

WORKBOOK



The Fifty-Fifth Convention

“IGNITING CHRIST’S CHURCH IN MISSION”

English District The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 17-20, 2015
Concordia University
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The logo for the 55th Regular Convention of the English District Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod was designed by Arlen Meyer.

Arlen explains the logo represents: "Our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - He gives His love and grace to all and leaves it up to those in the church, those who revel in His grace, to make God's great love known. We are those people!"

The upper portion of the logo features the creative Hand of God to symbolize our Trinity, and he used red imagery to focus on the Son and Holy Spirit. Arlen also blended his art to reflect the multi-cultural aspects of the English District.

It is with great thanks to Arlen Meyer that we have such a beautiful representation in this logo and that we can use it for this year's convention.

Igniting Christ's Church In Mission

for the 2015 LCMS English District Convention

Robert & Sandra Voelker, 2015

Refrain



In the be - gin - ning, God's per - fect vi - sion, His Ho - ly Spir - it pro - ceeds to the void



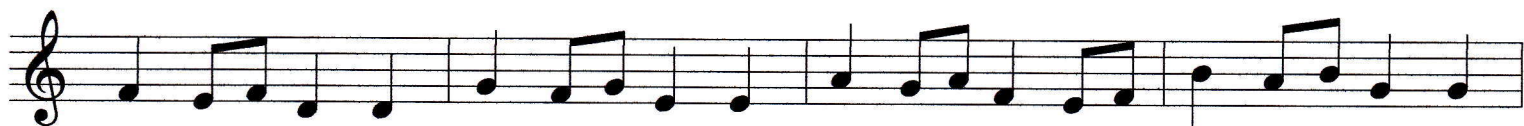
With fire ig - nit - ing Christ's Church in mis - sion, Till na - tions leap up, o - ver - joyed!



1. Blood - red the mar - tyr's, Flam - ing and zeal - ous, "What is their hope?" say the peo - ple, "Oh, tell us!"
2. Brill - iant blaze col - ors, Seed - ed by par - don, Fruit of the Spir - it pro - duced in God's gar - den.



Gold - en glows wis - dom, Scrip - tur - al preach - ers, Proph - ets, a - pos - tles, and pas - tors and teach - ers.
We are His blos - soms, green by the wa - ter, Fed at the al - tar, each son and each daugh - ter.



White flash the an - gels, Say - ing, "He's ris - en!" Till ev - 'ry cor - ner is lit in the pri - son!
Blue when we weak - en, Pur - ple in sor - row, Flick - 'ring by grace for a bright - er to - mor - row,



Saints, bright in white, re - flec - ting the stor - y: "Heav - en and earth now are full of His glor - y."
Or - ange at sun - set, wait - ing for Je - sus, Soon to be lit by His face when He sees us!

Permission is hereby granted to copy this hymn text, tune & setting as published for use in worship during the 2015-18 Triennium.

THE CONVENTION ELECTION PROCESS

Nomination and election procedures are prescribed in Synod's Handbook and our District Manual of Policies/Operations.

This Convention's **Committee on Nominations was elected at the 2012 District Convention**. In a letter dated December 15, 2014, congregations were asked to submit names of eligible persons to be considered for the Committee on Nominations. The deadline for nominations was February 17, 2015.

Three different procedures are prescribed according to the office involved:

- 1) Nominations for the office of President (Bishop & President) or Vice President are directed by the District Secretary from the congregations to the Convention. The Committee on Nominations has no input. All congregations in their respective Regions of the District nominate up to two candidates for Vice President from their own Region. However, the Convention as a whole elects each Region's vice president (per Synod bylaw 4.7.3). The five pastors with the highest number of nominations for President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. The three pastors from each Region with the highest number of nominations for Vice President who accept nomination are placed on the ballot. (In case of a tie in the number of nominations, all those tied and accept nomination are placed on the ballot.) No nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidates receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates received 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote. After four Vice Presidents are elected, they are ranked by ballot by the whole Convention, First through Fourth Vice President.
- 2) To elect Circuit Visitors, each Circuit shall meet prior to the District Convention as a Circuit Forum and select a Circuit Visitor for the coming triennium (2013 LCMS Handbook, pp. 196-199, Bylaw 5.2), with ratification of the slate of Circuit Visitors at the District Convention. Nominations for candidates for the office of Circuit Visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the Circuit and suggested by the District President, in consultation with the Praesidium of the District. If a run-off between two candidates for Circuit Visitor is needed, the District Secretary will distribute ballots to the Circuit for the two highest candidates at the Circuit caucuses at the Convention. If there is no Circuit Visitor, the District President shall appoint one. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The Convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors, which ratification shall constitute the election.
- 3) At least one nominee for each position to be filled as District Secretary and as an elected member of the Board of Directors and Committee on Nominations is selected by the Committee on Nominations from those submitted to them by the congregations. Additional nominations are permitted from the floor of the Convention provided a written "consent to serve if elected" statement is submitted to the District Secretary. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required to reach a majority, the candidates receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates received 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote.

The Bishop/President and Vice Presidents will be installed at the Convention's opening Divine Service or, if the elections are held following the opening Service, at the closing (Memorial Divine Service). The District Secretary, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations and Endowment Fund Board of Managers will be installed at the closing Divine Service.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Parliamentary procedure assists a deliberative and decision-making assembly in carrying out its purpose and aims in an orderly, fair, and expeditious manner.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

Parliamentary law protects six basic rights:

- 1) The right of the majority to make a decision;
- 2) The right of the minority to be heard in hopes that it may become the majority;
- 3) The right of absentees to be protected;
- 4) The right of the assembly to be comfortable and to hear;
- 5) The right of the individual member to be honored;
- 6) And the orderly consideration of one subject at a time.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chair and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner:

MEMBERS:

1. Address the Chair: "Rev. Chair" (or "Rev. Bishop" or "Rev. President"). The members asking for the floor must identify themselves by name and congregation or other entity of the District they represent.
2. Await recognition by the Chair.
3. Make the motion. "I move that..."
4. Second the motion (unless not **required**).

CHAIR:

5. States the motion (or rules it out of order).
6. Calls for discussion (unless motion is undebatable).
Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and for discussion.
7. Takes the vote (or "calls the question").
A tie vote defeats the motion, since a majority is required to adopt - unless the motion requires a 2/3 vote.

8. State the results.
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

BASIC PARLIAMENTARY PRINCIPLES FOR CONVENTION

1. A district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the district president, executive staff, board of directors and various committees or mission action teams. In addition, the Convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees, which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. The vote of the majority decides. The will of a District Convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
4. Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. To accomplish the closure of debate a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, this motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is finished and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
5. Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights, which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
6. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
7. Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the Convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body should be taken knowledgeably.
8. Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home or neighboring congregations.

PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. Delegates wishing to address the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, shall state their names and the name of their congregation or other entity of the district they represent.
2. An electronic response system shall ordinarily be used to register votes. When not in use for motions before the Convention, the Chair shall call for a voice vote and the raising of the right hand.
3. Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
4. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the Convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be **reintroduced at the next Convention** by means of an overture.
5. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
6. When speaking to the question on the floor, a delegate shall attempt to speak directly for or against the question. When the chair notes that there are many delegates waiting to speak to a given question, the chair may, at his discretion, invoke a two-minute speaking rule. The chair shall notify the assembly when this rule becomes effective.
7. The use of electronic devices (e.g. iPads, cell phones, and laptops) shall be permitted in the delegate section of the Convention. These devices must have the sound on "mute" at all times and should only be used for Convention business, such as viewing the Convention Workbook online. Courtesy, discernment, and good churchmanship should be demonstrated at all times with the use of such devices and must not distract from each delegate's responsibilities.

2015 CONVENTION of the ENGLISH DISTRICT of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

I.N.I.

APPOINTMENTS

Nominations Committee..... Co-chairs: The Revs. Daniel Pezzica and Luke Zimmerman with
The Rev. Dr. Robert Fitzpatrick, District Secretary, Advisor

Floor Committees:

Committee #1 Church and Theology..... The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann with
Committee members of the Buffalo Circuit #5 & Pittsburgh Circuit #6
The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, 2nd Vice President, Advisor

Committee #2 Missions/Evangelization..... The Rev. Steve Duescher with
Committee members of the Nevada-Utah, San Diego, & Los Angeles Circuits #21, 22, & 23
The Rev. R. Wayne Morton, 1st Vice President, Advisor

Committee #3 Administration/Structure..... The Rev. Stephen Alles with
Committee members of the Canada East & West Circuits #7 & 8
The Rev. Derek Mathers, 3rd Vice President, Advisor

Committee #4 Congregational Services..... The Rev. Douglas Hoag with
Committee members of the Chicago North & South Circuits #15 & 16
The Rev. Rob Rogers, 4th Vice President, Advisor

Committee #5 Elections..... The Rev. Bob Tauscher with
Committee members of the Cleveland West & Akron/Cleveland East Circuits #9 & 10
The Rev. Kenneth Rankin & The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, Advisors

Special Committees/Positions:

Convention Chaplains..... The Rev. James Elsner and The Rev. Dr. Vern Schindler

Parliamentarian..... The Rev. Dr. John Stieve

Ministerial Health Commission The Rev. Dr. Ronald Farah, Chair

Worship Committee..... The Rev. Wayne Berkesch, with
The Rev. David Rutter, Convention Organist;
The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Voelker (Convention Hymn); and
Jonathan Swett, Choir Director

District Convention Essayist..... The Rev. Ted Krey, DRLM Lead Missionary
& Latin America-Caribbean Regional Director

Theological Convocation Facilitator..... The Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, CTCR Executive Director

Convention Homilist..... The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, LCMS (Opening Service)

Transportation Committee..... Detroit North & South Circuits # 11 & 12

Banquet Committee..... Western Michigan Circuit #13, with The Rev. Jonathon Krenz, MC,
and banquet music by The Rev. Rennie Kaufmann & Esther Kaufmann

Youth Delegate Coordinators..... Congregational Services Exec. DCE Lavern Kruse
DCE Dan Huth and Mrs. Sabrina Urlaub with The Rev. Justin Laughridge

Convention Banner..... Kay Ardner

Consideration has been given to not always utilizing the same Circuits and Circuit Visitors, but rather, in reviewing of previous District Convention appointments, to spread around and share Committee responsibilities.

ENGLISH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

What is the English District?

The English District is one of thirty-five Synodical districts which make up The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Two districts of the Synod are non-geographic, the English District and the SELC District. All other districts are limited to a geographic territory, such as Southern Illinois or Texas.

What is the history of the English District?

At one time, the English District was an independent Lutheran Synod in North America, organized in 1888 as the “English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri.” Its history actually goes back to colonial times.

In the early days of Lutheranism in the United States, a prominent Lutheran family named Henkel provided pastoral leadership for the church in Virginia. The Henkels were concerned about Lutheran confessional teaching and in 1851 published the first English edition of the Book of Concord, the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members of the family were responsible for establishing several Lutheran synods in the United States. One of those Synods was the Tennessee Synod, organized in 1820 by the Rev. Paul Henkel. The Tennessee Synod believed firmly in the authority of God’s Word. It insisted on strong catechetical training within the congregations.

Immediately after the American Civil War, Pastor Polycarp Henkel, grandson of founding patriarch Paul Henkel, served as Pastor of Zion Church, Gravelton, Missouri. A group of pastors from the Tennessee Synod learned of the existence of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states, a strong confessional synod headed by Dr. C. F. W. Walther, headquartered in St. Louis. Tennessee Synod pastors and laymen in Missouri invited Dr. Walther to meet with them. In August, 1872, representatives of the “German Missouri Synod” met with the pastors and congregations of the Tennessee Synod in Gravelton. Dr. Walther presented sixteen theses, which expressed the confessional positions of the German Missouri Synod. While the theses were in English, the discussions were conducted both in German and English since the Tennessee Synod members did not speak German. As a result of the meeting, “The English Evangelical Lutheran Conference of Missouri” was organized. In 1888 the English Conference of Tennessee Synod in Missouri was organized as a separate Synod, the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri. However, the new English Missouri Synod continued attempts to be one organically with “the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.”

The attempts finally came to fruition when, in 1911, the “English Missouri Synod” was accepted into the “German Missouri Synod” as a synodical district. The English Missouri Synod did not want amalgamation, yet wanted to be part of that Missouri Synod because of its confessional and scriptural Evangelical Lutheran stance.

When the union of the two synods was effected, the sainted Dr. Harry Eckhardt, then President of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, said, “We come here to join ranks with you and march with you, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, bearing farther and farther into the world of lost sinners the one saving Gospel, whether it be by means of the German language or the English or any tongue, just so it be the old Gospel. We have been in one faith. Now we are one in organization. May we ever be one and inseparable.”

Prior to Dr. Eckhardt, Doctors F. Kuegele, William Dallmann, and Adolph Meyer were Bishop/Presidents of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri. When the “English Missouri Synod” came into the “German Missouri Synod” in 1911, Dr. Harry Eckhardt was elected its first President. Since Dr. Eckhardt, the English District has elected 16 President/Bishops: Dr. Guido Martin S. Sommer (1912-1915); Dr. J.A. Detzer (1915-1918); Dr. O.C. Kreinheder (1918-1927); Dr.

Guido Schuessler (1927-1936); Dr. Paul Lindemann (1936-1938); Dr. Martin Walker (1938-1945); Dr. Herman W. Bartels (1945-1951); Dr. Hugo G. Kleiner (1951-1963); Dr. Bertwin L. Frey (1963-1970); Dr. John H. Baumgaertner (1970-1974); Dr. Harold L. Hecht (1974-1976); Dr. George Bornemann (1976-1984); Dr. Donald F. Jung (1984-1986); Dr. Roger D. Pittelko (1986-1997); Dr. David H. Ritt (1997-2006), and Dr. David P. Stechholz (2006 – present).

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE ENGLISH DISTRICT

Now in the 21st century, the English District shows 161 rostered congregations in the Canadian province of Ontario and in 19 states of the United States of America. The English District now ministers in 29 languages and dialects of worship and Bible Study. The District also has campus ministries at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA; Princeton University, Princeton, NJ; Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI; the University of Toledo, Toledo, OH; the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; and San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA. The English District also carries out many human care and specialized ministries throughout the United States and Canada, especially one with District funding, Redeemer Lutheran Crisis Center at Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Cleveland, OH.

In 1911, there were 53 congregations. However, during the life of the English District over 500 congregations have been members of the Conference/Synod/District. Today, the District numbers 161 congregations and two new mission starts. The District has 42 parochial schools: 12 elementary, 29 childcare centers/preschools, and one high school: Redeemer Lutheran High School, Oakmont/Penn Hills, PA.

Some have asked where all those congregations have gone. Most of them have been transferred to geographic districts of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. 33 congregations were released to form the Southeastern District in 1939. In the 1940's groups of congregations were released to form the Montana District, or joined the Texas, Kansas, and Southern Districts. Many congregations left the English District during the difficult time of the 1970's in the LCMS. So it has gone throughout the years. But, as Dr. Eckhardt said in 1911 still holds, "We have been one in faith. May we ever be one and inseparable with Missouri. We are all contending for the same sound Lutheranism for which Dr. Walther so unflinchingly stood. We add to all this the old motto of Missouri: 'Soli Deo Gloria!' (To God alone be all glory)."

When the English Missouri Synod joined the German Missouri Synod, it presented to the Synod two colleges for ministerial education, Concordia College at Conover, North Carolina, and St. John's College at Winfield, Kansas. Both schools have since been closed. It also turned over to the Missouri Synod several publications, among them "**The Lutheran Witness**," and "The Lutheran Guide," a magazine for youth. The Missouri Synod received at that time the publishing rights for "The Sunday School Hymnal." The English Synod also turned over to the Missouri Synod the full manuscript for **the first English Hymnal of the Synod**. In 1912 the German Missouri Synod published "The Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal," in English, which served until 1941. The English Synod also generated the idea for the Church Extension Fund. The District's ministry from the beginning has been to provide for pastoral education, assist congregations in parish education with materials and programs, and to do mission work within the borders of the United States and Canada.

For the congregations, pastors, teachers, deaconesses, DCEs, and other church workers in the District, the English District forms a synodical entity that provides leadership and oversight, as well as a valuable resource center for evangelization, education, missions, stewardship and worship. The English District is a collaborative catalyst in Synod and is always available to assist congregations, schools, and yes, even other districts of the Synod, with help in ministry and

achievement of encouragement and faith within our Synod and to promote unity in purpose and organization. The District also serves as a "safety net" in Synod, rightly understood, in receiving some new congregations and immigrant groups. To that end, the District staff and Board of Directors are ready to serve and be of help. The entire District, along with the District staff, are, by the Holy Spirit's power, "**Igniting Christ's Church in Mission**". Our mission is that, in faithfully **worshipping** the Lord God and in **receiving** His grace through His holy Word and Sacraments, we are:

SERVING in our communities,

CONNECTING with the unchurched and dechurched people,

GROWING in faith and numbers, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and

REPRODUCING by planting new churches.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Whatever pioneering we have done is to the glory of God. Whatever leadership we have shown is to God's glory. Whatever we accomplish is to God's glory. The seal of the English District is a double-trunked sycamore tree with common roots representing the common biblical and English Lutheran origin from which each of the double trunks sprang – The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States (since 1947 the LCMS) and the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri (now the English District, LCMS). The English District's 100th Anniversary year (2011-2012) concluded three years ago. By God's grace, in 2013, 8 new congregations were added to the E.D. representing an increase of 6 congregations. The intertwining branches at the top represent our common, collaborative mission and ministry work for the spread of the saving Gospel. May Almighty God keep us steadfast in the one true faith, "*always abounding in the work of the Lord,*" and moving forward under His grace into the future of Christ's Church on earth. Our theme for the 2012 – 2015 triennium of the English District, as adopted by the Board of Directors, has been "***Christian Faith Expressed in Courageous Action***" Joshua 1:9. With the election of a new Bishop/District President, Praesidium, and Board of Directors, new vision and mission directions may result. But what has not changed is the English District's DNA. That DNA is rooted in the Zacchaeus story (Luke 19:10), the man who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. The Lord Jesus reclaimed him as a "son of Abraham," redeemed and forgiven, and the Lord concluded that visit with a statement explaining His mission: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Vs. 10). That is the English District's mission, our DNA, to seek the lost for Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria

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ENGLISH DISTRICT TIMELINE

A Historical Chronology

- 1772 Coyners Store, VA, English Lutheran work begun. Later Crimora and Waynesboro, Virginia. (The Rev. Frederick Kuegele, Pastor, in the late 1800's.)
- 1817 Reported beginnings of English Lutheran work at Zion, Gravelton, Missouri.
- 1872 Meeting of English Lutherans with Dr. C. F. W. Walther and others at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, English speaking, Gravelton, Missouri. (August 16-20)
- 1885 First English preaching graduate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, to enter English work. The Rev. Dr. William Dallmann, second graduate, 1886.
- 1887 First attempt to join German Missouri Synod rejected.
- 1888 English Evangelical Lutheran Conference of Missouri formed at Bethlehem Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Renamed "English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri" in 1891.
- 1893 First English Synod Mission Board. Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina and St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas, under control of English Missouri Synod.
- 1897 English Synod reported at work in 24 localities in 13 states and the District of Columbia.
- 1899 First Synod Extension loans granted to two Baltimore English congregations: \$100 each.
- 1900 English Missouri Synod appeals again to "German Missouri Synod" to remove the barriers for District union; appeals turned down again.
- 1908 German Missouri Synod accepts St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas as preparatory school for English ministerial students from English Missouri Synod.
- 1909 Seven points of understanding adopted by English Missouri Synod as articles of union with German Missouri Synod.
- 1910 Despite opposition by some leaders, the English Synod in Convention approved movement toward merger.
- 1911 May 15 walk from Redeemer, St. Louis to Holy Cross, St. Louis, as the English Missouri Synod becomes a synodical district of the general synod (the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States).
- 1912 April 27 all transactions reported complete between English and German Synods in property transfer of Concordia College, Conover, N.C., the Pittsburgh publication business and "*The Lutheran Witness*".
- 1912 The English District begins work in Dallas, Texas.
- 1913 English work begins in Oklahoma and California.
- 1917 English work begins in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 1922 English work spreads to Missoula, Montana, and to Canada by the reception of St. John's, Toronto.
- 1939 33 congregations, 28 pastors, 3,500 communicants with Mission and Extension funds transferred by the English District to form the Southeastern District of Synod.
- 1947 German Missouri Synod renamed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- 1948 The English District brings the Missouri Synod into the state of Arizona, establishing missions at Phoenix and Tucson.
- 1949-51 Three Montana congregations released to strengthen the new Montana District of Synod.
- 1952-54 The English District re-enters Georgia at Macon and Atlanta.
- 1954 The English District adopts a Board of Directors form of government.
- 1956 English District office building completed at 23001 Grand River Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, establishing a business center.

- 1958-60 English District redefines its form of government and regulates administration and the term "Bishop" starts to be used informally.
- 1959 The English District enters Quebec.
- 1960 All English District congregations in Texas join the Texas District.
- 1961 The English District keeps a Golden Anniversary by supporting student work at universities. Convention Divine Service held at Rockefeller Chapel of the University of Chicago.
- 1968 English District votes to establish full-time President.
- 1970 The Rev. John Baumgartner of Capitol Drive Church, Milwaukee elected first full-time president. President's office remains in Milwaukee.
- 1974 Executive Secretary Harold Hecht elected President.
- 1976 President Hecht removed from office by Synodical President J. A. O. Preus. A third of the English District congregations leave LCMS to establish the English Synod of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC).
- 1976 The Rev. George W. Bornemann elected President and the task of rebuilding the District begins. The term "Bishop" continues growing in English District parlance.
- 1977 The Rev. Kenneth Lindsay called as Executive Secretary of the District. All subsidized ministries are maintained and new missions are started during the late 1970's.
- 1982 Dr. Delphin Schulz becomes Parish Services Counselor.
- 1984 President George Bornemann retires and is succeeded by the Rev. Donald Jung. The Rev. Robert Scudieri becomes Mission Executive.
- 1985 New Bylaws approved.
- 1985-89 Period of intense mission activity. Number of congregations and preaching stations increase from 139 to 170. A District in Mission raises \$7.5 million in new investments in Lutheran Church Extension to fund new missions and existing congregations.
- 1987 The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko becomes President, and the Rev. Victor Willmann is called as Stewardship Executive. The use of the term President/Bishop comes into official usage in the English District, along with the historic term, "Circuit Visitors".
- 1991 Mr. Ervin Henkelmann becomes Parish Services Executive.
- 1993 The Rev. Dennis Lorenz becomes Mission Executive; Ms. Beth Kavasch assumes office as Business Administrator.
- 1994-95 The Rev. Victor Willmann and the Rev. Dennis Lorenz accept parish calls.
- 1995 District office moves to new building at 33100 Freedom Rd., Farmington, Michigan.
- 1996 Board of Directors studies structure and the policy based governance model.
- 1996 The Rev. Dr. Richard Drews becomes Mission Executive; Mr. Max Buban assumes task of Stewardship and Advancement. Mr. Armin Bruer becomes LCEF Vice President.
- 1997 The Rev. George W. Bornemann, Bishop-Emeritus dies. Mr. Ervin Henkelmann is killed in a traffic accident. Mr. Theodore Geheb becomes Parish Services Executive.
- 1997 The Rev. David H. Ritt is elected President and Bishop. A new Board of Directors structure is adopted with policy-based governance. Board of Directors sets Mission Statement: "Partners in Christ - Working Together - Equipping to Gather."
- 1998 The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick becomes Mission Executive; Mr. Ronald Chewing assumes task of Stewardship/Advancement; Mr. Dale Lewis becomes LCEF Vice President.
- 1999 English District begins *MISSIONS ALIVE*, \$1.7 million campaign for advance site losses. First year \$500,000 goal reached through individual and congregational gifts.

- 2000 50th Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod held at Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt is elected President/Bishop by acclamation.
- 2001 Mr. Theodore Geheb retires from his position of Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services. Mr. Timothy Ewell becomes the Executive Assistant to the President: Parish Services. English District pays off \$1.7 million Missions Alive advance site loss debt after 32 months.
- 2002 The Rev. Ronald Farah appointed Assistant to Bishop.
- 2003 51st Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod held at Concordia University, River Forest, IL. The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt re-elected President/Bishop by acclamation. The Board of Directors approved a mission deployed staff structure, appointed by the Bishop/President:
 Eastern Region: The Rev. Thomas Spahn
 Lake Erie Region: The Rev. David Thiele
 Midwest Region: The Rev. Dr Paul Bacon
 Western Region: The Rev. Dr. David Poedel
 Missions Coordinator: The Rev. Ronald Farah
 Mr. Daniel Miller becomes Assistant to the President: Business and Finance, Treasurer.
- 2004 English District Board of Directors approves and implements District-wide congregational visitation program called "Pray, Proclaim, Provide" (PPP).
- 2005 The LCMS moves forward on an Ablaze! incentive to find the lost for Christ.
- 2006 52nd Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod held in Schaumburg, IL. The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt retires. The Rev. David P. Stechholz elected Bishop/President. Mrs. Sally Naglich becomes the Assistant to the Bishop/President: Business & Finance, Treasurer.
- 2007 The Rev. David Thiele begins work as full-time English District Missions Executive/Consultant.
- 2008 Mrs. Teresa Fairrow becomes Gift Planning Counselor/Development Director.
- 2009 53rd Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod held at Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI. The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz was re-elected Bishop/President by acclamation.
- 2010 The Rev. David Thiele assumes dual position of Missions Executive and LCEF Vice President.
- 2011 With the reception of Jacob's Well, Ft. Wayne, IN and Grace, Vine Grove, KY in December of 2010 and Gracepoint, Sahuarita, AZ, in March of 2011 as new member congregations, the English District-LCMS numbers 158 congregations, six (6) new mission starts, five (5) campus ministries, one (1) human care ministry, and 67 school ministries in 18 states and the Canadian province of Ontario. English District 100th Anniversary Year (2011-2012) commences with Professional Church Workers Conference in Detroit and May 15, 2011 historical walk in St. Louis, MO.
- 2012 100th Anniversary concludes with 54th Convention of English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod at Concordia Seminary and visit to LCMS International Center in St. Louis, June 27-30, 2012.
- 2015 English District is a microcosm of Synod crossing four time zones and giving honor and praise to God in 29 different languages and dialects of worship and Bible study. Repeated attempts, over several decades to eliminate English District and force amalgamation are rejected. English District under God's grace continues to thrive.

Congregations of the old English Synod that are still a part of the English District:

	<u>Date Founded</u>	<u>Entered English Synod</u>
St. Mark's, Sheboygan, WI	1853	1911
Christ English, Chicago, IL	1891	1895
Calvary, Buffalo, NY	1891	1893
Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN	1892	1893
Redeemer, North Tonawanda, NY	1897	1899
Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA	1899	1899
Redeemer, Oakmont, PA	1900	1907
Mt. Calvary, Lititz (Lancaster), PA	1904	1905
Concordia, Akron, OH	1904	1907
Grace, Elyria, OH	1907	1909

**ENGLISH DISTRICT
of
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz
33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: The Rev. R. Wayne Morton
2035 S. Penrod Lane, Pinetop, AZ 85935-7426

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: The Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy
107 Carol Drive, McMurray, PA 15317-3274

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
3200 Bayview Avenue, North York, ON, Canada M2M 3R7

FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT: The Rev. Robert A. Rogers
300 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181-2614

SECRETARY: The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Fitzpatrick
North Ridgeville, OH

TREASURER: Mrs. Sally L. Naglich, CPA
33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030

CIRCUIT COUNSELORS/VISITORS

New York: The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind	Western Michigan: The Rev. Eric Forss
Philadelphia: The Rev. Luke Zimmerman	Indiana: The Rev. James Elsner
Florida: The Rev. Donald Treglown	Chicago-North: The Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon
Georgia:	Chicago-South: The Rev. Douglas Hoag
Buffalo: The Rev. David Beutel	Milwaukee: The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III
Pittsburgh: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann	St. Louis: The Rev. Michael Stoerger
Canada-East: The Rev. Stephen Alles	Arizona-North: The Rev. Steven De Santo
Canada-West: The Rev. Robert Voelker	Arizona-South: The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler
Cleveland-Akron: The Rev. Robert Tauscher	Nevada/Utah: The Rev. Dr. James Murray
Cleveland-West: The Rev. Michael Taylor	San Diego: The Rev. Steven Duescher
Detroit-South: The Rev. Bradford Scott	Los Angeles: The Rev. Daniel Pezzica
Detroit-North: The Rev. Timothy Halboth	San Francisco: The Rev. Peter Ledic

DISTRICT OFFICE

33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030
Phone: (248)476-0039; FAX: (248)476-0188
www.englishdistrict.org

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Executive Assistant to the President <i>Congregational Services</i>	Mr. Lavern Kruse
Executive Assistant to the President <i>School Ministry</i>	Mrs. Gail Holzer
Executive Assistant to the President <i>Business and Finance – Treasurer</i>	Mrs. Sally Naglich, CPA
LCEF Vice President	The Rev. David Thiele

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Albert Amling
Mrs. Jane Duffy
The Rev. Ben Eder
The Rev. Dr. Robert Fitzpatrick
The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
Mr. Richard Hesselroth

Mr. Stuart Kahle
Mrs. Chaessa Koontz
Mr. Paul Lagemann
Mr. Terry Leu
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
The Rev. R. Wayne Morton

Mrs. Sally Naglich
Mrs. Mary Rinda
The Rev. Robert Rogers
Mr. Ernest Seaman
The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz
The Rev. Dr. John Stieve*

ELECTED COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

<u>REGION</u>	<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>LAYPERSONS</u>
Eastern	The Rev. Luke Zimmerman*	Mr. William Magill
Lake Erie	The Rev. Eric Forss	Mrs. Heather Thomason
Midwest	The Rev. William Meier	Mr. Chris Cassel
Western	The Rev. Dan Pezzica*	Mr. Tom Honebrink

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

Eastern Region	The Rev. Fred Gerlach
Lake Erie Region	Mr. Troy Lindsey*
Midwest Region	Ms. Rosalie Streng
Western Region	Mr. Tom Schlitt
Canada Corporation	The Rev. Raymond Kirk
English District President	The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz
English District Treasurer	Mrs. Sally Naglich
Board of Directors Representative	Mr. Ernest Seaman

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Rev. Todd Arnold, The Rev. Peter Burfeind, The Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa, The Rev. Dr. David Dressel*, The Rev. Curtis Dwyer, The Rev. Martin Erhardt, The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, The Rev. Michael Morehouse, The Rev. Michael Scheer, The Rev. Bradford Scott, The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, The Rev. Robert Voelker

CONSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP #

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, The Rev. Dr. Thomas Kraus*, The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

DISTRICT ARCHIVIST

The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Jr.

EVANGELIZATION TEAM

The Rev. Eric Carlson, The Rev. John Diener*, The Rev. Daniel Grams, DCE Heidi Koehler, The Rev. Adam Koontz, Mr. Thomas Kuwazaki, DCE Lavern Kruse, The Rev. Fred Reaman*, The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz

LIFELINE

The Rev. Michael Brown*, The Rev. John Diener, Deaconess Jeri Morrison, The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, The Rev. Jeffrey Webb, DCE Suzanne Zobel

MINISTERIAL HEALTH

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Farah*, Mrs. Talitha Farah, Dr. Jennifer Gramzow, The Rev. Paul R. Koester, The Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko

MISSION COUNCIL

The Rev. Eric Carlson, The Rev. John Diener, The Rev. Daniel Grams, Mr. Seth Hoepfner, DCE Heidi Koehler, Mr. Jerry Lancour, The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Mr. William Magill, The Rev. R. Wayne Morton*, The Rev. Fred Reaman, The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz

RECONCILERS #

The Rev. Dr. Richard Drews, The Rev. Theodore Predoehl, Mr. Richard Zimmermann

STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Al Achepohl, The Rev. Kerry Buttke, Mrs. Carol George, Mr. Troy Lindsey, The Rev. Ted Radke, The Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, The Rev. Michael Stoerger*, Mr. Gary Timm, Mr. Ralph Trendle

WORSHIP

The Rev. Wayne Berkesch*, The Rev. David Rutter

*Chair

Requires Board ratification

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

OFFICERS

President: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
First Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, Jr.
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
Second Vice President: The Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Jr.
316 S Oakwood Ave., Geneseo, IL 61214
Third Vice President: The Rev. Daniel Preus
9228 Lavant Dr., St. Louis, MO 63126
Fourth Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Scott Murray
5800 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057
Fifth Vice President: The Rev. Nabil Nour
PO Box 158, Armour, SD 57313
Sixth Vice President: The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn
1387 Haven Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765
Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Ronald Schultz
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Jerald Wulf
Chief Mission Officer: The Rev. J. Bart Day

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: *Chairman*: The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm
Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig

Ordained Members: The Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, The Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig, The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm

Commissioned Member: Dr. Kurt Senske

Lay Members: Mr. James Carter, Jr., Dr. Gloria Edwards, Mr. Ed Everts, Mr. Keith Frndak, Mr. Christian Preus, Mr. Warren Puck, Ms. Kathy Schulz

Non-Voting Members: The Rev. Herbert Mueller, Jr.

Advisory: The Rev. J. Bart Day, Mr. Ronald Schultz, Mr. Jerald Wulf

Legal Counsel: Thompson Coburn LLP

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #1 - New York</u>		
Ewing, NJ	Bethany	Rev. Fred Gerlach
Flushing, NY	Immanuel	
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace	
Palisades Park, NJ	Cho Won Korean	
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel	Jane Duffy
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Herbert Gishlick
Saint Albans, NY	Redeemer	
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Ronald Rieger
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community	Michael Coffey
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour	
<u>Circuit #2 - Philadelphia</u>		
Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei	
Blue Bell, PA	Philadelphia True Light	
Chesapeake, VA	Faith	Rev. Christian Morales
Harrisburg, PA	Gloria Dei	Walter Dissen
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Adam Koontz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
Warminster, PA	Grace	Ronald Stiegler
		Elsa Quanbeck
		John Zampino
<u>Circuit #3 - Florida</u>		
Jacksonville, FL	Celebration	Rev. Jeffrey Webb
Naples, FL	Faith	Peter Brand
Ocala, FL	Trinity	
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite
		Stephanie Johnson
<u>Circuit #4 - Georgia</u>		
Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd	Rev. Kevin Elseroad
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Gary Church
<u>Circuit #5 - Buffalo</u>		
Amherst, NY	Calvary	
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	
Erie, PA	Trinity	Carol George
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Carol Obot
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer	Rev. Ben Eder
		Rev. David Beutel
		Kathleen Beutel
<u>Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh</u>		
Butler, PA	Faith	Rev. Brian Westgate
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints	Rev. Michael Scheer
		Bethanie Westgate
		Paul Stanis
		Jeffrey Meier
		Dr. James Mennell
<u>Circuit #7 - Canada East</u>		
Aurora, ON	Christ	Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John	
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Rev. Jeffrey Miskus
North York, ON	Saint Luke	Rev. J. Derek Mathers
Pembroke, ON	Saint John	Rev. Stephen Alles
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	Rev. Dereck Pillay
		Bob Ernst
		Ken Zohr
		Doug Askew
		Daryoush Bahrami
		Samuel Biggs
		Getahun Demisse

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #8 - Canada West</u>		
Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	Rev. Daniel Murray
Kitchener, ON	Hope	Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	Rev. Robert Voelker
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. Gregory Lutz
		Randy Scholl
		Glenn Kahle
		Michel Poliquin
		Wayne Sallach
		Ron Schertzer
<u>Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron</u>		
Akron, OH	Concordia	
Akron, OH	Fairlawn	Robert Fischer
Akron, OH	Good Shepherd	
Akron, OH	Grace	
Cleveland Heights, OH	Mount Olive	Rev. Ryan Beffrey
Northfield, OH	Epiphany	Ashley Beffrey
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas	Gilbert Ayers
<u>Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West</u>		
Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross	
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia	
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace	Richard Jennings
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Terry Leu
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Mark English
<u>Circuit #11 - Detroit-South</u>		
Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ	Noel Paavola
Rockwood, MI	Christ Our Redeemer	
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory	
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	
Toledo, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Peter Burfeind
		Tracy Omondon
<u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u>		
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Timothy Halboth
Rochester Hills, MI	Epic	
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul	
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer	
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings	Beverly White
<u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u>		
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Johnathon Krenz
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Curtis Dwyer
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Daniel Gruenwald
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity	Rev. Steven Voelker
Lansing, MI	Christ	Rev. Zerit Yohannes
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. John Diener
		Sandra Hoffbeck
		John Engle
		Jason Harnish
		Harry Jock
		Richard Applin
		Paul Schleusener
		Robert Reneker, Jr.

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u>		
Florence, KY	Abiding Faith	Ed Lawrence
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Dorothy Trouten
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well	
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Paul Lagemann
Fort Wayne, IN	Saint Michael	
Fremont, IN	Peace	Gerry Ferrell
LaPorte, IN	Trinity	
Stroh, IN	Prince of Peace	Edwin Spornhauer
Zionsville, IN	Advent	James Grady
<u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u>		
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith	Rev. Thomas J. Sanders
Chicago, IL	Bethany	Andrew Wegner
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	
Chicago, IL	Christ English	
Chicago, IL	Grace English	Joan Shogren
Chicago, IL	Our Savior	Carol Klingbeil
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Jerry Jacobson
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers
<u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u>		
Berwyn, IL	Concordia	Rev. James Huenink
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields	Barb Lambert
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha	
Chicago, IL	Faith	
Chicago, IL	Good Shepherd	Susan Howes
Chicago, IL	New Hope	
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine	
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah	Rev. Bradley Maxon
Markham, IL	Markham	Rev. Larry Schneekloth
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag
<u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u>		
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah	
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	
Hastings, MN	Hope	
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Paul Speerbrecker
Lake Mills, WI	Christ	
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler
Mount Pleasant, WI	Living Hope	
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Kenneth Rankin
Shawano, WI	Resurrection	Rev. Ronald Raddatz
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brett Matz
Watertown, WI	Faith	Sherry Brusse
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman
		Charles Porter

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u>		
Hannibal, MO	Saint John	
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jon Gruen
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer	Rev. Mark Ebert
O'Fallon, MO	Peace	Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner
Saint Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Ted Laesch
Saint Peters, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Dr. Robert Hoehner
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. David Tannahill
		Rick Chapman
		Chris Cassel
		Paul Jud
		Ellory Glenn
		Susan Hoehner
		Stephen White
<u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u>		
Overgaard, AZ	Faith	Rev. Nicholas Wirtz
Parker, AZ	Messiah	
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines	Rev. Steve De Santo
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Dr. Wade Butler
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. R. Wayne Morton
		Don Grotberg
		Ned Hines
		David Anderson
		Beth Morton
<u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u>		
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Dr. John Stieve
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex	Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler
Sahuarita, AZ	Gracepoint	
Tucson, AZ	Ascension	Rev. James Thelen
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Michael Morehouse
Tucson, AZ	Faith	
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity	
Tucson, AZ	Messiah	Rev. Luther Esala
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa
		Daniel James
		Richard Loesch
		Tracy Huffstetler
		Andy Wellik
		Dr. Roni Grad
		Sheryl Gregory
		Richard Matties
		Jeffrey Rundquist
<u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u>		
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Travis Lauterbach
North Las Vegas, NV	Trinity	
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman
		Don Selking
		Neal Smith
<u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u>		
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego	
El Cajon, CA	Christ the King	
El Cajon, CA	First	
Lakeside, CA	Morning Star	
Mira Mesa, CA	Crossroads	
Pine Valley, CA	Inter-Mountain	
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher
		Ted Davis
		Thomas Kuwazaki
<u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u>		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park	
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. William Naumann
Palm Desert, CA	Peace	Rev. Brian Pratt
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	
		Clifford Johnson
<u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u>		
Danville, CA	Messiah	Rev. Peter Ledic
Fremont, CA	Hope	Rev. John Berg
San Francisco, CA	New Life Chinese	Rev. Charles Fox
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Todd Arnold
		Clarence Kleinberg
		Robert Bok

2015 CIRCUIT YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

CIRCUIT

Florida Circuit #3
Pittsburgh Circuit #6
Canada-East Circuit #7
Cleveland-West Circuit #10
Detroit-South Circuit #11
Western Michigan Circuit #13
Chicago-North Circuit #15
Milwaukee Circuit #17
Arizona-North Circuit #19
Arizona-South Circuit #20
San Francisco Circuit #24

REPRESENTATIVE

William Webb
Noah Hardy
Jordan Davidson
Jody Zane
James Gramzow
Victoria Mrozek
Chandler Barry
Luke Eiden
Kendra Condojani
Gibson Huffstetler
Timothy Arnold

Jubilarians - Ordained

Ordination/Colloquy Anniversary

25 years (1988, 1989, 1990)

The Rev. Thomas E. Engler
The Rev. Eric C. Forss
The Rev. James A. Gau
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth
The Rev. Dale W. Kaster
The Rev. Dr. Dean D. Pittelko
The Rev. Wayne R. Rasmussen
The Rev. Robert A. Rogers
The Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt
The Rev. Keith A. Speaks
The Rev. James E. Thelen

30 years (1983, 1984, 1985)

The Rev. Paul W. Anderson
The Rev. Randy S. Boelter
The Rev. Kerry D. Buttke
The Rev. Keith P. Christiansen
The Rev. Steven J. Duescher
The Rev. Mark H. Ebert
The Rev. Ben C. Eder
The Rev. Charles A. Fox
The Rev. Daniel J. Gruenwald
The Rev. J. Derek Mathers
The Rev. Bradford C. Maxon
The Rev. Robert J. Nemoyer
The Rev. Steven E. Sutterer
The Rev. Karl E. Schmidt
The Rev. Bradford E. Scott
The Rev. Michael S. Taylor
The Rev. Robert E. Voelker

35 years (1978, 1979, 1980)

The Rev. John W. Berg
The Rev. Venice C. Douglas
The Rev. Dr. John W. Fiene
The Rev. Marvin R. Hinkle
The Rev. Thomas J. Sanders
The Rev. Paul E. Speerbrecker
The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz
The Rev. Robert W. Tauscher
The Rev. Dr. Stanley J. Zyskowski

40 years (1973, 1974, 1975)

The Rev. David A. Beutel
The Rev. Dr. Gary L. Danielsen
The Rev. Dr. Michael S. Ernst
The Rev. Luther P. Esala
The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just
The Rev. David R. Liefeld
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert C. Meilaender
The Rev. Christian G. Morales
The Rev. Dr. Frank J. Pies
The Rev. Dr. Larry G. Schneekloth
The Rev. Norman A. Timmermann

45 years (1968, 1969, 1970)

The Rev. Robert L. Alsleben
The Rev. Dr. David A. Dressel
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Fitzpatrick
The Rev. Dr. John M. Goerss
The Rev. Peter C. Hoffmann
The Rev. Paul W. Krause
The Rev. David E. Krueckeberg
The Rev. Robert W. Maass
The Rev. Dr. Garry D. McClure
The Rev. Henry O. Millhorn
The Rev. Edward F. Radke
The Rev. Dr. David H. Ritt
The Rev. Arthur W. Schiemann
The Rev. Dr. John W. Stieve
The Rev. John A. Strohschein
The Rev. Roger R. Stuenkel
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Toth
The Rev. Mark L. Viets

50 years (1963, 1964, 1965)

The Rev. Robert A. Brockhoff
The Rev. Norman A. Bumby
The Rev. Don E. Burch
The Rev. Robert F. Burke
The Rev. Paul H. Dorr
The Rev. Dr. Charles J. Evanson
The Rev. Dr. Ronald R. Farah
The Rev. Noble P. Lach
The Rev. Ronald H. Laue
The Rev. Theodore G. Predoehl
The Rev. Guy A. Vogel

55 years (1958, 1959, 1960)

The Rev. William C. Beckmann
The Rev. Jerome H. Groth
The Rev. Dr. Simon S. Johann
The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kraus
The Rev. Orlen W. Lapp
The Rev. William G. Naumann
The Rev. Richard W. Patt
The Rev. Dr. Roger D. Pittelko
The Rev. Dr. Louis N. Scholl
The Rev. Jonathan P. Stein

60 years (1953, 1954, 1955)

The Rev. Howard E. Claycombe, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Fabry
The Rev. Robert W. Kavasch
The Rev. Robert F. Mayer
The Rev. Robert J. Weinhold
The Rev. Nicholas Zipay

65 years (1948, 1949, 1950)

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pourchot

Jubilarians - Commissioned

Graduation Anniversary

25 years (1988, 1989, 1990)

Jimmy W. Fritz-Halsted
Donna L. Grunewald
Sherri T. Steigerwalt
Catherine A. Wurster

30 years (1983, 1984, 1985)

Janet L. Begley
Cheryl A. Gruenwald
Daniel V. Holt
Lucy B. Honig
Herman E. Koenig
Kevin Kolander
Karla K. Rendahl
Kimberly S. Roeske
Nadine L. Schilke
Mark W. Sieger
Patricia A. Zanta
Suzanne E. Zobel

35 years (1978, 1979, 1980)

Michaëlle J. Angerman
Steve D. Armbrust
Mary L. Becker
Brenda S. Granley
Darla J. Gremel
Vicki J. Helmling
Robert W. Kaun, Jr.
Douglas S. Mertz
Susan E. Monfre
George T. Moore
Diane L. Ott-Hager
Randy L. Potts
Christine R. Seiler
Susan J. Taylor
Mary Beth Terhaar

40 years (1973, 1974, 1975)

Ethel M. Garrett
Carl E. Hoppe
Andrea L. Johnson
Sandra K. Kocab
Toni L. Krone
Gloria M. Lawrence
Cheryl E. Sanders
Janet L. Stechholz
Kathryn B. Trinklein

45 years (1968, 1969, 1970)

Joann E. Grepke
James M. Harbke
Waldemar C. Heuer
Kay L. Matthews
Bruce L. Voeltz

50 years (1963, 1964, 1965)

Annette L. Bacon
Harold L. Bacon
Dr. Elaine R. Bryant
Marlene M. Cleland
John R. Fredel
Theodore O. Geheb
Donna D. Hay
Rozanne M. Heinzl
Judith D. Hughes
Dennis N. Schultz
Susan A. Stults
Donald F. Wachholz

55 years (1958, 1959, 1960)

Robert J. Clegg
Lucy M. Hauer
Ronald L. Kasten
Rex T. Kollmorgen
Sandra J. Kollmorgen
John W. Speckhard
Gerald J. Warmbier
Hilbert W. Wiedenkeller

60 years (1953, 1954, 1955)

Donald W. Bauer
Carl G. Gruendler

OFFICIAL ACTS
as of April 12, 2015

INSTALLATIONS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
The Rev. James Baumgartner Missionary	September 5, 2014	The Rev. Paul Linnemann, President, Northwest District LCMS Office of International Missions
The Rev. Dr. Wade Butler Sole Pastor	March 15, 2015	The Rev. R. Wayne Morton Family of Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa Sole Pastor	September 15, 2013	The Rev. Ian S. Pacey Mt. Olive, Tucson, Arizona
The Rev. Dr. David Dressel Associate Pastor	March 1, 2015	The Rev. David Thiele Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan
The Rev. Curtis Dwyer Associate Pastor	June 16, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan
The Rev. Curtis Dwyer Senior Pastor	March 1, 2015	The Rev. David Thiele Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan
The Rev. Thomas Engler Sole Pastor	July 20, 2014	The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin
The Rev. Michael Frese Associate Pastor	July 29, 2012	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Redeemer, Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Charles Ferry Missionary	September 1, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President LCMS Board for International Missions
The Rev. James Gau Sole Pastor	June 22, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Fairlawn, Akron, Ohio
The Rev. Daniel Grams Sole Pastor	October 6, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, Michigan
The Rev. Jonathan Gruen Senior Pastor	December 17, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, Missouri
The Rev. Dr. Robert Hoehner Associate Pastor	July 15, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, Missouri
The Rev. Martin Homan Intentional Interim	November 10, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Robert Rast, Jr. Praise, Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. James Huenink Sole Pastor	January 13, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Concordia, Berwyn, Illinois
The Rev. Leon Jameson Associate Pastor-SMP	June 22, 2014	The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
The Rev. John Jaster Intentional Interim	June 2, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Our Savior's, Saint George, Utah
The Rev. Dr. Christian Just Sole Pastor	January 25, 2015	The Rev. Robert Tauscher St. Thomas, Streetsboro, Ohio

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
The Rev. Dale Kaster Missionary	March 12, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President LCMS Board for International Missions
The Rev. Reinald Kaufmann Sole Pastor-SMP	January 12, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Risen Christ, Plymouth, Michigan
The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky Sole Pastor / PLM Exec. Director	August 4, 2012	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President St. John, Springfield, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Kevin Klein Associate Pastor	May 20, 2012	The Rev. Stephen Alles St. John's, Pembroke, Ontario
The Rev. Mark Koschmann Associate Pastor	January 26, 2015	No formal installation Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, Missouri
The Rev. Theodore Krey Regional Director	February 15, 2011	No formal installation Latin America & Caribbean LCMS World Missions
The Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman Associate Pastor	March 29, 2015	No formal installation Church of St. Luke, North York, Ontario
The Rev. Justin Laughridge Sole Pastor	March 22, 2015	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Crossroads, Mira Mesa, California
The Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing Senior Administrative Pastor	September 8, 2013	The Rev. James Elsner St. Michael, Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Jonathon Lorenz Chaplain	October 6, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Ministry to the Armed Forces under the auspice of the United States Army
The Rev. Myron Mader Sole Pastor	December 1, 1996	No formal installation Trinity, Ocala, Florida
The Rev. Brett Matz Sole Pastor	August 18, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President St. Mark, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
The Rev. David Miller Sole Pastor	October 13, 2013	The Rev. Thomas Zucconi Ascension, Atlanta, Georgia
The Rev. Daniel Murray Sole Pastor	April 12, 2015	The Rev. Robert Voelker Our Saviour's, Chatham, Ontario
The Rev. Dr. James Murray Associate Pastor	January 1, 2004	No formal installation Our Savior's, Saint George, Utah
The Rev. Gregory Musolf Sole Pastor	February 15, 2015	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Messiah, Forest Lake, Minnesota
The Rev. Cashius Myers Sole Pastor	June 30, 2013	The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin
The Rev. William Naumann Sole Pastor	June 23, 2013	The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, California
The Rev. Gary Oehlerts Sole Pastor	November 17, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Trinity, North Las Vegas, Nevada

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
The Rev. Brian Pratt Assistant Pastor	August 11, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy Praise, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Brian Pratt Sole Pastor	September 28, 2014	The Rev. Daniel Pezzica Peace, Palm Desert, California
The Rev. James Prince Assistant Pastor	November 9, 2014	The Rev. Dr. Mark Hoehner Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, Missouri
The Rev. Dr. Ronald Raddatz Sole Pastor	June 9, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Resurrection, Shawano, Wisconsin
The Rev. Wayne Rasmussen Associate Pastor	September 30, 2012	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
The Rev. Fred Reaman Sole Pastor	June 29, 2014	The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III Greenfield Park, West Allis, Wisconsin
The Rev. Ronald Rieger Sole Pastor	March 15, 2015	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Trinity, Scarsdale, New York
The Rev. Joseph Robb Associate Pastor	October 13, 2013	The Rev. Kenneth Rankin, III Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
The Rev. Jonathan Sachs Sole Pastor	December 14, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Angelica, Allen Park, Michigan
The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler Sole Pastor	February 3, 2013	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Christus Rex, Rio Rico, Arizona
The Rev. Gary Schultz Kantor/Pastor Assistant	November 17, 2013	No formal installation Zion, Detroit, Michigan
The Rev. Jon Scicluna VP for Resource Development	December 10, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Steven Sutterer Chaplain	November 16, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David Dressel Sparrow Hospital-LCMS Board for National Mission
The Rev. Bradley Urlaub Associate Pastor	May 4, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Faith, Arlington Heights, Illinois
The Rev. Charles Varsogea Chaplain	November 4, 2012	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Ministry to the Armed Forces under the auspice of the United States Navy
The Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr. Sole Pastor	August 12, 2012	The Rev. Michael Taylor Grace, Elyria, Ohio
The Rev. Jeffrey Webb Sole Pastor	February 9, 2014	The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Celebration, Jacksonville, Florida
The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz Sole Pastor	July 7, 2013	The Rev. R. Wayne Morton Faith, Overgaard, Arizona
The Rev. Randall Wurschmidt Admission Counselor	September 9, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

NAME

The Rev. David Young
Sole Pastor

DATE

August 9, 2014

BY

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman
now serving a dual parish
Grace, Warminster, Pennsylvania
and Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

The Rev. Thomas Zucconi
Church Planter

June 24, 2012

The Rev. Kevin Elseroad
Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, Georgia

ORDINATIONS/INITIAL MEMBERSHIPS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
Candidate Ryan Beffrey Sole Pastor	June 9, 2012	Ordained by the Rev. Mark Braden Messiah, Saginaw, Michigan
	June 17, 2012	Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Mt. Olive, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Candidate Aaron Boerst Associate Pastor	June 16, 2013	Ordained by the Rev. Paul Scheunemann Immanuel, Cecil, Wisconsin
	June 17, 2013	Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Peace, New Berlin, Wisconsin
The Rev. Sang Taek Cho Sole Pastor	May 20, 2012	Affirmation of Ordination Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Philadelphia True Light, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania
Candidate Arthur Drehman Sole Pastor	April 6, 2014	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Our Savior's, St. George, Utah
Candidate Dwayne Hendricks Sole Pastor	June 30, 2013	Ordained by the Rev. Kevin Taden St. Paul, Wichita Falls, Texas
	July 14, 2013	Installed by the Rev. David Beutel Nazareth, Buffalo, New York
Candidate James Holt Associate Pastor	June 2, 2013	Ordained by the Rev. Mark Teike St. Peter's, Columbus, Indiana
	September 8, 2013	Installed by the Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
SMP Candidate Keith Kinslow Associate Pastor-SMP	April 21, 2013	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Chatham Fields, Chicago, Illinois
Candidate Adam Koontz Senior Pastor	July 20, 2014	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Mt. Calvary, Lititz, Pennsylvania
Candidate Travis Lauterbach Sole Pastor	June 20, 2013	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Prince of Peace, Mesquite, Nevada
The Rev. Wenbin (Freeman) Li Assistant Pastor	September 30, 2012	Affirmation of Ordination Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Hope, Fremont, California
Candidate Edward Naumann Assistant Pastor	June 9, 2013	Ordained by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann Installed by the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy Redeemer, Oakmont, Pennsylvania
Candidate Dereck Pillay Sole Pastor	July 14, 2013	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President St. Matthew, Scarborough (Toronto), Ontario
Candidate Chadwick Potts Associate Pastor	June 10, 2012	Ordained by the Rev. Mitchell Gowen Installed by the Rev. Wayne Berkesch Peace, Fremont, Indiana
Candidate Dr. Neil Rand Sole Pastor	February 22, 2013	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Faith, Watertown, Wisconsin
The Rev. Philip Sang Rey Sole Pastor	May 5, 2013	Affirmation of Ordination Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President New Jersey Korean Cho Won, Palisades Park, New Jersey
Candidate David Schinbeckler Sole Pastor	June 15, 2014	Ordained by the Rev. Thomas Eggold Emmanuel, Fort Wayne, Indiana
	July 6, 2014	Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, Michigan
Candidate Jordan Simon	November 25, 2012	Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
Assistant Pastor		Gethsemane, Windsor, Ontario
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger	June 10, 2012	Affirmation of Ordination
Sole Pastor		Ordained/Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Christ, Aurora, Ontario

CHANGE OF POSITION - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
The Rev. John Berg	September 30, 2012	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Wayne Berkesch	June 10, 2012	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Mark Braden	November 17, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. David Dressel	June 16, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. David Dressel	March 1, 2015	Senior Pastor to Associate Pastor
The Rev. Curtis Dwyer	March 1, 2015	Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. John Fiene	August 1, 2013	Senior Pastor to Sole Pastor
The Rev. Kenety Gee	April 13, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Martin Homan	November 17, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. George Mather	January 1, 2004	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann	May 30, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. David Petersen	July 29, 2012	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Kenneth Rankin III	June 16, 2013	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Thomas Sanders	May 4, 2014	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
The Rev. Robert Voelker	November 25, 2012	Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor

