ENGLISH CHANNELS

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Celebrating 60 years

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland, MI, celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

The church was first organized on January 31, 1955 by Rev. Dr. Frank J. Pies, Sr., and seven charter member families, in a farmhouse in Hartland Township.

It began as an outreach of Salem Lutheran Church in Detroit. To commemorate the anniversary, church members, past and present, gathered at Crystal Gardens in Howell for a time of fellowship and dinner.

Rev. Dr. Charles Gieschen, Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, and Eric Hipple, former quarterback for the Detroit Lions and a member at Our Savior, were the keynote speakers at the event.

Learn how Our Savior serves its community by visiting www.oursaviorhartland.org

2015 English District LCMS
55th Convention
June 17-20, 2015

Igniting Christ's church IN MISSION"
Acts 1:8 …You will be My Witnesses…

SERVANT OPPORTUNITY!

Based on the convention theme, we are encouraging English District congregations to **collect gently used eyeglasses** and **create witness bracelets** for MOST Ministries. Send them with your delegates to the Convention to be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Used eyeglasses along with the bracelets will provide both physical and spiritual sight to people around the world!!

You can get more information for both servant opportunities at
http://www.mostministries.org under the "Serving at MOST" tab.
If you have any further questions please contact the English District office: 1-800-755-9335

Channel Markers

The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz
Bishop & President of the English District

"Alleluia! Jesus Lives"

"…Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death (Adam)*, by a man* (Jesus Christ) *has come also the resurrection of the dead."*
- I Corinthians 15:20-21

Dear fellow Easter Christians of the English District:

A blessed and happy Eastertide to you in our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I wish you all God's rich grace as we together rejoice in the triumphant Resurrection of our Lord. *Vivit!* He lives! Alleluia. And because He lives, we shall live forever after the final trumpet sounds and the elect are raised to everlasting life to be with Him in Paradise.

By now your pastors have communicated with you the candidates who are allowing their names to stand for Bishop/President, Regional Vice Presidents, Secretary and Board of Directors, and other elected officers of the English District-LCMS.

Keep all candidates in your prayers. Be informed. Speak well of them with Christian charity. But especially continue to faithfully "use" the means of grace, God's holy Word and Sacraments, that your sins may be forgiven by God and your faith increased.

Together as faithful disciples and worshippers of our crucified and risen Lord, His Church will be strengthened and enlarged.

In the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Bishop David Stechholz

President and Vice President Nominees of the English District — LCMS

President and Vice Presidents will be elected at the English District Convention, June 17-20, 2015. Following are the nominees for those positions. Complete biographical information may be found in the Convention Workbook which will be available on the district website four to six weeks prior to convention: www.englishdistrict.org.

PRESIDENT

BEN C. EDER, Pastor, Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Graduate/Education: Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay, 1979, B.A.; Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN, 1985, M.Div. **Served**: Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY, 1993-present; Incarnate Word, Florence, SC, 1985-93. **Service/Positions Held - District:** Circuit Visitor; Board of Directors; Regional Chair, "Ablaze" Initiative; English District Lutheran Malaria Initiative Committee; District representative for LCMS World Relief; various committee assignments through the years. **Synod**: Pastoral delegate to Synod Convention; frequent contributor to "The Lutheran Witness." **Other**: Volunteer Hospital Chaplain; member and former president, Lions Club of Kenmore; former Rotarian; member, Kenmore Village Improvement Society; graduate, Kenmore Police Citizens Police Academy. **Policy-Based Governance Board Experience**: The last three years I served on the English District Board of Directors. **Other Qualifications**: Through the years I have taken courses and seminars on leadership, administration, counseling, and interpersonal relations.

"I have been a member of the English District since 1993. I have always appreciated the English District's desire for mission and "out of the box" thinking. I believe that the District still has a place in the Synod and in the Church at large. My concern is for the District to remain a viable and dynamic entity for years to come. I promise to look at the District with "fresh eyes" and help evaluate its needs and priorities in the years ahead."

