
- Zion, Chinook & St. Paul, Havre
- Mt. Calvary, Colstrip & Circle of Life, Lame Deer
- St. John, Fairview & Trinity, Sidney
- Faith, Glasgow/Trinity, Plentywood/Trinity, Wolf Point (Calling a Seminary Candidate)
- Trinity Lutheran School, Kalispell-Teacher
- St. Paul, Ronan

## CURRENT VACANCIES

- Our Redeemer, Anaconda (Vacancy Pastor: Bruce Linderman & Mark Schultz)
- Holy Trinity, Belgrade/Grace, Three Forks (Vacancy Pastor: Daniel Merz)
  - Pastor Eric Stinnett has accepted the Call
- St. Mark, Butte (Vacancy Pastor: James Mavis)
- Zion, Chinook/St. Paul, Havre (Vacancy Pastor: Terry Forke)
- Mt. Calvary, Colstrip/Circle of Life, Lame Deer (Vacancy Pastor: Dennis Bauer)
- St. John, Deer Lodge (Vacancy Pastor: Gideon Pullmann)
- Faith, Glasgow/Trinity, Plentywood/Trinity, Wolf Point (Vacancy Pastors: David Behm, Daniel Rinderknecht, Howard Schreibeis)
- St. John, Fairview/Trinity, Sidney (Vacancy Pastor: Rolf Preus)
- St. Paul, Ronan (Vacancy Pastor: Kyle Whaley)

## Called to Glory

Rev. Richard Green was Called to Glory on April 30, 2025. A memorial service was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Green served parishes in Bridger and Belfry, Montana and Mount Lake Terrace and Seattle, Washington. After retiring, he and his wife, Karen, moved to Laurel, MT, where they attended St. John's Lutheran Church.

## Installation Pictures from Around the District



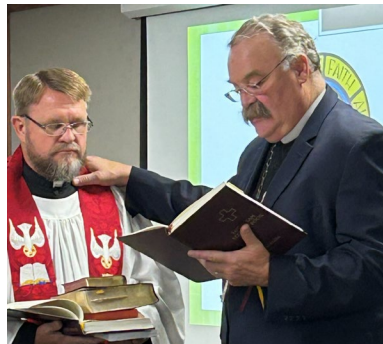
Installation of Rev. Matthias Wollberg  
at Christ the King, Billings



Installation of Rev. Robin Fish at St.  
John, Fairfield & Zion, Power



Installation of Rev. Gideon Pullmann  
at Zion, Whitehall



Installation of Rev.  
Ryan Wendt as our  
next Montana  
District President



Ordination and Installation of Rev. Riley  
Corrigan at Emmaus, Livingston

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9: 37-38

## Getting to Know a Montana District Church Worker



Early Summer 2025 at Artist Point overlooking the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River in YNP. Ryan (53), Sara (not telling), Samuel (20), Elizabeth (18), Lydia (15), and Rachel (12)

### **Rev. Ryan D. Wendt**

I was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. My father owns and operates an automotive repair and welding shop and my mother is a retired LCMS elementary teacher. I attended church and PK-8 school at Holy Cross Lutheran in the KC Northland. I was baptized, confirmed, married, and then ordained at Holy Cross. I attended KC Lutheran High School and participated in soccer, wrestling, baseball, and track and in the summer I swam on the Gladstone Gators swim team. After high school I spent a couple of years running away from familiar circles but was led back to Concordia College (it wasn't a university yet) in Seward Nebraska. I met my future bride Sara (Jaschen) in my first quarter at Concordia and we dated for four years before being married just after graduation.

Sara was an English/Geography major and I was a Business/Theology major. I received my Bachelor of Science in Education (LTD) as a secondary educator with a middle level endorsement. My first call was to Rockford Lutheran High School in Rockford, IL. I taught Old Testament, computers, math, and coached soccer, baseball, and worked on the school's computer systems. I taught and coached for two years, being selected for "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" in my first year of teaching. I love to teach! Sara taught at the Lutheran middle school on the same campus as the High School during the day and then taught "English as a Second Language" (ESL) with the local college in the evenings.