CHANGE OF STATUS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
The Rev. B. Joe Cottam	June 1, 2012	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy	October 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Joshua Genig	July 29, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Joel Holls	December 31, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Jukka Kaariainen	May 31, 2011	Active to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Paul Koester	June 2, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Paul Krause	September 1, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Lon Landsmann	February 1, 2011	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Harry Matelski	September 6, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. George Mather	June 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. James May	April 1, 2010	Active to Candidate
The Rev. James May	March 18, 2014	Candidate to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Gilbert Meilaender	June 20, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Robert Mertz	June 17, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Neville Mirtschin	June 23, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. James Murray	June 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Brian Pratt	February 1, 2014	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Brian Pratt	September 28, 2014	Candidate to Active
The Rev. Dr. Neil Rand	June 30, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Merlin Rehm	December 31, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Eric Schoech	January 1, 2013	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Raymond Scholle	May 12, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Jeffrey Siegel	August 1, 2014	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Robbie Taylor	April 1, 2013	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Norman Timmermann	August 31, 2013	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Lumembo Tshiswaka	March 21, 2014	Active to Candidate
The Rev. Alemayehu Wedajo	October 5, 2014	Active to Non-Candidate
The Rev. Charles Werth	November 18, 2014	Active to Emeritus
The Rev. Mark Zuehsow	November 18, 2012	Active to Candidate

TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER DISTRICTS - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
The Rev. Robert Brockhoff	October 27, 2014	From: Ohio District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Wade Butler Sole Pastor	March 3, 2015	From: Southern Illinois To: Family of Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Keith Christiansen	February 7, 2014	From: Nebraska District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa Sole Pastor	August 21, 2013	From: Southeastern District To: Mt. Olive, Tucson, Arizona
The Rev. Dr. Gary Danielsen	April 12, 2013	From: Florida-Georgia District To: Candidate
The Rev. Curtis Dwyer Associate Pastor	June 3, 2013	From: Mid-South District To: Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan
The Rev. Thomas Engler Sole Pastor	June 29, 2014	From: Eastern District To: Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin
The Rev. Charles Ferry Missionary to Indonesia	July 29, 2013	From: Michigan District To: LCMS Board of International Missions
The Rev. Dr. John Fiene Sole Pastor	May 15, 2013	From: Indiana District To: Advent, Zionsville, Indiana
The Rev. Michael Frese Associate Pastor	February 7, 2012	From: South Wisconsin District To: Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Steven Geske	September 1, 2012	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
The Rev. Daniel Grams Sole Pastor	September 3, 2013	From: North Wisconsin District To: Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, Michigan
The Rev. Paul Haberstock	August 1, 2013	From: Northern Illinois District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Marvin Hinkle	August 2, 2012	From: Indiana District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Robert Hoehner Assistant Pastor	June 12, 2012	From: Missouri District To: Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, Missouri
The Rev. Martin J. Homan Intentional Interim	November 4, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Praise, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. James Huenink Sole Pastor	January 1, 2013	From: Northern Illinois District To: Concordia, Berwyn, Illinois
The Rev. Leon Jameson Associate Pastor-SMP	March 7, 2014	From: Missouri District To: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
The Rev. John Jaster	May 22, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Emeritus
The Rev. Reinald Kaufmann Sole Pastor-SMP	January 2, 2014	From: Michigan District To: Risen Christ, Plymouth, Michigan

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky Sole Pastor	August 1, 2012	From: Southeastern District To: St. John, Springfield, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing Senior Pastor	September 1, 2013	From: Missouri District To: St. Michael, Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Brett Matz Senior Pastor	August 1, 2013	From: Northern Illinois District To: St. Mark, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
The Rev. David Miller Sole Pastor	October 1, 2013	From: Iowa East District To: Ascension, Atlanta, Georgia
The Rev. Daniel Murray Sole Pastor	April 11, 2015	From: Michigan District To: Our Saviour's, Chatham, Ontario
The Rev. Gregory Musolf Sole Pastor	January 27, 2015	From: Minnesota District To: Messiah, Forest Lake, Minnesota
The Rev. William Naumann Sole Pastor	May 10, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, California

TRANSFERS OUT - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
The Rev. James Baumgartner Strategic Mission Developer	January 5, 2015	Northwest District LCMS Office of International Missions
The Rev. Mark Biebighauser Sole Pastor	May 20, 2012	Minnesota South District Trinity, Medford, Minnesota
The Rev. J.D. Brown Associate Pastor	October 1, 2012	Indiana District Concordia, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
The Rev. Benjamin Bruns Associate Pastor	May 6, 2013	Michigan District St. Stephen, Waterford, Michigan
The Rev. B. Joe Cottam	April 23, 2013	Michigan District Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy	September 9, 2014	Indiana District Emeritus
The Rev. Matthew Dent Sole Pastor	December 12, 2013	Michigan District Bethlehem, Standish, Michigan
The Rev. J. David Duke, Jr.	October 9, 2013	Eastern District Non-Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Arnold Frank Associate Pastor	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Steven Geske Executive Director	September 30, 2013	Northern Illinois District Walcamp, Kingston, Illinois (RSO)
The Rev. Russ Gipson Sole Pastor	August 1, 2012	Southern District Holy Cross, Mobile, Alabama
The Rev. Timothy Green Sole Pastor	October 1, 2013	Eastern District Holy Cross, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Dr. Jorge Groh Executive Director	August 1, 2012	Missouri District Lutheran Urban Mission Agency, Kansas City, Missouri
The Rev. Fredrick Hearn Sole Pastor	February 23, 2014	Ohio District Concordia, Toledo, Ohio
The Rev. Joel Holls Intentional Interim	November 1, 2014	Michigan District St. Paul, New Boston, Michigan
The Rev. James Holt Associate Pastor	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Martin Homan Intentional Interim	June 10, 2014	Indiana District Praise, Ft. Wayne, IN
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram Missionary	December 1, 2014	Minnesota South District LCMS Office of International Missions
The Rev. Russel Johnson Sole Pastor	October 1, 2013	Florida-Georgia District Redeemer, Vero Beach, Florida
The Rev. James Kirkman, Jr Associate Pastor	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
The Rev. Lon Landsmann	June 16, 2011	Nebraska District Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Jason Lane Professor of Theology	August 1, 2013	South Wisconsin District Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin
The Rev. Martin Lundi (Emeritus)	May 21, 2012	Northwest District Redeemer, Salem, Oregon
The Rev. Harry Matelski	November 10, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Emeritus
The Rev. George Mather	May 19, 2014	New England District Emeritus
The Rev. James Mavis Sole Pastor	January 16, 2015	Montana District St. Mark's, Butte, and Zion, Whitehall, Montana
The Rev. James May	March 18, 2014	Ohio District Non-Candidate
The Rev. Jeffrey Mueller SMP	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin Candidate
The Rev. Dr. Merlin Rehm	February 1, 2015	Atlantic District Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Scott Rische PLI-International Director	July 31, 2014	Texas District Austin, Texas
The Rev. Ian S. Pacey Associate Pastor	January 1, 2014	Texas District Memorial, Houston, Texas
The Rev. Russell Peterson Sole Pastor	July 1, 2013	Michigan District Trinity, Sturgis, Michigan
Rev. Paul Pollex	February 15, 2013	Lutheran Church Canada - East District Emeritus
The Rev. Chadwick Potts Sole Pastor	December 15, 2014	Rocky Mountain District Christ, Breckenridge, Colorado
The Rev. David Schmidt Associate Pastor	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Gale Schmidt	April 8, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Emeritus
The Rev. Eric Schoech Senior Administrative Pastor	June 4, 2014	Indiana District Faith Memorial, Valparaiso, Indiana
The Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Senior Administrative Pastor	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz Senior Administrative Pastor	July 31, 2014	Minnesota South District Trinity, Rochester, Minnesota
The Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri	July 21, 2014	Florida-Georgia District Emeritus

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
The Rev. Todd Seaver Associate Pastor	July 12, 2013	Michigan District Holy Ghost, Monroe, Michigan
The Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger Sole Pastor	November 1, 2014	Lutheran Church Canada - East District First, Kingsville, Ontario
The Rev. Aaron Unseth Associate Pastor	May 31, 2014	Minnesota South District Alley, Cottage Grove, Minnesota and WHEREhouse, St. Paul, Minnesota
The Rev. Dr. Vernon Wendt Sole Pastor	June 1, 2012	Northern Illinois District Messiah, Chicago, Illinois

RESIGNED/REMOVED - ORDAINED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
The Rev. Dr. Joshua D. Genig	December 4, 2013	Resigned
The Rev. Julian F. Maire, III	May 14, 2013	Resigned
The Rev. Mark A. Matthews	October 11, 2012	Resigned
The Rev. Joshua P. Reynolds	February 16, 2015	Resigned
The Rev. Richard A. Thrift	February 26, 2013	Resigned
The Rev. Charles E. Werth	March 31, 2015	Resigned

INSTALLATIONS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
Michaëlle Angerman	August 17, 2014	The Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, California
Matthew Beisel	September 2, 2014	The Rev. David Poedel Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
David Bickel Missionary/Teacher	April 13, 2010	No formal installation Board for Mission Services, Seoul, Korea
Nathaniel Brewer DCE	July 29, 2012	The Rev. Daniel Pezzica Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, California
Marissa Engelhard	August 26, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann Redeemer, Oakmont, Pennsylvania
Tiffany Hartfield	August 25, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Seth Hoepfner Certified Lay Minister	June 10, 2012	The Rev. David Thiele Faith, Watertown, Wisconsin
Shannon Hoepfner Certified Lay Minister	September 8, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Neil Rand Faith, Watertown, Wisconsin
Amanda Iwabuchi	August 25, 2013	The Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, California
Lori Kelling	August 24, 2014	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Dawn Koenig	June 26, 2013	No formal installation St. John's Preschool & Day Care, Hannibal, Missouri
Chad Kogutkiewicz Teacher/Dir. of Youth Ministry	August 25, 2013	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Charessa Koontz DCE	June 16, 2013	The Rev. Kevin Elseroad Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, Georgia
Emily Lenz	May 19, 2013	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Emily Marlar	August 1, 2012	The Rev. Michael Taylor West Park, Cleveland, Ohio
Andrew Nelson Director of Youth & Family Life	August 5, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Mark Hoehner Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, Missouri
Susan Predoehl	September 7, 2014	The Rev. James Elsner Prince of Peace, Stroh, Indiana
Allison Richter	February 25, 2013	The Rev. R. Wayne Morton North Valley Christian Academy (RSO), Anthem, Arizona
Adrienne Scott	May 19, 2013	The Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Jonathan Swett Director of Parish Music	September 7, 2014	The Rev. Christopher Thoma Our Savior, Hartland, Michigan
Debbie Tasler	August 26, 2012	The Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Christ, Phoenix, Arizona

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
Tamara Worthington	August 25, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Kathryn Young	August 26, 2012	The Rev. Christopher Thoma Our Savior, Hartland, Michigan
Patricia Zanta	September 1, 2011	No formal installation Faith, Tucson, Arizona
Suzanne Zobel Faculty Staff	May 9, 2013	The Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry Concordia University - Ann Arbor, Michigan

COMMISSIONINGS/INITIAL MEMBERSHIPS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>BY</u>
Candidate Angela Achong	August 27, 2012	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. James Thelen Ascension, Tucson, Arizona
Candidate Christine Bickel Missionary/Teacher	July 8, 2010	Commissioned/(No formal Installation) Seoul Foreign School, Seoul, Korea
Candidate Susan Ellingsen	May 19, 2013	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Candidate Emily Fry	August 26, 2012	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. Dr. Jeffery Schrank Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Candidate Emily Goins	August 15, 2013	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. Todd Arnold West Portal, San Francisco, California
Candidate Daniel Huth DCE	November 11, 2013	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. Christopher Thoma Our Savior, Hartland, Michigan
Candidate Jonathan Lobmeyer DCE	January 20, 2013	Commissioned by the Rev. Donald Treglown Faith, Naples, Florida
	March 3, 2013	Installed by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President Faith, Naples, Florida
Candidate Nancy Mason	May 19, 2013	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. Keith Speaks Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Candidate Elizabeth Riske	March 3, 2013	Commissioned/Installed by the Rev. James Kirkman, Jr. Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Candidate Caleb Taylor	September 4, 2012	Commissioned/Installed by the Dr. Rev. Arnold Frank Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona

CHANGE OF STATUS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
Susan Arends	November 20, 2008	Candidate to Non-Candidate
Steven Armbrust, DCE	January 1, 2014	Active to Candidate
Gary Beyer	June 15, 2014	Active to Emeritus
Jane Blaile	June 1, 2011	Active to Candidate
Kathryn Brech	September 24, 2010	Active to Non-Candidate
Susan Burke	January 1, 2008	Active to Non-Candidate
Susan Burke	January 3, 2013	Non-Candidate to Candidate
Carl Eisman	July 9, 2014	Candidate to Emeritus
Marissa Engelhard	November 27, 2013	Active to Candidate
Joann Grepke, Deaconess	May 1, 2011	Active to Emeritus
Kathleen Gridley, DCE	July 6, 2013	Active to Non-Candidate
James Harbke, DCE	June 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
Judith Hughes	June 1, 2011	Active to Emeritus
Erica Johnson	May 1, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
Erin Kiesow	July 1, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
Eileen Lindemood	May 25, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
Jonathan Lobmeyer, DCE	November 17, 2013	Active to Candidate
Janine Mallardi, DCE	July 1, 2011	Active to Non-Candidate
Randal Masbruch, Lay Minister	July 3, 2013	Active to Candidate
Aaron Mau	May 1, 2011	Active to Non-Candidate
George Moore	May 30, 2014	Active to Emeritus
Laurie Nelson	July 7, 2014	Active to Non-Candidate
Cheryl Sanders	February 1, 2013	Active to Emeritus
Amy Schultz, Dir. Family Life	May 20, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
Amanda Shears	June 1, 2011	Active to Non-Candidate
Kelly Sipan	June 24, 2012	Active to Non-Candidate
Sherri Steigerwalt	February 12, 2012	Active to Candidate
Mary Beth Terhaar	June 27, 2014	Active to Emeritus
Jessica Vanderhyde	July 1, 2011	Active to Non-Candidate
Sarah Walquist	May 31, 2012	Active to Candidate
Catherine Wurster, Deaconess	April 1, 2015	Active to Emeritus
Kathryn Young	August 1, 2012	Candidate to Active
Patricia Zanta	June 17, 2013	Active to Candidate

TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER DISTRICTS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
Michaëlle Angerman	August 1, 2014	From: California-Nevada-Hawaii District To: West Portal, San Francisco, California
Harold Bacon	November 17, 2014	From: Ohio District To: Emeritus
Matthew Beisel	January 28, 2014	From: Northern Illinois District To: Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Anna Boriack	January 1, 2013	From: Texas District To: Non-Candidate
Nathaniel Brewer DCE	May 31, 2012	From: Southeastern District To: Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, California
Cheryl Ferry	July 18, 2013	From: Michigan District To: Non-Candidate
Jimmy Fritz-Halsted DCO	February 1, 2013	From: Nebraska District To: Emeritus
Susan Grams	November 4, 2013	From: North Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Tiffany Hartfield DCE	June 1, 2013	From: Kansas District To: Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Shannon Hoepfner Certified Lay Minister	January 10, 2013	From South Wisconsin District To: Faith, Watertown, Wisconsin
Amanda Iwabuchi	July 31, 2013	From: Texas District To: West Portal, San Francisco, California
Robert Kaun, Jr.	August 2, 2013	From: South Wisconsin District To: Non-Candidate
Lori Kelling	June 15, 2014	From: South Wisconsin District To: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Dawn Koenig	April 19, 2013	From: Nebraska District To: Candidate
Chad Kogutkiewicz	August 15, 2013	From: South Wisconsin District To: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Kevin Kolander	January 6, 2015	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Charessa Koontz DCE	May 16, 2013	From: Southeastern District To: Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, Georgia
Emily Lenz	January 13, 2013	From: South Wisconsin District To: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Annette Miller	May 2, 2014	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Jennifer Miller Deaconess	September 30, 2013	From: Iowa East District To: Non-Candidate

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
Andrew Nelson DCE	July 6, 2012	From: Northern Illinois District To: Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, Missouri
Mary Podeszwa	March 17, 2015	From: Northern Illinois District Redeemer, Oakmont, Pennsylvania
Karla Rendahl DCE	January 31, 2013	From: Pacific Southwest District To: Non Candidate
Randy Schallhorn	August 1, 2013	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Valjean Schallhorn	August 1, 2013	From: South Wisconsin District To: Candidate
Belva Schindler	March 3, 2014	From: Rocky Mountain District To: Emeritus
Judy Thompson	December 12, 2013	From: Michigan District To: Emeritus

TRANSFERS OUT - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
Angela Achong	July 1, 2013	Kansas District Zion, Independence, Kansas
Gary Beyer	August 27, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Emeritus
Matthew Beisel	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Mary Bishop	September 1, 2012	Michigan District Emeritus
Autumn Bynum	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin District Sherman Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Katrina Celmer	July 1, 2014	Michigan District St. John, Fraser, Michigan
Mark Doebele	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Jon Doyle	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Kimberly Duran	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin District Sherman Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Cheryl Ehlers	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Marissa Engelhard	March 25, 2014	Michigan District Candidate
Jennifer Erhman	November 15, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Emily Fry	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Susan Grams	August 15, 2014	Michigan District St. John, Fraser, Michigan
Mary Gehring	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Gary Greder	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Ronald Harman	July 3, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Emeritus
Tiffany Hartfield	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Scott Hedtke DCE	March 1, 2015	Indiana District Bethesda Luth. Comm. (RSO), Watertown, Wisconsin
Allen Herbst	July 1, 2014	Indiana District Emeritus

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
Bill Hodgson	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Andrew Hulke	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Theron Jenkins Jr.	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Jessica Jenkins	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Erin Kiesow	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin District Non-Candidate
Rebecca Klima	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin District Sherman Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Robert Koehne	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Dawn Koenig	July 3, 2014	Missouri District Immanuel, Rolla, Missouri
Chad Kogutkiewicz	June 30, 2012	South Wisconsin District Martin Luther High School, Greendale, Wisconsin
Dr. Jay Krause	June 30, 2012	Northern Illinois District Cross of Christ Academy, St. Charles, Illinois
Kristine Krause	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Sue Krieger	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Katie Kuball DCE	August 22, 2013	Minnesota South District St. Paul, Lester Prairie, MN
Joan Laubenstein	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Alicia Levitt	May 30, 2014	Indiana District Emmanuel/St. Michael, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Brett Lindemood DCE	August 1, 2012	Northwest District Friendship Celebration, Meridian, Idaho
Eileen Lindemood	September 1, 2012	Northwest District Non-Candidate
Jonathan Lobmeyer DCE	November 17, 2013	Nebraska District Candidate
Sarah Longmire Deaconess	August 1, 2013	Michigan District Trinity, Traverse City, Michigan
Matthew Machemer Kantor	July 30, 2014	Indiana District Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
Janine Mallardi DCE	August 1, 2012	Kansas District Non-Candidate
Aaron Mau	October 17, 2013	Southeastern District Non-Candidate
Bonnie Merritt	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Robert Merritt	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Annette Miller	July 7, 2014	North Wisconsin District Peace, Antigo, Wisconsin
Charles Novak, Jr.	August 1, 2011	Northern Illinois District Candidate
Allison Richter	June 20, 2013	Central Illinois District Bethel, Morton, Illinois
Kate Phillips	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Donna Plum	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Brenda Pruhs	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Elizabeth Riske	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Richard Scholz	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Amanda Shears	December 1, 2012	Florida-Georgia District Non-Candidate
Tracy Skoog	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Charles Tasler	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Deborah Tasler	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Caleb Taylor	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Sarah Walquist	May 1, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Candidate
Jennifer Weber	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona
Robert Wolf	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona
Tamara Worthington	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District Christ, Phoenix, Arizona

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TO</u>
Jessica Vanderhyde	September 1, 2012	Rocky Mountain District Non-Candidate
Kathryn Young	November 24, 2014	Michigan District Candidate

RESIGNED/REMOVED - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
Scott Bell	August 25, 2014	Resigned
Beverly Bischoff	July 23, 2014	Resigned
Tim Ewell	December 1, 2013	Resigned
Diane George	May 19, 2014	Resigned
Anna Hopp	July 1, 2014	Resigned
Doris Loppnow	February 13, 2013	Resigned
Erin Ostrowski	June 20, 2013	Resigned
Amy Nelson	February 12, 2013	Resigned

APPOINTMENTS

NAME

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind
Richard Hesselroth
Chaessa Koontz
The Rev. Dr. James Murray
The Rev. Daniel Pezzica
Mary Mazurk Rinda
The Rev. Robert Rogers
The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler
The Rev. Bradford Scott
The Rev. Luke Zimmerman
Richard Zimmermann

DATE

December 19, 2013
December 19, 2013
December 19, 2013
August 10, 2013
August 10, 2013
January 15, 2013
August 1, 2014
January 30, 2014
November 5, 2014
November 14, 2013
January 15, 2013

Constitution Committee
English District Board of Directors
English District Board of Directors
Nevada/Utah Circuit Visitor, Circuit #21
Los Angeles Circuit Visitor, Circuit #22
English District Board of Directors
4th Vice President, Board of Directors
Arizona-South Circuit Visitor, Circuit #20
Detroit-South Circuit Visitor, Circuit #11
Philadelphia Circuit Visitor, Circuit #2
English District Reconciler

NEW CIRCUIT & REALIGNMENT

(Added-New Circuit)

Nevada/Utah - Circuit #21
San Diego - Circuit #22
Los Angeles - Circuit #23
San Francisco - Circuit #24

August 12, 2013

CONGREGATIONS ACCEPTED INTO MEMBERSHIP OF LCMS

Abiding Faith, Florence, Kentucky	February 22, 2015	Chartered
Christ Our Redeemer, Rockwood, Michigan	June 23, 2013	Chartered
Crossroads, Mira Mesa, California	December 8, 2013	Chartered
Hope Community, Syracuse, New York	November 30, 2014	Chartered
Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin	March 24, 2013	Chartered
New Jersey Korean Cho Won, Palisades Park, New Jersey	May 5, 2013	Chartered
Philadelphia True Light (Korean), Blue Bell, Pennsylvania	May 20, 2012	Chartered
Resurrection, Shawano, Wisconsin	June 9, 2013	Chartered
Trinity, North Las Vegas, Nevada	March 17, 2013	Chartered

TRANSFERS IN

Advent, Zionsville, Indiana	May 15, 2013	Indiana District
Prince of Peace, Mesquite, Nevada	March 21, 2013	*AALC

MISSION STARTS

Manantial de Vida Eterna, El Cajon, California	February 1, 2009
Sanctus Lutheran Communities, Woodstock, Georgia	May 4, 2014

FORMATION OF MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL PARISH

Gloria Dei, Butler/Grace, Warminster, Pennsylvania	August 9, 2014
Merged to form: Grace, Warminster, Pennsylvania	

CHURCH CLOSINGS OR REMOVALS

Ebenezer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	January 30, 2012
Jefferson Park, Chicago, Illinois	November 18, 2012
Peace, Racine, Wisconsin	December 1, 2008
St. Luke, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	August 11, 2013

MISSION START CLOSINGS

Sanctus Lutheran Communities, Woodstock, Georgia	March 31, 2015
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NEW SCHOOLS

Living Hope Academy, Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin	August 1, 2013
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SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Bayside Lutheran School, Flushing, New York	June 28, 2013
Markham Lutheran School/Kindergarten, Markham, Illinois	October 8, 2008
Open Arms Christian Child Development Ctr., Akron, Ohio	August 1, 2012
Praise Lutheran Kindergarten, Ft. Wayne, Indiana	June 1, 2006
St. Mark Lutheran Nursery School, Mississauga, Ontario	June 28, 2013

TRANSFERS OUT - CHURCHES/SCHOOLS

Christ Lutheran School and PS, Phoenix, Arizona	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District
Christ, Phoenix, Arizona	January 16, 2014	Pacific Southwest District
Little Praisers' PS/Childcare Ministries, Ft. Wayne, Indiana	May 19, 2014	Indiana District
Praise Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana	May 19, 2014	Indiana District
Sherman Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	August 14, 2012	South Wisconsin District
Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, Arizona	January 15, 2015	Pacific Southwest District

* American Association of Lutheran Churches

CALLED TO GLORY

ORDAINED

The Rev. Wilferd A. Hansel	January 27, 2013
The Rev. Dr. Ihno A. Janssen	October 22, 2013
The Rev. Marvin P. Janz	May 6, 2014
The Rev. John E. Jaster	January 15, 2014
The Rev. Milford C. Murray	July 21, 2014
The Rev. Ervin B. Rasmussen	February 12, 2014

COMMISSIONED

Thomas M. Eggerding	May 11, 2012
Kenneth Greve	February 22, 2012
Pamela M. Keiser	April 22, 2015
Albert F. Mueller	December 12, 2012
Lyle W. Saeger	March 28, 2013
Judy C. Thompson	March 17, 2015
Janet C. Tindall	May 1, 2013
Laureen A. Wudy	December 17, 2013

ENGLISH DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES by Region and Circuit

EASTERN REGION

New York Circuit #1

Ewing, NJ: Bethany - Gerlach
Flushing, NY: Immanuel - Johann
Palisades Park, NJ: Grace - **Bauernfeind**
Palisades Park, NJ: Cho Won - Rey
Pennsauken, NJ: Martin Luther Chapel - Vacant
Princeton, NJ: Messiah (CM) - Erhardt
Scarsdale, NY: Trinity - Rieger
St. Albans, NY: Redeemer - Hicks SMP
Syracuse, NY: Hope - Deacon Nyema*
Valley Stream, NY: Our Saviour - Roth*

Philadelphia Circuit #2

Blue Bell, PA: Gloria Dei - Young
Blue Bell, PA: True Light - Cho
Chesapeake, VA: Faith - Morales
Greater Harrisburg, PA: Gloria Dei Ev. - Vacancy, Nemoyer
Lititz, PA: Mt. Calvary - Koontz
Mechanicsburg, PA: Calvary - **Zimmerman**
Springfield, PA: St. John's - Kieselowsky
Philadelphia, PA: Shepherd/City (MS) - Kieselowsky
Warminster, PA: Grace - Young

Florida Circuit #3

Jacksonville, FL: Celebration - Webb
Naples, FL: Faith - **Treglown**
Ocala, FL: Trinity - Mader
Palm Coast, FL: Shepherd/Coast - Douthwaite

Georgia Circuit #4

Alpharetta, GA: Christ/Shepherd - Elseroad
Atlanta, GA: Ascension - Miller

Buffalo Circuit #5

Amherst, NY: Calvary - Schmidt
Buffalo, NY: Nazareth - Hendricks
Erie, PA: Trinity - Vacancy, Kuchta
Kenmore, NY: Pilgrim - Eder
North Tonawanda, NY: Redeemer - **Beutel**

Pittsburgh Circuit #6

Butler, PA: Faith - Westgate
McMurray, PA: Peace - Hardy
Oakmont, PA: Redeemer - **Naumann** / Naumann
Slippery Rock, PA: All Saints (CM) - Scheer

LAKE ERIE REGION

Canada East Circuit #7

Aurora, ON: Christ - Vacancy, Mathers / Kunsman SMP
Golden Lake (Germanicus), ON: St. John's - Vacant
Mississauga, ON: St. Mark - Miskus
North York, ON: St. Luke - Mathers / Kunsman SMP
Pembroke, ON: St. John's - **Alles** / Klein
Scarborough, ON: St. Matthew - Pillay

LAKE ERIE REGION-cont.

Canada West Circuit #8

Chatham, ON: Our Saviour - Murray
Kitchener, ON: Hope - Hursh / Chuol
Mitchell, ON: Grace - Luck
Sarnia, ON: Redeemer - Ellis
Windsor, ON: Gethsemane - **Voelker** / Simon
Windsor, ON: Peace - Lutz

Cleveland-Akron Circuit #9

Akron, OH: Concordia - **Tauscher**
Akron, OH: Fairlawn - Gau
Akron, OH: Good Shepherd - Tauscher
Akron, OH: Grace - Mills
Cleveland Heights, OH: Mt. Olive - Beffrey
Northfield, OH: Epiphany - Just
Streetsboro, OH: St. Thomas - Just

Cleveland-West Circuit #10

Cleveland, OH: Holy Cross - **Taylor**
Cleveland, OH: Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (HC) - Deacon Torres*
Elyria, OH: Grace - Weldon
Medina, OH: Prince/Peace - Haberkost
North Olmsted, OH: Ascension - Appel
Oberlin, OH: Grace - Moldenhauer

Detroit-South Circuit #11

Allen Park, MI: Angelica - Sachs
Detroit, MI: Zion - Braden / Schultz
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI: Christ/King - Boelter
Plymouth, MI: Risen Christ - Kaufmann SMP
Rockwood, MI: Christ Our Redeemer - Deacon Raitz*
Sylvania, OH: King/Glory - (Schmidlin*)
Toledo, OH: Good Shepherd - **Scott**
Toledo, OH: Holy Cross (CM) - Burfeind

Detroit-North Circuit #12

Beverly Hills, MI: Ascension/Christ - Grams
Redford, MI: Grace - **Halboth** / Halboth
Rochester Hills, MI: Epic - Kade
Saint Clair Shores, MI: St. Paul's - Rutter
Sandusky, MI: Holy Redeemer - Schinbeckler
West Bloomfield, MI: Shepherd King - Holzerland
West Branch, MI: New Beginnings - Olse

Western Michigan Circuit #13

Dorr, MI: Epiphany - Krenz
East Lansing, MI: Martin Luther Chapel (CM) - Dwyer / Dressel
Grand Rapids, MI: Hope - Gruenwald
Hartland, MI: Our Savior - Thoma
Howell, MI: Immanuel - **Forss**
Lakeview, MI: Holy Trinity - Voelker
Lansing, MI: Christ - Yohannes / Baggot
Wyoming, MI: Grace - Diener

LAKE ERIE REGION (cont.)

Indiana Circuit #14

Fort Wayne, IN: Bethany - Trouten / Varsogea
Fort Wayne, IN: Redeemer - Petersen / Frese
Fort Wayne, IN: St. Michael - Lessing
Fort Wayne, IN: Jacob's Well - Adams
Fremont, IN: Peace - Berkesch
Hudson, IN: Prince/Peace - **Elsner**
LaPorte, IN: Trinity - Loftis
Zionsville, IN: Advent - Fiene
Florence, KY: Abiding Faith - Brockhoff, EM

MIDWEST REGION

Chicago-North Circuit #15

Arlington Heights, IL: Faith - Sanders / Urlaub
Chicago, IL: Bethany - Vacant
Chicago, IL: Bethesda - **Bacon** / Katari
Chicago, IL: Christ English - Wright
Chicago, IL: Grace English - Pittelko
Chicago (Norwood Park), IL: Our Savior - Carlson
Elk Grove Village, IL: Holy Spirit - Manwell
Elmhurst, IL: Redeemer - Stiegemeier
Villa Park, IL: Trinity - Rogers
Elmhurst, IL: Racetrack Ministry - Krueckeberg (MAL)

Chicago-South Circuit #16

Berwyn, IL: Concordia - Huenink
Chicago, IL: Chatham Fields - Gee / Kinslow SMP
Chicago, IL: Ephphatha - Marsh
Chicago, IL: Faith - Vacancy, Anderson
Chicago, IL: Good Shepherd - Deacon Howes*
Chicago, IL: New Hope - Anderson
Chicago, IL: St. John/Divine - Vacancy, Brunner, EM*
Elmhurst, IL: Messiah - Maxon
Markham, IL: Markham - Schneekloth
New Lenox, IL: Trinity - **Hoag**

Milwaukee Circuit #17

Forest Lake, MN: Messiah - Musolf
Hales Corners, WI: Hales Corners - Speaks / Johnson / Wood
Rasmussen / Robb / Jameson SMP / Kogutkiewicz SMP
Hastings, MN: Hope - Bernau
Janesville, WI: St. Mark - Speerbrecker
Lake Mills, WI: Christ - Vacancy, Wenk
Menomonee Falls, WI: Prince/Peace - Engler
Mount Pleasant, WI: Living Hope - Myers
New Berlin, WI: Peace - **Rankin**
Shawano, WI: Resurrection - Raddatz
Sheboygan, WI: St. Mark - Matz
Watertown, WI: Faith - Hoepfner SMP
West Allis, WI: Greenfield Park - Reaman

St. Louis Circuit #18

Hannibal, MO: St. John's - **Stoerger**
Lee's Summit, MO: Beautiful Savior - Gruen
Lincoln, NE: Redeemer - Ebert / Brown
O'Fallon, MO: Peace - Roegner
St. Louis, MO: Chapel/Cross - Laesch / Koschmann
St. Peters, MO: Chapel/Cross - Hoehner / Hoehner / Uglum / Prince
Vine Grove, KY: Grace - Tannahill

WESTERN REGION

Arizona-North Circuit #19

Overgaard, AZ: Faith - Wirtz
Parker, AZ: Messiah - Deacon Yoder*
Payson, AZ: Shepherd/Pines - **DeSanto**
Phoenix, AZ: Family/Christ - Butler
Pinetop, AZ: Shepherd/Mountains - Morton

Arizona-South Circuit #20

Benson, AZ: Peace/Valley - James SMP / Vacancy, Christiansen, EM
Cortaro, AZ: Messiah - Esala
Green Valley, AZ: Risen Savior - Stieve
Rio Rico, AZ: Christus Rex - **Schindler**
Sahuarita, AZ: Gracepoint - Patton
Tucson, AZ: Ascension - Thelen / York SMP
Tucson, AZ: Catalina - Morehouse
Tucson, AZ: Faith - Vacant
Tucson, AZ: Holy Trinity - Vacancy, Upton*/McClure
Tucson, AZ: Mt. Olive - Ciampa
Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona (CM)

Nevada/Utah Circuit #21

Mesquite, NV: Prince of Peace - Lauterbach
North Las Vegas, NV: Trinity - Oehlerts
St. George, UT: Our Savior's - Drehman
Circuit Visitor - **Murray**, EM

San Diego Circuit #22

Borrego Springs, CA: Borrego - Deacon Matthews*
El Cajon, CA: Christ/King - Kimari
El Cajon, CA: First - Vacancy, Wyneken* / Ferrero
El Cajon, CA: Manantial de Vida Eterna (MS) - Ferrero
Guatay, CA: Inter-Mountain - Deacon Kulowitch*
Lakeside, CA: Morning Star - Vacancy, Laughridge / Deacon Kuwazaki
Mira Mesa, CA: Crossroads - Laughridge
San Diego, CA: Living Water - **Duescher**

Los Angeles Circuit #23

Los Angeles, CA: Highland Park - Vacancy, Brady*
Mission Hills, CA: Chapel/Cross - Naumann
Palm Desert, CA: Peace - Pratt
Sherman Oaks, CA: Sherman Oaks - **Pezzica**

San Francisco Circuit #24

Danville, CA: Messiah - **Ledic**
Fremont, CA: Hope - Berg / Li
San Francisco, CA: New Life (CM) - Fox
San Francisco, CA: West Portal (CM) - Arnold

TOTALS:	161	Congregations
	2	Mission Starts (MS)
	1	Human Care Ministries (HC)
	7	Campus Ministries (CM)

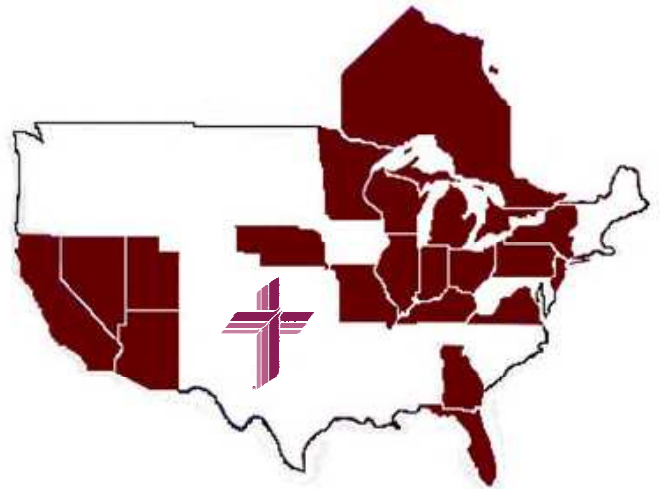
* indicates a Pastor rostered in another district
or a Licensed Deacon (Word and Sacrament License)

REPORT OF THE BISHOP AND PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz

IGNITING CHRIST'S CHURCH IN MISSION

Acts 1:8 – "...You will be My witnesses in
Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth."



INTRODUCTION

May the Lord, our God, the God of all grace and mercy, be with you. Our theme for this 55th Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is ***"Igniting Christ's Church in Mission."*** This has been our slogan or motto as a District for the past nine years. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God, we, as children of the Living God, are *"igniting Christ's Church in mission."* That is, we as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and members of His Body, the Church, are His witnesses in faith, word, and action in our homes, on our block, and in our neighborhood, communities, regions, nations, and to the world.

Jesus spoke those words of Acts 1:8 (above) to His assembled disciples moments before His rising into heaven from the Mount of Olives just outside the city of Jerusalem. Prior to that moment of His Ascension, the Apostles wondered if Jesus was about to inaugurate His Kingdom, assuming an earthly reign. Our Lord reminded them that their focus needed to be on the mission of making disciples. He had accomplished human salvation. Now the final Kingdom would and indeed will come when the Heavenly Father says so. Jesus will be returning, and so we who love the Lord are to be ready for His Parousia, His Second Coming. **But the work** of Christ's Church and your local congregation (and school or ministry) **of outreach and** the activity of each of us as individual believers of **witnessing is always to continue.** The English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as a small but important niche in His Kingdom of Grace, has been and is to be a collaborative partner, catalyst, and leader, and in the vanguard of igniting Christ's Church in His mission of making disciples by baptizing and teaching (Mt. 28:18-20).

The Greek New Testament word (***martyria***) in Acts 1:8 for "witnesses" is ***martyros*** (μάρτυρος). The word "martyr" is derived from it. A Christian martyr is one who is willing to lay down his or her life while speaking up for Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. A boldness of faith and commitment is implied. We each pray, *"Lord, may Your Holy Spirit give me the words and deeds that accompany my faith in Christ so that others are touched by Your life-giving Word."* The Christian faith is one of resolute action, no matter whether you are male or female, an introvert or extrovert, pastor, commissioned worker or laity, young, old, or in-between, whether highly-educated or not, poor, wealthy, or average. As humble ambassadors for Christ, we spread His Word, sharing the message of new life in Jesus Christ with others.

THANK YOU

My sincere thanks to YOU, dearly beloved of the English District, for giving me the opportunity to serve you in so many ways over the past 37 years in the Holy Ministry in the English District-LCMS, which includes the past 27 years consecutively on the Board of Directors (9 years as your Bishop and President). I am grateful to God and you for according me the opportunity to have served as Western Regional Vice President (1994-1997), District Secretary (2000-2006), Board of Directors Member-at-large, appointed Circuit Visitor for both San Francisco Bay and Pittsburgh Circuits, and as Convention Organist (1980-2006). Few people in life have been given this many opportunities, as I have. **Many, many thanks.**

There are a number of people who deserve a special thank you from me. They include:

- My wife of 39 years, **Janet**, a Lutheran school teacher, dedicated to the Lord's service and willing to spend most of the last nine years with her husband gone from the home
- Our children, dear **Andrew** (36), our Lutheran school teacher daughters, **Mary (& Joe) Bliss** and grandchildren **Mia & Logan**, and **Sarah (& AJ) Phillips**, ever the encouragers of Dad/Grandpa
- My mother- & brother-in-law, **Lois & Norman Kaminske**, often putting me up in Chicago, and aunts **Pauline White** (†), **Edith**, **Almeda**, & **Sylvia Stechholz**, and brother **Jon Stechholz** and sister **Claudia Chiaro** and their families, giving financial support to the District & Synod
- The **English District Executive and Support Staff**, current and previous (including over the years **Sally Naglich** – stuck with me all nine years!, **Rev. Dave Thiele** (LCEF VP), **Tim Ewell**, **Dale Lewis**, **Teresa Fairrow**, **Dan Miller**, **Principal Gail Holzer**, **DCE Lavern Kruse**, **Evelyn Jentzen**, **Peggy Oke**, **Mary Ann Holvenstot**, **Janine Henning**, **Susan Hausch**, **Kate Storey**, and **Lynne Cobb**), as well as the late **Betty Mueller** (English Channels Editor Emerita)
- The Board of Directors and Praesidium (Vice Presidents and District Secretary), over the last nine years including **the Rev. Dr. John Stieve, Chair; the Rev. Dr. David Dressel**, previous Chair; **Paul Lagemann, Vice Chair; Mrs. Judith Anderson**, previous Vice Chair; **VPs Rev. Wayne Morton, Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Rev. Derek Mathers, Rev. Rob Rogers**; and previous VPs **Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis, Rev. Dr. Larry Vogel, Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz**, the late **Rev. Dr. Martin Bangert**; **District Secretary Rev. Dr. Bob Fitzpatrick**; **District Treasurer/Business Administrator Sally Naglich**; **Rev. Ben Eder**; **Principal Albert Amling**; **DCE Charessa Koontz**; **Mrs. Jane Duffy**; **Mr. Rich Hesselroth**; **Mr. Stu Kahle**; **Mr. Terry Leu**; **Mrs. Mary Rinda**; **Mr. Ernie Seaman**; and previous members **Mr. George Alles**, **Mr. Armin Bruer**, **Dr. Linda Domanski**, **Ms. Sue Elsholz**, **Mrs. Talitha Farah**, **Rev. Dr. Arnold Frank**, **Ms. Kathy Holden**, **Principal Gail Holzer**, **Mr. Bill Magill**, **Mr. Kurt Munding**, **Deaconess Cheryl Naumann**, **Mrs. Kathy Slupik**, **Ms. Sharri Speaker**, **Mr. Paul Stanis**, and **Mr. Dick Zimmermann**
- The **Ministerial Health Commission** over the last nine years, including **Chair Rev. Dr. Ron & Talitha Farah**, **Rev. Paul Koester**, **Dr. Jennifer Gramzow**, **Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko**, **Mrs. Georgeanne Foard**, **Rev. Alan Steinke**, the late **Rev. Dr. Martin Bangert**, and **Mrs. Joan Mayer**
- **Constitution and Membership Committee** over the last nine years, including **Rev. Dr. Thomas Kraus** (40 years of service!), the late **Rev. Dr. Phil Kraft**, **Rev. Luke Zimmerman**, **Rev. Dale Kaster**, **Rev. Peter Bauernfeind**, and

- **The College of Circuit Visitors** (24 District Pastor/Visitors, and Praesidium, named elsewhere)
- **Those who serve or have served on special Boards, Committees, Teams, Task Forces, District Reconcilers, and others**, highlighting especially the chairs of the following:
 - **Canada Corporation (Rev. Stuart Kahle, Chair**, Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis, Rev. Derek Mathers, Rev. Jeff Miskus, Mr. Peter McPhail, Mrs. Sally Naglich, Bishop Stechholz, Mr. Armin Bruer, Mr. Bert Risto, Ms. Susan Buske, and Mr. George Alles);
 - **Worship (Rev. Wayne Berkesch, Chair**, Rev. David Rutter, Rev. Tom Zucconi, and Rev. Dr. Christian Just)
 - **Stewardship (Rev. Michael Stoerger, Chair**, Mr. Ralph Trendle, Rev. Ted Radke, Mrs. Carol George, Rev. Kerry Buttke, Mr. Troy Lindsey, Mr. Gary Timm, Mr. Al Achepohl, and Rev. Dr. Paul Dancy);
 - **Mission Council (Rev. Wayne Morton, Chair**, Rev. Justin Laughridge, Rev. Dr. Bob Roegner, Rev. Eric Carlson, Rev. Nate Schwartz, Mr. Bill McGill, Mr. Jerry Lancour, Rev. John Diener, Rev. Jeff Webb, Rev. Fred Reaman, Rev. Keith Speaks, and Rev. Tom Zucconi);
 - **Evangelization Team (Revs. John Diener & Fred Reaman, Co-Chairs**, DCE Heidi Koehler, Rev. Daniel Grams, Rev. Eric Carlson, Rev. Adam Koontz, Deacon Tom Kuwazaki, DCE Lavern Kruse, ex-officio, Rev. Mark Woods, LCMS ONM Director of Witness & Outreach, advisor);
 - **District Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Mr. Troy Lindsey, Chair**, Mrs. Sally Naglich, Rev. Fred Gerlach, Rev. Ray Kirk, Mrs. Rosalie Streng, Mr. Tom Schlitt, Mr. Ernie Seaman, and Mr. Tom Ketner, ex-officio);
 - **Campus Ministry (Rev. Dr. David Dressel, Chair**, Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt, Secretary, Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer, Rev. Todd Arnold and several West Portal Vicars, Rev. Peter Burfeind, Rev. Michael Morehouse, Vicar Christopher Craig, Rev. Curt Dwyer, Rev. Brad Scott, Mr. Brian Lenharth, Rev. Robert Voelker, Rev. Ian Pacey);
 - **District Life Ministry (Lifeline Ministry Coordinator Rev. Michael Brown**, Deaconess Jeri Morrison, Secretary, Rev. John Diener, Rev. Jeff Webb, DCE Suzanne Zobel, and Mrs. Lori Trinche, LCMS ONM & NID Life Ministry liaison);
 - **District Human Care/Mercy Ministry Team (Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Chair** (and District Disaster Relief Coordinator), Mrs. Sue Neff (District Parish Nurse Coordinator), Rev. Norm Timmermann, Rev. Thomas Sanders and Rev. Dr. Gary Danielsen);
 - **District Archivist (Rev. Dr. Vic Halboth);**
 - **District Reconcilers (Rev. Ted Predoehl, Mr. Dick Zimmermann, Rev. Dr. Richard Drews, Rev. Mark Viets, and the late Rev. Dr. Ihno Janssen);**
 - **Lutheran Malaria Initiative Team (DCE Rod Lane, Chair**, Deaconess Jeri Morrison, Teacher Vicki Helmling, Teacher Heather Schneider, Rev. Tim Holzerland, Rev. Ben Eder, and Ms. Dionne Lovestad-Jones, LCMS LMI Coordinator);

- **District 100th Anniversary Committee** (Principal Emerita Eva Fronk, Mrs. Pat Gilde, Rev. Tim Halboth, Mr. Ernie Seaman, Mr. Neil Sanders, Mr. John Krueger, Rev. Dr. Bob Scudieri, and Bishop Stechholz, ex-officio); and,
- **Reformation 500th Anniversary District Committee** (Rev. Tom Engler, Rev. Mark Ebert, Ms. Gayle Godek, and Rev. Nick & Mrs. Patricia Wirtz).

A gentle reminder: **Please regularly pray to the Everlasting Lord for your next Bishop and President** in your Church, School, and/or ministry, and in your personal prayers. He needs your prayers, support, and encouragement. Remember that he serves primarily as your Bishop (ecclesiastical overseer) and, to a lesser degree, as your President (CEO and administrative leader). Both roles are important, though one bears greater weight. Interestingly, most of my fellow DPs (Bishops) see themselves as Pastors who lead in ecclesiastical oversight, worker care, and congregational visitation.

There are many other unsung people whom I could mention such as West Portal Lutheran School Master Teacher Les Morris, who graciously has given an Advent/Christmas wreath to the District for several years; my son Andrew's Pastor, Rev. Mark Braden; Janet's & my Pastor, Rev. Todd Arnold; our School Principals and Accreditation Teams; a former Michigan District Pastor (Emeritus) John Meyer and dear, long-time friend Rev. Dr. Vic Halboth. I also have stood on the shoulders of those before me in this office, noting our living Bishop Emeriti Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko and Rev. Dr. David Ritt. Especially in my first years of service, they provided a lot of counsel, wisdom, guidance, and encouragement. Rev. Dr. Larry Vogel has always been a very close friend, encourager, and behind-the-scenes blessing to me. My late parents, Rev. Erwin & Myra Stechholz, were always an inspiration to me of love for the Lord and steadfastness in faith. And then there are a countless number of pastors, principals, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and laypeople who have given me help, understanding, and kindness. I've probably left out many others of you, but you know who you are, and you have **my deepest depth of gratitude**. To all, **MY SINCERE THANKS!** I could not have done this job without you. God bless you.

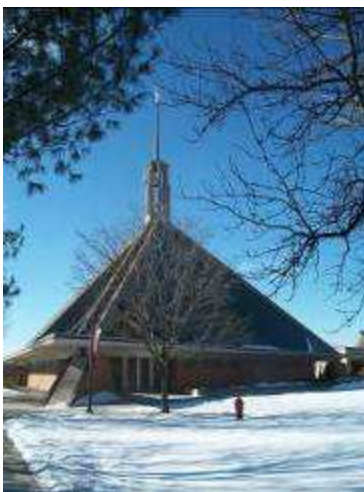
Soli Deo Gloria: BIGGEST JOYS IN THE ENGLISH DISTRICT

By the grace of Almighty God and to His glory alone, there have been some huge “joys” over the past nine years. Some would call these things accomplishments, but some are just the nature of our unique, trans-continental, multi-language & dialect District. Let me highlight a baker’s dozen (13) of these:

- ❖ **DRLM Partnership** – The English District is a managing partner of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM). We provide prayer and financial support, leadership, encouragement, and visitation to our DRLM Team missionaries. This gives the District as a whole an identity of international partnership in mission within the context of our Church body. This also gives congregations, individuals, and groups the option of providing financial support, “boots on the ground” service through mission servant trips, and linkage with missionaries, including their invited visits to your church or school. The DRLM is headed up by **the Rev. Ted Krey**, an English District Pastor serving as Lead Missionary in the Dominican Republic and LCMS Regional Director for all Latin America and the Caribbean.



- ❖ **Saving Concordia-Ann Arbor** – Though not the only one who came to the rescue of a Synod jewel that was very close to being closed, the English District provided \$250,000 and the first actual financial gift among the four districts (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and English), along with numerous other partners, CUW, leaders in Synod, individuals and donors to keep this institution open and reverse decades of decline. We are glad to



report that Concordia University-Ann Arbor, now one university with Concordia University-Mequon, WI, under one President (Rev. Dr. Pat Ferry) and one Board of Regents but with a Board of Overseers now called the Michigan Committee of Overseers, and with two residential campuses and several satellite locations, has enrollments that have gone from 511 four years ago to 740 last year and 830 this year. The parking lots and sidewalks were replaced or enhanced, providing curb appeal. Morale was immeasurably improved. The Faculty received a salary increase for the first time in

years. The Science building underwent a \$3,000,000 upgrade; a football team and football field were added; the famous, previously run-down old barn was beautifully restored; the campus worship program was vastly improved with major attendance increases in daily chapel; new courses, programs, and professors were added; and plans are in place for major new programmatic additions. You have to feel good about saving CUAA and being a significant player in our CUS (Concordia University System). Thank you!

❖ **Visitation** – The English District is a district of visitation at all levels. I have personally visited every congregation and school of our district, preaching at most of them and usually meeting with Pastor and Church Council/Governing Board and Elders (see LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4(a), pg. 191). Many visits have been in times of Ordinations and Installations, spending quality time with new pastors serving a congregation. We encourage our Circuit Visitors and our Regional Vice Presidents to visit the congregations and pastors, providing encouragement, counsel, guidance, and in some cases mentoring or training. I encourage our Pastors, DCEs, Teachers, and other Church workers to visit their congregational members and students in their homes, places of work, and in other proper venues in building relationships of faith and trust.

❖ **Worker Care** – Pastors and other professional church workers are not without personal weaknesses, deficiencies, addictions, and behavior that is not “*above reproach.*” We are blessed with an excellent **Ministerial Health Commission (MHC)** that meets quarterly with me, either face-to-face or by web conference, providing skilled mental and emotional health guidance as I, our Vice Presidents, and Circuit Visitors, Senior Pastors, and Principals minister to workers in need. They also work privately and confidentially with pastors, teachers, deaconesses, DCEs and others. The MHC is a huge joy and blessing in the English District.

❖ **Dedicated Staff** – The District is not about Detroit, where we are headquartered. However, in the Detroit suburb of Farmington we have a nice, adequate office building. It serves us well in all four seasons and in close proximity to Canada. I have been tremendously blessed by a dedicated Staff, some deployed, who work well together to



serve our congregations, schools, ministries, pastors and church workers. What a joy to see these people who have been such an important part of my life and yours! My regret was having to reduce the number of Staff personnel while having to live within our means. The **faithful offerings and financial contributions of your congregation enable us to have a Staff that can**

serve the needs of our churches, schools, and workers. In years to come, encourage and thank these dear people!

❖ **Robust Congregational Ministries** – 80-85% of Christian congregations in North America have plateaued, declined, or are in serious decline. This is also true in our Synod and District. However, we are blessed with so much life and energy in many of our congregations. Viability is not solely an issue of finances; **many congregations**

have financial difficulties but are still vital and vigorous. That vibrancy that I see is due to the power of God's Word, good pastoral and lay leadership, unity of mission & ministry, and an outward emphasis on the mission field of the world and the immediate locale of congregations. Congregations that fight Satan's evil ways of causing divisions in Christ's family, and that see themselves as "mission outposts" and members as "missionaries" to bring the Gospel to the lost and erring and to bring blood-bought souls to Christ's Church have a blend of courage, hope, and zeal (even in older membership congregations). I come away from most "visits" to congregations and schools with hope.

- ❖ **Strong School Ministries** – We have some amazing school ministries in the English District. I wish you could see them in action. Some are large schools; most are small. In February I visited a church with a very small preschool, but the children who sang in church that snowy Sunday morning brought joy to the members, encouragement from members to the school families, and a deep sense of mission. Our schools are Christ-centered. Jesus Christ is at the heart of quality educations, and **kudos to our teachers, school staffs, principals, and school boards.**
- ❖ **Fall Regionals** – I will really miss the annual tour of a three-day visit with pastors and some DCEs and Deaconesses at our four Fall Regional Pastoral Conferences. As a parish pastor for 28½ years, I never missed all or at least part of a Regional (even with a death). Now we have many active pastors who are bi-vocational. Yet **attendances at the Regionals have improved** over the last couple years, and most attendees have come away spiritually-refreshed, encouraged, challenged intellectually in a healthy way, and having enjoyed good Christian camaraderie and giving of themselves, as well as worship together. The English District provides these Regionals, as well as a Spring Professional Church Workers Conference, as required by our Synod Bylaws, for the professional care and improvement of our pastors and other workers.
- ❖ **Vibrant Campus Ministries** – There are now seven campus ministries in the English District and a few possible ones that may come into being. Not only do we have a strong Concordia University System of colleges and universities, we also have many more campus ministries at colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. What a blessing to see the vitality in these campus ministries, whether large or small, whether just a regular Bible study or a town-gown ministry or a comprehensive multi-faceted campus ministry or an international student ministry. Thank you for blessing, praying for, and uplifting these ministries.
- ❖ **English District LWML** – Compared to other districts we are very small. That is because many of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) units in our congregations are affiliated with geographic district LWMLs. And that's fine. Amazingly, LWML is growing younger. Young women want to be part of an organization that is more like an organism, living and serving. Our English District LWML meets in Convention every other year, and our District's LWML Zones have life and energy. They are motivated, willing to engage in service projects, and raise MITE funds for District, Synod, and local projects that help missionaries, uphold the sanctity of life and help women in crisis pregnancy situations, and provide encouragement for women of all ages, united together in fellowship and service.
- ❖ **Lifeline** – The English District is a leader in our Synod for upholding the sanctity of human life from conception to eternity. Twenty-six English District people were at the

2015 March for Life (January 22nd) in Washington, D.C., the largest of any district of Synod. Other English District people were at the large 2015 West Coast March for Life in San Francisco. Our "26" attended the LCMS Life Conference, where over a third of the almost 400 people were under 25, part of the "New Pro-Life Generation." Led by our District's Lifeline Ministry Team, I expect great things in the years to come from this joy-filled group of people eager to help our District and Synod and our congregations in speaking up and acting and defending on behalf of life issues and human needs.

❖ **New Congregations** – What a blessing a new congregation is to a given locale, a region, and a District. We have been blessed by God with several new congregations. We warmly welcome them!

❖ **Faith in the Triune God and Theological Strength** – The 13th of the "biggest joys" I've saved for last, because it really has the preeminence. Jesus Christ is the heart of our faith, worship, theology, and mission. The Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one Divine essence is worshiped and adored. We fear, love, and trust in God above all things. The heart of our biblical theology is Christ crucified and risen. The LCMS holds unswervingly to the theology of the Cross, living in the light of Christ's Resurrection, having achieved salvation at the altar of the Cross of Calvary for us and all humanity. I constantly hear of people who have observed that the theology of which we are truly blessed holds the key to a grounded faith in Jesus Christ and a witness to Him that is clear, bold, and passionate. It is our joy and sacred duty to cling to the Cross, lift high the Cross, and march forward under the Cross as congregations, schools, ministries, and individual believers, gathered by the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, bringing the joy of the saving Gospel to the ears, eyes, and hearts of all who would seek God's love in Christ.



DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THE PAST – CHALLENGES AHEAD

I would not be honest with you if I did not admit that there have been some serious disappointments in the last nine years. We will not dwell in detail on these, including being hampered by the economic collapse of 2008 and the morale and moral collapse in North America in the post 9/11 era. Among those sorrowful disappointments were the Canadian lawsuit and the loss of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Toronto; the leaving of our District of Christ Church-Lutheran, Phoenix, and other congregations that have transferred out; embezzlements and financial malfeasances in some of our churches; pastors intentionally skipping conferences or leaving early; entitlement attitudes among some church workers; some lazy pastors; a falling off of mission planting in our District; and declining financial support of our District and Synod by some congregations.

Humorously, I lament **the death of EDNA** (the old English District News and Announcement daily news sheets at District Conventions). Technology and new forms of internet and social media communication sealed her fate. But newsletters, blogs, communication briefs, and even congregations and schools, pastors and teachers and other workers come and go. Only the Word of God endures forever. So my "grief" © over EDNA is only momentary. More serious are issues of weakness in doctrine, faith, practice, and liturgical appreciation; lack of loyalty to District and Synod; name-calling; and a lack of charity in our Synod "life together." Also very serious is decreased financial support by many congregations resulting in staff reductions and

reduced ability to do mission expansion, and the encroachment of the world (the culture and her fleshly desires and sins, consumerism, secularization) into the life of Christ's Church.

So, while Christianity is growing in the Global South (Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean) and Global East (China, southeast Asia), here are **eight challenges and realities facing us in North American Christianity and affecting our LCMS Lutheran congregations in 2015:**

- ✓ **The rapid secularization of society** (consumerism, materialism, "re-definition" of life, marriage, family, & the home, sports excesses, de-personalization, entitlement, narcissism, dishonesty, etc.)
- ✓ **The rapid rise of Islam and Hinduism** in the Western world and especially Canada and the U.S., including Muslim demands in some areas for Islamic Sharia law
- ✓ **The declining birthrate** among Caucasians and African-Americans, and the loss of a generation of Lutherans of child-bearing age from the Church resulting in overly-aging congregations
- ✓ **The growing North American immigrant population** and with it huge outreach opportunities
- ✓ **Changes in employment**, a trend of increasing job loss and lack of employment opportunities in an "information society," and a de-personalization in employment
- ✓ **In communication, the shift from a "Gutenberg world" of printed information to a digital "Google world"** (the unprecedented seismic shift to a world of internet communication),
- ✓ **Apathy, lethargy, or "spiritual numbness"** (a tendency to give up or a reluctance to step out in faith and action in our congregations), and
- ✓ **Moral, morale, and other weaknesses in the Church** (scandals of various kinds, weakness in doctrine and faith, in-fighting and back-biting, bullying, congregational dissension fueled by the Old Evil Foe, power and control issues leading to financial decline and an inward focus, lack of sustainability, and a self-preservation mindset).

However, in some of these challenges are significant opportunities. We remain hopeful because Jesus Christ is the Lord of His Church, and the ultimate victory has been secured in His crucifixion, death, and Resurrection. Moreover, as He promised prior to His Ascension into heaven, He will return. A biblical Theology of the Cross, to which we Lutherans hold, offers hope and joy in Christ. He is the Cornerstone of His Church, the Living Stone, and we are living stones connected to Him and to each other. We, the Bride and the Body of Christ, are *"more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Romans 8:37).

LIVING STONES IN THE ENGLISH DISTRICT

161 Congregations

42 School Ministries

2 New Mission Starts

4 Regions and 24 Circuits

8 Human Care and Campus Ministries

29 Languages & Dialects of Worship and/or Bible Study

District-wide opportunity: DRLM (Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission)

You and I are living stones, under the Cross of Christ, in this Family of God known as the English District-LCMS. We stand under God's grace and guidance. The English District is re-inventing itself and is re-asserting itself as a mission-planting district in ethnic ministries and is now in 19 states and the province of Ontario, having added new congregations in Nevada and other states. We extend from Long Island to San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, from southwest Florida to the Upper Ottawa River valley in Ontario, opposite Quebec in Canada. In the last triennium, we added two new Korean ministries, a Nuer-speaking Sudanese ministry, a Liberian ministry, and are on the cusp of adding an Oromo-speaking Ethiopian ministry in Washington, D.C. and a new congregation in Florida. These are in addition to two Chinese ministries, another Korean ministry (three in all), and several Oromiffa, Amharic, Tigrinyan, Nuer, and other ethnic language ministries. **The English District is being sought out by immigrant peoples of varying languages & dialects** coming to North America, a growing mission field.

As living stones built up together into Christ Jesus, **our congregations are more and more emphasizing discipleship.** They are teaching and equipping members in stewardship, boldness in faith and witness, and human care and mercy ministry in our communities. In the Dominican Republic, we through our DRLM seek to establish a "mercy house" with each new Word and Sacrament ministry that is planted. We are taking up that same banner in Canada and the U.S. I see this humble service, alongside of faithful and Christ-centered worship, as the strength of the English District and LCMS in years to come. **YOUR ROLE** – as an individual Christian, as a congregation, and/or as an under-shepherd of Jesus Christ or teacher in His Kingdom of Grace – **IN THIS MISSION IS VITAL.** Please take this message to your congregations and don't let the nay-sayers discourage you. **You are a man or woman on a mission.**

The early Church of the first three centuries A.D. faced far bigger challenges, including overt persecution and martyrdom for faith in Christ. Yet Peter, himself later martyred on a cross in Rome by Nero in A.D. 64, wrote: "As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies (praises – NIV) of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"** (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9, ESV). Dr. Luther and the Reformation recovered the biblical teaching of the priesthood of all believers. Each of us as followers of the Lamb of God is a witness, a "missionary." This is our joy and our duty.

As living stones, united in Christ as a non-geographic district and microcosm of the LCMS, we are constantly changing in how we look, though not in what we believe, teach, and confess. We

have had changes in 2012-2015 with our churches and missions in the adding and subtracting of congregations.

From July 1st, 2012 to March 1st, 2015, we welcomed these new congregations:

Trinity, North Las Vegas, NV	2013	
Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant, WI	2013	(satellite of HCLC, re-birthed)
Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV	2013	
New Jersey Cho Won Korean, Palisades Park, NJ	2013	
Resurrection, Shawano, WI	2013	
Christ Our Redeemer, Rockwood, MI	2013	
Advent, Zionsville, IN	2013	(transferred from Indiana District)
Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA	2013	
Hope Community Liberian, Syracuse, NY	2014	
Abiding Faith, Florence, KY	2015	

In this Triennium, we added a new visitation Circuit:

Nevada-Utah Circuit	2013	
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In 2012-2015, we also saw the closure or release of the following:

St. Luke's, Philadelphia, PA	2013	(disbanded)
Christ Church-Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ	2014	(transferred to Pacific SW Dist.)
Praise, Fort Wayne, IN	2014	(transferred to Indiana District)

And, School Transfer without being attached to a specific Church:

Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, AZ	2014	(transferred to Pacific SW Dist.)
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The following "mission starts" disbanded:

Transform (Downtown) San Diego, San Diego, CA	2013	
Sanctus Lutheran Ministries, Hickory Flats, GA	2015	

On the other hand, our congregations or circuits and congregations in conjunction with the District or other entities have begun or are continuing mission work at the following:

Manantial De Vida Eterna (Spring of Eternal Life), El Cajon, CA
Shepherd of the City, Philadelphia, PA (PLM - Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries new start)

Add to this our campus ministries (east to west), an important arm of the Church to reach collegians:

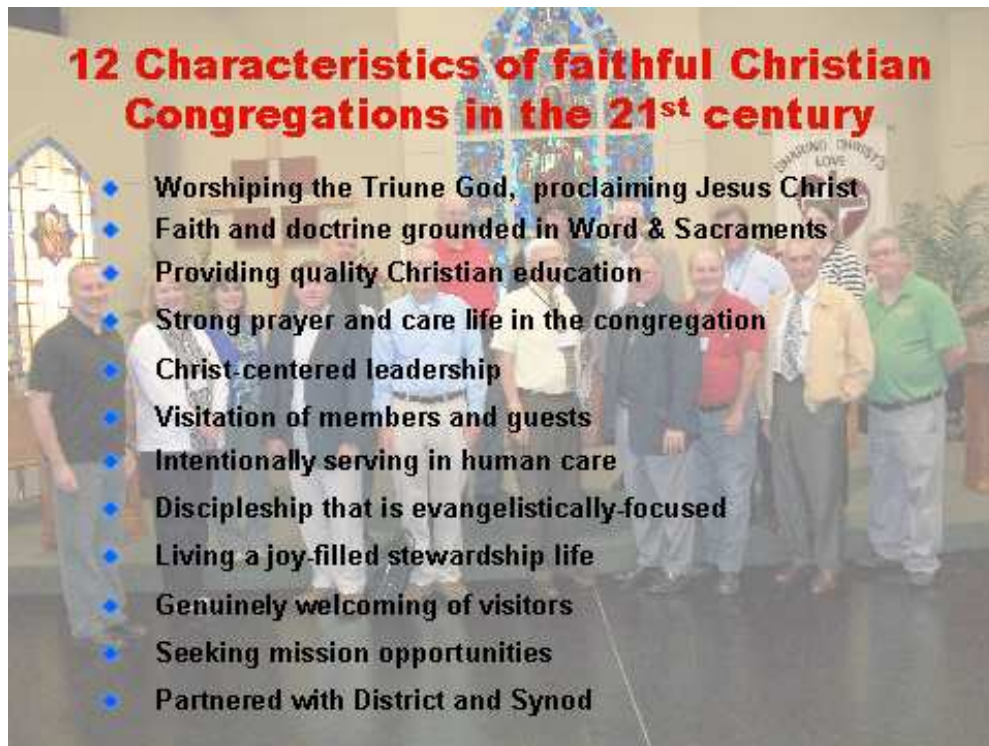
Princeton University, Princeton Seminary, & other schools through Messiah, Princeton, NJ;
University of Pennsylvania & other Philadelphia schools through St. John's, Springfield, PA
Slippery Rock University (ISM - International Student Ministry) at All Saints Ev. Luth. Church and Campus Ministry, Slippery Rock, PA;
University of Toledo – birthed by Holy Cross and Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH
Michigan State University at Martin Luther Chapel and Student Ministry, East Lansing, MI;
University of Arizona – E.D.-LCMS Campus Ministry & ALCMS (AZ Lutheran Campus Ministry Society) – Tucson, Arizona; and,
San Francisco LCMA Campus Ministry at San Francisco State University and San Francisco City College – birthed by West Portal and New Life Chinese, San Francisco, CA.

JESU JUVA – PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Jesu Juva is Latin for “Jesus help.” Johann Sebastian Bach often put that on his musical compositions.

I began this past nine years of ministry as your Bishop and President under that title. It is really a short, simple, prayer to the Lord. It is still the prayer of God's people for His Body, the Church. Because Christ Jesus is the Head and the Lord of His Church, we call on Him to prosper His Church for the sake of the world, even if that means suffering under and for the Cross of Christ. The prospects of His Church world-wide are good because the Holy Spirit, working through God's holy Word and Sacraments, directs us to Christ crucified and risen, and calls forth witness, outreach, nurture, and growth for the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit enables us to truly love God, love (and forgive) one another, and work together.

Again, I put forth these 12 characteristics (next page). In the picture, your out-going Board of Directors is faintly shown in the background. (This was a picture of the BOD in August, 2014, at the Worship for Shut-ins studio.) It is not a 12-step (theology of glory) program. Rather it simply is meant to remind us that these 12 characteristics of faithful Lutheran congregations are not an abstraction, for real people with hugely different abilities, personalities, and attitudes make up our churches and yet, together, are the Body of Christ. And as the Body of Christ, we depend on one another.



Use these characteristics in your congregation to honestly self-evaluate. We believe they will be beneficial, even as we pray, *Jesu Juva*.

In the four 2014 Fall Regional Pastoral Conferences, we focused on this theme from Psalm 55:22: **“Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you.”** We considered that the Church must remain Rock-solid:

- On her biblical faith and doctrine
- On her love for, faith in, and hope in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- On her Christ-centered worship
- On her nature as both catholic (universal, Christian) and evangelical
- On her creedal confession of Jesus Christ before the world
- On her witness and outreach to the world
- On her upholding God-ordained mercy and justice
- On her biblical stance on issues of life's sanctity and marriage's sanctity.

The late missiologist Leslie Newbigin said it well:

"The Church can never settle down to being a voluntary society, concerned merely with private and domestic affairs. It is bound to challenge in the name of the one Lord all the powers, ideologies, myths and assumptions and world views which do not acknowledge Him as Lord."

I am applying what was shared to our pastors at the Fall Regional Conferences and adapting for this Report. By the power and guidance of God,

- Pastors, be faithful in your ministry and Call (I Peter 5:2-4);
- Pastors, **fulfill your ministry**; uphold the Theology of the Cross (II Timothy 4:1-5);
- Pastors, equip and guide the laity as disciples and witnesses (Ephesians 4:11-12);
- Congregations, as individual believers be faithful witnesses to Christ in your everyday vocations, in your families, and to those on your block and in your neighborhood and community organizations, and as a Church together engage in outreach to those in your communities. Evangelization and biblical Stewardship are a part of Discipleship, to which all Christians are called by our Lord and motivated by the Gospel;
- Small congregations, you struggle with viability, but yet you can be small and vital. However, it might be wise to seek partnering or combining with nearby willing sister or suburban congregations as partners or as a dual parish with a united vision and plan;
- Congregational leaders, use & apply free demographic and congregational services of LCEF;
- Pastors, Congregational leaders, and/or School faculties, **increase your Visitation ministry** in homes. Build solid relationships of trust by engaging the people in your ministry sphere;
- Intentionally engage immigrant ethnicities; and
- Speak out in the public on "life" issues, and witness boldly for Christ.

Beloved, you are attending the 55th Convention of the English District-LCMS. Thank you for your presence. Over 500 congregations have belonged to the English District over its 104 years of existence, since 1911 when the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri was allowed to come into the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States as a separate, non-geographic district. Over the decades, hundreds of these congregations were ceded to various geographic districts in which there is no longer an English District presence such as Montana and Texas. Thirty-two of the English District congregations in the U.S. Southeast became the core of our daughter district, the Southeastern District, in 1939. Still others left the LCMS during the turbulent years of the 1970's. In the meantime, the English District, usually through local initiative, has birthed many congregations. You are part of that legacy of growth and missional spirit.

Not only does our District consist of congregations and schools, it is also “home” to 286 ordained pastors on our roster, 103 of whom are emeritus. We also have approximately 16 temporarily licensed Word & Sacrament ministry deacons, 355 rostered teachers, deaconesses, DCEs, DCOs, & other commissioned Church workers, 348 non-commissioned Church workers and/or preschool teachers. These Church workers, along with our congregations and schools are found in the **four regions of the English District: Western** (California, Arizona, Nevada, & Utah); **Midwest** (Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, & Wisconsin); **Lake Erie** (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, & Ontario, Canada); and **Eastern** (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, & Florida). We also have English District pastors, correctly approved, serving as missionaries abroad, specialized ministry chaplains, or independent Lutheran congregations.

This District's future also lies in renewed urban and inner city ministry and in ethnic ministries. Our cities in North America are teeming with population and new immigrants. Since the last District Convention in 2012, many of our Chicagoland churches have banded together to form a **Chicago Mission Council**. The CMC is moving forward with one mission project at a time, currently with Bethesda and Bethany coming together as a dual parish and with new pastoral leadership. Other urban areas in the District might want to follow Chicago's lead in forming a coalition for mission and ministry planting.

In going forward under God's grace, let's again review our beloved Synod's mission statement, adopted in Synodical Convention in 1994 and on page 11 of the Handbook of Synod:

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is *vigorously* (my emphasis added) to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and world (*Forward of 2013 Handbook of the LCMS*, pg. 11).

District Visitation - At the 2013 Convention of Synod, resolutions were approved calling for a return to the historic term Circuit Visitor (previously Counselor) and to renewed visitation at all levels. The English District was a leader in encouraging this. As a result of the approved resolutions, the Office of the President of Synod undertook a visitation of each of the 35 Districts, with two three-day visits being made by the LCMS President or LCMS First Vice President and with the Regional LCMS Vice President as well per that district. In May, 2015, the English District is scheduled to be visited by First Vice President Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller and Third Vice President Rev. Dr. Daniel Preus. As of the date of this writing, that visit has not yet occurred. God-willing, we shall be able to report this at our Convention. Drs. Mueller and Preus will meet with my wife & me, with the Staff, with the Board of Directors, and with the Circuit Visitors and Praesidium.

District Convention – Our focus for this Convention, as noted previously, is on Mission, specifically ***Igniting Christ's Church in Mission***. I am pleased that **the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will again be at our Convention. Both he and the Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, previous President of the LCMS, have made herculean efforts to attend as many of the 35 District Conventions across the continent as possible. (As with any President of Synod, respecting a time-honored LCMS tradition, we stand out of respect when the President first addresses us.) I am also pleased that **the Rev. Ted Krey**, Lead Missionary in the DR and Regional Director for Latin America & the Caribbean, **will be our Convention essayist/presenter** on *“Theology of Mission and the DRLM”* and that **the Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer**, Executive Director of the CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) **will be the facilitator for our Theological Convocation** on *“The Mission of*

Christ's Church in an Age of Moral Collapse." We will also be blessed with **the Rev. Dr. Curtis Heath**, Co-Director of the LCMS Stewardship Department in the Office of National Mission, who will speak on *"Placing Stewardship within Our Theology and Our Congregations."*

A GARDEN OF THE LORD: CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Beloved, I like to think of the English District as a "garden of the Lord" (Isaiah 51:3). It's not Eden or Paradise. At times, Christ's Church suffers. But this little niche in Christendom called the English District-LCMS is a place, a people, a fellowship of the Lord's presence and Word. It is also a home for ministries of mercy and justice. I began nine years ago as your Bishop, asking for **mercy** in all facets – human care ministry, and mercy toward one another, including asking for and extending forgiveness. However, it is time for me to say **"good-bye,"** which is actually an alternative of **"God be with you."**

You are a district with collective hearts that love the Lord Jesus Christ and are committed to His mission of making disciples in reaching the lost by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God (Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, John 8:31-32, Romans 10:17, et. al.) I commend you. I also exhort you to be more bold and intentional as a District, as Circuits, and as "missionaries." Don't rest on your 100-plus year laurels. Even lovely gardens can turn full of weeds. Don't wait for others to take up the mantle of mission work and mercy ministry. God has called us to faithfulness and fruitfulness in His vast Garden, His Kingdom. Please don't make your Bishop, your pastors, your missionaries, and your teachers beg. Step up to the plate. *"Fight the good fight of faith."* Contribute. Share the love of God in Christ now, not later, in your homes, churches, schools, ministries, neighborhoods, cities, and regions.

Adios, Sayonara, Zie jhen, Adieu, and Auf wiedersehen! (the last, German for "Until we see again.") **"The baton of leadership must always be passed."** God's grace and peace be with you, in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you once again for the opportunity to have served the Lord God, you, and this beloved English District-LCMS!

Soli Deo Gloria -- Bishop David Stechholz



SCHOOL MINISTRY REPORT
GAIL J. HOLZER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT: SCHOOL MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

Greetings, in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year of service as the Executive Assistant to the President for School Ministry in the English District. I joined an outstanding team of servants whose sole goal is to serve the Lord and grow the Kingdom through their work in the English District. While the creation of two part-time positions to replace one full-time position has been a learning curve, I believe it has been a blessing to the District. With the division of the duties of English District Parish Services, communication, partnerships and cooperation is the key to success. In addition to working with Lavern Kruse, Mary Ann Holvenstot, and the District staff, I have the great pleasure of working with several partners including the Lutheran Education Association (LEA), Mentoring Technology Ministry (MTM) through Concordia University Wisconsin, and LCMS School Ministry. The relationships I have developed over the years have provided the District with the type of connections needed to stay current and connected. By God's grace and the work of so many, we are ensuring schools and congregations are empowered to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and families. There is a team of outstanding school leaders across the English District who bring enthusiasm and excitement to those they serve and represent their Lord in the most remarkable ministries.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

School ministry support consists of helping elementary schools, preschools, child-care centers, and our high schools with staffing, call list preparation, curriculum, instructional management, resources, accreditation, spiritual growth, and on-site visits. Consultants provide contacts for National Lutheran School Accreditation and Early Childhood Accreditation. English District school ministry also administers the Financial Aid for Future Church Workers program.

HIGHLIGHTS / OTHER INFORMATION

1. **42 EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES** as of January 2015 – Our educational ministry consists of 18 freestanding preschools, 8 freestanding preschools with daycares, 3 preschools with kindergartens, 2 PreK – 6th grade elementary schools, 7 PreK – 8th grade elementary schools, 3 K – 8th grade elementary schools, and one PreK – 12th grade school. Four of our schools operate on more than one campus, and two are partner schools with other districts. Several schools also offer before/after school care and summer programs. Two of our schools have exemplary status from National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA), and two are among the largest in the synod. Education remains one of our district's distinctive ministries and most successful means to bring the Gospel to the lost, serving over 3900 children and their families. Research has shown that children who attend Christian schools have a significantly greater success rate at life in general and are less likely to lose their faith, which affects life in eternity.
2. **SCHOOL VISITS** – School and worker visitation continues to be a major emphasis of the work of the educational executive - NLSA, consultations, presentations, conferences and workshops. Much of this ministry is serving as coach, consultant, mentor, and

superintendent and is best done through face-to-face visitations, although in some cases, it can be done by phone, email, or conference call.

3. COMMUNICATION – Technology has certainly been a gift to the English District ministry. Technology allows me to be a deployed servant, saving time and money for the District. Our synod is also making use of part-time deployed workers to be good stewards of the resources they are given. The English District staff meets monthly via the phone and internet. Our NLSA commission shares reports using Google Docs, and we are making an intentional effort to have a social media presence, and yet nothing replaces face-to-face contact and dialog to 'do' ministry. Instead, technology saves time and resources when appropriate to do so and in a non-geographic district allows us to be effective and efficient. Mary Ann Holvenstot continues to be the presence in the office with immediate access to records and documents, assisting leaders with timely reminders for important submissions, and keeping important files and directories up to date.

In my role as school ministries executive, I will be creating an online resource for school leaders to share expertise, ideas, materials, and documents. We will work to train each administrative leader to be a proficient user of Google Apps for Education, a free tool for schools. This will increase our connection with each other and assist in supporting school ministries across the English District.

4. PARISH SERVICES RESOURCE LIBRARY – The Parish Services Resource Library remains, with over 130 videos/DVDs for use by our churches and schools. A bibliography of this resource can be downloaded by accessing the Adult Education page of the District web site (www.englishdistrict.org). A goal for the next year is to determine the need of our school administrators for professional development resources and training. This service remains a most difficult one for schools to finance. The District can help with the purchase of materials and resources, making them available for our schools to share.
5. LUMEN CHRISTI AWARD – The Lumen Christi Award is presented annually to publicly recognize one professional staff educator and one congregational volunteer educator. Nomination forms are sent out each December to all English District pastors, principals, directors and directors of Christian education. The Lumen Christi Award Committee reviews all nominations and each spring announces the two recipients. The School Ministry and Congregational Services Executives present the award to the recipients in front of their congregation at a worship service. A major change this past year was the development of a rubric to aid in determining the best candidate for the award and assigning a committee with representation outside of the district office.

The 2014 Lumen Christi Award Recipient for the *English District Educator of the Year: Professional Staff* was Mrs. Diane Olmstead, Redeemer Lutheran School, Pittsburgh, PA and *District Educator of the Year: Volunteer Staff* was Amy Staubus, Concordia Lutheran School, Berwyn, IL.

A list of previous recipients of the Lumen Christi Award is available on the School Ministries page of the English District web site.

Other awards include the recognition of commissioned ministers who have served 25 and 40 years in the teaching ministry and the Lifetime Service Award.

6. FINANCIAL AID FOR FUTURE CHURCH WORKERS – It is our strong desire to create a fund to better serve our English District church workers with financial aid and loan reduction. A process is being developed and will be ready to use within the next year.
7. CONFERENCES – During the past three years, School Ministry has offered the following conferences for our professional workers:
 - 2015 – Administrators Conference with LEA – Orlando, FL
 - 2014 – Administrators Conference with LEA – St. Louis, MO
 - 2013 – Administrators Conference – Hales Corners, WI
8. NLSA – Our office continues to actively promote NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) among our District schools. Lutheran schools continue to compete with public, charter, and private schools. To be an effective 'player' in the field of education we must provide excellence in education and become the school of choice in our neighborhoods. NLSA is the most effective way for our schools to evaluate success, progress, and weakness, and to set goals and objectives for the future. Chrissy Peterson, Hales Corners Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has taken on the task of Commissioner for the English District NLSA Commission. She will represent the English District at the national level and become our expert in the field. The NLSA has rewritten the standards, and it aligns with several secular accreditation bodies, giving our schools a valued 'stamp of approval.' We must continue to assist schools and early childhood centers in taking the steps needed to demonstrate the positive, unmatched impact of a Christ-centered education.
11. CALL LIST PREPARATION/CONSULTATIONS – The English District support team devotes a significant amount of time assisting schools in the calling process of commissioned ministers of religion. The Lutheran School Portal and the LEIF are major tools involved in this process guided by the Holy Spirit. While this process has worked in the past, it has become cumbersome. The LCMS School Ministry department will be revamping the LEIF system and plans to roll out a new process with new procedures in the next 18 months. We are looking forward to a more streamlined method to connect church workers to the ministries who need them.
12. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – It is estimated that synod will lose 40% of its school administrators in the next five years. The English District has a younger group of administrators, but must continually seek prospective leaders to serve our schools. Each year we strive to find teachers who have the skills and characteristics of a good educational leader and recommend them to synod for consideration in the SLED (School Leadership Development) Program. We submitted two candidates in 2014 and both were accepted. As the Lord wills, we will continue to grow, develop, and train new leaders for the next generation of Lutheran school ministry.

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES REPORT
LAVERN KRUSE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT: CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

On January 1, 2014 I had the honor to begin serving as the English District Congregational Services Executive. Please note that this position is a part-time/interim position and is slated to end on August 31, 2015. As a result of Tim Ewell taking a different position, the Parish Services position was divided into two part-time positions. The major responsibilities of this position include:

- Providing supervision and worker care of DCE's, DCOs, Deaconesses, DFLMs, Youth Directors, and Lay Ministers.
- Visiting and communicating with the congregation's ministry and program needs.
- Working with the congregation's ministry and assisting in determining program needs.
- Encouraging and helping develop action plans based on demographic studies.
- Facilitating evangelization, stewardship, leadership, outreach training and guidance.
- Working with the School Ministry Executive on call processes for congregations.
- Attending the Professional Church Workers Conference and other conferences as requested.

During my brief tenure I have:

- Made contact with all of the commissioned ministers listed above by email, phone, and in some cases in person.
- Offered specialized tracts at the May Professional Church Workers conference.
- Attended all of the four regional conferences and:
 - Encouraged each group to consider offering topics at their conferences that would be more applicable to our commissioned ministers as well.
 - Presented ideas on how congregations can "Mobilize the Laity" in a greater way.
 - Presented the mission of the Evangelization Team which is:
 - To help pastors and congregational members catch the vision that every Christian is SENT to be a witness in their daily sphere of influence.
 - To encourage pastors to help their people catch and live the vision.
 - To provide resources that can be used within the congregation to equip everyone to be a witness wherever they are.
- Offered my services to present workshops and seminars in the areas of:
 - "Initiating, Launching and Maintaining a Vibrant Small Group Ministry."
 - "Mobilizing the Laity."
 - A parenting seminar entitled, "Cooperation, Consequences, and Keeping Your Sanity."
 - Offering "Family Time Activity Based" devotions for the home.
 - Assisting congregations with "Vision and Goal Setting" sessions.

Financial Aid & Challenge Grants: Under the direction of the English District Board of Directors we are striving to offer greater financial assistance for students pursuing full-time church work.

We are also working on new policy and procedures to challenge congregations with new graduates serving in their church to assist their new workers with the repayment of their student loans. The English District, through a matching gift program, would match their gifts to further assist the new workers in reducing their student loans.

Annual Lumen Christi Awards: Each year the English District recognizes two outstanding educators from within the District. One award is directed toward a professional educator and the other to a volunteer educator. In 2014 the "Lumen Christi Volunteer Educator" award was given to Amy Staubus of Concordia Lutheran Church in Berwyn, IL. The 2015 "Lumen Christi Volunteer Educator" was awarded to Phillip Sawhill of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE.

Parish Services Resource Library: A Parish Services Resource Library is available to ministry areas including preschool, elementary schools, and administrators and directors of youth, family life ministry, adult education/Bible study, and children's ministry. An Adult Education/Family Life Audio-Visual collection has been developed with over 130 videos/DVDs for use by our churches and schools. A bibliography of this resource can be downloaded by accessing the Adult Education page of the District web site (<http://englishdistrict.org/ministries/adult-education>). If your congregation has suggested resources for this library to purchase, please contact the District office with your suggestions.

Our next National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans, LA on July 16-20, 2016 under the theme of "In Christ Alone We Stand." For information concerning the gathering visit www.lcmsgathering.com, or go to www.facebook.com/englishdistrictnyg for our English District updates. Korey Danley, DCE at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, MO, will once again serve as our English District Coordinator. You can reach him at dcekorey@beautifulsavior-lsno.org.

Other Resources to Consider:

Evangelization:

LCMS Office of National Mission with Rev. Mark Wood at mark.wood@lcms.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries at:

www.lhm.org/missionu

www.lhm.org/five14

Church Doctor Ministries at www.churchdoctor.org

Transforming Churches at www.transformingchurchesnetwork.org

Dwelling 1:14 at www.dwelling114.org

God Space at www.GodsGPS.com

English District Connect at www.facebook.com search for English District Connect

Children's Ministry: www.kidskountpublishing.com

Small Group Ministry: www.smallgroups.com

Mobilizing the Laity: www.networkministries.com

Parenting Resources: www.biblicalparenting.org

TREASURER'S REPORT
SALLY L. NAGLICH
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT: BUSINESS & FINANCE

English District - LCMS
United States
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015

	January 31, 2013	January 31, 2014	January 31, 2015
Assets			
Cash	\$ 538,467	\$ 781,125	\$ 946,372
Accounts, Contributions, and Interest Receivable	53,353	53,460	58,983
Prepaid Expenses	17,311	16,955	16,538
Short Term Investments	25,746	25,657	25,567
Property and Equipment - Net	335,632	314,973	300,781
Property Held for Sale	375,000	270,000	-
Loans Receivable	3,799	3,493	13,338
Long Term Investments	775,339	589,062	1,603,104
Due from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)	1,521,707	632,870	-
Total Assets	\$ 3,646,354	\$ 2,687,595	\$ 2,964,683
Liabilities			
Due to English District - Canada	\$ 124,943	\$ 211,511	\$ 274,976
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	64,525	53,799	58,681
Pledges Payable	20,573	28,281	16,207
Deferred Revenue Convention Assessment	-	-	76,025
Due to Investors in District LCEF	1,521,707	632,870	-
Loan Payable to LCEF - Line of Credit	37,936	33,878	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,769,684	\$ 960,339	\$ 425,889
Net Assets			
Undesignated	\$ 736,082	\$ 560,362	\$ 318,715
Investment in Property and Equipment	335,632	314,973	300,781
Board Designated	495,625	546,814	1,612,784
Total Unrestricted	\$ 1,567,339	\$ 1,422,149	\$ 2,232,280
Temporarily Restricted	140,090	133,627	98,212
Permanently Restricted	169,241	171,480	208,302
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,876,670	\$ 1,727,256	\$ 2,538,794
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,646,354	\$ 2,687,595	\$ 2,964,683

**English District - LCMS
United States
Statement of Activities-Comparative
For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015**

	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2013	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2014	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2015
Unrestricted			
District Congregations	\$ 845,776	\$ 872,186	\$ 878,621
Other Gifts	344,728	35,167	30,267
Publications	27,592	27,702	24,748
Assessments and Fees	252,179	139,975	58,569
Income on Investments	10,869	8,723	20,338
Interest Income on Loans	331	194	532
Reimbursements - LCMS	-	-	12,176
Agreements with LCEF/CCEF	123,152	150,060	159,965
Allocation from Canada	64,440	64,440	64,440
Dissolution Receipts	145,808	50,184	-
Refund - LCEF Advanced Site Loan	-	-	805,505
Other	17,333	11,671	10,729
Net Assets Released from Restriction	340,030	137,381	129,524
Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 2,172,238	\$ 1,497,683	\$ 2,195,414
Expenses and Losses			
Synod Pledge	\$ 183,000	\$ 174,394	\$ 185,440
Endowment Fund Grants	-	-	1,000
Missions	634,188	338,372	255,006
Human Care	6,500	3,500	23,500
Preparing Church Workers	21,264	18,730	24,050
Parish Services	161,787	152,315	-
Congregational Services	-	3,717	46,334
School Ministry	-	6,586	69,563
Stewardship	299	685	670
Conferences	20,268	67,881	55,896
Conventions	150,877	92,802	217
Communications	40,128	36,620	37,944
Treasurer's Manuals	297	200	250
President's Office/Ecclesial	235,046	242,351	245,103
General/Finance Office	216,191	219,931	227,504
Building/Maintenance	37,980	35,910	38,022
LCEF	116,525	143,879	149,578
Total Expenses	\$ 1,824,350	\$ 1,537,873	\$ 1,360,077
Impairment Loss/Loss on Sale of Assets	75,000	105,000	25,205
Total Expenses and Losses	\$ 1,899,350	\$ 1,642,873	\$ 1,385,282
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 272,888	\$ (145,190)	\$ 810,132

Temporarily Restricted

Congregations	\$ 35,394	\$ 80,108	\$ 36,583
LCEF Operating Results	-	40,127	45,960
Other	238,441	4,365	7,248
Income on Long-Term Investments	5,559	5,391	4,216
Change in Val of Split-Interest Agreement	2,022	927	103
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(340,030)	(137,381)	(129,524)

Change in Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ (58,614)	\$ (6,463)	\$ (35,414)
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Permanently Restricted

Gifts	\$ 30,885	\$ 2,238	\$ 36,822
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Change in Perm. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 30,885	\$ 2,238	\$ 36,822
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Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 245,159	\$ (149,415)	\$ 811,540
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**English District - LCMS
Canada
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015**

	January 31, 2013	January 31, 2014	January 31, 2015
Assets			
Cash	\$ 126,230	\$ 86,614	\$ 53,118
Accounts Receivable	-	-	500
Pledges Receivable	-	-	8,000
Due from English District - U.S.	103,426	196,129	273,925
Total Assets	\$ 229,656	\$ 282,743	\$ 335,543
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Agencies and Pledges Payable	2,261	3,639	1,742
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,261	\$ 3,639	\$ 1,742
Net Assets			
Undesignated	\$ 223,470	\$ 275,596	\$ 330,293
Temporarily Restricted	3,925	3,508	3,508
Total Net Assets	\$ 227,395	\$ 279,104	\$ 333,801
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 229,656	\$ 282,743	\$ 335,543

**English District - LCMS
Canada
Statement of Activities
For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015**

	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2013	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2014	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2015
Unrestricted			
District Congregations	\$ 129,863	\$ 122,025	\$ 125,376
Other Gifts	150	1,601	510
Income on Investments	485	311	347
Agreements with CCEF	21,379	20,554	20,367
Net Assets Released from Restriction	10,423	1,977	3,666
Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 162,300	\$ 146,468	\$ 150,266
Expenses and Losses			
Synod Pledge	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,435	\$ 19,704
President's Office/Ecclesial	2,524	1,244	1,059
General/Finance Office	64,675	67,609	72,537
Conferences	-	1,960	2,269
Conventions	7,264	1,094	-
Total Expenses and Losses	\$ 94,463	\$ 94,342	\$ 95,569
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 67,837	\$ 52,126	\$ 54,697
Temporarily Restricted			
Congregations	\$ 2,112	\$ 1,350	\$ 3,656
Other Gifts	3,187	210	10
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(10,423)	(1,977)	(3,666)
Change in Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ (5,124)	\$ (417)	\$ -
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 62,713	\$ 51,709	\$ 54,697

**English District - LCMS
Canada Corporation (CCEF)
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015**

	January 31, 2013	January 31, 2014	January 31, 2015
Assets			
Cash	\$ 498,701	\$ 485,460	\$ 429,301
Investments	1,073,503	1,090,376	1,105,091
Accrued Interest Receivable	2,290	893	597
Loans and Mortgages Receivable	480,881	459,978	402,758
Total Assets	\$ 2,055,375	\$ 2,036,707	\$ 1,937,747
Liabilities			
Accrued Interest Payable	\$ 1,895	\$ 1,831	\$ 1,466
Accounts Payable	52	-	2
Investment Obligations			
Stamps	2,787	1,100	-
Certificate of Deposit	976,099	995,562	919,557
Congregation Certificates	57,421	24,761	14,472
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,038,254	\$ 1,023,254	\$ 935,497
Net Assets	\$ 1,017,121	\$ 1,013,453	\$ 1,002,250
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,055,375	\$ 2,036,707	\$ 1,937,747

**English District - LCMS
Canada Corporation (CCEF)
Statement of Activities
For the Twelve Months Ending January 31, 2013, 2014, 2015**

	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2013	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2014	Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2015
Revenue			
Interest Income			
Loans	\$ 25,369	\$ 19,755	\$ 17,712
Cash and Investments	13,604	22,368	19,595
Other Revenue/Donations	-	1,750	3,181
Total Revenue	\$ 38,973	\$ 43,873	\$ 40,488
Expenses			
Interest	\$ 26,206	\$ 21,755	\$ 18,578
Circuit Gatherings/Meetings	150	332	4,309
Office	501	1,176	691
Insurance	-	-	1,458
Accounting Services (LCEF)	3,799	3,249	4,291
Administration (English District)	21,379	20,554	20,367
Legal	98	475	-
Promotion	2,500	-	497
Mission Grant	1,500	-	1,500
Total Expenses	\$ 56,133	\$ 47,541	\$ 51,691
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ (17,160)	\$ (3,668)	\$ (11,203)

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND - ENGLISH DISTRICT

THE REV. DAVID L. THIELE
VICE PRESIDENT - LCEF

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

The concept of "church extension" began back in 1902 when members of several congregations raised \$400 to start a new congregation in a neighboring community. This sharing of God's blessings and investing to expand Lutherans' ability to share the Gospel continues now through Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

Why Do We Exist?

We exist for the sole purpose of empowering ministries in Kingdom work. Our goal each day is to identify opportunities to share our resources in order to expand God's kingdom. We want more people to hear and believe, be baptized, grow in the Word and join together in God's saving grace and the gift of eternal life.

Who Do We Serve?

We are an organization that serves our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partners in the United States and around the world. We have more 50,000 investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. Our loan department serves LCMS ministries and rostered church workers, providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans, lines of credit, debt consolidation and education debt repayment loans.

What Do We Do and How Do We Do It?

With a dedicated staff in the national office in St. Louis, joined by the talented employees in the district offices and volunteers in congregations and schools, LCEF empowers ministry through a total asset portfolio of \$1.75 billion.

Through the dollars invested by more than 50,000 individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with customized loans and ministry support services that help leaders respond to growth and community needs. We provide personal loans to rostered church workers—those dedicated servants who are on the front lines of ministry.

As of June 30, 2014, LCEF's loan portfolio consisted of: 75% congregational loans; 9% educational ministry loans; and 7% rostered church worker residential, personal and

educational debt repayment loans. The remaining loans are to the LCMS and LCMS-related entities, including RSOs. Loans disbursed during fiscal 2014 totaled \$177.6 million.

LCEF's Ministry Support services help ministries develop clarity in understanding what God is calling them to do. Once there is clarity, then resources can be effectively aligned and action flows naturally, keeping ministry in motion. Over the last 20 years, LCEF's Capital Funding Services has helped ministries raise close to \$500 million. Laborers For Christ—another ministry of LCEF—has saved congregations \$15 million, which has enabled them to put funds to ministry that might have otherwise been spent on construction and renovation.

Financial Summary

God truly blessed LCEF with strong financial results in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014). Our operating income for that period was \$9.5 million with net income of \$18.8 million. As a result of this solid performance, LCEF allocated \$3.5 million for distribution to the districts and Synod, and other ministries within the Synod.

Liquidity (cash and investments divided by outstanding notes and support dollar payables) was strong at 21.5% and our capital-to-asset ratio improved to 10.9%. The loan delinquency rate of 2.3% has returned to prerecession levels, and loan approvals and commitments are increasing.

LCEF continues to manage its resources prudently while seeking to be the best stewards possible in all that we do.

A Special Message to English District Congregations From LCEF President/CEO Richard C. Robertson

Dear Ministry Partner:

It is an honor to have this opportunity to share with you highlights of the LCEF ministry. We have made significant strides in creating products that meet the unique needs of the LCMS.

We recognize many LCMS ministries have been hesitant in recent years to engage in large capital projects or to expand outreach efforts due to the volatile economic climate. This hesitancy is not unfounded. However, God presents us with opportunities to engage in Kingdom work every day and we cannot be complacent—the mission is too important.

We look forward to discussing ideas and sharing insights to help ministries examine their potential and to offer LCMS members opportunities to support the plans ministries may embark upon.

LCEF's new products include:

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club: The Y.I. Club offers young people a way to learn about saving and Christian stewardship while having fun. Available to children up through age 18, investments earn premium rates and "extra credit" to their investment for good grades and community service. They also enjoy special gifts and age-appropriate newsletters. Investing now makes it easy for young people to learn habits that last a lifetime. In spring 2015, up to three scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors that are Y.I. Club investors.

ConnectPLUS: ConnectPLUS offers **new** LCEF investors the opportunity to connect with us, support LCMS ministries and benefit from our competitive financial services. This two-year term note can be started with just \$500, allows for additional investments of at least \$25 and helps fund custom loans and ministry support services.

PartnerPLUS: For those already invested with LCEF, we invite you to extend your partnership and add a two or four-year term note to your LCEF portfolio. It too can be started with just \$500 of new funds (no transfers from other LCEF investments), allows for additional investments of at least \$25 and has competitive rates on both terms. IRAs and organizational investments allowed.

SMART Loans: Having a strong Lutheran education network is important. LCEF partners with many LCMS early-education, elementary and secondary schools, as well as the Concordia University System, providing loans to support expansion and operations. In response to the growing needs in the competitive education market, we developed a streamlined approval and funding process for schools, called SMART Loans. These loans have no interest for the first 12 months and are a good option for financing technology and building upgrades.

Education Loan Repayment Program for Rostered Church Workers: Finances should not be a barrier to those called to the ministry. Rostered church workers can incur a substantial amount of education debt by the time they take their first call. LCEF's Educational Loan Repayment Program helps LCMS ordained ministers and commissioned workers to consolidate existing school debt. Loans can also be made to congregations or ministries on behalf of the called worker.

Immeasurably More: God desires your members to align their resources with a response of generosity. Guiding you through the Immeasurably More process, your professional Lutheran consultants will invite your members to put their faith in motion

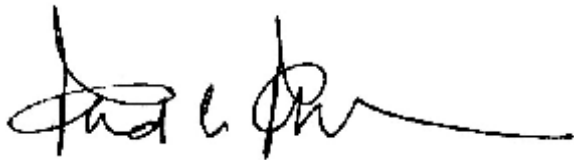
and experience the tremendous joy of generous living and giving. LCEF offers tailored capital campaigns based on "Immeasurably More," from Eph. 3:20-21. We serve the LCMS exclusively because *we know you—we are you*.

We are also excited to continue other activities such as sponsorships. LCEF is a financial supporter of **the LCMS movie project, "The First Rosa: Teacher, Confessor, Church Planter,"** slated for a 2015 release. We partnered with the LCMS in the financing because we believe in the importance of sharing the inspiring story of the incredible Lutheran educator and church planter, Rosa J. Young.

LCEF's **National Student Marketing Competition** for Concordia universities and colleges is in its fourth year. The staff works hard to provide marketing, communications, business and accounting students with a unique educational experience. The benefit to LCEF is the reverse mentoring the students provide as they share their research and creative ideas. In addition to the benefit of the experience, the teams also take home a monetary award for their schools.

We know we are stronger working together as one, so we can continue to provide hope and peace to more people through the Gospel. That has been a cornerstone of the "church extension" concept since it began in 1902. We pray you will walk with us and continue to support the work of LCEF and the LCMS. I encourage you to find out more at **lcef.org** or call 800-843-5233.

Wishing you God's richest blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard C. Robertson

English District LCEF Loan Committee Approvals

The English District loan committee members are The Rev. Wayne Morton, English District 1st Vice President, Ms. Sally Naglich, English District Treasurer, Mr. Paul Stanis, Peace, McMurray, PA, and The Rev. David Thiele, LCEF Vice President.

Sherman Park Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI – new loan and consolidation of existing loans: \$1,316,645

Christ, Phoenix, AZ – new school building construction and renovation loans: \$1,200,000

Faith, Tucson, AZ – line of credit for past due bills and for roof repair: \$119,000

New Hope, Chicago, IL – interest only line of credit: \$140,000

Ascension, North Olmsted, OH – loan consolidation with additional funds (\$119,000) for repairs: \$311,000

St John's, Hannibal, MO – line of credit: \$30,000

Concordia, Akron, OH – loan consolidation with new money (\$40,000) for repairs: \$193,063

Trinity, Ocala, FL – line of credit: \$30,000

Bethesda, Chicago, IL – move a loan with a local bank to LCEF: \$314,714

Christ, Phoenix, AZ – additional funds to complete elementary school addition: \$500,000

Prince of Peace, Medina, OH – loan consolidation with additional funds (\$100,000) for roof repairs and replacement: \$341,665

Hope, Hastings, MN – line of credit for roof replacement: \$60,000

Advent, Zionsville, IN – move a loan from a local bank to LCEF: \$1,670,648

Grace, Vine Grove, KY – loan to purchase their first church building: \$250,000

Jacob's Well, Ft. Wayne, IN – loan to purchase their first church building: \$240,000

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ – loan for the installation of solar panels: \$217,602

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ – loan for the installation of a new organ: \$265,331

Peace, New Berlin, WI – line of credit: \$50,000

St. Michael, Ft. Wayne, IN – move a loan from a local bank to LCEF: \$795,000

Living Hope, Mount Pleasant, WI – loan to pay outstanding bills: \$25,000

Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL – additional funds for outstanding bills to be combined with their existing loan: \$96,661

Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA – refinance their existing loan: \$2,140,074

Hope, Hastings, MN – divide their existing loan into a bridge loan for \$144,000 and a permanent loan of \$459,603 after a successful capital campaign: \$603,603

English District Program

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
	Year End	Year End	Year End	Year-to-Date
	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	2/29/2015
Notes & Support \$ Payable	\$40,106,867	\$40,682,049	\$38,068,941	\$34,661,908
Loans & Mortgages Receivable	\$35,523,518	\$29,735,321	\$25,055,701	\$27,070,674
Income-Producing Assets	\$39,467,555	\$37,518,333	\$35,247,172	\$32,815,573
Funds Available	\$4,665,338	\$8,573,149	\$11,024,071	\$7,755,991
Operating Income	\$84,911	\$317,157	\$143,996	\$111,975

From June, 2012 to February, 2015, Income-Producing Assets have decreased 17% and total Loans and Mortgages Receivable decreased almost 24%. Operating Income increased by 32% over that same period.

EASTERN REGION

THE REV. DR. JAMISON J. HARDY, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

As 2nd Vice President of the English District over the last three years, I have been blessed to work with many of our regional pastors and laity in different capacities. In my role as Vice President, I regularly meet with the Board of Directors of the district where we make policies and do the general business of the district between conventions. Likewise, I meet with the Bishop/President along with the other Vice Presidents in the Presidium. Together, these groups work to further the mission of the district between conventions.

One of the highlights of my year is the fall regional pastor's conference as I renew and refresh my relationships with many great brothers in the ministry. I believe we have a great region and one that works together to support the ministry of the gospel and the confessional nature of our church. This conference has been very fruitful over the last three years, as speakers have brought refreshing perspective and spiritual growth to our region. Much of the credit for that goes to each circuit that has hosted over the last triennium.

The Eastern Region has always followed the lead of the district in remaining mission-minded in all that it does. Within this triennium the region and others in the district have supported the mission endeavors of Sanctus Communities Lutheran Mission outside of Atlanta. Pastor Tom Zucconi has worked hard to implement a new mission model. After three years of hard work, God has seen fit to call Pastor Zucconi to a ministry in Texas. We thank God for all the hard work that Pastor Zucconi and his family has done to do ministry for the sake of the gospel. We pray that the Lord would continue to bless Pastor Zucconi and his family as they move to a new ministry.

The Eastern Region is blessed with wonderful circuit visitors who work very hard to care for and serve their circuits in the best way they are able. I have had the pleasure of working with these visitors over the year to accomplish many activities. This includes dealing with some congregations who are experiencing difficulty within their midst. I have represented the Bishop/President on many occasions where he could not attend within the region. Furthermore, I have made myself available to the Bishop/President to assist him whenever he was in need.

It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as Regional Vice President for the English District.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CIRCUIT #1

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, Circuit Visitor

The past few years have been busy years in our circuit. We continue to focus on our particular ministries in our individual churches. We have gotten together as a circuit to celebrate Ascension and Reformation in 2013 and 2014 followed by a meal together. Specific outreach in our locations include Liberian, Guatemalan and Korean immigrants, ESL, continuing education, and clothing and food banks, plus a host of other diaconal programs supplement our Word and Sacrament ministries. We bid farewell to a faithful pastor, the Rev. Dr. Merlin Rehm, who retired

at the end of 2014 and welcomed the Rev. Ron Rieger at Trinity, Scarsdale, NY. We are also blessed to have Steven Hicks taking on more full-time ministry at Redeemer, Saint Albans, NY.

Bethany, Ewing, NJ – The Rev. Fred Gerlach

Immanuel, Flushing, NY – The Rev. Simon Johann

Grace, Palisades Park, NJ – The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind

New Jersey Cho Won Korean, Palisades Park, NJ – The Rev. Philip Sangcho Rey

Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ - Vacant

Messiah, Princeton, NJ – The Rev. Martin Erhardt

Redeemer, Saint Albans, NY – Served by SMP Vicar Steven Hicks

Trinity, Scarsdale, NY – The Rev. Ronald Rieger

Hope Community, Syracuse, NY – Served by Deacon Emmanuel Cholo Nyema

Our Saviour, Valley Stream, NY – Served by The Rev. Steve Roth

PHILADELPHIA CIRCUIT #2

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman, Circuit Visitor

Circuit #2 (Philadelphia) has eight congregations: four in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, three in South Central Pennsylvania, and one in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Circuit #2 is also home to two Recognized Service Organizations: Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries and Liberty Lutheran Services.

Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, PA – The Rev. David Young

During the past triennium, Gloria Dei added new members: five children were baptized; two youth and three adults were confirmed; eight new transfers were received.

The congregation provided social services to various organizations: Martin Luther Silver Springs School, Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard, and the Artman Lutheran Home.

Pastor Young continues his work as a member of the Board of Directors of Liberty Lutheran Services.

True Light Korean, Blue Bell, PA – The Rev. Cho Sang Taek

True Light was chartered as an LCMS congregation during the last triennium. It continues to meet at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Blue Bell, PA. Pastor Cho and the congregation desire to interact with the Korean immigrant and Korean-American population in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

Faith, Chesapeake, VA – The Rev. Christian Morales

Faith continues to be a congregation where Christ's Gospel is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered to the people of Hampton Roads.

Gloria Dei, East Berlin, PA – The Rev. Robert Nemoyer, Vacancy Pastor

Gloria Dei completed its eighth year of existence in December 2014. It continues to meet weekly for Divine Service at Bethany Village in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Mt. Calvary, Lititz, PA – The Rev. Adam Koontz

In January 2014, Rev. Jeffrey Webb took a call to Celebration, Jacksonville, FL, and Rev. Alemayehu Wedajo, Assistant Pastor at Mount Calvary, served the vacancy until Rev. Adam Koontz was called as Senior Pastor from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, ordained and installed on July 20, 2014. Rev. Wedajo took a call in September 2014 to serve an independent Oromo congregation in Washington, D.C., leaving Rev. Koontz as sole pastor at Mount Calvary.

Mount Calvary's ministry to Nepali immigrants has grown in the past three years with a Nepali-language adult Bible class and Sunday school for all ages. Since the summer of 2014 the congregation's attendance has also grown to 150 each Sunday, with 45-50 adults studying the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in our English-language adult Bible class. New Bible studies have also begun for men, women, and young families with much success.

In 2015 our main focus will be the effort to plant a church in Lebanon County, PA, just north of us, where there is no Missouri Synod presence. We will learn clearly what the gospel is and how to witness to Christ's grace. In the same way we have a renewed emphasis on reaching out to the families of our Open Arms preschool and outreach events each month in Lititz and Manheim Township, our two nearest communities.

In all things we grow up into the fullness of Christ.

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA – The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

During the past triennium, Calvary was again granted the ability to conduct Christ's work among the people of Central Pennsylvania.

In 2014, our congregation welcomed 22 new members to hear Christ's Gospel proclaimed and receive His gifts. These include individuals from other Lutheran church bodies, as well as adults who received instruction in the Christian faith. An increase in families with children has provided a new vitality in our Sunday school program.

Calvary continued human care efforts, including its Clothes Closet and partnerships with Capital Area Pregnancy Center and New Hope Ministries. Our Sunday school children led the collection of funds for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in 2013. We also began participation in Operation Barnabas, establishing a chapter in 2014; collection of comfort items for the VA Hospital in Lebanon, PA, is an ongoing effort. Calvary has also become a partner congregation with Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

Calvary will strive in the next triennium to be a place where the people of Central Pennsylvania can be brought into fellowship with Christ and the salvation that He provides.

St. John, Springfield, PA – The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky

St. John Lutheran Church in Springfield, PA, called Rev. Robert Kieselowsky to serve as sole pastor in May of 2012. He accepted the call and was installed on August 3, 2012. Rev. Kieselowsky spends a large portion of his time directing the work of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries in addition to the duties of the parish.

St. John has been blessed by the Lord with steady growth in membership and attendance. St. John has begun a Sunday school which does well and in 2014, had its first Vacation Bible School in many years.

St. John, as one of the oldest English District congregations, is eager to continue its part in the mission work in the city of Philadelphia, so Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries is very important to the congregation as well as Rev. Kieselowsky. Philadelphia, the fifth most-populous city in the United States, currently only has one full-time LCMS pastor who has been called and supported by Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

One major endeavor has been to re-establish a Gospel presence in the Northeast section of Philadelphia at the location of a former English District congregation (Lutheran Church of St. Luke). Rev. Adam DeGroot serves as missionary pastor at this location and leads Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church, which began weekly Divine Services in May of 2013. In addition to this essential mission work in an impoverished and challenging area of the city, plans are also being laid to begin an outreach service in the heart of the city where many college students and young adults reside.

Grace, Warminster, PA – The Rev. David Young

Rev. David Young was installed as pastor at Grace on August 9, 2014.

Congregational social services were provided to Lutheran Children and Family Services and Lutheran Settlement Home and Shelter.

Discussion continues regarding a potential church plant to serve the Korean community in Bucks County, PA.

FLORIDA CIRCUIT #3

The Rev. Donald Treglown, Circuit Visitor

Faith, Naples, FL – The Rev. Donald E. Treglown

Faith Lutheran Church now has four worship services each weekend. We celebrate Holy Communion every Saturday evening which has provided a welcome worship opportunity for the firefighters, police, medical, and hospitality groups in the community who work on Sundays. Numerous improvements are underway. Due to damage by three hurricanes, we are in the process of replacing the roof, adding hurricane screen protectors, and getting exterior doors upgraded to hurricane code. We have also embraced a Mission of the Month Emphasis for 2015 (six international - Vietnam, Wittenberg Project, and Lutheran Hour International along with six local - Special Olympics, Veterans Center of Naples, St. Matthew's House). In addition, we have as our mission of the year Voice of Faith, an outreach group through Faith that seeks to share awareness with the Church and the love of Christ with Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities. Faith Lutheran continues to proclaim the Gospel to young and old alike not just in Florida but around the world.

