

## English District Convention Highlights



### Hardy elected president/bishop

The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy of Finleyville, PA, was elected to his first term as president/bishop of the English District LCMS at the district's 55<sup>th</sup> convention, which was held June 17-20 at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI.

Since 2008, Pastor Hardy, 42, has served as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, PA. He was a vice president for the district's Eastern Region since 2009.

Rev. Dr. Hardy succeeds the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, who had served the maximum three terms and was not eligible for re-election. A September 6, 2015 installation service is planned for Pastor Hardy at Peace, McMurray.



### *New vice presidents*

The following pastors pictured with Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy (l-r) were elected to their first full terms as vice presidents:

+ **Rev. Ben Eder**, pastor of Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenmore, NY, first vice president, Eastern Region.

+ **Rev. Zerit Yohannes**, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Lansing, MI, second vice president, Lake Erie Region.

+ **Rev. Todd Arnold**, pastor of West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA, third vice president, Western Region.

+ **Rev. Robert A. Rogers**, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Villa Park, IL, fourth vice president, Midwest Region.



## *A Final Word: Sing Praises to the Lord, Our God*

*Psalm 118:15 – “Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous.”*

*Psalm 104:33 – “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”*

*John 4:23-24 – Jesus to the woman at the well: “The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...”*

Dear friends in Christ in the English District-LCMS:

**Thank you, once again**, for the opportunity to have served you the last nine years as Bishop & President of the English District, and 27 consecutive years on the Board of Directors. At the District Convention, new officers were elected, including my successor, the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, who had been serving as Second Vice President of the District and Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, PA. He will remain in Pittsburgh, serving Peace part-time.

I personally think it is a wonderful idea to serve both as a full-time Bishop/President and Pastor in a congregation and not lose that “pastoral touch.” When he was Bishop, my predecessor, Rev. Dr. David Ritt, affectionately called Pastor Hardy his bodyguard. When I became Bishop, I carried on that tradition. Brother Jamison was my bodyguard: no official function, but nice to have a big guy near you!

Now Dr. Hardy is our District President. I will install him in his full position as Bishop & President at Peace Lutheran on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. **Please remember him regularly in your prayers to the Lord, and give him all the encouragement, love, and kindness you graciously gave me.** He, the Staff, and I have met already at the District office for three days; he understands the huge learning curve to this position. He needs our genuine support. He will share with you his vision for the District, with the English District office continuing to serve from Farmington (Detroit), Michigan.

Beloved sing, speak, and live the praises of the Lord. Those who represented you at the District Convention will share so many wonderful things, also noted in this *English Channels*. The pictures say it best.

The closing sermon was drawn from Psalm 118:15, my personal moniker. May God continue to be praised in song in the tents of the English District-LCMS. Jesus told a Samaritan woman that our Heavenly Father seeks those who worship



**“My ‘bodyguard’ has now become my Bishop!” Pictured is Bishop/President David congratulating the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy as newly-elected Bishop & President of the English District, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at the District Convention, Concordia University-Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

Him in spirit and truth (John 4). In Psalm 104, the Psalmist states his personal response to God’s love and His measureless might. As Derek Kidner once noted in his Commentary on the *Psalms* (pg. 372): “*A secularist’s unspoken prayer might run: ‘May the earth endure forever; may man rejoice in his works!’*” Kidner, though, states that the psalmist hallows God’s name, for the Lord is God over all His creation. The psalmist then personalizes His fear, love, and trust in God in a profession of faithful response: “*I will sing to the LORD...*” (Psalm 104:33).

As a “David” who loves the Lord and God’s Word, including the Psalter (the Psalms), I invite you to read and meditate on the “Easter Psalm” (Psalm 118), John 4:3-42, and the 104<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The Old Testament directs us to the fulfillment of God’s promises in the Messiah, Jesus. Remember that another name for the Gospel is “the Promise,” and Jesus Christ is the One who has won for us forgiveness of sins and life with God through His sacrifice on the Cross. May His Resurrection victory keep you undaunted, dear friends, no matter what the secular world and godless media toss your way.

Heaven remains our prize, won already for us by the crucified, risen, ascended, and returning God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we, His Church on earth, continue to praise Him in spirit and truth, word and song, with all of our strength and breath.

**In nomine Jesu Christi,**  
*Bishop Emeritus David Stechholz*

# More English District Convention Highlights

*Under the theme “Igniting Christ’s Church in Mission,” from Acts 1:8,* a theological convocation on “The Church’s Mission in an Age of Moral Collapse,” was facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, executive director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations. The convention also included presentations by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and the Rev. Ted Krey, regional director for Latin America with the LCMS Office of International Mission.