JAMISON J. HARDY, Pastor, Peace, McMurray, PA

Graduate/Education: Concordia, Mequon, WI, 1996, B.S. Ed; Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN, 2000, M.Div.; Walden

Univ., 2009, MPA; Walden University, 2012, DBA-Doctorate in Business Administration. **Served**: Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, PA, 2000-08; Peace, McMurray, PA, 2008-present. **Service/positions held - District:** Vice President Eastern Region; District Board of Directors; Circuit Counselor;

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President and Vice President Nominees of the English District — LCMS

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Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference; Mission Action Council; 30-Year Mission Study Committee; Chairman of Floor Committee #1 on Structure for District Convention; Nominations Committee. **Synod:** Delegate to Synod Convention (2004, 2010); Short-Term Missionary, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (Sudan/Kenya/South Africa). **Other:** Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Pittsburgh Reformation Rally Chairman; Vice President/ Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference; President, Mt. Lebanon Lions Club; Vice President, McMurray Rotary Club; Board of Directors, District 14b Lions Club International; Non-profit Caucus Pa state Senate; Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute; Elected Member, School Board of Directors for Peters Township, PA. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** I have worked with policy-based governance as a member of the board of directors of the English District. Additionally, I have studied policy-based governance as a doctoral student in business administration.

"This nomination of English District Bishop/President is both humbling and simultaneously an honor. I have personally believed, as well as taught, that we should always be prepared and open to what God might ask of us. This is clearly seen in 1 Samuel 3:10, "speak for Thy sevant is listening." I daily ask our Lord to call on me and I daily listen for His command to Go and present the Gospel to all people. It has been a distinct pleasure to know and be led by men who have this similar feeling. This has been one of the great pleasures in my life in the English District. Having brothers and sisters in Christ who have that same desire to follow where the Lord calls. This is clearly articulated in Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? ' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" I believe that the Lord has called and I am ready to follow His call. I give you my word that I am ready to lead the district into uncertain times. I believe in the English District and what it brings to the overall synod. I give thanks for all of you, my brothers in sisters in this district and for the mission heart of faith we share together. Thy will be done, Father, not mine."

ROBERT M. ROEGNER, Pastor, Peace, O'Fallon, MO

Graduate/Education: Concordia Junior College, 1972, AA; Concordia Senior College, 1974, BA; Concordia Theological Seminary, 1981, M.Div; Summer Institute of Linguistics, Oklahoma University, 1984, Language Translation Certificate; Concordia University, Ann Arbor, 2004, Honorary Doctor of Laws, (L.L.D.); **Served:** Peace, O'Fallon, MO, 2012-present; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Westwood, NJ, 1999-2001. **Service/Positions held - District:** New Jersey District: Board for Mission, Chairman; Committee for Convention Nominations; and Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), Zone Pastoral Counselor. English District: Mission Planter; Mission Council; and LWML, District Pastoral Counselor. **Synod:** Board for Mission Services - LCMS: Executive Director; Evangelistic Missionary/Church Planter to the Kisi people in Liberia, West Africa; Missionary Counselor, Liberia, West Africa; Area Secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East; LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations; LWML – LCMS: National Pastoral Counselor; Executive Committee; and Board of Directors member and pastoral advisor. **Other:** Lutheran Bible Translators, Aurora, IL, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce, Aurora, IL; Chairman of the Board, Concordia University, Irvine, CA; Great Commission Award, 2003; Apple of His Eye Mission Society, St. Louis, MO, Chairman of the Board; Destination Winghaven Business Association, O'Fallon, MO, President. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** Board for Mission Services - LCMS , Area Secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East; Lutheran Bible Translators, Aurora, IL, Executive Director; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Westwood, NJ, Senior Pastor; Board for Mission Services – LCMS, Executive Director; Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Chairman of the Board; consulted with a number of mission societies and groups, assisting them in the implementation of a Policy-Based Governance Board: Children's Christian Concern Society (Lead a Child) and People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO). **Other Qualifications:** I have traveled to 89 countries, most of them on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod visiting our Partner Churches and Mission fields in service for and on behalf of the Board for Mission Services and Lutheran Bible Translators; Led group tours to a number of countries including China, Russia, Israel, and Germany; Currently serving The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana and its Seminary as an adjunct Professor of Mission; Traveled to all 50 States of the US, most of them on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod visiting hundreds of LCMS congregations preaching, teaching, and sharing the "Missio Dei" (Mission of God) in service for and on behalf of the Board for Mission Services and Lutheran Bible Translators; Consultant for seven LCMS congregations, helping to set up mission groups within those congregations to serve in International Mission outreach endeavors.