Celebration, Jacksonville, FL – The Rev. Jeffrey Webb

Trinity, Ocala, FL – The Rev. Myron Mader

Shepherd of the Coast, Palm Coast, FL – The Rev. William Douthwaite, III

GEORGIA CIRCUIT #4

Circuit Visitor – Vacant

Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, GA – The Rev. Kevin Elseroad
Ascension, Atlanta, GA – The Rev. David Miller

BUFFALO CIRCUIT #5

The Rev. David Beutel, Circuit Visitor

Calvary, Amherst, NY – The Rev. Karl Schmidt
Nazareth, Buffalo, NY – The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks
Trinity, Erie, PA – Served by The Rev. David Kuchta

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY – The Rev. Ben Eder

This past triennium began with Pilgrim congregation celebrating her 90th year of ministry in 2012: former pastor George Schaetzle preached at the Sunday morning service and a banquet was held later that evening. Also, in 2012 Pastor Ben Eder was elected at convention to the English District Board of Directors which necessitated his travel on a quarterly basis in service to the district. During the past three years a monthly community dinner ministry was begun under the leadership of Wes Wiers. This dinner reaches many in our neighborhood with the Gospel and the blessing of fellowship and food. This triennium for Pilgrim concluded with the addition of an elevator and the construction of an entrance to accommodate it. This project was led by Church President Carolyn Alessi and was fully funded by donations from Pilgrim members.

Redeemer, North Tonawanda, NY – The Rev. David Beutel

Redeemer is a small church with a membership of about 200 and average worship attendance of about 70. Our congregational president states, "By the grace of God and His strength given to us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are reaching and connecting with our community far beyond the sum of our parts. Continual outreach efforts include: Annual Harvest Fest to raise money for a needy person/family in the community, with 100% of the proceeds going to the recipients; meals – roast beef, spaghetti, fish, chicken and brunch – are served as ways to open our doors to the community and display God's love, establish relationships, and share the Word; summer movie nights in July and August on the church back lawn; church newsletters sent out to about 3000 residences in the community; and we provide a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Grief Support groups. This is a tremendous amount of work and activity and much of the time we are over our heads, so to speak, but we stay connected to the knowledge that with God, nothing is impossible! The worship services, adult education classes and Sunday school classes continue to be great sources of strength, support, encouragement and knowledge as we come together to learn from God's truths. We continue to strive to reach the lost souls in our community in every way we can."

PITTSBURGH CIRCUIT #6

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann, Circuit Visitor

The five pastors in our circuit, together with the four congregations that they serve, have been involved in numerous activities and events for the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God. Not everything can be mentioned here, but I shall highlight some of the most important aspects of our recent ministry.

First and foremost, our pastors are preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments faithfully week by week, according to the rule of faith, set by Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

In mutual support and encouragement, our pastors meet together regularly (usually every month) as a circuit, as well as together with the (LCMS) Pittsburgh Pastors Conference six times per year. We gather to pray together, discuss any English District business that arises, share best pastoral practices, and finish our meetings with a meal together.

Our circuit is also very heavily involved with the work of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM), an organization that promotes and facilitates the outreach and missional efforts of local LCMS congregations, of which Rev. Brian Westgate is the President and Rev. Edward Naumann is the Functional Director. The congregations in our circuit regularly contribute articles to the periodical of PALM (published 10 times each year), "The Pittsburgh Lutheran," in which all local LCMS congregations are invited to promote and advertise their events and services.

One particularly noteworthy milestone is that this year, Redeemer Lutheran School is graduating their first class of seniors. Since the addition of the high school, Redeemer has been adding one grade each year, and we are grateful to God for all that He is doing through the efforts of many wonderful staff and volunteers, in this important mission of our area, of which local congregations have also been very supportive.

We thank everyone in the District who has remembered us in their prayers, as we continue to remember the Bishop and other servants of the District in ours.

Redeemer, Oakmont, PA – The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann & The Rev. Edward Naumann

Peace, McMurray, PA – The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy

Faith, Butler, PA – The Rev. Brian Westgate

All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA – The Rev. Michael Scheer

LAKE ERIE REGION

THE REV. DEREK MATHERS, THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

My duties as 3rd Vice President of the English District this triennium have included attending meetings of the Board of Directors and participating in discussions regarding policy and direction of our District. In conjunction with these meetings I have also been involved in Praesidium meetings called by the Bishop/President of the District.

I have kept in touch with the pastors of our region through the annual Lake Erie Pastoral Conference. Beyond that I have been involved with pastors, congregations, and circuit visitors as requested by the Bishop.

I am actively involved in the Canada Corporation of the English District and currently serve in the role of mission executive for the Board. The Canada Corporation is concerned with mission development and support within the Canada East and West Circuits and the promotion of investments in the Canadian Church Extension Fund of the English District.

During this triennium I have deeply appreciated the many contacts I was honoured to make with the pastors of our region. There is a profound dependency on God not just for salvation but for the day-to-day demands of ministry and mission in the varied cultures, conditions, and situations in which we serve God's people. I listened more than I spoke and was blessed to see and hear what God has been working through these humble leaders and people of our congregations.

God's provision at just the right time and in some amazing ways leads me to thank and praise our God and to encourage others to join with me.

I have enjoyed my service in the office of Vice President of the English District and my relationship with the Board and dedicated office staff and the capable leadership of our dear Bishop and President David. I commit myself to continue to hold our District and Synod in my prayers.

CANADA EAST CIRCUIT #7

The Rev. Stephen Alles, Circuit Visitor

Our God is a God of all nations. Our Savior died for all. When we examine the makeup of our Canada East circuit we see a beautiful microcosm of the image of all nations. Not only is our circuit part of the northern country that makes up our English District, our circuit also represents huge diversity within one geographic region. Our circuit consists not merely of the many nations and ethnic diversity of our larger Toronto congregations, but also the diversity between urban centers and country churches in the upper Ottawa Valley. Together we proclaim the one message of Christ crucified. God has blessed our circuit and the congregations within our circuit. We are thankful for the special arrangement of shared ministry between St. Luke's in North York and Christ in Aurora. We are grateful for all who came up with a creative solution to continue ministering and bringing God's message of hope. We presently have one

congregation that is looking for a shepherd pastor, St. John, Germanicus. They are exploring the possibility of part-time ministry.

We press on to work through the challenges of our large geographic area and continue to do God's work in the great White North!

Christ, Aurora, ON – Served by The Rev. J. Derek Mathers & The Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman

St. John's, Golden Lake, ON – Vacant

St. Mark, Mississauga, ON – The Rev. Jeffrey Miskus

St. John's, Pembroke, ON – The Rev. Stephen Alles & The Rev. Kevin Klein

St. Luke, North York, ON – The Rev. J. Derek Mathers & The Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman

St. Matthew, Scarborough, ON – The Rev. Dereck Pillay

CANADA WEST CIRCUIT #8

The Rev. Robert Voelker, Circuit Visitor

Our Saviour's, Chatham, ON – The Rev. Arthur Schiemann, Emeritus / The Rev. Daniel Murray
Our Saviour's started using a form of Creative Worship and two years ago, all our hymns were projected onto two 60-inch monitors at the front of the church. This past year the complete order of worship for the day was put on the monitors – prayers, lessons, hymns and one of our members has added graphics to make all this very appealing to our worshipers. Right now our members are remodeling the chancel and installing a free-standing altar to make the Communion Service more meaningful. Pastor Schiemann, who has been serving the parish on a part-time basis in his retirement years, plans to officially retire when the congregation gets a new shepherd. Attendance was up last year and our weekday Mom-Tot time, one of our community outreach programs, is working well. Chatham-Kent Band has played at least once each year for our worship service.

Hope, Kitchener, ON – The Rev. Terry Hursh & The Rev. William Chuol

Hope Lutheran Church continues to develop outreach tools to the changing demographics and needs of the Kitchener Waterloo Region. To that end we have retooled the weekly radio show "Hope for Today" to include rebroadcast of Sunday messages with an introduction on specific community issues and events. The show is also broadcast on an additional FM station covering a wider geographical area. The leadership at Hope has also resolved ongoing debt issues as a result of the new building addition. The debt has been restructured through intensive discussion and the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of generous individuals. Hope has restructured its worship times so that a shared Sunday school hour now takes place between the second English service and the Nuer (Sudanese) service. We have seen a marked increase in Sunday school enrollment both by adults and children. We praise God that we also have the largest confirmation class in over 15 years with 13 students participating. The class meets on Saturday mornings. On February 1st we celebrated 5 baptisms...and this week a new adult Faith Discussion group "Pasta con Pastor" begins with 10-12 expected to attend. This 10-week class will lead to adult confirmation.

Grace, Mitchell, ON – The Rev. Gerald Luck

During this past triennium Grace Lutheran Church in Mitchell, Ontario has started a summer Vacation Bible School ministry in the First Nations community of Weagamow Lake in Northern Ontario through the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. As part of the ongoing

strategy to recruit and train volunteers to do this missional work, we have launched a five year catechetical initiative for our confirmands.

The first year of this initiative will involve regular classroom catechetics and afford the confirmand exposure to ushering, greeting and reading duties during worship services as per our normal curriculum. In addition, each confirmand will be asked to assist our Sunday school teachers on a regular basis and to help teach our summer VBS at the church. Each confirmand will also be invited to sit in on at least one church council or committee meeting.

The second and third years of our catechetical initiative will see confirmands hone their skills as Sunday school and VBS leaders allowing them to specialize in puppeteering, leading crafts, games or teaching. We will also encourage further participation during church services as ushers, greeters and readers, and further involvement in church council or committee meetings (serving in advisory capacity) so that confirmands deepen their understanding of the mission of the church.

The 4th and 5th years of this new confirmation initiative will encourage the confirmands to become part of our mission team to the north. They will earn funds to offset their travel expenses alongside other team members as a team building exercise and then travel with the VBS team by road and by air to teach the Weagamow Lake VBS.

Redeemer, Sarnia, ON – The Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis

Redeemer Lutheran Church continues to be involved in community outreach. For 35 years we have had a float in our Christmas Parade with a live nativity on the float proclaiming the birth of our Saviour to about 40,000 people who line the parade route. Most years we have won recognition for our entry in the parade. We also have for 36 years presented a live nativity scene on the front lawn of the church for three nights before Christmas that includes carol singing and refreshments for anyone in attendance. Local radio, TV and newspapers list us as part of the annual community holiday celebrations. Pastor Ellis has been the chaplain for Sarnia Police for 25 years. Annually, we host a Police and Peace Officer Memorial Service for all local police and peace officers inviting the public to join with us in Sunday morning worship in support of officers who have died in the line of duty. A luncheon follows the service which is supplied by the Police Association.

We also have been involved in outreach to the international students at Lambton College in our community for the last couple of years. Discussion continues as to how to support and interact with the 750 students who have come from various countries of the world as we work with the college's Office for International Students.

We also actively support our food bank year round and reach out to our Women's Interval Home and needy children in our community and world. We have active women's ministries that are sewing many blankets for Lutheran World Relief and hats for newborn babies in the hospital. We are currently preparing to send a few members of the congregation to the Dominican Republic in 2015 as part of a mission team. We have an active TeleCare Ministry that makes about 800 calls per year to members of the congregation through a monthly calling team.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of our congregation and plans are in the works for eight different events over the year to celebrate God's blessing on our ministry. These events are

focusing on community outreach as well as congregational fellowship as we give thanks to our God for his faithfulness.

Gethsemane, Windsor, ON – The Rev. Robert Voelker & The Rev. Jordan Simon

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (GLC) continued its outreach to the Sudanese community by weekly worship in the Nuer language, consistent support for hurting families due to the war and by calling Jordan Simon, an EIIT graduate who was ordained and installed as assistant pastor in October 2012. GLC joined the Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society and thereby participated in activities in Africa before and during the South Sudan conflict. Gethsemane operates an active Sunday school, Women's groups, Care Group Bible studies, Seniors Group, music events and choirs, and a high school youth group. We opened a conversation ministry called Lifetree Café, with materials from Group Canada, which has generated many contacts outside the church and initiated cooperation in externals with other denominations. GLC's church council worked very hard on team building, financial accountability, benevolence and investment policies, and creating a vision for the future. An annual event on the February Family Day holiday is the "Taste of Gethsemane" which brought cooks and hungry people together to raise funds and awareness about how God fills the hungry with good things.

Peace, Windsor, ON – The Rev. Gregory Lutz

Peace Lutheran Church was established in the 1950s and is made up of dedicated and faithful Christians. Over the past three years, Peace Lutheran has been on a steady increase. Every year we seem to average between 5-10 new members. The church operates a food bank which is open one morning a week and run and supported by its members. We continue to worship together on Sunday mornings and hold regular Sunday school, Confirmation, Ladies and Men's group, and Youth Group functions. We hold outreach events for the local high school by providing counselling and providing the school with a barbecue at the beginning of the school year. Pastor Lutz provides services to the military as a Reserve Chaplain. We continue to do outreach to the community and those around us. We give glory to God for blessings us these past three years.

EMERITUS REPORT

The Rev. Raymond V. Kirk, retired, **Waterloo**, served in the past triennium on the Board of Managers of the English District Endowment Fund.

CLEVELAND-AKRON CIRCUIT #9

The Rev. Robert Tauscher, Circuit Visitor

Concordia, Akron, OH – The Rev. Robert Tauscher

Fairlawn, Akron, OH – The Rev. James Gau

Good Shepherd, Akron, OH – Vacant

Mt. Olive, Cleveland Heights, OH – The Rev. Ryan Beffrey

Grace, Fairlawn, OH – The Rev. Peter Mills

Epiphany, Northfield, OH – The Rev. Dr. Christian Just

St. Thomas, Streetsboro, OH – The Rev. Dr. Christian Just

CLEVELAND-WEST CIRCUIT #10

The Rev. Michael Taylor, Circuit Visitor

Holy Cross, Cleveland, OH – The Rev. Michael Taylor

Iglesia, Cleveland, OH – Served by Deacon Adam Torres

Grace, Elyria, OH – The Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.

Prince of Peace, Medina, OH – The Rev. Daniel Haberkost

Ascension, North Olmsted, OH – The Rev. Anthony Appel

Grace, Oberlin, OH – The Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer

DETROIT-SOUTH CIRCUIT #11

The Rev. Bradford Scott, Circuit Visitor

Angelica, Allen Park, MI – The Rev. Jonathan Sachs

Angelica installed her new pastor, the Rev. Jonathan Sachs, on December 14, 2014, ending a vacancy that began with the retirement of the Rev. Joel Holls at the end of 2013 after 18 years of ministry at Angelica. We give thanks to God for Pr. Holls' years of service, and that our attendance and offerings did not decline significantly during the vacancy. We are currently working to build up our Sunday school and youth group and young adult ministries.

Zion, Detroit, MI – The Rev. Mark Braden

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit continues, by God's grace, to bring Christ to inner-city Detroit, and to our many suburban members. Our full liturgical calendar, the several Masses celebrated each week, and the daily Divine Offices afford our members, friends, guests and visitors many opportunities to hear God's Word and to receive His Saving Gifts. Our congregation is thankful to the Lord for adding to our midst a number of new families, a blessing that seems to be continuing. Our support for, and work in Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic has continued and increased in the last triennium. During the same time, a new charter high school was built on our campus. We participate in the urban renewal that is critical to the life of the city around us. Our annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference brings pastors from many other states and Canada to study Lutheran theology and the Holy Liturgy. Zion has actively worked to strengthen her ties to Concordia University Ann Arbor, and to Concordia Theological Seminary. Zion has added an ordained kantor and pastoral assistant to our parish staff, and continues to educate vicars every other year. While many other inner-city parishes struggle and close around us, it has pleased the Lord of the Church to prosper Zion. For that we give Him all thanks and praise.

Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI – The Rev. Randy Boelter

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool continues, by the grace of God, to proclaim the Gospel and faithfully carry out a Word and Sacrament ministry to the Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities. While ministering in time of greatly changing demographics, the congregation and preschool continues to find unique ways to share Jesus Christ with its neighborhood, particularly through its preschool, its summer VBS program and through a Live Nativity held each December. At this time, 68 students are enrolled in our three-year-old, four-year-old and young five-year-old preschool program. Approximately 12 students are enrolled in our junior confirmation instruction program. There are approximately 35 children in our Sunday school. In the economic downturn that has greatly affected Michigan, Christ the King regrettably experienced downsizes in staff both in the congregation and the preschool. Suffering a stunning financial embezzlement 10 years ago, the congregation carries a one-

million dollar mortgage, but remains grateful to God for His grace and His constant provision of all our needs, both spiritual and physical. Our preschool has been taught by Mrs. Sharon Ziegler and Ms. Sarah Keyes. Christ the King will be saying farewell to Ms. Keyes, who will assume another teaching position elsewhere in the fall of 2015. Mr. Matthew Koch has recently come to Christ the King as a part-time youth director, and is assisting the pastor and congregation in the revitalization our youth ministry. Pastor Randy Boelter is the current pastor and also served the congregation as assistant pastor from December 1985 to August of 1994. At that time he was called to be senior pastor. Pastor Joseph Fabry is Christ the King's Pastor Emeritus. The congregation joyfully celebrated the bestowal of an honorary Doctor of Divinity award upon Pastor Fabry in 2014 with much gratitude to God. Our preschool marked the celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2013. Christ the King looks forward to the celebration of its 75th anniversary in January of 2016. Soli Deo Gloria!

Risen Christ, Plymouth, MI – The Rev. Reinald Kaufmann

Christ Our Redeemer, Rockwood, MI – Served by The Rev. Mark Raitz

King of Glory, Sylvania, OH – Served by The Rev. Paul Schmidlin

Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH – The Rev. Bradford Scott

Strengthened by the grace of God, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues to “fight the good fight of faith,” striving to faithfully witness to the Lord and His love for all. Called by the Holy Spirit to gather around the Gifts of Christ, we continue to be empowered by our worship life together under God's Word and Sacraments. We offer opportunities for growth in the faith, with Bible studies both on Sunday mornings prior to worship (including Sunday school for children), and again during the middle of the week. We continue to offer catechism instruction, both to the youth of our congregation and to a number of adults who have been attracted by the Gospel. Particularly memorable was the comment of one such person who, following worship one morning, stated, *“For the first time, I felt like God was smiling down on me.”* It is a humbling joy to be used by God as instruments in bringing others into that assurance!

Anchored in the Gifts of Christ, Good Shepherd also reaches out to the neighborhood and community. We continue to invite young people and their families to events such as Vacation Bible School, “Trunk-or-Treat,” and other events that help us to cultivate a relationship with them, while giving a Christian witness to our Lord's victory over death and hell. We planned and hosted a large benefit to assist a young woman of the community struggling with health and financial issues related to MS and continue to look for similar opportunities. We contribute regularly to the Lutheran Social Services Community Food Pantry and are often called on to help people who come to our door looking for assistance, using our Care Fund which is largely funded by Advent and Lenten coin folders.

Toledo continues to struggle with a shrinking population and a sluggish economy. In addition, in July of 2014 we suffered the loss of our modular classroom building due to a fire which began under suspicious but unprovable circumstances. While we share with our sister congregations the pressures that have come with the increasing secularization of the world around us, our Good Shepherd continues to feed, guide, defend, and bless His people. For that, we are ever grateful!

Holy Cross, Toledo, OH – The Rev. Peter Burfeind

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Student Ministry is a congregation in major transition. Three years ago we were meeting at an ELCA congregation in town and in survival mode. This year we have fully transitioned into a campus ministry. We meet on campus for worship and Bible class and our innovative "Engineers in Christ" group meets regularly to train on basic tool and remodel skills which we use in service projects in Toledo's inner city and also in an annual event in the Appalachia. Campus ministry is a crucially important ministry for our church body. Many of our young people leave the church during these years. A campus ministry provides a source of stability for them. In addition, our ministry reaches out to international students. The first baptism in our ministry was a young Nigerian woman who happened to see a chalk advertisement of our services on the sidewalk. Finally, as an Army Chaplain, Rev. Burfeind has access both to the ROTC students and to veterans. Our ministry is young and struggling, and as a donor-supported ministry we are learning the challenges of raising funds. But the rewards of ministry in the university context are worth the effort.

DETROIT-NORTH CIRCUIT #12

The Rev. Timothy Halboth, Circuit Visitor

Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI – The Rev. Daniel Grams

During the last triennium, Rev. Daniel Grams was installed as pastor in October 2014. The congregation continues to be faithful in worship, Bible study, Christian stewardship, and mission support. Ascension actively serves the community through a variety of "kingdom projects" particularly aimed at assisting the homeless, seniors in public housing, and foster children at Wellspring Lutheran Services. Ascension continues to operate a Mom's Morning Out program and is exploring the possibility of starting a childcare ministry. Ascension of Christ looks forward to retiring their mortgage in the coming triennium.

Grace, Redford, MI – The Rev. Timothy Halboth & The Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth

Epic, Rochester Hills, MI – The Rev. Timothy Kade

St. Paul's, St. Clair Shores, MI – The Rev. David Rutter

Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, MI – The Rev. David Schinbeckler

Shepherd King, West Bloomfield, MI – The Rev. Timothy Holzerland

New Beginnings, West Branch, MI – The Rev. Noel Olse

WESTERN MICHIGAN CIRCUIT #13

The Rev. Eric Forss, Circuit Visitor

Epiphany, Dorr, MI – The Rev. Jonathon Krenz

Epiphany is a community gathered around the Lord's gifts in Word and Sacrament. As we grow in His Word, Christ fills us with His life, overflowing in love toward our neighbor. Over the last several years, our emphasis on family spiritual life and education has continued to grow and thrive. Our people have caught a vision for increasing support of seminarians and Church work students, as well as missionaries in the field. Our mission is simply to be the Body of Christ in this place, proclaiming the Gospel and serving in love.

Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI – The Rev. Curtis Dwyer & The Rev. Dr. David Dressel
Martin Luther Chapel continues its 60-year tradition of outreach to the Michigan State University (MSU) community, involving many students, faculty and staff. Three leadership teams of five students each coordinate weekly Bible studies, prayer groups, midweek contemporary worship services, servant events, and outreach on campus. In addition to a vibrant student ministry, we have an active 'resident' ministry, including young couples and singles, families, empty-nesters, and seniors. The biggest change since the last convention has been the addition of Pastor Curt Dwyer to our staff. After serving as associate pastor under Pastor David Dressel since June of 2013, Pastor Curt was installed as the lead pastor, and Pastor Dave assumed the role of (full-time) associate pastor on March 1, 2015. Dian Silvey continues in her role as part-time ministry assistant. With this staff re-alignment, we look forward to continuing our active ministry at MSU while expanding our outreach in the East Lansing and Lansing community.

Hope, Grand Rapids, MI – The Rev. Daniel Gruenwald
By the grace of God, Hope reached its 100th anniversary on October 12, 2014. Our current worship facility was built in 1929 and is our third location. The education and fellowship wing was constructed in 1966 and an elevator, carport and new entry area were added in 2000. There have been only five full-time pastors. These long tenures tell the story of a generally positive working relationship between the pastors and people. The ten decades of ministry stand as a testament to the dedication of lay leaders, teachers, musicians, and the worshipers in the pew Sunday after Sunday.

Since Hope's founding, 1310 infants and adults have joined the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism; 1044 have been confirmed after instruction in the Christian faith; 725 couples have begun their married life together before Hope's altar. Families and their loved ones who were gravely ill were ministered to with the hope and confidence of the resurrection through Christ our Lord 581 times.

Dates and numbers don't tell the whole story of course. Much harder to chronicle would be the quantity of members who stayed with us for a time and then went on to multiply the ministry of new or established parishes locally and beyond. It would be difficult to calculate the sum total of monies donated and raised to support our own ministry activities and the mission outreach or charity work of others. Absolutely impossible to know would be the number of occasions a particular choir anthem, sermon, class or conversation impacted the daily life of participants. Several "sons of the congregation" became ministers and, of course, all the callings which serve God and help others have been evident in our membership: medicine, manufacturing, law, education, skilled trades, business, art, music, service industry, home and family.

May God bless the collective and continued ministry of all our English District congregations in His Kingdom which has no end.

Our Savior, Hartland, MI – The Rev. Christopher Thoma
The month of January 2015 found our congregation rejoicing in the 60th anniversary of her founding. A celebration dinner was enjoyed by past and present members and included guest speakers Rev. Dr. Charles Gieschen, Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Eric Hipple, former quarterback for the Detroit Lions and current member the congregation. In September 2014, the church hosted a conference, *The Body of Christ and the Public Square*, bringing together confessional Lutheran theology (Rev.

Dr. Frank J. Pies and Rev. Christopher I. Thoma) and nationally renowned speakers (including Attorney Hiram Sasser, David Barton, Mark Gonzales, and Congressman Bob McEwen) in order to present and discuss relevant Church and State topics with an assembly of pastors and lay leaders of Missouri Synod churches. This effort is to be an annual one, with the hope for engaging in meaningful dialogue with regard to the church militant and her role in the two kingdoms. The church's youth group continues to pursue meaningful mission and fellowship efforts under the leadership of Deacon Daniel Huth who is also aiding in Middle School Catechesis, school chapel, and administration of parish education opportunities such as weekly Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. We received into our midst a new kantor, Jonathan Swett, who is leading our school and adult choirs along with hand bells and other musical endeavors. Our Board of Social Ministry continues to maintain the well-used church pantry while serving to provide additional holiday groceries to those in need. In addition, they support impoverished families with financial aid, provide funeral meals, and care for single parents or people recovering from illness/surgeries with home-cooked casseroles. Perhaps most notably, our church's school has been educating children since 1979. In order to align more closely with the Biblically minded mission of the congregation, a Spirit-driven decision was made to offer our exceptional Lutheran education to all, both member and non-member families, free of charge. In fact, all tuition-paying families received a refund on January 1. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to fill the classrooms and to be a means by which the Gospel is given to the community we serve.

Immanuel, Howell, MI – The Rev. Eric Forss

Immanuel serves a portion of Southeast Michigan that was hit hard by the recent recession. Many people in our area and congregation lost their jobs through layoffs, buyouts, or early retirements and were compelled to leave the region to find other employment. While the region is beginning to show signs of recovery, our congregation and its members continue to struggle with the recession's effects. In the face of these challenges, we have struggled to identify and pursue God's will and direction. Nevertheless, we have a core of dedicated and faithful members committed to our mission and ministry. Immanuel has continued its efforts to reach into our community with the true hope we have been given in Christ Jesus. One of these efforts included offering seminars open to all. Guest speakers Rev. Prof. Charles Schulz (Concordia University, Ann Arbor) spoke on *Ancient Manuscripts, Holy Books, and Pretenders—Sorting Fact from Fiction in the Origins of the Bible*, and Rev. Dr. Paul Maier (Emeritus, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI) spoke on *New Light on the Nativity*. These seminars aimed to encourage attendees in their faith and in their confidence in the Word of God. The seminars were very well attended and quite favorably received by members of both our congregation and community. Our Sunday school has begun to grow again. Attendance at the Divine Service has begun to recover. A dedicated group of participants meets regularly for weekday Bible study. We have been blessed recently with infant baptisms and adult confirmations. The Gospel of forgiveness and love in Christ continues to be proclaimed in our midst. The blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood continues to strengthen and encourage Christ's holy people. And we continue to provide assistance to the needy as our resources permit. Even though we face many ongoing challenges, Christ remains faithful to us, and—by His mercy—Immanuel remains a beacon of hope in Howell, the heart of Livingston County, Michigan.

Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI – The Rev. Steven Voelker

We have been truly blessed at Holy Trinity over the past three years as the Lord's work continues in the hearts and minds of the people entrusted to our care. We have an active Sunday school program that is offered throughout the school year with four different classes for preschoolers through high school. We also have a youth group that meets monthly for activities of service to our church and community. We have an active ladies group associated with the LWML that sponsors activities for the church and community. Some of those include several fundraisers throughout the year involving 30+ volunteers from the congregation. They are able to sponsor a monthly food truck for those in need in our community and they also supply food packs to send home with school children on weekends. Each year Christmas gifts are given to about 20 children whose names are supplied by the area school administration. Holy Trinity has been blessed by those eager to learn and grow in faith through the study of God's Word. There are four adult Bible studies offered throughout the week where many members participate in learning God's plan for their lives. We have a great music program that includes an organist, choir and special music which enhances our weekly worship service. We have an ongoing roofing project for our entire facility due to storm damage and other issues. Our congregation has graciously supported this project in their generous giving. We have been able to increase our district offering over the past few years so that the Lord's work may continue throughout the English District. We look forward to the leading of the Lord as He directs us in the coming year.

Christ, Lansing, MI – The Rev. Zerit Yohannes & The Rev. Elamin Baggor

In affirmation of the Divine mandate, the focus of the congregation of Christ Lutheran as directed of the Holy Spirit is: *Caring for people – Sharing the Gospel in joy – Daring to grow.*

In the past three years, Christ Lutheran, by God's grace, continues to equip and enable its members to serve one another and those outside the fellowship of the congregation through the Liturgy of the Word and the Holy Sacraments in accordance with their divine institution. It also continues to demonstrate the mind and spirit of Christ as she continues to serve the members of the congregation and equip them for Christ's mission to seek and save the lost.

Christ Lutheran continues with mission activities related to the demographic features of the city of Lansing. In the past three years it has adopted new strategies and procedures that will help it in reaching out to the unchurched and de-churched people and integrating different ethnic groups into the One Body of Christ.

In summary, this brief report is a statement of our faith and service to God and neighbor. It is also an affirmation of the spiritual bond among the members of our beloved congregation on how we continue living together, worshiping and trusting the Lord of the Church. ALL GLORY TO GOD ALONE!

Grace, Wyoming, MI – The Rev. John Diener

Grace, organized in 1949, has grown only minimally in membership the last three years but has blossomed in mission and ministry through outreach to the community and the world. The last triennium has been marked by growth in Bible study attendance on Sunday and Tuesday mornings and fervent prayer with monthly prayer vigils, a prayer chain and the start of a monthly prayer calendar. The church family is nurtured through choir and hand bell ministry; West Michigan Chorale; pastor and deaconess visitation; the Tele-care Loving Calls ministry; monthly birthday cards and encouraging notes at Christmas; Valentines and Easter cards for

the homebound and nursing home bound; cradle roll; Sunday school; children's messages; blessing of the backpacks; Veterans, Volunteers, Mother's, Father's and Grandparents' Day Appreciation; and teacher, Sunday school student and graduation recognition. Grace enjoys fellowship with one another engaging in movie fellowships, an annual chili cook-off, baked potato bar and the church picnic. Grace has reached out to the community with the Grace Beginnings Preschool ministry for the last 19 years. This fall they began their fourth year of providing free community meals every Thursday evening from September to May. The congregation's outreach includes Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch, Fall Festival, Friendship Sunday, Youth Sunday, National Day of Prayer, Back to Church Sunday, and a clothing swap. Grace has also reached out to the world in faithful support of Synod and District missions, the LWML, WinGS (Women in God's Service) and to Haiti in support of missionaries, the Caribbean Children's Foundation and 10 orphans. The church family sent a mission team to Haiti in 2013 and 2015 and plans to send another in 2017. The last triennium saw the decommissioning and demolition of the original church building, which sat in front of the existing sanctuary and fellowship hall. In its place, a parking lot with new drainage and lighting was completed in late 2014. The Grace church family moves into the next triennium with the stewardship theme of "Maturing Stewards, Moving Forward to God's Glory."

INDIANA CIRCUIT #14

The Rev. James L. Elsner, Circuit Visitor

During the last triennium, the Indiana Circuit has experienced considerable change. One congregation (Praise, Ft. Wayne, IN) transferred to the Indiana District. Two other congregations joined the English District and the Indiana Circuit (Abiding Faith, Florence, KY and Advent, Zionsville, IN). Also six pastors left our circuit and four others joined us.

Abiding Faith, Florence, KY – The Rev. Robert Brockhoff, Emeritus

This is one of the newest ministries of the English District. They were formed in August, 2014 and were accepted into the district in December, 2014. Their Service of Chartering was February 22, 2015, with Bishop Stechholz and 60 members and friends attending. The congregation serves the southwestern suburbs of Cincinnati, OH.

Bethany, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. Chad Trouten & The Rev. Charles Varsogea

This congregation carries on its ministry of word and sacrament on the southwest side of Fort Wayne, IN.

Jacob's Well, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. David Adams

As of September, 2014, Jacob's Well purchased a building, cell tower, and preschool from a UCC church that was closing its doors. It was truly a gift of God beyond any expectation - a miraculous set of circumstances which have given this young congregation an opportunity to re-launch its ministry on the North side of Fort Wayne. The congregation extensively remodeled the facility including new roof, carpet, paint, and worship technology. They also created a coffee bar/cafe area to provide a unique place to connect with preschool parents and Sunday morning worshippers. The remodeling and dedication are to be completed by summer 2015 with a September, 2015 re-launch of the congregation's ministry.

Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. David Petersen & The Rev. Michael Frese
This congregation carries on its ministry of Word and Sacrament in the south central neighborhoods of Fort Wayne, IN. Rev. Michael Frese was installed as part-time associate pastor on July 29, 2012.

St. Michael, Fort Wayne, IN – The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing
St. Michael Lutheran Church completed and dedicated a new sanctuary in October, 2012. Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing was installed as senior pastor in September, 2013. The church received 148 new members in 2014, and average weekend worship attendance was 621. For the past 53 years St. Michael has operated a Christian day school in partnership with Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Ft. Wayne. Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year was 359 students. The congregation has its own preschool, oversees 34 active small group Bible studies, runs a Stephen ministry, offers thirteen different musical ensembles and choirs, and directs a robust mercy ministry that serves locally and also sends people globally to care for human needs.

Peace, Fremont, IN – The Rev. Wayne Berkesch
The congregation celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013 as it continues to serve in the tri-state area of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Recently, a new pavilion was built to service outdoor weddings and worship services, as well as family gatherings and picnics. A community garden was started in 2013 and Upward basketball began in 2014. Pastor Wayne Berkesch has served the congregation for over twenty years. The call process has begun for an associate pastor and an additional staff person to assist in our outreach to youth and to the community.

Prince of Peace, Hudson (Stroh), IN – The Rev. James Elsner
In 2013, the congregation reviewed and affirmed its mission statement (*"Shining Our Light for Christ"*) and core values. It also revised its governing documents to facilitate a policy-based model of church governance. In 2014, Susan Predoehl was called as commissioned minister/deaconess and serves in worship and music, children and family ministries, and women's ministries. In 2015, the sanctuary of the church was remodeled and expanded to include a music presentation area. The congregation is working through a process with a consultant to enhance its community outreach.

Trinity, LaPorte, IN – The Rev. Dr. Joseph Loftis
Trinity celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2015. The anniversary was commemorated on January 4th at a special worship service with District President Stechholz delivering the message. Trinity has hosted preaching workshops for area LCMS pastors. Plans for the immediate future are being discussed as the congregation thanks the Lord for 90 years of grace.

Advent, Zionsville, IN – The Rev. Dr. John Fiene
This is one of the newest congregations of the English District. They transferred from the Indiana District and were accepted with a Service of Chartering on August 25, 2013. The congregation carries on its ministry of word and sacrament in the northwestern suburbs of Indianapolis, IN.

MIDWEST REGION

THE REV. ROBERT A. ROGERS, FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

The Midwest region of the English District includes 39 congregations and 20 schools and/or preschools from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, and Nebraska and continues to be full of exciting ministry. One of the really exciting things going on is the willingness to try whole new paradigms for ministry. We sometimes hear of paradigm shifts, but what I am seeing is congregations and pastors who are willing to lay aside everything we have "tried before" along with the long list of things "we have never done that way before," and truly focus on finding the need that needs to be met. The Church has long bemoaned the fact that the new generation does not value the historic Church. But throughout the Midwest region I am seeing historic churches seeking ways in which to communicate their wealth of history and tradition to a new society. Perhaps it is not that they do not value what we have but that no one has communicated it to them in such a way that it seems valuable. On paper, the Lutheran Church is dying, but if this trend of innovative communication of the Gospel continues and the new society continues to be included and assimilated, what seems to be death may just be distillation. It is okay to trim the vine back in winter to prepare for new growth in spring. In the Midwest, mega churches are not our competition. Secularism is our competition and the people within it are hungry for something more meaningful. I see congregations throughout the Midwest region striving to feed the need and I pray that the trend will continue and be blessed by God.

Appointed in 2014 to fill out Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz's term, I have barely gotten my feet wet but I have had the privilege of meeting with the Board of Directors several times and learning the inner workings of the District. It has been an honor to serve you in this way.

CHICAGO-NORTH CIRCUIT #15

The Rev. Paul E. Bacon, Circuit Visitor

During the past three years substantial changes have taken place in the Chicago North circuit, made up of nine congregations on the West and North side of Chicago and the northern and western suburbs.

Originally there were discussions between Our Savior and Jefferson Park congregations aimed at calling a pastor to serve both congregations. They were only two miles apart. Instead Eric Carlson was called to be the pastor at Our Savior and Jefferson Park closed, selling their property to an Orthodox congregation, with the members dispersing to area congregations.

At the present time Bethany and Bethesda congregations are in the midst of becoming a dual parish and calling a new pastor to serve the parish. The district board has voted to fund the first year of this arrangement with \$60,000 on top of the resources of the two congregations, with funding for the future dependent on the development of the new parish.

Faith congregation in Arlington Heights called Pastor Brad Urlaub to serve as associate pastor with Pastor Thomas Sanders. Outreach to younger families in the area is taking place through their newly-founded preschool.

Through the development of the Chicago Mission Council both Chicago circuits are working together to revitalize city congregations, one congregation at a time. The Bethany-Bethesda project is the first effort.

City and suburban members have indicated their support for this new effort by their individual participation on the council, which we hope will be a strong stimulus for effective mission.

Faith, Arlington Heights, IL – The Rev. Thomas Sanders & The Rev. Bradley Urlaub
Bethany, Chicago, IL – Vacant
Bethesda, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon & The Rev. Dr. Shadrach Katari
Christ English, Chicago, IL – The Rev. C. J. Wright
Grace English, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko
Our Savior, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Eric Carlson
Holy Spirit, Elk Grove Village, IL – The Rev. Timothy Manwell
Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL – The Rev. Scott Stiegemeier
Trinity, Villa Park, IL – The Rev. Robert Rogers

CHICAGO-SOUTH CIRCUIT #16

The Rev. Douglas Hoag, Circuit Visitor

The Chicago South Circuit has many challenges with urban and suburban ministry, but also is filled with joy and with love for the Lord Jesus. As the outgoing Circuit Visitor I can say it's been a pleasure to work with brother pastors and their congregations. One of the highlights of circuit ministry in Chicago is the establishment of the Chicago Mission Council (CMC) in conjunction with the Chicago North Circuit. The CMC consists of both clergy and laity and exists for the express purpose of revitalizing existing congregations in Chicago and its suburbs. The project the Council is working on currently is assisting two north side congregations form a dual parish. As that project quickly comes to a close we try to make it known that the CMC is available to other congregations who would like some assistance and recommendations on how to move ministry forward. We hope to find ways to establish a Lutheran presence in the city. Our prayer to the Lord is that He would open pathways for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing saving faith and fervent hope to many in and around Chicago.

Concordia, Berwyn, IL – The Rev. James Huenink
Chatham Fields, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Kenety Gee & The Rev. Keith Kinslow
Ephphatha, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Prentice Marsh
Faith, Chicago, IL – Vacant
Good Shepherd, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Peter Hoffmann, Emeritus
New Hope, Chicago, IL – The Rev. Paul Anderson
St. John the Divine, Chicago, IL – Vacant
Messiah, Elmhurst, IL – The Rev. Bradford Maxon
Markham, Markham, IL – The Rev. Dr. Larry Schneekloth
Trinity, New Lenox, IL – The Rev. Douglas Hoag

MILWAUKEE CIRCUIT #17

The Rev. Kenneth C. Rankin III, Circuit Visitor

Messiah, Forest Lake, MN – The Rev. Gregory Musolf

Messiah's pastor of twelve (12) years, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, accepted a call from the LCMS Board for International Missions in October of 2014. Pastor and Mrs. Jastram will be serving in Tokyo, Japan. In January of 2015 the Rev. Gregory Musolf accepted Messiah's call to be the new pastor. Pastor Musolf was installed on February 15, 2015 by English District Bishop Rev. Dr. David Stechholz assisted by MN South District President the Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy and visiting pastors of the Minnesota North, Minnesota South and Wisconsin South Districts.

Hope, Hastings, MN – The Rev. Joshua Bernau

Hope continues to be a growing congregation, both in numbers and in faith. In 2014 they partnered with LCEF to do a MOVE capital campaign based on the words of 2 Corinthians 5:14, "The love of Christ moves us." They state: "We have seen \$300,000 be pledged to pay down our building debt, as well as to bring on a full-time staff person in youth and family ministry starting in the summer of 2015". They have also been revamping their current discipleship process, preparing to launch missional communities in 2015.

Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI – The Rev. Keith Speaks, The Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson, The Rev. Christian Wood, The Rev. Wayne Rasmussen, The Rev. Joseph Robb, The Rev. Leon Jameson & SMP Vicar Chad Kogutkiewicz

Hales Corners Lutheran Church has been blessed to receive three new members to our Lead Ministry Team. Pastor Joe Robb is leading our multi-site and local mission efforts. Pastor Leon Jameson is working with a team to lead our efforts to equip homes and families to live life on the Mission of God. Vicar Chad Kogutkiewicz is leading our high school ministry and working with the team to equip homes and families. A new worship leader, Austin Auberg, has been added to the ministry. New mission efforts locally, regionally and globally are changing the culture of the ministry. Our schools are entering into the voucher programs and are excited about the opportunities this will provide to live life on mission. We are currently looking for a director of communication ministries.

St. Mark, Janesville, WI – The Rev. Paul Speerbrecker

We continue to thank the Lord God for all His goodness and love to us in Jesus Christ and continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments. Activities at the church for the last triennium centered mostly on "brick and mortar" projects. In mid-2012, a high speed CD copying machine was donated to make copies of our church service available to worshipers before they left after service. New flooring was installed. A heart defibrillator machine was donated for emergency use. A new phone system was installed. In December, Mrs. Amy Nelson, our Youth Minister, resigned to be a stay-at-home mom. 2013 was a year of recognition for Church workers. Rev. Paul Speerbrecker was honored for 10 years of ministry at St. Mark's in June. And although not called as pastor, the congregation also honored Rev. Guy Vogel, (emeritus), a member of the congregation, on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Later that year new windows and doors in the entryway were installed as well as new carpeting in other areas. In 2014 lights on the parking lot were upgraded. Miss Emma Shaw, a daughter of the congregation, became the new youth director. New windows were installed in the back of the church increasing energy efficiency. Three individuals were recognized for completing

the Crossways! In-depth Bible survey course in February, 2015. Plans for 2015 include new landscaping around the church.

Christ, Lake Mills, WI – Vacant

Christ Lutheran Church continues to be a member of "Family Promise" of Jefferson County. "Family Promise" is a group of 13 member churches that offer housing and meals for homeless families admitted to the program. Each church hosts the families for a week at a time on a rotating basis. To date, Christ Lutheran has only hosted one family as other participants have been able to find more permanent housing. The Christ Kids program has returned to Sunday mornings this fall after being held on Wednesday nights last year. Christ Kids is a multi-aged Sunday school program that allows the children to learn the weekly Bible story at an age-appropriate level while participating in one single class. In November, Christ Lutheran held its third annual German-fest Dinner. 141 people from the community and surrounding towns were fed German-style pork loin, schnitzel, sauerkraut, and more. The growing event is proving to be a social outreach to many in the Lake Mills area.

Prince of Peace, Menomonee Falls, WI – The Rev. Thomas Engler

The Lutheran Church of the Prince of Peace is undergoing many changes, starting with its new pastor, the Rev. Tom Engler, who was installed July 20, 2014. Our community still has a need for ministry to youth, but it also has a growing need to serve elder adults. Our youth group is active in Sunday school and outside activities. We also have an unaffiliated Scout troop that uses our facilities and performs service projects when needed. We had a community open house last October and have offered transportation assistance to church for the elderly on an organized basis. Many members participate in a rotating social group, which has provided welcomed activities for the last several years. Volunteers help out at the House of Refuge, a facility that helps young women with children who need housing and care. We will begin a Comfort Dog program aimed at the elderly and others this spring, and continue to jointly support Missionary David Baker in Mongolia. We plan to organize a growing effort in our outreach and evangelism in the near future.

Living Hope, Mt. Pleasant, WI – The Rev. Cashius Myers

Peace, New Berlin, WI – The Rev. Kenneth Rankin III

In 2012, Peace Lutheran Church celebrated 50 years of ministry in Southeast Wisconsin. During the year, the church celebrated its past and all that had been accomplished, while looking to new opportunities in the future. To this end, numerous special events for outreach were scheduled including special indoor and outdoor concerts, inviting the community to join the celebration. Also Peace began a yearly "Food Pack" for the poor. Each year, over half of the 250-300 volunteers, (packers!) come from the surrounding community. In the last three years, Peace has packed over 250,000 meals and raised over \$35,000 to pay and ship them. In 2015 the goal is to pack over 110,000 and raise over \$19,000. In the summer of 2013, the Rev. Aaron Boerst was installed as associate pastor, to work with youth and families. In 2014, Peace began "*Paving the Way*", a generosity emphasis to update and improve the campus, while paying down debt.

Resurrection, Shawano, WI – The Rev. Ronald Raddatz

In the early summer of 2012 a group of members from St. James Ev. Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI decided to start a mission congregation. As they met, someone suggested contacting a former St. James' pastor who lived in Green Bay. They contacted Rev. Leonard Buelow to help them get organized. He met with them on a regular basis. On August 19, 2012,

Resurrection Ev. Lutheran Church conducted its first service. Rev. Buelow led the worship. Rev. Ronald Raddatz, who had been a pastor at St. James, was called to be their pastor. After Pastor Raddatz' installation by Rev. Buelow, Resurrection began a discussion with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the English and the North Wisconsin Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to see with whom they wanted to affiliate. Resurrection was impressed with the mission-mindedness of the English District and requested membership with them. In May 2013, the church constitution was approved and the English District accepted Resurrection into membership. Rev. Raddatz was then installed as pastor by Bishop/President David Stechholz. Since its inception, Resurrection's membership has continued to grow. As of December 7, 2014 they have 125 members. The church worships in the reception hall of Boarder's Inn and Suites, Shawano, WI.

St. Mark, Sheboygan, WI – The Rev. Brett Matz

Over the last three years St. Mark Lutheran Church has continued providing material and financial support for the Faith House Orphanage located in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, St. Mark's Food Pantry continues to be a source of hope for those who need assistance throughout Sheboygan. The Men's Club annual Brat Fry and Potato Pancake Supper also continue to raise funds for local relief organizations. Lastly, in 2014, St. Mark began two new ministries: *GriefShare*, a program designed to help those dealing with the death of a loved one and *Stephen Ministries*, which assists people in overcoming various personal issues.

Faith, Watertown, WI – Served by Mr. Seth Hoepfner

In 2012, Faith Lutheran Church completed its 25th year as a congregation. Pastor Neil Rand was ordained in 2013. Faith called Seth Hoepfner as the Lay Minister. Our Christian day school continues to be a jewel in the crown of our congregation. Our mighty choir has sung at most worship services. We began a Sunday school class as well as started a VBS three years ago. The reality is that this community is at a crossroads of sorts, one way leading back to the past and the other heading boldly into the future. In moving forward, we have approached a new partner in ministry, called the Mission of the 72. In July of 2014, Pastor Neil Rand retired and Faith Lutheran installed Seth Hoepfner as pastoral deacon. He will be entering the SMP program at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis in 2015.

Greenfield Park, West Allis, WI – The Rev. Fred Reaman

Greenfield Park Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in October, 1939 and celebrated its 75th anniversary the weekend of October 16-19, 2014. On Sunday, October 19, a special worship service was led by its new pastor, Rev. Fred Reaman and included participation by former pastors, Rev. William Meier (1969-1999) and Rev. Paul Koester (2000-2013). Former lay minister, Mrs. Diane Ott-Hager (1978-1990) shared a special children's message. A celebration luncheon was enjoyed after the service. In addition, in honor of their 75th anniversary, special events sponsored by one of the six Parish Life Teams will take place throughout 2015. The congregation is excited for the next 75 years! After a one-year pastoral vacancy, Rev. Fred Reaman, formerly pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Wisconsin, was installed on June 29, 2014 as the 7th pastor of Greenfield Park Ev. Lutheran Church.

ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT #18

The Rev. Michael Stoerger, Circuit Visitor

St. John's, Hannibal, MO – The Rev. Michael Stoerger

Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO – The Rev. Jonathan Gruen

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE – The Rev. Mark Ebert & The Rev. Michael Brown

Peace, O'Fallon, MO – The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner

Chapel of the Cross, Saint Louis, MO – The Rev. Theodore Laesch, Jr. &
The Rev. Mark Koschmann

Chapel of the Cross, Saint Peters, MO – The Rev. Dr. Mark Hoehner, The Rev. James Uglum,
The Rev. Dr. Robert Hoehner & The Rev. James Prince

Grace, Vine Grove, KY – The Rev. David Tannahill

WESTERN REGION

THE REV. R. WAYNE MORTON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Service to the Lord of the Church in the Western Region of the District continues to be centered in the week-in and week-out feeding of hungry souls with the Bread of Life through Word and Sacrament, in worship and in Bible study and in youth and adult Confirmation, at congregations in Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah.

The Western Region faced several unique ministry challenges this past triennium.

Work for the Lord and for the world in downtown San Diego (as well as across the border in Tijuana, Mexico) changed dramatically when the founding pastor of Transform San Diego accepted a call away from the ministry.

An anchor congregation in one of our circuits transferred to the local geographic district, resulting in the downgrading of that circuit from electoral to visitation (Christ Church-Lutheran, AZ North).

Our region's only Lutheran high school requested and received a transfer out of the District to the local geographic district so that it could embark on a novel ministry partnership aimed not only at continuing work for the Lord at the high school but also at the congregation on whose land it sits (Valley Lutheran High School, AZ North; Mt. Calvary, PSW).

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, service to God and to the world, though, continues to spill out of our local congregations, schools, and campus ministries. Some of the ministry highlights in the Western Region the last triennium include:

The reaching and teaching of students on two university campuses (with vicars at San Francisco State University (West Portal, San Francisco Circuit) and the University of Arizona (Catalina, AZ South Circuit)) - including the joy of participating in both the east and west coast national March for Life as well as LCMS U's campus ministry conference "TABOO."

The official chartering of mission congregations in three states: Gracepoint, Sahuarita, AZ; Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA; and Trinity, Las Vegas, NV.

Welcoming a new congregation by transfer from the local geographic district (Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV.)

Enrolling one student in Concordia Seminary's Center for Hispanic Studies (Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA) and another in its deaconess training (Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop).

The joy of congregations successfully navigating the call process (e.g. Prince of Peace, Mesquite; Our Savior's, St. George; Peace in the Valley, Benson; Christus Rex, Rio Rico; Mt. Olive, Tucson; Peace, Palm Desert; Holy Trinity, Tucson; Family of Christ, Ahwatukee).

Increasing joint ministry among sister congregations - illustrated by the new mutual service arrangement between remote congregations in the AZ North Circuit (Faith, Overgaard and Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop) and the Lenten midweek "pulpit exchange" in the AZ South Circuit (Ascension, Tucson; Faith, Tucson; Gracepoint, Sahuarita; Peace in the Valley, Benson; Risen Savior, Green Valley).

The continued training of qualified lay people to serve as lay deacons or lay deaconesses in their home congregations through a customized instruction plan of 144 contact hours (in courses from Scripture to the Confessions to Luther to Ethics to Apologetics) out of the Servanthood School (AZ South Circuit).

Meeting the needs in the community *for* community - as well as for sustenance - through free regular meals - breakfast at Shepherd of the Pines, Payson and S.O.U.L. lunch at Risen Savior, Green Valley.

ARIZONA-NORTH CIRCUIT #19

The Rev. Steven DeSanto, Circuit Visitor

Faith, Overgaard, AZ – The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

Nestled in the Pines along the Mogollon Rim at 6700 ft., Faith Lutheran Church is in the beautiful and temperate part of Arizona that "you don't know". From late fall through early spring attendance can be pretty thin as retirees and tourists flee the winter cold. Yet this last winter attendance has been up thanks to local visitors staying to join new member classes and eventually joining the congregation. More and more young families with children are changing the look of this congregation which before consisted of mostly retirees. We pray the trend continues into the summer when attendance swells by a factor of 3 to 4. Last summer we hosted a small VBS and everyone had a great time. This year we will do it again as all attendees said they wanted to come back and bring their friends "next year". We are very blessed and privileged to live in a beautiful place and share the beautiful message of the Gospel with those in our town and so many visitors from so many parts of the United States.

Messiah, Parker, AZ – Served by Deacon Roger Yoder

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ – The Rev. Steven DeSanto

God has blessed us here in the Rim Country these past three years. While our membership fell off a little at the beginning of this reporting period (recession related moves, especially for families), we have seen several new faces over the last year and in January we welcomed nine new members. The study of God's Word has increased both here at church and in small, home-based groups. Last year was very special as we spent about eight months studying the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This was a whole church activity and included our teens and young people as well as the adults. It is truly a blessing to see so many people so excited to discover the treasure of God's precious Word. We have continued our outreach to the community through our hosting of the Quarterly United Blood Services blood drives; partnering with Lifeline Screening and Arizona Heart Institute to provide preventive screenings for several serious health conditions several times a year; hosting meetings for our alternative high school (Payson Center for Success); our twice monthly Family Movie Nights; the men's monthly Community Breakfast; providing space for several service group meetings; and our continuous food drive to help supply the Community Food Bank.

Family of Christ Church and Learning Center, Phoenix, AZ – The Rev. Dr. Wade Butler
The Learning Center continues to be quite successful in serving the young people of the community with Christ-centered early education. The church is staying reasonably steady having been faced with the loss of Pastor Fred Hearn who accepted a call to Toledo, Ohio. We give thanks to the Lord of the Church for the faithful service of Pastor Dave Lindeman who has graciously stepped up and served the congregation as our vacancy pastor. We are excited to announce that in November 2014 a call was extended to Rev. Dr. Wade Butler, and he accepted that call and was installed on March 15, 2015. We are looking forward to working with Pastor Butler to grow God's Church in this place.

Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ – The Rev. R. Wayne Morton
"Growing in faith and numbers " was evident in our enthusiastic LifeLight and Sunday morning Bible classes, adult confirmation groups, and second successive "Six Chief Parts" (six-member) youth confirmation class. This past July, we also celebrated both our 35th anniversary as a congregation and the 20th anniversary of our pastor's ordination and service to us. Over the past three years we cultivated an ongoing stewardship that allowed us to "connect with the unchurched and dechurched" as a congregation through our support of - in addition to District and Synod - sister congregations, our two U.S. seminaries, the DRLM, the Wittenberg Project, and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. This past July we joined a handful of local Christian congregations in a community "Water of Life" effort as collectively we handed out over ten thousand free bottles of chilled water to parade goers at the sweltering community Fourth of July parade in nearby Show Low. Monthly, our Sunday school offerings continue to be sent to different mission projects within our community and around the world - from the Living Hope Women's Center and Hope House Maternity Home to Lutheran Indian Ministries. We rejoiced when our first-ever (short-term, six-month) missionary re-upped for a second, full-year term, and then were blessed to be able to commission her as our first-ever deaconess student.

ARIZONA-SOUTH CIRCUIT #20

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler, Circuit Visitor

In the midst of many changes in the last three years in the circuit, we have seen God's many continued rich blessings as we work together. With Rev. Ian Pacey accepting a call to Texas, the University of Arizona campus ministry became vacant; and yet ministry has continued to the University of Arizona community. Vicar Chris Craig and Rev. Michael Morehouse of Catalina Lutheran continue to staff this ministry, with pastors in the circuit helping with the Divine Service on Sunday afternoons. This vital ministry is supported financially by the local circuit, Pacific Southwest District congregations, and the Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society (ALCMS). Catalina Lutheran has placed a call for a candidate to serve as their assistant pastor, who will also then continue providing leadership for the campus ministry.

SAFE-Lutheran, the circuit foundation, continues to raise funds for Lutheran school students. With the closure of the Lutheran school at Fountain of Life, there are now only two schools – Faith Lutheran and Ascension Lutheran.

