

2025 SELC District Convention Convention Workbook



January 16 - 19, 2025

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
960 Paul Hoyer Way at Sun Drive
Lake Mary, FL



SELC DISTRICT
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

The 20th District Convention

Thursday, January 16 - Sunday, January 19, 2025

Convention Theme - Called to be Light

"For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles [nations, Gk. ethnee], that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Acts 13:47

Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by

Showing Everyone Love in Christ

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Lake Mary, Florida 32746

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| Convention Agenda | 6 - 8 |
| Voting Delegates | 9 - 12 |
| SELC Officers | 13 - 14 |
| SELC District Floor Committees | 15 |
| SELC District Proceedings | 16 - 18 |
| Roberts Rules | 19 - 21 |
| Minutes of the 2018 SELC District Convention | 22 - 31 |
| Memorials | 32 |
| Resolutions | 33 - 38 |
| President's Report | 39 - 41 |
| SELC District Activities | 42 - 44 |
| Board of Director Reports | |
| 1 st VP | 45 |
| 2 nd VP | 45 - 47 |
| 3 rd VP | 48 |
| Circuit Visitors | |
| Eastern | 48 - 49 |
| Central | 50 - 52 |
| Southern | 53 - 55 |
| Western | 55 - 57 |
| Financial Secretary | 58 - 60 |
| Treasurer's Report | 61 - 67 |
| Stewardship Report | 68 - 73 |
| Mission Executive Report/Church Planting | 74 - 86 |
| Lutheran Haven | 86 - 88 |
| Ministerial Care | 88 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Student Aid | 88- 89 |
| Youth Report | 90 |
| Lutheran Church Extension Fund | 91 - 93 |
| Board of Directors Lay Member, Mission Focus | 93 - 94 |
| SELC Disaster Relief | 94 - 95 |
| Lutheran Women in Mission | 95 - 96 |
| Board for National Mission | 97 - 98 |
| Nominations | 99 - 105 |
| Biographies | 106 - 134 |
| Conflict of Interest Form | 135 |
| Supplemental Information | |
| Financial Secretary Reports for 2022, 2023, and through November 30, 2024 | 136 - 141 |
| Delegate Voting Information | 142 - 144 |
| Additional Information added after Initial Printing | TBD |

2025 SELC District Convention Schedule

Thursday, January 16, 2025

- 8:30 AM SELC District Board of Directors Meeting
- 1:00 PM President and Board Secretary meet with all Committee Chairpersons
- 1:30 PM **Registration Opens**
- 2:00 PM Committee Meetings:
 Credentials/Registration Committee
 Resolutions Committee
 Election Committee
 Press Committee
- 5:00 PM Dinner on your own
- 7:00 pm Opening Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of Rev. Miguel Torneire
- 8:30 PM Fellowship - at Holy Cross Lutheran Church featuring Mt. Eleanor Traveling Band, LED BY Pastor Adam Barcott

Friday, January 17, 2025 - Breakfast at hotel

- 8:45 AM Convention Greetings
- Rev. James Rockey, FL/GA District President
- 9:00 AM Morning Devotion
- 9:30 AM Convention Overview and Opening Remarks
Welcome: New Rostered Church Workers
Introductions: Officers, Delegates, and Committee Delegates
Credentials Report
Adoption of Convention Procedures/Adoption of Agenda
- 10:00 AM Convention Greetings - Rev. Allan Buss NID District President, Vanda Toner LCEF, and Jonathan Schultz Concordia Publishing House
- 10:15 AM Resolutions Committee
- 11:00 AM Circuit Forums
- Circuit Visitor Election

- 12:00 PM - 2026 LCMS Circuit Delegates and Laypersons
Lunch
- 12:45 PM Convention Photo
- 1:00 PM Call to Order
Credentials Report
Reports from Circuit Forums
- Ratify Circuit Visitors' Reports and Ratify 2026 LCMS Circuit Delegates
Secretary Report and 2022 Proceedings
District President's Report
- 2:00 PM SELC Missions Report - Rev. Dr. Mark Larson
SELC Mission Future Vision - Rev. Dr. Mark Larson
- 2:45 PM Break
- 3:15 PM Convention Greetings - Rev. Greg Walton - Grace Place and Video greetings
from Rev. William Harmon, District President Southeastern District
- 3:30 PM Nominations and Elections Overview and Call for Nominations
- 3:45 PM Credentials Report
Election of District President
Election of Vice-Presidents
2027 SELC Nominations Committee
Resolutions Committee
- 4:30 PM Evening Devotion
- 5:00 PM Dinner at Holy Cross Lutheran Church - followed by an hour of fellowship

Saturday, January 18, 2025 - Breakfast at hotel

- 8:45 AM Convention Greetings - Rev. Dan Galchutt - Office of National Mission, Roger
Dow Concordia St. Louis and Rev. David Witt from Concordia Fort Wayne,
and Rev. Douglas Spittel from Concordia University System
- 9:05 AM Morning Devotion
- 9:30 AM Convention Essay - Rev. Dr. William Utech - "The Multiethnic Imperative"
- 10:30 AM Break

- 10:45 AM Convention Greetings - Eden Keefe LWIM video greetings and Carol Miksad LWIM SELC President and Sheryl DeWitt and Sara Culbertson Redeeming Life Ministries
- 11:00 AM Synod Report - President Matthew Harrison - Video Presentation
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Worship Service: In Memoriam - "Thy In Glory Shine."
- 1:30 PM President Matthew Harrison - Part II
- 2:00 PM Break
- 2:20 PM Credentials Report
Lutheran Haven Report - Mr. Jerry Griffing
Ratify Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees Appointments and Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees Elections
- 2:45 PM Resolutions Committee
- 3:15 PM Break
- 3:30 PM Financial Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report and Audit Report
Stewardship Report
Lutheran Church Extension Fund
SELC 2025 - 2027 Work Program
- 4:00 PM Ministerial Care Report
LWML
- 4:30 PM Evening Devotion
- 5:00 PM Transportation to Lutheran Haven Dinner and President's Reception - you will be dropped off at the hotels following the event at the Haven.

Sunday, January 19, 2025

- 8:00 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion and Installation of Officers and Installation of Rev. Russell Peterson, Installation of District President by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison and Installation of SELC District Officers - SELC District President
- 9:30 AM Brunch following Worship

2025 SELC District Convention Voting Delegates

* - indicates no credentials

Non-voting**

Not attending***

Eastern Circuit

| Church | Pastor Delegate | Lay Delegate |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Ascension - Montreal, Canada | Rev. Charles St-Onge | Jason Huang Deb St-Onge (Alternate) |
| Concordia - Northampton, PA | | |
| Concordia, Macungie, PA | Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis | Jen Tillinghast Larry Schultz (Alternate) |
| Holy Trinity Garfield NJ | Vacant | None |
| Peace - Galloway, NJ | Vacant | John Demario Samantha Buchanan (Alternate) |
| Redeemer - Manchester, NJ | Rev. Daniel Berteau | Obad Gonzalez David Pittinger (Alternate) |
| St. Athanasius - Vienna, VA | Rev. James Douthwaite | Scott Killian Grace Killian (Alternate) Thelma Myers (2 nd Alternate) |
| St. John - Bound Brook, PA | Vacant | None |
| St. John - Hazelton, PA | Rev. Gordon Naumann | Karen Kowalczyk David Trovitch (Alternate) |
| St. Matthew - Wilkes-Barre, PA | <i>Rev. Peter Haenftling*</i> | <i>Marie Haenftling*</i> |
| St. Paul - Raritan, NJ | Vacant | None |
| St. Paul - Westport, CT | Rev. Bradley Knorr | Tyler Rohlfen |
| St. Stephen - Dickson City, PA | Vacant | None |
| Zion - Clark, NJ | Rev. Allen Dass | Jonah Balla |

Central Circuit

| Church | Pastor Delegate | Lay Delegate |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Calvary - Parma, OH | Vacant | None |
| Christ the King - Lodi, OH | Rev. Christopher Cahill | Joe Ryncarz Tom Reece (Alternate) |
| Concordia - Youngstown, OH | | Mark Miller Frances Miller (Alternate) |
| Grace - Lakewood, OH | Dual Parish with Holy Trinity Parma | Geoffrey Paul Milly Kwiatkowski (Alternate) |
| Holy Cross - Johnstown, PA | Rev. Brett Witmer (Eastern District Dual Parish) ** | <u>Gary Blough</u> |
| Holy Trinity - Parma, OH | Dual Parish with Grace Lakewood | Geoffrey Paul*** Milly Kwiatkowski*** (Alternate) |
| Holy Trinity - Pleasant City, OH | Vacant | None |
| John Huss - Arnold, PA | Rev. Jerome Panzigrau*** | None |
| Nativity - Kingsville, Ontario | Vacant | None |
| Resurrection - Malvern, OH | Rev. Kevin McLeod | Tom Maffett Carolyn Nicholas (Alternate) |
| St. John - Massillon, OH | Rev. Jon Carpenter | Shannon Carpenter |
| St. Mark - Steubenville, OH | Rev. Scott Kuntz Vacancy Pastor (Eastern District)** | None |
| St. Matthew - Norton, OH | Vacant | None |
| St. Paul - Toronto, Canada | Vacant | None |
| Sts. Peter and Paul - Sharon, PA | Rev. Jacob Deal | Matt Berent Jonathan Baisch (Alternate) |
| Sts. Peter and Paul - Lorain, OH | Vacant | None |

Southern Circuit

| Church | Pastor Delegate | Lay Delegate |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Faith - Wesley Chapel | Rev. Kurt Steinbrueck | Vanessa Frost |
| Faith Viera - Rockledge, FL | Rev. Troy Countryman | Robert Makofske David Strain (Alternate) |
| Family of Christ | Rev. Landon Ledlow | Jeff Langmade Praveen Devakadaksham Steve Martinson (Alternates) |
| Holy Cross - Lake Mary, FL | Rev. Ben Hoyer* | Carolyn Litwin* |
| Hope Viera - Melbourne, FL | Rev. James Fernandez | Jim Gillard Tom Knoepfel (Alternate) |
| New City Church - Orlando, FL | Rev. Adam Barcott | Rebekah Fana Joe Fana (Alternate) |
| St. Luke's - Oviedo, FL | Rev. Tige Culbertson | Jonathan Hester David Duda (Alternate) |
| theCross -Mount Dora, FL | Rev. Jacob Baumann | Corbin Muntz Sydney Kertz (Alternate) |

Western Circuit

| Church | Pastor Delegate | Lay Delegate |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Dr. Martin Luther - Chicago, IL | | None |
| Holy Cross - Alsip, IL | Rev. Mark Zuehsow ** Vacancy Pastor | None |
| Holy Trinity - Streator, IL | John Gutz *** | None |
| Holy Trinity - Boyceville, WI | Vacant | None |
| Jacob's Well - St. Louis, MO | | None |
| Pentecost - Racine, WI | | None |
| Resurrection - Crown Point, IN | Vacant | Ardyne Kirn Larry Ladner (Alternate) |
| St. John - Cudahy, WI | Rev. Phillip DeVries | Peter Brandstrom Roy Lemmer (Alternate) |
| St. John - Granite City, IL | Rev. William Hale | Clarence "Joel" West Harold Gebhardt (Alternate) |
| St. Lucas - St. Louis, MO | Rev. Dr. Mark Larson | Laurel Hertel John Hertel (Alternate) |
| St. Paul - Whiting, IN | Vacant | None |
| The Way | Rev. Jon Palmer | Lani Palmer |
| Zion - Norridge, IL | <u>Rev. Michael Croon***</u> | Rhonda Dirr |

Other Advisory Delegates

| Church/Circuit | Name | Type of Delegate |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| St. Athanasius/Eastern | Thelma Myers | 2 nd Alternate Delegate |
| Concordia/Central | Rev. Hosea Ekong | Advisory |
| St. John/Central | Rev. John Telloni | Advisory |
| theCross Mount Dora/Southern | Rev. Mark Crossman | Advisory |
| St. Luke's/Southern | Rev. Dr. Wally Arp | Advisory |
| Hispanic Mission/Western | Rev. Miguel Torneire | Advisory |
| St. John Cudahy/Western | Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger | Advisory |
| St. Lucas/Western | Phillip Miksad | Advisory |
| St. Paul Whiting/Western | Rev. Mark Zuehsow | Advisory |

SELC District Officers

District Board of Directors

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| President: | Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis |
| 1st Vice President | Rev. Dr. Wally Arp |
| 2nd Vice President | Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill |
| 3rd Vice President | Rev. Richard Ramirez |
| Secretary | Rev. John Telloni |
| Pastoral Rep | Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson |
| Pastoral Rep, Mission Emphasis | Rev. Ron Meyr |
| Mission Executive Secretary | Rev. Dr. Mark Larson |
| Stewardship | Rev. Dr. Mark Larson |
| LCEF | Mr. John Hoover |
| Treasurer | Mr. Robert Lange |
| Financial Secretary | Mr. Larry Schultz |
| Lay Representative | Mrs. Grace Killian |
| Lay Representative - Mission Focus | Mrs. Deborah St-Onge |

Circuit Visitors

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Eastern Circuit | Rev. James Douthwaite |
| Central Circuit | Rev. George Hansell |
| Western Circuit | Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger |
| Southern Circuit | Rev. James Fernandez |

SELC Reconcilers

Rev. James Fernandez
Obed Gonzalez
Rev. John Gutz
Deaconess Emilie Stoller

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Continuing Education | Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Education Executive | John Glanzer |
|----------------------------|--------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ministerial Health | Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Mission Executive | Rev. Dr. Mark Larson |
|--------------------------|----------------------|

Stewardship:

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson
(District Stewardship Director)
Rev. John Bush
Rev. Bill Hale
Rev. Warren Huffines

Student Aid:

John Glanzer (Chair)
Rev. Kevin McLeod

LWML-SELC

Carol Miksad

Lutheran Witness

Robert Lange

Disaster Relief

Steven Lehenbauer

2025 SELC District Convention Committees

Initial meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 1 PM

1 PM All Chairpersons meet with the District President and Secretary

1:30 PM - All committees meet

All Committee members will be listed at a later date.

Credentials Committee

Ardyne Kirn

Matt Berent

Resolutions Committee

Peter Brandstrom

Rev. Jon Carpenter

Rev. Troy Countryman

Obed Gonzalez

Rev. Peter Haenftling

Press Committee

Rhonda Dirr

Rev. James Fernandez

Patti Smith

Elections Committee

Rev. Phillip DeVries

Tom Maffett

Rev. Raymond Malec

SELC District Convention Proceedings

The purpose of all "parliamentary procedure" is to carry out the wishes of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner. Further, the procedures are to be used to expedite business, and to ensure that the will of the majority prevails. We know that all who are attending our SELC District Convention will exercise your individual privileges faithfully, charitably, wisely and well.

Unless specific rules and procedures are indicated by the SELC District Bylaws or the LCMS Synod Handbook, "Robert's Rules of Order" is followed through the Convention. Among ourselves, because of our Christian faith, there may be instances when an exception to the "Rules" may be made by the Chairman with individual application of the "Law of Christian Love".

Each convention session will call for a Credentials Committee report to determine quorum. And the Convention will apply these numbers within that session.

Generally, the Chairman will try to hold to the agenda and daily schedule that has been prepared and publicized as closely as possible, but all Delegates are asked for patience, understanding, and cooperation in all of the Convention procedures.

If a Voting or Advisory Delegate has a comment or question to a motion or procedure, you are asked to move to one of the designated microphones. Please, state your name, along with the name and location of your congregation. Advisory delegates have the right of voice, but only credentialed Pastoral and Layperson Delegates have the right to vote. To be considerate of time available for the Convention, all speakers from the floor are asked to limit their remarks to a "2 minute or less" time period.

A few "overtures" or "memorials" have been submitted by SELC Congregations or have come through agencies of the national Church. These overtures will be presented to our Resolutions Committee for their preparation to be brought to the floor as "resolutions". All overtures are to be submitted to the District President and to the Resolutions Committee, to be determined whether they will be presented. Overtures may only come to the floor through the Resolutions committee.

When Resolutions are presented, to expedite matters, when it may appear that both sides of a question have been heard thoroughly, we invite any voting delegate to take his/her turn at the microphone to "call the question" (Simply calling out "question" from the floor is not recognized. The motion to "call the question" is simply a motion to stop debate. It is not debatable, requires no second, but does not require a "two-thirds vote of the assembly".

Regarding “substitute motions,” the SELC District, like most LCMS Districts, operates with what has come to be known in the LCMS as the “Behnken Rule” - a practice that is common in all Synod Conventions. If an amendment is offered to a Motion on the floor, and in the opinion of the Chairman, the amendment changes the substance of the Motion, then the Chairman may declare the proposed amendment “a substitute motion”.

If a substitute motion is offered, the convention will first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion fails; if the “substitute motion” does not receive favorable action, the original motion is again before the convention.

A simple chart of common “Robert’s Rules of Order” procedures has been included in this SELC District Convention Workbook.

Nominations for elected offices (except for District President, the Vice-Presidents, and the Circuit Visitors) are permitted from the floor; however, they must have the approval of the nominator and brief biographies are to be prepared, and distributed, prior to the office being considered by the Convention.

The Pastoral Circuit Visitor, plus two Delegates to the 2023 LCMS National Convention (one Pastor and one Layperson) of that particular Circuit, are elected at the Circuit Forum. The Circuit Visitor and the two Delegates chosen are then presented for Ratification by the whole District Convention.

Each Congregation should have authorized their Congregation Representative to serve as potential Circuit Delegates to the 2023 LCMS Convention, if elected. Only Congregational Representative who actually attend the District convention are permitted to be Candidates for Circuit Delegate. This “attendance rule” also defines who will be eligible to vote, on behalf of their Congregation, in the Synodical President election, which takes place before the 2023 Synod Convention.

Each Congregation is authorized one Layperson and one Clergy vote in the election of the Synodical President. Those Congregations that do not have Pastoral or Layperson Representatives attending the District Convention lose the ability to cast that particular vote in the Synod-wide election of the Synodical President.

All congregational Voting Representatives serve for a term of years (until the next District Convention).

It is expected that the Congregational Representatives will prepare a report concerning the District Convention and present it to the members of their Congregation. Those elected as Circuit Representatives to the Synodical Convention are expected to make their reports available to all Congregations of the Circuit, and whenever possible, to make a

presentation to the Circuit Pastoral Conference (usually at the Fall Pastoral Conference) or any Circuit Forum.

Congregational Representatives can expect to receive a copy of the 2025 SELC District Convention Proceedings (minutes) as soon as prepared by the District Secretary and distributed by the District President.

Summary of Robert's Rules of Order

| MOTION | REMARKS | PHRASING | SECOND | DEBATABLE | AMENDABLE | VOTE |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--------|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Main | | I move that the Technical Activities Board....note specific action | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority** - more than half |
| Amendment | | I move to amend the pending Motion by striking out or inserting the following words | Yes | Yes, if motion to be amended in debatable | Yes | Majority* |
| Amendment to an Amendment | | I move to amend the pending Amendment by striking out or inserting the following words | Yes | Yes, if motion to be amended in debatable | No | Majority* |
| Substitute | | I move to substitute the following for the Motion pending | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority* |
| Postpone to a Definite Time | Should be used to readdress Motion at a specific time | I move that the pending Motion be postponed until (note time) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority* |
| Postpone Indefinitely | Can be used to "kill" a Motion | I move to postpone indefinitely | Yes | Yes | No | Majority* |
| Refer to a Committee | Standing or Ad Hoc (Can be appointed at any time) | I move to refer the issue to a committee | Yes | Yes | Yes | Majority* |
| Leave to Withdraw | Only used by maker of Motion | I ask permission to withdraw the Motion | Yes | No | No | Majority* |
| Division of Question | Used to consider multiple aspects of a Motion one at a time or in seriatim | I call for a division of question | Yes | No | Yes | Majority* |
| Division of Assembly | Request for verification of a voting result | I call for a Division | No | No | No | None Required |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|----------------------------|--|
| Secret Ballot | | I move we take this vote by secret ballot | Yes | No | Yes | Majority* |
| Lay on the Table (Table) | When used to "kill" a Motion, Chair can rule it out of order. As part of Motion, maker may state time he/she intends to take item from the table during remainder of the meeting or next meeting | I move to table the Motion | Yes | No | No | Majority* |
| Take from the Table | At current or next meeting only | I move to take from the table the Motion relating to... | Yes | No | No | Majority* |
| Previous Question | Used to stop debate | I move to previous question or I call the question | Yes | No | No | Two-Thirds |
| Parliamentary Inquiry | Response from Chair or Parliamentarian | I rise for Parliamentary inquiry | No | No | No | None required |
| Point of Order | Used to remind or questions Chair on Bylaws, rules of Order, etc. Chair may seek advise | I rise to a point of order (await recognition from Chair, state reasoning) | No | No | No | Chair Rule |
| Appeal | Chair should state reason for decision. Vote is to uphold Chair's decision | I appeal from the decision of the Chair. | Yes | Yes | No | Majority* (of negative votes to overturn decision) |
| Open/Close | Second is not required when nominations come from a committee | I move we open/close nominations. I nominate...note reason | Yes | No | Yes, in terms of time only | Majority* |
| Reconsider in a committee | At same meeting only | Having voted on the prevailing side, I move to reconsider... | Yes | No | Yes, in terms of time only | Majority* |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Rescind, Repeal, or Annul | Used a subsequent meeting | Note reason - Therefore, I move to rescind the Motion | Yes | Yes | Yes | Two-Thirds |
| Adjourn | | Note reason...I move to adjourn | Yes | No | No | Majority* |

Minutes of the 2022 SELC District Convention

THE 19TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE SELC DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Saint Lucas Lutheran Church

Saint Louis, MO

May 12-15, 2022

CONVENTION THEME: THY STRONG WORD

**“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.” Romans
10:17**

Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by

Showing Everyone Love in Christ

+

Thursday, May 12, 2022

CONVENTION OPENING WORSHIP was held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Saint Lucas Lutheran Church, with Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, serving as the preacher. Overall theme of his homily: “Thy Strong Word.” Participating in the Divine Service were Host Pastor, Rev. Mark Larson; SELC District President, Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis; 1st Vice-President Rev. Dr. Wally Arp; and 2nd Vice-President, Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill.

Friday, May 13, 2022

SESSION 1

1. CALL TO ORDER was made by President Vinovskis at 9:00 am.
2. WELCOME OF DELEGATES by Pres Vinovskis at 9 am; introduction and convention greetings by Concordia Seminary (St Louis) Dr Thomas Egger
3. OPENING DEVOTION was held in the sanctuary; theme: “Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness” in the Jaroslav Vajda Hymn Service (hymns written by the sainted Rev. Jaroslav J Vajda of the SELC District). Liturgist: Rev. Rick Ramirez; Preacher: Rev. James Douthwaite.
4. CONVENTION OVERVIEW INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS including several “I am the SELC videos” - Rev Vinovskis.
 - Welcome to pastors new to SELC roster (*Workbook p. 42*)
 - Introductions of guests from LCMS - Dr Sias, Dr Harrison, 6th VP Benjamin Ball
 - Housekeeping
 - “Poll Everywhere” app for voting

- Locations of Circuit Forums
 - In case of emergency – contact Patti Smith or Rev Mark Larson
5. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT was presented by Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill, who reported the following – 50 possible votes; Delegates: 23 Pastors; 27 Lay; 2 Alternates present; and 3 non-voting Advisory Delegates present. Pres Vinovskis explained the rule of “implied consent” i.e. in the apparent absence of dissent, the chairman may rule a motion as carried without asking for a “nay” vote.
 6. **ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES OF 2022 SELC DISTRICT CONVENTION.**
Moved / Seconded / Carried.
 7. **ADOPTION OF CONVENTION AGENDA** (see HANDOUT and WORKBOOK pages 6-9) Moved / Seconded / Carried.
 8. CONVENTION GREETINGS from Rev Mark Miller (CID-LCMS) and Rev. Timothy Scharr (SID-LCMS)
 9. **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO SELC DISTRICT BYLAWS** – Legal Counsel Mr. John Zettlemyer presented changes to SELC District Bylaws suggested by LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters and approved by SELC District Board of Directors. Mr. Zettlemyer indicated that the amendments were reviewed by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters. Several changes were offered by the synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters to ensure that such proposed amendments would be in conformity with the Synod Handbook – Constitution and Bylaws. Mr. Zettlemyer reported that specific recommendations were incorporated into the document as per CCM recommendations (see Zettlemyer’s handout)
 - **Amendments to 13.3 (WB p. 88) - adopted**
 - **Amendments to 10.4.1 (WB p. 99) - adopted**
 - **Amendments to 10.3 (WB p. 96) - adopted**
 - **Amendments to 11.5.2.1 (WB p.88) - adopted**
 - **Amendments to 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 (WB p. 88) - adopted**
 - **Amendments to 11.5.2, 11.7 (WB p. 88);** amendment changes the word “advisory members” to “advisory delegates.” Clarification: At the District Convention all pastors not serving as voting delegates can attend as advisory delegates; see Synod Bylaw 4.2.3 - **adopted**
 - **Amendments to 12.3.5 (WB p. 88) - adopted**
 10. **RESOLUTION 2022-02** – “To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister – Teacher” - presented by Resolutions Committee, read by Rev. John Gutz. **Adopted.**
 11. **RESOLUTION 2022-03** – “To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded ‘Soldiers of the Cross’ COVID-19 Response Initiative” - presented by Resolutions Committee, read by Jeannie Wacker. **Adopted.**
 12. CONVENTION CHAPLAIN DANIEL BERTEAU prayed for Pastors John Telloni, & Brian Roberts, and Circuit Forums.
 13. THE CONVENTION ORDERS OF THE DAY CALLED - CIRCUIT FORUMS AND LUNCH. - 11 am.

SESSION 2 Friday afternoon

14. THE CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPH was taken in the courtyard at St. Lucas - 12:45 am.
15. THE CONVENTION RECONVENED by Pres. Vinovskis at 1 pm.
16. **WELCOME TO "THE WAY" LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Columbia, Illinois, as this congregation is received into the SELC District. Their bylaws were approved by the SELC District Board of Directors. Rev. Jon Palmer brought greetings from this newest congregation in the SELC Western Circuit.
17. **CIRCUIT FORUM REPORTS - Circuit Visitors and Delegates to 2023 LCMS Convention**
- **WESTERN - Rev Carl Krueger, Circuit Visitor; Delegates Rev Rick Ramirez, Peter Brandstrom; alternates Rev John Gutz, Rhonda Dirr.**
 - **CENTRAL - Rev Curtis Stephens, Circuit Visitor; Delegates Rev Curtis Stephens, Jonathan Baisch (Sharon); alternates Rev. Kevin McLeod, Betty Olah**
 - **EASTERN - Rev. James Douthwaite; Delegates Rev. Charles St-Onge, Obed Gonzalez (Redeemer, Manchester); Alternates Rev. Ray Malec, Scott Killian (St Athanasius)**
 - **SOUTHERN - Rev. David Haara, Circuit Visitor; Delegates Rev James Fernandez (Hope / Viera, Rebekah Fana; Alternates Rev. Landon Ledlow (Tampa), Ken Baker (Faith / Viera)**
18. **MOTION TO RECEIVE MINUTES / PROCEEDINGS** from 2018 SELC District Convention (please correct pg. 32 #94 - correct to "Pres Dzurovcik called Pres Harrison") - **seconded, approved.**
19. DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Read in part by Rev. President Waldemar Vinovskis - see Workbook pages 39-41, with these additional reflections based on 4 years of visits to almost every congregation in the SELC:
- Many of the people worshiping and serving in our congregations are older Slovaks; their time, love, generosity, and zeal for mission are unmatched in the LCMS. May of our congregation and our District are held together by this glue.
 - Another glue for the SELC is our zeal for mission. Almost all our resources go to missions. We needed to develop a comprehensive strategy for mission, including
 - Revamping of communication and digital strategy
 - Assemble missional leadership team; develop missional objectives
 - Exciting to see how congregations adapted technology to ministry in COVID - livestreaming, phone ministry - WRV expressed pride in our pastors, leadership and congregations
 - Continuing challenge for SELC is our "lean" structure - expressing thanks for the service of Patti Smith, and expressing gratitude for the years of hard work of Rev Al and Sylvia Marcis, and Rev. Carl and Dianne Krueger.
 - Four years ago, the 5-20 year goals for the SELC said that over the next 10 years we will develop mission strategies that include development and involvement of missional leaders throughout the District. Without these

leaders the SELC would cease to exist; with them we can continue to Show Everyone Life in Christ.