"My vision for the English District of the LCMS over the next three years is that our pastors, teachers, other professional church workers, and laity are empowered through our congregations, by the preaching of God's Word and the distribution of His Sacraments, to be the people of God. As members of this District, we shall have competence . . . knowing through Christ we can do this and are always growing; we shall have community . . . seeing ourselves as a Christian group with a common purpose; we shall have significance . . . knowing through Christ that we are making a difference; and we shall have joy . . . in celebrating our competence, community, and significance!"

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Around the District

Rev. Justin Laughridge was installed March 29, 2015 as pastor of ***Crossroads, Mira Mesa (San Diego), CA*** He also serves as executive director of City Transformation Ministry.

Four generations of the Nelson family, members at ***Faith, Watertown, WI,*** celebrated the baptism of the newest Nelson addition – Shay Nelly DaWalt. Shay's mother Jennifer Nelson DaWalt was in the first class of Faith Lutheran School and her parents, David and Nancy Nelson, and grandparents, E. John and Ruby Nelson, are charter members. E. John is approaching his centennial year as he will be 100 years old on June 8.

Three youth of ***Grace, Elyria, OH*** were confirmed Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015. Pictured from left to right: Ross Yates II, Emily Williams, Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr., and Travis Mansfield.

The Crafty Ladies of ***Grace, Vine Grove, KY*** presented over 50 knitted, crocheted and tied lap blankets which they made for the local Hosparus "Care Blanket Program". The group has worked together on this project over the past winter. Pictured are Annette Jones, Hosparus Volunteer Manager, and Roberta Tannahill.

The Lord once again demonstrated that His Word does not return to Him empty, when Forrest H. Fennell, Jr. was confirmed as an adult at ***Immanuel, Howell, MI***. Mr. Fennell was baptized as an infant. He began Christian instruction as a young teen, but was not able to finish at that time. After he raised a family and reached retirement, he came to Immanuel seeking thorough catechesis in the Christian Faith. "It only took 72 years, but the Lord brought me to His Supper at last," Mr. Fennell quipped during the celebration dinner held following his confirmation and first communion.

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Around the District (continuation)

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The ***Rev. Dr. Christian Frederic Just*** was installed as Pastor at ***St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH*** on January 25, 2015.

Congratulations to Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) student ***Jonathan W. Kerr*** who received his vicarage assignment to ***West Portal, San Francisco, CA*** from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

In honor of ***President/ Bishop Rev. Dr. David Stechholz***, ***West Portal, San Francisco, CA***, has re-named their Fireside Room to "Stechholz Music Room." The room is used as a music class, for choir rehearsals and for the bell choir. It honors not just the Bishop's service to West Portal Lutheran Church and School and the English District, but also his love of music.

English District Chicago Circuits Winkel/Pastoral Conference was held at ***Trinity, Villa Park, IL*** with Rev. Roosevelt Gray and Rev. Steve Schave attending.