The Lutheran Servanthood School, the circuit's education institution to train lay people for the lay diaconate, continues to train men and women.

The called workers in the circuit meet seven times a year for worship, study, and sharing of their ministries. Circuit forums are held two times each year (in the spring and the fall). At the Fall Circuit Forum, 2014, the congregations considered new mission starts/opportunities in the circuit.

Peace in the Valley, Benson, AZ – Served by SMP Vicar Dan James

When the dual parish with Mt. Olive, Tucson, was dissolved, Dan James, a member of Peace in the Valley, applied for and was accepted in the SMP program of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. Rev. Keith Christiansen serves as the supervising pastor.

Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ – The Rev. Dr. John Stieve

Risen Savior celebrated its 50th anniversary as a congregation in 2014. They continue an active ministry among permanent residents and winter residents. Through the leadership of the Rev. Dr. John Stieve, the congregation is a great resource of support helping circuit congregations in ministry needs and opportunities. Deaconess Jeri Morrison, a called, rostered worker, is also serving the congregation.

Christus Rex, Rio Rico, AZ – The Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler

Christus Rex called Pastor Schindler in January 2013. While the congregation is small (only 41 members), worship attendance has grown.

Gracepoint, Sahuarita, AZ – The Rev. Steve Patton

God continues to bless the congregation with slow and steady growth. Worship attendance is nearing the century mark each week.

Ascension, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. James Thelen & The Rev. Ron York, SMP

Ascension closed its Lutheran elementary school in June 2014; but in January 2015 they reopened a Kindergarten with the view of adding a grade a year. In addition, they expanded their preschool. They continue moving forward as they expand and grow.

Catalina, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Michael Morehouse

Catalina Lutheran continues to experience growth. They have placed a call for a seminary candidate to assist both at Catalina Lutheran and the Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society (ALCMS), as campus pastor.

Faith, Tucson, AZ – Vacant

In January 2015, Faith became vacant when the Rev. James Mavis moved to Montana to serve a dual parish. The congregation is in the calling process at this time. Faith Lutheran School continues to grow under the leadership of its principal, Esther Nicholas.

Holy Trinity, Tucson, AZ – Served by The Rev. Dr. Garry McClure & The Rev. John Upton

The congregation has decided not to call a full-time pastor at this time. They have decided to move forward under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Garry McClure (working with the Hispanic members) and the Rev. John Upton (working with the Anglo members).

Messiah, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Luther Esala

Messiah continues its ministry using the old sanctuary of Ascension Lutheran for their Sunday worship services and Bible study. Rev. Esala serves the congregation as a “worker-priest.”

Mt. Olive, Tucson, AZ – The Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa
When their previous pastor accepted a call, Mt. Olive decided to call a new pastor as a single parish. They welcomed the Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa, as their pastor in 2014.

NEVADA/UTAH CIRCUIT #21

The Rev. Dr. James Murray, Circuit Visitor

At the age of 84+, the English District in its August 2013 board meeting, appointed me as Nevada/Utah Circuit 21 Visitor with the Letter of Appointment dated August 20, 2013. There are only three congregations and at a great distance in travel: Trinity, North Las Vegas, NV; Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV; and Our Savior's, Saint George, UT.

Since two new pastors attend quarterly PALS meetings in Arizona, Utah and Nevada, we as a circuit meet at Western Region Pastoral Conferences for short meetings. A couple pastors attend the meeting of the Pacific Southwest District Las Vegas Circuit monthly. We held our Circuit Forum with lay delegates on Saturday, December 13, 2014, with great anticipation and cooperation and accomplishment! God so willing, we will hold our last meeting before the District Convention at Mesquite, NV, on April 25, 2015. All glory to the Crucified, Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, King!

Prince of Peace, Mesquite, NV – The Rev. Travis Lauterbach
Trinity, North Las Vegas, NV – The Rev. Gary Oehlerts
Our Savior's, St. George, UT – The Rev. Arthur Drehman

SAN DIEGO CIRCUIT #22

The Rev. Steven Duescher, Circuit Visitor

Borrego, Borrego Springs, CA – Served by Deacon Michael Matthews

First, El Cajon, CA – The Rev. Dr. Alan Wyneken, Vacancy Pastor
Rev. Aaron Unseth accepted a call and left in May 2014. As of March 2015, First Lutheran is still in the calling process. The Rev. Justin Laughridge planted Crossroads Lutheran Church in the San Diego community of Mira Mesa. He was installed as pastor of Crossroads, March 22, 2015.

Inter-Mountain, Guatay, CA – Served by Deacon Robert Kulowitch

Last May Inter-Mountain moved to a larger facility in Guatay, CA from its former location in Pine Valley, CA. We have, however, elected to retain our mailing address (P.O. Box) as Pine Valley.

Many repairs and renovations have been made to the new facility which allows us room for a Thursday evening Bible study, attended by as many as fifteen people. Having gone through Lutheranism 101 we started at the beginning of the Old Testament and are now midway through the book of Exodus. Since moving to our new location, we have sponsored a community showing of the movie "Heaven is for Real" and a community Christmas concert presented by the First Lutheran Church Choir. We sponsored a needy family for Christmas providing food, clothing and gifts, and we have had a rummage sale to fund our community

giving. This year we started a Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry and are fully chartered by them. So far two quilts have been presented to community members. We also received a visit from Bishop Stechholz to see our new facility and update the congregation on District and Synod activities. We had one infant baptism and anticipate receiving four new attendees into our membership. Financially, the church operated in the black in 2014.

Morning Star, Lakeside, CA – Served by Deacon Thomas Kuwazaki & The Rev. Justin Laughridge, Vacancy Pastor

During this vacancy period after Rev. Maynard retired in 2011, there were eight baptisms; seven confirmands; 21 new members; and five burials. Continued week-long VBS outreach. Teaching and ministering to about 25 (2012) staff; 18 (2013). In 2014 VBS was taken to Lindo Lake Community Park and reached a population of teenage skaters at the park; young children and their families, homeless, and others who did not know about Jesus Christ. We shared the love of Christ by feeding them with a BBQ and with spiritual food.

Lindo Lake Park Outreach: Meeting various people at the park and reaching out to them right where they are in life. Prayers needed were written on paper butterflies, and those needs taken back to the congregation for continued prayer. We've been blessed to have had four baptisms at the park and one deliverance from an unclean spirit since the beginning of this ministry in 2012. There is also a weekly Bible study on Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Small groups started in 2013 with one youth group and five adult groups. In 2014 the structure of the groups changed to meeting two days per week, one for Bible study, one for fellowship and additionally one day for outreach.

A youth group of about 12 to 30 participates in "Neighbors and Christ Hanging Out" (NACHO), an event that continues to reach churched and unchurched youth and young adults with the love of Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child: Annual event of taking about seven youth to Los Angeles to deliver the gift boxes to the processing center. The youth were involved with the actual processing of these gift boxes to designated areas. These are gift boxes that were collected at MSLC. Last two years our goal of 100 gift boxes each year was reached for a total of 200 gift boxes.

Sunday school for the youth (10) and adults (10) is available as well as Sunday school for preschoolers.

There are two participants in the Lay Leadership program.

MSLC church has been very active in community outreach through involvement with the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the Spirit of Christmas and the Lakeside Annual Parade, Lakeside Christian Help Center, etc.

Crossroads, Mira Mesa, CA – The Rev. Justin Laughridge

This past triennium has seen God's hand at work in our ministry here in San Diego. Crossroads Lutheran Church was chartered as a member congregation of the English District, and we are so grateful for the encouragement and support of others in our District who made that possible. We are particularly appreciative of our sending congregation (First Lutheran - El Cajon, CA), the other churches in our circuit and our Western Region, as well as the English

District at large in their support of this mission effort.

As a mission start, EVERYTHING is brand new. Reaching new people, developing new places of ministry, and we have been overjoyed to see the new things that God is doing. We saw, over this triennium, new home groups forming – groups that have nurtured the faith lives of their members while also encouraging those members to serve outside of their group in God's Kingdom. We have seen new baptisms, but particularly the baptisms of new adult members. What a privilege to see that happening! And we have begun, just in the past few months, to see adult converts to Christianity (people reached by our ministry) taking up positions of leadership in the church under the guidance of others. Indigenous leadership at the congregational level has truly been a thing to praise the Lord for!

We have been blessed to see local members taking leadership roles, new groups forming to teach God's Word (5 total groups as of 2015), dozens of opportunities (47 in total) to serve in our community, and hundreds of opportunities (over 630, at last count) to give witness to the faith that we share in Jesus Christ with the world. But none of that would be possible without our partnerships locally and at the District level, so we thank you again for your work in, and your commitment to, the mission field God has placed you in. May He continue to bless you as you serve Him with joy!

Living Water, San Diego, CA – The Rev. Steven Duescher

Living Water continues to worship weekly, presently meeting at a Hampton Inn Hotel in Carmel Valley. The congregation remains small. Living Water is seriously considering selling the property it has purchased to secure rental space for better worship facilities and congregational use. Our desire is to be the people of God in the community and bring others into His fold. Living Water continues to share the services of their pastor with Bethany Lutheran Church in Ocean, a Pacific Southwest District congregation.

Christ the King, Santee, CA – The Rev. Wallace Kimari

The congregation is holding worship services in a local elementary school and continues forward in its 55th year of ministry. As we move ahead following a complete change of direction, from thinking we will be building on a new site with the help of a housing developer who would buy most of the land from us but who has since withdrawn the offer, we are now selling the site and going to plan B. We pray for God's guidance and blessings as the congregation moves ahead in our continuing proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

LOS ANGELES CIRCUIT #23

The Rev. Daniel Pezzica, Circuit Visitor

Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA - Vacant

Chapel of the Cross, Mission Hills, CA – The Rev. William Naumann

Chapel of the Cross is an English District church plant dating to 1955, now reviving from a low point of five active members. God's revival started with members of a nearby Methodist church that closed, a retired ex-Missouri Synod pastor, his parish nurse wife, and a Guatemalan immigrant who wanted to be a pastor. They joined the Lutheran survivors to continue Lutheran worship. Vicar Manuel de la Rosa is now completing his second year at the St. Louis based Center for Hispanic Studies. He assists reinstated Pastor Bill Naumann in

turning Chapel's attention outward to a mixed Hispanic/Anglo/Asian community in northwest Los Angeles County.

Peace, Palm Desert, CA – The Rev. Brian Pratt

- Wrote & delivered weekly sermons; planned services with bulletins and PowerPoints
- Selected, delegated or practiced, and performed music for all weekend services
- Taught weekly Bible study on various topics (Angels, Women in Ministry, etc.)
- Taught weekly Lutheran (Christian Doctrine) Basics Class for new members
- Led weekly devotion at New Life for CVRM clients and volunteers
- Taught weekly devotion for Manor Care residents and staff
- Taught weekly Bible Sing-a-Long at Brookdale Health Care
- Conducted two Christmas Bible programs for about 45 Desert ARC clients and staff
- Thorough new member visits/theological discussions & education; reception & certificates
- Completed an average of two shut-in/hospital visits per week, some with Communion
- Invited about 25 people to church with no visitors resulting this period so far
- Served weekly meals at Coachella Valley Rescue Mission service outings on Saturdays
- Attended English District SW Circuit Pastors Conference
- Attended LHM / LLL Conference in Riverside with three lay delegates
- Attended Braille Institute brunch with five lay delegates
- Weekly integration/coordination meetings
- Continued existing member visits focusing on "Snowbirds"
- Taught weekly confirmation classes – 4 students
- Guitar and other music lessons – youth music support and Advent special music
- Attended Norval Chilman's weekly Bible class on Acts
- SDA – met separately with Pastors Greg and Paul toward joint ministry possibilities, budgetary issues and potential office/storage space additions
- Boehme Center – led occasional chapel services for 45 students & staff and helped plan and lead the Christmas "Birthday Party for Jesus"
- Worked on electronic media access, policy and content including improving website content and adding Peace Lutheran service audio recordings online
- Attended monthly men's breakfasts
- Attended Sunday Bible studies when possible
- Began cleaning out and rearranging church office; working with SDA for more space
- Continued passing out new business cards with service hours and map for outreach

Plans for the Future

- GROW OUR CONGREGATION!!!
- Expand new 3:16 prayer initiative
- Possibly move residence to Palm Desert Greens to expand outreach efforts close to church
- Expand electronic media task force to enhance and monitor access, policy and content: Peace's web page, Facebook, Twitter and possible blog – possibly including sermon outlines, scripture readings, daily inspirational blurbs, and digital versions of sermons/Bible teaching
- Upgrade Lutheran (Christian Doctrine) Basics Class for new members and anyone else interested
- Work on projects with other area churches (St. John's, Trinity, Our Savior, SouthWest)

- Increase outreach efforts and hand out more cards/invitations at stores, restaurants, etc.

Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA – The Rev. Daniel Pezzica

SAN FRANCISCO CIRCUIT #24

The Rev. Peter Ledic, Circuit Visitor

Messiah, Danville, CA – The Rev. Peter Ledic

Grateful for the blessings of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sacraments which flow from His death and resurrection, Messiah serves the greater East Bay as a confessional, liturgical Lutheran congregation. Mindful of what St. Paul wrote, 'we have been blessed to be a blessing', we seek avenues and opportunities that God places before us to serve.

Our congregation aims to have local and global impact. Locally, we support our community's Valley Pregnancy Center, Good Shepherd Homes and the Food Bank of Contra Costa County. Globally we have partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya for 2 very important care projects. Messiah's Sunday School (and various individual members) are currently supporting 17 AIDS Orphans through the work of Rev. Dennis Meeker (who serves and works mostly in the Kibara slums of Nairobi) Messiah has also become vested in the Compassionate Deaconess Care Project, which has been established to provide micro loans for Deaconesses in Kenya to allow them to become financially viable. We have also have provided support and funding for water filters to be distributed through the deaconesses in Kenya, alleviating a substantial need for clean water for consumption.



During this past triennium we dedicated an expansion of our church which added Sunday school classrooms, a renovated narthex, expanded space in our fellowship hall and kitchen. We are now in the home stretch of our funding drive. As well, this past January we dedicated a new Sanctuary crucifix.

We continue to take our youth to the Higher Things conferences, visiting the campus of Concordia University, Mequon last summer.

Hope, Fremont, CA – The Rev. John Berg & The Rev. Freeman Li

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church is a small but very vibrant congregation. In the immigrant area of Fremont in which we are located we have many families who move into the area, find us, or we find them, and who move along. It makes for a lovely mix of people and many wonderful experiences. There is a core of long-time residents and members who have faithfully supported the congregation, her pastor and our physical plant. Two years ago to meet this influx of immigrants, most specifically Chinese immigrants, we called a Mandarin-speaking pastor, Freeman Li, to begin our outreach to these souls. Pastor Li was received by colloquy into the Missouri Synod, was ordained into office and set to work. The Lord has mightily blessed the proclamation of His Word in Mandarin in our midst, ensuring a constant procession of souls to the baptismal font and altar of the Lord. The sale of a portion of our unused property has supplied us with funds to support two pastors for the time as well as to do some needed property improvements.

Hope congregation with its pastors seeks to be a solidly confessional and liturgical congregation where we come into the presence of the Holy One with fear, reverence and devotion. We celebrate the church year with vigor as the bountiful gifts of the Lord are distributed in the preached Gospel and administered Sacraments. Hope celebrates the Eucharist in every Sunday and midweek service and offers private confession and absolution on a regular basis.

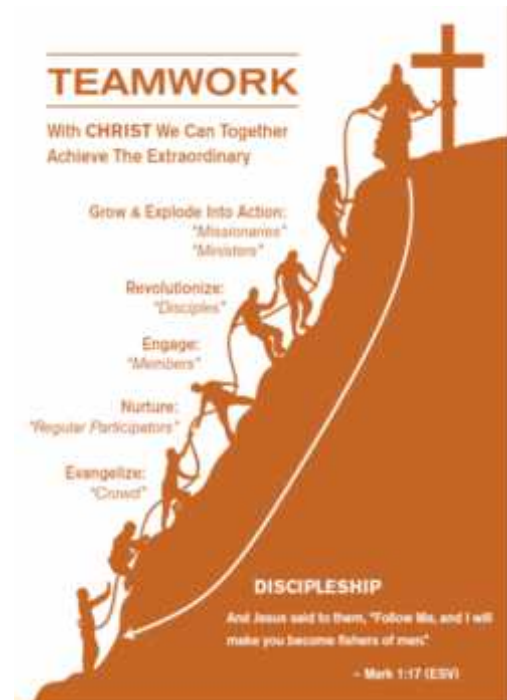
New Life, San Francisco, CA – The Rev. Charles Fox
What has God done in our “multi-congregation parish” of New Life’s & Shepherd of the Hills’ past year, and what do we believe He wants to do among us in the current Chinese New Year of the Lamb (of God)?! It’s summed up in our New Life Mission Statement’s Fantastic Five, the first letter of each mission call spelling out the acrostic for the Biblical Greek word: ENERGEIA (ἐνέργεια, “the powerful working of God,” cf. Colossians 2:12 ESV): “The MISSION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Our primary mission is to:

1) Evangelize: Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched community!

To enable us to have a bridge to welcome “not-yet-Christian” community friends, New Life & Shepherd of the Hills provide a weekly Food Pantry to all our neighbors in need. On the average we help 80+ families, most of whom are Chinese. We have a Food Pantry Sing Along twice a month, with songs, message, & PowerPoint. In 2014 God helped us begin the Saturday Morning Language Class, teaching Mandarin & Cantonese & ESL, & having a devotion time for all. Praisercise happens twice a week, having incredible exercise routines done in rhythm to Mandarin Christian songs. During the summer New Life participated with our “all age team” in the CCU Basketball, whose purpose is to facilitate Christian bridges. Our Vacation Bible School helped attract people from the community.

Throughout 2014 we had special “bridge events” meant to welcome visitors for a chance to hear the Gospel & enjoy participating in related events, including: Chinese New Year Sunday (86), Easter Sunday (136), Mother’s Day (114), Father’s Day, New Beginnings Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday (100), Christmas Program (110), Christmas Eve, Christmas Day (123), New Year’s Eve (at Pastor’s house, 39; 14 “not-yet-Christians”). We celebrated Valentine’s Day with a movie night on Valentine’s Weekend Friday, February 13th showing the recently released movie: “The Song.” It was a real blessing both to the new friends & relatives we invited, as well as a way to nurture our brothers & sisters who already walk with Jesus.

Chinese/English Christian calendars were designed to introduce people to all of NL & Soth’s activities. Our church carillon, silent for a time, is now online with a new system, welcoming & pleasing our community at 12noon and 6pm by announcing the time & playing one verse from two hymns.



New Lifers will by God's grace continue these above outreaches in 2015. We further hope to begin a Youth Basketball program, especially geared for both our church & community youth up to 16 years old.

2) Nurture: Through Christ-centered worship!

In 2014 New Life's English Worship was attended on the average by 27 people, Cantonese Worship by an average of 55 people, with total yearly average of 80 people. Shepherd of the Hills (SoH) had an average attendance of 16 people. Pastoral Deacon Otis Byrd, leads SoH's worship & preaches twice a month, allowing Pastor Chip to teach the large group Bible Study for New Life two or three times a month. To maximize the Christ-centered worship experience, New Life uses PowerPoint for all the songs/hymns. Bi-lingual PowerPoints are prepared for the SoH & NL sermons, to help listeners more clearly receive, understand, & meaningfully engage God's Word.

In 2015, our prayer to God for worship is that He'll increase averages for New Life's Cantonese Worship to 60, New Life's English Worship to 30; and Shepherd of the Hills Worship to 20!

3) Engage: Through Bible study groups!

Thank God, New Life's Sunday Education Hour attendance in the Bible Studies/Fellowships/Sunday Schools continues over 50% of the Sunday Worship attendance. SoH's Bible Study begins at 9am, preceding Sunday worship. The English Adult/Young Adult/Jr. High & Sr. High all use Bible Studies especially prepared to help participants by the Holy Spirit's ministry go deep into the Word of God and find personal applications. Wednesday's Prayer & Outreach Group both meets to study Scripture/pray for New Life, and goes out to make hospital/evangelism visits. The Youth & Young Adult Fellowship ministers especially to the young through God's Word & great Christian music. Four different "daily Bible reading plans" were prepared so we all can become "people of the Book."

In 2015 we'll also continue to engage in Scripture. We will also challenge our "Young Professionals" to grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus. This group, just begun in late 2014, especially meets the needs of our young adults & "pre-Christian" friends who've now graduated and/or have begun working careers. We, too, are seeking this year to start a group especially geared to grow our young children in God's Word.

4) Revolutionize: Disciple and nurture them in the body of Christ!

The English Confirmation Classes & the Chinese Discovery Class have continued to bring the Word of God deeper into people's lives. On Christmas Day God gave us one child Baptism, 2 Adult Baptisms, and 5 Confirmations. During our New Life Summer Retreat we all went in depth to discover God's vision for our lives by discovering our God given individual spiritual gifts & how we can serve Him in our congregational setting!

In 2014 we recently began, & in 2015 will continue, preaching two discipleship sermon series. "Lutheranism 101" enables us to comprehend & use the foundational elements of our Christian Lutheran understanding of God's Word. "Following Jesus" explains Christ's dynamic call to discipleship right from the Gospel of Matthew.

5) Grow & Explode Into Action: And equip them for Christian service and spiritual leadership! Opportunities for Christ-centered service & leadership come through opportunities to serve as

Sunday Worship Liturgist, Cantonese Interpreter, Mandarin Interpreter, Organist/Pianist, Praise Band, Lectors, Hosanna Fellowship Choir, Chinese Praise Group, Men's Choir, Children's Message Presenter, Sunday Child Care, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, Flowers Arranger, Refreshments Preparers & Cleaner-Uppers, Worship PowerPoint Preparer, Photographer, Worship PowerPoint Advancer, Church Cleaners (who deserve special thanks, weekly keeping God's House clean & beautiful,) & Property (doing projects like installing the carillon), and Walkers in the annual West Coast Walk for Life. Christian service and spiritual leadership are further fostered, as members served in the NL Mission & Ministry Council & in the SoTH Council, as Team Leaders or Helpers at the weekly Food Pantry & Food Pantry Sing Along, in the Saturday Morning Language Class, in bringing & leading in worship the patients of Laguna Honda Hospital [a giant chronic care facility for the city's destitute & ill] & Rehabilitation Center, in Vacation Bible School, and in the Young Musician Class (equipping our high school age New Lifers to lead all God's people in worship).

In order to better equip each member to naturally invite people to our bridge events (i.e. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Program/Christmas Eve/Christmas Day), beautiful invitation cards were designed & produced for distribution.

In 2014 we provided prayers, encouragement, and a financial gift to Corey Chang (graduating from Concordia, Irvine, to be a Director of Christian Education) and Melissa Laureta (working with InterVarsity Campus Ministry at San Francisco State University).

Beyond the doors of Shepherd of the Hills & New Life, God enabled us to beautifully "explode into action" for missions, as by His grace we provided needed donations to purchase the 4th & 5th of 5 motorcycles for evangelists under the training of LCMS missionary in China, the Rev. Stephen Wiesenauer. We further donated to LCMS World Missions for persecuted Christians, for endemic & infectious diseases (Ebola), for disaster relief; and to both the English & CNH Districts of the LCMS, Lutheran Social Services, the LCMS Seminary Fund, the Wittenberg Project, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

In 2015 we will seek to continue most of the above. We'll also facilitate training to support our Gospel workers in their specific church groups, so that we can even more effectively serve God & share Christ. We'll also continue encouraging people to prayerfully consider full time Gospel work for the Lord Jesus. S.D.G.

West Portal, San Francisco, CA – The Rev. Todd Arnold

MISSION GRANT MINISTRIES

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER, SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

The Rev. Michael Scheer/Mrs. Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

The Rev. David P. Stechholz described All Saints as being "the little engine that could." As a town-gown campus ministry that especially ministers to international students in the small town of Slippery Rock, he could not be more correct! Our small congregation feels blessed to be able to share the Gospel not only with international college students, but also with American university students and the Slippery Rock community at large.

All Saints' outreach to the students is growing. More students are responding to our invitations to come to the homemade Korean meals; to stop in to talk about their lives; to come to one-on-one Bible classes scheduled at their convenience. The students deeply appreciate the warm welcome they always receive here.

It's amazing to see the Holy Spirit work through the friendly outreach given to the students. As a result of invitations to join All Saints for Sunday worship, a Muslim student from Pakistan came so that he could experience our Christian worship service. As he left he commented on the peace he had felt in our church, "a peace like he'd felt in a mosque." He came later in the week to talk about faith, his own and ours. He wrote after returning home saying how much he had appreciated our care. He wrote: "I told my parents and my sister... how much love you gave to me during my stay at Slippery Rock...." God brings the mission field to All Saints in the form of students like this young man from Pakistan. What a privilege to be able to share the Gospel.

Seeds of faith planted at All Saints have gone across the world and are still growing. For example, Ying Ying from China came to ASLC for Bible study two or three times a week. She grew so much in her faith that she wanted to be baptized. She wanted to wait to be baptized back in China so that she could be baptized with her father. Now she is working for a Chinese company in Africa. Her coworkers ask her all about Jesus and her faith, and she joyfully tells them and she helps them understand the Bible. All Saints is small in number, but large in our joy in seeing God's Word continuing to be shared even after students leave Slippery Rock.

All Saints is family. The members take care of each other by visiting shut-ins, taking shut-in seniors to lunch, providing wonderful Bible classes for people of all ages. A young couple who recently joined All Saints and were married by Pastor Scheer wrote saying they had never before experienced the love and inclusion shown here. In Christ we are all joined together as family!

All Saints is grateful for the opportunity to tell clearly that Jesus is the Way, not one of many ways, as is so widely believed. Giving out Bibles and *Portals of Prayer*, showing love and compassion, are all part of the congregation we are. Without the support of the English District none of this would be possible. We are very thankful that the District values campus ministry and we look forward to continuing to be the little engine that shares the Gospel across the world.

BETHANY, EWING, NJ (LIBERIAN MINISTRY)

The Rev. Fred Gerlach

Bethany Evangelical Church is a mission church serving the Trenton urban area and a Liberian mission. Bethany's initial mission was to provide guidance for Liberians coming from the African Nation of Liberia to transition to life in America and to provide a church family to these immigrants. For the last 15 years Bethany has offered hope, providing a variety of services to this immigrant community. Some of these services include counseling on immigrant issues and providing guidance on becoming American citizens. Currently we have 22 Liberian families attending our congregation.

A priority for our church is offering tutoring for the community's children. We work in conjunction with local colleges who send college students to our church several times a week to help children with their homework and help them with what they learned in school. Currently, we have six college students and twelve children in the program.



One of the blessings of a multi-cultural congregation is the sharing of ethnic foods like fufu. We have various celebrations where we learn about Liberian traditions.

But the most important work we do is catechism for adults and children. Many of our Liberians come from Pentecostal and non-Lutheran traditions. Therefore, teaching is a very important part of our ministry. Over the last

three years we have 15 new members from the Liberian community. Jonathan Wheagar from Liberia is a trained lay minister and helps with Catechism and Bible study.



Bethany also provides various services to the community



such as picking up people for church, and taking people to doctor appointments. We also provide resume writing for people to help them get jobs and maintain a food bank to help new arrivals get food and clothes. We provide 40 meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas to families struggling to make ends meet.

Bethany has an active membership in the Joint Liberian Choir Association which is a group dedicated to addressing issues both here in the United States and Africa. We continue to look for new ways to serve this community and others.

BETHESDA ASIAN INDIAN MINISTRY, CHICAGO, IL

The Rev. Shadrach Katari

In 2014, Bethesda Asian Indian Ministry celebrated its 15th anniversary at Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL. We thank the Lord for all His blessings given to us to continue this ministry in the Chicago area. Our church leaders and members are very thankful to our English District and Bethesda for all their help over these years. The Word and Sacraments are freely served to the Telugu people who attend our church regularly. Our approach in this ministry is very successful to receive new immigrants who come from India, especially from our state Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

This ministry is also successful in reaching un-churched and de-churched of Asian Indians, with the Gospel of Christ wherever and whenever we have chance in the Chicago area. We have been reaching many non-Christians in Schaumburg, IL, where new immigrants and IT workers are residing. Many Hindus have no chance of hearing the Gospel in India because of caste barriers. Some families received New Testaments free of cost in their own languages, mainly, Hindi, Gujarat and Tamil. Christians who are residing in that area are willing to attend our worship on Sundays. Two families from Schaumburg are attending our church occasionally.

In the last three years we have seen great improvement in reaching new members. Our worship attendance has increased two fold and our offerings also increased 100% from the previous years. Moreover, we conducted Gospel meetings at Bethesda and in the suburbs of Chicago. Many Telugu and non-Telugu speaking Indians attended and received the Gospel and came to know the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Hindu young woman was baptized on Christmas Day last year at our Telugu Church. Even though her parents in India did not accept her change in religion, she boldly came to our church and wanted to be baptized. Our church members promised to take care of her future life in America. She came here as an IT worker and used to come to our worship with family friends. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and studied Luther's Small Catechism.

Furthermore, we received new immigrants, especially Telugu-speaking people, into our church, and all members help them, providing accommodation, food, clothing and furniture. In the last three years we helped five families and two of them have become regular church members.

Altogether, our ministry has been very successful in reaching out to many Asian Indians in the Chicago area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our ministry is unique in reaching both Hindus and Muslims who have emigrated from India.

We are so thankful to our Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL, members and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul Bacon, who love us and have been supportive all these years. We would like to stay at Bethesda and continue this ministry and would like to become a big ethnic group to support Bethesda and take leadership in all its activities in the coming years.

CHRIST THE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALPHARETTA, GA/SANCTUS COMMUNITIES

The Rev. Thomas Zucconi

EPHPHATHA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE DEAF, CHICAGO, IL

The Rev. Prentice Marsh

FIRST, EL CAJON, CA/CROSSROADS LUTHERAN CHURCH, SAN DIEGO, CA

The Rev. Justin Laughridge

This past triennium has seen God's hand at work in our ministry here in San Diego. Crossroads Lutheran Church-San Diego was chartered as a member congregation of the English District, and we are so grateful for the encouragement and support of others in our District who made that possible. We are particularly appreciative of our sending congregation (First Lutheran - El Cajon, CA), the other churches in our circuit and our Western Region, as well as the English District at large in their support of this mission effort.

As a mission start, EVERYTHING is brand new. Reaching new people, developing new places of ministry -- and we have been overjoyed to see the new things that God is doing. We saw, over this triennium, new home groups forming -- groups that have nurtured the faith lives of their members while also encouraging those members to serve outside of their group in God's Kingdom. We have seen new baptisms, but particularly the baptisms of new adult members. What a privilege to see that happening! And we have begun, just in the past few months, to see adult converts to Christianity (people reached by our ministry) taking up positions of leadership in the church under the guidance of others. Indigenous leadership at the congregational level has truly been a thing to praise the Lord for!

We have been blessed to see local members taking leadership roles, new groups forming to teach God's Word (5 total groups as of 2015), dozens of opportunities (47 in total) to serve in our community, and hundreds of opportunities (over 630, at last count) to give witness to the faith that we share in Jesus Christ with the world. But none of that would be possible without our partnerships locally and at the District level, so we thank you again for your work in, and your commitment to, the mission field God has placed you in. May He continue to bless you as you serve Him with joy!

FIRST, EL CAJON, CA/MANANTIAL DE VIDA ETERNA, EL CAJON, CA

The Rev. Salvador Ferrero

HOLY CROSS, TOLEDO, OH – CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Rev. Peter Burfeind

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Student Ministry began in January of 2013 as a campus ministry at the University of Toledo. Since then, we've been through a lot of struggles, but have experienced a lot of blessings. While operating on a dwindling budget, we've established our ministry at the campus through weekly services, a weekly Bible class, and our serve outreach

ministry, "Engineers in Christ" (EIC). Last year, our EIC group attended a mission trip in the Appalachia, where we were tasked with building an altar for a mission congregation. This year, we've made connections with Toledo's inner city to do service events there. Our first project has been fixing a fire-damaged dormer. This work requires a lot of skills, so our EIC group meets regularly to train in framing, electrical work, drywall, mudding, and other basic tool skills. Holy Cross' pastor, Rev. Burfeind, is also an Army Chaplain, so he works with the university's ROTC program, whose cadets have been more than happy to help on EIC projects. Finally, with the many internationals coming to American universities, the ministry serves as an outreach to students who are far away from home. In spring of 2014, a young Nigerian woman was baptized and has been one of Holy Cross' most faithful members. Because of this unique blend of campus, inner city, military, and international ministries, the Synod has taken an interest in making Holy Cross a domestic mission and using it as a pilot program for other similar ministries.

MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING, MI

The Rev. Curtis Dwyer/The Rev. David Dressel

Martin Luther Chapel is located strategically between Michigan State University (with over 50,000 students – 8th largest in the U.S.) and the residential community surrounding it in East Lansing, Michigan. This ministry focuses on the student population in all its diversity (ages 17-70; single and married; undergraduate and graduate; national and international), as well as the residential community in the local area. Our challenge is to effectively carry out a ministry to both populations where we can identify over 900 students as being under our pastoral care, as well as recognizing the growing involvement and membership of permanent residents and families who, as members, are committed to the unique nature of this mission-minded congregation.

The ministry continues to be a strong outreach, actively seeking new ways to reach the populations around us. We now have three services per week averaging just over 200 people during the academic year: a Sunday evening (7:00 p.m.) worship service, a 10:30 a.m. service, and a Wednesday evening contemporary praise service. Over seventy people are involved in a variety of weekly Bible studies, plus a Sunday school and confirmation program. In addition to 6 infant baptisms, 12 youth confirmations, and 36 transfers, during the past three years, 3 adults have been confirmed, 13 adults have reaffirmed their faith, and 1 adult has been baptized.

There are three student leadership groups: five peer ministers, five officers of the Lutheran Student Organization and five Wednesday ON FIRE leaders. All three meet weekly with Pastor Dressel or Pastor Dwyer to plan and implement programming, like Bible studies, retreats, phone-a-thons, intramural groups, ministry and connection among internationals, Sunday suppers, prayer time, praise worship, etc. We continue our primary ministry among those students who come to worship. Through personal contact, phone contact, mailings, emailing, sidewalk chalking and flyers, we also have a strong outreach program to those we know are Lutheran and have not involved themselves in the ministry, as well as to those who are open to an awareness of the Gospel, but who are not otherwise involved in a faith community.

Over the past three years, 22 students per year took their spring break time and went on separate servant event experiences. Groups went to: 1) El Paso, TX working with Ysleta Lutheran Mission building homes in Juarez, Mexico; 2) Phoenix, AZ working with Christ Church-Lutheran and Habitat for Humanity. The servant event experiences are dramatically transforming in students' lives.

Our Stephen Ministry program has a unique character because, in addition to permanent residents, it involves university students who will graduate and move to new locations, bringing their Stephen Ministry skills with them. Over the past three years, more Stephen Ministers have been commissioned so there continues to be a group of 12-14 who continue to be available to be caregivers.

We have an active ministry to children, youth and families. Each week, during a portion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service, young children are invited to Children's Church, where they participate in age-appropriate lessons led by volunteers and Dian Silvey, our ministry assistant. We have an active youth group (grades 6-12) that meets weekly for a Bible study (led by a college student volunteer). The youth also have a number of service projects and social events through the year. In the summer of 2014 we began a children's summer program, "Fun in the SON" which involved member children, their friends and children of international students involved with the Friendship House. Dads Do Lunch is a monthly meeting of men around a noon meal, where issues of parenting, faith and marriage are discussed and where they can be encouraged in their faith and life.

Many volunteer leaders help in ministries that significantly touch the lives of people. The summer softball ministry involves over 40 people each summer on different teams – many of whom are not yet actively involved in ministry. The Sunday Supper ministry averages 40 people during the academic year with opportunities for service and connecting with others. The annual Christmas play (originally written) involves over 60 people in preparation and production.

The women's ministry has had three annual retreats, a monthly book group and twice-a month Bible studies. Our 20's and 30's group meets weekly for Bible study, monthly for a social event, and this past spring had a weekend retreat.

The music program provides opportunities in the Sunday morning choir, hand bells, instrumental ensembles, vocal ensembles, Sunday evening praise team, and Wednesday ON FIRE band and singers.

During this past triennium, Martin Luther Chapel has gone through a visioning process for the future, whereby we are developing a community-oriented family ministry. We have successfully completed a capital funding drive called "Project Connect – Building Faith, Serving Together" with support from former students, parents, alumni, resident members and friends of the ministry. According to the Ministry Plan, Pastor Curt Dwyer, who was originally called as associate pastor, has now been called and installed as lead pastor, and Pastor Dave Dressel has been called and installed as full-time associate pastor.

We continue to serve as a major support ministry for the International Student Ministry in the Lansing area with many volunteers, use of the Chapel mini-bus and administrative dealings with the International Student Ministry house.

We give thanks for the ongoing prayers and support from the English District that have been a constant throughout the history of this ministry. We celebrate the partnership that we share and the concern for this community of people (university students) who are in a very formative transition point in their lives. Involving them in a faith community like Martin Luther Chapel which provides them with opportunities for leadership is really a key to providing lay and professional leaders for the future church.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, O'FALLON, MO

The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner

Peace Lutheran Church is a congregation in transition, as it moves into its eighth year, from being a church on subsidy to a church that is self-supporting. Many thanks are to be given to the English District and its leadership, the congregations of Circuit #18 (St. John's in Hannibal, MO; Beautiful Savior in Lee's Summit, MO; Redeemer in Lincoln, NE; Chapel of the Cross in St. Louis, MO; Chapel of the Cross in St. Peter's, MO; and Grace in Vine Grove, KY) as well as the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley, AZ, for their vision, prayers, and financial support. A special shout-out is essential to Peace's grandmother church, Chapel of the Cross in St. Louis, MO, and especially to Peace's mother church, Chapel of the Cross in St. Peter's, MO, for their continued nurture as Peace has walked that fine line between needing their continued financial support and walking on its own.

A good sign of a congregation that is becoming self-supporting is a healthy vision, mission statement, and core values. Peace Lutheran Church is healthy and blessed as it looks to the future:

Mission Statement

Peace Lutheran Church shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of our neighborhoods and our world to unite them into Christ's Family.

Core Values

Worship—We value opportunities that allow God to serve us through worship, the study and hearing of His Word and the administration of the Sacraments.

Connect—We value opportunities to assimilate our members and the people of our neighborhoods into our family of faith.

Serve—We value opportunities to provide for the needs of our church family, our neighbors and the world at large.

Vision

Peace Lutheran Church will be a center of Worship, Connection and Service for our church family and for the people of our surrounding neighborhoods and the world.

Our goal will be to meet the general and spiritual needs of both our church family and the people of our surrounding neighborhoods and the world by using our God-given spiritual gifts to proclaim the Gospel, to integrate people into our family of faith and to provide acts of mercy through community and worldwide service.

Ultimately, by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peace Lutheran Church will be seen as a dynamic center for Christian worship, a welcoming place to connect with others and a comprehensive support system for people living in our surrounding neighborhoods and beyond.

A good sign of a congregation that is becoming self-supporting is a healthy short-term direction, usually one to two years. Peace Lutheran Church is healthy and blessed to have as its focus for 2015 and 2016:

Live Life on a Mission!

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." and "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

What are Your Next Steps?

Engaged fully in **Worship**
Dedicated to the study of **God's Word**
Be a Disciple to **Make More Disciples**
Serving in a mission ministry
Giving in response to God's love
Growing in spiritual disciplines

Missional MATURITY: Living Life on a Mission!

(Many thanks to Hales Corners Lutheran Church for the input and ideas)

Finally, a good sign of a congregation that is becoming self-supporting is a healthy statistical report. Peace Lutheran Church is healthy and blessed to have seen the hand of God grow this congregation over the past three years:

Current Baptized Membership	175 (a 20% growth)
Current Confirmed Membership	145 (a 17.5% growth)
Average Weekly Attendance	96 (a 22% growth)

"If you're looking for PEACE . . . we're in your neighborhood!"

www.peacewinghaven.org

In His service . . . and yours,

Rick Wiese, President
David Jahnke, Vice-President
David Rousseau, Treasurer
Pam Chaney, Secretary
Barry Waggoner, Head Elder
Kristi Roegner, Outreach Chair
Toni Dunn, Stewardship Chair
Frank Reahr, Acting Head Trustee
Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner, Pastor

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER AND IGLESIA CRISTIANA HISPANA, CLEVELAND, OH
Mrs. Diane Zellmer, Director/Mr. Adam Torres, Deacon

*"The King will answer them,
"I can guarantee this truth: whatever you did for one of my
brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant [they seemed], you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40
God's Word

When I was hungry...can you help?

The center continues to give a modest three-day supply of groceries to those in need on a monthly basis. In 2014 there were 7,033 requests for help with food. That's approximately 7,705 children, 11,500 adults and 2,104 seniors receiving 256,860 meals weighing 137+ tons! To make this task a little easier, and remain good stewards, the Center participates in a bulk buying program and utilizes USDA food commodities.

Our monthly community meal is served on the second Sunday of the month and serves 80 to more than 120 guests. Area congregations sponsor and host these meals while building new relationships and sharing Jesus. The pantry is also open on these Sundays for those that work and need weekend hours!

When I was lonely...can you help?

The Center continues to be a place of forgiveness, strength and healing. The broken families, mentally ill, lonely and drug addicted are encouraged to join us for morning devotions three days a week. Prayer concerns brought to the group include; relationships, the neighborhood, the Center's ministry, new babies and pregnancies, vocational focus, health, strength, thankfulness, healing and forgiveness.

Our Senior Teas continue to connect neighbors to one another while providing an opportunity for us to share again God's love for all and study His Word. These "events" are eagerly awaited.

The Summer Youth & Lunch Program, available to children through the age of 18, continues to be a valuable program for our community. More than 75 children take advantage of this program. We reach out with the Good News, through a seven-week Vacation Bible School where scripture, song and crafts are taught. Some children continue to participate in Iglesia's Kids Church, Confirmation and Youth Groups. Teens use this time to build a resume, gain work experience and gather references providing them with the edge needed to find employment and/or college money.

When I was naked...can you help?

The Center was the instrument used by God to spread the news that we are robed in Christ's righteousness through baptism. Through the ministry of "A Mom's Closet" eight families received an explanation of God's mercy and forgiveness provided us. Gifts, diapers and formula were provided by area congregations ... we also look forward to baptisms of these babies, siblings and parents through Iglesia's congregation.

Church and individual donations continue to be the largest sources for our supply of clothing and household items! The donations received continue to be given free of charge to the

neighborhood. A furniture and appliance needs list is maintained so that donations and requests can be matched. Blankets are greatly appreciated by our families and those who continue to find themselves living under bridges, in tents and on the streets.

A generous grant made by the English District helped us to replace our boiler and even enabled us to become a 24-hour warming station during our last record breaking winter.

The number of volunteers willing to share of their time and talents in the Center continues to brighten our day and reminds us of our purpose to share the love of God with our neighbors. The blessing of dedicated workers, who daily – weekly – or at a single call come to the Center's rescue, continues to lift our hearts and lightens the task of reaching all of God's creation!

The Center receives support from the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Lutheran Urban Community Ministry, and Thrivent, area churches, organizations, businesses and many individuals. This support comes in many forms – grants, cash, food, clothing, labor, furniture, toys and household items.

Center needs:

*** FOOD ***

Canned Tuna – Stew – Soup - Corn – Green Beans – Fruit
Peanut Butter – Jelly
Baby Formula & Baby Foods

*** CLOTHING ***

Gently Used, Clean & Mended Children's – Men's – Women's
All Sizes & Season Appropriate

*** MISC. & HOUSEHOLD ***

Shampoo, Hand/Bath Soap, Personal Hygiene
Baby Diapers & Toilet Paper
Dish & Laundry Cleaners

Bed Linens & Towels/Dish & Tableware
Pans & Storage Containers
Usable Furniture & Working Appliances

* * *

Money gifts are also needed & tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Redeemer (ICH) Crisis Center
2970 W. 30 Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
(216) 631-6434

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL, VERONA, PA

Mrs. Gail Holzer, Principal

Redeemer Lutheran School has been incredibly blessed throughout its 31-year history, but even more so for the past three years. As we were outgrowing the education wing of seven classrooms built in the year 2000 for our then PreK - 5 school, the now PreK - 8 school was at a crossroads. Do we continue to provide the best Lutheran education possible with double grades in three of our classrooms, or is there another plan? There was another plan, and the Lord led us to a closed public school building on 11 acres, with 21 classrooms, a gym, cafeteria, and playground. The building was purchased in May for \$280,000, with a gift from an angel donor, renovated and made ready to go by opening day in August.

In addition, with our newfound space, school parents encouraged us to consider adding high school classes. A Lutheran high school was something that had eluded the Pittsburgh area since the 1950's, and several times afterward. It was time. Pittsburgh now has the only LCMS high school in Pennsylvania, and the only one in the English District. Partnerships with Orange Lutheran in California, and Concordia University Mequon give our students a well-balanced, Christ-centered education. We are now serving over 200 students, and pray the Lord will continue to send students and families to our school to hear the Good News of Jesus.

English District grants have provided our high school with equipment for a chemistry lab and Christian textbooks for high school students. Our partnership with the English District is of great value to Redeemer, and we appreciate the continued support for Christian education and the opportunity it brings to grow the Kingdom of Christ.

VOICE OF FAITH, NAPLES, FL

Mrs. Julie Dass/Mr. Jawed Dass

Voice of Faith is actually a mission with a dual purpose: to reach out to women of Eastern religions (Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs) to bring the truth and freedom of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to bring awareness to the churches of the increasing Muslims in our United States and the affect upon the church, marriages and the youth, especially in our colleges and universities.

Sisters of Faith has developed a group of women joining together to form a "Sewing Circle", a gathering that builds relationships of love and trust, which is needed to bring the women to ask questions about their faith. Julie is able then to explain the comparison of the teachings from the Quran and the Bible. Muslim women do not know the meaning of the Arabic words they have had to memorize, and when it is explained to them, they are aghast and say that they never want to feel like that or be like that. They are shocked to hear about all the evil intent in the Quran.

There are twenty-three women registered for Sewing Circle, with the attendance usually around nine to eleven, every two weeks. One day fourteen women came, and there was not enough room for all. The goal is to introduce converted women into the life of the church so they may become part of the body of Christ and active members. It takes time working with these

women who are dominated by their husbands. There is a fear factor involved. The women feel they do not have the freedom to choose unless their husband does also.

Eastern religion communities and their cultural celebrations are sought out by Julie and Jay Dass to meet people of the Eastern religions in order to build relationships. Jay is also equally involved in the mission work relating to the men of the Eastern faiths. They travel to Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Orlando and Tampa. Julie and Jay relate to the people, as they meet them, that they are Christians.

Travel is necessary to reach both the cultural communities as well as the church presentations, either by automobile or by air.

Working within the churches Sisters of Faith is active in presentations of Bible studies, educational seminars, and comparison studies of religions, primarily Muslim and Christianity. It is necessary to awaken the churches to be aware of the influx of Islam into America. Christians need to be alert about their role in our society. Encouragement is given to witness our faith in Christ lovingly and yet boldly. Talks are also given to the youth in the churches, both to youth groups and Sunday school age children. To nurture the youth is very important so that they will not be swayed to believe the false religions. Youth usually have questions that Sisters of Faith answers. In the colleges and universities many of the students have left their Christian faith. Our hope is to lead them to a strong faith and witness for Christ.

Church visits/presentations:

January 2014: Faith Lutheran Church, Green Bay WI

February 2014: Christ the King Lutheran Church, La Belle, FL

March 2014: Christ the King, LaBelle, FL

April 2014 Atlanta North District LWML Convention

April 2014: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Tucker, GA

May 2014 Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

September 2014: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dubuque, IA

September 2014: FL-GA District LWML Convention

October 2014: Christ Lutheran Church, Perry, GA

We give thanks for the prayers and the support from the English District. It is a blessing to us. Financial help is much appreciated for we need help for our mission.

LCMS-U AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Vicar Christopher Craig/Supervised by The Rev. Michael Morehouse

Past three years: This last year and a half has been a time of transition for the LCMS-U at the University of Arizona. Longtime campus pastor Rev. Ian Pacey received and accepted a call to Texas at the end of the fall semester in 2013. Pastor Michael Morehouse of Catalina Lutheran Church and Pastor Frank Ciampa of Mount Olive Lutheran Church both stepped up and took over the ministry on campus for the spring semester of 2014. Due to this and Catalina's subsequent reception of a vicar from Concordia Theological Seminary, the LCMS-U was able to continue their regular activities with no lapse in pastoral care. We have a dinner and Bible study on Thursday nights, and weekly Divine Services with Communion. We also try to have at

least one service project/volunteer opportunity every month as well as a social event every month. Thanks to both district and circuit support, our students were able to attend both of the recent National LCMS-U conferences. The Arizona South Circuit stands united in their support of the campus ministry at the U of A. Local pastors regularly preach and officiate the Sacrament on campus, and oftentimes join their congregations in providing dinner for us before Bible studies.

Next three years: As we move forward into the next three years, we look forward to more changes. Catalina is in the process of calling a new assistant pastor, with the expressed intent of having him serve on campus at least half time. The ALCMS, the group in charge of fundraising and supporting the LCMS-U at the U of A, is seeking to be able to call a full-time pastor to the campus once resources allow that to happen. We are seeking to continue and expand the ministry on campus at the University of Arizona, but also to begin working on campus at the local community college as well.

Special Thanks: The students, staff, ALCMS, and all of our community members are extremely grateful for the continued support of the District in this essential area of college campuses. We are also exceedingly thankful for Pastor Pacey's time with us, and while he is most certainly missed, we wish him the best and will pray for him in his new locale. We also appreciated the visit of Bishop Stechholz and the Board of Directors and thoroughly enjoyed their presence and participation in our dinner and Bible study. We were encouraged and thankful that Rev. Marcus Zill, Director of Campus Ministry and LCMS-U for the Synod, visited us and expressed his approval and support of all that we were doing.

For more information please see our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lcmsua, our website www.arizonalutheran.org, or email us at arizonalutheranlcmsu@gmail.com.

WEST PORTAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY
Supervised by The Rev. Todd Arnold

ENGLISH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rev. John Wm Stieve, D.D., Chair

Your Board of Directors is the "District" between conventions, and we take this seriously. We provide leadership, make important decisions, but, first, understand that we serve the District. The Board is a diverse group from across the District (and continent), as we carry out our duties and responsibilities in concert with the District's *Bylaws* and *Corporate Operations Manual*. Chiefly, the Board is charged to make and review policy, set an annual Operating Budget, and review the District President's performance in his carrying out of policy.

Core Values of the English District:

- **Living in faithful response to God's grace**
- **Teaching the Christian faith**
- **Reaching diverse peoples with the Gospel**
- **United in faith, witness, and service**
- **Seizing diverse mission opportunities without geographic limits**

English District End Statements: 2012–2015

Igniting Christ's Church in Mission

From the Core Values, the Board adopted the following End Statements:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the English District will

- † *Promote and provide excellent educational opportunities to people of all ages, reaching them with the Gospel as expressed in Lutheran doctrine (Education)*
- † *Create and foster connections and relationships between District congregations and ministries beyond geographic or regional limitations (Connectivity)*
- † *Nurture, support and encourage the health and well-being of professional church workers (Our Church Workers)*
- † *Model Christian stewardship as an example of fiscal discipline while providing ministry services (Stewardship)*
- † *Strengthen, support, and encourage English District congregations, and new and existing ministries to reach the lost for Christ (Existing Ministries and the Lost)*

Devotions and prayer, about 10% of meeting time, were led by Board members and helped to inform and form us for our tasks. Introduction and use of a "Consent Agenda" allowed more time for discussion of "action items." New guidelines and parameters were adopted for the English District Endowment Fund, and a significant review and revision of the Board policies was completed. Task forces were used to research ministry areas and recommend changes; staff reports were received; and a revised "Flow Chart for Major Repetitive Actions" was used to evaluate progress. Time and effort were devoted to approval of each year's budget, reviewing the impact of revenue streams and areas of disbursements. "Mission visit" meetings were conducted in and around Atlanta, GA; Ft. Wayne, IN; and Tucson, AZ.

Other tasks of the Board this triennium:

- Approved appointments
- Approved new Board members to fill vacancies
- Accepted new and revised congregation constitutions and bylaws
- Received and released churches and ministries
- Received regular reports from the Canada Corporation
- Received regular reports from the English District Endowment Fund
- Discussed and approved the annual Ministry Plan
- Became a "Managing Partner" through Synod of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission
- Sought and approved funding for major ministry opportunities
- Established electoral circuits for the Synod convention
- Determined President's salary/benefits
- Approved property ownership
- Approved convention and conference sites, planning and assessments
- Monitored Board and District Presidents' performance through evaluation tools
- Increased communication with the District through the *Secretary's Sidebar* in *English Channels*

We thank God for those who served faithfully on the Board of Directors during this triennium. In addition to the District President and District Secretary, six laity, two ordained ministers and two commissioned ministers are voting members. Vice presidents (Rev. Wayne Morton, Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz/Rev. Rob Rogers, Rev. Jamison Hardy, and Rev. Derek Mathers) and the Chair of the Canada Corporation (Mr. Stu Kahle) are *ex-officio* members, without vote, and participate in the meetings. Sally Naglich, Board Treasurer and District Business Manager, gave reports, prepared and guided budget discussions and business transactions, and participated in all meetings. After the resignation of Mr. Tim Ewell, new part-time staff members Gail Holzer and Lavern Kruse often joined the Board meetings and reported on their areas of responsibility.

There was significant turnover of Board members during the triennium. Those who served are: Laity – Ernest Seaman, Paul Lagemann (vice-chair), Jane Duffy, Gary Timm/Mary Rinda, Terry Leu, Kathy Holden/Richard Hesselroth; Commissioned ministers – Albert Amling, Gail Holzer/Charessa Koontz; Ordained ministers – Rev. Ben Eder, Rev. John Stieve; President – Rev. David Stechholz; Secretary – Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick.

I give thanks to God for all who served on the Board. Many hours and many efforts, during and between meetings, led to meaningful discussion and positive actions. I thank our President and his staff for their cooperative spirit and support, and their vision. On behalf of the board, I thank members of the District for their trust. As you have encouraged, challenged and prayed for us, we ask for your continued interest in the work and support for the people of the new Board. To God be the glory!

CAMPUS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Rev. Dr. David Dressel, Chair

CANADA CORPORATION

Stuart Kahle, President

Canada Corporation was established in 1958 and is the Canadian Church Extension Fund for the English District congregations in Ontario Canada. All assets of the Corporation are held in Canadian banks.

In 2007, the bylaws of the Corporation were restructured and for the past 8 years, procedures used by the Corporation Board of Directors and English District office staff have been documented.

In 2012, a new process for the election of the Corporation's Board of Directors was trialed and with modifications will be used again in 2015 during the English District convention.

Activities:

- Manage loans to currently 5 congregations
- Set investment rates quarterly
- Manage investors where we have unclaimed/dormant accounts or missing investors
- Assist congregations with their mission objectives

The Board of Directors meet at least twice yearly, a fall face to face meeting and a spring teleconference meeting.

May 2014, we hosted a Convocation of our 2 Canadian circuits and produced demographic studies for each congregation and gave them the tools to use this information.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Rev. Thomas Kraus, Chair

The Rev. Peter Bauernfeind

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The Committee on Constitutions and Membership has been busy this triennium, reviewing and recommending twenty-two new and revised constitutions for approval to the Board of Directors. As always, we consider it a joy and privilege to serve our fellow pastors and the congregations of the English District.

New Constitutions Approved:

Living Hope Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin

Trinity Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

New Jersey Korean Cho Won Lutheran Church, Palisades Park, New Jersey

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Mesquite, Nevada

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin

Advent Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Indiana
Hope Community Lutheran Church, Syracuse, New York
Abiding Faith Lutheran Church, Florence, Kentucky

Revised Constitutions Approved:

Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church, Payson, Arizona
Messiah Lutheran Church, Forest Lake, Minnesota
Church of Saint Luke - Lutheran, North York, Ontario, Canada
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakeview, Michigan
Grace Lutheran Church, Oberlin, Ohio
Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church, Benson, Arizona
Trinity Lutheran Church, Erie, Pennsylvania
Grace Lutheran Church, Oberlin, Ohio
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hudson, Indiana
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Celebration Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois
Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, Saint Louis, Missouri

ENDOWMENT FUND

Troy Lindsey, Chair

The purpose of the English District Endowment Fund is to provide God's people with a unique opportunity to participate in a perpetual fund. This fund shall assist congregations in developing new ministries, support current missions and ministries; revitalization efforts, church workers and seminary students; and provide financial assistance for other approved mission endeavors. Earnings from the Fund may be used annually to provide grants through the specific funding model for Human Care/Disaster Relief, New Missions, Scholarships, Church Worker Debt Reduction, Campus Ministry, and Other Ministry. It is not intended that earnings be used to fund normal operating expenses of the English District, except where those expenses are considered grants for ministry or missions. In addition, up to 5% of board designated funds may be distributed in a given year for the work and mission of the English District.