20. SELC MISSIONS REPORT (see WB p. 69-72) – Rev. Paul Hoyer reflected briefly on the last 40 years of SELC missions, but focused on where we are today with mission dollars and mission congregations. Right now, we have The Way LC (first year of 3 with decreasing subsidy); Faith / Wesley Chapel (receiving grant money); Prince Rajamony planting churches in northern India; add Ascension / Montreal as a SELC District mission congregation as Charles St-Onge transitions to full-time missionary in Montreal.

21. SELC MISSION FUTURE VISION (WB p. 73-76) – Presented by Rev. Mark Larson & Rev. Jacob Hoyer. Rev Larson outlined a path forward into the future with planting healthy / replicating churches, emphasizing the idea that “church planting is the best way to reach the lost for Christ” and “new churches reach the unchurched best.” The focus of mission should be church planting – “when everything is mission, then there is no mission.” 31% of our churches have been planted since 1980. Phases in the SELC: 1890-1920, mainly Slovak immigration; 1920-1980, generational growth of existing congregations; 1980-present, churches planted in areas of growing populations.

A mission statement: “To initiate and support replicating New Testament churches.” These churches are zealously faithful to the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, but understand that new methods need to be developed as we go back to the Scriptures that identify who we are as New Testament churches. Four marks of these New Testament churches: Gospel fueled, outwardly focused, discipleship driven, multiplication minded (start new ministries that lead to new churches). Look for planting new churches, but also to support existing congregations as they learn to be New Testament churches. Local churches, local leadership training and support to support facilitate relationships with the lost. A building may be a lower priority.

Rev. Jacob Hoyer proposed the model that moves us away from a “funding a building” model, instead using Mentor training cohorts – several people participate in training for planning, planting and encouragement; Benchmark funding models (instead of up-front funding) we coach people to start work with less money, then support with more money after demonstrable growth; Strategic planning templates – launches with social ministries, growing a worship community, business initiative that establishes a footprint in the community that becomes a Word and Sacrament ministry down the line.

Next steps – see www.selc.lcms.org/churchplanting for details, audio podcasts; print brochures to start conversations in congregations. Four 6-week online learning cohorts coming in the fall: ethnic mission; building vocational disciples in communities; preparing to plant a NT church; securing a congregational legacy.

Will this all work? "It would take a miracle" - but God is in the business of miracles. The SELC pastors, lay people, and congregations are invited to enter this possibility together.

Rev. Paul Hoyer concluded by talking about changes we need to make: more intense work, more hours, more effort than one person (like Paul) could do, and ask more of them than Paul could give - basically, two part-time employees of the District. Funding from an LCEF grant of \$96,000 to get us through the first three years; after that, build the funding into the SELC budget. Rev Larson to provide oversight as mission "exec", Rev Jacob Hoyer to be facilitator of learning and growth.

22. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT / APPRECIATION OF MINISTRY OF REV. PAUL HOYER** as Mission Executive, including a list of mission congregations and satellites planted by SELC since 1980, singing the Doxology, and a prayer - **by President Emeritus Carl Krueger.**
23. **PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION TO REV. PAUL HOYER by Presidents Carl Krueger and Waldemar Vinovskis.**
24. **RESOLUTION 2022-04** "To Recognize and Thank the Lord for the Service of Rev. Paul Hoyer as District Mission Executive"; **Approved by voice vote.** The Convention rose to sing "Now Thank We All Our God."
25. BREAK CALLED by Rev. Vinovskis at 2:35 pm.
26. BUSINESS SESSIONS RESUMED 3:10 pm
27. GREETINGS from Rev. Dr. Allan Buss (Northern Illinois District). Appreciates personal ministry of Pres Vinovskis, partnership with SELC, perspective on the Gospel; don't underestimate the wonderful gift of our lay people. We are all about the promises of God that are all "YES" in Christ.
28. "I am the SELC" video break
29. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS
 - "Poll Everywhere" is the app for voting today; two test runs successfully conducted
 - Credentials - Pastoral Delegates 27; Lay Delegates 26; total voting delegates 56; Alternates 2; Advisory 3
 - Pres Vinovskis turned over the chair to 1st VP Wally Arp, who called Chaplain Berteau to pray for the entire election procedure
 - **Election of District President - Rev. Waldemar R Vinovskis elected with 100% of votes cast; after a brief acceptance speech, the convention affirmed the election by a standing ovation.**
 - **Election of Vice Presidents** - President Vinovskis resumed the chair. Nominees Rev. Wally Arp, Rev. Chris Cahill, ~~Rev. James Douthwaite~~ (not eligible due to election of Rev. Vinovskis as President), Rev. Richard Ramirez, Rev. Ron Meyr
 - First Ballot - Arp 56%, Cahill, Ramirez, Meyr; **Rev. Wally Arp (Southern Circuit) elected as First Vice-President** - Meyr no longer eligible due to election of Arp.

- Second Ballot -- Cahill 84%, Ramirez 16%; Rev. **Christopher Cahill (Central Circuit) elected as Second Vice President; Rev. Richard Ramirez (Western Circuit) elected as Third Vice President**
 - **Election of District Secretary** - Nominee **Rev. John Telloni - elected** - 100% of 52 votes cast.
 - **Election of District Treasurer** - Nominee **Mr. Robert Lange - elected** - 100% of 54 votes cast.
 - **Election of District Financial Secretary** - Nominees **Mr. Larry Schultz - elected** 62%, Mr. Scott Killian 38% of 55 votes cast.
 - **Election of Board of Directors, Pastoral Representative at Large** - Nominees Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik 30%, **Rev. Ron Meyr - elected** 70% of 56 votes cast.
 - **Election of Board of Directors, Pastoral Representative, Mission Focus** - Nominees **Rev. Tige Culbertson - elected** 73%, Rev. David Haara 27% of 52 votes cast.
 - **Election of Board of Directors, Lay Representative** - Nominees Grace Killian 42%, Milly Kwiatkowski 34%, Jeanne Wacker 24% of 53 votes cast. No majority declared; Jeanne Wacker removed from ballot. Second ballot **Grace Killian - elected** 61%, Milly Kwiatkowski 39% of 51 votes cast.
 - **Election of Board of Directors, Lay Representative, Mission Focus** - Nominees Matthew Behrent 30%, **Deborah St-Onge - elected** 70% of 52 votes cast.
 - **Ratification of Circuit Visitors elected at Circuit Forums - Rev. Carl Krueger (Western), Rev. Curtis Stephens (Central), Rev. James Douthwaite (Eastern), Rev. David Haara. Moved / seconded / Ratified**
30. **RESOLUTION 2022-01A** "To Strengthen Non-voting Advisory Delegate Participation at SELC District Conventions" (See handout). **Approved.**
31. WORSHIP - Rev Daniel Berteau, liturgist; Rev Curtis Stephens, preaching
32. RECESS FOR DINNER AND THE EVENING

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Saturday, May 14, 2022

SESSION 3 - Saturday morning

- 33. CALL TO ORDER 855 am by Pres Vinovskis; "I am the SELC" videos
- 34. GREETINGS from Jonathan Schultz, Concordia Publishing House
- 35. MORNING DEVOTION - "Thy Strong Word Bespeaks Us Righteous" Rev Bill Hale, liturgist; Rev Charles St-Onge, preacher
- 36. CONVENTION ESSAY - Rev. Dr Joel Elowsky, Concordia Seminary, St Louis
- 37. BREAK - 10:30 AM
- 38. (10:45 am) ANNOUNCEMENT - Call for nominations for LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations (Ordained or Commissioned)

39. CONVENTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANK YOUS to Dennis Lee, Sharon Majoros, Pastor Mark Larson; and Patti Smith
40. CONVENTION GREETINGS from David Fiedler (LCMS Foundation); Darrell Zimmerman (Grace Place)
41. SYNOD REPORT, PART 1 - Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President - Highlights:
- Changes in American society and in the church - Challenges and blessings.
 - The vast majority of (all) churches have handled the pandemic "spectacularly."
 - Council of Presidents urged one another to "chill out" over controversies, but disagreed with practice of "online Communion" (to be addressed at 2023 Convention?).
 - About 1000 grants (\$1.5 million) given to workers in need; appreciation for "just showing up."
 - "Take Heart" DOXOLOGY retreats - more coming for Commissioned Workers.
 - "7-03 Task Force" (regarding CUS) issues may need to be addressed / discussed in Milwaukee; Good news is our schools right now are fairly stable and operating well.
 - Good relations with other church bodies - Malagasy Lutherans
 - Religious freedom in Finland - "The more they attack us, the more we grow"
 - Ministry in and to Ukraine and refugees - more than \$2 million given so far - taking care of many refugees and families (1100 refugees in Wittenberg)
 - Thanks to national LWML for continuous giving to missions (>\$2 million committed at last convention)
 - Lutheran Church of South Sudan - altar / pulpit fellowship coming in 2023
 - Missions - 12 people in St Louis caring for over 300 people (including family members) in mission fields, including helping missionaries visit congregations and ask for funding (all missionaries are currently funded for a year out)
 - Livonia Project - 25 men from Europe and Asia doing SMP training based in Wittenberg - some taking seminary classes via cell phone away from hostile families etc.
 - Church in Germany growing because of Muslim converts - 5 million Farsi speakers in Europe; Gospel goes with them as they return to Iran and other countries.
 - Dominican seminary - 23 Mexican deaconesses graduated recently: about 180 total for South and Central America. Over 200 pastors trained: all in church plants.
 - New Spanish hymnal!
 - Emergence of Taiwan seminary - seminaries in Asia had been "joint" with other Lutherans and veered from the Gospel. Moving away from "joint" situation to a stand-alone, confessionally-Lutheran, Mandarin-speaking seminary.
 - Support of 15 seminaries in Africa; rebuilding of Nagercoil in Seminary has been a point of renewal for the IELC
 - LCMS Life Ministry: Pro-Life efforts; LCMS World Relief gifts to domestic and international need to help people in all stages of life (approx. \$1 billion); LERT - 20,000 trained lay people and pastors.

- 19,000 trained in “Everyone His Witness” – speak of Christ to your own family, neighbors, et al.
 - 19,000 registered for Youth Gathering / Houston 2022
 - Rural / Small town ministry
 - Child protection program – Presidents are not sitting on any deep, dark secrets – zero tolerance policy on abuse, to protect children.
 - \$4 million to seminaries this year / seminaries are doing extremely well.
 - In churches, we have over 400 vacancies; but we need these to keep things going; we need to encourage young people to go into ministry.
 - 2016 Study of Youth
 - \$1 million church planting grant program – “boot camp” for lay people and planting pastors
- Rev. Paul Hoyer prayed for Pres Harrison

42. LUNCH

Saturday, May 14, 2022

SESSION 4 - Saturday afternoon

43. CONVENTION WORSHIP – In Memoriam: “From the Cross Thy Wisdom Shining”;
Rev. Ray Malec, liturgist; Rev. Wally Arp, preacher
44. SYNOD REPORT, PART 2: Video, and Rev. Matthew Harrison (Q&A) - QUESTIONS ASKED / ADDRESSED –
- How does the LCMS deal with property left behind after a school / university is closed? Loans and other outstanding debts must be repaid; LCEF facilitates this, including sale of properties.
 - Over 400 vacancies (among congregations that can support full-time pastors); less than 400 isn’t enough to provide opportunities for pastors and congregations to have fresh starts.
 - How are the universities that are still open doing financially? Quite well, generally
 - How long do pastoral vacancies last (on average)? Around a year. Other observations:
 - District President doesn’t have certain “rights” with regard to insisting that congregations do some things regarding the call, especially
 - Congregation doesn’t have the “right” to refuse to allow the President to visit.
 - Upcoming issues to the 2023 Convention?
 - Teachings at Universities
 - Conversation about certification of licensed lay deacons
 - How can we make more use of men on “candidate status”? District Presidents have a process to contact these men once a year; helps to clarify their willingness to serve, and gives District President a chance to provide some care.
45. CREDENTIALS REPORT – Voting: Pastoral 22, Lay 28, Total 50; Alternate 1; Advisory 3
46. LUTHERAN HAVEN REPORT and VIDEO after a brief review by Pres Vinovskis of the history of Slovaks in the Oviedo area and the Lutheran Haven; introduction of Jerry

Griffing (CEO), Susan Hanas, and other board members; reports by Susan Hanas and Jerry Griffing.

47. RATIFICATION OF LUTHERAN HAVEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPOINTMENTS - Moved / Seconded / Adopted

- **Duda Family Representative: Susan Hanas**
- **St. Luke's Congregation Representative: Wendy Clark**
- **Florida/Georgia District Representative: Jim Ingersoll**
- **Senior Pastor of St Luke's Lutheran Church: Rev. Wally Arp**

48. LUTHERAN HAVEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

- **Eastern Circuit: Nominated - Rev Daniel Berteau; unanimous election by voice**
- **Western Circuit: Nominated - Rev John Gutz; unanimous election by voice**
- **Central Circuit: Nominated - Rev. Jon Carpenter 52% of 44 votes cast (elected); Rev. George Hansell 48% of 44 votes - giving thanks to Rev Hansell and the Lord for his faithful service.**
- **Lay Representative: Nominated - Mrs. Ardyne Kirn; unanimous election by voice**

49. ELECTION OF SELC MEMBER OF COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION

NOMINATIONS (for 2023 LCMS Convention) - Nominations - Rev Chris Cahill 45% of 40 votes cast; Rev. James Douthwaite 55% of 40 votes cast (elected). Motion to designate Rev. Chris Cahill as alternate / Seconded / Approved

50. SELC NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2025 - Appointment by Pres. Vinovskis of Rev. Ray Malec (Northampton), Tom Maffett (Malvern), Terell Jordan (Wesley Chapel), Matthew Butrick (Norton). Motion to ratify / seconded / approved.

51. HOST OF 2025 SELC DISTRICT CONVENTION - Invitation from Holy Cross, Lake Mary; invitation accepted by applause

52. "I am the SELC"

53. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2022-05 "To Recognize and Thank the Saints of Saint Lucas Lutheran Church and the Rev. Dr. Mark Larson for Hosting the 2022 SELC District Convention" - Approved by the assembly standing and singing the first verse of "Now Thank We All Our God."

54. DISTRICT FINANCES

- **Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Rev Dan Lepley (WB p. 81-82). LCEF is in a strong financial situation, helping congregations with various projects and growth.**
- **Financial Secretary's Report - Larry Schultz (WB p. 57-59) - receipts close to 96% during pandemic. 2022 Budget receipts so far at 116% of anticipated; 41 congregations have sent contributions; 8 of these have sent in their contribution for the year. Motion to receive / seconded / Adopted**
- **Stewardship - Rev. Mark Larson (WB, p. 66-68) - 2 Corinthians a great Biblical stewardship book! 34 congregations have returned their mission goal - thank you! It's not too late to send that in. Check Stewardship resources on District website. Motion to receive / seconded / Adopted**

- **Treasurer’s Report and Audit Report** - Robert Lange (WB p. 60-65) - Balance Sheet - Thanks to Board of Directors for working within budget. We’re doing extremely well, financially. All this helps us with future mission growth.
 - Total for 2021 on line 16005 (Restricted Cash / Missions) is a typographical error and needs to be changed by Robert to \$57450.01 to match line 10597 for 2021 (\$57450.01) **Motion to receive the report / seconded / Adopted.**

55. SELC DISTRICT WORK PROGRAM 2022-2024. Motion to receive these financial reports and the Mission Report from Friday as the Work Program for 2022-24 / seconded / adopted.

56. BREAK 3:45 - 4:00 pm

57. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MAY 6, 1972 - Wedding of Rev. Hosea and Mrs Lilly Ekong (observed their 50th anniversary last week!)
- RECEPTION TONIGHT at north end of hotel / “Great Food Exposition”

58. REPORTS

- Education / School Ministry - Betty Hoyer
 - 15 schools, 11 preschools only, 3 preschools + elementary, 1 preschool
 - 4 schools have accreditation from National Lutheran Schools
 - Good relationships with local geographic districts
 - 25% of our students pay tuition to send their children to our churches where they learn about Jesus.
- Ministerial Care - Chris Cahill - WB, page 78 - also the following
 - Mental Health virtual event Tuesday, May 17, 11:30 am - 1 pm.
 - “Take Heart” DOXOLOGY events
 - Contact Chris Cahill if you have Stephen Ministers in your church - he’d like to talk to them about how we can minister to our pastors and workers.
- LWML - Milly Kwiatkowski - currently at a crossroads with LWML. Our LWML is too small to find officers that are “required” by bylaws and national LWML. We like the opportunities to fund our various mission projects in our congregations. Milly and others will try to contact our churches to see if there are enough contacts / “key women” in churches to continue. Challenge by national: can we send 5 women to the LWML Assembly of Leaders in St Louis in October for leadership training?
 - Luther League / Youth Gatherings

59. ANNOUNCEMENTS

60. CONVENTION ADJOURNMENT 4:29 pm

61. WORSHIP 4:35 pm “Give Us Lips to Sing Thy Glory”

62. CONVENTION RECEPTION 7 PM north end of hotel / “Great Food Exposition”

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SUNDAY, May 15, 2022

63. WORSHIP including installation of Presidium, Circuit Visitors, Board of Directors, District Nominating Committee by Pres Harrison

Memorials

The following ordained and commissioned servants were Called to Glory since May 2022

Rev. Albert Bielenberg

Rev. Don Hayas

Rev. Paul Hoyer

Rev. John Mashek

Rev. Noel Olse

Rev. George Plvan

Rev. Dr. Ronald Yergey

Nancy Whitney



Resolutions

To Implore the Council of Presidents to Fulfill 2019 Synodical Resolution 6-03A on the Supervision of SMP Pastors

WHEREAS Synodical bylaw 2.13.1 states that all specific ministry pastors (SMPs) “shall serve under the supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.” And

WHEREAS the term “supervision” is left largely undefined apart from the general definition [Synodical bylaw 1.2.1(u)] that supervision is “to have authority over, to direct actions, to control activities” and is therefore open to a variety of interpretations; and

WHEREAS there is a great variety of SMPs serving in a wide variety of contexts and with a great variety of education, years of service, and gifts; and

WHEREAS this situation has created a number of questions regarding the amount and level of supervision that shall be employed as per synodical bylaws; and

WHEREAS in 2019 the Synod in convention “Resolved, That the Council of Presidents in coordination with the Pastoral Formation Committee draft guidelines and training to enhance the mentoring and supervision of specific ministry pastors, taking into account the wide variety of abilities of pastors and the contexts in which they serve, to assist district presidents, circuit visitors, and supervising pastors in supporting the SMP pastors under their care;” and

WHEREAS these guidelines and training either have not been completed or have not been widely promulgated throughout the Synod; and

WHEREAS the number of SMPs continues to grow, thereby creating a growing and continuing need for such “guidance and training;” therefore be it

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention memorialize the 2025 Synodical convention to implore the Council of Presidents to complete this important assignment with the due and swift attention that is needed; and be it further

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention thank the Council of Presidents for their service and efforts.

Passed by the Congregational Voting Assembly of Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church meeting on September 1, 2024.

Peter Brondos
President

Thelma Jones Myers
Recording Secretary

To Encourage Every Congregation to Adopt a Missionary

WHEREAS our Lord has instructed His Church to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has heeded this instruction in part by sending missionaries to many countries in its history; and

WHEREAS in recent years the Synod has supported this effort through the Network Supported Missionary (NSM) model, where congregations adopt and support the missionaries of our Synod; and

WHEREAS this program has been a great success not only in the support of our missionaries, but also in raising the awareness of mission work in our congregations and in joining them and their members in this effort; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the NSM model is not only financial support, but also the prayers of God’s people for our missionaries; and

WHEREAS some congregations do not participate in this effort due to financial limitations, missing out on the joy of supporting a missionary through their prayers and in learning about the work that is going on around the world; and

WHEREAS our Lord has given many great and precious promises regarding prayer, and that He is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20); and

WHEREAS gifts even as little as “two small copper coins” (Luke 21:2) are of great value, significance, and joy to our Lord Jesus; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention encourage all her congregations to adopt a missionary to support with their prayers and, if possible, with their mission giving, even if it be only “two small copper coins;” and be it further

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in the same, until each and every congregation in our Synod be connected to and praying for one of our missionaries and financially supporting them as they are able.

Passed by the Congregational Voting Assembly of Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church meeting on September 1, 2024.

Peter Brondos
President

Thelma Jones Myers
Recording Secretary

For the SELC Board of Directors to Elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Board

WHEREAS the SELC district as a "district without borders" places a great burden upon our district president in the care and supervision of our churches and church workers; and

WHEREAS the SELC district has been well, ably, and faithfully served by her district presidents up to and including our current president, Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis; and

WHEREAS the responsibilities, challenges, and expectations of the district president have multiplied over the years and seem poised to continue to do so; and

WHEREAS the SELC district cares about the health and welfare of our district president as he serves both as district president and as the pastor of a congregation of our district; and

WHEREAS each of these important positions is in itself a full-time job; and

WHEREAS the district board of directors is "vested with the general management and supervision of the district's business and legal affairs" and with such a role plays an invaluable part in aiding and assisting the district president; and

WHEREAS throughout its history, the president of the SELC district has also served as the de facto chairman of its board of directors, thereby adding to his burden and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS Synod [bylaw 1.5.3.1] has directed every agency of the Synod "At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all mission boards, commissions, and governing boards shall organize themselves as to chair, vice-chair, secretary, and other committees and positions as necessary . . ."; and

WHEREAS Synod bylaw 1.2.1.(a)(1) stipulates that "Agencies include each board, commission, council, seminary, university, college, district, Concordia Plan services, and each synod wide corporate entity." And

WHEREAS Synod bylaw 1.2.1(k) defines a governing board as "A board that directs a separately incorporated agency of the Synod . . . such as a board of directors," and

WHEREAS the SELC district, as a "separately incorporated agency of the synod" has been operating outside this bylaw; and

WHEREAS the appointment of a chairman and vice-chairman of the board of directors could take on many responsibilities in "the general management and supervision of the district's business and legal affairs," thus relieving some of the burden placed upon our district president;

therefore, be it RESOLVED that at its first meeting, the newly elected SELC Board of Directors shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman to see to the business of the Board and assist the district president; and be it further

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention thank President Vinovskis for his dedicated and faithful service above and beyond the call of duty and express the same by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

Passed by the Congregational Voting Assembly of Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church meeting on September 1, 2024.

Peter Brondos
President

Thelma Jones Myers
Recording Secretary

To Address Persecution in the Church

WHEREAS our Lord stated that in the latter days His Church and her members would face persecution (Mark 13); and

WHEREAS this persecution has continued in many and various ways from the earliest days of the church, in ways subtle and overt; and

WHEREAS in our day this persecution has come upon our churches and to the members of our churches, especially in workplaces and schools, where speech is restricted and certain actions against conscience enforced, with violations punished with suspension or firing; and

WHEREAS this persecution will increase until our Lord comes again in glory; and

WHEREAS many good Christians, desiring to be good and faithful Christians and make a good confession do not know how to do so in such an environment and are fearful to do so; and

WHEREAS pastors may be in need of training and equipping the saints to face this persecution faithfully and in good conscience, and be strengthened in the same themselves; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the SELC district give consideration to addressing this topic among her churches and pastors to give advice and counsel; and be it further

RESOLVED that the SELC district in convention memorialize the Synod to take up this issue to equip her church workers and congregations to face the persecution of these gray and latter days with faithfulness and joy, knowing that the Lord will work all things for the good of His Church and His sheep.

Passed by the Congregational Voting Assembly of Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church meeting on September 1, 2024.

Peter Brondos
President

Thelma Jones Myers
Recording Secretary

The addition of a third Lay Representative to the Board of Directors, with an LWML SELC District focus

Whereas Article 1.1.8 of the LCMS SELC District Bylaws allows for the inclusion of four at-large representatives as Officers of the LCMS SELC District, and

Whereas Article 1.1.8.b of the LCMS SELC District Bylaws allows for two (2) Layperson representatives as Officers, one of whom will have "mission-focus", and

Whereas Article 9.1.9 of the LCMS SELC District Bylaws allows for two (2) at-large Lay-representatives, one of whom will represent "mission focus", and

Whereas Article 9.3.1 of the LCMS SELC District Bylaws allows that the two (2) at-large Ordained Minister representatives shall be members of the Ordained roster of the District. The two (2) at-large Lay representatives shall be members of a congregation, or which is a member of the SELC District. The Mission Executive shall be a member of the Ordained roster of the Synod, who has demonstrated a mission heart and supervisory abilities.

Whereas Article 9.4.1 of the LCMS SELC District Bylaws states that the two (2) at-large Ordained Minister representatives, and the two (2) at-large Lay representatives shall be elected by convention. Not more than two (2) representatives may be from the same Circuit, and not more than one representative may be from the same Congregation; and Whereas the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is an official axillary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and

Whereas the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has been in existence since 1942, and

Whereas the LWML includes the LWML SELC District since 1987, its existence largely due to the tireless work of sainted Ann Bajus, and

Whereas the LWML SELC District is now divided into three zones: Eastern, Central and Western, and

Whereas the LWML SELC District represents over 250 women in societies in New Jersey, Connecticut, Eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, consisting of twenty-one societies, and

Whereas the LWML's Mission Statement is "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others", and

Whereas the LWML focuses on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries to support global missions, and

Whereas the LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness, and

Whereas the LCMS SELC District directly supports and encourages their women of the LWML SELC District; and

Whereas the current LCMS SELC District Bylaws do not provide LWML SELC District representation on the Board of Directors,

Be it resolved that the LCMS SELC District Bylaws provide for a third Layperson position to be created immediately for the LWML SELC District representative, the LWML SELC District President.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Church Council of St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO.

October 21, 2024

SELC District Report: Thriving Amidst Decline and Opportunities for New Missions

"For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have made you a light for the nations, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" - Acts 13:47

The Christian Church is a missionary endeavor. Our Lord equips his Church with Word and Sacrament and sends his apostles out baptizing and teaching (Matt. 28:19-28). Jesus promises his Holy Spirit to empower the mission of the Church to the "ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The apostles and early Christians, overcome by the Good News of freedom, forgiveness and new life in Christ, could not "stop speaking about what they had seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). In our SELC District Theme verse, Acts 13:47, the Apostle Paul reminds us of God's divine appointment: we are called to be a "light to the nations". This image of light carries profound implications for how we live our daily lives and engage with those around us. In a world often shrouded in darkness—filled with uncertainty, confusion, and despair—our calling is to shine brightly. Just as a lighthouse guides ships safely to harbor, we are to reflect the love and grace of Jesus, guiding others toward Christ. The purpose of the Light is clear: to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. This calling transcends geographical boundaries—it is a global mission. We are a "District without borders." We are reminded that our faith is not merely for personal comfort or assurance but is meant to be shared. It is essential to remember that we do not shine by our own strength; it is the Holy Spirit who guides and empowers the witness of the Church. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17).

As our SELC District seeks to fulfill our mission in the coming years, we live and work in a context quite different from our forebears. There are no longer waves of immigrants from "the old country" moving to the new world. The baby-boom generation which filled our pews in the 1960's and 1970's are now in their 60's and 70's and are feeling their age. Their children and grandchildren are less frequently in church. The landscape of membership in many churches, including our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), has presented challenges over the past few years. Congregations which once were healthy and growing now find themselves in decline. Congregations which are currently without a pastor find fewer and fewer pastors available for a call, and those who are able to call a pastor find it difficult to support a full-time pastor and his family. Congregations being served part-time, or multi-congregational parishes are becoming more common all the time. The challenges for Christ's Church in North America are many, despite these hurdles, we are witnessing a remarkable narrative of resilience and growth across our District. The SELC is not only surviving the decline in church membership but is also thriving through our mission initiatives, the establishment of new mission churches, and the installation of a number of new pastors.

The SELC District has recognized the need for new mission churches to address the shifting demographics and spiritual needs of our communities. In the past three years, we have begun to work with congregations in New Jersey and Indiana to reimagine and revitalize their ministries, we continue to plant new mission churches in India, and have recently called a new missionary to begin a Hispanic congregation in the St. Louis area. Our District continues to seek out opportunities to spread the Gospel in places where the "fields are ripe for harvest". We continue to pray that the Lord of the Church would send laborers into that harvest.

In the coming triennium, the SELC District will be focusing on continuing to build supportive relationships among our Circuits and congregations spread across the United States and Canada. We are continuing to seek our new mission opportunities so that "every congregation is a mission planting congregation." And, we are looking toward developing a Capital Campaign to continue to support the vigorous mission outreach of our District as we seek to be "A Light to the Nations".