English District Official Acts

Pastors Installed

The Rev. Gregory Musolf, February 15, 2015, Sole Pastor, Messiah, Forest Lake, MN; ***The Rev. Dr. David Dressel,*** March 1, 2015, Associate Pastor, Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI; ***The Rev. Curtis Dwyer***, March 1, 2015, Senior Pastor, Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI; ***The Rev. Ronald Rieger***, March 15, 2015, Sole Pastor, Trinity, Scarsdale, NY; ***The Rev. Dr. Wade Butler***, March 15, 2015, Sole Pastor, Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ; ***The Rev. Justin Laughridge***, March 22, 2015, Sole Pastor, Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA; ***The Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman***, March 29, 2015, Associate Pastor, St. Luke, North York, ON

Calls Accepted

The Rev. Dr. Wade Butler, (Southern Illinois District), Sole Pastor, Family of Christ, Phoenix, AZ; ***The Rev. Dan Murray*** (Michigan District), Sole Pastor, Our Saviour's, Chatham, ON; ***The Rev. Scott Stiegemeyer***, Theology Department, Concordia University, Irvine, CA (CNH District); ***The Rev. Tom Zucconi***, Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Dallas, TX (Texas District)

Transfers In

The Rev. Gregory Musolf, January 27, 2015, Minnesota South District; ***Mary Podeszwa***, March 17, 2015, Northern Illinois District

Transfers Out

Scott Hedtke, March 1, 2015, Indiana District
The following were transferred on January 15, 2015 to the Pacific Southwest District: ***Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, AZ; Matthew Beisel; Mark Doebele; Theron Jenkins, Jr.; Robert Koehne; Kate Phillips; Richard Scholz; Caleb Taylor; Joseph Richter; Robert Wolf***

Chartered

Abiding Faith, Florence, KY, February 22, 2015

About the Channels

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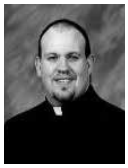
President and Vice President Nominees of the English District — LCMS

VICE PRESIDENT

EASTERN REGION

BEN C. EDER, Pastor, Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY
(See information on page 2)

"As Vice President of the Eastern Region, I would see myself as a pastor to the pastors and churches in this region, assisting the Bishop in his service to this region and the District. I have been a member of the English District since 1993. I have always appreciated the English District's desire for mission and "out of the box" thinking. I believe that the District still has a place in the Synod and in the Church at large. My concern is for the District to remain a viable and dynamic entity for years to come. I promise to look at the District with "fresh eyes" and help evaluate its needs and priorities in the years ahead."



JAMISON J. HARDY, Pastor, Peace, McMurray, PA
(See information on pages 2 and 3)

"This nomination of English District Vice President is both humbling and simultaneously an honor. I have personally believed, as well as taught, that we should always be prepared and open to what God might ask of us. This is clearly seen in 1 Samuel 3:10, "speak for Thy sevant is listening." I daily ask our Lord to call on me and I daily listen for His command to Go and present the Gospel to all people. It has been a distinct pleasure to know and be led by men who have this similar feeling. This has been one of the great pleasures in my life in the English District. Having brothers and sisters in Christ who have that same desire to follow where the Lord calls. This is clearly articulated in Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? ' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" I believe that the Lord has called and I am ready to follow His call. I give you my word that I am ready to lead the district into uncertain times. I believe in the English District and what it brings to the overall synod. I give thanks for all of you, my brothers in sisters in this district and for the mission heart of faith we share together. Thy will be done, Father, not mine."