The administration of the Fund is delegated by the District Board of Directors to a Board of Managers, which includes the District President as a voting member of said Board. The members of the Board of Managers are elected at convention or appointed by the District President and ratified by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Managers met 14 times during this triennium via web conferences, and a variety of tasks were accomplished. The Endowment Fund was highlighted in an article written for and published in the April/May 2014 issue of English Channels. The board developed and produced a brochure describing the Fund and distributed it to all U.S. District congregations along with a grant application. Since then four grant applications have been received and considered by the Board of Managers. They were reviewed for eligibility based on the Fund guidelines and availability of funds. One grant passed the eligibility requirements and was

presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Once approved the \$1,000 grant was made to New Beginnings Lutheran Church in West Branch, Michigan for their Clothing and Food Bank. The congregation members thanked the District for this aid in serving the people of their community.

During the triennium the Board of Directors designated District funds to be placed into the Endowment Fund. The Board of Directors also reviewed and revised the Endowment Fund document as well as approved an Investment Policy that was presented by the Board of Managers. With those revisions in place, funds are invested with Curian Capital LLC and Vanguard Group as well as with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund as of May 1, 2015. The Endowment Fund as of March 31, 2015 had a total value of \$1,446,538. Board Designated amounts were \$1,376,030, Permanently Restricted Gifts were \$43,752, and earnings, including changes in market value, were \$26,756.

The Board of Managers looks forward to the opportunity to grow the Endowment Fund in the next triennium in order to provide English District congregations and members opportunities for funding grants within the mission of the Fund to further God's Kingdom.

EVANGELIZATION TEAM

The Rev. John Diener, Co-chair
The Rev. Fred Reaman, Co-chair

The Evangelization Team began as a sub-committee of the English District Mission Council in February, 2014 which was chaired by Rev. Nate Schwartz. The initial team members were Bishop Stechholz (ex-officio); DCE Lavern Kruse, English District Congregational Services Executive; Rev. Fred Reaman; Rev. John Diener; DCE Heidi Koehler; Rev. Daniel Grams; and Rev. Eric Carlson. Bishop Stechholz empowered the Team with direction and focus with an "Evangelization" question and answer sheet to get the first meeting underway on February 27, 2014. The Team answered such basic questions as "What is Evangelization?", "What has the efforts and evangelization programs in the LCMS been in the past?", "What is the current need in the District and Synod?", and "What might the role of an Evangelization Team for the District be?" The answers to such questions have served as the framework for the first year of meetings, discussions, investigations and presentations.

The Evangelization Team quickly decided to organize under its own leadership while still working in conjunction with the Mission Council. But the Team would meet monthly in order to formulate its own strategy to resource and meet the goals discussed with the help of the Mission Council. Rev. Reaman and Rev. Diener volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the Evangelization Team.

The Evangelization Team formulated a three-point mission statement:

- *To help pastors and congregational members catch the vision that every Christian is SENT to be a witness in their daily sphere of influence;*
- *To encourage pastors to help their people catch and live the vision;*
- *To provide resources that can be used within the congregation to equip everyone to be a witness wherever they are.*

The Team discussed many of the pertinent evangelism resources and how they might be utilized by pastors and congregations including reading together:

- Greg Finke's book, *"Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary"*
- Lutheran Hour Ministries latest resource by Dion Garrett, *"Live the Six: Learning to Live as an Everyday Missionary."*
- *The presentations and published resources from the 2014 LHM SENT Conference*

These resources helped prepare the Team for a presentation given by Rev. Diener at the 2014 Professional Church Workers Conference in Ann Arbor. The Team also had many of these resources available at the Best Practices Table and were able to meet in person at the Mission Council Breakfast.

DCE Heidi Koehler helped put together the "English District Connect" which, if used by our District as a gathering of ideas and dialog, could resource the entire District with ideas and information for evangelism. You can find this page by going to Facebook and searching for "English District Connect." The purpose of this page is to enable English District churches to engage in dialog that is both social and educational for the purpose of building our ministries and God's Kingdom.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries "SENT" Conference provided our Team with resources to discuss and strategies to pursue as a district in the areas of Evangelization. We encourage the District to attend these as they are held in the future.

The Rev. Mark Wood, LCMS Director of Witness and Outreach Ministry enhanced our Evangelization Team by joining our sessions in the fall. He shared his latest presentation which included a "funnel" that directed individuals and congregations to create connections to build relationships to make disciples of all nations. In the November meeting, we discussed a congregational tool of self-assessment in regards to evangelism goals. We are eager to share this tool with the District when it becomes available. We added Rev. Adam Koontz to our Evangelization Team at the end of the year.

The goals of the Evangelization Team for 2015 include:

- We will encourage and resource every individual member as well as every congregation of the English District to be intentional in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with a passion for the lost. This involves both an incarnational and attractional approach to evangelism in ministry.
- We encourage more people to join the English District Evangelization Team, especially DCEs, commissioned workers and laypersons who have a heart for evangelism.
- We will focus on the two prong approach of witness and outreach that the Synod is also focusing upon in their evangelism efforts.
- We will intentionally encourage church planting, church revitalization, mission giving, and the further equipping of lay persons for the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- We will encourage congregations to embark on regular mission trips, to infuse life changing experiences into Christians' lives through missional activities. Such possibilities will include U.S. based infant mission congregations, and international locations such as the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission. International trips can be as little as \$1000 per person, and information is being published on the English District

and Synod websites. <http://englishdistrict.org/ministries/dominican-republic-lutheran-mission>.

- We are to be mindful of the Word of God: *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Thank you to everyone in the District for your support and encouragement - most especially our Bishop Stechholz who has been inspirational and empowering to our Evangelization Team as the Holy Spirit has worked through him to make this team a reality in 2014.

HUMAN CARE/DISASTER RELIEF

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Chair

Over the triennium the Human Care and Disaster Relief committee has worked to support the human care ministries in our District as they carry out vital work and acts of mercy to God's people. Simultaneously, we have tried our best to respond to disasters that have arisen within our congregational areas. For example, 2014 saw significant rainfall in areas in Arizona where these levels of rain had not been recorded in years. Subsequently, one of our congregations experienced flooding in the church building. In another case, a congregation had physical damage to its building due to a tornado. The members of the English District came together to support each other with gifts of time, treasures, and talent. As a missional district, we strive to follow Christ's command to "love thy neighbor as thyself" in all we do as His people. To that end, the human care ministries and the disaster relief committee stands ready to serve and support our congregations as they seek to care for God's people locally.

LIFELINE

The Rev. Michael Brown, Chair

MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Rev. Dr. Ronald R. Farah, Chair

The English District Ministerial Health Commission is a group of men and women appointed by the District President to assist and support him in the care of our professional church workers and congregations. All members of the Commission have been trained and licensed in one of the disciplines of psychology or social work and are committed to the work of enabling workers and congregations to achieve spiritual and emotional health. In the past triennium we have had 10 meetings with the District President (face-to-face and video conferencing). We have had many opportunities at District and regional gatherings and by means of the telephone to meet with and talk with individual workers (at their request). All contacts are confidential (not even the District President is informed). We have consulted with congregations and during this triennium we have made a concerted effort to be available to our Circuit Visitors for advice and encouragement. We invite you to contact us at any time. On the synodical level a member of the commission participates in the yearly meeting of the Ministerial Care Coalition, an opportunity to learn and network with ministerial health advocates from other districts.

The members of the commission are Rev. Ron Farah (Chairman), Mrs. Talitha Farah (secretary), Dr. Jennifer Gramzow, Rev. Paul Koester and Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko (appointed October 2014). Mrs. Georgeanne Foard is no longer a member of the English District and resigned at the end of 2012.

MISSION COUNCIL

The Rev. R. Wayne Morton, Chair

The Mission Council was initiated this last triennium, in the absence of a distinct District Missions Executive, to assist the Bishop/President in guiding us as "A District in Mission." Originally constituted as a collection of individuals from some of our larger congregations and mission-senders, it morphed over time into a coalition of pastors and professional church workers who saw it as an opportunity to reach the lost by enabling the District to reproduce by planting new churches and ministries. While not a Mission Board, and while not advisory in nature, it nevertheless seeks to provide both affirmation and advice to regions and circuits and congregations as they are contemplating the start of new missions. In its role of serving the Bishop/President, it offers encouragement to him in his role of acting district mission executive, acts as a sounding board for new mission opportunities he uncovers, and serves as his eyes and ears for possible new mission starts across the District (North America).

This past triennium, the Mission Council:

- Reviewed existing mission grants;
- Regularly considered possible new mission plants;
- Weighed in on the question of whether a District Mission Executive who could serve the District in promoting mission spirit and conversation, review mission grant submissions, and monitor mission work, workers and planters each month should serve in a part- or full-time capacity;
- Held an open discussion following the closure of prominent District mission starts on the lessons that could/should be learned as we move ahead together in missions; and
- Formally recommended that the Board of Directors approve a \$4,000 grant request for the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission so that property could be purchased in Licey that would allow for the school ministry there to continue and expand.
- Helped spin off a sub-committee into a separate District Evangelization Team.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev. Michael Stoerger, Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch, Chair

Under the theme "Witnessing Your Faith," the 2013 Professional Church Workers Conference took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The theme Bible passage for the conference was Acts 1:8 – "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The District Vice-Presidents lead the daily devotions emphasizing, local missions through our congregations (Jerusalem), missions through our circuits and regions (Judea), missions through the English District – church planting, etc. (Samaria) and world-wide missions – malaria, missionary support, etc. (to the ends of the earth.) The convention's Holy Communion worship service was held at Concordia University, Ann Arbor's Holy Trinity Chapel and the closing service, held at the Sheraton on the 40th day of Easter, was a celebration of the Ascension of our Lord.

Using the theme "Stand for Life," the 2014 Professional Church Workers Conference also took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The theme Bible passage for this conference was Deuteronomy 30:19b " . . . I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live . . ." Once again the District Vice-Presidents led the daily devotions showing our Value to God (Psalm 139:13-14 and Romans 5:8); Living Behind Jesus (Luke 9:23-27); Because I live, You Shall Live Also (John 14:6, 14-21); Abundant Life (John 10:10); and Renewed: Life in Christ (Deuteronomy 30:19). Bishop Stechholz led the Holy Communion Worship at Concordia University and preached under the theme – "All the Days of My Life" – based on Psalm 23.

We continue to thank all those who have lead our worship and hymn sings, especially David Rutter who does an outstanding job using his keyboard skills for the praise and honor of our great God. To Him alone be the glory!

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2
3 **OVERTURE: 1-01**

4
5 **To Evaluate the Theological Implications of the Practice of Cremation**

6
7 WHEREAS, the practice of cremation is gaining acceptance in the United States, and

8
9 WHEREAS, our church body has stated nothing official regarding the practice of cremation, and

10
11 WHEREAS, many pastors have encouraged the use of cremation, and may have for themselves
12 drawn plans to be cremated, and

13
14 WHEREAS, many pastors and church leaders are unsure of their advice with respect to
15 cremation, and

16
17 WHEREAS, requests concerning the Scriptural acceptance or condemnation of cremation
18 continue to increase, and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Alvin Schmidt (LCMS), has written a book entitled, "*Dust to Dust or*
21 *Ashes to Ashes? A Biblical and Christian Examination of Cremation*", Regina Orthodox Press,
22 Inc., which condemns the practice of cremation, the only book known among us to address
23 cremation, therefore be it

24
25 *Resolved*, that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the
26 Synod in her 2016 Convention, to assign to our two Seminaries the task of evaluating the
27 theological implications of the practice of cremation, and render a published opinion to be
28 disseminated and eventually adopted by our Synod during her 2019 Convention.

29
30
31 Submitted by:
32 Detroit-South Circuit #11 and Detroit-North Circuit #12

1 **OVERTURE: 1-02**

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43

To Reaffirm the Six-Day Creation

WHEREAS, Genesis Chapter 1 details the creation of the world by God in six days; therefore be it

Resolved, that the English District in convention reaffirm the literal 6-day creation as revealed in Genesis.

Submitted by:
Canada West Circuit #8 Forum
Robert Voelker, Circuit Visitor

OVERTURE: 1-03

**To Clarify the Standards for Admission to the Office of the Holy Ministry
in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus attributed divorce to a hardness of heart (Mt. 19:8) characteristic of the old covenant, not of the heirs of the covenant of life and righteousness; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul clearly states that the Christian minister should be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2), as Christ is the husband only of His Church and does not separate Himself from His bride; and

WHEREAS, the minister of the Gospel must manage his own household well (1 Tim. 3:4-5) as a test of his competence for managing the household of God; and

WHEREAS, divorce puts asunder the one flesh God has brought together (Gen. 2:24, Mk. 10:8-9), being a sign of division of the one flesh and hardness of heart incompatible with the Gospel; therefore be it

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod forbid candidates for the Office of the Holy Ministry from certification, placement, and ordination who are divorced or divorced and remarried that they may not be a stumbling block and sign of contradiction to the teaching of Christ or His apostles.

Submitted by:
Philadelphia Circuit #2 Forum

1 **OVERTURE: 1-04**

2
3 **To Educate the Church on the Practice of Reiki**

4
5 WHEREAS, the technique of Reiki is being practiced in hospital and hospice care; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the practice and use of this technique is of pagan origin; and

8
9 WHEREAS, many of our members have no understanding of Reiki, and how this practice gives
10 false hope to the Christian faith; therefore be it

11
12 *Resolved*, that the English District encourage its members not to participate in this pagan
13 practice in such a way as to not condemn those who have subjected their loved ones to this
14 technique in the past; and be it further

15
16 *Resolved*, that the District publish material educating its members on the origin and practice of
17 Reiki; and be it finally

18
19 *Resolved*, the District in convention encourage the Synod to do the same.

20
21 Submitted by:
22 Canada West Circuit #8 Pastors Conference

23
24
25 **OVERTURE: 1-05**

26
27 **To Educate the Church on the Practice of Reiki**

28
29 WHEREAS, the technique of Reiki is a common practice used in health care facilities; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the practice and use of this technique is of pagan origin; and

32
33 WHEREAS, many of our members have no understanding of Reiki, and how this practice gives
34 false hope in contrast to the hope of the Gospel; therefore be it

35
36 *Resolved*, that the District encourage its members not to participate in this pagan practice in
37 such a way as to not condemn those who have subjected their loved ones to this technique in
38 the past; and be it further

39
40 *Resolved*, that the District publish materials educating its members on the origin and practice
41 of Reiki; and be it finally

42
43 *Resolved*, that the District in convention, encourage the Synod to do the same.

44
45 Submitted by:
46 Peace Lutheran Church
47 Windsor, Ontario

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS & EVANGELIZATION**

2
3 **OVERTURE: 2-01**

4
5 **To Encourage Every Circuit of the English District to Consider the Study, Implementation, and**
6 **Financial Support of a New Mission Start within its Circuit Boundaries**

7
8 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has told His Church to go and make disciples of all nations
9 (peoples) by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be His witnesses as the
10 priesthood of all believers (Acts 1:8, I Peter 2:1-10); and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
13 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
14 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
15 Evangelization Team have promoted personal witnessing, congregational outreach and new
16 mission starts; and,

17
18 WHEREAS, we in North America are the third largest world mission field; and,

19
20 WHEREAS, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of all people and rose triumphantly
21 in having achieved the victory over sin, death, and hell, and that people are dying without
22 hearing or coming to receive the grace of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit because
23 the Word of God has not been continually shared or received in their lives; and,

24
25 WHEREAS, His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are distributed within His Church and
26 Jesus Christ has promised in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in My name,
27 there am I among them;" and,

28
29 WHEREAS, it is our humble desire to align with Christ's mission as congregations and
30 individuals, guided by faithful pastors who "do the work of an evangelist" (II Timothy 4:1-5),
31 and to do this with a deep sense of urgency for the salvation of souls; therefore, be it

32
33 *Resolved*, that each English District congregation and their Circuit be encouraged to pray
34 regularly for opportunities to begin a new mission start within its Circuit boundaries during the
35 next Triennium; and, be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, that each English District Circuit develop a new mission start Committee made up of
38 laity and pastors from within the congregations of the Circuit to study, implement, and put
39 together a plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation within its Circuit
40 boundaries during the next Triennium; and, be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
43 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
44 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
45 Evangelization Team provide assistance as requested by each English District Circuit in the
46 study, implementation, and plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation within
47 its Circuit boundaries during the next Triennium; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, that we in this Convention see ourselves as living stones connected to The Living
2 Stone, Jesus Christ, disciples of Jesus who are His witnesses, and to do all under God's grace
3 to promote witness and outreach in our Synod, District, Circuit, Congregation, School, and
4 community.

5
6 Submitted by:
7 Mission Council of the English District-LCMS
8
9

10 **OVERTURE: 2-02**

11
12 **To Promote Personal Witnessing and Congregational Outreach by all the Churches, Schools,**
13 **Ministries, and Congregational Members of the English District-LCMS**

14
15 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has told His Church to go and make disciples of all nations
16 (peoples) by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be His witnesses as the
17 priesthood of all believers (Acts 1:8, I Peter 2:1-10); and

18
19 WHEREAS, the resurrected Lord Jesus had empowered every individual member of His Church
20 to bear witness through the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23, Acts 2:32-33); and

21
22 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
23 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
24 Bishop/President, Staff, Praesidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Missions Council, and
25 Evangelization Team have promoted personal witnessing and congregational outreach; and,

26
27 WHEREAS, we in North America are the third largest world mission field; and,

28
29 WHEREAS, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ lived the perfect life, died for the sins of all people
30 and rose triumphantly in having achieved the victory over sin, death, and hell, and that people
31 are dying without hearing or coming to receive the grace of God in Christ by the power of the
32 Holy Spirit because the Word of God has not been continually shared or received in their lives;
33 and,

34
35 WHEREAS, it is our humble desire to align with Christ's mission as congregations and
36 individuals, guided by faithful pastors who "do the work of an evangelist" (II Timothy 4:1-5),
37 and to do this with a deep sense of urgency for the salvation of souls; therefore, be it

38
39 *Resolved*, that each congregational member be encouraged to pray regularly and fervently for
40 opportunities to give personal witness in their lives; and, be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that each congregational member be encouraged to joyfully give personal witness in
43 word and in acts of personal and with congregation mercy/human care ministry to family,
44 neighbors, co-workers, school classmates, people on their neighborhood, and in other contexts
45 of vocation or association; and be it further

46
47 *Resolved*, that each congregation have an Evangelization Team, Committee, or Board to help
48 promote the above two "resolves: among congregational members and encourage ways for
49 witness and outreach; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, that our schools through Pastor, Principal, Faculty, Staff, and member families seek
2 those in the "mission field" of their own schools to share the love of God in Christ and lead
3 people by the power of the Holy Spirit into the family of Christ, His Church; and be it finally
4

5 *Resolved*, that we in this Convention see ourselves as living stones connected to The Living
6 Stone, Jesus Christ, disciples of Jesus who are His witnesses, and to do all under God's grace
7 to promote witness and outreach in our Synod, District, Circuit, Congregation, School, and
8 community.
9

10 Submitted by: Grace Lutheran Church
11 Wyoming, MI
12 in thanksgiving to God for our pastor serving on the Evangelization Team
13

14
15 **OVERTURE: 2-03**

16
17 **To Memorialize Synod to Develop and Identify Resources to be Used**
18 **in Countering Islam with the Gospel**
19

20 WHEREAS, the religion of Islam continues to gain adherents throughout the United States and
21 the world, and
22

23 WHEREAS, Islamic terrorism threats within the United States and around the world have
24 heightened worldwide awareness of Islam and some of its damaging impact, and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus has commissioned His Church to "make disciples of all nations"
27 (Matthew 28:19) through the proclamation of the Gospel, therefore be it
28

29 *Resolved*, that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the
30 Synod in her 2016 Convention to adopt as a Priority the development and identification of
31 resources (e.g. written and visual materials, convocations, expert human resources within our
32 synod, and other such resources) which will assist Districts and Congregations to boldly and
33 faithfully reach out to Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
34

35 Submitted by:
36 Detroit-South Circuit #11 and Detroit-North Circuit #12
37

1 **OVERTURE: 2-04**

2
3 **To Adopt a Synod-wide North American Evangelism Effort**

4
5 WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution states as one of the Synod's Objectives is to "Strengthen
6 congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and
7 work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world"
8 [LCMS Constitution, Article III.2]; and
9

10 WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution further states that a further objective is to "Aid
11 congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing,
12 promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith"
13 [LCMS Constitution, Article III.6] ; and
14

15 WHEREAS, one of the reasons our Synod's Articles of Incorporation states for our Synod's
16 existence is "To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of radio and television
17 broadcasting," [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.e]; and
18

19 WHEREAS, our Synod is formed "To provide assistance and resources to the congregations,
20 schools, Sunday schools, preaching stations, and agencies of the Synod for the dissemination
21 of the Christian Gospel." [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.f]; and
22

23 WHEREAS, it would be desirable for a Synod wide effort to reach out to people in North America
24 with a sound Law/Gospel presentation; and
25

26 WHEREAS, having heard the Gospel some contact between those hearing the message and a
27 congregation in their area is desirable so that they could hear more about the Savior; and
28

29 WHEREAS, our Synod is only as strong as its congregations; therefore be it
30

31 *Resolved*, that a Synod wide offering be taken for the purpose of creating material to be
32 presented over the broadcast, cable and internet communication media existing in North
33 America; and be it further
34

35 *Resolved*, that the funds gathered be used exclusively and solely for: developing material for
36 broadcast on television channels and/or cable at the seminaries of our synod, securing
37 broadcast time on television channels and/or cable, and developing and fabricating material
38 for Synodical and congregational use on their respective web sites and as electronic media as
39 part of this effort; and be it further
40

41 *Resolved*, that this gathering of funds and carrying out of the above resolutions be under the
42 direction of the Board for National Mission; and be it finally
43

44 *Resolved*, that the attached memorandum be conveyed to the Board for National Mission for
45 their consideration in constructing the manner in which this effort will be conducted.
46

47 Submitted by:
48 Philadelphia Circuit #2 Forum
49

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE**

2
3 **OVERTURE: 3-01**

4
5 **To Affirm the District's Canadian Congregations**

6
7 WHEREAS, the English District has member congregations in Canada; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the English District is a registered charity and corporation in Canada; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church – Canada jointly
12 have a mission and ministry Protocol Agreement encouraging their congregations to work in
13 harmony; therefore be it

14
15 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention reaffirm the policy of Synod that the
16 congregations of the two Canadian circuits of the District continue to discuss mission and
17 ministry with the congregations of the Lutheran Church Canada and work in harmony with one
18 another; and be it further

19
20 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention affirm the place of the Canadian circuits in the
21 English District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod; and be it finally

22
23 *Resolved*, that the English District hereby expresses its desire to keep these as active member
24 congregations.

25
26 Submitted by:
27 Canada West Circuit #8 Form
28 Robert Voelker, Circuit Visitor

1 **OVERTURE: 3-02**

2 **To Review Nominations**

3
4 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and its English District, is a church
5 body whose member congregations have joined together through subscription to and
6 confession of a doctrinal standard of the Christian faith; and,

7
8 WHEREAS, through this affiliation, the members of the LCMS and the English District also
9 covenant together to support a shared mission and ministry of Gospel outreach through their
10 prayers, participation, and financial support; and,

11
12 WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.3.4 of the LCMS states in part:

13 *"Congregations together establish the requirements of membership in the Synod*
14 *(Constitution Art. VI). In joining the Synod, congregations and other members obligate*
15 *themselves to fulfill such requirements and to diligently and earnestly promote the*
16 *purposes of Synod by word and deed. Members of the Synod, compelled by love for*
17 *each other, accept the responsibility to support financially the work of the Synod..."and,*

18
19 WHEREAS, within the English District, many congregations are non-contributing congregations
20 (that is, not contributing to the English District's general operating fund on an annual basis)
21 and thus break our covenant together as Synod; and,

22
23 WHEREAS, it is not the practice within most of our congregations to nominate and elect to
24 office members who do not support financially the work of our congregations and yet at each
25 district convention the delegates are asked to consider for election candidates from non-
26 contributing congregations; therefore, be it

27
28 *Resolved*, that, to honor and sustain our covenant together as Synod and to provide
29 appropriate leadership from among its members, it shall be the policy of the English District-
30 LCMS that nominees for election to office at district conventions from non-contributing
31 congregations shall be ineligible for election.

32
33 Submitted by:
34 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
35 Hudson, IN
36

1 **OVERTURE: 3-03**

2
3 **To Amend District Bylaw Article IV**

4
5 *Resolved*, that the English District meeting in its Fifty-Fifth Regular Convention in 2015 amend
6 Bylaw Article IV ("Elections and Vacancies") to permit its District President to serve a
7 maximum of four (4) consecutive three-year terms (a total of 12 years); and be it further

8
9 *Resolved*, that any amendments to Bylaw Article IV be implemented subsequent to the election
10 of a District President at the said Convention.

11
12 Submitted by:
13 Eastern Region Pastoral Conference

14
15
16 **OVERTURE: 3-04**

17
18 **To Amend District Bylaw IV.A.4**

19
20 WHEREAS, the members of the English District must elect individuals for service as District
21 officers (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1), members of a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), members
22 of a Committee on Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2), and Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2);
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, limitation of tenure for its elected officers may be determined by the English District
26 (Synod Bylaw 4.7.5); and

27
28 WHEREAS, the unique geographic makeup of the English District necessitates relocation of a
29 newly-elected District President from his current place of residence and service to a location
30 near the District office building in Farmington, Michigan; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the current three-term limit for the District President can deter individuals from
33 offering themselves for service in that office; and

34
35 WHEREAS, uniformity in limitation of tenure for elected officers, board and committee
36 members is the current agreed practice within the English District; therefore be it

37
38 *Resolved*, that the English District determine that its President and all elected officers, board
39 and committee members be made eligible to be elected to serve consecutively in the same
40 office or function for a maximum of 12 years; and be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that the Bylaws of the English District be so amended:

43
44 Article IV
45 Elections and Vacancies

46
47 A. Elections

48 1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.

- 1 2. The President and all elected officers, board and committee members shall be elected
2 by a majority of votes cast.
3 3. One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The
4 Convention shall determine their rank.
5 4. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for
6 Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years. A person's tenure
7 in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) ~~three (3)~~ consecutive full three-
8 year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an
9 interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an
10 interval of no less than two (2) years; and be it finally

11
12 *Resolved*, that any amendments to Bylaw Article IV.A.4 be implemented subsequent to the
13 election of the District President, officers, board and committee members at the Fifty-Fifth
14 Convention of the English District in 2015.

15
16
17 Submitted by:
18 Philadelphia Circuit #2 Forum
19

20 **OVERTURE: 3-05**

21
22 **To Amend Synod Constitution and Bylaws**

23
24 *Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meeting in its 66th Regular Convention in
25 2016 amend its Constitution and Bylaws to adopt a four-year cycle of Conventions and a term
26 of four years for its officers.

27
28 Submitted by:
29 Eastern Region Pastoral Conference
30

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2
3 **OVERTURE: 4-01**

4
5 **To Provide Training and Education for Lay Persons Related to Support of a Pastor**

6
7 WHEREAS, the members and officers of a congregation are in need of training and education
8 on how to recognize, alleviate and reduce pastoral stress; and

9
10 WHEREAS, because of congregational Constitution and By-Laws requirements mandated by
11 Biblical precepts, many congregations have a problem filling the male corporate positions of
12 President, Vice President and Board of Elders/Deacons; and

13
14 WHEREAS, it is especially important among the functions of the Board of Elders/Deacons that
15 the support of the Pastoral Office be fulfilled; and

16
17 WHEREAS, those Board of Elders/Deacons functions go unfulfilled if no or very few
18 Elders/Deacons are available; and

19
20 WHEREAS, congregation are in need of ways and means to better support the pastor spiritually
21 and emotionally, especially if a non-existent or over taxed Board of Elders/Deacons situation
22 exists; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Pastor of a congregation will often by necessity complete the Office of the Keys
25 under stressful conditions with minimal relief; and

26
27 WHEREAS, there are throughout the District and Synod many officers, pastors and
28 congregations who have experienced and handled this condition with various degrees of
29 success; therefore be it

30
31 *Resolved*, that to help congregations struggling with this condition that the District and/or
32 Synod compile the successful experience and solutions of those officers, pastors and
33 congregations; and be it further

34
35 *Resolved*, that the District and Synod should create new data as seems pertinent and/or adds
36 to or modifies the data compiled; and be it finally

37
38 *Resolved*, that the data compiled be formatted and made available to all Synod congregations

- 39 1. In the form of information to recognize and alleviate the problem;
40 2. A training manual and/or
41 3. A Bible study.

42
43 Submitted By:
44 Our Savior Lutheran Church Norwood Park
45 Chicago, IL

1 **OVERTURE: 4-02**

2
3 **To Eliminate Student Indebtedness**
4

5 WHEREAS, average aggregate student loan debt among graduates of Concordia Theological
6 Seminary is \$35,597 and of Concordia Seminary is \$34,978, with some as high as \$70,000 and
7

8 WHEREAS, the starting salary of an LCMS pastor averages \$45,000 and the top salary over the
9 course of his career may not exceed \$65,000, and
10

11 WHEREAS, many of these graduates are young men who are starting families under significant
12 financial stress, and
13

14 WHEREAS, these financial struggles can impact adversely on the work of the Pastor in the
15 church, and
16

17 WHEREAS, many churches cannot afford proper pastoral care, and
18

19 WHEREAS, many of the student loans come from federal sources and may not be available in
20 the future as society becomes increasingly hostile to the truth of the Gospel, be it therefore
21

22 *Resolved*, that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works toward the establishment of a fund
23 to enable all seminarians to receive scholarship funding to cover the entirety of the cost of
24 their seminary education, and be it further
25

26 *Resolved*, that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod make efforts to place graduates who
27 have received these scholarships, for service in underserved churches.
28

29 Submitted by:
30 Arizona-South Circuit #20
31

1 **OVERTURE: 4-02**

2
3 **To Establish a Legal Fund**

4
5 Whereas society at large is becoming increasingly hostile to the truth of the Gospel, and

6
7 Whereas the state is increasingly seeking to "turn its coercive powers on the church and hinder
8 its mission" (1), and

9
10 Whereas rostered church workers and church entities are increasingly vulnerable to lawsuits
11 and potentially even prison time (1) for their defense of the Gospel,

12
13 Be it therefore resolved that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod establish a legal defense
14 fund to aid in the defense of rostered church workers or church entities who come under legal
15 attack for their witness to God's truth.

- 16
17 1) Pr. Matt Harrison, quoted in: Harrison encourages LCMS to 'not grow weary' in public
18 square. Reporter Online; blogs.lcms.org/2014/not-grow-weary, accessed 11/18/14.

19
20 Submitted by:
21 Arizona-South Circuit #20

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2
3 **Committee #1, Resolution #1**

4
5 **To Evaluate the Theological Implications of the Practice of Cremation**

6
7 WHEREAS, the practice of cremation is gaining acceptance in the United States; and

8
9 WHEREAS, our church body has stated nothing official regarding the practice of cremation; and

10
11 WHEREAS, many pastors have encouraged the use of cremation, and may have for themselves
12 drawn plans to be cremated; and

13
14 WHEREAS, many pastors and church leaders are unsure of their advice with respect to
15 cremation; and

16
17 WHEREAS, requests concerning the Scriptural acceptance or condemnation of cremation
18 continue to increase; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (LCMS), has written a book entitled, "*Dust to Dust, Ashes*
21 *to Ashes: A Biblical and Christian Examination of Cremation*" (Salisbury, MA: Regina Orthodox
22 Press, 2005), which condemns the practice of cremation, and this is the only book known
23 among us to address this topic, but does not represent the official theological position of the
24 synod; therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the
27 Synod in the 2016 Convention, to assign to our two Seminaries the task of evaluating the
28 theological implications of the practice of cremation; and be it finally

29
30 *Resolved*, that they render a published opinion to be disseminated and eventually adopted by
31 our Synod during her 2019 Convention.

To Reaffirm the Six-Day Creation

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WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that God is the Creator of all that exists, and is therefore the Author (Acts 3:15) and giver of life (Nicene Creed, third article); and

WHEREAS, Genesis Chapter 1 details the creation of the world by God in six days, each of which consists of 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, this interpretation is explicitly corroborated by other passages of Scripture, such as Exodus 20:8-11; and

WHEREAS, the Synod has previously and consistently taught and affirmed this position; therefore be it

Resolved, that the English District in convention reaffirm the literal 6-day creation as revealed in Genesis; and be it finally

Resolved, that the English District memorialize Synod to reaffirm her position concerning the literal 6-day creation, as it is revealed in Genesis, during the 2016 convention.

To Reaffirm in Practice the Biblical Understanding of Marriage, and the Biblical Qualifications for the Office of the Holy Ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

WHEREAS, Scripture does not permit a believer to divorce except in the case of abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor 7:15), or in the case of adultery (Mt 19:9), but to the contrary, attributes divorce to a hardness of heart (Mt. 19:8) that is characteristic of impenitent unbelief, and is incompatible with the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul clearly states that the Christian minister must manage his own household well (1 Tim. 3:4-5) as a sign of his competence for managing the household of God, and should be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6), as Christ is the husband only of His Church and does not separate Himself from His bride, and that he must not be a recent convert (1 Tim. 3:6); and

WHEREAS, it has become the practice in our Synod that (1) pastors who are illegitimately divorced are not always removed from office, (2) our seminaries admit, certify and place candidates who are divorced and remarried, and (3) divorced and remarried pastors continue to be considered for calls; therefore be it

Resolved, that the English District in convention memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to reaffirm the biblical qualification for pastors, by forbidding admission to (the pastoral programs of) our seminaries of those who are divorced for reasons other than the adultery or abandonment of an unbelieving wife, unless such illegitimate divorce is repented of, in which case such men must not be admitted to seminary until at least two years after their repentance; and be it further

Resolved, that if a man who is currently serving as a pastor become divorced, except for the reason of adultery or abandonment of an unbelieving wife, he must resign or be removed from his call and must be removed from the roster of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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, and by forbidding the calling of any pastor who is divorced and remarried, so that he may not be a stumbling block and sign of contradiction to the teaching of Christ or His apostles; and be it finally

Resolved, that if a man who is currently serving as a pastor is divorced or becomes divorced for whatever reason, that he may by no means remarry while his divorced wife is alive, and that if he does intend to remarry, he must first resign his call and withdraw himself from the roster of the LCMS, or else be removed from both.

To Educate the Church on the Practice of Reiki

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WHEREAS, the technique of Reiki is being practiced in various healthcare institutions; and

WHEREAS, the origins of this practice are rooted in beliefs that are contrary to the Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, many of our members have no understanding of Reiki, its origins, or the danger that it poses to Christian faith; therefore be it

Resolved, that the District encourage its members not to participate in the ungodly practice of Reiki; and be it further

Resolved, that the District encourage the dissemination of information that is contained in the CTCR Evaluation on Reiki; and be it finally

Resolved, that the District in convention memorialize the Synod to do the same.

To Require Educational Training as Part of Pastoral Formation

WHEREAS, pastoral candidates are not required to complete courses on teaching that would provide them with tools to help them be more effective teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell us that one of the requirements of an overseer is to be 'able to teach' (1Tim. 2.3); and

WHEREAS it is expected of our Pastors to be the primary teachers of the young and adult catechism classes and of additional Bible study classes; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that Pastors have sufficient knowledge to be qualified as teachers, they generally lack the tools needed to be effective in their teaching and efficient in their preparation; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Luther said: "... *schoolteachers are used to speaking in school and somewhat more daring [than pastors]. They also teach in their school language how one must treat and interpret the language of the Holy Scriptures. I wish that no one would be chosen as a preacher unless he had first taught school*" (Lewis W. Spitz in Bulletin 2, March 1943, Lutheran Education Association), therefore be it

Resolved, that the seminaries offer at least two teacher training classes as required courses for graduation; and be it further

Resolved, that the substance of these courses include skills in class management, tools for lesson preparation, and an introduction to the philosophy of education; and be it finally

Resolved, that these courses be taught by qualified teaching (education) professionals, the details of which are to be coordinated with our Synodical seminaries and colleges.

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS & EVANGELIZATION**

2
3 **Committee #2, Resolution #1**

4
5 **To Encourage Every Circuit of the English District to Consider the Study, Implementation, and**
6 **Financial Support of a New Mission Start within its Circuit Boundaries.**

7
8 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has told His Church to go and make disciples of all nations
9 (peoples) by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be His witnesses as the
10 priesthood of all believers (Acts 1:8, I Peter 2:1-10); and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
13 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
14 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
15 Evangelization Team have promoted personal witnessing, congregational outreach and new
16 mission starts; and,

17
18 WHEREAS, we in North America are the third largest world mission field; and,

19
20 WHEREAS, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of all people and rose triumphantly
21 in having achieved the victory over sin, death, and hell, and that people are dying without
22 hearing or coming to receive the grace of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit because
23 the Word of God has not been continually shared or received in their lives; and,

24
25 WHEREAS, His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are distributed within His Church and
26 Jesus Christ has promised in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in My name,
27 there am I among them;" and,

28
29 WHEREAS, it is our humble desire to align with Christ's mission as congregations and
30 individuals, guided by faithful pastors who "do the work of an evangelist" (II Timothy 4:1-5),
31 and to do this with a deep sense of urgency for the salvation of souls; therefore, be it

32
33 *Resolved*, that each English District congregation and their Circuit **be encouraged to pray**
34 **regularly for opportunities** to begin a new mission start within its Circuit boundaries during the
35 next Triennium; and, be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, that each English District Circuit **develop a new mission start committee** made up of
38 laity and pastors from within the congregations of the Circuit to study, implement, and put
39 together a plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation within its Circuit
40 boundaries during the next Triennium; and, be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that we memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in her 2016 Convention,
43 through her Department of Witness and Outreach, and the English District-LCMS through its
44 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
45 Evangelization Team to **provide assistance as requested** by each English District Circuit in the
46 study, implementation, and plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation within
47 its Circuit boundaries during the next Triennium; and be it finally

1 *Resolved, that we in this Convention see ourselves as living stones* connected to The Living
2 Stone, Jesus Christ, disciples of Jesus who are His witnesses, and to do all under God's grace
3 to promote witness and outreach in our Synod, District, Circuit, Congregation, School, and
4 community.
5

6
7 **Committee #2, Resolution #2**
8

9 **To Promote Personal Witnessing and Congregational Outreach by all the Churches, Schools,**
10 **Ministries, and Congregational Members of the English District-LCMS**
11

12 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has told His Church to go and make disciples of all nations
13 (peoples) by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be His witnesses as the
14 priesthood of all believers (Acts 1:8, I Peter 2:1-10); and
15

16 WHEREAS, the resurrected Lord Jesus had empowered every individual member of His Church
17 to bear witness through the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23, Acts 2:32-33); and
18

19 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
20 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
21 Bishop/President, Staff, Praesidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Missions Council, and
22 Evangelization Team have promoted personal witnessing and congregational outreach; and,
23

24 WHEREAS, we in North America are the third largest world mission field; and,
25

26 WHEREAS, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ lived the perfect life, died for the sins of all people
27 and rose triumphantly in having achieved the victory over sin, death, and hell, and that people
28 are dying without hearing or coming to receive the grace of God in Christ by the power of the
29 Holy Spirit because the Word of God has not been continually shared or received in their lives;
30 and,
31

32 WHEREAS, it is our humble desire to align with Christ's mission as congregations and
33 individuals, guided by faithful pastors who "do the work of an evangelist" (II Timothy 4:1-5),
34 and to do this with a deep sense of urgency for the salvation of souls; therefore, be it
35

36 *Resolved, that each congregational member be encouraged to pray regularly and fervently for*
37 **opportunities** to give personal witness in their lives; and, be it further
38

39 *Resolved, that each congregational member be encouraged to joyfully give personal witness in*
40 **word and in acts of personal and with congregation mercy/human care ministry** to family,
41 neighbors, co-workers, school classmates, people on their neighborhood, and in other contexts
42 of vocation or association; and be it further
43

44 *Resolved, that each congregation have an Evangelization Team, Committee, or Board* to help
45 promote the above two "resolves: among congregational members and encourage ways for
46 witness and outreach; and be it further
47

1 *Resolved*, that **our schools** through Pastor, Principal, Faculty, Staff, and member families **seek**
2 **those in the “mission field” of their own schools** to share the love of God in Christ and lead
3 people by the power of the Holy Spirit into the family of Christ, His Church; and be it finally
4

5 *Resolved*, that **we in this Convention see ourselves as living stones** connected to The Living
6 Stone, Jesus Christ, disciples of Jesus who are His witnesses, and to do all under God's grace
7 to promote witness and outreach in our Synod, District, Circuit, Congregation, School, and
8 community.
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12 **Committee #2, Resolution #3**

13
14 **To Memorialize Synod to Develop and Identify Resources to be Used**
15 **in Reaching Out to our Muslim Neighbors with the Gospel**
16

17 WHEREAS, the religion of Islam continues to gain adherents throughout the United States and
18 the world, and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus has commissioned His Church to “make disciples of all nations”
21 (Matthew 28:19) through the proclamation of the Gospel, therefore be it
22

23 *Resolved*, that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the
24 Synod in her 2016 Convention to adopt as a priority the development and identification of
25 resources (e.g. written and visual materials, convocations, expert human resources within our
26 synod, and other such resources) which will assist Districts and Congregations to boldly and
27 faithfully reach out to Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To Adopt a Synod-Wide North American Evangelism Effort

WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution states as one of the Synod's Objectives is to "Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world" [LCMS Constitution, Article III.2]; and

WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution further states that a further objective is to "Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith" [LCMS Constitution, Article III.6] ; and

WHEREAS, one of the reasons our Synod's Articles of Incorporation states for our Synod's existence is "To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of radio and television broadcasting," [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.e]; and

WHEREAS, our Synod is formed "To provide assistance and resources to the congregations, schools, Sunday schools, preaching stations, and agencies of the Synod for the dissemination of the Christian Gospel." [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.f]; and

WHEREAS, it would be desirable for a Synod wide effort to reach out to people in North America with a sound Law/Gospel presentation; and

WHEREAS, having heard the Gospel some contact between those hearing the message and a congregation in their area is desirable so that they could hear more about the Savior; and

WHEREAS, our Synod is only as strong as its congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, that we memorialize Synod, in her 2016 Convention, to take a Synod-wide offering for the purpose of creating material to be presented over the broadcast, cable, and internet communication media existing in North America; and be it further

Resolved, that the funds gathered be used exclusively and solely for: developing material for broadcast on television channels and/or cable at the seminaries of our synod, securing broadcast time on television channels and/or cable, and developing and fabricating material for Synodical and congregational use on their respective web sites and as electronic media as part of this effort; and be it further

Resolved, that this gathering of funds and carrying out of the above resolutions be under the direction of the Board for National Mission; and be it finally

Resolved, that the attached memorandum be conveyed to the Board for National Mission for their consideration in constructing the manner in which this effort will be conducted.

1 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE**

2
3 **Committee #3, Resolution #1**

4
5 **To Affirm the District's Canadian Congregations**

6
7 WHEREAS, the English District has member congregations in Canada; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the English District (Canada Corporation) is a registered charity and corporation in
10 Canada; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church – Canada jointly
13 have a mission and ministry Protocol Agreement encouraging their congregations to work in
14 harmony; therefore be it

15
16 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention reaffirm the policy of Synod that the
17 congregations of the two Canadian circuits of the District continue to discuss mission and
18 ministry with the congregations of the Lutheran Church Canada and work in harmony with one
19 another; and be it further

20
21 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention affirm the place of the Canadian circuits in the
22 English District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod; and be it further

23
24 *Resolved*, that the English District hereby expresses its desire to keep these as active member
25 congregations.

1 **Committee #3, Resolution #2**

2
3 **To Review Nominations - Declined**

4
5 *The Committee on Administration and Structure overtures voted to reject this overture on the*
6 *grounds that it is out of order as it conflicts with the synodical handbook dealing with what*
7 *constitutes membership. Although we agreed with the sentiment of the motion, we felt that for*
8 *the above reason and because of the difficulties of determining which candidates'*
9 *congregations are paid up, this overture should not be presented.*

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11
12 **Committee #3, Resolution #3**

13
14 **To Amend District Bylaw Article IV**

15
16 *The Committee on Administration and Structure overtures decided to combine this overture*
17 *with the overture dealing with amending District bylaw IV.A.4. The rationale behind the*
18 *decision was that both deal with extending the terms to four consecutive years however we felt*
19 *that it was important to include all of the officers of the district and not just the president.*

20
21
22 **Committee #3, Resolution #4**

23
24 **To Amend District Bylaw IV.A.4**

25
26 WHEREAS, the members of the English District must elect individuals for service as District
27 officers (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1), members of a Board of Directors (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1), members
28 of a Committee on Nominations (Synod Bylaw 4.7.2), and Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2);
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, limitation of tenure for its elected officers may be determined by the English District
32 (Synod Bylaw 4.7.5); and

33
34 WHEREAS, the unique geographic makeup of the English District necessitates relocation of a
35 newly-elected District President from his current place of residence and service to a location
36 near the District office building in Farmington, Michigan; and

37
38 WHEREAS, the current three-term limit for the District President can deter individuals from
39 offering themselves for service in that office; and

40
41 WHEREAS, uniformity in limitation of tenure for elected officers, board and committee
42 members is the current agreed practice within the English District; therefore be it

43
44 *Resolved*, that the English District determine that its President and all elected officers, board
45 and committee members be made eligible to be elected to serve consecutively in the same
46 office or function for a maximum of 12 years; and be it further

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48 *Resolved*, that the Bylaws of the English District be so amended:
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Article IV
Elections and Vacancies

A. Elections

1. All elections shall take place at the regular Convention.
2. The President and all elected officers, board and committee members shall be elected by a majority of votes cast.
3. One Vice-President from each of the four regions shall be elected by the delegates. The Convention shall determine their rank.
4. Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Committee on Nominations, Committee for Stewardship, and Circuit Visitors shall serve for a term of three years. A person's tenure in the same office or function shall be limited to four (4) ~~three (3)~~ consecutive full three-year terms. These persons may be elected to their previous office or function after an interval of no less than three (3) years, or be appointed to fill an unexpired term after an interval of no less than two (2) years.; and be it finally

Resolved, that any amendments to Bylaw Article IV.A.4 be implemented subsequent to the election of the District President, officers, board and committee members at the Fifty-Fifth Convention of the English District in 2015.

Committee #3, Resolution #5

To Amend Synod Constitution and Bylaws

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meeting in its 66th Regular Convention in 2016 amend its Constitution and Bylaws to adopt a four-year cycle of Conventions and a term of four years for its officers.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

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3 **Committee #4, Resolution #1**

4
5 **To Provide Training and Education for Lay Persons Related to Support of a Pastor**

6
7 *The Committee on Congregational Services has decided to defer this overture to the*
8 *Committee on Ministerial Health.*
9

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11
12 **Committee #4, Resolution #2**

13
14 **To Eliminate Student Indebtedness**

15
16 WHEREAS, average aggregate student loan debt among graduates of Concordia Theological
17 Seminary is \$35,597 and of Concordia Seminary is \$34,978, with some as high as \$70,000; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the starting salary of an LCMS pastor averages \$45,000 and the top salary over the
20 course of his career may not exceed \$65,000; and

21
22 WHEREAS, many of these graduates are young men who are starting families under significant
23 financial stress; and

24
25 WHEREAS, these financial struggles can impact adversely on the work of the Pastor in the
26 church; and

27
28 WHEREAS, many churches cannot afford proper pastoral care; and

29
30 WHEREAS, many of the student loans come from federal sources and may not be available in
31 the future as society becomes increasingly hostile to the truth of the Gospel; therefore be it

32
33 *Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works toward the establishment of a
34 fund to enable all seminarians to receive scholarship funding to cover the entirety of the cost
35 of their seminary education, and be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod make efforts to place graduates who
38 have received these scholarships, for service in underserved churches.

To Establish a Legal Fund

WHEREAS, society at large is becoming increasingly hostile to the truth of the Gospel, and

WHEREAS, the state is increasingly seeking to “turn its coercive powers on the church and hinder its mission” (1), and

WHEREAS, rostered church workers and church entities are increasingly vulnerable to lawsuits and potentially even prison time (1) for their defense of the Gospel, therefore be it

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod establish a legal defense fund to aid in the defense of rostered church workers or church entities who come under legal attack for their witness to God’s truth.

- 1) Pr. Matt Harrison, quoted in: Harrison encourages LCMS to 'not grow weary' in public square. Reporter Online; blogs.lcms.org/2014/not-grow-weary, accessed 11/18/14.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

THE REV. BEN EDER

Age: 58

College/University: UW-Green Bay, WI

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1985/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Year(s): 1994-present

Incarnate Word, Florence, SC

Year(s): 1985-93

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor; Board of Directors; Regional Chair, "Ablaze" Initiative; Lutheran Malaria Initiative; 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 (church, community, etc.): Volunteer Hospital Chaplain; member and former president, Lions Club of Kenmore; former Rotarian; member, Kenmore Village Improvement Society; graduate, Kenmore Police Citizens Police Academy.

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: The last three years I served on the English District Board of Directors.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Through the years I have taken courses and seminars on leadership, administration, counseling, and interpersonal relations.

In my 30 years of pastoral ministry I have come to the conviction that wherever the Word of God is proclaimed faithfully and wherever people are gathered the Church has the capacity to grow and flourish. While being realistic about the times and conditions in which we live, I remain ever hopeful for the Church and the English District in particular. If elected president I would review our District's structures and delivery of services with the view of being as efficient as possible while still praying and working towards the growth and continued progress of our beloved district. Furthermore, I would work towards strengthening the English District's relationship with the pastors, other professional church workers, congregations, and ministries of our district.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT (CONT.)

THE REV. DR. JAMISON HARDY

Age: 42

College/University: Concordia, Mequon, WI

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad School: Walden University

Other Degrees: Walden University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/BS-Ed

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/MDiv

Grad Yr/Degree: 2009/MPA

Grad Yr/Degree: 2012/DBA

Congregations Served:

Peace, McMurray, PA

Our Savior, Pittsburgh, PA (became Peace, merger)

Year(s): 2008-present

Year(s): 2000-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice President Eastern Region; Board of Directors; Circuit Counselor; Vice President/Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference; Mission Action Council; 30 Year Mission Study Committee, Chairman of District Convention Floor Committee #1 on Structure, Nominations Committee.

Synod: Delegate to Synod Convention (2004, 2010), Short-Term Missionary, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (Sudan/Kenya/South Africa)

Other (church, community, etc.): Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Pittsburgh Reformation Rally Chairman; President, Mt. Lebanon, Lions Club; Vice President, McMurray Rotary Club; Board of Directors, District 14b Lions Club International; Non-profit Caucus Pennsylvania State Senate; Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute; Elected Member of the 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 servant 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.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT (CONT.)

THE REV. DR. ROBERT ROEGNER

Age: 61

College/University: Concordia Junior College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1974/AA

College/University: Concordia Senior College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1977/BA

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1981/MDiv

Grad School: Summer Institute of Linguistics, Oklahoma Univ.

Grad Yr/Degree: 1984/Lang.
Translation Cert

Other Degrees: Concordia, Ann Arbor, 2004, Honorary Doctor of Laws, (L.L.D.)

Congregations Served:

Peace, O'Fallon, MO

Year(s): 2012 to present

Zion Church and School, Westwood, NJ

Year(s): 1999-2001

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: New Jersey District - Board for Mission, Chairman, 1999-2001; Committee for Convention Nominations, 2000-2001; Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), Zone Pastoral Counselor, 1999-2001; English District - Mission Planter, 2009-2012; Mission Council, 2012-present; Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), District Pastoral Counselor, 2010-2014

Synod: LCMS Board for Mission Services - Evangelistic Missionary/Church Planter to the Kisi people in Liberia, West Africa, 1981-1990; Missionary Counselor, Liberia, West Africa, 1984-1990; Area Secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, 1990-1995; Executive Director, 2001-2009; LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations, 2000-2001; Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) - LCMS, National Pastoral Counselor serving as an Executive Committee and Board of Directors member (non-voting) and pastoral advisor, 2013-present

Other (church, community, etc.): Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) - LCMS/RSO, Aurora, IL, Executive Director, 1995-1999; Chamber of Commerce, Aurora, IL, - Chairman of the Board, 1997-1999; Concordia University, Irvine, CA, Great Commission Award, 2003; Apple of His Eye Mission Society (AOHE) - LCMS/RSO, St. Louis, MO, Chairman of the Board, 2013-present; Destination Winghaven Business Association, O'Fallon, MO, - President, 2013-present

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: I have worked with Policy-Based Governance Boards for the past 20+ years: Board for Mission Services - LCMS as their Area Secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, 1990-1995; Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), Aurora, IL as their Executive Director, 1995-1999; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Westwood, NJ as their Senior Pastor, 1999-2001; Board for Mission Services - LCMS as their Executive Director, 2001-2009; Apple of His Eye Mission Society (AOHE) - LCMS/RSO as their Chairman of the Board, 2013-present; I have also consulted with a number of mission societies and groups, assisting them in the implementation of a Policy-Based Governance Board. Two recent examples would be: Children's Christian Concern Society - LCMS/RSO (Lead a Child); People of the Book Lutheran Outreach - LCMS/RSO (POBLO)

Other Experience/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. I have 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. I have traveled to all 50 States of the United States 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. I have been a 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!

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION

THE REV. BEN EDER

Age: 58

College/University: UW-Green Bay, WI

Seminary: Concordia Theology Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA

Grad Yr/Degree: 1985/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Incarnate Word, Florence, SC

Year(s): 1994-present

Year(s): 1985-93

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor; Board of Directors; Regional Chair, "Ablaze" Initiative; Lutheran Malaria Initiative; 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 (church, community, etc.): Volunteer Hospital Chaplain; member and former president, Lions Club of Kenmore; former Rotarian; member, Kenmore Village Improvement Society; graduate, Kenmore Police Citizens Police Academy.

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: The last three years I served on the English District Board of Directors.

Other Experience/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. 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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. DR. JAMISON HARDY

Age: 42

College/University: Concordia, Mequon, WI

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad School: Walden University

Other Degrees: Walden University

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/BS-Ed

Grad Yr/Degree: 2000/MDiv

Grad Yr/Degree: 2009/MPA

Grad Yr/Degree: 2012/DBA

Congregations Served:

Peace, McMurray, PA

Year(s): 2008-present

Our Savior, Mt. Lebanon, PA (became Peace, merger)

Year(s): 2000-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Vice President Eastern Region; Board of Directors; Circuit Counselor; Vice President/Treasurer, Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference; Mission Action Council; 30 Year Mission Study Committee, Chairman of District Convention Floor Committee #1 on Structure, Nominations Committee.