Undergirding all of this, we are adding a staff position in the District to support wellness in church workers. In these changing times, the stress on church workers is immense. Attending to their health is essential for fostering both their personal well-being and the overall health of the congregation. Church workers, including pastors, teachers, and other staff, often face unique stressors related to their roles, such as emotional demands from congregants, multi-layered responsibilities, and the pressure to maintain spiritual guidance for others. By prioritizing the health of church workers' physical, emotional, and mental health, churches can create an environment where workers feel valued and supported. Implementing wellness programs that include regular check-ins, professional development opportunities, access to mental health resources through the Synod and Concordia Plan Services, and encouragement for self-care practices can significantly improve job satisfaction and burnout resistance. When church workers are healthy, their ability to nurture and inspire the congregation is greatly enhanced. Additionally, by modeling wellness and balance, church workers can encourage the congregation to prioritize their own well-being, thus promoting health within the community. Ultimately, investing in the wellness of church workers is a strategic endeavor that leads to thriving congregations, enriched spiritual experiences, and a more impactful ministry overall.

Finally, over the past 50 years, the SELC District has operated on a largely volunteer basis for District leadership and staff. The administration of the District has, for the most part, been underwritten by the congregations in which the Presidium and staff have served, receiving only a small stipend for their service. In these changing times, the president and District board of directors continue to reevaluate the time commitment and resources necessary for the SELC District to function at its highest and most efficient level. We hold in balance the mission of our District, the good stewardship of the District's resources and the capacity of those who serve her in positions of leadership.

The SELC District stands united in the face of membership decline, fueled by a passionate commitment to mission and ministry. While we recognize the challenges ahead, we also celebrate the ways in which God is continually blessing our efforts. Through the

establishment of new mission churches, collaborative outreach, and the nurturing of new pastoral leaders, we are laying a foundation for future growth and health within our congregations.

As we continue to adapt and innovate, we trust that our Lord will guide and sustain our mission. Together, let us embrace the opportunities before us, always seeking to share the light of Christ with our communities. We invite all congregations and members of the SELC District to pray for our work and to continue supporting these initiatives as we work together to carry forth the mission of the Christ to the ends of the earth. May our efforts reflect the light of Christ in all that we do.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to be a light to the nations. Help us to reflect Your love and truth in our lives. Give us boldness to share the Gospel and shine brightly in the darkness around us. May our actions and words draw others closer to You and bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Empower us through Your Spirit, that we may faithfully fulfill our calling. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis

President

SELC District Activities

Parish Changes

Congregations opened - New City Church - Orlando, FL

Congregations transferred to another District - St. Paul, Greenwich, CT and St. John the Baptist, Emporia, VA

Formed dual parishes -

- Holy Trinity - Parma, OH and Grace - Lakewood, OH,
- Holy Cross - Johnstown, PA and Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, Central City, PA

Dissolutions: Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT

Transferred in

- + Rev. Troy Countryman - Installed
- + Rev. Allen Dass - Ordained and Installed
- + Rev. Phillip DeVries - Installed
- + Rev. James Kreft - Emeritus
- + Rev. Gordon Naumann - Installed
- + Rev. Jon Palmer - Installed
- + Rev. Brady Retzlaff - Installed
- + Rev. Ryan Schnake - Ordained and Installed
- + Rev. Samuel Shick - Ordained and Installed
- + Rev. Miguel Torneire - Hispanic Mission to be installed January 16, 2025 at the Opening Service of the Convention
- + Rev. Russell Peterson to be installed on January 19, 2025 at the Closing Service of the 2025 Convention
- + Rev. Jonathan Moyer to be installed as Associate Pastor at Faith *Viera* on January 19, 2025

Transferred out

- + Rev. Curtis Brooks
- + Rev. Joel Dieterichs
- + Rev. Nathan Grewe
- + Rev. Danlius Howe
- + Rev. Gary Schuschke
- + Rev. Curtis Stephens
- + Rev. Lawton Thompson

- + Rev. Matthew Vesey

Change of status

- + Change to Candidate

- o Rev. Joel Dieterichs
- o Rev, Mark Ruppert
- o Rev. Matthew Wallis

- + Change to Emeritus

- o Rev. Steven Bocklage
- o Rev. Jack Breznen
- o Rev. Ladislav Kozak
- o Rev. Alan Mercer
- o Rev. Ronald Meyr
- o Rev. Gary Nagy
- o Rev. Brian Roberts
- o Rev. Matthew Wallis

- + Change in Assignment

- o Rev. Dr. Wally Arp to Associate Pastor
- o Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson to Senior Pastor
- o Rev. John Milligan - Dual Parish
- o Rev. Ryan Schnake - Active Duty, U. S. Air Force - Okinawa, Japan
- o Rev. Kurt Steinbrueck - From SMP to General Pastor
- o Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis to Sole Pastor

- + Resigned/Removed from Roster

- o Jon Bender
- o Jacob Gaugert
- o Chunlin Hu

Called to Glory

- + Rev. Albert Bielenberg
- + Rev. Don Hayas
- + Rev. Paul Hoyer
- + Rev. John Mashek
- + Rev. Noel Olse
- + Rev. George Plvan

Commissioned Workers

Transferred in

- + Emily Frasca - Teacher
- + Heidi Lundquist - Deaconess
- + Cheryl Poppe - Teacher
- + Marissa Retzlaff - Deaconess
- + Allison Seelinger - Teacher

Transferred out

- + Teresa Barthel
- + Kristen Skura

Change of status

- + Benjamin Skelton - Candidate
- + Becky Lehenbauer - Emeritus
- + Jill Meyer - Emeritus
- + Sarah Nowicki - Emeritus
- + Shirley Schultz - Emeritus

Call to Glory

- + Nancy Whitney

Removed from Roster

- + Amy Kelly
- + Matthew Maki
- + Jennifer Snow
- + Karen West

Board of Directors Reports

First Vice President - Rev. Dr. Wally Arp

I serve St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo FL. On March 5, 2022 I stepped down as Senior Pastor and assumed the role of an associate pastor.

As 1st Vice President of the SELC District

I attended all the meetings of the SELC Board of Directors.

I participated in the bi-weekly Zoom meetings for Vice Presidents and Circuit Visitors.

I attended all of the meetings of the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees.

I was a non-voting delegate at the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, July 29-August 3, 2023.

I assisted the District President as needed and requested.

I represented President Vinovskis for the call process at Holy Cross Ministries in Lake Mary, FL.

Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving our SELC District.

Second Vice President - Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This report has three sections:

1. Summary of activities

Since the SELC District Convention in St Louis in 2021, I have participated in the following as Second Vice-President

- Attended all scheduled Board of Directors meetings, in-person or via ZOOM
- Continued monthly Central Circuit ZOOM Check-ins. Begun during the pandemic, these continue to serve as a gathering place for several retired pastors and some others whose in-person travel is constrained by distance
- Alternating with Circuit Visitor Rev George Hansell, ministered monthly with Word and Sacrament at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant City OH
- Participated in the funeral of Rev Don Hayas, February 2023
- With Rev Hansell, encouraged St Matthew Lutheran Church, Norton OH, in their vacancy since June 2023
- Participated in the installation of Rev John Milligan as Pastor of Grace, Lakewood OH, and Holy Trinity, Parma OH, February 2024

- Agreed to be the supervising pastor for Vicar Jim Hurst, SMP student at Calvary Lutheran Church, Parma OH, beginning October 2024

2. The landscape of the Central Circuit

Central Circuit Congregations

At the end of year 2021, there were 16 congregations in the Central Circuit, with a total reported membership of 1559. Of these, ten (10) were served by active pastors.

At the end of year 2024, there were 16 (sixteen) congregations in the Central Circuit, with a total membership of 1512 (as reported at the end of December 2023). Of these congregations, eight (8) are served by active pastors.

- two (2) of these are being served by one pastor as a dual congregation. One (1) of these congregations operates a preschool.

Eight congregations have vacancies in the pastoral office: of these,

- one (1) is being served by a Vicar in the Specific Ministry Pastor program
- one (1) is being served by an Emeritus pastor
- one (1) is a member of a dual parish with an Eastern District Congregation
- three (3) are considered "permanent vacancies"

Pastors

There are twenty (20) SELC pastors in the Central Circuit. Two Eastern District pastors are serving two SELC congregations that are considered "permanently vacant"

Of the twenty (20) SELC pastors,

- Eight (8) are serving congregations as active pastors
- Ten (10) are retired (Emeritus)
- One (1) is listed as "Candidate Status"
- One (1) does not have a listed status

Of the Active Pastors (8),

- Two (2) were ordained within the last 10 years
- Four (4) were ordained 30 or more years ago
- Three (3) entered the ministry as a second career

Of the Emeritus Pastors,

- One (1) is serving as a pastor of a SELC congregation
- One (1) is serving as the SELC Central Circuit Visitor

3. Some notes on possible futures

By the next SELC District Convention (2028), it is possible that very little will change in the landscape of the Central Circuit. It is possible that there will be the same number of congregations (16), with a similar number of pastors as currently and a similar number of vacancies.

It is also possible that one or two new congregations will take root and grow alongside (or even in place of) one or two existing congregations.

It is also possible that, by the next SELC District Convention, as many as six of the eight pastors who are currently actively serving these congregations will retire into Emeritus status; it is possible that several of these men will not be available to be vacancy pastors, or even for occasional pulpit supply, in Central Circuit congregations.

It is also possible that, by the next SELC District Convention, a dozen or more of the Central Circuit congregations may be vacant.

It is possible that vacancy pastors will not be available for most of these churches.

It is possible that some of these churches will want to explore ministry partnership opportunities with other nearby LCMS congregations (whether SELC, or Ohio, Eastern, or English District). It is possible that some of these partnership opportunities may eventually result in some Central Circuit SELC congregations "migrating" to one of these other districts.

Depending on the degree to which some of these possibilities may also develop in the Western and Eastern Circuits, it is possible that the next SELC District Convention may be asked to consider a reconfiguration of the northern tier of Circuits. OR

It is possible that I will be proven wrong about much of what I wrote in the five paragraphs immediately above. It is possible that the Holy Spirit may work in the hearts and minds of many men to enter one of our LCMS Seminaries and become available for ministry. It is possible that the Holy Spirit may work in the hearts and minds of many of our congregations to expand their ministries into their neighborhoods. It is possible that He is already at work to bring about great changes in the church that none of us can predict.

And last - it is not possible, but certain, that whatever happens in the next three years, Jesus Christ will still be Lord of all.

In His Name, Rev. Chris Cahill

Third Vice President - Rev. Richard Ramirez

This year I have attended Board of Directors meetings, including one in person in St. Louis. As one of the Vice Presidents, I was also part of the planning for the dual-Region Pastors' Retreats/Conferences and made a presentation at the Central/Western Retreat.

At President Vinovskis' request, I've also been looking into the SELC entering into a partnership with the Church and Ministry Alliance, an organization that assists churches, schools, and other institutions with political engagement. More information will be forthcoming.

Circuit Visitor Reports

Eastern - Rev. James Douthwaite

It is a great honor to serve the pastors and congregations of the Eastern Circuit as their Circuit Visitor. I have not done nearly as much as I should for them and thank them for their long-suffering and forgiveness!

This past triennium, the Eastern Circuit has experienced joys and disappointments, successes and hardships. Yet through it all, our Lord has blessed us and His people. Two great joys in particular were welcoming new pastors into our circuit: Gordon Naumann at St. John's, Hazleton, and Allen Dass at Zion, Clark. We were saddened by the departures of Ryan Schnake (from Concordia, Macungie), who left to serve as a full time Air Force Chaplain, Alan Mercer (of Peace, Galloway), who retired due to declining health, Jack Breznen (of Trinity, Stamford) who retired, and Chunlin Hu (from Ascension, Montreal), who is no longer in the Synod. Both a joy and a sorrow in the upcoming retirement of Dan Berteau (Redeemer, Manchester) who will leave us in January 2026. We are sad to lose him, but happy for him to enter into this next stage of life.

Two congregations have left our District since we last met in Convention: St. Paul, Greenwich, CT joined the New England District, and St. John the Baptist, Emporia, VA joined the Southeastern District. Trinity, Stamford, CT closed its doors and held its final service in May 2024. We will miss them all. Other congregation changes were that St. Matthew, Wilkes-Barre, PA entered into a dual parish arrangement with St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre, PA (Eastern District), and St. Paul, Raritan, NJ and St. John, Bound Brook, NJ dissolved their dual parish arrangement and are now independent congregations again. The future for Peace, Galloway, NJ is uncertain at this time. With the retirement of their Pastor Alan Mercer, the congregation entered into an agreement with the District for the District to "re-plant" the congregation. This would involve the District overseeing operations and be responsible for calling a church-planter pastor to serve them. To date, no pastor has been found to call to this congregation for that purpose, and so the

congregation is struggling and may have to close for a time until it can re-open with a new pastor. Please keep this important ministry and the people still at Peace in your prayers!

Another change that took place this triennium is that Charles St-Onge (Ascension, Montreal) has transitioned from an Office of International Mission Network Supported Missionary that split his time between the congregation of Ascension and work in the Caribbean, to now full-time work at Ascension as a National Mission Network Supported Missionary. This has been a great blessing to the people of Ascension.

In-between our regular Circuit Winkels, our Circuit has continued to meet regularly each Wednesday at Noon for our "Litany at Lunch," to hear the Word of God and pray together for all the pastors and congregations of our Circuit. Our Winkels have been well-attended and served us well for the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren. Our recent joint Winkel with many of our brothers from the Southern Circuit was a particular joy, getting to know them and engaging in study and lively conversation with them.

We are looking forward to the coming triennium and the opportunities it will bring for our Circuit, including another Circuit retreat. We are working with the Eastern District and the New Jersey District to come up with some new and innovative ways to provide pastoral care for our congregations in Northeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey. And as we look forward, to quote one of the collects of our church . . .

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Current Vacancies (5):

St. John, Bound Brook, NJ

St. Paul, Raritan, NJ

St. Stephen, Dickson City, PA

Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ

Peace, Galloway, NJ

Circuit Winkels:

September 2022 - Ascension, Montreal, QC

February 2023 - Redeemer, Manchester, NJ

May 2023 - St. Paul, Westport, CT

September 2023 - PCWC (Indiana)

January 2024 - Concordia, Northampton, PA (shortened due to snowstorm!)

May 2024 - St. Matthew and St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. James Douthwaite

Central - Rev. George Hansell

Grace and peace from God our Father and our living and reigning Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to all of the delegates to the SELC District Convention.

In late Spring/early Summer of 2023, I was appointed as SELC Central Circuit Visitor to complete the term of the Rev. Curtis Stephens who accepted a Divine Call out of the SELC District to Scarsdale, NY. Following below is a summary of my activities as Circuit Visitor and the status of the various congregations of the Central Circuit.

On August 16, 2021, I retired as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Ohio after serving the congregation 17 years. The congregation was served in Vacancy by Rev. John Milligan (Holy Trinity/Parma) with Sunday morning services being covered primarily by the Rev. David Triplett and on occasion by Rev. George Hansell. After attempting to call from the field on three occasions without success, the congregation entered into discussions with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio to explore the possibility of forming a dual parish. Several meetings were held from September-December 2023. In January 2024, the Rev. John Milligan was issued a Call to serve Holy Trinity/Parma and Grace/Lakewood as Pastor of the dual parish. He was installed on January 28, 2024.

Calvary/Parma, Ohio became vacant upon the resignation of Rev. Joel Dieterichs since the last SELC Convention. Mr. James Hurst, who has served the congregation for many years as a Licensed Deacon, has been approved for training in the Specific Ministry Program under the supervision and mentorship of Rev. Christopher Cahill (Christ the King/Lodi). Mr. Hurst was installed as Vicar at Calvary on Saturday, October 19th.

Saint John/Massillon, Ohio continues to be served by the Rev. John Telloni as Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor Rev. Jon Carpenter. Pastor Carpenter has as his primary responsibility a new church plant. The work that Pastor Carpenter is doing is meeting the benchmarks established by the SELC District Mission Board.

Christ the King/Lodi, Ohio continues to be served by the Rev. Christopher Cahill. The congregation continues to be visible through posting worship services on social media and YouTube and through numerous programs at church and in the community.

Saint Matthew/Norton, Ohio continues to be vacant as a result of the Rev. Curtis Stephen's acceptance of a Divine Call out of the SELC District. The Circuit Visitor and Circuit Vice-President (Rev. Hansell and Rev. Cahill respectively) have met with the leadership on numerous occasions during the calling process. The congregation has been disappointed in having a Call returned. At the writing of this report, another Call has been extended and has been declined.

Holy Trinity/Pleasant City, Ohio is a permanent vacancy that is served primarily by four Pastors. On the first Sunday of the month, a Worship Service with Holy Communion is

ordinarily led by Rev. Cahill, Rev. Hansell, or Rev. Mark Ruppert. On all other Sundays, the worship service is lay-led with a sermon provided by Rev. John Telloni.

Saint Mark/Steubenville, Ohio is a permanent vacancy that is served by Rev. Scott Kuntz, who serves a parish in Pittsburgh, PA but travels every Sunday to conduct a worship service at Saint Mark's. The congregation is very appreciative of his ministry, and he seems to enjoy serving the congregation. In all probability, Saint Mark's will continue to be a permanent vacancy. Pastor Hansell attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration Service in September 2024.

Concordia/Youngstown, Ohio continues to be served by Rev. Hosea Ekong. The congregation continues to have regular worship services under his leadership.

Resurrection/Malvern, Ohio has been served by the Rev. Kevin McLeod since 2012. Word and Sacrament ministry takes place in a storefront church. Pastor and people continue to give faithful witness to Jesus in Malvern and the surrounding area.

Saints Peter and Paul/Lorain, Ohio celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Rev. Edgar Anthony's ministry to the congregation during the Fall of 2024. The congregation has been carrying out discussions about what ministry may look like in the future for the congregation as their worship community is small. President Vinovskis, Vice-President Cahill, and Circuit Visitor Hansell have been a part of those discussions. Pastor Hansell preaches once-a-month at Saints Peter and Paul at Pastor Anthony's request.

Saints Peter and Paul/Sharon, PA continues to be served by the Rev. Jacob Deal. The congregation has completed a capital campaign, made significant repairs and improvements to the facilities, and operates a vibrant pre-school ministry. Pastor Deal has also been assisting another congregation as Vacancy Pastor and has been successful in bringing them to a point of almost being ready to be able to issue a Call. Pastor Deal is also quite active with PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries), particularly in their work in helping Pittsburgh-area congregations in revitalizing their ministries or starting new ones.

John Huss/Arnold, PA continues to be served by Rev. Jerome Panzigrau. The congregation is financially stable with facilities that are in good repair, and is working closely with PALM to explore how the congregation can have a more dynamic ministry in the years to come.

Holy Cross/Johnstown, PA has been blessed with the installation of the Rev. Brett Witmer as permanent Vacancy Pastor of the congregation. He was installed Fall of 2024 as Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church/Central City, PA (Eastern District) and as the permanent Vacancy Pastor at Holy Cross. He will be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the Eastern District. He was officially welcomed to our Central Circuit when he attended the Joint Central-Western Circuit Pastoral Conference in Merango, Ohio in September 2024.

Saint Paul/Toronto; Ontario, Canada is currently vacant following the retirement of the Rev. Ladislav Kozak. The Circuit Visitor has not visited the congregation as of this writing. Based on what I have been given to understand, efforts have been made by District President Wally Vinovskis to find a Pastor in Slovakia who is multi-lingual willing to emigrate to Canada to serve the congregation(s) that Pastor Kozak has been serving.

Other Activities of the Circuit Visitor:

- Regular participant in Circuit Zoom meetings
- Regular participant in monthly or semi-monthly informal circuit meetings
- Attended 2 SELC Board of Director Meetings
- Attended General Pastors Conference in Illinois Fall 2023
- Assisted in planning the Joint Central-Western Circuit Pastoral Conference in September 2024. 15 Pastors and 2 spouses were in attendance at the conference. The theme of the conference was "The Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Brethren," addressing the challenges and increasing tendency of Pastors to isolate themselves from their brother Pastors and not engage in the opportunities to enjoy and receive the benefits of fellowship with their brother Pastors afforded by attendance at Circuit and other official conferences.
- Attended Call Committee/Voters Assembly Meetings at: Grace-Lakewood/Holy Trinity-Parma and Saint Matthew/Norton
- Guest Preaching at Circuit Congregations
- Service as Member-at-Large and Secretary on the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees. Pastor Hansell has served on the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees for 18 years and has held the position of Secretary of the Board for 12 years.
- Provided sermons for congregations in need of them for use in lay-led services.
- Made hospital calls as needed on Central Circuit Pastors or members of their families as needed.
- Assisted Ascension Lutheran Church (English District) in North Olmsted, OH during September-October while the Pastor was on sabbatical.

Southern - Rev. James Fernandez

Here are the things going on in the congregations around the Southern Circuit. I have done my best to be in contact with as many of the pastors as possible, but I have not heard from all of them yet. Should I hear from them after my report is submitted, I will provide that information.

Hope - Melbourne

We celebrated Reformation Sunday with a wonderful party and picnic at a park here in Melbourne. This fall we walked through our very first stewardship campaign in our history and it was very well received. Attendance continues to be strong and is increasing slowly, but steadily. We've had several young families join us over the last few months, most of whom are connected to Patrick Space Force Base in one way or another. I plan on starting a New Member Class after the first of the year.

Family of Christ - Tampa

Pr. Ledlow reports that Family of Christ is in the midst of a search for a principal of their school. The process is going well, and they have some promising candidates. They've established and implemented a Next Steps ministry platform to help their membership to engage in active discipleship and service to Family of Christ and the community of Tampa. In addition to building an outdoor gym and pavilion space, they are also planning campus expansion to double their school capacity. Family of Christ is also working on revising their bylaws to become more structured for growth into the future. They are also working on constituting their school board. Finally, they recently completed a visioning process with Jacob Hoyer and are starting to implement those things. They hope to begin a branding initiative in January.

St. Luke's - Oviedo

The staff at St. Luke's have been going through some degree of transitioning as Pr. Arp has stepped back some and Pr. Roberts retiring from full time ministry. To that end, St. Luke's will be installing their new pastor, Rev. Scott Corber, the weekend of January 5th. St. Luke's continues the call process for a DCE.

Faith - Viera

Faith in Viera has been working through the call process this year as well, and they will be installing their new associate pastor, Rev. Jonathan Moyer, on January 19th.

Holy Cross - Lake Mary

Holy Cross has gone through great transition over the last couple of years, culminating in a call process for a new lead pastor at Holy Cross in Lake Mary. Rev. Russ Peterson has accepted that call and will be installed at Holy Cross in Lake Mary January 19th.

The Cross - Mt. Dora

Pr. Bauman reports that things at The Cross are going well. In 2024 they saw a 26% increase in attendance with over 100 baptisms by the end of this year. Men's and women's ministries at The Cross are going well as new people are growing in their faith and walk with Jesus. Children's ministry is also very strong with average attendance as of October being 137 children per week. Their youth ministry has seen an increase of 138 new students as well. The Cross has also been working through getting a renovation started for their property and they hope to have those renovations completed by April of 2025.

New City Lutheran - Orlando

New City Lutheran became the newest member of the SELC District on October 20th, 2024. Pr. Barcott and Pr. Fitzpatrick have been leading seven families through Luther's Large Catechism as they are on the path to confirmation. They are hoping to lead sever more families through the same process in the new year.

Joint Pastor's Conference - October 16th - 19th

The Eastern and Southern circuits of the SELC were able to gather together October 16th through October 18th at Sandy Cove retreat center just off Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Their time together started off with a bit of fun as they all got to know a little bit more about one another. Some highlights were that Pastor Ray Malec of Concordia Northampton met Jackie Onasis when he was a teenager and that, if Pastor Brad Knorr of St. Paul Westport wasn't a pastor, he would have been a police detective! After getting to know one another and after sharing supper, the group worshiped together and received the Sacrament as Pastor James Douthwaite of St. Athanasius in Alexandrian led the service and Pastor James Fernandez of Hope in Melbourne shared the hope of Jesus in his message.

The next day, the group was blessed by Pastor Sam Schick of St. Lukes in Oviedo as he shared a devotion about listening, not just to others, but to what God has to say to us in his word. President Vinovskis led us in a Bible study based on Ephesians. After lunch, Pastor Mark Larson, district mission executive, gave a presentation on the district's efforts to extend the kingdom of God through the planting of churches. That afternoon, President presented and update on the business of the district and the Synod. The afternoon session came to a close as the group discussed the shift we are seeing and experiencing in our culture and how our pastors can love our people through these challenging days while remaining steadfast in God's word. That

evening, the group shared a meal at a local seafood restaurant and had a wonderful time continuing to get to know one another.

The last day of the conference was opened by Pastor Brad Knorr who led a devotion centered on the identity that all Christians have in Jesus and the great comfort that brings. Pastor Troy Countryman led a Bible study on the Gospel reading on Mark 10:46-52 and how that text could be effectively used in a sermon for Reformation Sunday. The group finished their time together in prayer and left greatly encouraged by one another.

It truly was a great blessing for the two circuits to gather and they look forward to seeing one another again in January at the district convention in Florida!

Western - Rev. Carl Krueger

I thank the Lord God Almighty Who has given me the privilege to serve as the SELC WESTERN CIRCUIT VISITOR. God's Spirit has been evident in each of our Western Circuit Congregation, with good and faithful Pastors and People.

The difficulties that face the Western Circuit are the same across Synod:

- * Not enough new Pastors to start new Missions or to replace retiring Pastors
- * Pastors and People satisfied with their own small groups, not motivated to bring others in.
- * Not enough retired Pastors remaining in areas to serve Pastorally Vacant Congregations
- * Smaller Congregations cannot provide expected adequate salary and benefits to Pastors
- * Pastors deciding that they do not need to be in a supportive relationship with other Pastors.

These difficult situations will not solve themselves. "Pray the Lord of the Harvest" - yes for more Ordained and Laypeople willing to learn to share the message of Law and Gospel; and most importantly, to LIVE THE LOVE OF CHRIST to all those around us.

Here is a glimpse of the Western Circuit Pastors and Congregations:

ALSIP IL; HOLY CROSS - Rev. Kevin Bergmann has served as Vacancy Pastor for both Holy Cross and Mt. Greenwood Lutheran Church, Greenwood IL, all through the COVID years, and continuing to the present. Pastor Bergmann has striven to provide a worship schedule and Pastoral Care. The People of Holy Cross have been very flexible and supportive.

BOYCEVILLE WI; HOLY TRINITY An historically Slovak-speaking Congregation, home of Professional Baseball Player, Andy Pafo. I have failed to establish regular communication

with this Congregation, which is now in a relationship with Grace, Connersville WI; North Wisconsin District.

CHICAGO IL; EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER ("DML")
Founded in 1913, a steadfast traditional Slovak Congregation, with long-term faithful members who have moved out of the area, but make their way to Worship. The surrounding area has changed from Slovak to "middle class white" and now to Black and Hispanic. Rev. Dr. Richard Ramirez, now living in Windlake WI, travels into Chicago to provide Worship Services and Pastoral Care, as well as being an Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, Chicago. Several families from the local area are attending.

COLUMBIA IL; THE WAY - The Way is the newest Congregation of the SELC Western Circuit. Established as a mission effort by an LCMS Missouri District Congregation, The Way became an SELC District Congregation, bringing a new approach to worship, ministry and mission, and illustrating the SELC's commitment to seek those outside of our traditional style and mind-set and to bring the saving Good News of Christ's sacrificial love to save and to bring to full life the spectrum of Christian living.

CROWN POINT IN; RESURRECTION - The members of Resurrection have shown great determination in doing whatever they can to keep their Congregation active in Worship, Bible study, cooperating in providing a local food bank with regular distribution to the needy, in spite of all the challenges of a long-term Pastoral vacancy. The Leadership has actively sought and obtained Pulpit supply and Pastoral care. Resurrection has demonstrated their great willingness to work with District to seek joint work with other Congregations and to become an active partner with District to be in mission in their area.

CUDAHY WI; ST. JOHN; - Rev. Phillip DeVries was installed on January 7, 2023. He, and his family, have "fit well" with St. John Congregation and have been a positive influence in the health and well-being of the Congregation.

GRANITE CITY IL; ST. JOHN - Rev. Wm Hale and St. John Congregation have been leaders in the cooperation with the two other LCMS Congregations in Granite City to work together to form a positive witness and influence in the community. Over the past year, Pastor Hale and St. John Leadership have demonstrated consistent, compassionate, Christ-like handling of a challenging situation, with openness, patience, without malice or prejudice, so that the witness of the proper application of Law and Gospel was made.

NORRIDGE IL; ZION - The destructive power of the Fallen human nature, joined with Satan's seeds of mistrust, hard words, and personal attacks without repentance have brought this once strong SELC Congregation to the point of closing. The Leadership is to be commended for their patience, and tireless efforts to mediate conflict, and support of one another in continuing a Lutheran ministry in this vibrant community. In the midst of this sad possibility of closing, the District encourages Zion to create many opportunities to celebrate the past and bring together those who have been blessed by Zion's ministry.

