

- ENGLISH DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 25, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I begin this note, allow me first to express what a joy and privilege it is to serve among you—both as Senior Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Toronto, ON and in my new role as Secretary for the English District of the LCMS. I am thankful to God for the opportunity to serve His Church in these capacities, and it is my joy to walk together with you in faith, mission, and fellowship.

A bit about me: I've been blessed to serve in pastoral ministry for seventeen years, and throughout those years, I've been reminded again and again of God's grace and faithfulness. My wife, Emily, and I have been married for 19 years, and we are proud parents to three wonderful children—Noah (15), Jonah (13), and Lily (10). They bring us great joy and keep us grounded in both laughter and learning. Emily is a tremendous partner in ministry and life, and our family is ever grateful to be a part of the life of the Church.

At St. Luke Lutheran in Toronto, I have the privilege of serving a vibrant and faithful congregation that reflects the diversity and richness of the Body of Christ. Our ministry is rooted in Word and Sacrament, and we are committed to engaging the community with the love and truth of the Gospel. I've come to see how essential it is that we, as the Church, walk together—not just within our congregations, but also across circuits and districts—as we carry out Christ's mission as His body and His bride.

As Secretary of the English District, I serve as a resource and support for our congregations and circuits. My role involves maintaining accurate records, assisting with convention and reporting processes, and helping congregations navigate governance and constitutional matters. But more than that, I see my calling in this office as one of pastoral care—serving my fellow pastors, lay leaders, and congregations with encouragement, clarity, and prayer.

I hope that in the months and years to come, I might come to know many more of you personally—whether through visits, circuit gatherings, or simply by way of phone or email conversations. If I can ever be of service to you or your congregation, please don't hesitate to reach out. It would be my joy to serve and support you.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ and your dedication to His Church. I look forward to all that God has in store for us as we continue to serve Him together.

In Christ,

Rev. Justin D. Laughridge

Senior Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran Church (Toronto, ON)
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