*The delegates discussed and approved four resolutions related to missions and evangelization. They call for:*

- + Encouraging each of the district’s circuits to focus on planting a new congregation within the next triennium.
- + Encouraging district congregations to promote personal witnessing and outreach.
- + Adopting a Synod-wide North American evangelism effort.
- + Memorializing the Synod to identify resources for reaching out to Muslims.

*Other adopted resolutions ask the Synod’s 2016 national convention to:*

- + Adopt a four-year cycle of conventions and terms of office.
- + Re-establish an appeals process to the LCMS Praesidium in cases of ecclesiastical supervision.
- + Establish a legal fund for church workers and church entities that come under legal attack for their “witness to God’s truth.”
- + Assign to the seminary faculties the task of evaluating the theological implications of cremation.

*Delegates adopted two district-related resolutions:*

- + Reaffirming the place of Canadian congregations within the English District.
- + Changing by-laws to extend term limits for district officers from three to four.

*Delegates also called on LCMS seminaries to:*

- + Require pastoral-ministry students to take at least two teacher-training classes prior to graduation.
- + “Reaffirm the biblical qualifications for pastors by forbidding admission to seminary, and the certification, placement, calling and ordination of candidates” who are “divorced and remarried, while the first wife is still living,” in accordance with the Scriptural understanding of marriage as being a life-long union.

Thank you to everyone who attended the English District’s 55<sup>th</sup> Convention. A lot of work goes into planning and logistics, but it is the dedication of the delegates who take the time away from their daily lives to come together, listen, pray and vote that allows the English District to continue its ministry.



Joyful Divine Services were held in the Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity.



Rev. Dr. John Stieve (left) and Rev. Dr. Thomas Kraus (not available for photo) were honored for their years of service to the English District.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, also spoke during dinner, honoring Bishop/President Stechholz’s years of service.



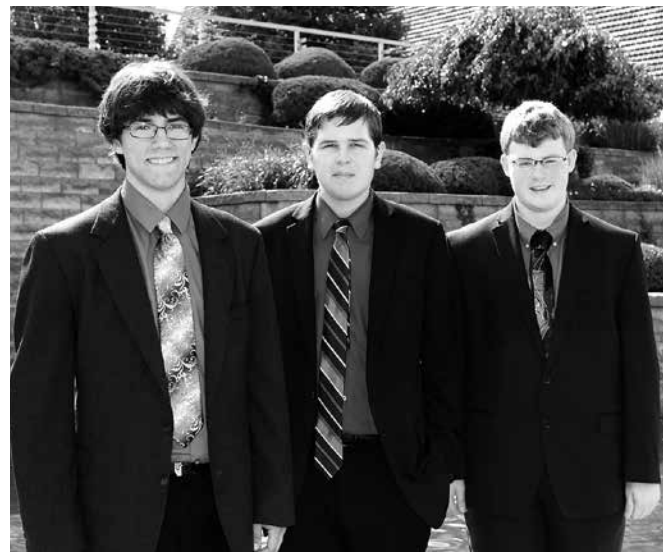
Rev. Dr. David Stechholz was awarded the Lifetime Ministry Award.



# Around the District



*The Rev. Joshua Palmer*, pictured with his family, the first son of **Catalina Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ**, to complete an LCMS seminary education, returned to his home church and was ordained and installed as assistant pastor on June 28, 2015, donning the crimson stole once worn by his wife’s grandfather, former LCMS Pastor Eugene Vetter.



Pictured (l-r) are **Solomon Spangler**, Our Savior, Hartland, MI; and **Evan Parat and Josh McDonald**, both members of Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL. These young men from the English District attended Christ Academy-High School June 14-27, 2015, at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. Christ Academy-High School is a two-week summer conference for high school-aged men considering the pastoral ministry as a possible vocation. The conference includes class time, worship, and fellowship with peers and members of the Seminary community.



*The Rev. Michael Scheer, All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA* baptized **Linus Cooper Domanski** (grandson of Dr. Linda Domanski) who is wearing the same gown his brother, Oliver, his father Brian, and Uncle David (an LCMS pastor in Minneapolis)

wore when they were baptized into the faith.

Participants get a first-hand opportunity to experience what a pastor learns and how formation takes place in the Seminary environment.



**2015**  
**Lutherans For Life**  
**National Conference**  
Created • Redeemed • Called  
October 30-31, 2015  
Petersburg, Kentucky  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)  
[creationmuseum.org](http://creationmuseum.org)

# Merger is new opportunity to spread the gospel

**By Pastor Eric Carlson**  
**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Chicago**

After 94 years of service to the Norwood Park neighborhood of Chicago, Our Savior Lutheran Church is closing. We expect the final service to take place within one year at most. The building is on the market. We are taking inventories. The future of the pastor of Our Savior and his family is unknown.