RACINE WI: PENTECOST - Here can be seen how God works to maintain and increase ministry, bringing out a positive effect in the midst of what could be seen as negative challenges. As Pentecost needed to face the challenge of a Pastoral Vacancy, Rev. Brady Retzlaff and Living Hope Lutheran Church, Racine were challenged by the loss of their building. Behold! God was at work! Pentecost's Church and Living Hope's Pastor and Congregation have worked out the "wrinkles" and have become one united Congregation as the SELC PENTECOST RACINE.

ST. LOUIS; JACOB'S WELL - Rev. David Corson, by God's Grace, established Jacob's Well as a "house Church" mission opportunity. Pastor Corson became a "worker-priest" with Lutheran Social Services of St. Louis in order to keep this small Congregation together. Unfortunately, within the next few months, Jacob's Well will be closing.

ST. LOUIS; ST. LUCAS - Rev. Mark Larson and St. Lucas have worked together to reach out into the surrounding community and are working to establish a Hispanic ministry.

STREATOR IL; HOLY TRINITY - Rev. John Gutz and Holy Trinity have established themselves in a strong traditional ministry dedicated to their immediate area.

WHITING IL; ST. PAUL - The St. Paul Congregation has shown incredible flexibility and tenacity in their dedication to providing a Word and Sacrament Ministry to the members. Victims of the reality that there are so very few retired Pastors willing and able to commit to a long-term Pastoral Vacancy, St. Paul Congregation has "moved" its Sunday Worship Service hours in each direction (earlier and later), and even to Saturday, to accommodate area Pastors' availability; and they have been willing to work with our SELC District, the English District, the Northern Illinois District and the Indiana District to seek a joint ministry.

Financial Secretary's Summary Report

Submitter: Larry Schultz

Based on the mission receipts from the churches in the SELC District through October 2024, the summary information is as follows:

- The mission contributions received from congregations during October were **\$44,528 which is 102%** of the budgeted monthly goal of \$43,459.
- The total mission contributions from all sources during October totaled **\$47,046 which is 80%** of the monthly budget of \$59,167.
- The total receipts from all sources through October are \$553,875 which is 94% of the budget.
- 11 of the 52 congregations in our District have already submitted their entire 2024 budgeted contributions toward their mission goals, and another 3 churches are not budgeted to make any mission contributions.
- YTD, the congregations have contributed 97% of their budgeted funds to the District, and the total receipts are 94% of the yearly budget to date.
- During October \$40,000 was transferred to the checking account managed by the treasurer.
- The churches that are scheduled to submit donations towards the SELC budget that have not yet begun to submit an offering include:
 - Grace - Lakewood
 - Concordia - Youngstown
 - Holy Trinity - Boyceville
 - Dr Martin Luther - Chicago
 - The Way - Columbus
- Holy Trinity - Garfield, Holy Cross - Johnstown, and St Paul - Toronto are not budgeted to contribute to the District missions this year. In addition, Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford and St John Lutheran Church in Emporia stopped contributing to the District in June.

A summary by circuits is shown in the attached spreadsheet:

| Circuit | Monthly Budget | Oct. Receipts | Y-T-D Budget | Receipts Thru Oct. | Y-T-D % of 2023 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eastern | \$5,237 | \$3,460 | \$52,365 | \$51,835 | 99% |
| Central | \$4,512 | \$5,781 | \$45,123 | \$35,690 | 79% |
| Western | \$7,745 | \$10,293 | \$77,449 | \$68,995 | 89% |
| Southern | \$25,966 | \$24,994 | \$259,658 | \$265,331 | 102% |
| SubTotal - Congregations | \$43,459 | \$44,528 | \$434,594 | \$421,852 | 97% |
| Total - 2024 Budget | \$59,167 | \$47,046 | \$591,667 | \$553,875 | 94% |

SELC District Receipts for Missions

**SELC DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
RECEIPTS FOR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCES
YEAR - 2024 through October 31, 2024**

| | COMM | DISTRICT | ACTUAL | OTHER | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| EASTERN CIRCUIT | MEMBERS | SUPPORT | DISTRICT | MINISTRIES / | YTD MISSIONS |
| | | ANNUAL GOAL | YTD SUPPORT | DIR. SUPPORT | |
| Northampton, PA - Concordia | 104 | 3,600 | 693 | 0 | 693 |
| Bound Brook, NJ - St John | 30 | 1,000 | 1,300 | 0 | 1,300 |
| Clark, NJ - Zion | 158 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 0 | 8,000 |
| Dickson City, PA - St Stephens | 98 | 2,400 | 1,813 | 0 | 1,813 |
| Emporia, VA - St John | 121 | 5,500 | 1,833 | 0 | 1,833 |
| Galloway, NJ - Peace | 58 | 1,050 | 1,050 | 0 | 1,050 |
| Garfield, NJ - Holy Trinity | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hazleton, PA - St John's | 78 | 5,000 | 3,750 | 600 | 4,350 |
| Macungie, PA - Concordia | 153 | 8,640 | 7,920 | 0 | 7,920 |
| Manchester, NJ - Redeemer | 235 | 6,540 | 9,265 | 0 | 9,265 |
| Montreal, QC - Ascension | 92 | 2,608 | 3,500 | 0 | 3,500 |
| Raritan, NJ - St Paul | 54 | 2,500 | 1,610 | 0 | 1,610 |
| Stamford, Ct - Trinity | 24 | 1,200 | 484 | 960 | 1,444 |
| Vienna, VA - St Athanasius | 67 | 3,600 | 3,000 | 20,918 | 23,918 |
| Westport, CT - St Paul | 150 | 9,000 | 6,750 | 0 | 6,750 |
| Wilkes-Barre, PA - St Matthew | 200 | 2,200 | 1,587 | 0 | 1,587 |
| TOTAL EASTERN CIRCUIT | 1687 | \$62,838 | \$52,555 | \$22,478 | \$75,033 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 83.64% | | |

| CENTRAL CIRCUIT | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Arnold, PA - John Huss | 84 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 185 | 2,185 |
| Johnstown, PA - Holy Cross | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kingsville, ON - Nativity | 25 | 720 | 720 | 44 | 764 |
| Lakewood, OH - Grace | 90 | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lodi, OH - Christ the King | 94 | 10,113 | 8,428 | 0 | 8,428 |
| Lorain, OH - Sts Peter & Paul | 55 | 4,000 | 2,917 | 0 | 2,917 |
| Malvern, OH - Resurrection | 64 | 2,352 | 1,764 | 0 | 1,764 |
| Massillon, OH - St John | 332 | 8,040 | 1,750 | 0 | 1,750 |
| Norton, OH - St Matthew | 131 | 6,620 | 4,879 | 0 | 4,879 |
| Parma, OH - Calvary | 308 | 7,400 | 6,783 | 500 | 7,283 |
| Parma, OH - Holy Trinity | 50 | 1,308 | 1,308 | 0 | 1,308 |
| Pleasant City, OH - Holy Trinity | 31 | 2,000 | 1,995 | 0 | 1,995 |
| Sharon, PA - Sts Peter & Paul | 93 | 4,000 | 3,231 | 0 | 3,231 |
| Steubenville, OH - St Mark | 18 | 1,000 | 532 | 0 | 532 |
| Toronto, ON - St Paul | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Youngstown, OH - Concordia | 20 | 594 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL CENTRAL CIRCUIT | 1,512 | \$54,147 | \$36,307 | \$729 | \$37,035 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 67.05% | | |

**SELC DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
RECEIPTS FOR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCES
YEAR - 2024 through October 31, 2024**

| | COMM MEMBERS | DISTRICT SUPPORT ANNUAL GOAL | ACTUAL DISTRICT YTD SUPPORT | OTHER MINISTRIES / DIR. SUPPORT | TOTAL YTD MISSION |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| WESTERN CIRCUIT | | | | | |
| Alsip, IL - Holy Cross | 57 | 3,340 | 3,014 | 100 | 3,114 |
| Joyceville, WI - Holy Trinity | 68 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chicago, IL - Dr Martin Luther | 35 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Columbia, IL - The Way | 223 | 2,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Crown Point, IN - Resurrection | 105 | 1,714 | 1,714 | 0 | 1,714 |
| Cudahy, WI - St John | 310 | 25,200 | 22,390 | 3,000 | 25,390 |
| Granite City, IL - St John | 103 | 9,300 | 7,618 | 0 | 7,618 |
| Worridge, IL - Zion | 55 | 12,000 | 4,140 | 0 | 4,140 |
| Wacine, WI - Pentecost | 171 | 18,156 | 15,580 | 0 | 15,580 |
| St Louis, MO - Jacobs Well | 9 | 1,044 | 1,044 | 0 | 1,044 |
| St Louis, MO - St Lucas | 282 | 9,000 | 8,250 | 0 | 8,250 |
| Wheaton, IL - Holy Trinity | 249 | 1,300 | 995 | 20 | 1,015 |
| Whiting, IN - St Paul | 131 | 6,885 | 5,000 | 300 | 5,300 |
| TOTAL WESTERN CIRCUIT | 1,798 | \$92,939 | \$69,745 | \$3,420 | \$73,165 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 75.04% | | |
| SOUTHERN CIRCUIT | | | | | |
| Lake Mary, FL - Holy Cross | 894 | 55,000 | 46,877 | 0 | 46,877 |
| Melbourne, FL - Hope | 133 | 5,526 | 5,526 | 0 | 5,526 |
| Wt Dora - The Cross | 480 | 7,200 | 6,000 | 0 | 6,000 |
| Wiedo, FL - St Luke's | 3,424 | 202,963 | 186,054 | 0 | 186,054 |
| Tampa, FL - Family of Christ | 523 | 4,500 | 3,375 | 0 | 3,375 |
| Viera / Rockledge, FL - Faith | 810 | 34,000 | 32,413 | 0 | 32,413 |
| Mesley Chapel, FL - Faith | 28 | 2,400 | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| TOTAL SOUTHERN CIRCUIT | 6,292 | \$311,589 | \$282,245 | \$0 | \$282,245 |
| %BUDGET ATTAINED | | | 90.58% | | |
| Total Congregation Support | 11,289 | \$521,513 | \$440,852 | \$26,627 | \$467,479 |
| %BUDGET ATTAINED | | | 84.53% | | |
| OTHER | | | | | |
| Lutheran Witness Subscriptions | | 3,800 | 4,194 | 0 | 4,194 |
| 2023 Mission Contributions | | 2,316 | 7,230 | 0 | 7,230 |
| 2025 Convention registration, etc. | | 0 | 5,520 | 0 | 5,520 |
| .CMS Foundation - Brackenridge, Pa | | 3,708 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| .CEF Distribution | | 52,483 | 37,254 | 0 | 37,254 |
| Reimbursements | | 0 | 163 | 0 | 163 |
| Interest on Savings | | 40,000 | 31,088 | 0 | 31,088 |
| Interest / Foreign Currency / Bank Fees | | 0 | -1,199 | 0 | -1,199 |
| Ascension pastor support | | 86,180 | 47,753 | 0 | 47,753 |
| TOTAL | | \$188,487 | \$132,002 | \$0 | \$132,002 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 11,289 | \$710,000 | \$572,855 | \$26,627 | \$599,481 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 80.68% | | |

* Unconfirmed 2024 goal / membership

Prepared by : Larry Schultz
Financial Secretary
1566 Bushkill Center Road
Bath, Pa 18014

Treasurer's Report

Board Report Title: SELC District Balance Sheet

Board Committee: Finance

Submitter: Robert C Lange

| | <u>Oct 31, 24</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | |
| 10000 · CASH | | | |
| 10500 · CHASE BANK | 34,751.95 | 26,407.85 | 77,287.74 |
| 10550 · CHASE BANK, ILLINOIS - SAVINGS | 5,105.31 | 1,105.12 | 43,600.78 |
| 10595 · STEWARD ACCOUNT - LCEF | | | |
| 10596 · RESTRICTED CASH - HURRICANE | -2,339.00 | -2,339.00 | -2,039.00 |
| 10597 · RESTRICTED CASH - MISSIONS | -28,329.01 | -47,497.01 | -47,497.01 |
| 10599 · RESTRICTED CASH - BRECKENRIDGE | -20,988.89 | -20,988.89 | -17,280.94 |
| 10601 · RESTRICTED CASH - WESLEY CHAPEL | | | -20,000.00 |
| 10602 · RESTRICTED CASH - MOSVISIONP | | -7,500.00 | -22,500.00 |
| 10603 · RESTRICTED CASH - LCEF COVID-19 | | | -22,400.00 |
| 10604 · RESTRICTED CASH - M-DEVELOPER | -71,036.00 | -96,036.00 | -96,036.00 |
| 10605 · RESTRICTED CASH - PCWC/GPC/CV | | | -8,153.92 |
| 10606 · RESTRICT CASH - LUTHER LEAGUE | -2,644.99 | -2,644.99 | -2,644.99 |
| 10607 · RESTRICT CASH - P-DSCRTRY ACCT | -5,100.00 | -5,100.00 | -5,100.00 |
| 10608 · RESTRICT CASH - ALIGN DIST STAF | -33,528.60 | | |
| 10609 · RESTRICT CASH - LCEF DVP DISCRE | -3,725.40 | | |
| 10595 · STEWARD ACCOUNT - LCEF - Other | 157,123.95 | 128,890.38 | 1,068,292.33 |
| Total 10595 · STEWARD ACCOUNT - LCEF | <u>-10,567.94</u> | <u>-53,215.51</u> | <u>824,640.47</u> |
| Total 10000 · CASH | <u>29,289.32</u> | <u>-25,702.54</u> | <u>945,528.99</u> |
| Total Checking/Savings | 29,289.32 | -25,702.54 | 945,528.99 |
| Other Current Assets | | | |
| 11600 · INVESTMENTS | | | |
| 11616 · LCEF CERTIFICATE-0228 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 11618 · LCEF CERTIFICATE-0078 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 11634 · LCEF CERTIFICATE-9173 | 1,000,000.00 | 1,000,000.00 | |
| Total 11600 · INVESTMENTS | <u>1,015,000.00</u> | <u>1,015,000.00</u> | <u>15,000.00</u> |
| Total Other Current Assets | <u>1,015,000.00</u> | <u>1,015,000.00</u> | <u>15,000.00</u> |
| Total Current Assets | <u>1,044,289.32</u> | <u>989,297.46</u> | <u>960,528.99</u> |

Board Report Title: SELC District Balance Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Other Assets | | | |
| 16004 · RESTRICTED CASH - HURRICANE | 2,339.00 | 2,339.00 | 2,039.00 |
| 16005 · RESTRICTED CASH - MISSIONS | 28,329.01 | 47,497.01 | 47,497.01 |
| 16007 · RESTRICTED CASH - WESLEY CHAPEL | | | 20,000.00 |
| 16009 · RESTRICTED CASH - BRECKENRIDGE | 20,988.89 | 20,988.89 | 17,280.94 |
| 16011 · RESTRICTED CASH - MOSVISIOP | | 7,500.00 | 22,500.00 |
| 16012 · RESTRICTED CASH - COVID-19 | | | 22,400.00 |
| 16013 · RESTRICTED CASH - M-DEVELOPER | 71,036.00 | 96,036.00 | 96,036.00 |
| 16014 · RESTRICTED CASH - PCWC/GPC/CV | | | 8,153.92 |
| 16015 · RESTRICT CASH - LUTHER LEAGUE | 2,644.99 | 2,644.99 | 2,644.99 |
| 16016 · RESTRICT CASH - P- DSCRTRY ACCT | 5,100.00 | 5,100.00 | 5,100.00 |
| 16017 · RESTRICT CASH - ALIGN DIST STAF | 33,528.60 | | |
| 16018 · RESTRICT CASH - LCEF DVP DISCRE | 3,725.40 | | |
| Total Other Assets | <u>167,691.89</u> | <u>182,105.89</u> | <u>243,651.86</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>1,211,981.21</u></u> | <u><u>1,171,403.35</u></u> | <u><u>1,204,180.85</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | |
| Equity | | | |
| 3900 · Retained Earnings | 442,776.22 | 475,553.72 | 346,446.47 |
| 39000 · UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | 728,627.13 | 728,627.13 | 728,627.13 |
| Net Income | 40,577.86 | -32,777.50 | 129,107.25 |
| Total Equity | <u>1,211,981.21</u> | <u>1,171,403.35</u> | <u>1,204,180.85</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u><u>1,211,981.21</u></u> | <u><u>1,171,403.35</u></u> | <u><u>1,204,180.85</u></u> |

Board Report Title: SELC District Profit & Loss (Page 1 of 4)

Board Committee: Finance

Submitter: Robert C Lange

| | Oct, 2024 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Income | | | |
| 40000 · SUPPORT & REVENUES | | | |
| 41000 · BUDGETARY RECEIPTS | | | |
| 41305 · RECEIPTS FROM FINAN. SECRETARY | 423,084.95 | 471,526.09 | 511,210.15 |
| 41310 · PREVIOUS YEAR BUDGET RECEIPTS | 7,229.50 | 19,484.72 | 3,401.25 |
| Total 41000 · BUDGETARY RECEIPTS | 430,314.45 | 491,010.81 | 514,611.40 |
| 42000 · NON BUDGETARY RECEIPTS | | | |
| 42342 - ADDITIONAL SELC MISSION SUPPORT | | 2,020.00 | 25.77 |
| 42347 · LUTHERAN WITNESS | 4,153.60 | 3,548.35 | 3,597.00 |
| 42348 - LCEF MISSION GRANT | | | 48,018.00 |
| 42349 · LCEF OPERATING RESULTS | 37,254.00 | 52,483.00 | 48,018.00 |
| 42354 · SELC CONVENTION | | | |
| 42354-1 · SELC CONVENTION ASSESSMENT | 1,325.00 | | 0.00 |
| 42354-3 · SELC CONVENTION MISC INCOME | 1,415.00 | | 1,471.00 |
| 42354-4 · SELC CONVENTION REGISTRATION | 2,980.00 | | 12,159.57 |
| Total 42354 · SELC CONVENTION | 5,720.00 | 0.00 | 13,630.57 |
| 42355 · RELEASE OF FUNDS | | | |
| 42355-1 - RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE FUNDS | | -41,600.00 | |
| 42355-2 · RELEASE OF RESERVE FUNDS | -12,000.00 | | |
| Total 42355 · RELEASE OF FUNDS | -12,000.00 | -41,600.00 | 0.00 |
| 42356 · LCMS CONVENTION ASSESSMENT | | | |
| 42356-2 - LCMS CONVENTION REBATE | | 1,114.99 | |
| 42356-3 · LCMS - CONGREGATION ASSESMENT | 43.75 | 15,155.98 | |
| Total 42356 · LCMS CONVENTION ASSESSMENT | 43.75 | 16,270.97 | 0.00 |
| 42359 · LCMS EARMARKED | 1,140.00 | 1,820.00 | 4,813.65 |
| 42360 · AGENCIES EARMARKED | 6,935.00 | 10,285.00 | 8,285.00 |
| 42361 - LCMS SOC EARMARKED | | | 5,000.00 |
| 42365 - HURRICANE RELIEF | | | 1,550.00 |
| 42366-1 PCWC REGISTRATION | | 9,310.00 | |
| 42392 · ASCNSN PASTORAL SUPPORT EARMARK | 47,753.34 | 86,180.00 | 19,756.66 |
| 42393 · ASCENSION PASTORAL SUPPORT PAID | -47,753.34 | -86,180.00 | -19,756.66 |
| 44375 - CONTRIBUTIONS RESTRICTED | | 8,807.95 | 16,318.16 |
| Total 42000 · NON BUDGETARY RECEIPTS | 43,246.35 | 62,945.27 | 149,256.15 |

SELC District Profit & Loss (Page 2 of 4)

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total Income | 497,179.30 | 580,032.06 | 654,026.09 |
| Expense | | | |
| 50000 - MINISTRY OF LOVE | | | |
| 51000 - SELC DISTRICT MISSIONS | | | |
| 51426 - FAITH WESLEY CHAPEL | 6,866.60 | 18,000.00 | 18,000.00 |
| 51456 - ASCENSION, MONTREAL | 13,333.66 | 18,380.00 | 9,953.34 |
| 51469 - CHURCH CONST - TAMIL - INDIA | | 6,460.00 | |
| 51470 - TAMIL MISSION - INDIA | 29,170.00 | 36,639.71 | 30,000.00 |
| 51481 - RESURRECTION, SANFORD, FL | 21,668.00 | 15,793.98 | |
| 51486 - ASCENSION DEACONESS | | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 51487 - THE WAY - COLUMBIA, IL | | 15,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| 51488 - MASSILLON, OHIO | 5,000.00 | | |
| 51490 - MISSION FACILITATOR | | | |
| 51490-1 - MISSION FACILITATOR | 25,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 17,500.00 |
| 51490-2 - ADDITIONAL FUNDS | 15,893.10 | | |
| TOTAL MISSION FACILITATOR | 40,893.10 | 30,000.00 | 17,500.00 |
| 51491 - CHURCH PLANTER TRAINING | 2,761.84 | 7,508.23 | |
| Total 51000 - SELC DISTRICT MISSIONS | 119,493.20 | 157,781.92 | 115,453.34 |
| 52410 - LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD | 100,000.00 | 120,000.00 | 120,000.00 |
| 52411 - SEMINARIES | | | |
| 52411-1 - ST. LOUIS SEMINARY | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 52411-2 - FT. WAYNE SEMINARY | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Total 52411 - SEMINARIES | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 53415 - LUTHERAN HAVEN | 25,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Total 50000 - MINISTRY OF LOVE | 249,493.20 | 312,781.92 | 270,453.34 |

SELC District Profit & Loss (P3 of 4)

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 60000 - MINISTRY OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS | | | |
| 60501 - STUDENT AID | -500.00 | | 7,822.00 |
| 60505 - YOUTH BOARD/LUTHER LEAGUE | 117.48 | | |
| 60506 - SEMINARY STUDENT ASSESSMENT | 5,000.00 | 19,000.00 | 16,000.00 |
| 60507 - SELC ONLINE BEACON/WEBMASTER | | | |
| 60507-2 - WEBMASTER | 4,000.00 | 4,800.00 | 4,800.00 |
| Total 60507 - SELC ONLINE BEACON/WEBMASTER | 4,000.00 | 4,800.00 | 4,800.00 |
| | | | |
| 60508 - LUTHERAN WITNESS | 3,660.86 | 3,768.99 | 3,544.20 |
| 60510 - EVANGELISM GRANTS | 1,625.00 | 3,825.00 | |
| 60512 - LWML | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 60514 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/WEBINARS | | | |
| 60514-1 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | 550.11 | | 1,609.52 |
| 60514 -2 - ZOOM WEBINARS | | | 300.00 |
| Total 60514 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/WEBINARS | 550.11 | 0.00 | 1,909.52 |
| | | | |
| 60525 - STEWARDSHIP | 1,992.58 | 629.37 | 794.48 |
| 60532 - MINISTERIAL HEALTH | 643.65 | | 500.00 |
| 60542 - GENERAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE | | 21,120.46 | |
| 60543 - PALS | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| 60547 - DISASTER RELIEF | 755.61 | 2,817.20 | 1,254.09 |
| Total 60000 - MINISTRY OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS | 20,845.29 | 58,961.02 | 39,124.29 |
| 70000 - MINISTRY OF SERVICE | | | |
| 71000 - PRESIDENTS OFFICE | | | |
| 71602 - PRESIDENT STIPEND | 15,000.00 | 18,000.00 | 14,400.00 |
| 71603 - EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT STIPEND | 15,000.00 | 18,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 71606 - PASTORAL ASSISTANT | 40,000.00 | 48,000.00 | 42,000.00 |
| 72609 - TRAVEL | 23,052.10 | 22,798.04 | 22,313.69 |
| 72617 - OFFICE ADMINISTRATION | 3,298.99 | 1,532.38 | 2,400.13 |
| Total 71000 - PRESIDENTS OFFICE | 96,351.09 | 108,330.42 | 96,113.82 |

SELC District Profit & Loss (Page 4 of 4)

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 73000 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS | | | |
| 73626 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ TRAVEL | 34,768.47 | 31,754.61 | 40,502.67 |
| 73627 - FINANCIAL SECRETARY STIPEND | 5,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 73628 - TREASURER STIPEND | 5,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 73629 - SECRETARY STIPEND | 5,000.00 | 5,500.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 73630 - INSURANCE | 1,202.00 | 1,202.00 | 1,119.00 |
| | | | |
| 73631 - LEGAL COUNSELOR | | | |
| 73631.1- LEGAL COUNSELOR STIPEND | | | 18,900.00 |
| 73631-2 - SELOR EXPENSES COUN | 6,776.00 | 6,422.50 | |
| Total 73631 - LEGAL COUNSELOR | <u>6,776.00</u> | <u>6,422.50</u> | <u>18,900.00</u> |
| | | | |
| 73632 - MISSION EXEC | | | |
| 73632-1 - MISSION EXEC STIPEND | 12,500.00 | 15,000.00 | 9,500.00 |
| 73632-2 - MISSION EXEC TRAVEL | 4,277.27 | 2,251.82 | 1,913.61 |
| 73632-3 - MISCELLANEOUS | 150.00 | 63.99 | 1,761.73 |
| TOTAL MISSION EXEC | <u>16,927.27</u> | <u>17,315.81</u> | <u>13,175.34</u> |
| | | | |
| TOTAL 73000 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 74,673.74 | 74,194.92 | 91,697.01 |
| | | | |
| 74634 - SYNODICAL ASSESMENTS | 2,555.68 | 1,078.66 | 307.00 |
| 74635 - PRES. DISCRETIONARY FUND | 2,326.85 | 5,226.53 | 5,246.69 |
| 74638 - CONVENTION EXPENSES | 500.00 | | 9,550.53 |
| 74639 - AUDITOR | 8,551.20 | 8,105.00 | 11,796.00 |
| 74645 - MISCELLANEOUS | | 34.96 | |
| 74646 - SYNODICAL CONVENTION ASSESSMENT | | 19,502.00 | |
| 74647 - SYNODICAL CONVENTION ATTENDEES | | 22,562.22 | |
| 74648 - BANK FEES | 275.80 | 316.45 | 630.16 |
| 74649 - BANK CURRENCY RATE EXCHANGE | 1,028.59 | 1,715.46 | |
| Total 74000 - SELC DISTRICT EXPENSE | <u>15,238.12</u> | <u>58,541.28</u> | <u>27,530.38</u> |
| | | | |
| Total 70000 - MINISTRY OF SERVICE | <u>186,262.95</u> | <u>241,066.62</u> | <u>215,341.21</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>456,601.44</u> | <u>612,809.56</u> | <u>524,918.84</u> |
| Net Income | <u>40,577.86</u> | <u>-32,777.50</u> | <u>129,107.25</u> |

SELC Foundation

Board Committee: Finance

Submitter: Robert C Lange

**SELC FOUNDATION
Profit & Loss
January through October 2024**

| | Jan - Oct 24 |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Change in Market Value | 3,401.40 |
| Interest Income | 4,403.17 |
| Total Income | 7,804.57 |
| Expense | |
| Foundation Expenses | 395.11 |
| Total Expense | 395.11 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 7,409.46 |
| Net Income | 7,409.46 |

**SELC FOUNDATION
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2024**

| | Oct 31, 24 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| SELC FOUNDATION - LCMS FOUNDATI | 101,484.49 |
| STEWARD ACCOUNT | 3,083.69 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 104,568.18 |
| Total Current Assets | 104,568.18 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 104,568.18 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Equity | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 97,158.72 |
| Net Income | 7,409.46 |
| Total Equity | 104,568.18 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 104,568.18 |

Stewardship Report

Board Committee:

Rev. John Bush, Emeritus, The Way, Columbia, IL

David Haara, Emeritus, Family of Christ Tampa

Rev. Bill Hale, Pastor, St. John, Granite City, IL

Rev. Warren Huffines – Emeritus, St. Lucas, St. Louis

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson – Stewardship Director

Submitter: Rev. Dr. Mark Larson

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITIONS

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.¹

The origin of the English word “steward” is interesting but unfortunate. It is believed that this word was originally “sty-warden,” referring to the keeper of pigs.² While it does convey the concept that such a warden is not the owner of the pigs, it truly misses the noble calling to which Christian stewards are called.

The word in Spanish for Stewardship is a mouthful, “mayordomia.” However, it much more closely captures the Biblical word “oikonomos,” meaning “ruler or manager of the household/estate.” Such managers were trusted and important leaders in the administration of their master’s affairs. Perhaps the greatest example in Scripture is that of Joseph, who ruled the entire land of Egypt on behalf of Pharaoh. Through careful management of the grain through years of plenty then years of famine, he literally saved the world from starvation. Christians manage what is entrusted to them according to this high calling. We are not “sty-wardens” in the back lot. We are high officials in the household of God with the task of advancing *His business* to bring Him glory and salvation to our fellow man by the Gospel through managing what is entrusted to us.

PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

- *God is the owner of all things.*
 - Christians are stewards (managers) of God's things - Ps. 24:1
 - Love for Christ flowing from the Gospel is the motivating power - Rom. 1:16
- *Biblical giving*
 - Proportionate (a percentage of annual income) - 1 Cor. 16:2

¹ LCMS Stewardship Ministry, <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/stewardship-ministry>. Accessed 11/26/2024.

² Ask, Thank, Tell, Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation, Lane Charles, Fortress Press, 2006

- Regular (on a weekly basis) - 1 Cor. 16:2
- First-fruits (giving God the best and first, not leftovers) - Prov. 3:9
- Cheerful (willingly, not reluctantly) - 2 Cor. 9:7
- Loving and gracious - 2 Cor. 7-8

STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP WEB PAGE, WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG/STEWARDSHIP

The site is organized around three areas

- Theology and best practices for Stewardship
- Resources for the individual
- Resources for the congregation

STEWARDSHIP ADVISORS' RESOURCES

Through a generous offer from Ron Chewning, principal of Stewardship Advisors, three stewardship emphases, which can be used for congregational stewardship campaigns, have been made available to the congregations of the SELC district.

The three themes are:

- *Blessed by Grace to Give,*
- *Faithful Stewards of God's Grace,* and
- *Living Wisely in an Unwise world.*

At the request of the author, these resources are not to be made public on our website. However, you can review and download them at [this link](#) or by scanning the QR code.





CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The district board of directors has approved moving forward with a capital campaign. The case for the campaign will focus on church planting with the goal of raising \$2 million. In view of the recent approval of school vouchers in many states, the campaign may also include the planting of Lutheran schools, which can then also lead to the planting of *churches*. More details will be shared at the district convention.

The district has engaged WalterLewis, LLC, to assist the district in executing this campaign, under the theme, "Called to be the Light," based on Acts 13:47.

CHURCH CONSTRUCTION IN INDIA

The SELC supports a missionary in India. Due to a nationalistic Hindu party being in power, our missionary and his people face serious persecutions, both lay believers and missionaries have been killed in recent years in the area.

However, the Holy Spirit has been using our missionary greatly, who is raising up and training local leaders (about 10), who have been planting churches. This means that an indigenous church is multiplying with local resources. Our missionary has been quite wise in avoiding models of ministry that cannot be replicated with local resources, even though these new believers live in poverty.

It's natural that we, as the SELC district, want to support this ministry. However, we want to do so in a way that our financial assistance doesn't actually have adverse effects on this thriving ministry.

We believe we have a way!

- As these congregations mature, modest church buildings are constructed, costing about \$7500.
- During 2023-24, two church buildings are planned to be constructed.

Your congregation is invited to adopt one of these churches.

- You may want to fund the entire amount or just a portion.
- If you are interested, please respond to
 - o Rev. Dr. Mark Larson at markclarson0341@gmail.com or call 314-623-2410.

For the safety of the mission:

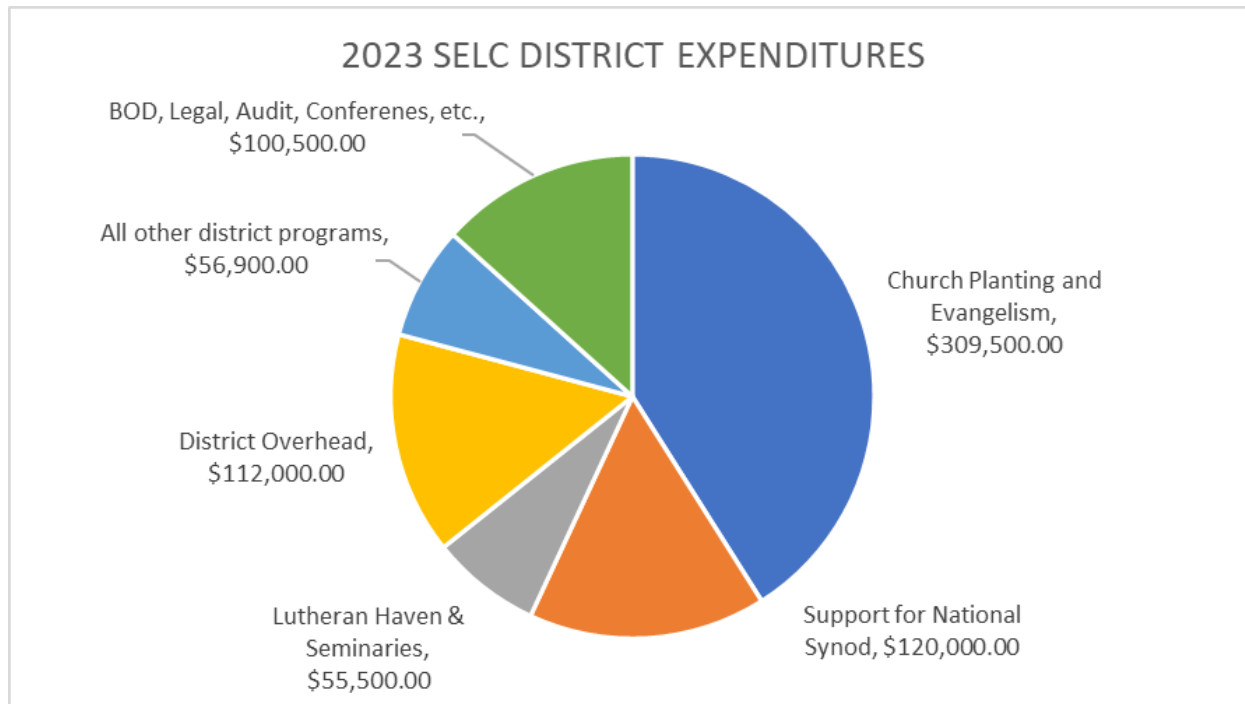
- Do not reproduce and share this information in any electronic medium. Printed matter is permitted, as long as there are instructions to not share electronically.
- If your worship services are broadcast or recorded on the web, do not refer to this project.
- Responding by email should be secure.
- Please do not refer to our missionary by name or the country where he works.

India Mission

Church Construction
You can help!

SELCDISTRICT GIVING METRICS

Congregational district budget goals are suggested every fall to fund district ministry. Through these offerings congregations participate in Christ's mission to be witnesses in "Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). A significant portion of these offerings are used to establish new church plants, providing new stations to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is indicated in the graph below for 2023, which is typical for the past triennium.



After many years of effective use, the annual campaign transitioned this past triennium from a uniform, suggested percentage increase, based on inflation, to encouraging congregations in most cases to financially commitment to the district based on a percentage of congregational budget.

Further, the appeal to the congregations was segmented into three groups.

- *Leaders*—Congregations that set the pace for giving to the district with a significant gift. They were encouraged to "keep up the good work," and maintain the impact of their gift in view of inflation, if possible.
- *Partners*—Consistent, faithful partners with the district. They were encouraged to increase their support by one percent of their annual offerings.
- *Getting Started*—Congregations with a history of little or no support of the district. They were encouraged to "get started" by giving \$5 per person per month based on average worship attendance.

The Finance Committee, consisting of President Vinovskis, Mr. Robert Lange, Treasurer, Mr. Larry Schultz, Financial Secretary and Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Director, met annually in January to prepare district budgets. Efforts were made to present a balanced budget.

GOALS vs. RECEIPTS

SELC congregations have a history of fulfilling their pledges to missions each year. This blessing continues during this past triennium as indicated below.

| Year | Budgeted from Churches | Actual Received | Percent from Churches | Total District Budget | Actual Received | District Total Percent |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2021 | \$510,330 | \$509,779 | 100% | \$526,000 | \$550,479 | 105% |
| 2022 | \$522,061 | \$492,582 | 94% | \$610,000 | \$660,870 | 108% |
| 2023 | \$528,887 | \$479,260 | 91% | \$650,000 | \$718,353 | 111% |
| 2024* | \$521,513 | \$440,852 | 97% | \$710,000 | \$572,950 | 94% |

*2024 through October

THANK YOU!

The SELC district continues to move forward in sharing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. The continued support, in the midst of struggles, for district missions is inspiring and greatly appreciated.

We look forward to continued partnership as we are "Called to Be a Light" to the nations this next triennium.

Mission Executive Report

Board Report Title: CHURCH PLANTING REPORT

Board Committee: Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Mission Executive

Submitter: Rev. Dr. Mark Larson

CHURCH PLANTING PROGRAM

The narrative of God's Word in the Book of Acts is the story of planting churches from Jerusalem to Rome. Beginning in Antioch, Paul in successive missionary journeys went to the cities and preached the Gospel. He would see to it that elders (what we call pastors) were appointed in every town (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:3). The goal of Paul's preaching was that local congregations would be founded and grow.

It has been well established for many decades that church planting remains the best way to reach the lost for Christ. Church planting remains a high priority for the SELC district.

CHURCH PLANTING WEBSITE

Toward the beginning of the triennium, a new church planting website was launched and continues to be developed. Check it out at selc.lcms.org/churchplanting.

CHURCH PLANTING PODCASTS

In 2022, a total of six podcasts were developed to introduce the district to church planting best practices. They are now available on the district website at selc.lcms.org/churchplantingpodcasts/

- SELC Church Planting History
- What is a New Testament Church
- Gospel Fueled
- Outward Focused
- Discipleship Driven
- Multiplication Minded

ONLINE CHURCH PLANTER COHORTS

A key strategy of the church planting plan is "Every Church Planting Churches." To implement this, SELC congregations were invited to join one of four cohorts that best fits how they can be involved. Each was attended by representatives of several congregations.

- *Developing Disciples for Sending*, Jacob Hoyer
- *Planning to Plant a Multiplying Church*, Paul Hoyer

- *Securing Your Congregational Legacy*, Jacob Hoyer

The next step in this process was to train church planters. Our first training event was held in Orlando, Florida, April 24-26, 2023. We welcomed 4 church plants in various stages of development: Resurrection, Sanford, FL; St. John, Massillon, OH; Peace Galloway, NJ and Faith, Wesley Chapel, FL. The first phase of training focused on how to build a church planting team.

You can learn more about our church planter training workshops on the district website, <http://selc.lcms.org/churchplantingresources/>

CHURCH PLANTING FUNDING BENCHMARKS

To develop funding milestones for church plants, those who had served on the task force to develop our church planting strategy were convened: Wally Arp, Jacob Hoyer, Dan Lepley, and Mark Larson. Ben Hoyer also shared input as one recently involved with church planting. We reviewed the benchmarks for funding church plants, which are listed in the Appendix at the end of this report.

CHURCH PLANTING GRANTS FROM THE SYNOD

The Office of National Missions (LCMS) is now offering church planting grants, up to \$100,000, through a process called *Church Planting Simplified*. The grants are funded by a \$2 million gift. We are hopeful that these grants will add significant resources to our church planting efforts.

CHURCH PLANTER ASSESSMENT

Assessments were conducted for a number of candidates for church planting. This assessment process includes personal interviews and the completion of several online personality profiles to help us determine if the giftedness of these candidates match the needs for the church planting opportunity.

PASTORAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MISSION EXECUTIVE

Included the 2024 budget were funds to hire a part-time worker to provide assistance for the Mission Executive at St. Lucas, St. Louis, so that he can devote more time to district matters. Quite unexpectedly, St. Lucas was approached by the St. Louis seminary to have a vicar assigned because a student was seeking a local vicarage. Biruk Chiksa, a native of Ethiopia, was assigned and began his vicarage on July 1, 2024 at St. Lucas.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The district board of directors has approved moving forward with a capital campaign. The case for the campaign will focus on church planting with the goal of raising \$2 million. In view of the recent approval of school vouchers in many states, the campaign may also include the planting of Lutheran schools, which can then also lead to the planting of *churches*. The district has engaged WalterLewis, LLC, to assist the district in executing this campaign, under the theme, "Called to be the Light," based on Acts 13:47. More details will be shared at the district convention.

US CHURCH PLANTS BY LOCATION

Below is listed church planting activity during the past triennium in alphabetical order by location. This report includes new starts, replants, ministries receiving financial support, and exploration of opportunities that may lead to the same.

THE WAY, COLUMBIA, IL

This congregation was welcomed to our district at the last Convention. They had received a three-year grant, which concluded in 2023. The congregation continues to thrive, is now self-supporting and has begun to financially support the work of the district.

RESURRECTION, CROWN POINT, IN

The pastor who had been serving this congregation in retirement "retired again" from ministry at this congregation in the summer of 2024. President Vinovskis, Circuit Visitor Carl Krueger and Mark Larson attended a meeting with this congregation on behalf of the District on June 17. The congregation has expressed their strong desire and commitment to reach the growing community around them. The options for replanting the congregation in partnership with the district were presented. The congregation thought it best to continue their efforts to reach the community for Christ without entering a replanting agreement with the district. We look forward to the blessing of the Holy Spirit on their continued efforts.

PEACE, GALLOWAY, NJ

The congregation has been in a tenuous position since its pastor, who has been serving part-time for a number of years, retired on June 30, 2023. However, for many reasons, the potential for future ministry here is strong. These reasons include a thriving preschool, and a relatively new facility in a good location.

The district met with them several times to present options for the future, which included a “restart,” through which the district would invest significant resources. In view of this investment, the congregation agrees to share authority with the district. The congregation approved such a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in August of 2023.

Work then began to call a church planting pastor through referrals from the President’s office, seminary students and other contacts. Approximately 40-50 pastors have been reviewed. Several very promising candidates that were well qualified were invited to the site. Unfortunately, these candidates dropped out of the process near the end. The length of the vacancy has been frustrating and detrimental to the congregation, especially since no local vacancy pastor was available. We are thankful for Rev. Steve Bocklage, who has been serving once a month, and Rev. Ron Myer, who also travelled to lead worship and conduct other ministry in 2023. We continue to review additional candidates with the prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will send laborers into His harvest field.

Part of the process for replanting is to amend the constitution of the congregation in such a way that authority is shared by the congregation and the district. The essence of these amendments is that the district would have representatives on their council. After feedback by the Constitution Committee, the proposed changes were approved by the congregation and the District Board of Directors, and implemented.

The preschool continues to thrive. Enrollment in the fall of 2024 filled within hours of opening and now has a waiting list. The congregation has made some improvements to the physical facility that they deemed to be urgent. Changes were especially needed in order to properly maintain the facility for the preschool.

ST. JOHN, MASSILLON, OH

This congregation was included in the original cohort for church planter training. They are pursuing the concept of planting a new congregation under the leadership of Pastor Jon Carpenter with St. John as the mother. The church planting effort completed the first milestone of the district church planting plan and are moving on to the next stage.

MONTREAL QC, ASCENSION

With the leadership of Charles St-Onge, this ministry continues to reach out to a highly ethnic, economically challenged, non-Christian community in a diverse cultural milieu. What a joy to see the Gospel bringing hope to those who had not known the way of salvation in Christ. Adult baptism and conversions in populations that are not traditionally Christian are regularly reported!



The congregation holds an annual “Foro/Forum” to outline its strategic plan for the next year, which coordinates the support of the Synod through Network Supported Missionary funds (raised by Pastor St-Onge), the Mission of Christ Network and the district.

Learn more about this effective and exciting ministry at intheway.org.

ZION, NORRIDGE, IL

This congregation has had a series of meetings recently that seem to indicate that the conclusion of the congregation’s ministry in its current form is at hand. The district has been actively offering input on what the next chapter of ministry in that area could look like, which may include starting a new congregation in the current location.

NEW CITY, ORLANDO, FL

This is a new congregation, officially chartered in the fall of 2024. The church has been under the auspices of the Holy Cross Network of Central Florida. The congregation pursued independent status from the Network with their blessing. Rev. Adam Barcott leads this ministry. More information is found at their website, newcitynow.com.



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TRINITY SCHOOL, ROCKLEDGE, FL

Our district was asked by the Florida–Georgia District to partner with this school, which was struggling, and whose sponsoring church was in decline. Faith, Viera, because of its proximity and long relationship with the school, stepped forward with personnel and other resources. Under the leadership of Rev. Ron Myer and Principal Becky Houston (a member of Faith, Viera), the school made an incredible recovery to the point where it had reached record enrollment. Part of the vision of this ministry was that a new church would be planted to reach out to the school families, who come from diverse backgrounds.

Many of the key players in leadership of both districts and Faith Viera changed in 2022-23. A meeting of all the parties involved was held on April 2023. The result was that Rev. Jacob Hoyer was hired as a consultant to clarify the role that each entity will play in the ministry of the school and of the possible new church plant.

The summary of the outcome was that it was agreed that the original plan to plant a new church at that location should be pursued, while Trinity Church continues, as it is able, to serve its current members at the end of its life cycle. While the SELC was prepared to

sponsor a new plant in this location, the direction the process took was that the FLGA district would sponsor the plant, likely with the support of the nearby FLGA congregations. Unfortunately, in recent months the school is facing renewed financial challenges. Our district has continued to meet with the FLGA District to explore options.

RESURRECTION, SANFORD, FL

This new church plant was launched under the auspices of The Cross Network of Central Florida. Its first worship was held in the gymnasium of Holy Cross Academy, Sanford, FL, on Palm Sunday 2023, under the leadership of Rev. Chris Johnson. Their target is to reach many young adults who have had some connection with Holy Cross school over the years but need re-connection to the Body of Christ. The church welcomed about 200 people at its first worship and is averaging 100 or more at this writing.



This congregation is in its second year of a three-year church planting grant from the district. Praise God and keep praying for the Spirit's blessing!

HISPANIC MINISTRY, ST. LOUIS,

During the summer of this year, contact was established with Rev. Miguel Torneire [Tor-NAY-day], an LCMS pastor serving a Hispanic congregation in Baltimore. His family relocated in St Louis because of his wife's job. He desired to move to this area to be reunited with his family. Reverend Torneire has extensive experience ministry and in mission work.



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The lack of any LCMS Hispanic ministry in metropolitan St. Louis, including the Illinois suburbs, the availability of this qualified church planter, outside funding from the LCMS, and the missionary's willingness to work bi-vocationally, all seem to indicate that this was a viable opportunity. The District Board of Directors concurred and issued a call to him in October 2024. Rev Torneire has relocated to St. Louis and began work on November 15 to plant one or more Hispanic churches in the area.

FAITH, WESLEY CHAPEL, FL

This is a fairly recent church plant that continues to minister to its community in the Tampa, FL area. They currently worship at a dance studio, which requires weekly set-up and take down and limits activities during the week. They are hoping to be able to find a "24/7" location in the near future. During this triennium, they received district support on a declining basis. They plan to be self-supporting at the end of 2024.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

INDIA MISSION

The SELC supports a missionary in India. He and his people face serious persecutions, both lay believers and missionaries in other denominations have been killed in recent years in the area.

When our missionary to India met with district officials in the spring of 2023, he spoke about the hostility of the current government to the Church. The situation has deteriorated so that now there is open ethnic and religious violence in India against Christians and other non-Hindus. Our missionary has at times needed to go into hiding. On one occasion, when he emerged, he shared horrifying accounts of persecution. He was hopeful that the current ruling party would be defeated in upcoming elections. However, these elections returned the ruling party to power.

However, the Holy Spirit has been using our missionary greatly, who is raising up and training local leaders (about 10), who have been planting churches. This means that an indigenous church is multiplying with local resources. Our missionary has been quite wise in avoiding models of ministry that cannot be replicated with local resources, even though these new believers live in poverty. He has a firm understanding that any assistance must be given in a healthy way.

In spite of serious persecution, in 2024 our mission in India started a ministry to feed children with the hope to start a school, and construct two church buildings. The district board approved the funds for the construction of two church buildings in India at \$7500 USD each.



Convention Offering

Our missionary is proposing the construction of two more churches in 2024-25. We are now inviting SELC congregations and members to support the construction of these churches. We have designated the Convention offering for this project. Please consider a generous donation to support this Gospel-centered ministry.

Your congregation should have received a letter and Mission Offering envelope in early December for this appeal. Contact Rev. Dr. Mark Larson at markclarson0341@gmail.com for more information.

Note that while private and corporate prayers for our missionary and the churches under his care are needed more now than ever, we should refrain from mentioning his name and specific location in India in electronic media, including livestreamed worship services. Printed and oral communications that are not shared on the internet are appropriate.

Honduras Mission

The work in Honduras began more than 20 years ago when Faith Lutheran Church in Viera, FL began partnering with the Children of Love Foundation in LaPaz, Honduras. Members of Faith Viera (mainly Woody and Linda McDaniel) through a work connection at American Airlines saw an opportunity to support an independent ministry serving the needs of children who had lost their parents or whose families were not able to provide for them.

As a result of this partnership a dormitory and a chapel were built in LaPaz with labor and materials provided by Faith Viera. St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, FL came alongside Faith Viera in 2005 and began sending teams to Honduras to do work projects and conduct Vacation Bible School at the Children of Love Foundation for the LaPaz community. Members of Christ Lutheran Church in Perry, GA also join in this effort.

As work continued Faith, Viera with support from St. Luke's, Oviedo purchased a parcel of land in LaPaz to begin the construction of a Lutheran Church and a parsonage to house a future pastor. With labor and materials provided primarily by Faith Viera and some financial support provided by St. Luke's, A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church was completed.

As that work was underway talks began with The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) to establish a Honduran Lutheran Church as a legal entity, Misión Evangélica Luterana

Confesional en Honduras. The LCMS model for this is the establishment of a mission society called a FORO made up of partner churches in the United States and local representatives in Honduras. At this time a connection was also established with a community of believers in Comayaguela, a suburb of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

At present the LCMS congregations represented in the FORO are of two SELC congregations, Faith Viera and St. Luke's Oviedo; one Florida-Georgia congregation, Christ Lutheran in Perry, GA; and one congregation in the Rocky Mountain District, Our Father Lutheran Church in Centennial, CO.

Through the work of the FORO a relationship was established with the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church (LCC), which is a mission outreach of the Lutheran Church of Canada. Working together, the Foro and the LCC called a missionary from the Lutheran seminary in Nicaragua to serve at A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in LaPaz.

Strong lay leadership at the Comayaguela mission site resulted in the establishment of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd has a small worship space and an outdoor fellowship area that are used for children's programs for the community. Two men from that community have expressed interest in being trained as pastors. The plan is to provide this training through the Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic.

A third mission site was identified in Choluteca Honduras which is located near the Nicaraguan border. Property and church building from a previous mission start through the Presbyterian church were given to the FORO to begin work on establishing a congregation. Once again, the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church provided a missionary who travels twice a month to Choluteca. Through his effort a worshipping community has been formed and named Jesus the Redeemer Lutheran Church.

At its last FORO meeting in September 2024 Jacob Hoyer with Clarity Navigator consulting met to help us develop a five-seven year strategic plan moving forward. Our vision is to complete the process of establishing Misión Evangélica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, be recognized as a partner church with the LC-MS and plant ten new congregations! Pray for this exciting work.

EVANGELISM GRANTS

Evangelism grants for holiday and other outreach projects are available from the district. Application information is found at <https://selc.lcms.org/missions/>.

- *Project Bilingual!* (St. John's, Hazelton, PA, 2023) –To make future outreach events, starting with upcoming Easter activities, as welcoming as possible for Spanish speakers by creating bilingual signage, flyers and website updates.

- *Google Ads for Easter* (Family of Christ, Tampa, FL, 2023)–Google Ads have been used successfully for promoting their school. This project takes advantage of matching funds and updates to their website to create Google Ads for worship services.
- *Easter Facebook Ads for Joint Sunrise Service with LCMS Churches* (Granite City, IL, 2023-2024) – The aim of the project was to spread word about the Sunrise Service hosted by the Lutheran Council of Granite City (composed of Hope Lutheran Church, Concordia Lutheran Church and St. John Lutheran Church). While there was a break due to COVID, the event has been conducted for 75 years. For the last decade or so, access to the public ice rink at Wilson Park has been given. Facebook Ads will be purchased to promote their annual community Easter Sunrise Service.
- *First Worship Publicity* (Resurrection, Sanford, FL, 2023)–This new start used the funds for signage and promotional t-shirts, which were frequently featured on their social media.
- *Easter Egg Event* (Grace, Lakewood, OH, 2023, 2024)–Grace invited their community to games, crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a message about the real meaning of Easter. Members of the congregation and staff of our preschool, as well as volunteers from Lutheran High School West, manned the games and crafts and hid the eggs for the hunt.



- *Easter Door Hangers* (theCROSS, Mt. Dora, FL, 2024) – The congregation used this grant to help pay for door hangers to be shared in the community. Pictured is Pastor Jacob Bauman’s son, Micah, pitching in to help.
- *Christian Concert* (Wilkes Barre, PA, 2024) - The project sponsored a community concert at Wilkes Barre that reached out to the community with the Gospel of Christ and gave members of the local congregations an opportunity to invite their unchurched acquaintances. A grant of \$500 was approved.





**Christian Concert to be Held
November 2, 2024**
St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA



Wendysue Fluegge coming to not only entertain us but lead us in praising our Lord and Savior with her special musical talents, both orally and instrumentally. She is a natural musical leader and has organized many concerts, working with several Lutheran affiliates such as the LWML, in order to serve the Lord and His church with lovely arrangements of worship through song.

It will be such a wonderful delight to come together to join in raising the roof once again in praise to our Lord and God, Creator and Savior. So, it is our wish and prayer that you are inspired to join us Saturday, Nov 2nd, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in Wilkes Barre, PA, at 1pm for this positively outstanding event!

Funding to help support this concert has been awarded through a SELC Evangelism grant.

APPENDIX: Funding Benchmarks for Church Planting

Prerequisites for funding eligibility

- Under supervision of a SELC pastor.
- Connected to an LCMS congregation that is willing to receive and manage the grant funds.

Stage 0 - Articulating the Dream

In the first phase of a new ministry community, the District's support comes primarily in the form of travel and training for the formation of a planting team alongside a cohort of other planters from across the District.

In some cases, the planting team may request up to \$5,000 in seed funding at the beginning of their course of training.

Stage 1 - Establishing the Context

- *“With whom”* - A core team representing at least 3 households who have committed to participate in leadership of the new community over the ensuing 12-18 months. Demonstrated by signed covenants.
- *“To whom”* - A geographically targeted area of outreach, which informs an understanding of contextual demographics of the area. Demonstrated by named geographic boundaries of the target community, and a narrative summary of the spiritual demographics of the region.
- *Model Selection* - A planting thesis - how the team expects planting to progress - which informs a preferred planting model of either (1) worship-centric, (2) social enterprise, or (3) business-as-mission
- *Seed Funding* - A total of \$3,500 have been contributed or pledged to be contributed in the ensuing 12 months.

When stage 1 benchmarks have been met, the planting team may request up to \$15,000.

Stage 2 - Defining the Mission

- *Community* - The core team has grown to represent at least 8 households who have committed to participate in the new community over the coming 12-18 months. Demonstrated by signed covenants.
- *Formation* - The core team has designed and tested a strategy that is contextual to their ministry and by which they are making disciples. Demonstrated by an articulated on-paper process (including relational touchpoints and crafted or curated curricula) for assimilation and discipleship of new people into the community.
- *Organizational Identity* - The core team has articulated and adopted a clear and concise statement of purpose for their new community which communicates the uniqueness of their collective Gospel mandate as informed by their ministry context and the gifts God has brought together in their people.
- *Startup Funding* - A total of \$12,500 in contributions or revenues have been received or committed for the ensuing twelve months, with at least \$5,000 of the \$12,500 committed in recurring contributions.

When stage 2 benchmarks have been met, the planting team may request up to \$30,000.

Stage 3 - Casting the Vision

- *Leadership* - The new community now includes at least 8 households who have made a commitment to participate in leadership of the community as well as a representation of at least 5 additional households that are serving in some capacity in the life of the community. Demonstrated by covenants and testimonies.
- *Practice* - The community can identify at least 3 individuals who have exhibited discipleship growth. Demonstrated by qualitative narrative accounts.
- *Organizational Direction* - The core team has collaboratively crafted a compelling 5-year vision, supported by four 3-year operational objectives to be communicated with their constituency. Demonstrated by a strategic planning document which includes a narrative of the 5-year vision, and a summary of the 3-year objectives.
- *Sustaining Funding* - A total of \$30,000 in contributions or revenues have been received or committed for the ensuing twelve months, with at least \$10,000 of the \$30,000 committed in recurring contributions.

When stage 3 benchmarks have been met, the planting team may request up to \$50,000.

Lutheran Haven Report

Board Report Title: Lutheran Haven Report for the SELC District Convention

Submitter: Lutheran Haven

Greetings from your ministry to older adults in Oviedo, Florida!