Synod: Delegate to Synod Convention (2004, 2010), Short-Term Missionary, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (Sudan/Kenya/South Africa)

Other (church, community, etc.): Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Pittsburgh Reformation Rally Chairman; President, Mt. Lebanon, Lions Club; Vice President, McMurray Rotary Club; Board of Directors, District 14b Lions Club International; Non-profit Caucus Pennsylvania State Senate; Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute; Elected Member of the 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 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 servant 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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION

THE REV. MICHAEL FRESE

Age: 40

College/University: Concordia, Seward, AL

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1997/BA

Grad Yr/Degree: 2002/MDiv

Grad Yr/Degree: 2004/STM

Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Ft. Wayne, IN

Lutheran Chapel at Nachrichten Kassern, Germany

Emmanuel, Adell, WI

Year(s): 2011-present

Year(s): 2006-2010

Year(s): 2003-2005

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: None

Synod: U.S. Army Chaplain (Active Duty 2006-2012); U.S. Air Force Chaplain (National Guard 2013-Present). I have served the Ministry 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 (church, community, etc.): Regular speaker at community Memorial Day Ceremonies and Veterans' Day events. I have regularly been asked to speak at Lutheran Grade Schools and High Schools about my role as a Pastor during times of war. Through the Air Force base, I host the annual Northeast Indiana Religious Leaders conference and National Day of Prayer prayer breakfast. I have had the opportunity to 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 4 Chaplains and 3 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 environment. 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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. ZERIT YOHANNES

Age: 66

College/University: Ev. Lutheran Pastors College Grad Yr/Degree: 1976/Diploma Theol

Seminary: Makumira Lutheran Sem. Grad Yr/Degree: 1983/BD

Grad School: NLA University College Grad Yr/Degree: 2005/MPhil, Edu.I

Other Degrees: Graduate Studies, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Congregations Served:

Christ, Lansing, MI Year(s): 2005-present

St. John's, Toronto, ON Year(s): 1989-1994

Uhuru Highway, Nairobi, Kenya Year(s): 1984-1989

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Asmara, Eritrea Year(s): 1976-1979

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod: LCMS Board for Missions; Carrier Missionary, 1994-2003; Member of Missionary Theological Educators - Africa, 1994-2003; Attended International Lutheran Council Theological Summit

Other (church, community, etc.): Christ Lutheran Community Soup Kitchen, 2005-present; Support Refugee Development Program, Lansing MI, 2005-present

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: Executive Secretary, Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 1994-2003; 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, 1995-2002; Secretary of the Eritrean Interfaith Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation during the Eritrea/Ethiopia border conflict, 1998-2000; Founding Member of FECCLAHA, (Fellowship of Churches and Church Councils of the Horn of Africa) on Peace and Reconciliation, 2000 -2003, Nairobi Kenya.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Radio Broadcaster of the Gospel with programs beamed to the regions of North and East Africa, and the Middle East., 1984-1989 Nairobi, Kenya; Consortium of Gospel Broadcasting Services to North/ East Africa and the Middle East, 1984-1989, Nairobi, Kenya; Carrier Missionary with the Board for Missions - LCMS, 1994-2003; Dean of studies and teacher at the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Asmara Eritrea, 1995-2003; Expanded TEE programs among University and High School students in Eritrea; Founding Member of the Eritrean Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society in North America, 1990-present

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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – MIDWEST REGION

THE REV. ROBERT ROGERS

Age: 51

College/University: Concordia University Texas Grad Yr/Degree: 1986/BA
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Grad Yr/Degree: 1990/MDiv
Seminary: Louisville Presbyterian Theol. Seminary, Louisville KY Grad Yr/Degree: NA

Congregations Served:

Trinity, Villa Park, IL Year(s): 2005-present
Our Savior, Louisville, KY Year(s): 2002-2004
Messiah, Seattle, WA Year(s): 1990-2002

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Northwest District - Board of Youth Ministry; Puget Sound Youth Board; Olympic Zone Counselor LWML; English District - Midwest Regional Vice President; Rep for Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL; Circuit Counselor, Chicago Central Circuit; Board of Directors, Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL

Synod: none

Other (church, community, etc.): Chamber of Commerce, Villa Park, IL; Chairman of the Chicago Mission Council, a group of Pastors and Laymen concerned about revitalizing urban congregations in Chicago

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: 1 year on the Board of Directors of the English District; 9 years on the Board of Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL (a Carver based board); 12 years on the School Board of the Lutheran School Association of Greater Seattle (a policy-based board).

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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION

THE REV. TODD ARNOLD

Age: 58

College/University: North Central College

Grad Yr/Degree: 1979/BA

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Grad Yr/Degree: 1996/MDiv

Other Degrees: DMin expected in 2016 from San Francisco Theological Seminary

Congregations Served:

West Portal Church and School, San Francisco, CA

Year(s): 2009-present

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

Year(s): 1996-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: *Ablaze* Coordinator 2007-2008; 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)

Synod:

Other (church, community, etc.): Alpha Pregnancy Center (SF) Board of Directors 2014-present; Chairman 2015-present; Bridgemont High School (Daly City, CA) School Board 2014-present; Bridgemont High School PTL, Treasurer 2013-present; West Portal Lutheran Baseball Coach 2008-2011; New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center, (Payson) 2002-2008, Chairman 2006-2008; Numerous coaching positions for basketball, soccer, flag football and baseball for Payson Parks and Rec and Little League Baseball. 2001-2008

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards:

Other Experience/Qualifications:

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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. DANIEL PEZZICA

Age: 33

College/University: Concordia, River Forest Grad Yr/Degree: 2004/BA-Music Theory/Composition
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Grad Yr/Degree: 2008/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA

Year(s): 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, 2014-2015

Synod:

Other (church, community, etc.):

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards:

Over the past 7 years, Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church has focused on reaching out to the community especially through mercy mission, offering free ESL classes to the community and offering monthly meals to the those in need. Our congregation has increased our presence on Social 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.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT – WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. NICK WIRTZ

Age: 60

College/University: Concordia, Portland

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Grad Yr/Degree: 1985/BA

Grad Yr/Degree: 1994/MDiv

Congregations Served:

Faith, Overgaard, AZ

Year(s): 2013-present

Highland Park, Los Angeles, CA

Year(s): 1999-2013

Lamb of God, Ontario, CA

Year(s): 1996-1999

St. Paul, West Point, NE

Year(s): 1994-1996

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Los Angeles Circuit Visitor/Counselor

Synod: Missions Floor Committee, 2001 Synodical Convention

Other (church, community, etc.): Prison Chaplain, Lincoln NE; West Point Ministerium, West Point NE; Police Spanish Translator for 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 for the Zane Grey Clubhouse, Overgaard, AZ

Experience with Policy-Based Governance Boards: None so far

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.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

THE REV. ROBERT F. WELDON, SR.

College/University: Purdue University

Degree/Field/Year: Engineering

College/University: Indiana University

Degree/Field/Year: BA

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv

Other Degrees: Associates, Architectural Design

Congregations Served:

Grace, Elyria, OH

Year(s): 2012-present

Holy Trinity Church & School

Year(s): 8 yrs.

Hope

Year(s): 1-1/2 yrs.

Grace

Year(s): 2-1/2 yrs.

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: LWML Pastoral Advisor, Pastoral Delegate to National Convention two times

Synod:

Other (Congregation, Community, etc.): VP Operations Habitat for Humanity, Elder, Home Builder's Association, Cumberland Ridge Home Owners Board Member, Advisory Board for Prosser Vocational and Louisville Technical School.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Licensed Financial Planner, President/CEO RFW Design, Inc. - 15 yrs. exp.

Statement concerning candidacy: *Prior to my ordination I owned my own business for 15 years serving on several boards and committees in the public. I also served as VP of operations for Habitat for Humanity. I feel that I have the qualifications and the discipline to serve in the Secretary capacity.*

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY (CONT.)

THE REV. LUKE ZIMMERMAN

College/Univ.: Central Michigan Univ., Mt. Pleasant, MI

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Geography & Political Science/1999

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Historical Theology/2003

Congregations Served:

Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA

Year(s): 2008-Present

St. John's/Zion, Casey/Dexter, IA

Year(s): 2004-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District - Committee on Constitutions (2009-Present); Philadelphia Circuit Visitor (2014-Present); Committee on Nominations (2015)

Synod: Circuit Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention (2007, 2010, 2013)

Other (church, community, etc.): Board of Directors - Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (2014-Present); LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (2006-2008); Contributing Author - *Concordia Pulpit Resources*; Contributor - *Treasury of Daily Prayer*.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Historical Theology Department Assistant, Concordia Theological Seminary (2003-2004 Academic Year).

Statement concerning candidacy: *During the past six years, our District has given me opportunities to assist congregations in different service roles. Being appointed to the District Committee on Constitutions led to helping congregations through the process of making changes to their governing documents. Being selected as a Circuit Visitor brought the privilege of guiding congregations through their call processes and the installation of new pastors. If the members of our District see fit to elect me as District Secretary, I will strive to continue to serve them and our District's mission in a new role.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS

THE REV. BEN EDER

College/University: UW-Green Bay, WI

Degree/Field/Year: BA/1979

Seminary: Concordia Theology Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1985

Congregations Served:

Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Year(s): 1994-present

Incarnate Word, Florence, SC

Year(s): 1985-93

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor; Board of Directors; Regional Chair, "Ablaze" Initiative; Lutheran Malaria Initiative; 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 (church, community, etc.): Volunteer Hospital Chaplain; member and former president, Lions Club of Kenmore; former Rotarian; member, Kenmore Village Improvement Society; graduate, Kenmore Police Citizens Police Academy.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Through the years I have taken courses and seminars on leadership, administration, counseling, and interpersonal relations.

Prior service on a board of directors: The last three years I served on the English District Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (CONT.)

THE REV. DR. ROBERT FITZPATRICK

College/University: Concordia, Bronxville, NY Degree/Field/Year: AA/Classical Lang/1964
College/University: Concordia College, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: BA/Hist Theol/1966
Seminary: Concordia, St Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Hist Theol/1970
Other Degrees: Honorary Doctor of Divinity, English District LCMS

Present Congregation: Ascension, North Olmsted, OH

Congregations Served:

St. John, Palmer, NE	Year(s): 1970-1980
Ascension, North Olmsted, OH	Year(s): 1980-1998
Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL	Year(s): 2003-2010

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Counselor, Cleveland-West, 1985 -1998; Executive Assistant to the President:
Missions, 1998-2003

Synod:

Other (church, community, etc.): Chair, Palmer NE Commercial Club; Secretary, Grand Island NE
Pastoral Circuit, 1970-1980; Chairman, Lutheran Council of Greater Cleveland, 1985-1990;
Chairman, Lutheran Agencies Organized in Service, Cleveland, OH, 1990-1998;

Prior service on a board of directors: Secretary, English District LCMS, thus a voting member of
District Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS (CONT.)

THE REV. JONATHON T. KRENZ

College/University: Concordia, Portland Degree/Field/Year: BA/Pastoral Studies/2002

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2006

Congregations Served:

Epiphany, Dorr, MI

Year(s): 2006-Present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod: 2013 Committee for Convention Nominations

Other (congregation, community, etc.): North Allegan County Right to Life; Religion teacher at West Michigan Lutheran High School (3 yrs); instructor at Higher Things Grand Rapids 2009; author of October 2013 LCMS Circuit Bible Study, "What Difference Does it Make: Repentance"; Pastoral Counselor for Western Michigan Zone LWML (4 yrs)

Statement concerning candidacy: If elected, it would be an honor to serve our Lord's Church and our beloved District in this position.

Prior service on a board of directors: Served 2 years on the Confessional Lutherans for Christ's Commission Board of Directors. Duties included quarterly meetings and facilitating instructors/seminars. We utilized a one-tier model of governance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS

THE REV. TODD W. ARNOLD

College/University: North Central College

Degree/Field/Year: BA/1979

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1996

Other Degrees: DMin expected in 2016 from San Francisco Theological Seminary

Congregations Served:

West Portal Church and School, San Francisco, CA

Year(s): 2009-present

Shepherd of the Pines, Payson, AZ

Year(s): 1996-2008

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: *Ablaze* Coordinator 2007-2008; 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)

Synod:

Other (church, community, etc.): Alpha Pregnancy Center (SF) Board of Directors 2014-present; Chairman 2015-present; Bridgemont High School (Daly City, CA) School Board 2014-present; Bridgemont High School PTL, Treasurer 2013-present; West Portal Lutheran Baseball Coach 2008-2011; New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center, (Payson) 2002-2008, Chairman 2006-2008; Numerous coaching positions for basketball, soccer, flag football and baseball for Payson Parks and Rec and Little League Baseball. 2001-2008

Prior service on a board of directors:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS (cont.)

THE REV. THEODORE LAESCH

College/University: Concordia University, River Forest, IL Degree/Field/Year: BA/1993
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1998
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: STM/1999

Congregations Served:

Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, MO Year(s): 2005-present
Christ the Life, San Jose, CA Year(s): 1999-2005

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Stewardship Committee, CNH District

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Board of Trustees, Lutheran High School Association

Statement concerning candidacy: We live in a world which is in desperate need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The congregations of the English District have the responsibility and the opportunity to be the light of Christ to a world darkened by sin -- to bring that Gospel of Jesus to His children throughout our nation. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of the English District as we work to strengthen, support and encourage new and existing congregations and ministries to reach the lost for Christ.

Prior service on a board of directors: I currently serve on the Lutheran High School Association of St. Louis (LHSA) Board of Trustees. LHSA provides college preparatory education through two high schools in the St. Louis area. The Board of Trustees meets regularly to set policy, plan strategically for the future of Lutheran secondary education in the St. Louis area, and monitor progress on those goals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

EASTERN / LAKE ERIE REGIONS

JENNIFER MILLER

College/University: Concordia, River Forest Degree/Field/Year: BA/Theology & PR/2005

Grad School: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MA/Religion/2009

Present Congregation: Ascension, Atlanta, GA

Congregations Served:

St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel & University Center, Iowa City, IA (Deaconess) Year(s): 2011-2012

St. John's Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL (Deaconess Intern) Year(s): 2008-2009

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Iowa District East, member of the District Youth Committee

Synod: Interim Director of Marketing, LCMS Communications, March - August 2014; currently work for LCMS Communications as an editor/writer for official publications and other projects

Other (congregation, community, etc.): I've served in various roles in my member congregations; I currently serve on the Altar Guild, Hospitality Committee, teach Sunday school (sub) and volunteer for other projects as I'm able. In addition to congregational work, I serve auxiliaries of the LCMS as an editor/marketing director for entities such as DOXOLOGY, Lutheran Housing Support and others.

Statement concerning candidacy: Thank you for considering me, and I'm pleased to serve my district in any way that I'm needed.

Prior service on a board of directors: N/A

SUZANNE ZOBEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS

ALBERT AMLING

College/University: Concordia, Mequon

Degree/Field/Year: MS/1991

College/University: Concordia, Seward

Degree/Field/Year: BS/1981

Present Congregation: Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI

Congregations/Schools Served:

Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI (Teacher/Princ./Dir. of Ed. Ministries) Year(s): 1995-present

Trinity, Mequon, WI (Principal/Teacher)

Year(s): 1986-95

St. John's, Orange, CA (Teacher/Assistant Principal)

Year(s): 1982-86

Trinity, Grand Island, NE (Teacher)

Year(s): 1981-82

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: South Wisconsin District – Superintendents Cabinet, Teacher of the Year committee chairman, Principals Conference chairman, Salary Committee, Board of Directors, Lutheran Special School, Program Committee, Lutheran Special School English District – Accreditation Commission, Board of Directors, 2005-06, Board of Directors, 2009-15

Synod: LEA - Convocation Steering Committee, 1993, 2013

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Lay Worship Assistant; Bible class leader; Coach

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: God has provided me opportunity in the past to provide vision for the future of the organizations that I serve. I would be honored to work with the Board of Directors in the future.

Prior service on a board of directors: Hales Corners Lutheran has been policy based for the past 15 plus years. In my role as the Director of Educational Ministries, I am directly involved in this process from a staff position. I have worked in policy-based governance as a leader in our church since 1995 as well as a district board member for 8 years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

EASTERN REGION

RANDE CASADAY

College/University: California University of PA
Grad. School: University of Pittsburgh

Degree/Field/Year: BA/1975
Degree/Field/Year: MBA/1976

Present Congregation: Peace, McMurray, PA

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Stifel Nicolaus

Year(s): 2012-present

Wells Fargo

Year(s): 1993-2012

Legg Mason Investments

Year(s): 1987-1993

Wilson Ford (owner)

Year(s): 1983-1987

Ford Motor Company

Year(s): 1976-1983

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Church President, Hope Lutheran Church; Church President, Peace Lutheran Church

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Chairman Finance Committee, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Foundation Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Statement concerning candidacy: God has blessed me in countless ways and I get great pleasure in using my talents to serve the Church and its ministries.

Prior service on a board of directors: I am currently on the Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Ministries. My duties include being Chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Strategy Committee. Additionally, I am on the Foundation Board of Directors for Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

JANE DUFFY

College/University: Rutgers University

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Economics/1986

Present Congregation: Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

General Accident Insurance, accountant

Year(s): 1989-93

Prudential Insurance, accountant

Year(s): 1986-89

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Lay Representative English District Board of Directors 2012-2015; Convention Delegate -2015, 2012, 2009, 2003

Synod: Convention Delegate 2013, 2010 and Member of Elections Floor Committee 2010 Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Business Administrator/Treasurer, Martin Luther Chapel and Christian School, 1999-present; Member of Board of Christian Education, 1997-present; Treasurer and Member of Executive Board, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, 2010-2012; Treasurer, Metro-Camden Habitat for Humanity, 1994-1998; Executive Board Member and Treasurer Haddon Township Crew Club, 2012-present

Statement concerning candidacy: I believe it is important to have Board members of varying perspectives and experience in different settings. The church that I attend and serve is in a changing/urban neighborhood and our school shares the Love of Christ with a multi-cultural population.

Prior service on a board of directors: I am currently serving as a member of the English District Board of Directors and have served as a Board Member of the Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

CAROL GEORGE

College/University: University of Pittsburgh Degree/Field/Year: BA/Political Science/1975
Grad. School: Edinboro University of Penns. Degree/Field/Year: MA/Rehab Counseling/1982

Present Congregation: Trinity, Erie, PA

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Carol Properties Corp./owner manager	Year(s): 2006-present
George Gulf Properties I, LLC/owner	Year(s): 2000-present
George Properties/owner manager	Year(s): 1984-present
Serenity Rehabilitation Center/counselor	Year(s): 1983-84
Sarah Reed Children's Home/counselor	Year(s): 1982-83

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: District Stewardship Committee, 2013-present; Convention Delegate, 2000, 2003, 2009, 2012 and 2015.

Synod: Convention Delegate, 2010; Delegate Elect, 2016; National Stewardship Leadership Conference, 2014.

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Call Committee, Trustee (previously Head Trustee), Stephen Ministries/Stephen Ministry Leader, Chairman/Member of Scholarship Committee, LWML Zone Delegate 2005 Convention, Music Coordinator and other committees of Trinity Lutheran Church. Previous board positions: Lake Erie Ballet Board of Directors, Erie Day School Board of Directors, President of Parent Board of Erie Day School and Search Committee of Erie Day School.

Statement concerning candidacy: It would be an honor to serve on the Board of Directors of the English District. I have been a member of an English District congregation for over 35 years. I am well informed about the District's work, and I endorse its mission. Baptized and raised in the LCMS, I continue several generations of service to our Synod. I have been on the Board of Trustees of Trinity Lutheran Church for the past 15 years, delegate to several District and Synodical Conventions and am currently serving on the District's Stewardship Committee. In addition to my District and congregational positions, my experience managing my own business for 30 years and service on the boards of a school and a cultural institution have given me valuable experience for this position. I believe in the importance and value of our English District and look forward to serving our Lord and His Church.

Prior service on a board of directors: My service on the boards of non-profit organizations has included revising bylaws, establishing mission and vision statements, drafting job descriptions, allocating resources, promoting communications, recruiting leadership, delegating responsibilities and creating collaborative relations with other boards and industries.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

WILLIAM MAGILL

Present Congregation: Celebration, St John's, FL

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Florig Equip. Co - National Sales Manager	Year(s): 1965-1979
Edbro, Inc - VP- North American Operations	Year(s): 1979-1982
Neapco, Inc- Sales Mgr. – National/International	Year(s): 1982-1989
Drive Line Service of Jacksonville - Owner	Year(s): 1989-present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Board of Directors; Mission Council; Nominations Committee

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): President - Celebration Lutheran Church; Elder - Celebration Lutheran Church; Call Committees - Celebration Lutheran Church Team Leader - Mission Trips - South Africa; President - Truck Body & Equipment Association; President - Home Owners Association

Statement concerning candidacy: I have found serving our Lutheran faith to be a very rewarding experience, whether it be my home congregation, mission trips abroad or at the District level. I am truly honored to have been nominated as a candidate for service on the Board of Directors and do not take this opportunity lightly. Should I be elected, I pray the Lord will give me the wisdom and ability to put past experience to work for our English District.

Prior service on a board of directors: Board of Directors - English District; Board Member and Past President - Truck Body & Equipment Association - National Level

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

LAKE ERIE REGION

PAUL LAGEMANN

College/University: Ball State University Degree/Field/Year: BS/Political Science/1990
Grad. School: Indiana University Degree/Field/Year: MPM/Public Mgmt/2014

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Senator Dan Coats	Year(s): Dec.2011-present
Owner, Compass Governmental Affairs	Year(s): 2008-2010
Co-Owner, The Carpet Craftsman	Year(s): 1992-2008
Registered Lobbyist, John Frick and Associates	Year(s): 1991-1992
Driver/Scheduler, Anne DeVore for State Auditor Campaign	Year(s): 1990-1991

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board Vice Chair, 2012-present; Chair, End Statement Task Force; Chair, Policy book review task force

Synod: Convention Delegate, 2010, 2013, 2016; Life Together Floor Committee, 2013; Pre-convention committee, 2013 (overture review)

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Concordia Lutheran High School Fort Wayne, Board of Directors, 2012-present; Concordia Lutheran High School Foundation Board, 1996-2000; Chair, Redeemer Board of Finance, 2004-2010; Elder, Redeemer LC, 2010-present; Vice Chair, Board of Education Ascension Lutheran, 1996-2000

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Service on over a dozen local and regional boards of directors with annual budgets over \$5 million.

Statement concerning candidacy: Providing active service and leadership for my church, the third largest Lutheran High School in America, the English District and as a multi-convention delegate and committee member for the LCMS, I have gained a unique perspective on the needs and concerns of the Lutheran Church and the challenges it faces. As an employee of the US Senate and a very active community volunteer I've been blessed with leadership skills and practice to balance budgets, understand expense priorities and help to guide boards of directors.

Prior service on a board of directors: The following are 501-C-3 or C-6 boards of directors on which I have served that are a foundation or had annual budgets of over \$3 million: Fort Wayne Museum of Art >\$3m; Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce >\$7m; Northeast Indiana Innovation Center >\$12m; Concordia Lutheran High School >\$3m; Fort Wayne Trails >\$3m; Concordia Educational Foundation (Foundation); English District Board of Directors; Fort Wayne YMCA Metro Board of Directors >\$20m; Redeemer Lutheran Church Board of Directors >\$3m

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

TERRY LEU

College/University: Ashland College

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Elem Ed/1978

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Medina, OH

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Terleu Enterprises, DBA Rolston Poultry

Year(s): 1992-present

Leu Brothers Meats

Year(s): 1978-92

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Lay Delegate, Synodical Conventions, 2001, 2004, 2013; Member, District Board of Directors, 2012-present

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Currently - Head Elder, Youth Director, Confirmation teacher, High School Bible class teacher; Formerly - Executive Director, Assistant Director, Elder, Trustee, many other boards and committees

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I am a lifelong Lutheran actively involved in many different ministries of my local congregation. I have organized and led youth mission trips, retreats and Bible studies. Owning and operating my own business has given me sound decision-making skills.

Prior service on a board of directors: I have worked with all parts of our congregation's government and as Head Elder, I'm active in policy making and goal setting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

WILLIAM WISSMAN

College/University: Purdue University
College/University: University of Chicago

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Pharmacy/1960
Degree/Field/Year: MBA/1965

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace, Stroh/Hudson, IN

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Vacancy CEO, Dunn Memorial Hospital, Bedford IN	Year(s): 1998-2000
President and CEO, Community Hospital, Anderson, IN	Year(s): 1991-1997
Executive Vice President, Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, IN	Year(s): 1984-1991
Administrator, Defiance Hospital, Defiance OH	Year(s): 1980-1984
Associate Administrator, St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne, IN	Year(s): 1974-1980

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Various Congregations depending on their needs: Finance Committee; Insurance Committee; Building Committee; Elder; Planning Committee; Worship Committee; Re-Organization Committee; Bylaws Committee; Personnel Policy Committee; Board of Education; Sunday School Superintendent; Bible Class Leader; Stewardship Board; Deacon; Church Council

Statement concerning candidacy: Due to relocations during my career, I had the opportunity to be a member of a number of churches and to use the talents that God gave me when these congregations called upon me to serve. If the English District would determine that my talents and experience would be helpful to its Mission, I would be honored to be of service.

Prior service on a board of directors: Board Member-State Hospital Association; Board Member- Chamber of Commerce; Board and Finance Committee Member-Hospital Board; Board and Planning Committee Member-Corporation for Economic Development. All Boards were of Not-for-Profit organizations. Two were self-perpetuating, one by appointment and one by election. While at the time of career, most Executives were not members of their Hospital Board, as CEO had the responsibility of developing Board and Committee agendas for the Board and Committee chairs, policy development and follow through of actions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

MIDWEST REGION

CHRISTOPHER CASSEL

College/Univ.: Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln Degree/Field/Year: BS/Bus Adm/Mgmt/1990

College/Univ.: Concordia University, NE Degree/Field/Year: MBA/Mgmt Info Sys/2013

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Lincoln, NE

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Assurity Life Insurance/Software Development Manager	Year(s): 3
Nebraska Dept. of Educ./Director, Neb. Student & Staff Record Sys	Year(s): 8
University of Nebraska/Data Warehouse Analyst	Year(s): 3
Lucent Technologies/Senior Software Developer	Year(s): 1
Electronic Data Systems/Software Developer Manager	Year(s): 10

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Lay Delegate to English District Convention, 2015; English District Nominating Committee, 2015

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Redeemer Board of Elders, 2009-present (Chair 2013-present); Redeemer Foundation Board of Directors, 2015; Redeemer Church Council, 2009-present; Redeemer Budget Study Committee, 2009-2011 (Chair 2011); Redeemer Board of Ushers, 2002-present; Facilitator, Financial Peace University at Redeemer, 2007-2008; Leader, DivorceCare at Redeemer, 2010-2011; Concordia University (Nebraska) Weller Society for Leadership, 2014-present

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: As Chair of the Budget Study Committee, I led an effort to switch from percentage-based tuition assistance model to an amount per student in elementary, middle, and high school that is established each year, enabling the congregation to more effectively budget its expenditures. My wife Jeanne' and I support the "Two Kingdoms Network" at Concordia University, Nebraska, which embraces our Lutheran, Christian identity for application in higher education in all subject areas. My work experience includes supervision and leading large software development and integration projects.

Statement concerning candidacy: I am grateful for being considered to serve the Church in this capacity. I am particularly passionate about liturgy and hymnody because each contains rich theology that constantly points us to the person and work of Christ. The English District has a rich history of proclaiming the Gospel and although geography can present challenges, I am confident the geographic diversity provides great opportunity for our congregations and our synod.

Prior service on a board of directors: I have no experience serving on boards outside my congregation. However, as Director, Nebraska Student and Staff Record System, I routinely met regarding education data policy with the state Education Commissioner, state legislature's Education Committee members, superintendents, Educational Service Unit representatives, Nebraska P16/P20 leadership, and occasionally testified before the State Board of Education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

MIDWEST REGION (CONT.)

MARY RINDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

WESTERN REGION

JOHN DUNCAN

Other Degrees: 2 year degree from Pima Community College

Present Congregation: Faith, Tucson, AZ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.):

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: I entered the United States Air Force in 1961 and served until 1974 and separated with an honorable discharge. During that period I attained the rank of Staff Sergeant while stationed at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan. After completing Non Commissioned Officer School for Leadership, I was assigned to the night shift in the petroleum fuel section as the night shift sergeant. My last duty assigned was McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. My assignment was Senior Dispatcher and I was responsible for seven phones that went directly to the squadrons assigned to the air base.

In 1983 I was certified by the Arizona Law Enforcement Advisory Council upon completion of the Pima County Sheriff's Department. I served this department as a Reserve Deputy until 1984 when I took a full-time position with South Tucson Police Department. I was promoted to Sergeant and had five patrol officers under my supervision.

In 1987 I accepted a position with the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department as a Park Police Officer. In 1989 I was promoted the rank of Lieutenant. Under my command I had six full-time and seven reserve officer. We were responsible 33 parks and 7 wildlife areas. Several of these wildlife areas contained more than 4000 acres.

In 2008 I became a member of Faith Lutheran Church and School and one year was elected as Vice Chairman of the Council. Four years later I was elected as Chairman of the congregation and council where I served to the present. Presently conducting Bible study on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday morning. Serve as Vice Chairman for the Southern Arizona Federation for Education/Faith. This committee disperses funds that are donated for the purpose of Lutheran Education. Have completed all studies to become a Deacon with Faith Lutheran Church and School. Waiting for a pastor to be called and at that time will be installed.

Statement concerning candidacy: I am very honored to have been selected as one of the candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. This position is very important with respect to the function of the Board. I am willing to do the best possible job if selected to this position. I can only leave this in the Lord's hands.

Prior service on a board of directors:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

RICHARD HESSELROTH

College/University: San Francisco State University Degree/Field/Year: Bus Adm/Music/1966

Present Congregation: West Portal, San Francisco, CA

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

U.S. Army, Medical Corps, Staff Sergeant, E-6	Year(s): 1966-1972, incl. reserve time
San Francisco Police Dept, retired Captain	Year(s): 1971-1997
San Francisco Police Dept, Background Investigations	Year(s): 1999-2010

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Board of Directors, 2013-2015

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): West Portal Lutheran Church - Youth Director circa 1990; Congregational President, 6 years; Properties over site and management, the last 6 years; Retired Captain, S.F.P.D.

Prior service on a board of directors: English District Board of Directors, 2013-2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS

WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

SHIRLEY HOLLE

College/Univ.: Western Illinois University
College/Univ.: Florida International University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Math Ed/1973
Degree/Field/Year: BS/Computer Sci/1980

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Lutheran HS of South Florida/teacher, girls' basketball coach	Year(s): 1973-1977
Holle Computer Consultant, Self-employed	Year(s): 1981-1992
Personal Assistant, Dillard Group Real Estate	Year(s): 1992-2000
Realtor, Long Realty	Year(s): 2000-present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: LWML English District VP of Christian Life, 2002-2008; LWML English District President, 2010-2014

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Bible study leader, various LWML positions at the church and zone levels in the Rocky Mountain District, Oklahoma District and English District, served on the 2013 LWML Pittsburgh Convention Committee as one of six host presidents, AAL secretary, vice president, branch coordinator, volunteer training specialist 1988-2000

Statement concerning candidacy: Items of importance for the LCMS English District to consider include: strong support of LCMS-U, recruiting top-quality church workers, helping them financially to obtain their degrees and then working strongly with congregations to provide a respectable salary so they are not receiving low level pay, strong support of missions including mission churches, missions of compassion and need, and those in need of physical help.

Prior service on a board of directors: LWML Board of Directors, 2010-2014

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

EASTERN REGION

THE REV. MARTIN ERHARDT

College/University: Valparaiso University Degree/Field/Year: BS/Chem/Econ/1996
Grad. School: University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign Degree/Field/Year: PhD/Chem/2001
Seminary: Princeton Theological Seminary Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2010

Congregations Served:

Messiah, Princeton, NJ

Year(s): 2011-present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Valparaiso University, 2002-2007

Statement concerning candidacy: To be good stewards of the resources our congregations entrust to the district, we need good district officers. As a member of the nominations committee, I would work to identify for future elections faithful, competent candidates willing and able to serve the Lord as district officers.

THE REV. CHRISTIAN MORALES

College/University: University of New Orleans Degree/Field/Year: BA/English/1968
Seminary: Bethany Lutheran Seminary Degree/Field/Year: MA/1973

Congregations Served:

Faith, Chesapeake, VA	Year(s): 1998-present
Zion, Bogalusa, LA	Year(s): 1996-98
St. Paul, Foley, AL	Year(s): 1981-96
St. Luke, DeWitt, AR	Year(s): 1979-81
Bethany, Ames, IA	Year(s): 1976-79
Faith, St. Edward, NB	Year(s): 1973-76

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod: Delegate to Synodical Convention

Other (congregation, community, etc.):

Statement concerning candidacy: I am standing for election to the Committee on Nominations in order to serve the English District as requested by the Committee on Nominations. I have not served on a board or committee of the English District before and think it my duty to serve in some capacity if the English District so chooses.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. MICHAEL SCHEER

College/University: Miami University, Oxford, OH Degree/Field/Year: BS/Engineering/1989
College/University: Baldwin-Wallace University Degree/Field/Year: MA Ed/1991
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2002
Grad. School: Kent State University Degree/Field/Year: PhD/Ed/ABD

Congregations Served:

All Saints Church & Student Center, Slippery Rock, PA Year(s): 2002-present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, 2009-2012

Synod: Concordia University Portland, Board of Regents, 2013- present

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Slippery Rock Area School District Board of Directors, 2004-present; Slippery Rock University Institutional Review Board, 2011-present

Statement concerning candidacy: I am thankful for the opportunity to serve if elected to this committee.

THE REV. BRIAN WESTGATE

College/University: Martin Luther College Degree/Field/Year: BA/pre-sem/2004
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2011
Grad. School: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Degree/Field/Year: no degree

Congregations Served:

Faith, Butler, PA Year(s): 4

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Representative on the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, president

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Being PALM President is an opportunity to try to get people to work together for the greater good of God's kingdom, so there may be parallels to a nominating committee.

Statement concerning candidacy: I'm happy to serve on this committee if elected.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

LAKE ERIE REGION

THE REV. RYAN BEFFREY

College/Univ.: Concordia Univ, Ann Arbor Degree/Field/Year: BA/Parish Ldrshp & Comm;
Journalism/2008

Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2012

Congregations Served:

Mount Olive, Cleveland Heights, OH

Year(s): 2012-present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Statement concerning candidacy: If elected to the Committee on Nominations, I look forward to the opportunity I will have in this upcoming triennium to assist in finding those who will lead our English District in a God-pleasing manner. Though I have not yet held any positions in District leadership, I appreciate this chance to begin service to my District.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. ERIC FORSS

College/University: Purdue University Degree/Field/Year: BS/Agriculture/1975
Grad. School: Southern Illinois Univ.-Carbondale Degree/Field/Year: MA/Zoology/1981
Grad. School: Texas A&M Degree/Field/Year: No degree/Agric Educ/1985
Seminary: Luther Northwestern Theol. Sem Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Theol/1989
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: Colloquy/1995
Other Degrees: Clinical Pastoral Education, 1992

Congregations Served:

Immanuel, Howell, MI Year(s): 1995 to present
Living Christ, Oxford, IN Year(s): 1993-1995
Trinity, Manlius, IL Year(s): 1989-1992

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Visitor, Western Michigan Circuit, 2012-present; Committee on Nominations, 2012-present; Program Committee, Lake Erie Regional Pastor's Conference, 1996-1998

Synod: Synod Convention Delegate, 2010; Contract Editor; CPH (Portals of Prayer), 2002-2009; Contributing Author, Let Us Pray (Commission on/Department of Worship), 2009, 2011, 2013; Contributing Writer, LSB Hymnal Companion, 2010 (unpublished); Co-editor, Shepherd the Church: Essays in Pastoral Theology Honoring Bishop Roger D. Pittelko, 2001-2002

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Vacancy Pastor, Trinity, Pinckney, MI, 2005-2006; Vacancy Pastor, St. Mark's, West Bloomfield, MI, 1998-1999; Convenor, Detroit Metro Area Pastors' Study Group, 1996-present; Presenter, St. Michael Liturgical Conference, 2009; Presenter, Concordia Catechetical Academy Conference, 2007

Statement concerning candidacy: I believe that our District is best served by capable, skilled, and dedicated candidates for its various offices, boards, and committees. I am interested in assisting the process of identifying and securing suitable candidates to present before our English District Convention for the consideration of its voting delegates. I believe this is a valuable service to our District and to Christ's Church, as we jointly pursue the ministry, mission, and service our Lord has entrusted to us.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

MIDWEST REGION

THE REV. MICHAEL BROWN

College/Univ.: Park University
Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Public Admin./2004
Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2009

Congregations Served:

Redeemer, Lincoln, NE Year(s): 6

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District Life Coordinator

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Hartley Elementary School (Neighborhood Public School) Community Advisory Committee; Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School School Board Pastoral Advisor

THE REV. PAUL SPEERBRECKER

College/Univ.: Concordia Jr. College, Ann Arbor
College/Univ.: Concordia Teacher's College, Seward
Seminar: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Other Degrees: Some Graduate School Courses, Mankato State Univ., Mankato, MN, and some Summer School Classes, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Degree/Field/Year: Assoc/BA/1971
Degree/Field/Year: BS/Educ/1973
Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1979

Congregations Served:

St. Mark, Janesville, WI; Pastor	Year(s): 2003-present
Concordia, Hammond, IN; Pastor	Year(s): 1998-2003
St. John, Lanesville, IN; Pastor	Year(s): 1990-1998
St. Paul, Amboy, MN; Pastor	Year(s): 1982-1990
Redeemer/Peace, Oakland/Harlan, IA; Pastor	Year(s): 1979-1982
Our Savior, Kansas City, KS; Teacher	Year(s): 1974-1975
Redeemer, Marshall, MO; Min. of Ed.	Year(s): 1973-1974

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Indiana District Education Committee

Synod: None

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Circuit Ed. Advisor; Circuit LWML Counselor; Lions Club; Volunteer Jail Chaplain; Volunteer Police Chaplain; Local Pastor's Alliance Coordinating Prayer Breakfast Team.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Crossways! and Divine Drama Training and teaching experience

Statement concerning candidacy: If elected, I look on the experience as an opportunity to serve the Lord in an extended capacity beyond my locale. I will serve to the best of my ability as the Lord directs me.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – PASTORS

WESTERN REGION

THE REV. PETER LEDIC

College/University: Concordia, Milwaukee Degree/Field/Year: AA/1976
College/University: Concordia, River Forest Degree/Field/Year: BA/1978
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1982

Congregations Served:

Messiah, Danville, CA Year(s): 1999-present
Immanuel, Decatur, IN Year(s): 1987-1999
Christ, Harrow, Ontario Year(s): 1982-1987

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Circuit Counselor, San Francisco Bay Circuit, 2007-2015; Circuit Counselor, Windsor Circuit, 1985-1987; LWML District Pastoral Advisor, 1987

Synod: LCMS 150th Anniversary Chair for the Indiana District, 1995-1997; Lutheran Service Book, Lectionary Committee A

Other (church, community, etc.): LWML Circuit Pastoral Advisor, 1983-1987; Essayist, Montana District Convention, 1994; Essayist, Wyoming District Pastor's Conference, 1996; Higher Things Youth Conference Presenter, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2014; Lutherans for Life Pastoral Advisor, Decatur Circuit, 1992-1999; Guest Lecturer - Seminars in conjunction with the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Russia, Summer 2005; Chaplain: Doxology Event (Wisconsin), 2009; Doxology Event (California), 2012

THE REV. DANIEL PEZZICA

Coll./Univ.: Concordia, River Forest Degree/Field/Year: BA/Music Theory & Comp/2004
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2008

Congregations Served:

Sherman Oaks, Sherman Oaks, CA Year(s): 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, 2014-2015

Synod:

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

EASTERN REGION

CAROLYN ALESSI

College/University: Some college, no degree

Present Congregation: Pilgrim, Kenmore, NY

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Realtor

Year(s): 9 years

Office Manager - Plumbing Company

Year(s): 20+ years

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, President of Congregation

Statement concerning candidacy: I would be glad to serve on the Committee of Nominations.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

RICHARD DRACHENBERG

Coll./Univ.: University of Iowa

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Russian & Int'l Business/1991

Present Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Ascension (LCA), Atlanta, GA

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

ABM - Market Research Analyst

Year(s): 2012-present

Kaiser Permanente - Market Research Consultant

Year(s): 2008-2011

McMaster-Carr - Market Research Analyst

Year(s): 2008-2008

OneSource - Market Research Analyst

Year(s): 2006-2008

ARAG - Strategic Operations Analyst

Year(s): 1999-2006

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD-

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Board Secretary, Elder, Head Elder, President (current); My father was an LCMS pastor, and I have been an active member of an LCMS church all of my life. Being heavily involved with leadership at Ascension over the last 10 years has afforded a few opportunities to be involved with the surrounding community, but nothing structured.

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Not only did I become heavily involved with church leadership during a term when we had the same pastor for a number of years, LCA subsequently went through a three year vacancy. This meant that I had the pleasure and opportunity to work very closely with six different pastors in a variety of roles and situations, and with several more pastors on a more informal basis. I have worked with pastors at very different times of their careers, which has given me a very broad exposure to the challenges facing pastors and their congregations. Given the availability and level of involvement of the various interim pastors, I often took on significantly more responsibility for running the church and school than would normally be expected. I have seen the inner workings of the pastoral role and church from the inside out. It was my pleasure to host the English District Board at LCA when they visited Atlanta in August 2013. It has been my very great pleasure to meet and work with Bishop Stechholz on several occasions, once again in a variety of situations and circumstances, from the joyous to the challenging.

Statement concerning candidacy: It is always a great honor to be called into the service of the Lord in any capacity. If it is the Lord's will that I am elected to the Committee on Nominations, I pray that He would give me the wisdom and enthusiasm to serve the committee, the English District, the LCMS and most importantly our Heavenly Father, to the best of my abilities.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

LAKE ERIE REGION

DONNA HAY

NATHANIEL PULLMANN

College/University: Hillsdale College

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Politics/2009

Present Congregation: Redeemer, Fort Wayne, IN

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

College Hunks Hauling Junk, Assistant Manager (of about 25 people)

Year(s): 2

Classical Conversations, Community Director

Year(s): 2

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregational Treasurer

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

MIDWEST REGION

ROD LANE

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – COMMISSIONED/LAY

WESTERN REGION

THOMAS HONEBRINK

College/University: Concordia, St. Paul Degree/Field/Year: BA/Environ. Science/1989

Present Congregation: Catalina, Tucson, AZ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Catalina Lutheran Church/Deacon	Year(s): 2014-present
Oro Valley Pediatrics/Administrator	Year(s): 2008-present
Atonement Lutheran School/Bookkeeper	Year(s): 1999-2001
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency/Rule Coordinator	Year(s): 1994-1998
United States Peace Corps/Volunteer	Year(s): 1991-1993

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations Member, 2012-present; Convention Lay Delegate, 2006

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregational Elder, Financial Secretary, Bell Choir Director, Youth Director, Bible Study Leader, School Board Chair, Substitute Teacher, Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair, Youth Sports Coach, Family First Pregnancy Care Center Board Member

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society Board Member, Southern Arizona Foundation for Education - Lutheran Board Member

Statement concerning candidacy: I was honored to be elected to this position in 2012, and it has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee for Nominations during this triennium. I have enjoyed serving the Lord at the congregational, circuit and district levels over the years as He has provided opportunity to do so. May God continue to bless the work that is accomplished for Him within the English District during the 2015 Convention and beyond.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

EASTERN REGION

RANDE CASADAY

College/University: California University of PA
Grad. School: University of Pittsburgh

Degree/Field/Year: BA/1975
Degree/Field/Year: MBA/1976

Present Congregation: Peace, McMurray, PA

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Stifel Nicolaus/Financial Advisor

Year(s): 2012-present

Wells Fargo

Year(s): 1993-2012

Legg Mason Investments

Year(s): 1987-1993

Wilson Ford (owner)

Year(s): 1983-1987

Ford Motor Company

Year(s): 1976-1983

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Church President, Hope Lutheran Church; Church President, Peace Lutheran Church

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Chairman Finance Committee, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries; Foundation Board of Directors, Concordia Lutheran Ministries.

Statement concerning candidacy: God has blessed me in countless ways and I get great pleasure in using my talents to serve the Church and its ministries.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I have an MBA degree from the University of Pittsburgh. I have been a financial advisor for 28 years. Besides being a Branch Manager for Stifel Nicolaus (a national financial services firm), I manage \$115 million for approximately 150 different households.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

EASTERN REGION (CONT.)

THE REV. FRED GERLACH

College/University: Concordia Seminary, St Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/2005
College/University: Pace University Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Pub Accting/1979

Congregations Served:

Bethany, Ewing, NJ Year(s): -present

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2013-present

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Member of Drug/Alcohol Prevention Alliance of Ewing, NJ

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Employed by Solomon Bros, an investment Banking firm in Syndicate Accounting and Management for 5 years. Worked in the Mortgage Banking industry for 18 years and held the positions of VP of Mortgage Lending for the Savings Bank of Danbury and VP of Mortgage Operations for Mortgage Affiliates of Danbury, CT. Held licenses in Real Estate in New York and Connecticut. Was an independent investment advisor with series 6, 63 and NASD licenses.

Statement concerning candidacy: Currently serving on the Endowment Board applying my practical experience from my secular career with my pastoral experience shepherding a mission church.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Having been employed in the financial industry for 23 years provides me with the knowledge of the terminology and strategies employed to manage and safe guard investment funds. I had advised a number of individuals in how to invest or roll over funds from one kind of account into other investment vehicles. This background prepares me to be able to converse confidently with churches and individuals why they should participate in this opportunity to fund mission programs.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

LAKE ERIE REGION

THE REV. RAY KIRK

College/Univ.: Concordia College, Bronxville, NY Degree/Field/Year: AA/Liberal Arts/1966

College/Univ.: Concordia Sr. College, Ft. Wayne, IN Degree/Field/Year: BA/Liberal Arts/1968

Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/Theology/1972

Present Congregation: Retired

Congregations Served:

Trinity, Syracuse, NY

Year(s): 1999-2010

St. Matthew, Scarborough, ON

Year(s): 1982-1998

Lutherwood Children's Mental Health Centre, Waterloo, ON

Year(s): 1977-1982

St. Paul's & Zion, Indian Head/Wolseley

Year(s): 1972-1977

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: English District - Canada Circuit Visitor, 1985-1994; Endowment Fund Board of Managers, 2013-present; Eastern District - Circuit Visitor, Central/New York North, 2002-2006; Mission Board, 2004-2006; Manitoba-Saskatchewan District - Director of Public Relations, 1974-1977

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Pastoral Care Committee, Chair, Scarborough General Hospital, 1984-1991; Board Member, The practices of Ministry in Canada Journal (PMC), 1984-1988; Board member, Kitchener-Waterloo Social Planning Council, 1981-1982

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: My previous experience as a Public Relations Director and in public relations and development at a Lutheran children's mental health center as well as a promoter of stewardship principles in parishes has provided me with experience to offer the Endowment Fund Managers ways to promote contributions to this significant Fund. As a parish pastor I can bring that perspective to reviewing and recommending grant proposals.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

LAKE ERIE REGION (CONT.)

TROY LINDSEY

College/Univ.: Florida State University

Degree/Field/Year: BS/Accounting/1972

Present Congregation: Shepherd King, West Bloomfield, MI

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Certified Public Accountant

Year(s):

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Stewardship Board, Chairman Endowment Fund

Synod: None

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Congregation Treasurer, Lay Minister and many other positions

Statement concerning candidacy: Served as Chairman of the Endowment Fund for the last three years.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: Served as Chairman of the Endowment Fund for the last three years.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

MIDWEST REGION

ROSALIE STRENG

College/Univ.: Northwestern Univ.

Degree/Field/Year: BA/German, English/1958

Grad. School: Northwestern Univ.

Degree/Field/Year: MA/German/1962

Present Congregation: Our Savior, Norwood Park, IL

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

High School Teacher, Lead Teacher, German & English, District 207, Park Ridge, IL

Year(s): 1961-93

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Secretary, Endowment Fund Board of Managers; Convention Delegate

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): Greater Chicago Zone LWML Secretary; Homeowners Association Secretary

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Secretary, Lutheran Brotherhood Chapter

Statement concerning candidacy: My life experience does not include much involving finances, but I have been given the gift of being able to take good notes and to transcribe them accurately for later use. I am a life-long member of my church and am very involved with the congregation on all levels from Alter Guild, to VBS, to choir, council, and in the past, youth groups. I keep myself informed of synod and district activities and am thankful for the Reporter, Channels, Northern Light and other church-related publications. I have also been a delegate to the English District Convention on two occasions.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: See above. I was appointed to this board by Bishop Stechholz and have gladly served my Lord in this position for the past two years.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

MIDWEST REGION (CONT.)

ALAN ZACHARIAS

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

WESTERN REGION

THOMAS SCHLITT

Coll./Univ.: Univ of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Mgmt Inf Sys/1980

Grad. School: Univ of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Degree/Field/Year: MS/ Mgmt Inf Sys/1988

Present Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior (LCRS), Green Valley, AZ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Firststar Information Services Corp-Information Services Officer Year(s): 1981-2000

Firststar Trust Co-Trust Accounting & Operations-Assistant VP Year(s): 1965-1981

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Endowment Fund Board Manager, 2013-present

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): LCRS - Member of Endowment Fund Board, 2009-present, 4 years as Chairman; Stewardship Team, 2008-present; Also involved in S.O.U.L. Lunch program and Ushering; Volunteer tax preparer in Green Valley for 11 years; Faith, Germantown, WI - Congregational VP, President, member of Stewardship Team, and usher

Statement concerning candidacy: I love serving the Lord and His Church. I desire to use the Spiritual Gifts that God has given me to further the work of the Church through the Endowment Fund. I want to prudently invest the funds God has provided by carefully selecting and employing investment management firms at reasonable fees. I also believe I can carefully review ministry grant requests with the goal of maximizing the effectiveness of each dollar invested in projects.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: I believe that I have the qualifications and God-given abilities to be an effective member of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers. I have years of experience with investment securities dating back to 1965 and, more recently, as a member of the Risen Savior Lutheran Church Endowment Fund and chairman for four years. When I worked in Information Technology, I managed a project to reengineer a Bond Portfolio Analysis System. As a member of the Stewardship Team at Risen Savior, I have been involved in the promotion of Stewardship.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

WESTERN REGION (CONT.)

PAUL STICHA

Coll./Univ.: U of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Degree/Field/Year: BBA/Economics/1976

Grad. School: U of Wisconsin-Madison

Degree/Field/Year: MS/Actuarial Science/1981

Present Congregation: Catalina, Catalina, AZ

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Sentry Insurance / Actuary

Year(s): 33

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District:

Synod:

Other (congregation, community, etc.): St. Paul Church and School, Stevens Point, WI -
Financial Secretary for 10 years in the 1990s, Stewardship Board for 6 years in the 2000s

Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Sentry Credit Union Board of Directors for 15 years.

Statement concerning candidacy: I retired last year. I worked in the financial industry for my entire working career. I was involved in various stewardship functions while serving on the Stewardship Board at my previous church. I wish to use my experience to contribute to the tasks and challenges of this Board.

Related endowment fund work experience/gifts: My experience in stewardship may help in addressing issues related to promotion of the fund. My experience with a credit union and work-related activities may be of use in the review and oversight of fund investments.

CIRCUIT VISITOR SLATE

Circuit #1 New York/New Jersey – Peter Bauernfeind

Circuit #2 Philadelphia – Luke Zimmerman

Circuit #3 Florida – Jeffrey Webb

Circuit #4 Georgia – David Miller

Circuit #5 Buffalo – Dwayne Hendricks

Circuit #6 Pittsburgh – Jonathan Naumann

Circuit #7 Canada East – Stephen Alles

Circuit #8 Canada West – Robert Voelker

Circuit #9 Cleveland-Akron – Ryan Beffrey

Circuit #10 Cleveland-West – Michael Taylor

Circuit #11 Detroit-South – Bradford Scott

Circuit #12 Detroit-North – Daniel Grams

Circuit #13 Western Michigan – Eric Forss

Circuit #14 Indiana – Chad Trouten

Circuit #15 Chicago-North – Dean Pittelko

Circuit #16 Chicago-South – James Huenink

Circuit #17 Milwaukee – Fred Reaman

Circuit #18 St. Louis – Michael Stoerger

Circuit #19 Arizona-North – Steve DeSanto

Circuit #20 Arizona-South – Vernon Schindler

Circuit #21 Nevada/Utah – Gary Oehlerts

Circuit #22 San Diego – Steven Duescher

Circuit #23 Los Angeles – Daniel Pezzica

Circuit #24 San Francisco – Todd Arnold

1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS – LAYPERSONS**

2

3 ***MIDWEST REGION***

4

5 **MARY MAZURK-RINDA**

6 Coll./Univ.: Elmhurst College

Degree/Field/Year: BA/Psych

7 Grad. School: John Marshall Law School

Degree/Field/Year: Juris Doctorate/1984

8

9 Present Congregation: Trinity, Villa Park, IL

10

11 Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

12 Law Offices of Mary A. Mazurk, Owner

Year(s): 1996-present

13 Orner & Wasserman, Ltd.-Partner

Year(s): 1985-1995

14 O'Brien & Barbahen, Staff Attorney

Year(s): 1984-1985

15

16

17 **SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –**

18

19 District: English District Board of Directors

20

21 Synod:

22

23 Other (congregation, community, etc.): Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Chapter Chair of
24 Good Citizen Scholarship Awards

25

26 Statement concerning candidacy: I was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors this past term. It has
27 been a privilege to serve on the Board. My service on the Board allowed me to gain a deeper knowledge
28 of the English District. It has been a wonderful opportunity to work and worship with my fellow Board
29 members. I would consider it an honor to serve on the Board, if elected.

30

31 Prior service on a board of directors: In addition to the English District Board of Directors, I currently
32 serve on LWML English District Executive Committee as Secretary. The Executive Committee serves as
33 the governing board for the district LWML activities.

34

1 **EASTERN REGION REPORT**

2

3 **BUFFALO CIRCUIT #5**

4 *The Rev. David Beutel, Circuit Visitor*

5

6 **Nazareth, Buffalo, NY** – The Rev. Dwayne Hendricks

7 For just over 100 years, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church in Buffalo, New York has been spreading

8 the Good News of Jesus Christ. This accomplishment was acknowledged last year when we celebrated

9 our 100 year anniversary with a dinner in our gymnasium. As the pastor of Nazareth for the past two

10 years, I have witnessed the Lord working in both our church and our community. Nazareth has been

11 given the opportunity to lease out its facility to the Boys and Girls Club of North Buffalo. This has not

12 only made excellent use of the facility that was left void in the wake of the school closing, it also has

13 served as an opportunity to witness to the children of this neighborhood of Riverside where Nazareth

14 resides. There are many unfortunate realities that take place in this neighborhood. However, by the grace

15 of God and with the power of the Holy Spirit, our goal is to be a light amidst the darkness of this area and

16 throughout the world.

17

18

19

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2
3 **Committee #1, Resolution #6**

4
5
6 **To Memorialize the Synod to Restore Procedure for Appeals**

7
8 **Whereas**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s process of ecclesiastical supervision could be
9 improved by providing a better system of checks and balances, and

10
11 **Whereas**, since 2004, if the District President fails to proceed in a case of doctrinal supervision, the
12 person bringing the complaint presently has no further recourse, and

13
14 **Whereas**, our system would be improved by giving the person bringing a complaint the right to appeal a
15 determination or decision of a District President or referral panel to the Praesidium of Synod (the need for
16 this illustrated by a recent case of doctrinal supervision in a matter potentially leading to suspension and
17 removal from the roster of a church worker), therefore, be it

18
19 **Resolved** that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention to
20 restore the procedure in ecclesiastical supervision cases that enables a complainant to appeal the case to
21 the Praesidium of Synod, should a District President be compromised or seemingly fail to act on a case of
22 false doctrine or misconduct.