St. John Lutheran in Niles is going through a similar process. After 155 years, the name St. John will be taken off the signs. The building will have a different look as needed updates and renovations take place. Space is being cleared out for the new tenants as the old, unneeded supplies head to the dumpster. The future of the pastor and his family of St. John is unknown.

The strange thing is that if you were to visit either church on Sunday, you wouldn't see a lot of long faces and tears. You would be greeted with a smile at either location. If you had any conversations with the members, you would hear about a new congregation that was forming called Ascension Lutheran Church. You would sense hope and excitement, along with some sadness as the venerable history of the church and how we got to this point was discussed.

You see, while St. John and Our Savior are both closing, a new congregation is emerging. The two churches are going to combine their people, talent, and money to start a new church that will meet at the St.

John location. Ascension Lutheran Church will have a new constitution and new leadership.

The current excitement at both churches is over the new opportunities to spread the Gospel and serve the community through this merger.

It has been difficult emotionally on everyone. Picture leaving the church you were confirmed in over 60 years ago and have attended your entire life. Imagine the anxiety of working with a new group of people at a new location, possibly with a new pastor. After 155 years in the community, consider how hard it is to take down your church's sign to start something new.

Despite all of this, praise God that decisions are being made with unity and Christian love. Votes have been unanimous. Concerns have been voiced primarily over the well-being of the pastor and the spiritual care of the members of the churches, especially the young and the old.

How has this been possible? The focus of every meeting and discussion has been on the best way to spread the Good News about Jesus to a dying world that desperately needs to hear the Gospel. Deciding what to do as a church, determining the location for future ministry, making emotionally difficult but needed changes, have all been done with the spread of God's Kingdom as the primary concern. The people of both churches want the Gospel shared as powerfully as possible in as many ways as possible to as many people as possible. This merger will provide new opportunities toward that end that we do not have as two small, struggling churches.

Whatever the future may bring, one thing is certain. Bishop Stechholz reminded us of that when he visited recently. As he preached from 1 Peter that we are living stones he said, **"Steeple fall. Pastors come and go. But the Word of the Lord endures forever."** This merger is about the spread of God's eternal Word. God's Word will continue to be preached to the members of Ascension.

The Sacraments will continue to be administered. And by the grace of God, His Kingdom will grow through this merger effort to Niles, Norwood Park and beyond. Blessings to you in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord, from Norwood Park, Chicago.

## *Connect with Us!*

We're a click away! Connect with the English District via social media! Stay up-to-date with conferences, events, happenings around the district and blog posts.

On our Web site you will find resources, our blog, contact information and so much more: [www.englishdistrict.org](http://www.englishdistrict.org)

“Like” us on Facebook: **English District LCMS**  
 And join the English District Connect Group:

**English District Connect**

“Follow” us on Twitter: **EngDistrictLCMS**

If you would like to publish a blog post or share anything on our social media pages, contact Lynne Cobb, Communications Coordinator, at [lcobb@englishdistrict.org](mailto:lcobb@englishdistrict.org).

# Doctor of Divinity presented to Rev. Dr. Roger Charles Ellis

Since 1994, the English District has recognized at least one pastor each year with the honorary title of Doctor of Divinity. Nominations are submitted by congregations and voted on by circuit visitors, vice presidents and the president of the District. This year, the Reverend Dr. Roger Charles Ellis was honored at the 55<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the English District LCMS, held in June 2015 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Roger Ellis was born in 1945 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and baptized as a child. As a pre-teen, he was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (an English District congregation). He and his father were confirmed together, and Roger felt the call to become a pastor. He attended Concordia College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, completing his BA at Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. From there he went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1972. Rev. Ellis pursued the continuation of his education and in 1992 received his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Church Growth and World Mission from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

Pastor Ellis served his vicarage at St. John's Lutheran Church at the University of Arkansas in 1970-71. His first parish upon graduation was at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from 1972-79. He has been serving at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada from 1979 to the present, where the congregation celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Rev. Ellis has seen the building of a new worship facility, the expansion of the church staff and continued growth in the community with programs such as live nativities, participation in parades, and various outreach programs.

In 1968, Pastor Ellis married Lynda Moul. As children, they met in Sunday school at St. Mark



**Rev. Dr. Roger Charles Ellis is pictured with his wife Lynda.**

Lutheran, in a class taught by Lynda's aunt. They experienced the joys of seminary life as a young, married couple. Lynda worked for the Lutheran Laymen's League as a secretary, and she held other church roles along the way. Pastor and Lynda were blessed with two daughters and a granddaughter.