"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for the good, for those who are called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

This verse beautifully captures the history of Lutheran Haven. What began as an idea rooted in gratitude has grown into a thriving community, built on a foundation of faith and service. Over the past 77 years, the Haven has remained steadfast in its mission to care for residents, staff, and our broader Lutheran family.

Today, our ministry serves over three hundred independent residents and fifty assisted living and memory care residents, with a dedicated team of over 130 staff members. Many of our residents are retired Lutheran pastors, teachers, and church workers, continuing the Haven's legacy as a spiritual and supportive community. We also provide private duty

companion care and outpatient therapy services, benefiting both our residents and non-residents in the greater Oviedo area.

In January 2022, our Board of Trustees approved a multi-year Repositioning Plan to ensure the Haven continues to thrive. Since then, we have been and continue to diligently work to implement the plan which focuses on:

- Providing services and environments that allow residents to age healthily in place.
- Strengthening the fiscal sustainability of our mission.

It is important to note, as has been the case throughout our history, when changes such as these are necessary, we do not change our mission, we change how we accomplish it. Key elements of the plan include:

- The opening of a new Aquatic Center and the addition of outpatient therapy and health concierge services.
- Renovations to our Assisted Living building to enhance capacity and modernize space.
- Expansion of our Wellness Program to offer more spiritual care, fitness classes, travel opportunities, and vibrant campus community events.

The results are evident. Participation in our on-campus Sunday services and in Bible studies have both grown substantially and this year saw our first men's and women's retreats. Residents have participated in memorable trips to Savannah, The Ark Encounter, Nashville, and the Smoky Mountains, with more adventures planned. Our outpatient therapy services have supported over 50% of our residents, and more than 20% actively use our health concierge services. Participation in campus activities has increased dramatically, creating a positive energy that reflects Christ's presence in our community.

This vitality extends beyond our borders. Annual flea markets hosted by the Lutheran Haven Auxiliary and other events sponsored by the Oviedo Rotary Club have brought over 1,000 visitors to our campus, offering a unique opportunity to share our mission with the broader community.

As we look ahead, there is still much work to be done. However, we remain excited about the opportunities and mindful of the challenges we face. Our success is a testament to God's grace and the unwavering commitment of the SELC, and our Board, staff, and residents.

We are honored to host this year's President's Reception and look forward to the fellowship and opportunity to share your Lutheran Haven with you. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey in ministry.

In Christ's Service,

The Lutheran Haven Team

Ministerial Care Report

Submitter: Rev. Christopher T. Cahill, D. Min.

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Since the SELC District Convention in 2021, as the Ministerial Care chairman I have participated in conferences with the LCMS' Ministerial Care Coalition and provided updates through the Beacon on new pastoral support materials and opportunities as they become available from a variety of sources.

Of particular note (and concern) is that Concordia Plans Services now offers mental health care to members through Evernorth Confide (more at <https://www.concordiaplans.org/members/member-health/mental-health>). In the past, Concordia Plans allowed non-member pastors and workers to access mental health care through the Employee Assistance Program (meaning that even if a pastor or worker was not enrolled in the Plans, they could still access mental health care through the Plans). This new arrangement eliminates that access by non-members. Congregations shopping for insurance coverage that is not provided through Concordia Plans for their workers should consider whether other providers offer mental health coverage comparable to that offered by Evernorth and Concordia.

Student Aid Committee

Submitter: John Glanzer, Committee Chair

Dear Members of the SELC District Convention:

Since the last SELC District Convention at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in May, 2022, the Student Aid Committee has formally met at least once each year to issue grants-in-aid for

students studying for full-time professional ministry at our synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries.

The following students received grants-in-aid for the academic years 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-2025 (also listed are home congregations, colleges/universities/seminaries attended, and the fields of study):

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:

1. Rachel McCloskey (Resurrection, Malvern, OH), Concordia Seminary St. Louis (Deaconess)
2. Christina Shaffer (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL), Concordia Seminary St. Louis (Deaconess)
3. Jessica Thompson (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL), Concordia Seminary St. Louis (Deaconess)
4. Emily Schallhorn (Hope, Melbourne, FL), Concordia University Ann Arbor (Christian Education)

SEMINARY STUDENTS

1. Ken Estes (Faith, Viera, FL), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (Pastor)
2. Tyler Decker (Hope, Melbourne, FL), Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (Pastor)
3. James Hurst (Calvary Lutheran Church, Parma, OH), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (Pastor - SMP)

Some of the above received financial assistance for more than one year. Students apply for aid each year, and the Student Aid Committee is committed to supporting our students as long as they continue their studies.

Over the course of the last three years, **a total of \$43,000 in grants-in-aid** were provided to our college, university, and seminary students. Individual awards varied from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.000, depending on requests and need. Seminary grants-in-aid are larger, due to the seminaries' own request for a minimum of \$3,000.00 per student, which our district is happy to support.

In addition, since the tuition for "Specific Ministry Pastor" students is significantly lower than full-time students following the normal track on the seminary campus, the minimum grant-in-aid that our committee issues is in the range of \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The Student Aid Committee, Lord-willing, will hold its annual meeting in August to consider applications. Applications can be secured either at the district's website or from any of the committee members. Deadline is August 1st.

Respectfully submitted, John Glanzer, St. Luke's Lutheran School, Oviedo, FL 32765

Youth Report

Board Report Title: SELC Youth Report - November 2024

Board Committee: Rachel Larson

Submitter: Rachel Larson

Greetings and blessings as we ENDURE the excitement of preparing for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering! As of November 15, there are currently five congregations and 94 participants signed up to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2025 from our district!

The other news is about our SELC District Event. We will be serving together at an offsite location again this year. We will be partnering with the English District for this event. The location and type of work is still being worked out with the Gathering planners. I will share any details as soon as I get them. The event will include transportation to and from the event, lunch, and a SELC District T-Shirt.

I am working with the Youth Ministry Office and the District Coordinator Manager to determine what expenses the SELC would need to pay during the Gathering. These things include transportation, hotel, and food for two people to help in the District Zone and the District Event.

During the past triennium, we have also started a Facebook page for Youth leaders in the district, in order to share ideas and network among our congregations. This has also been a place for Youth Gathering updates to make sure the adult leaders that are preparing can support the youth going to the Youth Gathering.

Blessings,

Rachel Larson

LCEF Report



John Hoover
SELC District Vice President

Mission

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to support The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and, in the future, empowering ministry and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Organization Overview

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) has steadfastly pursued its mission to "make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world."

Established in 1978, LCEF plays a crucial role in this mission.

- Purpose: To empower ministry by providing loans, investments and support services designed to serve the financial needs of congregations, schools and other ministry organizations within the LCMS.
- Growth: From humble beginnings with \$100 million in assets to a current portfolio exceeding \$2.0 billion—demonstrating our commitment to financial stability, trustworthiness and advancing Christ's kingdom.

Historical Context

LCEF's primary function has been to provide loans funded by investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Over the years, our services have broadened to include strategic advisory services, such as:

- Ministry Solutions: Offering mission clarity and guidance through ministry clarity processes and capital campaigns.
- Real Estate Solutions: Providing expert consultation and execution in property development, repurposing and expansion.

Financial Strength

LCEF's strong financial foundation plays a crucial role in supporting the LCMS today and securing its future. Our investment programs empower LCMS individuals and organizations, funding projects such as home loans, sanctuary renovations, senior living communities and Lutheran schools.

Leadership

Our leadership is committed to guiding the organization with vision, expertise and dedication to our mission. Here's a snapshot of our leadership team and workforce:

- President and CEO: Bart Day, MBA MDiv., reports to a 12-member Board of Directors.
- Workforce: LCEF employs over 150 people across the United States, including our headquarters in St. Louis and representatives in 31 LCMS districts.

Connection to Ministries

LCMS ministries connect with LCEF through their district vice presidents (DVPs), who act as vital links to ensure our services meet each district's unique needs.

For over 45 years, LCEF has been committed to providing the financial resources and services that support the church's mission. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to serving the LCMS and strengthening ministries through trusted financial and strategic partnerships.

Economic Overview

A period of complex and evolving economic challenges:

2022:

- Continued recovery from the initial shock of the pandemic.
- Significant inflation, with the Consumer Price Index peaking at 9.1% in June.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 2.1%.
- Unemployment was around 3.6% by year's end.
- Federal Reserve initiated a series of interest rate hikes to control inflation.

2023:

- Ongoing efforts by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation.
- Interest rates reached levels not seen since before the Great Recession.
- Inflation cooled to 3% by December.
- Tepid GDP growth of 1.8%.
- The housing market experienced a significant slowdown due to higher borrowing costs.
- Unemployment remained low at 3.5%.

2024:

- Continued economic challenges but signs of stabilization.
- Inflation moderated to 2.5% year-over-year.
- GDP growth is projected to remain sluggish at 1.5%.
- Unemployment slightly increased to 3.8%.
- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) paused rate hikes to monitor economic data closely.

LCEF's Response

LCEF navigated volatile markets with prudence, strengthening our capital and positioning for sustained growth. Despite economic challenges, we ended FY 2024 with over \$17.5M in gains, reinforcing our commitment to financial stability and ministry support.

Report of the Lay Member - Mission Focus of the SELC Board of Directors

Board Report Title: SELC Representative Report - Lay Mission

Submitter: Deborah St-Onge

The work of the Board during the past triennium has included unwavering support for finding ways to share Christ in the communities of the SELC District congregations. This is a challenge for all the districts of our Synod, but particularly so for our geographically diverse SELC.

One of the main tasks of missionaries arriving in the field is asking the same question that Jesus did when he entered a new place, "What do the people here need?" Of course, they all needed healing and help - physical and spiritual. They needed Jesus - even when they didn't know it! Our Savior modeled for us throughout the Gospels that when physical needs are met, hearts are opened for spiritual healing and connection to God.

Your Board sees you: the congregations in communities that have seen tremendous societal change, that have lost jobs and young people, whose neighbors no longer look like them or speak the same language easily, those missing the contributions of their long-serving sainted members, and those who are trying to connect with people they don't understand anymore. We have and continue to pray for you.

I have heard your elected leaders advocate for any congregation, large or small, rural or urban, north, south, east, or west, more traditional or less traditional in style, long-established or recently formed that is willing to make sacrifices for the sake of sharing Christ in their communities. Not theological change, to be sure, but changes in thought and possibly practice in order to reach those who are not part of the Kingdom as well as strengthen those that are.

There is no "program" or "easy" answer to these societal shifts. Each SELC congregation and community has its own gifts and challenges. As we continue to focus on how we can love God and love our neighbors as ourselves, let us remember the following truths:

- We can trust that God will not abandon us. (John 16:33)

- We are called to be faithful with the gifts we've been given during the time and place that God has prepared for us. (Eph. 2:10)
- We will be equipped for every good work. (Heb. 13: 20-21)
- Sharing God's word and work in Christ is always used by the Spirit to accomplish that which God intends. (Is. 55:11)

Therefore, my beloved [SELC brothers and sisters], be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Receive encouragement from your board to try new things. It may not yield the results you want, but it will be for God's purpose. Look around. See if there is an unmet need that you or your congregation could address. Share your items with Patti so others can be inspired! Pray for the seeds that are being planted to take root in good soil and yield a hundredfold. Let your LIGHT shine!!!

Please use me as a resource if you would like to discuss ideas! debstonge@mac.com

2024 SELC District Disaster Relief

Board Committee: Disaster Relief

Submitter: Steven Lehenbauer, DDRRC

Two major hurricanes in Florida in 2024 were the focus of SELC Disaster Relief efforts this year. Members of our SELC churches were active throughout Florida assisting those impacted by the hurricanes. Thankfully, our Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) were trained and equipped to help. At one congregation, more than 275 hours of volunteer service was provided by members!

The SELC District and FLGA District have worked together to establish the *Florida-Georgia Lutheran Early Response (FGLER)* non-profit organization. In 2024, FGLER was approved for RSO status by the LCMS. FGLER was established in order to assist LCMS churches with disaster relief. During the year, they coordinated LERT training for churches; managed disaster relief sites; provided bobcats, chainsaws, generators and other equipment needed for relief; assisted the LCMS with the national LERT database development; and provided support and care for many individuals impacted by disaster.

The SELC District provided financial support to FGLER in 2024 for the purchase of equipment that is essential to disaster relief. Please consider how your congregation can support FGLER or the National LCMS DR through financial donations and LERT training.

I thank the district and St. Luke's Lutheran Church for their support of my disaster relief work. In September, I attended the three-day national LCMS disaster relief conference in

St. Louis. The conference sessions brought together coordinators from across the country to discuss best practices, review previous disaster relief efforts and build relationships to better bring God's mercy to people affected by disasters. I also participated in the initial assessments of hurricane damage alongside LCMS national office personnel and FLGA District office personnel.

LWIM SELC Convention Report

Submitter: Carol A. Miksad, "LWIM" SELC District President

Mission Statement As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

The theme of our 18th Biennial LWML SELC District Convention, at Concordia Lutheran Church, Macungie, Pennsylvania, held May 3-5, 2024, was "Let Our Light Shine", from Matthew 5:14-16. Our guest of honor was none other than LWML's National President, Eden Keefe, pictured here with our past District President, Milly Kwiatkowski. There was a total of 42 attendees at the convention from our District.

SELC District President Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis welcomed the LWML ladies and men to Concordia Lutheran Church. He has been Pastor, as well as the SELC District President, since 2021. He emphasized the importance for each of us to "Let Our Light Shine" to all we meet and to share our God given gifts and talents to serve others.

Guest speakers included Rev. Dan Lepley, LCEF; Linda Cinquegrana, with Lutheran Church Charities, Comfort Dogs; Linda Medhus representing the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Fargo, ND; and Pastor Robert Marshall, representative from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

LWML SELC District Mission Grants Director Karen Ann Kowalczyk presented the 2024 - 2006 Grants.

- St. John's, Hazleton, PA - Maryland Orphan Grain Train- Shipping Cost - Request \$1,500.
- Zion Lutheran, Norridge, Ill - Historic St Matthew's Lutheran Church, towards Chicago Building Repairs to necessary to continue feeding souls and bodies - Request \$1,500.

- St. Matthew's Norton, Ohio - Towards a New Electric Church Sign - Request \$1,500.
- St Lucas Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO - Community Evangelism and Outreach - Request \$1,500.

ˆ TOTAL \$6,000

An election of Officers was held, resulting in the following:

- President - Carol Miksad, St. Lucas Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO
- Vice President - Betty Olah, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lodi, OH
- Secretary - Allyn Starry, Esq., St. John's Lutheran Church, Hazleton, PA

LWML SELC District Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Gordon Naumann, preached at Sunday's Divine worship service, concluding with the hymn "Go, My Children, With My Blessing".

The 19th Biennial LWML SELC District Convention will be held at St. Lucas Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO, May 1-3, 2026.

Our LWML SELC District is very grateful to the SELC District for their support, prayers and continued invaluable guidance. Our District's LWML began with a dream that the sainted Ann Bajus had in the late 1980's. Since then, our LWML SELC District has grown into three zones: Eastern Zone, Central Zone and Western Zone. The Eastern Zone includes LWML SELC societies in New Jersey, Connecticut, Eastern Pennsylvania and Virginia. The Central Zone societies are all located in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Our Western Zone societies are located in Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Each zone meets once or twice a year for zone rallies, and the LWML SELC District meets biennially in convention that rotates geographically among the three Zones. There are currently 21 societies in our district.

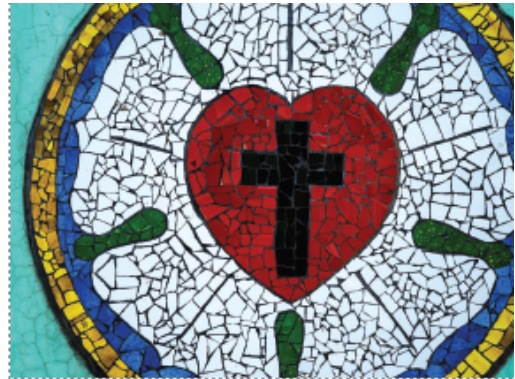
One last item, our Special Guest, LWML National President Eden Keefe spoke to our convention about moving away from being called the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) to; "Lutheran Women in Mission" (LWIM). She told us about the many resources available to us on the website at www.lwml.org. Lutheran Women in Mission is also available on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and in the App store.

Our website is located at LWML-SELC District on Strikingly - <https://lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com/>

Respectfully and joyfully submitted to this Convention,

BOARD FOR NATIONAL MISSION | BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION
Report to 2025 District Conventions

Finding Unity



Mission and Ministry Emphasis

Over the past 14 years, the LCMS has had two mission and ministry emphases: *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* and *Making Disciples for Life*. The two mission boards* believe that the purpose of these emphases is to bring the Synod and her districts, congregations and church workers together in common mission and ministry and to sharpen our focus on this work. Our research indicates, however, that neither emphasis was widely used or adopted by the congregations or church workers of the LCMS. When asked if they found the emphasis somewhat helpful or very helpful, only 21% of respondents answered affirmatively for *Making Disciples for Life*, and 29% answered affirmatively for *Witness, Mercy, Life Together*.

Those who used one or both of these emphases said that they provided inspiration and served as a rallying point for their efforts. Those who did not use them gave a variety of reasons: (1) poor communication; (2) confusion over the purpose and reason for the emphasis and who is supposed to use it; (3) overextended church workers not having the time to invest in the emphasis; and (4) districts having their own unique mission and ministry emphases to communicate and emphasize. When asked whether a new and more effective mission and ministry emphasis would be helpful, respondents expressed concerns about further confusion and program fatigue.

It is possible that *Making Disciples for Life* simply needs more time. Better communication, promotion of its benefits, and use of the abundance of resources currently available could be helpful and reinvigorating. Some respondents indicated a desire to return to *Witness, Mercy, Life Together*, but the mission boards wonder about the optics of going "backward." A new mission and ministry emphasis that will excite the districts and congregations of the Synod and be a unifying and rallying point could be worth the concurrent risk of program fatigue.

Mission Priorities

In addition to the mission and ministry emphasis, the Synod in convention has also endorsed seven mission priorities. Research has shown, however, that Synod members also have not used these as desired or hoped, for a number of reasons. Some people were confused, thinking the mission and ministry emphasis and the mission priorities were the same thing. Others opined that seven priorities are too many (i.e., if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority). Still others said the mission priorities are obvious and therefore not needed or, conversely, that they are too wordy to be easily remembered and used. Finally, as with the mission and ministry emphases, there were questions about the purpose of the mission priorities: What are these for? Whom are they for? This confusion led many to disregard them and focus on other things.

Evaluation

It is evident that neither the mission and ministry emphases nor the seven mission priorities enjoy widespread use in the LCMS, nor have they provided the intended unity and focus. There is no objection to them, but they have not been embraced. Without a strong and pervasive effort to bring them to bear and place them before the eyes of the Synod's churches and church workers, they will continue to languish. Such effort might better be used to highlight and promote a new mission and ministry emphasis.

Whether the LCMS continues with its current mission and ministry emphasis or introduces a new one, greater clarity is needed. Especially critical here are districts and district presidents. Districts need to be encouraged to use the mission and ministry emphasis in their districts and to encourage their congregations



Scan for a message from your two mission boards.

* The two mission boards of the Synod are tasked by Synod bylaws with assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the Synod's triennial mission and ministry emphasis. They are further instructed to provide a joint report of the same to the Synod's districts in advance of their district conventions. In this report, the mission boards are to offer ideas and guidance to help districts propose triennial mission and ministry emphases to the national LCMS convention.

To accomplish this task, the two mission boards first conducted fraternal conversations with the 35 district presidents (and/or their representatives). Next, the boards sent a survey to a sampling of professional church workers and congregations to glean further insights from the field. The following report offers a summary of the information gathered and the mission boards' reflections on that information and evaluation of the same.



to use it. The mission priorities need to be promoted so that every district and congregation of the Synod is able to select one or two as its focus. The Synod as a whole should use all the mission priorities for evaluation on how its members are doing in our work together and to identify areas where we need to improve. Mission priorities should constantly be held before our eyes for direction and encouragement in all we do as the LCMS.

The research has shown that the mission priorities need to be simplified. They need to be shorter and easier to remember. They also need to be clearly distinguished from the mission and ministry emphasis at the same time that it is made clear how they inform and guide that emphasis.

What's Next?

The original plan for the mission and ministry emphasis and the mission priorities was for these to “bubble up” from the circuits of the Synod. LCMS bylaws state that each circuit is to submit ideas and overtures regarding the mission and ministry emphasis to their district in convention to consider. Then, each district is to memorialize the Synod, each triennium, with two or three mission and ministry emphasis ideas for the Synod in convention to consider. The hope was that this would provide a “grassroots” direction to the Synod. But this would also result in some 70–105 overtures to the Synod to combine into a single resolution!

This has not worked — and *cannot* work — as envisioned.

Many think this bottom-up approach is essential and that the voice of the congregations cannot and should not be lost. Others, however, believe that the mission and ministry emphasis should be top-down — a vision and direction given to the Synod by its elected leaders. Your mission boards believe both are important. The Synod and districts are able to do what individual congregations by themselves cannot do, but congregations are able to do, on an individual and personal level, what the Synod and districts cannot do as a whole. There needs to be a way to do both.

What has also become evident is the need for unity. In their conversations with the mission boards, many in the districts expressed how each district is unique, with its own context and specific challenges. Surely this is true. At the same time, there should be a unifying vision and emphasis that brings the Synod together — now, more than ever.

Proposal

Both the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission believe that a mission and ministry emphasis is useful and desirable for the Synod to move forward united in mission on Synod, district, circuit and congregational levels. The current Synod bylaws direct the districts

meeting in convention to provide input on the mission and ministry emphasis of our Synod. Therefore,

We are asking each district meeting in convention:

1. To review this report and:
 - a. Discuss whether you agree or disagree with our conclusion that a mission and ministry emphasis is useful, needed and should be kept.
 - b. Consider the seven mission priorities of the Synod, though they are not mandated by Synod bylaws. Specifically, do we need them? Should they be kept?
2. To fulfill your current duty according to Synod bylaws to craft and submit overtures to the 2026 Synod convention regarding the mission and ministry emphasis, and also to provide direction regarding the mission priorities — to keep or change — and to suggest revisions. Specifically:
 - a. Would you like to see a new mission and ministry emphasis? If so, what are your ideas for a new one?
 - b. How would you simplify or change the mission priorities?

Further, 2023 Resolution 4-02 instructed “That the Synod’s mission boards, after fraternal discussions with districts and members of the Synod over the next triennium, recommend a new mission and ministry emphasis for consideration at the 2026 Synod convention.”

Therefore, we are further asking each district in convention:

3. To send the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission copies of all overtures and memorials submitted to the Synod in regard to the mission and ministry emphasis and the seven mission priorities. This will enable us to take your feedback into account as we fulfill our duty to recommend a mission and ministry emphasis to serve the Synod for the next triennium and beyond.
4. To encourage and commend the fraternal conversations among the Board for National Mission, the Board for International Mission and the districts, that we continue our work together, and to better promote the use of the mission and ministry emphasis and seven mission priorities of the Synod.

It is our great honor and privilege to serve you as your mission boards. The task is not easy, and we sometimes struggle. But with the words and promises of our Lord, we boldly move forward in mission, both at home and abroad, “always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord [our] labor is not in vain” (1 COR. 15:58).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, Chair, Board for National Mission
Mr. John Edson, Chair, Board for International Mission

Nominations by the Congregations of the SELC District

Office of District President

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Dr. Wally Arp

+ Rev. James Douthwaite

+ Rev. Dr. Mark Larson

For the Office of Vice President - Eastern

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

+ Rev. James Douthwaite

+ Rev. Peter Haenftling

+ Rev. Charles St-Onge

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Daniel Berteau

+ Rev. Ray Malec

+ Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis

For the Office of Vice President - Central Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Christopher Cahill

+ Rev. Jacob Deal

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Jon Carpenter

+ Rev. George Hansell

For the Office of Vice President - Western Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger
- + Rev. Jon Palmer
- + Rev. Richard Ramirez

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky
- + Rev. John Gutz
- + Rev. Dr. Mark Larson

For the Office of the Vice President - Southern Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dr. Wally Arp
- + Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. James Fernandez
- + Rev. Ronald Meyr
- + Rev. Brian Roberts
- + Rev. Matthew Wallis - No response

Office of the Secretary

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

- + Rev. John Telloni

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Jacob Deal
- + James Fernandez
- + Rev. George Hansell

Office of the Treasurer

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

+ Robert Lange

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Larry Schultz

For the Office of the Financial Secretary

The following were nominated and agreed to allow name to stand for election:

+ Irene Bray

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Larry Schultz

Board of Directors, Pastoral Representative at-Large

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Troy Countryman
+ Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson
+ Rev. Jacob Deal
+ Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger
+ Rev. Gordon Naumann

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Ronald Meyr

Board of Directors, Pastoral Representative, Mission Focus

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dr. Wally Arp
- + Rev. Troy Countryman
- + Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson
- + Rev. Allen Dass

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dr. Mark Larson
- + Rev. Ronald Meyr

Board of Directors, Lay Representative

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Grace Killian
- + Carol Miksad

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Joel Fastenau

Board of Directors, Lay Representative, Mission Focus

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Obed Gonzalez
- + Karen Ann Kowalczyk
- + Deborah St-Onge

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election: None

Circuit Visitors

Eastern Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. James Douthwaite
- + Rev. Gordon Naumann

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Dan Berteau
- + Rev. Raymond Malec

Central Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. George Hansell

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Jacob Deal
- + Rev. Kevin McLeod

Western Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

- + None

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

- + Rev. Phillip DeVries
- + Rev. John Gutz

Southern Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. James Fernandez

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

None

Lutheran Haven Board, Circuit Pastoral Representatives:

Eastern Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Daniel Berteau

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis

Central Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Jon Carpenter

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election: None

Western Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. John Gutz

+ Rev. William Hale

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky
Southern Circuit

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

This position is filled by a Pastor from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, FL

Lutheran Haven Board, Lay Representative

The following were nominated and agreed to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Carolyn Schlie Femovich
+ Ardyne Kirn

The following were nominated but declined to allow their name to stand for election:

+ Deaconess Helen DeMario

Biographies

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Dr. Wally Arp |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Vice President Southern Circuit |



Wally Arp
1209 Winter Springs Blvd
Winter Springs, FL 32708

I am the second of four children born to Gary and Marjorie Arp. I grew up in the LC-MS where my father served as a parish pastor 30+ years and as District President of Iowa District East for 9 years.

I graduated from Iowa Western Community College in Clarinda Iowa in 1978 with an AA Degree. I enrolled at the University of Iowa, Iowa City eventually completing my BA Degree in History in 1983. I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN in 1988. I served my vicarage at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL, SELC District. In 2017 I completed a Doctor of Ministry program through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA.

My first congregation was Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa (1988-1998). In Iowa District East I served as the District Evangelism Chairman for several years. I also served the Synod on the Board for Congregational Services, The Task Force on the Restoration of Harmony in the Synod, the Koinonia Project, and the Catechism Review Committee. I was also a member of the Board of Directors for Lutheran Family Services of Iowa and Lutheran Counseling Services of Central Florida.

In 1998 I accepted the call to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL. In March of 2023 I stepped back from the Senior Pastor role at St. Luke's, but continue to work full time there as an Assistant Pastor. I serve on the Lutheran Haven Board of Directors. I have served three terms as 1st Vice President of the SELC District.

I am married to Lois and we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in 2024. We have four married children: two daughters and two sons and nine grandchildren.

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| Name |
| Rev. Daniel Berteau |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Eastern Circuit Pastoral Representative on the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees |



Education:

M. DIV.- Master of Divinity, Concordia Seminary- St. Louis, MO, 1996

B.A. – Bachelor of Arts, Concordia College, St Paul, MN. 1992

Th.M.- Master of Theology, Princeton Seminary, Princeton, N.J. 2007

Professional Credentials:

Senior Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manchester, New Jersey

United States Navy Chaplain, 2001-1016

Associate Pastor: Trinity Lutheran Church, Genoa, Illinois 1996-2001

Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, 2017 to present

Brief Biography/Resume:

In 1982, Daniel Christian Berteau enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and spent four years on active duty serving at various duty stations at home and abroad. After leaving Active Duty he continued to serve our nation in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. While serving in the Marine Reserves, he attended Concordia College in Saint Paul, Minnesota and then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. In 1996, upon completion of Seminary, Rev. Berteau took a Call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Genoa Illinois as Associate Pastor. In 2001, Rev. Berteau returned to Active Duty to serve as a U.S Navy chaplain. After 15 years of military ministry, he accepted the divine all to serve the Lord as Senior Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Manchester, New Jersey.

In 2017 Pastor Berteau was elected to serve as the Eastern Circuit Pastoral Representative to the Board of Trustees at the Lutheran Haven.