Though we loved our time in Rockford, there remained a nagging voice in me. By half-way through my second year of teaching, it was all but decided that I couldn't ignore going to the seminary any longer. Sara completely supported the decision and then supported us financially for three years.

There is no way that I can adequately or fully describe the joy of our years at the seminary. The close friendships that we formed or what it is like to learn from some of the best Lutheran professors in the world while even being welcomed into their friendship and families. In July 2002 I was assigned as vicar at Mount Olive Lutheran in Billings under Rev. Mark Grunst, then president of the CTSFW Board of Regents. It was a great year!

## Getting to Know Ryan D Wendt

After completing vicarage and the fourth year of seminary (2004) I was placed at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Kearney, NE as the Associate Pastor and Headmaster of the PK-8<sup>th</sup> school. I enjoyed teaching, coaching, and the new challenges of being a principal, while also preaching and leading Bible studies and making shut-in visits. It was during our second year in Kearney that the Lord gave us Samuel (his name means “asked of the Lord”). Prior to Samuel’s birth the Lord gave and the Lord took away six other children – blessed be the Name of the Lord.

When the Call came to serve at Christ the King in Billings, Sara and I prayed diligently, and ultimately accepted the Call in June of 2006. It was one of the hardest decisions of our life. For context, Rev. Terry Forke was elected as the MT District President in the same month.

Since Samuel’s birth and moving to Billings, the Lord has blessed us with three beautiful daughters, Elizabeth (“Oath of God”), Lydia (named after an early believer in the Book of Acts), and Rachel (“ewe lamb”).

I served the Lord’s people at Christ the King for almost twenty years, being able to be present with many who ended their course in faith, and through many community and societal changes, including a significant building project. They have been a loving family to us and this has been a wonderful place to raise our children. While Christ the King has a new senior pastor (a man who was one of my students in Kearney, NE and a vicar at Mount Olive in Billings), I am thankful to still be able to serve now as the associate pastor at CTK.

While many days have been difficult, I have enjoyed the new challenges of serving the Lord and His church in this new way, as the MT District President.

**Confirmation Verse:** Matthew 10:19-21 – “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

**Favorite Color:** Green (though I am red/green colorblind and don’t know what green looks like to any of you).

**Favorite Season:** Autumn.

**Favorite Hobby:** Sailing (but I don’t get to do much of that in MT), so my favorite hobbies in MT are camping, hunting, and hiking with my family.

**Favorite Book (besides the Bible, our Lutheran Confessions, and so many theology books):** The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings.

**Favorite Vehicle:** My 1974 CJ5 Jeep (I wish I’d have kept it).

**Favorite Thing About Serving the Lord:** Seeing people who are weighed down with sin and guilt hear the Lord’s forgiveness and rejoice and have peace in His gifts of life and salvation.

## Getting to Know Ryan D Wendt

**Favorite Hymn:** This is a hard decision. There are so many good hymns! I think my top five this week are: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (LSB 621), “Lord of Our Life” (LSB 659), “A Mighty Fortress” (LSB 656), “O God, My Faithful God” (LSB 696), and “Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow” (LSB 880)

### **Elaborate on Your Hymn Choice:**

“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow,” written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) during the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648), is one of more than thirty hymns regularly published in German hymnals during his lifetime. (Seventeen are included in Lutheran Service Book). Pastor Gerhardt’s life and work have captivated me since I was young and learned about him in Lutheran grade school. Even after banishment from house and home, the Gerhardt family remained steadfast to the confession put forth in our Book of Concord (1580). Paul Gerhardt’s life was also marked by fidelity to this confession and the Christian faith.

He did not shrink back from serving the Lord’s people during the ravages of the Thirty Years’ War or during the multiple occurrences of the plague even after burying hundreds of his members. He buried his wife and four of his five children. Affixed to his portrait in the parish church at Lubben after his death were the words, “Paul Gerhardt, a theologian sifted in Satan’s sieve, and afterward found faithful.” (Luke 22:31-32) That is an epitaph that every Lutheran pastor and teacher should strive for.