Rev. Ellis has served in many capacities, such as District Youth Ministry, Lutheran Laymen's League, Canadian Chairman for the National Youth Gathering, and on the English District Board of Directors and Evangelism Board.

He has also served as First, Second and Third Vice President of the District and has led numerous conferences. Additionally, he trained and taught evangelism at the Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria, Ball World Mission in India, and Lutheran churches in Slovakia, Prague and Romania and helped build homes for orphans in South Africa. He also served as a Chaplain to the Sarnia Police Service, was President of the Canadian Police Chaplains Association and served as a Chaplain to the 403 Wing Air Force Association. Pastor Ellis enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, golfing and traveling. Rev. Ellis said, "God has been very gracious to us, as we have lived for Him among His people, being blessed as much or more than we have been able to bless others in His name."

## About the Channels

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# More English District Convention Highlights



# Official Acts

## Pastors – Ordination / Installation

**The Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann**, Installed, June 14, 2015, LCMS Missionary - Sri Lanka & India; **Candidate Christopher Schneider**, Ordained/Installed, June 28, 2015, Associate Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO; **Candidate Joshua Palmer**, Ordained/Installed, June 28, 2015, Assistant Pastor/Campus Ministry, Catalina, Tucson, AZ; **The Rev. Steven Hicks** (Colloquy), Ordained/Installed, June 12, 2015, Sole Pastor, Redeemer, St. Albans, NY; **The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy**, Installed, June 20, 2015, English District, Bishop & President-elect

## Teachers - Installation

**Thomas Moll**, June 20, 2015, DCE, St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN; **Cathy Summerset**, July 1, 2013, Faith, Tucson, AZ; **Darla Gremel**, July 1, 2013, Faith, Tucson, AZ

## Calls Accepted

**The Rev. Mark Koschmann**, Professor of Christian Outreach, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN; **The Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann**, Missionary - South Asia, LCMS Office of International Missions; **The Rev. Randall Wurschmidt**, Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Ossian, IN (Indiana District); **The Rev. Keith Kinslow**, SMP, Associate Pastor, St. Paul, (Dorchester) Chicago, IL (Northern Illinois District); **The Rev. Steven Hicks**, Pastor, Redeemer, St. Albans (Queens), NY; **The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy**, Bishop/President, English District; **Heidi Koehler**, DCE, St. Andrew's, Cape Girardeau, MO (Missouri District); **Charessa Koontz**, DCE, Prince of Peace, Amarillo, TX (Texas District)

## Change of Status

**Jonathan Hilmer**, October 17, 2005, Candidate to Non-Candidate; **Linda Baase**, June 1, 2012, Candidate to Non-Candidate; **The Rev. Salvador Ferrero**, February 1, 2015,

Active to Candidate; **Tim Koehler**, DCE, June 1, 2015, Active to Candidate; **The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy**, July 16, 2015, Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor

## Transfers In

**Anna Ying-na Hu**, June 8, 2014, California-Nevada-Hawaii District; **Ryan Schultz**, February 20, 2015, California-Nevada-Hawaii District; **Keri Johnson**, April 29, 2015, Northern Illinois District; **Thomas Moll**, June 15, 2015, Kansas District; **George Nelson**, June 30, 2015, Minnesota South District; **Catherine Summerset**, July 1, 2013, Pacific Southwest District; **Darla Gremel**, July 1, 2013, Pacific Southwest District

## Transfers Out

**Heidi Koehler**, May 1, 2015, Missouri District; **The Rev. Thomas Zucconi**, May 14, 2015, Texas District; **Charessa Koontz**, May 31, 2015, Texas District; **Jennifer Zirbel**, June 1, 2015, South Wisconsin District; **The Rev. Marvin Hinkle**, June 1, 2015, Indiana District; **Amanda Iwabuchi**, June 22, 2015, Texas District; **The Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann**, June 22, 2015, Missouri District; **The Rev. Randall Wurschmidt**, July 1, 2015, Indiana District; **Tim Koehler**, July 1, 2015, Missouri District; **Ashlea Weston**, August 15, 2015, Indiana District

## Resigned/Removed

**Sarah Mensing**, July 1, 2015, Resigned; **Diane Ott-Hager**, July 10, 2015, Removed; **Sara Dirks**, July 10, 2015, Removed

## Closed Congregation

**Manantial de Vida de Eterna**, El Cajon, CA, February 1, 2015



Youth Representatives at the convention took a trip to MOST Ministries located nearby in Ann Arbor. They toured the facility and learned about the work that MOST is doing around the globe serving others and sharing the Gospel. Then the youth washed and sorted the used eyeglasses collected by English District congregations.