Pastor Berteau and His wife, Janelle, currently reside in Forked River, New Jersey. Janelle and Dan have four children and thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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|---|
| Name |
| Irene Bray |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Financial Secretary |



Irene Bray was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. As a young adult, she became disillusioned and did not attend church for several decades. Thanks to a very Christ Centered boss, she did consider returning, but was insecure in taking that first step. Still, she missed the joy of sharing the holidays with a faith family. Then one Sunday just prior to Palm Sunday, a dear cousin happened to visit. Irene asked her if they could attend together, which they did, and Irene was hooked. She couldn't wait to return, but alas, there was a frightful snowstorm, and Palm Sunday services were cancelled. Was this a sign?

Easter Sunday dawned clear and bright, whereupon she became a regular attendee at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Brecksville, Ohio. As soon as the Priest learned that Irene was a CPA, he asked her to become the Treasurer. "It only involves signing a few checks each week and attending the monthly Vestry meetings," Father Marcus explained. A few months later, after converting their accounting to a new software program, establishing financial policies and procedures and training/guiding a new Office manager, the job did get easier.

While at St. Matthew's, Irene was encouraged to become a Stephen Minister and Leader, though she never formally assisted others.

Irene moved to Westfield Center just as COVID was sweeping the country. She did find an Episcopalian Church, but just wasn't finding the rapport that she was seeking so she started looking around. The Lutheran Church had always been large part of her mother's side of the family. Her grandparents had been founding members of a church in Lake County, a great-grandfather had been a pastor in Northeastern Indiana and her grandfather's sister had been a nurse, working beside her physician husband at their small medical facility in India. So, when Irene attended Christ the King Church with Pastor Cahill presiding, in Lodi, Ohio, she felt that she had found her faith family.

In addition to the church, Irene's other passions are her horses, Remington and Sasha and her newly acquired Border Collie, Bridget. Since so many of her ancestors were involved in the Lutheran Church, she is also considering researching more on them.

Irene's professional career as a CPA started with working for CPA firms, then moved on to working for several mid-sized family-owned businesses as their controller. Her last two employers chose to sell their companies and she was an integral part of the process.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Central Circuit Visitor |



Address: 656 Wooster Street, Lodi, Ohio 44254 USA

Mobile / Cell: 330-421-6805 Email: revcahill@gmail.com

Date of birth: 6 February 1953

Spouse: Beverly L. (Buchanan) Cahill

Children:

- Nathan (wife Kathy Embt), Rochester NY
- Kathryn Gill (husband James), Beach City Ohio; children Noah, Luke, Andrew
- Matthew (wife Sara); children Catherine, Henry

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

- Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lodi, Ohio (SELC District), 1989-present
- Pastor, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther, Chicago, Illinois (SELC District), 1984-1989
- Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois (Northern Illinois District), 1980-1984
- Vicar, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Garfield, New Jersey, 1978-1979
- Secretary, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Louis, Missouri, 1976-1978

SELECT SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

SELC District:

- Second Vice President, 1997- 2012, 2015 - present
- Ministerial Health, 2006-present

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod:

- Board of Regents, Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin 1985-1989
- Advisory delegate, four LCMS Conventions

- Ministerial Care Coalition member and “secretary”

Other:

- Member, “Catch the Vision of His Mission” teams to Nagercoil / Trivandrum District and Ambur District, India Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2005 and 2007

SELECT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- Matthew 25 Coalition, secretary and pastoral representative from Christ the King Lutheran Church

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF MINISTRY EXPERIENCE, SERVICE, CONTINUING EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS AND INTERESTS SEE

<https://chris-cahill.mystrikingly.com/>

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Jon Carpenter |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Pastoral Representative to the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, Central Circuit |



Rev. Jon Carpenter

Associate Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Massillon OH, since 2020

I was born in east central Ohio in Coshocton in the western Appalachian region. Though my family moved multiple times, I consider Coshocton my hometown. I enjoy being and living life with my wife and four children.

Jesus claimed me on September 21, 1997, at 21. But it was not until 2007 that God led me into the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It was a difficult journey that almost ended in despair and a confession of agnosticism. Thanks be to God for calling me through the Word and his holy Sacraments. My daily walk in faith is a drowning of the Old Adam and a rising of the New Adam in Christ.

During my undergrad studies to receive a bachelor’s degree in Computer Design and Animation from Kent State University, I proudly worked at a nursing home as a State Tested Nurse’s Assistant, transportation driver, and scheduler for the nursing floor. I also worked in an independent and dependent resident community as a transportation driver and an activities team member. The work was worth the hard effort; it taught me how to love and serve my neighbor.

I would eventually use my bachelor's degree for eligibility to apply for acceptance to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am from the COVID-19 Class of 2020 and was called to serve as Associate Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio, where I currently serve.

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| Name |
| Rev. Troy Countryman |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| SELC BOD-Pastoral Representative-at-Large |



Pastor Countryman has served as the Senior Pastor at Faith *Viera* Lutheran Church (FVLC) in Rockledge, Florida, since January 2023.

Prior serving at FVLC, he served as Senior Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church and School in Indianapolis, Indiana, from 2016-2022. Prior to serving in Indianapolis, he served from 2008-2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Mattoon, Illinois. He was Associate Pastor from 2008-2012, and then Senior Pastor from 2012-2016.

Pastor Countryman was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and he earned his undergraduate degree in Industrial Management from Purdue University. After graduation from Purdue, he worked for four years at a pharmaceutical company in clinical research, and then marketing. He met his wife, Andrea, during that time, and they followed the Lord's leading to attend Concordia Seminary in St. Louis from 2004-2008. He and Andrea are parents to three children ages 18-13.

Outside of team ministry predominantly in a parochial school context, Pastor Countryman served in the following areas:

- Volunteer chaplain at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois.
- Pastoral Care Committee at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, Illinois.
- Board of Directors at Lutheran High School Indianapolis.
- LWML Circuit Counselor in both the Central Illinois District as well as the Indiana District.

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| Name |
| Rev. Dr. Tige A. C. Culbertson |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| VP, Southern Circuit, BOD - Pastoral Rep. - Mission Focus, BOD - Pastoral Rep. - At Large |



Pastor Tige is married to his wife Sara of 26 years and has a daughter, Conah, who is 18. He has served the SELC Board of Directors for three years as the Pastoral Representative - Mission Focus. He also sits on the Board of Trustees at the Lutheran Haven. He has served as the Senior Pastor at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo for nearly two years, and as an associate since 2019. Before that, he served in congregations in Michigan (where he was a Circuit Visitor), Texas, and Idaho. He has worked with the National Youth Gathering, and served as a Board member of Camp Lutherhaven, in Coeur d’Alene, ID. He received his B.A. from Concordia - Chicago, his M.Div. from Concordia - St. Louis, and his Ed. D. from Concordia - Portland.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Allen Dass |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Board of Directors- Pastoral Representative: Mission Focus |



College Education:

M.Div. – Master of Divinity, Concordia Seminary- St. Louis, Missouri, May 2024

B.A.- Bachelor of Arts, Concordia College- Bronxville, New York, May 2020

Professional Credentials:

Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Clark, New Jersey, June 2024-Present.

Board of Directors, Secretary at Mission Nation Publishing, April 2024-Present

Vicar at St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin, Ohio, 2022-23.

Programs Leader at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri, 2020-22; 24.

Brief Biography/Resume

In September 1996, Allen S. Dass immigrated to the United States from New Delhi, India. He grew up in Queens, New York City where he was involved with the start of a Hindi speaking congregation. He was introduced to The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod in 2005 where the Hindi speaking ministry was integrated at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone, NY. Allen continued to engage and support the start of many other ethnic ministries including Tamil, Taiwanese, and Korean. During his time at Concordia College- NY, he interned at Christ Lutheran Church in Queens, NY where he engaged a large South-Asian community and was introduced to deaf ministry. Allen continued his studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he was a field worker at a congregation that was beginning a Nepalese and Ethiopian ministry. Allen also worked as Programs Leader for multiply afterschool sites in North St. Louis engaging and supporting families in need of financial, educational, and physical assistance. He currently serves as Pastor in a diverse congregation in northern New Jersey reaching out and serving families and immigrants from Asian and South American backgrounds as well as serves a flourishing deaf ministry. Allen also serves the greater mission field by serving as Board of Directors, Secretary for Mission Nation Publishing which is an organization that gives opportunity to immigrant church workers to share their story of how God is working amongst them and the ministries they currently serve in the United States and around the world. Allen also has recently married Rebekah Walter in October of 2024 and has both parents and one younger sister who live in New York City. He loves to teach, watch movies, play cricket, and try many different ethnic foods.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Jacob Deal |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Vice President- Central Circuit and BOD- Pastoral Rep-at-Large |



Rev. Jacob Deal was ordained on June 18, 2016 after completing his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. His first call was to Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sharon, Pennsylvania, where he remains to this day. God has richly blessed him with a faithful wife, Anna, and three devout children, Isaiah, Titus, and Loretta. Anna, his wife of 12 years is an ever-present help in supporting him and caring for their family. Revitalizing a small and struggling parish has not been easy, but God has permitted Pastor Deal to see baptisms of adults and children, weddings, funerals, confirmations, and even the completion of a \$200,000 capital campaign. Presently, he's enrolled in Concordia University, Wisconsin in Business Management for non-profits.

On October 16, 2016 a vicious hurricane ravaged Haiti. Rev. Deal for three years served as a contractor for "Ministry in Mission" to assist the Lutheran Church Disaster Response. Together they accomplished the reroofing of pastors' homes and churches, drilling of wells, and the restoring churches in the western peninsula.

In 2018, Rev. Deal joined the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries as a representative for the SELC. He served on this RSO board for the next five years. Most notably, he helped on, "The Clergy Care Committee," providing small and struggling congregations with solutions to affording a pastor. Materials from this committee are being examined by LC-MS districts to assist congregations in calling a new pastor.

January of 2021-November of 2024, he served on the board of directors for a local crisis pregnancy center as a board member and then vice president. He assisted with the sale of property and acquisitions of a new facility, interviewing and hiring of a new director, bylaw revisions, and vision planning.

In the last three years, Rev. Deal has served as a vacancy pastor for All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center in Slippery Rock, Pa. He has helped them to revitalize their congregation, minister to college students, train a vicar from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and prepare again to call a pastor.

As the Lord wills it, Rev. Deal hopes to continue serving in many ways.

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| Name |
| Rev. James Douthwaite |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Eastern Circuit Visitor, Eastern Circuit Vice President |



Pastor: Saint Athanasius, Vienna, VA, May 2002-
 Hope Lutheran Mission, Purcellville, VA, 2019-
 Holy Trinity, Yonkers, NY, July 1995-May 2002

Education: Master of Philosophy (Liturgical and Sacramental Theology), 2017
 The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
 Master of Sacred Theology (Pastoral Ministry, Liturgics), 2003
 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
 Master of Divinity, 1994
 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, 1985

District: Eastern Circuit Visitor, 2015-
 Eastern Circuit Counselor, 2003-09
 Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, 2013-15
 LCMS Convention Delegate
 and Floor Committee Member (CTCR), 2019

Synod: Board for International Mission, 2021-
 Joint BIM/BNM Mission Assessment Sub-Committee, 2021-
 (Chair, 2023-)
 National Celebrate Life Conference (2024), Devotion Speaker

Community: Pastoral Counselor, Northern Virginia Lutherans for Life
 LCMS Liaison, Virginia Lutherans for Life

Founding Board Member,

The Orchard Classical Education Community

Campus Ministry - George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA

Teaching: Jan-Feb 2009

Matongo Lutheran Theological College (Seminary) and

Atemo Evangelist School, Sondu and Atemo, Kenya

Higher Things Youth Conferences, 2012-

Higher Things Conference Chaplain, 2023

Publications: Portals of Prayer (January 2002, December 2009)

Concordia Pulpit Resources (2005, 2009, 2019)

Concordia Theological Quarterly Book Reviews

"The Resurrection of the Body" in *Modern Reformation*, Vol. 25, No. 2

(Easter 2016), 28-35.

"Is It Time for Confessional Booths in the Lutheran Church?"

in *Logia*, Vol. 30, No. 4 (Reformation 2021).

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| Name |
| Carolyn Schlie Femovich |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, Lay Representative |



Carolyn Schlie Femovich is a life-long Missouri Synod Lutheran. She grew up in South Florida where her father was a rostered principal and schoolteacher at Lutheran Central School in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Femovich is currently a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA where she contributes to church activities as chair of various committees and as a member of the Board of Directors. She is very familiar with Lutheran Haven as her parents were residents at the Haven for over 20 years.

Femovich spent her career working in higher education and intercollegiate athletics. She is an accomplished leader and a respected administrator in intercollegiate athletics, having served in top leadership positions for 40 years at both the campus and conference office levels. Upon retirement in 2015, she joined *The PICTOR Group*, an athletics consulting firm.

Femovich is a graduate of Valparaiso University where she has served on the Board of Directors for 16 years and received a Master of Science degree from Indiana University. In 2015 she was inducted into the Valparaiso Athletics Hall of Fame and into the ECAC Hall of Fame in 2016. She was honored by Women Leaders in College Sports with the *Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2017.

Femovich was appointed Executive Director of the Patriot League in 1999 and provided executive leadership for the League until retiring in 2015. The Patriot League is respected for successfully integrating competitive Division I athletics and the academic achievement of its student-athletes.

Prior to her appointment with the Patriot League, Femovich served in athletics leadership roles at the University of Pennsylvania for seventeen years. She began her career in college athletics at Gettysburg College where she served as head coach of women's basketball and tennis, assistant professor and Coordinator of Women's Athletics. Upon graduation from Valparaiso, Femovich accepted an appointment on the teaching staff at Concordia Lutheran High School in Ft. Wayne, IN.

Throughout her career, Femovich has devoted her time to serving in national leadership positions with the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), as well as on numerous regional and national boards and organizations.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. James Fernandez |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| SELC Southern Circuit Visitor |



Personal

Date of Birth: March 25th, 1980

Place of Birth: Broomfield, Colorado

Married: July 9th, 2005 (Jacqueline Maier)

Currently Serving: Hope Lutheran Church Melbourne, Florida

Education

Concordia University - Seward, Nebraska: B.S. (Sociology/Pre-Seminary - 2005)

Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, Missouri: M.Div. (2009)

Ministries/Congregations

St. Paul Lutheran Church - Ankeny, Iowa: 2009-2015 (Iowa District West)

Redeemer Lutheran Church - Denver, Colorado: 2015-2020 (Rocky Mountain District)

Hope Lutheran Church - Melbourne, Florida: 2020-Present (SELC District)

Synodical Service

2023 LCMS Convention Delegate: Milwaukee, Wisconsin (SELC Southern Circuit)

District Service

Hispanic Outreach Mission and Evangelism Committee - Wes Des Moines Circuit, Iowa District West (2 years)

LWML Zone Counselor - Denver South Circuit, Rocky Mountain District (2 years)

Assistant Secretary - Rocky Mountain District (2 years)

SELC - Southern Circuit Visitor (2 years)

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|---|
| Name |
| Obed Gonzalez |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| BOD, Lay Representative, Mission Focus |



I have been a member of this church for 35 years. I have held several positions during my tenure as President, Vice President, Christian Education Advisor and now as an Elder for several of our Pastors. I have represented the congregation in several conventions as a lay leader including the recent National Convention in Milwaukee. I enjoy working with the youth and have chaperoned National Youth Conferences and Local youth events. I work closely with the church leadership to continue God’s work.

I married my middle school sweetheart, Evelyn, who I met in 1972. We have two young men who are LCMS Pastors. Matthew Ryan has been serving Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx for eleven years and Nicholas Obed is Associate Pastor at the Church of St. Andrews in Silver Springs Maryland. We often get asked the question: What did you do to have two Pastors, Evelyn and I respond, it was God who made the decision. We were just his messengers.

I work part time as a property manager in Ocean Township, New Jersey. In my professional career I was self-employed. I have a small clientele which I represent as a financial advisor. The company is known as OMNNE Financial LLC. I advise clients on both their long-term and short-term financial goals. Provide financial services to clients; help them achieve their requirements. Research and provide clients with monthly financial statements. Set up budget and monthly expenses reports for clients’ use. Specialize in working with young adults to provide money management ideas. Research financial investment opportunities for clients other than stocks and bonds. Provide lectures to clients on credit repair, credit opportunities and credit scores.

Education and Certifications

Masters in Business Administration - Georgian Court University, 2009
 Bachelors of Arts in Economics, - Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx New York -
 Certified Office Automation Professional- IBM -AS400, Lotus, Microsoft Excel, Word, Works, PowerPoint, Basic, C++.

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| Name |
| Rev. John Gutz |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Western Circuit Rep to the Lutheran Haven Board |



Pastor Gutz has served as the Western Circuit pastoral representative to the Lutheran Haven since 2018. He serves Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator, IL, where he has been since 1992. Prior to that he served Trinity Lutheran, Centralia, IL. He is a 1988 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has attended the Synod’s Reconciliation training and Doxology. He is married to Sandy. They have been blessed with 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. William Hale |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Western Circuit Representative to the Lutheran Haven Board |



Pastor Bill, as he is known by his parish, began serving St. John Lutheran Church of Granite City in 2015, when he began his vicarage under the SMP program. He was installed and ordained as their pastor in 2017 and continues to serve through this time. Pastor Bill completed the SMP program in 2019 and received full certification from the Synod and Concordia Seminary.

As an SMP, Pastor Bill had prior ministry experience, including attending Northern Theological Seminary in Lombard, IL, leading a DivorceCare ministry at his home church for twelve (12) years, and relocating to St. Louis in 2012 to take over the youth ministry of the Acts 1:8 Mission Society, until he began his service to St. John.

Pastor Bill has been single since 1996 but has two (2) adult daughters, one living in Boston, as a PhD chemist, and his youngest living in Los Angeles, where she and her husband own and operate a sushi restaurant on Sunset Blvd.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. George R. Hansell, Jr. |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| SELC Circuit Visitor |



PERSONAL:

Date of Birth: June 16, 1955

Place of Birth: Jersey City, New Jersey

Married: June 24, 1978 (Krista nee Herr)

Children: Christopher G. Hansell (5-9-80), Jennifer A. Thompson (7-27-83)

Grandchildren: Cora Grace Thompson, Jonathan C. Hansell, Samuel C. Thompson, Wyatt A. Thompson

Retired: August 16, 2021

EDUCATION:

Concordia Lutheran College, Austin/TX.....A.A. (Pre-ministerial-1975)

Concordia Teachers College, River Forest/IL...B.A. (Elementary Education-1977)

Concordia Theological Seminary, FW/INM.Div. (Pastoral Theology-1981)

MINISTRIES/CONGREGATIONS:

Missionary-at-Large/Hispanic Ministry.....1981-1985 (Michigan District)

Redeemer Lutheran Church/Oneida, NY...1985-1995 (Eastern District)

First Lutheran Church/Sharpsburg, PA.....1995-2003 (Eastern District)

Grace Lutheran Church/Lakewood, OH....2004-2021 (SELC District)

SYNODICAL SERVICE:

1989 LCMS Convention Delegate: Wichita, Kansas (Central NY North)

2001 LCMS Convention Delegate: St. Louis, MO (Pittsburgh NE Circuit)

2001 LCMS Convention-Floor Committee: Admin/Planning/Structure

SELC DISTRICT SERVICE:

LWML Zone Counselor-Central Circuit (2 Years)

LWML SELC District Pastoral Counselor (4 Years)

Central Circuit Pastoral Representative/Lutheran Haven Bd. Of Trustees (15 Yrs)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Of Trustees Member at Large (3 Years to date)

Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees Secretary (12 Years to date)

SELC Central Circuit Visitor (2 Years to date)

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT SERVICE:

Detroit Police Chaplain-4th & 6th Precincts (1983-1985)

Oneida Fire Dept. Chaplain/Oneida, NY (1987-1995)

Syracuse University Lutheran Campus Ministry Evaluation Team (Circa 1990)

Member/Secretary-Eastern District Mission Board (1990-1994; 1995-1999)

LWML/LLL Zone Counselor-Central New York North (Circa 1985-1995)

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|---|
| Name |
| Grace Killian |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| BOD - Lay Representative-at-Large |



Grace is a lifelong Christian formerly from central New Jersey. She transferred into the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 2008 from the Reformed Episcopal Church, where she was baptized as an infant and later confirmed. She is a member of St. Athanasius Lutheran Church in Vienna, Virginia, where she has attended services for 15 years and where she first met her husband, Scott, in 2012. They have been married for 10 years and reside in Great Falls, Virginia, with their adopted daughter.

Grace assists her church family in a variety of ways and has embraced the Christ-focused teachings of the LCMS. At her home church, she serves as her Pastor’s administrative assistant, teaches Sunday School, plays flute for special services, and chairs the Commission on Mercy, where she helps organize opportunities for the congregation to show mercy to others. She has also organized food for after-church fellowship and served on the Altar Guild. At the SELC district level, she currently serves as the lay representative-at-large.

Grace is a proud stay-at-home mother to an adventurous toddler and loves to encourage her daughter’s faith, communication, and puzzle solving skills each day. She previously worked for the US Federal Government and has more than thirteen years of experience managing contracts and providing intelligence analysis on transnational issues. She has received numerous awards for exceptional mentorship, leadership, teamwork, and corporate service.

| |
|---|
| Name |
| Ardyne Kirn |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Lay Representative, Lutheran Haven |



Ardyne was baptized and confirmed at Dr. Martin Luther - Gary, IN, where she served as Luther League Secretary and President, Luther League Counselor, Sunday School Teacher, President of Pairs and Spares, and was a member of the choir. Ardyne served as Secretary of the Building Committee for the SELC mission congregation now known as Resurrection Lutheran Church - Crown Point, IN. Service to the Church at Resurrection includes Church Council Secretary, President and Treasurer of CROSS Society (LWML), Bible Study Leader, Chancel Circle, choir, Call Committee and Delegate to SELC District Conventions.

Service in the SELC Western Circuit: Luther League Executive Board Secretary, LWML Western Zone Sectary, LWML Executive Board Vice President, and District Interview Committees.

SELC District: Secretary and Vice President LWML Executive Board, ILWML Convention Delegate, LWML Dream Team member, several SELC District appointed committees, and has served since 1997 as Lutheran Haven SELC Lay Representative and presently serves as Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Ardyne's family includes two daughters, a son-in-law, four granddaughters, and two great-granddaughters.

Ardyne is retired from private practice as a Registered Occupational Therapist. She is a 1968 graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine - Division of Allied Health Sciences. During her 48-year career she provided therapy and consultation services to all ages contracting with rehabilitation and mental health centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, public schools, and home health agencies. She has served on numerous health agency committees and is past Vice President of the NW Indiana District OT Association.

Serving as Lay Representative on the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees for the past 27 years has truly been a blessing.

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|---|
| Name |
| Carl Henry Krueger, Jr. |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| SELC District Western Vice President |



Carl Henry Krueger, Jr, born February 18, 1948 to Lena Guyotte Devio and Carl Henry Krueger. I was the "baby" of 12 "his, her's, and their" children; but because of the disparity of ages, I was an "only child". I became a child of God in my Baptism on April 3, 1948, at Christ Lutheran Church, River Rouge, MI. I affirmed the work of the Holy Spirit in my Confirmation also at Christ, River Rouge. I graduated from the University of Michigan, with a Psych / Philo Major, with Minors in Greek & German. I enrolled at the LCMS Seminary in Springfield, Vicaring at Redeemer Luth. Church, Marquette, MI. The 1974 class became victim to the doctrinal, confessional, and political difficulties in Synod with the St. Louis Seminary "Walk Out". My first Call was to Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church, Gary, IN, and my intro to the SELC District, and to Slovak - I only conquered the Slovak Liturgy. While at DML, I was appointed SELC Mission Bd Chair (1982-1997).

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Cudahy WI Called me as Pastor (serving: 1979 - 2015). During this time, St. John acquired a 2nd facility, Cross of Christ, at which facility we began a Parish Nurse outreach ministry, plus adding a handicapped Worship Service as a 3rd weekly Service. St. John underwent a major facility renovation of the Chancel and Nave, adding a new kitchen, fellowship Hall, and office area, plus 2 elevators to reach all levels. In 1984, I was recruited as Chaplain by the Wisconsin Air National Guard. I served the 128th

Air Refueling Wing for 20 years, Lt. Col. (Retired). I continue to serve as the appointed Milwaukee County Veterans' Service Commissioner.

In 1997 I was elected SELC District President and was privileged to serve for 18 years. Upon retirement from St. John, contrary to suggested practice, I remained a member, and I believe was useful serving as Vacancy Pastor after two difficult Call situations. I have served as a Circuit Visitor for 7 years. I have received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Concordia University, Wisconsin.

I, and my wife, Dianne, celebrated our 53rd wedding anniversary in July. We have 5 children (2 sets of twins, & 1 single birth). We have 7 grandchildren. Dianne served as "my" Administrative Assistant and continues to keep "all things" operating well. It is a blessing to have most of our Family (now numbering 19) at Sunday dinner at our home. We are awed at how greatly God has blessed us and allowed us to serve.

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| Name |
| Robert Lange |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Treasurer |



Schooling started at Concordia Lutheran Parochial School then Lane Technical High School followed by the Walton School of Commerce majoring in accounting.

Christ English Lutheran Church; English District
 Church Recording Secretary
 Sunday School Superintendent
 Evangelism/Stewardship Chairman

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church; NID
 Board of Education
 Treasurer

Zion Lutheran Church; SELC
 President of the congregation
 Treasurer

Served the SELC District in the position of District Vice President for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and currently serves as Treasurer of the SELC District,

Two years stint in the United States Army stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia and worked out of the Pentagon, followed by three years in a Transportation Outfit with the United States Army Reserves.

Started working for Western Electric prior to my military service which became AT&T and finally Lucent and retired after forty years as a Senior Member of their Information System Staff working in the accounting, payroll etc.

Have two brothers, eight nieces and nephew and their children, twenty two in all.

| Name |
|---|
| Carol A. Miksad (nee Briscoe) |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Board of Directors, Lay Representative |



Carol A. Miksad (nee Briscoe) was born in Yonkers, New York. She was confirmed and married at Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Yonkers, New York by Rev. Thomas Soltis.

Carol has been married to her childhood sweetheart, Rev. Phil Miksad, for 50 years. They have two married daughters, Jennifer Bess (Dave) and Dorothy Willerton (Jeremy), and 3 grandchildren, Sawyer (18), Charlotte (14) and Elliott (13). They all live in the metropolitan St. Louis area.

The Miksads are members of St. Lucas Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Louis. They are both retired and hold various leadership roles at St. Lucas, where they have made many dear friends since their teens in the SELC District Luther League, while at Concordia Seminary, and now in retirement.

While Phil was serving in the pastoral ministry, Carol embarked on a career in the Property and Casualty Insurance industry. Starting out as a mail clerk, Carol worked 20 years for a variety of carriers in New York, Missouri, Minnesota and New Jersey. In 1989, Carol began working for the State of New Jersey's Department of Banking and Insurance and Real Estate Commission. After 26 years of public service, Carol retired from her position at the State of New Jersey as Executive Director and as a New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners board member, appointed by Governor Chris Christie.

Carol enjoys singing as a soloist, choir member and Praise Team member. She currently serves as the St. Lucas Stewardship Director, Manager of Financial Services and has been an "LWML-er" since 1984.

Serving as the LWML SELC District's President brings Carol new challenges. Carol looks forward to using all her God-given talents, skills, experience, and knowledge to continue in the footsteps of previous presidents, like Ann Bajus and Milly Kwiatkowski, both dear SELC sisters and friends. Carol is very excited and encouraged by our District's devotion and energy of all our members as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness!"

Carol is honored to be nominated as the Board of Directors, Lay Representative.

Carol A. Miksad 307 Seton Hall Court Valley Park, Missouri 63088-2318 (609) 412-4168

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| Name |
| Gordon Naumann |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| BOD - Pastoral Representative-at-large |



Born and raised in Great Britain, Pastor Naumann achieved his BD from London University and His DTM from Westfield House Theological College in Cambridge, the seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), a sister synod of the LCMS. In the fall of 2009, he was ordained, and began his ministry serving St. David Lutheran Church, in Cardiff, Wales. Pastor Naumann served in many capacities before coming Stateside; from Pastoral Counselor of the Youth Board, to Pastoral Counselor of the LWLGB (The UK's equivalent to the LWML), to serving on the ELCE's Policies and By-laws Committee. He also recorded a podcast series called, "Faith that Functions" and can still be accessed on the ELCE's radio station, Lutheran Radio UK.