This particular hymn was considered foolishness to the enlightened thinkers of his age. How can the whole world in slumber lie? Even the King, Frederick the Great, while himself endorsing the rationalist’s new Berlin Hymnal of 1780 said, “with regard to hymnals, everyone is free to sing ‘Nun ruhen all Walder’ and other such foolish and stupid stuff.” Rev. Jacob Sutton, commenting in our Lutheran Service Book – Companion to the Hymns, summarizes this hymn saying, “Jesus and His angelic host attend the Christian from sunrise to sunset to sunrise, from cradle to grave to eternal life (Ps. 90; Rev. 14:13).”

Clearly the hymn refers to our rest each night and our waking in the morning, but also to the twilight of our lives and the rest in the grave as we await the resurrection and eternal life with Jesus. St. Paul says that “the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but those who are being saved, it is the power of God.” This hymn may be foolishness to the rationalists and the enlightened thinkers of the age, but it is a clear confession of a Christian’s hope in Christ from the cradle to the grave. That is why it is one of my favorite hymns.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90: 1-2, 12

## Getting to Know Ryan D Wendt

### Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

- 1 Now rest beneath night's shadow, The woodland, field, and meadow; The world in slumber lies.  
But you, my heart, awaking, And prayer and music making, Let praise to your Creator rise.
- 2 The radiant sun has vanished, Its golden rays are banished, From dark'ning skies of night;  
But Christ, the Sun of gladness, Dispelling all our sadness, Shines down on us in warmest light.
- 3 Now all the heav'nly splendor Breaks forth in starlight tender, From myriad worlds unknown;  
And we, this marvel seeing, Forget our selfish being, For joy of beauty not our own.
- 4 Lord Jesus, since You love me, Now spread Your wings above me, And shield me from alarm.  
Though Satan would devour me, Let angel guards sing o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
- 5 My loved ones, rest securely, For God this night will surely, From peril guard your heads.  
Sweet slumbers may He send you And bid His hosts attend you, And through the night watch o'er your beds.

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Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Psalm 90: 14

## EXCERPTS FROM: SERVING THE LORD IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS NEWS FROM GERALD AND HEIDI PAUL

### Big Changes in our near Future

#### We're Transferring to Peru!

Dear Friends and Supporters, God has deemed it good and right to call us away from the Cayman Islands to serve in Lima, Peru. The LAC region has requested Gerald to lead the mission in Peru as there is a great need for his specific experience and skillset for their situation there.



Right now, we are in the process of organizing the move and would appreciate your prayers during this time of transition.

#### What about Safe Harbour in the Cayman Islands?

The LAC regional leadership is committed to the work here in the Cayman Islands. They are currently working on calling a missionary to serve the dear saints at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church. Please keep the people of Safe Harbour in your prayers also, that God will send them a shepherd soon!

#### How can it be 5 years already?

We are thankful for all your prayers and financial support for our work in the Cayman Islands these past five years. We pray, if the Spirit so moves you, that you will transition your support to move with us from our mission work in the Cayman Islands to our mission work in our new harvest field: Lima, Peru.

#### Last Sunday

Our last Sunday at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church will be March 1, and we will move to Peru soon thereafter.

#### More Info in Next Newsletter

We will share more detail about our upcoming transition and the work in Lima that's waiting for us in our next newsletter. Till then, to God always the glory!

Soli Deo Gloria

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Gerald Paul. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis  
MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include Gerald Paul – Cayman Islands

Give securely from any device: [lcms.org/givenow/gerald.paul](https://lcms.org/givenow/gerald.paul)

Call a donor care representative: 800-930-4438

## EXCERPTS FROM: THE PREUS FAMILY IN EURASIA WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

### Dear Partners in Mission,

The Eurasia region covers all of Europe, the Middle East, the former Soviet countries, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Israel. In 2025, the region is served by 28 missionary families (up from 25 in 2024), two alliance missionaries, and a growing network of indigenous pastors and deaconesses. They partner with 14 confessional Lutheran church bodies and numerous emerging groups in altar-and-pulpit fellowship. Our work remains anchored in three enduring pillars: spread the gospel, plant Lutheran churches, and show mercy, with church planting as the central focus — the place where the Word is purely preached, the Sacraments faithfully administered, and mercy naturally flows to the neighbor.