LAKE ERIE REGION

MARK PATRICK BRADEN, Pastor, Zion, Detroit, MI
Graduate/Education: Concordia University, Ann Arbor, 1988, BA, Human Resources; Eastern Michigan University, MS, 1995; Concordia Theological Seminary, M.Div, 2003; Concordia Theological Seminary, STM, 2011. Other degrees: Associates Degree, Culinary Arts. **Served:** Zion, Cleghorn, WI, 2004-2008; St. Paul, Modena, WI, 2004-2008. **Service/Positions held – District:** North Wisconsin District - Scholarship Committee; Taught Spanish at Eau Claire Lutheran School, North Wisconsin District, and Emmanuel Lutheran School, Dearborn, MI, Michigan District. **Synod:** Office of International Missions - several trips to South America/Caribbean to teach theology. **Other:** Adjunct Faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary; Adjunct Faculty, Concordia University, Ann Arbor; International Fellow, Luther Academy; Host Pastor and Conference Administrator, annual Saint Michael Liturgical Conference; Departmental Editor, Gottesdienst Magazine; Lutheran Center Association, Board Member; Lutheran City Ministries, Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, Past Board Member; Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn, MI, Past Board Member. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** I have served as member of, and have reported to, several Boards, and have a basic understanding of the Carver model and its distinction between policy and administration, ownership and management. **Other Qualifications:** I have taught theological courses in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Bolivia. I am active in the planting & support of a Confessional Lutheran Mission in Medellín, Colombia. I have led volunteer mission teams to Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. In previous career of 18+ years, I worked as a supervisor, manager, and director of cash and business operations at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and Wayne State University. I worked as well in Human Resources, professional training and development. I taught as adjunct faculty at Washtenaw Community College and as a seminar presenter at Schoolcraft Community College, teaching voc/tech courses.

"I am honored to be nominated for the position of Regional Vice President. I believe that my experience as an administrator, as a theological educator, in Human Resource training and development, and as a parish Pastor can be effectively brought to bear to the benefit of our District and the congregations of the Lake Erie Region. I speak Spanish, am experienced in urban ministry, urban renewal, and community relations. Inasmuch as it is according to God's will, I believe I can effectively support and serve the District President, in addition to serving the congregations of the region in the accomplishment of the goals and mission of the English District."

MICHAEL N. FRESE, Pastor, Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN

Graduate/Education: Concordia University, Seward, BA, 1977; Concordia Theological Seminary, M.Div, 2002; Concordia Theological Seminary, STM, 2004. **Served:** Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN, 2010-present; Lutheran Chapel at Nachricten Kassern, Germany, 2006-2010; Emmanuel, Adell, WI, 2003-2005. **Service/Positions held - Synod:** U.S. Army Chaplain; U.S. Air Force Chaplain. I have served the Ministry

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to Armed Forces in Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United States. I was stationed for four years in Germany, reaching out with the Gospel across Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, and France. I have served 27 months in combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, preaching Christ to Military personnel in harm's way. **Other:** Regular speaker at community Memorial Day Ceremonies and Veterans' Day events, Lutheran Grade Schools and High Schools about my role as a Pastor during times of war. I host the annual Northeast Indiana Religious Leaders Conference and National Day of Prayer prayer breakfast. I serve in a pluralistic religious environment as a confessional, mission-minded Lutheran and to fight for religious freedom for all Americans. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** I am familiar with both John Carver and Dan Hotchkiss's models for policy-based governance. I have served as the special staff officer on over seven military units where I have been the subject matter expert on religious, moral, and ethical matters. In my last Army unit, I worked with other Chaplains to write and execute religious policy for over 5,000 Soldiers and Department of Defense Civilians during all phases of a combat deployment. In my current position as supervisory Chaplain of an Air Force Fighter Wing, I write policy and manage four Chaplains and three Chaplain Assistants as we provide religious support for over 1,200 Airmen. In this role, it is my responsibility to write religious policy for U.S. military personnel in domestic, international, and deployed locations. I am keenly aware of the challenges that are inherent in a highly dynamic policy and doctrine-driven enviornment. In this role I manage an annual budget of over $350,000.

"I am a product of the Lutheran school system from grade-school through seminary. I have seen first-hand the benefit that we offer children in our schools. My service, however, has mainly been to those who didn't have that benefit or weren't even Christian. That experience has made me keenly aware that we have to reach out, and that each congregation has been placed by God into unique situations, with unique gifts and challenges. If elected, I would strive to support and resource pastors, teachers, and congregations in their mission to preach the Gospel and reach the lost."