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #1 - New York</u>		
Ewing, NJ	Bethany	Rev. Fred Gerlach
Flushing, NY	Immanuel	
Palisades Park, NJ	Grace	
Palisades Park, NJ	Cho Won Korean	
Pennsauken, NJ	Martin Luther Chapel	Jane Duffy
Princeton, NJ	Messiah	Rev. Martin Erhardt
Saint Albans, NY	Redeemer	Herbert Gishlick
Scarsdale, NY	Trinity	Rev. Ronald Rieger
Valley Stream, NY	Our Saviour	Michael Coffey
<u>Circuit #2 - Philadelphia</u>		
Blue Bell, PA	Gloria Dei	
Blue Bell, PA	Philadelphia True Light	
Chesapeake, VA	Faith	Rev. Christian Morales
Harrisburg, PA	Gloria Dei	Walter Dissen
Lititz, PA	Mount Calvary	Rev. Adam Koontz
Mechanicsburg, PA	Calvary	Rev. Luke Zimmerman
Springfield, PA	Saint John	Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
Warminster, PA	Grace	Ronald Stiegler
		Elsa Quanbeck
		John Zampino
<u>Circuit #3 - Florida</u>		
Jacksonville, FL	Celebration	Rev. Jeffrey Webb
Naples, FL	Faith	Peter Brand
Ocala, FL	Trinity	
Palm Coast, FL	Shepherd of the Coast	Rev. William Douthwaite
		Stephanie Johnson
<u>Circuit #4 - Georgia</u>		
Alpharetta, GA	Christ the Shepherd	Rev. Kevin Elseroad
Atlanta, GA	Ascension	Rev. David Miller
		Gary Church
		Justin Morr
<u>Circuit #5 - Buffalo</u>		
Amherst, NY	Calvary	
Buffalo, NY	Nazareth	
Erie, PA	Trinity	
Kenmore, NY	Pilgrim	Rev. Ben Eder
North Tonawanda, NY	Redeemer	Rev. David Beutel
Syracuse, NY	Hope Community	Carol George
		Carol Obot
		Kathleen Beutel
		Deacon Emmanuel Cholo Nyema
<u>Circuit #6 - Pittsburgh</u>		
Butler, PA	Faith	Rev. Brian Westgate
McMurray, PA	Peace	Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy
Oakmont, PA	Redeemer	Rev. Jonathan Naumann
Slippery Rock, PA	All Saints	Rev. Michael Scheer
		Bethanie Westgate
		Paul Stanis
		Jeffrey Meier
		Dr. James Mennell
<u>Circuit #7 - Canada East</u>		
Aurora, ON	Christ	Rev. Jeffrey Kunsman
Golden Lake, ON	Saint John	
Mississauga, ON	Saint Mark	Rev. Jeffrey Miskus
North York, ON	Saint Luke	Rev. J. Derek Mathers
Pembroke, ON	Saint John	Rev. Stephen Alles
Toronto, ON	Saint Matthew	Rev. Dereck Pillay
		Bob Ernst
		Welland Schroeder
		Doug Askew
		Ian Farquharson
		Samuel Biggs
		Getahun Demisse

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

		<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #8 - Canada West</u>			
Chatham, ON	Our Saviour's	Rev. Daniel Murray	William Schwarz
Kitchener, ON	Hope	Rev. Dr. Terry Hursh	
Mitchell, ON	Grace	Rev. Gerald Luck	Glenn Kahle
Sarnia, ON	Redeemer	Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis	Michel Poliquin
Windsor, ON	Gethsemane	Rev. Robert Voelker	Wayne Sallach
Windsor, ON	Peace	Rev. Gregory Lutz	Ron Schertzer
<u>Circuit #9 - Cleveland-Akron</u>			
Akron, OH	Concordia	Rev. Robert Tauscher, Jr.	Rich Wilson
Akron, OH	Fairlawn	Rev. James Gau	Robert Fischer
Akron, OH	Good Shepherd		Eric Fink
Akron, OH	Grace		
Cleveland Heights, OH	Mount Olive	Rev. Ryan Beffrey	Ashley Beffrey
Northfield, OH	Epiphany	Rev. Dr. Christian Just	Rebecca Wilson
Streetsboro, OH	Saint Thomas		Gilbert Ayers
<u>Circuit #10 - Cleveland-West</u>			
Cleveland, OH	Holy Cross		
Cleveland, OH	Iglesia		
Elyria, OH	Grace	Rev. Robert Weldon	Richard Jennings
Medina, OH	Prince of Peace		Terry Leu
North Olmsted, OH	Ascension	Rev. Anthony Appel	Mark English
Oberlin, OH	Grace	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer	Fred Feddeck
<u>Circuit #11 - Detroit-South</u>			
Allen Park, MI	Angelica	Rev. Jonathan Sachs	Terry Turner
Detroit, MI	Zion	Rev. Mark Braden	Michael Edwards
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI	Christ the King	Rev. Randy Boelter	Noel Paavola
Plymouth, MI	Risen Christ		
Rockwood, MI	Christ Our Redeemer		Paul Jentzen
Sylvania, OH	King of Glory		
Toledo, OH	Good Shepherd	Rev. Bradford Scott	David Jahn
Toledo, OH	Holy Cross	Rev. Peter Burfeind	Tracy Omondon
<u>Circuit #12 - Detroit-North</u>			
Beverly Hills, MI	Ascension of Christ	Rev. Daniel Grams	Susan Elsholz
Redford, MI	Grace	Rev. Timothy Halboth	Jeffrey Mezigan
Rochester Hills, MI	Epic		
Saint Clair Shores, MI	Saint Paul	Rev. David Rutter	Larry Schmalz
Sandusky, MI	Holy Redeemer		
West Bloomfield, MI	Shepherd King	Rev. Timothy Holzerland	Beverly White
West Branch, MI	New Beginnings		
<u>Circuit #13 - Western Michigan</u>			
Dorr, MI	Epiphany	Rev. Johnathon Krenz	Sandra Hoffbeck
East Lansing, MI	Martin Luther Chapel	Rev. Curtis Dwyer	John Engle
Grand Rapids, MI	Hope	Rev. Daniel Gruenwald	Jason Harnish
Hartland, MI	Our Savior	Rev. Christopher Thoma	Harry Jock
Howell, MI	Immanuel	Rev. Eric Forss	Richard Applin
Lakeview, MI	Holy Trinity	Rev. Steven Voelker	
Lansing, MI	Christ	Rev. Zerit Yohannes	Paul Schleusener
Wyoming, MI	Grace	Rev. John Diener	Robert Reneker, Jr.

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #14 - Indiana</u>		
Florence, KY	Abiding Faith	Ed Lawrence
Fort Wayne, IN	Bethany	Dorothy Trouten
Fort Wayne, IN	Jacob's Well	
Fort Wayne, IN	Redeemer	Paul Lagemann
Fort Wayne, IN	Saint Michael	
Fremont, IN	Peace	Gerry Ferrell
LaPorte, IN	Trinity	
Stroh, IN	Prince of Peace	Edwin Spornhauer
Zionsville, IN	Advent	James Grady
<u>Circuit #15 - Chicago-North</u>		
Arlington Heights, IL	Faith	Rev. Thomas Sanders
Chicago, IL	Bethany	Andrew Wegner
Chicago, IL	Bethesda	Richard Tank
Chicago, IL	Christ English	
Chicago, IL	Grace English	
Chicago, IL	Our Savior	Joan Shogren
Chicago, IL	Holy Spirit	Carol Klingbeil
Elk Grove Village, IL	Holy Spirit	Jerry Jacobson
Elmhurst, IL	Redeemer	
Villa Park, IL	Trinity	Rev. Robert Rogers
		Jim Van Ewyk
<u>Circuit #16 - Chicago-South</u>		
Berwyn, IL	Concordia	Rev. James Huenink
Chicago, IL	Chatham Fields	
Chicago, IL	Ephphatha	Rev. Prentice Marsh
Chicago, IL	Faith	
Chicago, IL	Good Shepherd	
Chicago, IL	New Hope	
Chicago, IL	Saint John the Divine	
Elmhurst, IL	Messiah	Rev. Brad Maxon
Markham, IL	Markham	Rev. Larry Schneekloth
New Lenox, IL	Trinity	Rev. Douglas Hoag
		Daniel Maxon
		Nancy Griffin
		Rex Toepke
<u>Circuit #17 - Milwaukee</u>		
Forest Lake, MN	Messiah	Rev. Gregory Musolf
Hales Corners, WI	Hales Corners	Rev. Joe Robb
Hastings, MN	Hope	
Janesville, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Paul Speerbrecker
Lake Mills, WI	Christ	Sue Speerbrecker
Menomonee Falls, WI	Prince of Peace	Rev. Thomas Engler
Mount Pleasant, WI	Living Hope	Rev. Cashius Myers
New Berlin, WI	Peace	Rev. Kenneth Rankin
Shawano, WI	Resurrection	Rev. Ronald Raddatz
Sheboygan, WI	Saint Mark	Rev. Brett Matz
Watertown, WI	Faith	Sherry Brusse
West Allis, WI	Greenfield Park	Rev. Fred Reaman
		Charles Porter

2015 CONVENTION DELEGATES

	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAYPERSON</u>
<u>Circuit #18 - Saint Louis</u>		
Hannibal, MO	Saint John	Rev. Michael Stoerger
Lee's Summit, MO	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Jon Gruen
Lincoln, NE	Redeemer	Rev. Mark Ebert
O'Fallon, MO	Peace	Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner
Saint Louis, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Ted Laesch
Saint Peters, MO	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. Mark Hoehner
Vine Grove, KY	Grace	Rev. David Tannahill
		Rick Chapman
		Chris Cassel
		Paul Jud
		Ellory Glenn
		Daniel Clemens
		Stephen White
<u>Circuit #19 - Arizona-North</u>		
Overgaard, AZ	Faith	Rev. Nicholas Wirtz
Parker, AZ	Messiah	
Payson, AZ	Shepherd of the Pines	Rev. Steve De Santo
Phoenix, AZ	Family of Christ	Rev. Dr. Wade Butler
Pinetop, AZ	Shepherd of the Mountains	Rev. R. Wayne Morton
		Don Grotberg
		Ned Hines
		David Anderson
		Beth Morton
<u>Circuit #20 - Arizona-South</u>		
Benson, AZ	Peace in the Valley	
Green Valley, AZ	Risen Savior	Rev. Dr. John Stieve
Rio Rico, AZ	Christus Rex	
Sahuarita, AZ	Gracepoint	
Tucson, AZ	Ascension	Rev. James Thelen
Tucson, AZ	Catalina	Rev. Michael Morehouse
Tucson, AZ	Faith	
Tucson, AZ	Holy Trinity	
Tucson, AZ	Messiah	Rev. Luther Esala
Tucson, AZ	Mount Olive	Rev. Dr. Frank Ciampa
		Daniel James
		Richard Loesch
		Tracy Huffstetler
		Laurel Tatge
		Andrew Wellik
		Dr. Roni Grad
		Sheryl Gregory
		Richard Matties
		Jeffrey Rundquist
<u>Circuit #21 - Nevada/Utah</u>		
Mesquite, NV	Prince of Peace	Rev. Travis Lauterbach
North Las Vegas, NV	Trinity	
Saint George, UT	Our Savior's	Rev. Arthur Drehman
		Don Selking
		Neal Smith
<u>Circuit #22 - San Diego</u>		
Borrego Springs, CA	Borrego	
El Cajon, CA	Christ the King	
El Cajon, CA	First	Rev. Justin Laughridge
Lakeside, CA	Morning Star	
Mira Mesa, CA	Crossroads	
Pine Valley, CA	Inter-Mountain	
San Diego, CA	Living Water	Rev. Steven Duescher
		Ted Davis
<u>Circuit #23 - Los Angeles</u>		
Los Angeles, CA	Highland Park	
Mission Hills, CA	Chapel of the Cross	Rev. William Naumann
Palm Desert, CA	Peace	Rev. Brian Pratt
Sherman Oaks, CA	Sherman Oaks	Rev. Daniel Pezzica
		Clifford Johnson
		Mark Judd
<u>Circuit #24 - San Francisco</u>		
Danville, CA	Messiah	Rev. Peter Ledic
Fremont, CA	Hope	Rev. John Berg
San Francisco, CA	New Life Chinese	Rev. Charles Fox
San Francisco, CA	West Portal	Rev. Todd Arnold
		Clarence Kleinberg
		Robert Bok

1 **ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS**

2
3 ***MIDWEST REGION***

4
5 **ALAN ZACHARIAS**

6 Coll./Univ.: Murray State Univ. Degree/Field/Year: BS/Journalism-Business/1984
7 Grad. Sch.: Univ. of Missouri Degree/Field/Year: PhD. Candidate/Higher Ed. Policy/2015
8 Grad. Sch.: Dominican University Degree/Field/Year: MBA/Marketing & Finance/2000

9
10 Other Degrees: Harvard University, Institute of Educational Management, 2001

11
12 Present Congregation: Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL

13
14 LCMS: Project Coordinator; Department of Stewardship

15
16 **SERVICE POSITIONS HELD –**

17 District: His Love-Our Response, Pacific Southwest District

18
19 Other (congregation, community, etc.): President, Association of Lutheran Development Officers
20 (ALDE); Director, CFRE Board of Directors; United Way of Southeast Missouri; Strategic Planning
21 Committee, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, IL

22
23 Other Relevant Experience/Qualifications: Have served as Executive Director of the Foundations at
24 Concordia University Irvine, Concordia University Chicago, and Southeast Missouri State University.
25 Currently serve as professional advisor to Lutheran Legacy Foundation, Paris, IL.

26
27 Statement concerning candidacy: Throughout my career, I have advanced biblical stewardship concepts,
28 encouraged generosity among donors, and have raised over a billion dollars in mission support for the
29 institutions served. In addition to working at the synodical and district levels, I have been honored to
30 serve as Vice President for Advancement at Concordia University Irvine; Sr. Vice President for
31 Advancement and Executive Director of the CUC Foundation at Concordia University Chicago; and Vice
32 President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at Southeast Missouri State
33 University. As owner and lead consultant of Alan Zacharias Associates, I have the ability to work among
34 several key ministries of the LCMS and other charitable entities and have gleaned vast experience and
35 best practices. I believe that the English District Endowment Fund is an essential initiative to ensure
36 long-term sustainability of district ministries in support of the Great Commission. It would be an honor
37 and privilege to serve the church in this way.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CHURCH & THEOLOGY**

2
3 **Committee #1, Resolution #1a**

4
5 **To Evaluate the Theological Implications of the Practice of Cremation**

6
7 WHEREAS, the practice of cremation is gaining acceptance in the United States; and

8
9 WHEREAS, our church body has stated nothing official regarding the practice of cremation; and

10
11 WHEREAS, many pastors have encouraged the use of cremation, and may have for themselves
12 drawn plans to be cremated; and

13
14 WHEREAS, many pastors and church leaders are unsure of their advice with respect to
15 cremation; and

16
17 WHEREAS, requests concerning the Scriptural acceptance or condemnation of cremation
18 continue to increase; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (LCMS), has written a book entitled, *"Dust to Dust, Ashes*
21 *to Ashes: A Biblical and Christian Examination of Cremation"* (Salisbury, MA: Regina Orthodox
22 Press, 2005), which condemns the practice of cremation, and this is the only book known
23 among us to address this topic, but does not represent the official theological position of the
24 synod; therefore be it

25
26 *Resolved*, that the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the
27 Synod in the 2016 Convention, to assign to our two Seminaries the task of evaluating the
28 theological implications of the practice of cremation; and be it finally

29
30 *Resolved*, that they render a published opinion to be disseminated and **to consider** by our Synod
31 during her 2019 Convention.

To Reaffirm the Six-Day Creation

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WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that God is the Creator of all that exists, and is therefore the Author (Acts 3:15) and giver of life (Nicene Creed, third article); and

WHEREAS, Genesis Chapter 1 details the creation of the world by God in six days, each of which consists of 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, this interpretation is explicitly corroborated by other passages of Scripture, such as Exodus 20:8-11; and

WHEREAS, the Synod has previously and consistently taught and affirmed this position; therefore be it

Resolved, that the English District in convention reaffirm the literal six-day creation as revealed in Genesis; and be it finally

Resolved, that the English District memorialize Synod to reaffirm her position concerning the literal six-day creation, as it is revealed in Genesis, during the 2016 convention.

To Reaffirm in Practice the Biblical Understanding of Marriage, and the Biblical Qualifications for the Office of the Holy Ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

WHEREAS, Scripture does not permit a believer to divorce except in the case of abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor 7:15), or in the case of adultery (Mt 19:9), but to the contrary, attributes divorce to a hardness of heart (Mt. 19:8) that is characteristic of impenitent unbelief, and is incompatible with the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul clearly states that the Christian minister must manage his own household well (1 Tim. 3:4-5) as a sign of his competence for managing the household of God, and should be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6), as Christ is the husband only of His Church and does not separate Himself from His bride, and that he must not be a recent convert (1 Tim. 3:6); and

WHEREAS, it has become the practice in our Synod that (1) pastors who are illegitimately divorced are not always removed from office, (2) our seminaries admit, certify and place candidates who are divorced and remarried, and (3) divorced and remarried pastors continue to be considered for calls; therefore be it

Resolved, that the English District in convention memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to reaffirm the biblical qualification for pastors, by forbidding admission to (the pastoral programs of) our seminaries of those who are divorced for reasons other than the adultery or abandonment of an unbelieving wife, unless such illegitimate divorce is repented of, in which case such men must not be admitted to seminary until at least two years after their repentance; and be it further

Resolved, that if a man who is currently serving as a pastor become divorced, except for the reason of adultery or abandonment of an unbelieving wife, he must resign or be removed from his call and must be removed from the roster of the LCMS; and be it further

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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, and by forbidding the calling of any pastor who is divorced and remarried, so that he may not be a stumbling block and sign of contradiction to the teaching of Christ or His apostles.

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To Memorialize the Synod to Restore Procedure for Appeals

Whereas, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s process of ecclesiastical supervision could be improved by providing a better system of checks and balances, and

Whereas, since 2004, if the District President fails to proceed in a case of doctrinal supervision, the person bringing the complaint presently has no further recourse, and

Whereas, our system would be improved by giving the person bringing a complaint the right to appeal a determination or decision of a District President or referral panel to the Praesidium of Synod, therefore, be it

Resolved that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention to restore the procedure in ecclesiastical supervision cases that enables a complainant to appeal the case to the Praesidium of Synod.

1 **COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS & EVANGELIZATION**

2
3 **Committee #2, Resolution #1a**

4
5 **To Encourage Every Circuit of the English District to Consider the Study, Implementation, and**
6 **Financial Support of a New Mission Start within its Circuit Boundaries**

7
8 WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has told His Church to go and make disciples of all nations
9 (peoples) by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be His witnesses as the
10 priesthood of all believers (Acts 1:8, I Peter 2:1-10); and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Department of Witness and
13 Outreach in the Office of National Mission and the English District-LCMS through its
14 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
15 Evangelization Team have promoted personal witnessing, congregational outreach and new
16 mission starts; and,

17
18 WHEREAS, we in North America are the third largest world mission field; and,

19
20 WHEREAS, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of all people and rose triumphantly in
21 having achieved the victory over sin, death, and hell, and that people are dying without hearing
22 or coming to receive the grace of God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit because the Word
23 of God has not been continually shared or received in their lives; and,

24
25 WHEREAS, His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are distributed within His Church and
26 Jesus Christ has promised in Matthew 18:20, “Where two or three are gathered in My name,
27 there am I among them;” and,

28
29 WHEREAS, it is our humble desire to align with Christ’s mission as congregations and
30 individuals, guided by faithful pastors who “do the work of an evangelist” (II Timothy 4:1-5), and
31 to do this with a deep sense of urgency for the salvation of souls; therefore, be it

32
33 *Resolved*, that each English District congregation and their Circuit **be encouraged to pray**
34 **regularly for opportunities** to begin a new mission start within its Circuit boundaries during the
35 next Triennium; and, be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, that each English District Circuit **strongly be encouraged** to **develop a new mission**
38 **start committee** made up of laity and pastors from within the congregations of the Circuit to
39 study, implement, and put together a plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation
40 within its Circuit boundaries during the next Triennium; and, be it further

41
42 *Resolved*, that we memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in her 2016 Convention,
43 through her Department of Witness and Outreach, and the English District-LCMS through its
44 Bishop/President, Staff, Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, Mission Council, and
45 Evangelization Team to **provide assistance as requested** by each English District Circuit in the
46 study, implementation, and plan including a financial plan to plant a new congregation within its
47 Circuit boundaries during the next Triennium; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, that **we in this Convention see ourselves as living stones** connected to The Living
2 Stone, Jesus Christ, disciples of Jesus who are His witnesses, and to do all under God’s grace
3 to promote witness and outreach in our Synod, District, Circuit, Congregation, School, and
4 community.
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8 **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE**
9

10 **Committee #3, Resolution #1a**

11
12 **To Affirm the District's Canadian Congregations**

13
14 WHEREAS, the English District has member congregations in Canada; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the English District (Canada Corporation) is a registered charity and corporation in
17 Canada; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church – Canada jointly
20 have a mission and ministry Protocol Agreement encouraging their congregations to work in
21 harmony; therefore be it

22
23 *Resolved*, that the English District in convention reaffirm the policy of Synod that the
24 congregations of the two Canadian circuits of the District continue to discuss mission and
25 ministry with the congregations of the Lutheran Church Canada and work in harmony with one
26 another; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved*, that the English District in Convention affirm the place of the Canadian circuits in the
29 English District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, that the English District hereby celebrate these as active member congregations.

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To Amend Synod Constitution and Bylaws

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meeting in its 66th Regular Convention in 2016 amend its Constitution and Bylaws to adopt a four-year cycle of Conventions and a term of four years for its officers.

New one

Resolved, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod meeting in its 66th Regular Convention in 2016 amend its Constitution and Bylaws to adopt a four-year cycle of Conventions and a term of four years for its officers.

1 **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**

2
3 **Committee #4, Resolution #2**

4
5 **To Eliminate Student Indebtedness**

6
7 Resolution is removed from consideration.
8
9

10
11
12 **Committee #4, Resolution #3a**

13
14 **To Establish a Legal Fund**

15
16 WHEREAS, society at large is becoming increasingly hostile to the truth of the Gospel, and

17
18 WHEREAS, the state is increasingly seeking to “turn its coercive powers on the church and
19 hinder its mission” (1), and

20
21 WHEREAS, rostered church workers and church entities are increasingly vulnerable to lawsuits
22 and potentially even prison time (1) for their defense of the Gospel, therefore be it

23
24 *Resolved*, that the English District memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to
25 establish a legal defense fund to aid in the defense of rostered church workers or church
26 entities who come under legal attack for their witness to God's truth.

- 27
28 1) Pr. Matt Harrison, quoted in: Harrison encourages LCMS to 'not grow weary' in public
29 square. Reporter Online; blogs.lcms.org/2014/not-grow-weary, accessed 11/18/14.

To Adopt a Synod-Wide North American Evangelism Effort

WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution states as one of the Synod's Objectives is to "Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world" [LCMS Constitution, Article III.2]; and

WHEREAS, our Synod's Constitution further states that a further objective is to "Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith" [LCMS Constitution, Article III.6] ; and

WHEREAS, one of the reasons our Synod's Articles of Incorporation states for our Synod's existence is "To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of radio and television broadcasting," [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.e]; and

WHEREAS, our Synod is formed "To provide assistance and resources to the congregations, schools, Sunday schools, preaching stations, and agencies of the Synod for the dissemination of the Christian Gospel." [LCMS Articles of Incorporation, Article II.f]; and

WHEREAS, it would be desirable for a Synod wide effort to reach out to people in North America with a sound Law/Gospel presentation; and

WHEREAS, having heard the Gospel some contact between those hearing the message and a congregation in their area is desirable so that they could hear more about the Savior; and

WHEREAS, our Synod is only as strong as its congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, that we memorialize Synod, in her 2016 Convention, to take a Synod-wide offering for the purpose of creating material to be presented over the broadcast, cable, and internet communication media existing in North America; and be it further

Resolved, that the funds gathered be used exclusively and solely for: developing material for broadcast on television channels and/or cable at the seminaries of our synod, securing broadcast time on television channels and/or cable, and developing and fabricating material for Synodical and congregational use on their respective web sites and as electronic media as part of this effort; and be it further

Resolved, that this gathering of funds and carrying out of the above resolutions be under the direction of the Board for National Mission; and be it finally

Resolved, that the attached memorandum be conveyed to the Board for National Mission for their consideration in constructing the manner in which this effort will be conducted.

1 **Memorandum About Synod Wide Evangelism Effort in North America**

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- [1] Have 2 or more Law/Gospel Evangelism presentations made for broadcast on television:
 - A. Record at Seminary by Sem. Profs
 - B. 15 minutes at max
 - C. Advertise Synod's web site in presentation
 - D. Have available other material for further presentation placed on Synod's web site

- [2] Leave 5 to 10 minutes for local congregation's Law/Gospel presentation:
 - A. Presentation ties in with theme of [1] above
 - B. Presentation advertises local congregation
 - C. Advertise Congregation's web site in presentation
 - D. Have available other material for further presentation on congregation's web site

- [3] Explore possibility of local radio broadcast by local congregation
 - A. Devotion
 - B. Bible Study
 - 1. Topic - based on Scripture lesson [ex. Parable]
 - 2. Topic - proof texts in context [ex. Marriage]

- [4] Make DVDs based on [1] and [2] above:
 - A. Include extra material
 - 1. Topic - based on Scripture lesson [ex. Parable]
 - 2. Topic - proof text in context [ex. Marriage]
 - B. Include extra material based on local congregation as ending message on DVD
 - 1. History
 - 2. Worship service
 - 3. Directions to church, times of worship, Sunday School
 - 4. Other [day school info, pastor info, community service info, etc.]
 - 5. Local congregation is responsible for local material
 - C. Distribute DVDs to visitors at local congregations

- [5] Run as a pilot program in several districts of the Synod:
 - A. Run as pilot first and solicit comments before expanding
 - B. Expand to more districts if results are positive
 - C. Consider continuing if results are positive as an evangelism effort of the Synod
 - D. Develop criteria for evaluating

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PASTORS

MIDWEST / WESTERN REGIONS

THE REV. R. WAYNE MORTON

College/University: Grove City College Degree/Field/Year: BS/Mathematics/1975
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: Grad Asst/
D. Missiology Student/1992-92
Seminary: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Degree/Field/Year: MDiv/1994

Congregations Served:

Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ Year(s): 1994-present
Shepherd of the Mountains, Pinetop, AZ (Vicar) Year(s): 1993-1994

Work Experience (Employer/Position Held):

Standard Oil of Ohio	Service Station Supervisor	Year(s): 1975-1979
Travelers Insurance	Commercial Linea Underwriter	Year(s): 1979-1989

SERVICE/POSITIONS HELD –

District: Committee on Nominations Chair; Elections Chair; Circuit Visitor; Regional Vice-President; Acting Mission Council Chair; Presented Small Church Ministry workshop at a District Professional Church Workers Conference (with Rev. Todd Arnold)

Synod:

Other (church, community, etc.): Blue Ridge Unified School District Site Council; Pinetop-Lakeside 2020 Vision Committee; Pinetop-Lakeside People's Vision Committee; Navopache Regional Hospital Chaplain

Prior service on a board of directors: Advisory member (regional Vice President) of the English District Board of Directors, 2009-present. It would be my privilege to continue serving the English District through its Board of Directors.

Wednesday, June 17th, 2015
Opening of the 55th Convention
English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Meeting at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began its triennial convention.

The 55th Convention of the **English District** of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began with orientation for the first-time delegates at Krieger Hall. Open hearings of the convention floor committees followed with a Convention group picture on campus. The evening worship service was held at the Chapel of Holy Trinity, with the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, preaching. After worship there was fellowship and a “Meet the Candidates” reception on the Central Campus.

Thursday, June 18th, 2015
Opening of the 55th Convention
English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Following a brief orientation for first-time delegates, the convention began with a hymn sing.

8:27 a.m. “Opening of the 55th Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”

Voting Delegates were directed to move to the blue sections, the advisory to the red sections, and guests to the back section. Recognized were the youth sitting in the back, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, the Rev. John Wohlrabe, Jr., Second Vice-President, and the Rev. Dr. Jon Vieker. The English District staff were introduced as well as the English District Secretary and Parliamentarian.

8:33 a.m. Following a brief orientation information and introductions, it was moved and seconded to accept the standing rules of the Convention on page 1-4 of the Convention Workbook. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8:36 a.m. Motion to adopt the agenda with one change: eliminate the break from the agenda on Friday, June 19th at 3 p.m. This will then move up the Floor Committee resolutions to start at 3 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, was introduced to the assembly.

Opening devotion was presented by the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, “What is the church about?” based on Galatians 2:9. President Harrison then presented the Synodical report, based on Witness - Mercy - Life Together.

Following the report President Harrison took questions from the delegates on a number of subjects. Video was shown. “Upon This Rock” will be the Convention Theme for the 2016 Synod Convention.

10:05 a.m. The honorary title of “Doctor of Divinity” was bestowed upon the Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis, pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sarnia, Ontario. His wife, Lynda Ellis, was brought to the podium with Pastor Ellis.

10:28 a.m. Changes to the resolutions by the floor committees were passed out. Please add the letter “a” behind the designation number of the revised resolutions.

The initial Credentials Report was provided by the Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, District Secretary.

Voting Pastoral Delegates	102
Voting Lay Delegates	101

Total Voting Delegates 203

Total Advisory Pastors, Commissioned Ministers 18

Youth Representatives	11
Board Members	7
District Support Staff	9
Visitors/Guests	58

Total in Attendance 306

10:30 a.m. Electronic voting procedures were practiced. Jacob Wood helped with electronic voting devices, explaining how to use the devices.

Committee #6 - Nominations Committee

Co-chairs: The Revs. Daniel Pezzica and Luke Zimmerman; The Rev. Daniel Pezzica presented the slate of candidates nominated for office of President.

The slate for President is the Rev. Ben Eder, the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner.

Pastor James Elsner was called upon to offer a word of prayer before elections.

Elections Chair, the Rev. Robert Tauscher, was called on to begin the elections. Pastor Tauscher then presented for vote of the convention the slate for District President. The votes were posted: 198 votes

The Rev. Ben Eder	55
The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	68
The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner	75

Pastor Ben Eder’s name was removed from the ballot.

The votes for the second ballot were posted: 196 votes

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy	100
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The Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner 96

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was elected District President.

For Vice President, the Rev. Luke Zimmerman announced the delegates.

Elections Chair, the Rev. Robert Tauscher, presented the slate for the office of Vice President, Eastern Region. The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy withdrew his name leaving Rev. Ben Eder as sole candidate.

Prayer was then given by the Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, Bishop/President, before elections.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for the office of Vice President of the Eastern Region, asking Secretary Fitzpatrick to cast one ballot closing the election for the Eastern Region. Secretary Fitzpatrick cast a single ballot, thereby closing the election. **The Rev. Ben Eder** was elected to a first term.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for the office of Vice President of the Lake Erie Region. The votes on the first ballot were posted: 193 votes

The Rev. Michael Frese	89
The Rev. Zerit Yohannes	104

The Rev. Zerit Yohannes was elected to a first term.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for the office of Vice President of the Midwestern Region asking Secretary Fitzpatrick to cast one ballot closing the election for the Midwestern Region. Secretary Fitzpatrick cast a single ballot, thereby closing the election. **The Rev. Rob Rogers** was elected to a first term.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for the office of Vice President of the Western Region. The votes on the first ballot were posted: 191 votes

The Rev. Todd Arnold	75
The Rev. Daniel Pezzica	62
The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz	54

Pastor Nicholas Wirtz's name was removed from the ballot.

Pastor Tauscher presented the second slate for the office of Vice President of the Western Region. The votes on the second ballot were posted: 191 votes

The Rev. Todd Arnold	98
The Rev. Daniel Pezzica	93

The Rev. Todd Arnold was elected to a first term.

10:55 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Ronald Farah, Chair of the Ministerial Health Commission, was welcomed to the podium, noting on behalf of the Commission, "We're here to help you."

11:06 a.m. President Stechholz called for a vote of the assembly to accept the election of the four Vice Presidents. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Vice Presidents as elected. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The elected Vice Presidents were then ranked. The votes on the first ballot were posted:

The Rev. Ben Eder	96
The Rev. Zerit Yohannes	45
The Rev. Robert Rogers	22
The Rev. Todd Arnold	29

Pastor Rogers' name was removed from the ballot.

The votes on the second ballot were posted:

The Rev. Ben Eder	116
The Rev. Zerit Yohannes	52
The Rev. Todd Arnold	24

The Rev. Ben Eder is 1st Vice President.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for 2nd Vice President. The votes on the third ballot were posted:

The Rev. Zerit Yohannes	104
The Rev. Robert Rogers	30
The Rev. Todd Arnold	58

The Rev. Zerit Yohannes is 2nd Vice President.

Pastor Tauscher presented the slate for 3rd Vice President. The votes on the fourth ballot were posted:

The Rev. Robert Rogers	72
The Rev. Todd Arnold	117

The Rev. Todd Arnold is 3rd Vice President, and The Rev. Robert Rogers is 4th Vice President.

11:19 a.m. Newly elected President/Bishop the Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy and Vice Presidents, the Rev. Ben Eder, the Rev. Zerit Yohannes, the Rev. Todd Arnold and the Rev. Robert Rogers, came up to the stage for photos.

Emeriti Presidents/Bishops Rev. Dr. David Ritt, Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko were acknowledged. Bishop Emeritus David Ritt then addressed the convention floor.

The Rev. Ted Krey, LCMS Regional Director for Latin America and Caribbean, came forward to present "Theology of Mission."

Following announcements and prayer, it was moved and seconded to recess for lunch (noting that the Eastern and Midwestern Regions were dismissed to Cafeteria and Lake Erie and Western Regions were dismissed to ministry tent) to reconvene at 2 p.m. **Motion passed.**

2:00 p.m. The 55th Convention of the English District – LCMS was reconvened by Bishop/President Stechholz.

Bishop Stechholz announced that offering from the Wednesday night service was \$3,790.11.

Bishop/President Stechholz presented his report to the Convention, with his staff bringing reports from their departments: Congregational Services Executive Lavern Kruse, School Ministry Executive Gail Holzer, and District Business and Finance Executive and Treasurer, Sally Naglich. Gail Holzer presented Bishop Stechholz with a Lifetime Service Award, thanking him for his time and hard work.

Bishop Stechholz honored the Rev. Dr. Thomas Kraus for his hard work and dedication of service for over 30 years on the Committee on Constitutions and Membership. The Rev. Dr. John Stieve was also honored, having over thirty years of service. The support staff was called to the stage to be recognized for their service to the District: Lavern Kruse, Gail Holzer, Sally Naglich, Evelyn Jentzen, Mary Ann Holvenstot, Peggy Oke and Lynne Cobb. Also acknowledged was LCEF Vice President the Rev. David Thiele. Bishop Stechholz addressed the convention. Ephesians 3:20, ESV, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think (imagine, NIV), according to the power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

2:53 p.m. The Credentials Report was provided by District Secretary Fitzpatrick as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	94
Voting Lay Delegates	96

Total Voting Delegates 190

Total Advisory Pastors, Commissioned Ministers 20

Youth Representatives	11
Board Members	7
District Staff	9
Visitors/Guest	60

Total in Attendance 297

Co-chairs the Revs. Daniel Pezzica and Luke Zimmerman presented the slate for Board of Directors – Ordained, Commissioned, Lay Persons, and At Large. The slate of candidates for Ordained member of the Board of Directors from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions was presented and the Rev. Ben Eder’s name was removed (elected as 1st VP). Nominations were then opened to the floor for any additional names. Nominated from the floor for Midwestern/Western Regions – Ordained was the Rev. R. Wayne Morton. Nomination accepted.

3:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. John Stieve presented the Triennial Board of Directors Report. The Rev. Dr. John Stieve, convention parliamentarian, presented the information on the Board’s on-going Policy Review and its Corporate Operations Manual.

The Rev. Fred Gerlach presented the Endowment Fund Report.

3:35 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO brought greetings to the convention.

The Rev. Al Wingfield, business manager of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, addressed the convention on behalf of Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

The Rev. Nicholas Wirtz was called upon for prayer.

Elections Chair, Pastor Tauscher, introduced the candidates for the office of District Secretary and called for the ballot. The votes on the ballot were posted:

The Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.	49
The Rev. Luke Zimmerman	128

The Rev. Luke Zimmerman was elected to a first term.

The Rev. James Elsner was called upon for prayer.

The slate of candidates for Ordained member of the Board of Directors from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions was presented, and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted: 177

The Rev. Ben Eder (name removed, elected as regional VP)

The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick	111
The Rev. Jonathon Krenz	66

The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick was elected to a first term.

The slate of candidates for Ordained member of the Board of Directors from the Midwestern/Western Regions was presented and the ballot was called for.

Motion to show the results by Jamison Hardy without R. Wayne Morton's bio being passed out. **Motion passed** - results were shown.

The votes were posted:

The Rev. Todd Arnold (name removed, elected as regional VP)

The Rev. Ted Laesch, Jr.	55
The Rev. R. Wayne Morton	116

The Rev. R. Wayne Morton was elected to a first term.

The slate of candidates for Commissioned Minister member of the Board of Directors from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions was presented and the ballot was called for. Deaconess Jennifer Miller is the sole candidate for member of the Board of Directors from the Eastern/Lake Erie Regions. The Secretary was directed to cast a single ballot electing **Jennifer Miller**.

The slate of candidates for Commissioned Minister member of the Board of Directors from the Midwestern/Western Regions was presented and the ballot was called for.

Commissioned Minister Albert Amling was the sole candidate for member of the Board of Directors from the Midwestern/Western Regions. The Secretary was directed to cast a single ballot electing **Albert Amling** to the Board.

The slate of candidates for Lay Member of the Board of Directors from the Eastern Region was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rande Casaday	24
Jane Duffy	56
Carol George	56
William Magill	27

Rande Casaday's name was removed from the ballot.

The second ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Jane Duffy	62
Carol George	69
William Magill	34

William Magill's name was removed from the ballot.

The third ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Jane Duffy	79
Carol George	77

Jane Duffy was elected to a second term.

The slate of candidates for Lay Member of the Board of Directors from the Lake Erie Region was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Paul Lagemann	70
Terry Leu	62
William Wissman	27

William Wissman's name was removed from the ballot.

The second ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Paul Lagemann	90
Terry Leu	74

Paul Lagemann was elected to a second term.

The slate of candidates for Lay Member of the Board of Directors from the Midwest Region was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Christopher Cassel	82
Mary Rinda	76

Christopher Cassel was elected to a first term.

The slate of candidates for Lay Member of the Board of Directors from the Western Region was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

John Duncan	31
Richard Hesselroth	64
Shirley Holle	68

John Duncan's name was removed from the ballot.

The second ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Richard Hesselroth 70

Shirley Holle 92

Shirley Holle was elected to a first term.

Greetings from Concordia University – Dr. Patrick Ferry

The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, President, Concordia University Mequon, Wisconsin, addressed the convention and thanked the English District for their support and acknowledged newly elected President Jamison Hardy.

The slate of candidates for the two At-Large Lay Members of the Board of Directors was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Carol George and Terry Leu were elected as At-Large members.

4:32 p.m. Jim Sanft, President of Concordia Plan Services, brought greetings to the Convention.

Announcements – prayer request booklet available.

Recognition of new English District congregations in this triennium (2012-2015):

Prince of Peace, Mesquite, Nevada, March 21, 2013 - The Rev. Travis Lauterbach

Trinity, North Las Vegas, Nevada, March 17, 2013 - The Rev. Gary Oehlerts

Living Hope, Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, March 24, 2013 - The Rev. Cashius Myers

New Jersey Korean Cho Won, Palisades Park, New Jersey, May 5, 2013 - The Rev. Philip

Sangcho Rey

Advent, Zionsville, Indiana, May 15, 2013 - The Rev. John Fiene

Resurrection, Shawano, Wisconsin, June 9, 2013 - The Rev. Ronald Raddatz

Christ Our Redeemer, Rockwood, Michigan, June 23, 2013 - The Rev. Mark Raitz/Paul Jentzen

Crossroads, Mira Mesa, California, December 8, 2013 - The Rev. Justin Laughridge

Hope Community, Syracuse, New York, November 30, 2014 - Deacon Emmanuel Cholo Nyema

Abiding Faith, Florence, Kentucky, February 22, 2015 - The Rev. Robert A. Brockhoff, Vacancy Pastor/Ed Lawrence

Closing Prayer – The Rev. Derek Mathers, 3rd Vice President

Following announcements, President Stechholz called for a motion to recess until the next morning. The motion was made, seconded and passed. The President's Banquet followed at the Manor Tent.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick
Secretary, English District – LCMS

Friday, June 19th, 2015
55th Convention
English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Morning Proceedings

The second session of the 55th Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began with hymn sing.

The Rev. R. Wayne Morton led the devotional meditation. Isaiah 12:1-6

Announcements –

The Rev. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., Second Vice-President, was acknowledged as being Synod’s representative for today. Missionary Daniel and Kathryn Conrad were introduced.

August 10, 11, 12 will be the first meeting of the newly-elected Board of Directors.

Moved and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of the Convention’s first session as presented. **Passed unanimously.**

The Rev. Dr. David Maier, President of the Michigan District, addressed the convention.

Recognition of new English District congregation in triennium (2012-2015): Advent, Zionsville, Indiana, May 15, 2013 - The Rev. John Fiene

Presentation by LCEF Representative Max Biesenthal and the Rev. David Thiele, LCEF Vice President.

President David Stechholz called the Convention to order at 8:52 a.m.

The Credentials Report was provided by the Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, District Secretary.

Voting Pastoral Delegates	91
Voting Lay Delegates	92

Total Voting Delegates	183
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Total Advisory, Pastors, Commissioned Ministers 20

Youth Representatives	11
Board Members	7
District Staff	9
Visitors/Guests	61
Total in Attendance	291

Deacon Emmanuel Cholo Nyema (“Temba”) was brought to stage to recognize the Hope Community mission in Syracuse, NY. In “passing the hat” to taking up a free-will offering for the congregation, \$1,806.95 was collected in U.S. and Canadian

currency.

The Rev. Doug Hoag, Chair of Congregational Services Committee #4, presented Resolution 2, page 6-16, To Eliminate Student Indebtedness. The committee withdrew the resolution from consideration. The action was explained.

Resolution 3a, To Establish a Legal Fund, page 6-16, was presented. The committee moved adoption.

Yes	149
No	16

Motion passed.

LMWL English District President Jan Simmons brought greetings and gave a brief overview of their mission work.

Chair of Mission Council, the Rev. R. Wayne Morton, addressed the convention and introduced the Mission Council team members: the Rev. Eric Carlson, the Rev. John Diener, the Rev. Daniel Grams, Mr. Seth Hoepfner, DCE Heidi Koehler, Mr. Jerry Lancour, the Rev. Justin Laughridge, Mr. Bill Magill, the Rev. Fred Reaman, the Rev. Dr. Bob Roegner, the Rev. R. Wayne Morton and the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz.

The Rev. John Diener, Co-chair of the Evangelization Team, addressed the convention and introduced the Evangelism team members: the Rev. Eric Carlson, the Rev. John Diener, the Rev. Daniel Grams, DCE Heidi Koehler, the Rev. Adam Koontz, Mr. Tom Kuwazaki, DCE Lavern Kruse, the Rev. Fred Reaman (Co-chair), the Rev. Mark Wood (LCMS Outreach) and the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz.

The Rev. Dr. John Stieve, Board of Directors Chair, put together a Convention questionnaire/evaluation.

#1 - I am a

First-time delegate	72
Returning delegate	87

#2 - Pre-convention information was

Clear and helpful	100
Could have been clearer	52
Not clear	6

#3 - Campus Accommodations

Very good	8
Good	36
Average	42
Poor	18
Not applicable	53

#4 - Procedural explanation was

Clear	121
Partially clear	36

Unclear 6

#5 - Verbal Reports were
Helpful 57
Interesting 56
Unnecessary 51

#6 - Election Procedures were
Very clear 126
Somewhat clear 32
Unclear 4

#7 - The convention Hall was
A good setting 82
An average setting 80
A poor setting 3

#8 - From the Convention, my understanding of the English District is
Much better 46
Somewhat better 55
About the same 67

10:15 a.m. Theological Convocation - The Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, Executive Director of the LCMS Commission on Theology & Church Relations, presented, "The Mission of Christ's Church in an Age of Moral Collapse".

Following his presentation, Dr. Lehenbauer took questions from the floor.

Following announcements and prayer, it was moved, seconded and passed to recess for lunch and to reconvene at 1:45 p.m.

Lunch at the Cafeteria/Ministry Tent - Lake Erie and Western Regions in the Cafeteria; Eastern and Midwest Regions to the ministry tent. Stewardship Committee with the Rev. Heath Curtis in Nest during lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick
Secretary, English District – LCMS

Friday, June 19th, 2015
55th Convention
English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Afternoon Proceedings

President Stechholz reconvened the assembly at 1:45 p.m.

Elected President/Bishop Jamison Hardy addressed the assembly, thanking significant individuals in his life and sharing insights into his vision for the District and administration for the coming triennium.

Prior to action on the various floor committee resolutions, Secretary Fitzpatrick provided the credentials report.

Voting Pastoral Delegates	86
Voting Lay Delegates	90

Total Voting Delegates **176**

Advisory Pastors and Commissioned Ministers	20
Youth Representatives	11
Board Members	7
District Staff	9
Visitors/Guests	63

Total in Attendance **286**

Committee #5, Elections/Ratification: Circuit Visitors, District Committee on Nominations, Endowment Board of Managers

Secretary Fitzpatrick presented the slate of Circuit Visitors to the delegates. The Visitors have been elected by their respective circuits, and the results are presented to the Convention for ratification.

Eastern Region

Circuit #1 New York/New Jersey – Peter Bauernfeind
Circuit #2 Philadelphia – Vacant (*Luke Zimmerman removed, elected as Secretary*)
Circuit #3 Florida – Jeff Webb
Circuit #4 Georgia – David Miller
Circuit #5 Buffalo – Dwayne Hendricks
Circuit #6 Pittsburgh – Jonathan Naumann

Lake Erie Region

Circuit #7 Canada-East – Stephen Alles
Circuit #8 Canada-West – Robert Voelker
Circuit #9 Cleveland-Akron – Ryan Beffrey
Circuit #10 Cleveland-West – Michael Taylor

Circuit #11 Detroit-South – Brad Scott
Circuit #12 Detroit-North – Daniel Grams
Circuit #13 Western Michigan – Eric Forss
Circuit #14 Indiana – Chad Trouten

Midwest Region

Circuit #15 Chicago-North – Dean Pittelko
Circuit # 16 Chicago-South – James Huenink
Circuit #17 Milwaukee – Fred Reaman
Circuit #18 St. Louis – Michael Stoerger

Western Region

Circuit #19 Arizona-North – Steve DeSanto
Circuit #20 Arizona-South – Vernon Schindler
Circuit #21 Nevada-Utah – Gary Oehlerts
Circuit #22 San Diego – Steven Duescher
Circuit #23 Los Angeles – Daniel Pezzica
Circuit #24 San Francisco – Vacant (*Todd Arnold removed, elected as Vice President*)

Secretary Fitzpatrick moved ratification of the election of the Circuit Visitors.

It was moved to table the ratification until Saturday morning due to incorrect listing of names being presented to the Convention on the screens. The motion to table was adopted (Y - 113; N - 50).

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Pastor, Eastern was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Martin Erhardt	50
Rev. Christian Morales	36
Rev. Michael Scheer	39
Rev. Brian Westgate	30

Rev. Brian Westgate was removed from the Ballot

The second ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Martin Erhardt	59
Rev. Christian Morales	38
Rev. Michael Scheer	54

Rev. Christian Morales was removed from the Ballot

The third ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Martin Erhardt	63
Rev. Michael Scheer	86

Rev. Michael Scheer was elected.

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Pastor, Lake Erie was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Ryan Beffrey	71
Rev. Eric Forss	84

Rev. Eric Forss was elected.

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Pastor, Midwest was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Michael Brown 70
Rev. Paul Speerbrecker 75

Rev. Paul Speerbrecker was elected.

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Pastor, Western was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Peter Ledic 74
Rev. Daniel Pezzica 87

Rev. Daniel Pezzica was elected.

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Commissioned/Lay (Eastern) was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Carolyn Alessi 75
Richard Drachenberg 73

Carolyn Alessi was elected.

The slate of candidates for the Committee on Nominations, Commissioned/Lay (Lake Erie) was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Donna Hay 67
Nathaniel Pullmann 82

Nathaniel Pullmann was elected.

The candidate for the Committee on Nominations, Commissioned/Lay (Midwest) was presented:

Rod Lane

The Acting Secretary was directed to cast a single ballot **electing Rod Lane** to the committee.

The candidate for the Committee on Nominations, Commissioned/Lay (Western) was presented: Thomas Honebrink

The Acting Secretary was directed to cast a single ballot **electing Thomas Honebrink** to the committee.

The election for members of the Nominations Committee for the 2018 Convention are as follows:

Eastern Region (Ordained):	Rev. Michael Scheer
Lake Erie Region (Ordained):	Rev. Eric Forss
Midwest Region (Ordained):	Rev. Paul Speerbrecker
Western Region (Ordained):	Rev. Daniel Pezzica

Eastern Region (Commissioned/Lay):	Carolyn Alessi
Lake Erie Region (Commissioned/Lay):	Nathaniel Pullmann
Midwest Region (Commissioned/Lay):	Rod Lane
Western Region (Commissioned/Lay):	Thomas Honebrink

The slate of candidates for Endowment Fund Manager (Eastern) was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rande Casaday	55
Rev. Fred Gerlach	104

Rev. Fred Gerlach was elected.

The slate of candidates for Endowment Fund Manager (Lake Erie) was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Rev. Ray Kirk	83
Troy Lindsey	55

Rev. Ray Kirk was elected.

The slate of candidates for Endowment Fund Manager (Midwest) was presented and the ballot was called for. Rosalie Streng asked to have her name withdrawn from the ballot, leaving only Alan Zacharias as a candidate. The Secretary was directed to cast a single ballot ***electing Alan Zacharias*** to the Board.

The slate of candidates for Endowment Fund Manager (West) was presented and the ballot was called for. The votes were posted:

Tom Schlitt	73
Paul Sticha	71

Tom Schlitt was elected.

The election for members of the Endowment Fund Board of Managers:

Eastern Region: Rev. Fred Gerlach
Lake Erie Region: Rev. Ray Kirk
Midwest Region: Alan Zacharias
Western Region: Tom Schlitt

President Stechholz called upon the District Stewardship Committee. The Committee was granted time to present about the topic of stewardship to the delegates. The Committee elected to give its time to the Rev. Dr. Heath Curtis, the LCMS Coordinator for Stewardship, to address the Convention.

The members of the District Stewardship Committee who served during the 2012-2015 triennium were Al Achepohl, Kerry Buttke, Carol George, Troy Lindsey, Ted Radke, Michael Stoerger, Gary Timm, and Ralph Trendle.

President Stechholz called on Floor Committee #1 (Church & Theology) chaired by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann. President Stechholz noted the "two-minute rule" concerning length of speeches being made by delegates during debate.

Committee #1 introduced Resolution #1-1A (*"To Evaluate the Theological Implications of the Practice of Cremation"* on p. 6-9) for adoption. During the debate, 1st Vice President Wayne Morton assumed the chair. Following debate, Resolution #1-1A was adopted as presented [Y - 114; N - 43].

President Stechholz reassumed the chair.

Committee #1 introduced Resolution #1-2A (*"To Reaffirm the Six-Day Creation"* on p. 6-10) for adoption. Following debate, Resolution #1-2A was adopted as presented [Y - 116; N - 39].

Committee #1 introduced Resolution #1-3A (*"To Reaffirm in Practice the Biblical Understanding of Marriage and the Biblical Qualifications for the Office of the Holy Ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod"* on p. 6-11) for adoption. During debate, a motion was made to refer the resolution to committee; the motion to refer to committee was adopted [Y - 108; N - 54].

Committee #1 introduced Resolution #1-4 (*"To Educate the Church on the Practice of Reiki"* on p. 4-18) for adoption. During debate, a motion was made to refer the resolution to committee; the motion to refer to committee was adopted [Y - 135; N - 28].

Committee #1 was dismissed for the remainder of the afternoon session.

President Stechholz called upon Floor Committee #2 (Missions & Evangelism), chaired by the Rev. Steve Duescher.

Committee #2 introduced Resolution #2-1A (*"To Encourage Every Circuit of the English District to Consider the Study, Implementation, and Financial Support of a New Mission Start within Its Circuit Boundaries"* on pp. 6-13 and 6-14) for adoption. During debate, an amendment was proposed: In Line 40 after *"Triennium"* add *"subject to Synodical protocol agreements already in place"*. The amendment was approved [Y - 81; N - 70]. Following debate, the amended resolution was adopted [Y - 108; N - 49].

Committee #2 introduced Resolution #2-2 (*"To Promote Personal Witnessing and Congregational Outreach by All the Churches, Schools, Ministries, and Congregational Members of the English District—LCMS"* on pp. 4-21 and 4-22) for adoption. During debate, an amendment was proposed: In Line 44 after *"each congregation"* add *"be encouraged to"*. The amendment was received by the Committee. Following debate, the amended resolution was adopted [Y - 121; N - 24].

Committee #2 introduced Resolution #2-3 (*"To Memorialize Synod to Develop and Identify Resources to be Used in Reaching Out to Our Muslim Neighbors with the Gospel"* on p. 4-22) for adoption. Following debate, the resolution was adopted as presented [Y - 140; N - 11].

Committee #2 introduced Resolution #2-4A (*"To Adopt a Synod-Wide North American Evangelism Effort"*) for adoption. During debate, an amendment was proposed: in Line 35 (p. 6-17) to strike *"exclusively and solely"*. The amendment was received by the Committee. During debate, an amendment was proposed: in Line 35 (p. 6-17) to insert *"exclusively and solely"* after the words *"be used"*. The amendment was adopted [Y - 132; N - 19]. During debate, an amendment was proposed: in Line 31 (p. 6-17) replace *"a Synod-wide offering"* with *"Synod-wide offerings"*. The amendment was received by the Committee. During debate, an amendment was proposed: In Line 4 (p. 6-18) to strike Point 1-A from the Memorandum and to renumber all other points under Point 1. The amendment was adopted [Y - 75 ; N - 71]. Following debate, the amended resolution was approved [Y - 123; N - 27].

Floor Committee #2 was dismissed for the Convention.

The District Lifeline Task Force presented about the Task Force's work being conducted in the past triennium, in particular results of a survey sent to District congregations concerning the life ministries that they participate in. Members of the Lifeline Task Force are Rev. Michael Brown, Rev. John Diener, Deaconess Jeri Morrison, President Stechholz, Rev. Robert Voelker, Rev. Jeffrey Webb, and DCE Suzanne Zobel.

President Stechholz called upon Floor Committee #3 (Administration & Structure), chaired by the Rev. Stephen Alles.

Floor Committee #3 introduced Resolution #3-1A (*"To Affirm the District's Canadian Congregations"* on p. 6-14) for adoption. Following debate, the resolution was adopted as presented [Y - 131; N - 11].

Floor Committee #3 introduced Resolution #3-4 (*"To Amend District Bylaw IV.A.4"* on pp. 4-25 and 4-26) for adoption. During debate, an amendment was proposed to strike lines 34-36 (the third Whereas clause) from the resolution; this amendment was received by the Committee. Following debate, the resolution was adopted as amended [Y - 78; N - 74].

Floor Committee #3 introduced Resolution #3-5A (*"To Amend Synod Constitution and Bylaws"* on p. 6-15) for adoption. Following debate, the resolution was adopted [Y - 89; N - 66].

Floor Committee #3 was dismissed for the afternoon session.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Danielsen provided information on Operation Barnabas, a ministry to military veterans.

Following announcements all Circuits will meet at 6:00 p.m. for their respective caucuses as will the Commissioned Ministers Caucus and the Canada Corporation.

After prayer by 2nd Vice President Jamison Hardy, President Stechholz called for a motion to recess until the next morning. The motion was seconded and passed.

Circuits disbursed for their circuit caucuses.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman
Acting Secretary

**To Reaffirm in Practice the Biblical Qualifications for the Office of the Holy Ministry
in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

WHEREAS, Scripture clearly teaches that marriage is a lifelong union between one man and one woman (1 Cor. 7:39, Rom 7:2, Mt 5:32, Lk 16:18); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul clearly states that the Christian minister must be the husband of one wife (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:6), as Christ is the husband of one bride, the Church; and

WHEREAS, it has become the practice in our Synod that our seminaries admit, certify and place candidates who are divorced and remarried, while the first wife is still living; therefore be it:

Resolved, that the English District in convention memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to reaffirm the biblical qualifications for pastors, by forbidding admission to seminary, and the certification, placement, calling, and ordination of candidates who are the husbands of more than one wife, according to the scriptural understanding of marriage.

Warning Against Occult Pseudoscience Practices

WHEREAS, the technique of Reiki and other occult pseudoscience therapies are being practiced in various healthcare institutions; and

WHEREAS, the origins of such practices are rooted in beliefs that are contrary to the Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, many of our members lack understanding of the occult nature of, and the dangers that such occult pseudoscience practices pose to Christian faith; therefore be it

Resolved, that the District encourage its members not to participate in ungodly occult pseudoscience practices, and be it further

Resolved, that the District encourage the dissemination of information contained in the CTCR Evaluation of Religious Organizations and Movements; and be it finally

Resolved, that the District in convention memorialize the Synod to do the same.