### Spreading the Gospel

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 13:47)

The Lord is dramatically fulfilling this promise. In recent years, over 2,000 Persian (Iranian and Afghan) converts have been baptized in Germany. One Berlin congregation now has about 1,600 members, with 80% worshiping in Farsi. Full Farsi liturgy, catechism, and hymns are available online — even used inside Iran.

Since 2022, more than one million Ukrainian refugees have reached Germany alone. They receive Word and Sacrament ministry in Ukrainian and Russian in cities including Wittenberg.

English-language “Expat Project” congregations serve military communities, internationals, and locals — especially near U.S. bases in Germany, with new plants continuing to open.

In restricted areas of Central Asia and the Middle East, missionaries share Christ relationally, often through English classes, at personal risk. Translation efforts accelerate, delivering confessional resources in Farsi, Hebrew, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Greek, Czech, and many other languages. A software index now catalogs Book of Concord translations across 21 languages.



**36th Montana District Convention**  
**“I am Not Ashamed” Romans 1:16**  
**June 9-12, 2025, Billings, MT**

**Resolutions of the Montana District Convention 2025**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Action</b>
• 1-01 To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing “Divine Calls” to Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Sacraments	Adopted
• 1-02 To Support the Acquisition of a Parsonage for the Congregations at Wolf Point, Plentywood, and Glasgow	Adopted as Amended
• 1-03 To speak against trends of Radical Ideologies and Racism in the United States of America	Adopted
• 1-04 To Encourage the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to produce Sunday School Material for very small Congregations	Adopted as Amended
• 2-01 To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process	Declined
• 2-02 To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r)	Adopted
• 2-03 To Assist Navigation of the Foster and Adoption Processes	Adopted
• 2-04 To Foster Future Church Worker Recruitment	Adopted as Amended
• 3-01 To Reject the Use of AI-Created Sermons in All Montana District Congregations	Adopted as Amended
• 3-02 To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 2.1.3.3	Adopted as Amended
• 4-01 To Request Cessation of Publication of Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications (LLCACA)	Adopted
• 5-01 To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast	Not Adopted
• 5-02 To Amend bylaw 2.2.2.2	Adopted
• 5-03 To Reclaim a Beneficial Understanding of Our Synodical Union	Adopted

**2025-2028 Board of Directors**

Rev. Ryan Wendt	District President	Thomas Kosche	BOD Member (CM)
Rev. Arlo Pullmann	1st Vice President	Eric Corneliusen	BOD Member
Rev. Samuel Grayl	2nd Vice President	Kendall Hartman	BOD Member
Rev. David Behm	Secretary	Brian Schneidenbach	BOD Member
Susan Loomans	Treasurer	Andrew Zoeller	BOD Member
Rev. Kyle Winter	BOD Member (OR)		

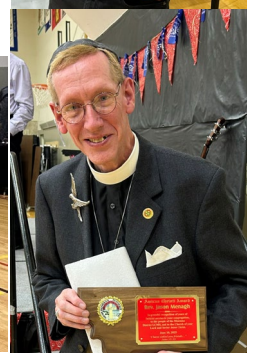
# 36th Montana District Convention

## “I am Not Ashamed”

### Romans 1:16

### June 9-12, 2025

### Billings, MT



*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6.*

For 19 years the Montana District, its officers, Board of Directors, Ordained and Commissioned workers, congregations and individual members of the congregations have loved, watched over, and forgiven me and my family during my service as District President. It was an amazing demonstration of the love of God by the family of God. Thank you one and all. We could not have done it without you.

I would not have believed that your generosity during my time in office could have been outdone, but since departing the office we have been stunned by your kindness in giving. The recognition given at the banquet during the convention was beyond imagination. Special thanks to Trinity Lutheran School of Billings and to all those with Melissa Johns who played the bells that evening.