ZERIT YOHANNES, Pastor, Christ, Lansing, MI

Graduate/Education: Ev. Lutheran Pastors College, 1976, Theology Diploma; Makumira Lutheran Sem., 1983, BD; NLA University College, 2005, M.Phil, Edu.l; Graduate Studies, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. **Served:** Christ, Lansing, MI, 2005-present; St. John's, Toronto, ON, 1989-1994; Uhuru Highway Lutheran Church, Nairobi, Kenya, 1984-1989; Evangelical Lutheran Church, Asmara, Eritrea, 1976-1979. **Service/Positions held - Synod:** LCMS Board for Missions— Carrier Missionary; Member of Missionary Theological Educators - Africa; Council Theological Summit. **Other:** Christ Lutheran Community Soup Kitchen; Support Refugee Development Program, Lansing, MI. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** Executive Secretary, Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Synod; Chairman of the Task Force on drafting a new constitution in the process of the unification of the Evangelical Synod and The Lutheran Church of Eritrea; Secretary of the Eritrean Interfaith Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation during the Eritrea/Ethiopia border conflict; Founding Member of FECCLAHA, (Fellowship of Churches and Church Councils of the Horn of Africa) on Peace and Reconciliation, Nairobi, Kenya. **Other Qualifications:** Radio Broadcaster of the Gospel with programs beamed to the regions of North and East Africa, and the Middle East, Nairobi, Kenya; Consortium of Gospel Broadcasting Services to North/East Africa and the Middle East, Nairobi, Kenya; Carrier Missionary with the Board for Missions - LCMS; Dean of studies and teacher at the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Asmara, Eritrea; Expanded TEE programs among University and High School students in Eritrea; Founding Member of the Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society in North America.

"I thank God for all the mercy and grace that He has given to the English District-LCMS throughout its history. As the world becomes increasingly hostile to Christ and His Church, we need to pray and be in the Word. My prayer for our beloved Synod and its Districts is that we will be united and continue to proclaim the truth and pray that God's will be done."

MIDWEST REGION

ROBERT A. ROGERS, Pastor, Trinity, Villa Park, IL

Graduate/Education: Concordia, Austin, TX, 1986, B.A; Concordia, St. Louis, MO, 1990, M.Div.; Louisville Presbyterian Theol. Sem., Louisville, KY. **Served**: Trinity, Villa Park, IL, 2004-present; Our Savior, Louisville, KY, 2002-04; Messiah, Seattle, WA, 1990-2002. **Service/Positions Held - District**: Northwest District Board of Youth Ministry; Puget Sound Youth Board, Northwest District; Olympic Zone Counselor LWML, Northwest District; English District Rep for Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Circuit Counselor, Chicago Central Circuit, English District; Board of Directors, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Midwest Regional Vice President, English District. **Other**: Chamber of Commerce, Villa Park, IL; Chairman, Chicago Mission Council, a group of Pastors and Laymen concerned about revitalizing urban congregations in Chicago. **Policy-Based Governance Board Experience:** One (1) year on the Board of Directors of the English District; Nine (9) years on the Board of Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL (a Carver-based board). Twelve (12) years on the School Board of the Lutheran School Association of Greater Seattle (a policy-based board).

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"It would be my honor to continue serving you as the Midwest Regional Vice President. In the year that I have served, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you who comprise our great English District. I believe that the English District serves a vital role in the Church and that we are just beginning to understand our full potential as we continually grow and retool to serve Christ's Church. I look forward to the great blessings and challenges coming our way in the next triennium as we continue proclaiming the Gospel to a lost and hurting world."

WESTERN REGION

TODD W. ARNOLD, Pastor, West Portal, San Francisco, CA

Graduate/Education: North Central College, BA, 1979; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, M.Div, 1996; D.Min expected in 2016 from San Francisco Theological Seminary. **Served:** West Portal Lutheran Church and School, San Francisco, CA, 2008-present; Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ, 1996-2008. **Service/Positions held - District:** Ablaze Coordinator. **Other:** Alpha Pregnancy Center (SF) Board of Directors and Chairman; Bridgemont High School (Daly City, CA) School Board; Bridgemont High School PTL, Treasurer; West Portal Lutheran Baseball Coach; New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center, (Payson), Chairman; Numerous coaching positions for basketball, soccer, flag football and baseball for Payson Parks and Rec and Little League Baseball. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** none. **Other Qualifications:** I have served on the planning team for several Western Region (ED) Church Worker Conferences and hosted one. Presented Small Church Ministry workshop at a District Professional Church Workers Conference (with Rev. Wayne Morton).

"I have always admired those who give of their time and service to the District and Synod. Having served in the English District for 19 years, it seems that it is now time that I give back to the District that has served me so well all these years. I am honored to have received the nomination."

DANIEL PEZZICA, Pastor, Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA

Graduate/Education: Concordia, River Forest, BA-Music Theory, 2004; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, M.Div, 2008. **Served:** Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA, 2008-present. **Service/Positions held - District**: Planning Committee, English District 2012 Landing Conference; English District Committee on Nominations, 2015 District Convention; Circuit Visitor, Los Angeles Circuit, English District, 2014-2015.

"Over the past 7 years, Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church has focused on reaching out to the community, especially through mercy missions, offering free ESL classes to the community and offering monthly meals to those in need. Our congregation has increased our presence on Soical Media - streaming services online, becoming active on Facebook, and creating several online blogs. I have also had the privilege of working especially with Persian and Gypsy outreach programs. I hope to encourage our district to continue to find new ways to reach out to the lost around us and connect to an ever-changing world."

NICK WIRTZ, Pastor, Faith, Overgaard, AZ

Graduate/Education: Concordia, Portland, BA, 1985; Concordia Theological Seminary, M.Div, 1994; **Served:** Faith, Overgaard, AZ, 2013-present; Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA, 1999-2013; Lamb of God, Ontario, CA, 1996-1999; St. Paul, West Point, NE, 1994-1996. **Service/Positions held - District:** Los Angeles Circuit Visitor. **Synod:** Missions Floor Committee, 2001 Synodical Convention. **Other:** Prison Chaplain, Lincoln, NE; West Point Ministerium, West Point, NE; Police Spanish Translator, West Point, NE; LCMS Hispanic Ministries; Southern California Hispanic Ministries Association of the PSW; the Ontario Ministerium, Ontario, CA; the "Church of the City" ministerium of Los Angeles; Fayette Street Neighborhood Association, Los Angeles, CA; LAPD NE Precinct Pastors Association; Chaplain for LA County Jail, Los Angeles, CA; Chaplain and Professor of Theology for Lutheran High School, La Verne, CA; Heber-Overgaard Ministerium in AZ; Chaplain for Post 86 American Legion Riders, Overgaard AZ; Secretary, Zane Grey Clubhouse, Overgaard, AZ. **Experience with policy-based governance boards:** none.

"It is truly an honor to be nominated to serve the Church at large. When we pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send workers, it's humbling when the Lord taps you on the shoulder and says, "What about you?" It was a joy and a blessing to serve and work with the pastors and congregations of the Los Angeles circuit and to be a part of bringing them closer together. Should God call me to serve in the same capacity on a regional level I am sure the joy and His blessings would be no less."

Lifeline Encourages You To...

Explore Starting A Life Team

A Gospel Centered Life Opportunity For Your Congregation

Resources, Training, & Funding Available | Partner With Other Congregations

Contact Lori Trinche with Lutherans For Life For More Details At:
ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org | 630.390.3076