I want to publicly thank my Vice-Presidents, Pastor Christopher Tabbert and Pastor Ryan Wendt who always had my back and showered me with wisdom and guidance that carried me through difficult times.

Finally, thank you is not enough to say to the two ladies that protected me, lifted me up, cared for me, and made sure I was in the right place at the right time; Ruth Kosche, my assistant and Susan Loomans the District Treasurer. (More than once graciously receiving a late night call from me wondering what motel I was supposed to be sleeping at that night.)

It has been a great ride, and God has blessed us all together. I know that you will afford your new District President, Pastor Ryan Wendt the same care and love and for that I am also truly thankful. God bless you all.

Pastor Forke, Cheryl, Angel



**BEFORE THE**  
PSALM 90:2  
**MOUNTAINS**

*Montana District LCMs Camps 2026*

**Save the date to join us at  
Lion's Camp in  
Red Lodge, June 2026**

Youth Retreat: June 22-25

Family Camp: June 26-28

Church Worker Retreat: June 29-July 3

Registration and cost information will be available  
from the District Office, March 2026.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from  
everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2*

**Trinity Lutheran Camp - Bigfork**

**2026 Camp Schedule**

- June 22-24 - Base Camp (1st & 2nd Grade Day Camp)
- June 24-26 - Kindercamp (PreK-2nd Grade w/ Parent)
- June 28-July 3 - Adventure Camp (3rd -4th Grade Overnight)

Learn More and Register at:

<https://www.trinitykalispell.org/camp-registration>

**Early Bird Special:** \$60 off registration until  
March 22nd!



## 2026 Call Day Information

Vicarage and Seminary Graduate Call documents are currently being processed

**Call Day 2026 for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis is April 28**, with the Candidate Call Service scheduled at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus: Assignment of Vicarages at 3 p.m. (CDT) and Assignment of Calls at 7 p.m. The service will be livestreamed. For more information, visit: [CSL Call Day Information](#)

**Call Day 2026 for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne is April 29**, with the Candidate Call Service scheduled for 7 p.m. in Kramer Chapel. The service will be livestreamed. For more information, visit: [CTSFFW Call Day Information](#)

### Registration open for Vocatio: Retreat April 12–15, 2026

*Prospective students explore path to ministry*

Vocatio: Retreat, an annual visit event held on campus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is set for April 12–15, 2026. This three-day retreat held in the spring and fall for college students and second-career men and women that offers an opportunity to rest in God's Word and learn more about the path to full-time service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain.

**Registration deadline:** March 22, 2026

For information, visit: <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/admissions-visit/vocatio-retreat/>

**LCMS Family Ministry equips families to pass on the faith, nurture the well-being of the family and proclaim Christ.** They offer a wide range of resources for families, free of charge, to facilitate devotional time, scripture memorization, Catechism study, and support in tackling tough questions that children need Bible based answers for. Visit: [LCMS Family Ministry Resources](#)

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

## Scholarship Opportunity

High school seniors who have a Young Investors StewardAccount® with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) are eligible to apply for the Take Heart Scholarship. Answer this question, and you could receive up to \$3,000:

Other than Jesus, which person in the Bible would you love to talk with?



- Recipients awarded up to \$3,000
- Apply by May 1, 2026
- Visit [lcef.org/scholarship](https://lcef.org/scholarship)



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. The recipients of this scholarship award will be notified by LCEF. Funds are awarded to be used to defray expenses for tuition, books, laboratory expenses and/or related educated expenditures. The award amount will be deposited into the student's LCEF investment. Any amount awarded will be taxable as ordinary income to the recipient to the extent it is not used for "qualified tuition and related expenses" under Section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code. Some expenses, such as room and board, will not qualify. The recipient should consult with his or her tax advisor regarding what expenses are "qualified tuition and related expenses" and to determine whether any part of the award will be taxable. If the recipient misrepresents any information, LCEF reserves the right to revoke the scholarship.