After serving eight years in the UK, Pastor Naumann accepted the divine call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Scarsdale, New York, where he ministered for five years within the English District of the LCMS, the last year of which he was elected Circuit Visitor to the Eastern Region, Circuit 1 of that non-geographic district, before which he had also served as Junior and Senior Counselor to the LWML English District for four years.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, of our SELC district, where Pastor Naumann now serves, is his third congregation at which he is Sole Pastor and which now benefits from his vast experience. After a few months, Pastor Naumann was swiftly recruited to serve as sole

counselor to the LWML SELC, where he oversees all three zones. Pastor Naumann remains very active in the life of the church at large, often partnering and participating with other districts, such as the Eastern district's workshops and winkels, and the English District's Eastern Region circuit conferences.

When not attending District/Circuit/congregational conferences/events, Pastor Naumann moonlights as a part-time Security Officer at the local high school. When he's not 'working' he dedicates the rest of his time to his family, including his wife, Marta, and their eight children; Hannah, Ruth, Phoebe, Vaughn, Lois, Matthias, Gretel, and Lydia. Pastor Naumann enjoys long walks, reading fictional novels to his children, and sharing all about the life of the church via social media. He has also been recently published in his own father's Festschrift (With Angels and Archangels), a collection of essays in honor of The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann, who has served the Church for 40years. The title of his essay in the book is, "The Life of a Pastor and His Unseen Help".

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| Name |
| Rev. Jon Palmer |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Vice-President - Western Circuit |



My most important ministry has been and will always be my family. My wife, Lani, and I have been married since 2004, and God has blessed us with six wonderful kids: Evan, Haven, Gracen, Noryn, Ronin, and Meilyn. Lani is the Groups and Care Director at The Way Church and homeschools all six kids. The kids are each learning how God has uniquely gifted them and called them to practice the way of Jesus, and they have fun doing it. Our family loves being outdoors, hiking, hunting, fishing, learning about God's creation, and using any excuse to go on another field trip somewhere new.

Since high school, I have been involved with Gospel-based ministry, helping lead worship and serving in various areas of the church. In college, I was a student leader in Campus Crusade (CRU), student ministry, and a weekly worship experience. I received my Master of Divinity in 2007 from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

In May of 2021, I led an amazing team to establish The Way Church in Columbia, IL. The heart of The Way is to teach, equip, empower, and send thousands of individuals to practice the way of Jesus together. Witnessing lives transformed by the Holy Spirit has

been truly rewarding as more people strive to glorify God in every aspect of their lives and share Him with family, co-workers, neighbors, teammates, and strangers.

In my role at The Way Church in Columbia, IL, I pray that countless individuals, groups, families, communities, and generations will experience transformation through the power of the Gospel of Jesus. Through the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, I hope they will embrace the teachings and Gospel of Jesus in their own lives and express their gratitude for His saving work by living as a testament to the new life we have in Christ.

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| Name |
| Rev. Richard L. Ramirez |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| 3rd (Western Region) Vice President |



Rev. Richard L. Ramirez STS, serves as the Pastor (Part-time) of Dr. Martin Luther Church in the Gage Park neighborhood on the near-Southwest side of Chicago. He has served the wider church as a member and as Chairman of the Metro Chicago Synod's Ministry Committee, and as the dean of the Northeastern Ohio chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity (STS). He is married to Karen, a retired elementary school and Special Needs teacher. They have two grown children, David, a pastor in WI, and Christina, who lives in Lakewood, OH.

Pastor Ramirez has a fondness for the liturgy, exegetical, historical, and systematic theology, books, music, and baseball. He is committed to the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessed by the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and endeavors to teach and preach properly distinguishing between Law and Gospel.

Concordia Teachers College B.S.Ed., 1973

Christ Seminary-Seminex MDiv 1980

Graduate work Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL 1987-89

Called as Assistant Pastor, Part-time 1980-83, Assistant Pastor, Full-time 1983-89, and Senior Pastor 1989-2000, Ashburn Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL,

Called as Associate Pastor, Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairview Park, OH 2000-2012

Colloquized into LCMS 2013

Interim Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, IL 2014-15

Called as Part-time Pastor, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther, Chicago, IL 2015

Chairman, Ministry Committee of the Metro Chicago Synod

Dean, Society of the Holy Trinity, Northeast Ohio Chapter, 2003-2013

Adjunct Faculty, Theology, Concordia University Chicago 2015-present

3rd Vice-President, SELC, 2022-present

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. Charles P. St-Onge |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Eastern Circuit Vice-President |



Charles was born and raised in eastern Canada but moved to the United States in his twenties to work as a civil engineer. He had been encouraged from a young age to consider the ministry and, in 1999, began studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. In February of 2000 he left the ELCA, joined the LCMS, and graduated with his M.Div. from CTS-Fort Wayne, IN in 2003.

Charles has served as pastor at St. Mark's, Ridley Park, PA (2003-2008) where he also served as executive director of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (2007-2008) and as a member of the Liberty Lutheran Services board. He served as associate pastor at Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, TX (2008-2013) before accepting a call to the Office of International Mission, He served with OIM in China and in the Caribbean in various positions until 2022.

The St-Onge's' home base since 2015 has been Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Since they arrived, he served as pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in that city, first as a part-time pastor and now as a full-time missionary-pastor.

Charles has also served on the board of Lutherans for Life, has served twice as a delegate to the LCMS Synodical Convention, and once as a member of a synodical convention floor committee.

Charles married Deborah (Follstaedt) St-Onge in August 2000. They have two daughters, Olivia (20) and Sophia (17).

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| Name |
| Deborah St-Onge |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| Board of Directors - Lay Representative - Mission Focus |



Deborah St-Onge is a lifelong Lutheran Christian (LCMS) who, after serving churches in Ohio, Ft. Wayne, Philadelphia, and Houston, is currently living and serving in Montréal, Québec. She is involved at Ascension Lutheran as president of Ladies Aid, council secretary, organist as needed, and member of the Mission Team. She has also participated in SELC District activities in her role as lay representative - mission focus for the past triennium.

She lets her experiences of living and working in international settings inform her contributions to the Board. These include living as a missionary in China, working with congregations in Liberia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and Grand Cayman Island, and living currently as an ex-pat in the secular, French-speaking province of Quebec.

Deborah has the advantage of a very stable foundation for her formative years in the church as well as this perspective of living in a variety of cultures both in the US and abroad. When she married Rev. Charles St-Onge in 2000, she became part of a cross-cultural family! Parenting two young adult daughters (Olivia, 20 and Sophia, 17) in a province indifferent (and sometimes hostile) to Christianity underlies her desire to continue to find ways to share Christ with those who have lost hope or have not yet heard the truly Good News that through Christ we can have peace and purpose.

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|---|
| Name |
| Rev. John L. Telloni |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| District Secretary |



- Born:** March 7, 1950, Lorain, Ohio; baptized and confirmed at Sts. Peter and Paul, Lorain, OH (SELC)
- College:** Bowling Green State University, B.S. degree, 1972 - Majors: History and English.
- Seminary:** Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1972-1974); Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL/Fort Wayne, IN (1974-1977), Master of Divinity Degree, 1977.
- Post-Grad:** Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (1983-1985); doctoral studies at Concordia, St. Louis (2003-2005), and Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio (2006-2008).
- Parishes:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Whiting, Indiana, 1977-1987; St. John Lutheran Church, Massillon, Ohio (1987-Present); Organizing pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Malvern, Ohio, 2010-12.
- District:** District Secretary, 2015-Present; Board of Directors, Pastoral Rep., 2006-2012; Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, 1983-1987 (Recording Secretary) and 1988-2002 (Chairman); Student Aid Committee, 1978-2022 (Chairman 1997-2022); Ministerial Health Committee; Chairman, General Pastoral Conference (twice); Central Circuit Pastoral Delegate to LC-MS Convention, 1992, 2001, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2019; Luther League Officer (Central District Treasurer and President, 600 Mission Plan Director, Courier Editor, and Vice-President); Youth Board; Circuit Director, Synod's Forward in Remembrance (Western), Alive in Christ, and Fan into Flame (Central) campaigns.
- Synod:** Trained LifeLight Facilitator; PALS Facilitator (2005-2008).
- Certificate:** Pastors of Excellence Program, Ashland Theological Seminary, 2003-2005.

Author: *The Christ Canticles: Entrance Psalms/Hymns for the Church Year* (@JLT., 1999). *The Best Way to Live: Meditations for a Christ-Centered Life*, (@ Critical Mass Books, Haymarket, VA, 2022). 60+ Hymns & Children’s Songs (texts and tunes), @JLT.

Personal: Four children and 12 grandchildren.

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| Name |
| Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis |
| Position you have been Nominated for |
| SELC District President |



Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. He was baptized and confirmed in the Latvian Ev. Lutheran Church in Omaha. Catechized into the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod at Bethany Lutheran Church in Omaha, 1982. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he was active at the University Lutheran Chapel. He graduated from UNL in 1987 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Development and Psychology. Married Cyndi in July, 1985. Attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, 1988-1992. As a seminarian, he served a summer vicarage with Dakota Boys Ranch in Washington, Missouri and Minot, North Dakota. He served his year of vicarage at Grace Lutheran Church in Lancaster, California and received his first call there following seminary. In 1998, he was called to serve in the San Francisco Bay area at Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont, California. Since 2001, Rev. Vinovskis has served as pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, Pennsylvania. In 2018, he was elected President of the SELC District of the LCMS. He and his wife Cyndi have four grown children: Carissa, Micah, Noel-Darius and Oliver. Date & Place of Birth: November 8, 1963, Omaha, NE

Education:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, B.A. 1987

Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, M.Div. 1992

Parish Experience:

Grace Lutheran Church - Lancaster, CA 1990-1991 (Vicarage)
Grace Lutheran Church - Lancaster, CA 1992-1998 (Associate Pastor)
Zion Lutheran Church - Piedmont, CA 1998-2001 (Associate Pastor)
Concordia Lutheran Church - Macungie, PA 2001-Present (Pastor)

District:

SELC District Education Committee (Chair) - 2001-2005
Presenter/Panel Member SELC General Pastors' Conference - 10/2002
SELC District Convention Resolutions Committee (Chair) - 2006
Eastern Circuit Delegate LCMS Synod Convention - 2004, 2007, 2010
The Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees - 2003-Present
SELC Board of Directors - 2012-2015
SELC District President - 2018-present

Synod (Church-at-Large):

LLL So. Cal. "To Russia with Love" Committee - 1991-1992
LLL So. Cal. District Convention, Chaplain - 1996
LWML Zone Counselor, PSW District - 1997-1998
LWML SELC District Counselor, 2004-2008
KFUOam - Bible Study Leader, 2007-Present
LCMS Synod Convention, Floor Committee member - 2007
LCMS Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance Theological Convocation - August, 2008; District Caucus - January, 2010
LCMS Synod Nominations Committee, secretary - 2009-2013
LCMS - Council of Presidents - Clergy Call & Roster Committee, Intentional Interim Ministry

Civic/Community Involvement:

Lancaster (CA) Community Shelter Board - 1993-1998, interim chair, 1995
Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity build Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa - 08/2007

East Penn School District "Take Back Our Children" Initiative (Committee Chair) - 2004-2005

East Penn School District - Superintendent's Parents Advisory Committee - 2003-2010

East Penn School District - Tax Study Commission - 09/2006 - 02/2007

East Penn School District - 2008-2014 Strategic Plan Committee - 01/2008 - 07/2008

Emmaus High School, PA - Middle States Accreditation Steering Committee - 2010-2012

East Penn School District - School Board - 2013-2015, 2016-2018

East Penn School District - 2015-2018 Comprehensive Planning Team - 11/2014-2/2015

East Penn School District - 2018-2021 Comprehensive Planning Team - 12/2017-2020

East Penn Education Foundation - Board of Directors - 2015-2018

WDIY Community Public Radio (Allentown, PA) - Programmer/Volunteer - 2001-Present

Lehigh Valley Community Broadcasters Association - Board of Directors - 2009-2013, 2015-2018

Mission Experience:

California City Lutheran Mission (Trinity Lutheran Church), California City, CA- 1991-1994

Concordia Lutheran Church, Macungie, PA - mission status 2001-2004

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL/Sloka Ev. Lutheran Church, Jurmala, Latvia
ESL Mission team - 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2024

Conflict of Interest Policy

The District is fully committed to conducting its responsibilities in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty. The success of the District in conducting its affairs is the sum efforts of each individual - board, commission, and committee member, officer and employee - in executing his or her responsibilities with good judgment and in an ethical manner. Therefore, in exercising these responsibilities, each individual should comply with the following policy which is modeled after the SELC District By-Law 12.7.5 disclosure of conflict of interest.

I, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to comply with the following:

1. Each board of commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the entity and each staff member shall disclose to the executive director any potential conflict of interest. Each chairman or executive shall disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Board of Directors, who shall determine whether an inappropriate interest exists. Such disclosure shall include board membership on, a substantial interest in, or employment of the individual or a relative by any organization doing business with the District or any of its entities.
2. Board members or staff, who receive honoraria or payments for sales or services rendered to the District or any of its entities, shall disclose such information.
3. Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interest of the District or any of its entities.
4. Information acquired in the course of carrying our district duties shall not knowingly be used in any way which would be detrimental to the welfare of the District.
5. No board or commission member shall vote on any transaction from which the individual shall receive a direct or indirect financial gain.
6. Gifts, entertainment or favors in excess of \$100 per person per year from any individual or outside concern which does or is seeking to do business with the District or any of its entities shall not be accepted.
7. Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated.
8. Each individual; prior to accepting an elected or appointed office or staff position, shall sign a statement that he has received, understands, and agrees to abide by this bylaw and the conflict of interest policy of the respective corporation. Each shall also sign annually a "Statement of Compliance" with the bylaw and policy.
9. Responsibilities shall be conducted in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Synodical Handbook, board policies, and civil laws. (For employees not familiar with the Lutheran Confessions, Scripture should be used to interest the expected conduct.)

Print Name

Title/Board/Commission/Committee

Signature

Date

Additional Information

January 1, 2023

Financial Secretary's Summary Report

SELC District Receipts for Missions

Based on the mission receipts from the churches in the SELC District through December 2022, the summary information is as follows: The mission contributions received from congregations during December were **\$40,813 which is 94%** of the budgeted monthly goal of \$43,505.

- The total mission contributions from all sources during December totaled **\$70,818 which is 139%** of the monthly budget of \$50,833.
- The **total mission receipts** received during 2022 are **108% of budget**.
- 47 of the 55 congregations in our district submitted contributions toward their 2022 mission goals.
- 35 of the 55 congregations in our district have submitted their entire pledge toward their 2022 mission goal. Six churches are not budgeted to contribute to the District Mission budget this year; however, two of these churches have sent in a mission donation.
- \$3,653 was received from the LCMS Foundation because of the sale of St John Lutheran Church in Brackenridge, Pa.
- \$24,757 was received from LCMS International Missions in support of Rev. Charles St-Onge.
- \$96,036 was received during 2022 from LCEF distributions.
- During 2022, \$10,000 was received for special mission funding.
- During 2022, \$861 was received for dedicated missions.
- \$2,665 was received from Luther League.
- During December, \$82,000 was transferred to the checking account managed by the treasurer.

The churches that are furthest behind their 2022 mission goals / pledges are:

Eastern Circuit: Zion – Clark (\$12,000), St Paul – Greenwich (\$3,055), St Paul – Westport (\$2,250)

Central Circuit: St John – Massillon (\$5,986), St Matthew – Norton (\$3,010), St Peter & Paul – Sharon (\$1,507)

Western Circuit: Dr. Martin Luther – Chicago (\$4,569), Zion – Norridge (\$3,750), Holy Trinity – Streator (\$2,222), The Way – Columbia (\$1,648), Pentecost – Racine (\$1,460)

Southern Circuit: Family of Christ - Tampa (\$6,091), Tamil Ministries – Tampa (\$1,907), Messiah – Tampa (\$1,000)

| Circuit | Monthly Budget | Dec. Receipts | Y-T-D Budget | Receipts Thru Dec. | Y-T-D % of 2022 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eastern | \$6,619 | \$2,223 | \$79,431 | \$66,893 | 84% |
| Central | \$4,536 | \$8,277 | \$54,437 | \$58,943 | 108% |
| Western | \$8,135 | \$7,558 | \$97,625 | \$85,348 | 87% |
| Southern | \$24,214 | \$22,755 | \$290,568 | \$281,397 | 97% |
| SubTotal - Congregations | \$43,505 | \$40,813 | \$522,061 | \$492,582 | 94% |
| Total - 2022 Budget | \$50,833 | \$70,818 | \$610,000 | \$660,870 | 108% |

| SELCT DISTRICT | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS FOR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCES | | | | | |
| YEAR - 2022 through December 31, 2022 | | | | | |
| | COMM | DISTRICT SUPPORT | ACTUAL DISTRICT | OTHER MINISTRIES / | TOTAL |
| <u>EASTERN CIRCUIT</u> | <u>MEMBERS</u> | <u>ANNUAL GOAL</u> | <u>YTD SUPPORT</u> | <u>DIR. SUPPORT</u> | <u>YTD MISSIONS</u> |
| Northampton, PA - Concordia | 145 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 0 | 3,600 |
| Bound Brook, NJ - St John | 55 | 575 | 575 | 0 | 575 |
| Clark, NJ - Zion | 148 | 24,000 | 12,000 | 0 | 12,000 |
| Dickson City, PA - St Stephens | 152 | 0 | 2,828 | 0 | 2,828 |
| Emporia, VA - St John | 127 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 0 | 5,500 |
| Galloway, NJ - Peace | 64 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Garfield, NJ - Holy Trinity | 155 * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich, CT - St Paul | 125 * | 6,180 | 3,130 | 0 | 3,130 |
| Hazleton, PA - St John's | 60 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 2,770 | 7,770 |
| Macungie, PA - Concordia | 160 | 8,019 | 8,019 | 600 | 8,619 |
| Manchester, NJ - Redeemer | 306 * | 6,149 | 5,863 | 0 | 5,863 |
| Montreal, QC - Ascension | 143 | 2,608 | 2,608 | 0 | 2,608 |
| Raritan, NJ - St Paul | 103 * | 2,000 | 2,327 | 0 | 2,327 |
| Stamford, CT - Trinity | 36 | 0 | 1,700 | 1,810 | 3,510 |
| Fairfax, VA - St Athanasius | 72 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 39,145 | 42,745 |
| Westport, CT - St Paul | 150 | 9,000 | 6,750 | 0 | 6,750 |
| Wilkes-Barre, PA - St Matthew | 219 * | 2,200 | 2,394 | 0 | 2,394 |
| TOTAL EASTERN CIRCUIT | 2,220 | \$79,431 | \$66,893 | \$44,325 | \$111,218 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 84.22% | | |
| <u>CENTRAL CIRCUIT</u> | | | | | |
| Arnold, PA - John Huss | 122 * | 1,400 | 1,400 | 185 | 1,585 |
| Johnstown, PA - Holy Cross | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kingsville, ON - Nativity | 30 | 681 | 681 | 0 | 681 |
| Lakewood, OH - Grace | 126 | 3,856 | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 |
| Lodi, OH - Christ the King | 102 | 9,401 | 9,401 | 0 | 9,401 |
| Lorain, OH - Sts Peter & Paul | 42 * | 3,640 | 13,706 | 0 | 13,706 |
| Malvern, OH - Resurrection | 67 | 2,352 | 2,156 | 0 | 2,156 |
| Massillon, OH - St John | 356 | 8,586 | 2,600 | 2,524 | 5,124 |
| Norton, OH - St Matthew | 148 * | 6,620 | 3,610 | 0 | 3,610 |
| Parma, OH - Calvary | 284 | 9,300 | 15,350 | 0 | 15,350 |
| Parma, OH - Holy Trinity | 68 * | 1,363 | 1,199 | 120 | 1,319 |
| Pleasant City, OH - Holy Trinity | 17 | 1,488 | 1,700 | 0 | 1,700 |
| Sharon, PA - Sts Peter & Paul | 50 | 4,160 | 2,653 | 0 | 2,653 |
| Steubenville, OH - St Mark | 40 * | 1,040 | 938 | 0 | 938 |
| Toronto, ON - St Paul | 60 * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Youngstown, OH - Concordia | 15 | 550 | 550 | 0 | 550 |
| TOTAL CENTRAL CIRCUIT | 1,559 | \$54,437 | \$58,943 | \$2,829 | \$61,772 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 108.28% | | |

January 1, 2024

Financial Secretary's Summary Report

SELC District Receipts for Missions

Based on the mission receipts from the churches in the SELC District through December 2023, the summary information is as follows:

- The mission contributions received from congregations during December were **\$40,666 which is 92%** of the budgeted monthly goal of \$44,074.
- The total mission contributions from all sources during December totaled **\$54,742 which is 101%** of the monthly budget of \$54,167.
- Total receipts **received during 2023 equals \$718,353 which is 111%** of the adjusted budget.
- 46 of the 53 congregations in our District have submitted contributions toward their 2023 mission goals.
- 35 of the 53 congregations in our District have submitted their entire 2023 mission pledge. Seven churches are not budgeted to contribute to the District Mission budget this year; however, three of these churches sent in a mission donation. Two churches have also submitted their entire 2024 goal.
- During December, a check from the LCMS Foundation – Brackenridge, Pa was received in the amount of \$3,708.
- During December, \$68,000 was transferred to the checking account managed by the treasurer. In December.
- \$15,156 has been received to date for the 2023 LCMS Synodical Convention assessment. The total requested in letters sent out during September was \$19,755.
- \$38,175 in interest was received from investments during 2023.
- Notable changes in contributions during 2023 are:
 - No contributions from Zion - Clark since February
 - No contributions from Calvary – Parma since April
 - Faith – Wesley Chapel started to send in regular contributions in August

The churches that are furthest behind their 2023 mission goals / pledges are:

Eastern Circuit: Zion – Clark – (\$12,000), Redeemer – Manchester (\$3,981)

Central Circuit: Calvary – Parma (\$9,980), St John – Massillon (\$5,586), St Matthew – Norton (\$2,219), Grace - Lakewood (\$1,000)

Western Circuit: Zion – Norridge (\$7,500), Dr Martin Luther – Chicago (\$2,569), Holy Trinity - Streator (\$2,002), Resurrection – Crown Point (\$1,526), The Way – Columbia (\$1,648), St Paul – Whiting (\$1,885)

Southern Circuit: Family of Christ – Tampa (\$4,966)

| Circuit | Monthly Budget | Dec. Receipts | Y-T-D Budget | Receipts Thru Dec. | Y-T-D % of 2023 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eastern | \$5,470 | \$6,275 | \$65,637 | \$53,881 | 82% |
| Central | \$4,991 | \$2,678 | \$59,889 | \$41,294 | 69% |
| Western | \$8,260 | \$7,324 | \$99,125 | \$81,909 | 83% |
| Southern | \$25,353 | \$24,389 | \$304,236 | \$302,176 | 99% |
| SubTotal - Congregations | \$44,074 | \$40,666 | \$528,887 | \$479,260 | 91% |
| Total - 2023 Budget | \$54,167 | \$54,742 | \$650,000 | \$718,353 | 111% |

December 1, 2024

Financial Secretary’s Summary Report

SELC District Receipts for Missions

Based on the mission receipts from the churches in the SELC District through November 2024, the summary information is as follows:

- The mission contributions received from congregations during November were **\$35,404 which is 81%** of the budgeted monthly goal of \$43,459.
- The total mission contributions from all sources during November totaled **\$54,311 which is 92%** of the monthly budget of \$59,167.
- The total receipts from all sources through November are \$607,741 which is 93% of the budget.
- 20 of the 52 congregations in our District have already submitted their entire 2024 budgeted contributions toward their mission goals, and another 3 churches are not budgeted to make any mission contributions.
- YTD, the congregations have contributed 96% of their budgeted funds to the District, and the total receipts are 93% of the yearly budget to date.
- During November, \$18,400 has been received for the 2025 District convention registration / expenses and \$23,475 has been received to date.
- During November \$46,000 was transferred to the checking account managed by the treasurer.
- The churches that are scheduled to submit donations towards the SELC budget that have not yet begun to submit an offering include:
 - Grace – Lakewood
 - Concordia – Youngstown
 - Holy Trinity – Boyceville
 - Dr Martin Luther – Chicago
 - The Way – Columbus
- Holy Trinity – Garfield, Holy Cross - Johnstown, and St Paul - Toronto are not budgeted to contribute to the District missions this year. In addition, Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford and St John Lutheran Church in Emporia stopped contributing to the District in June.

A summary by circuits is shown in the attached spreadsheet:

| Circuit | Monthly Budget | Nov. Receipts | Y-T-D Budget | Receipts Thru Nov. | Y-T-D % of 2024 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eastern | \$5,237 | \$2,400 | \$57,602 | \$54,235 | 94% |
| Central | \$4,512 | \$2,293 | \$49,635 | \$37,983 | 77% |
| Western | \$7,745 | \$5,717 | \$85,194 | \$74,712 | 88% |
| Southern | \$25,966 | \$24,994 | \$285,623 | \$290,325 | 102% |
| SubTotal - Congregations | \$43,459 | \$35,404 | \$478,054 | \$457,256 | 96% |
| Total - 2024 Budget | \$59,167 | \$54,311 | \$650,833 | \$607,741 | 93% |

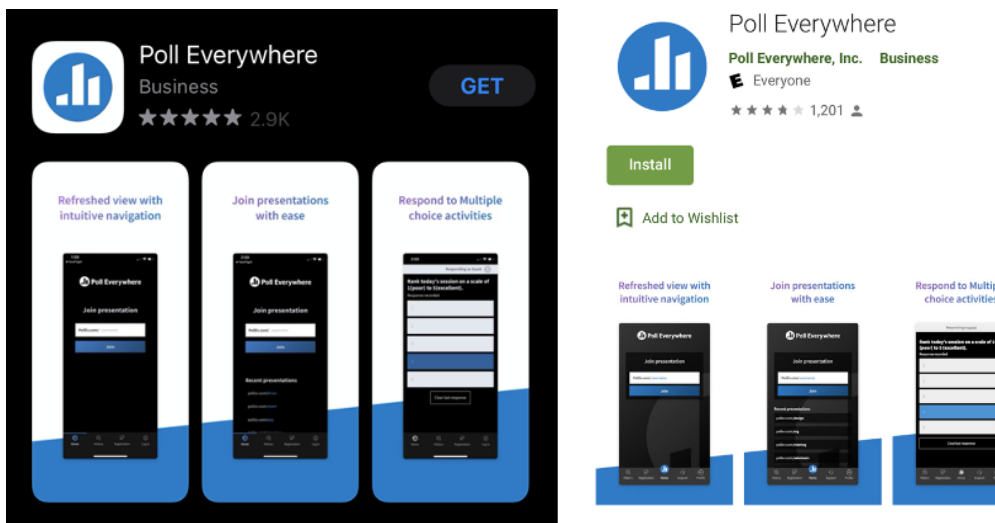
| SELCDISTRICT | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS FOR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCES | | | | | |
| YEAR - 2024 through November 30, 2024 | | | | | |
| | COMM | DISTRICT | ACTUAL | OTHER | |
| | MEMBERS | SUPPORT | DISTRICT | MINISTRIES / | TOTAL |
| WESTERN CIRCUIT | | ANNUAL GOAL | YTD SUPPORT | DIR. SUPPORT | YTD MISSIONS |
| Alsip, Il - Holy Cross | 57 | 3,340 | 3,571 | 100 | 3,671 |
| Boyceville, WI - Holy Trinity | 68 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chicago, IL - Dr Martin Luther | 35 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Columbia, Il - The Way | 223 | 2,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Crown Point, IN - Resurrection | 105 | 1,714 | 1,714 | 0 | 1,714 |
| Cudahy, WI - St John | 310 | 25,200 | 24,490 | 3,600 | 28,090 |
| Granite City, IL - St John | 103 | 9,300 | 8,229 | 0 | 8,229 |
| Norridge, IL - Zion | 55 | 12,000 | 4,140 | 0 | 4,140 |
| Racine, WI - Pentecost | 171 | 18,156 | 17,138 | 0 | 17,138 |
| St Louis, MO - Jacobs Well | 9 | 1,044 | 1,044 | 0 | 1,044 |
| St Louis, MO - St Lucas | 282 | 9,000 | 8,250 | 0 | 8,250 |
| Streator, IL - Holy Trinity | 249 | 1,300 | 1,137 | 20 | 1,157 |
| Whiting, IN - St Paul | 131 | 6,885 | 5,000 | 300 | 5,300 |
| TOTAL WESTERN CIRCUIT | 1,798 | \$92,939 | \$74,712 | \$4,020 | \$78,732 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 80.39% | | |
| SOUTHERN CIRCUIT | | | | | |
| Lake Mary, FL - Holy Cross | 894 | 55,000 | 51,210 | 0 | 51,210 |
| Melbourne, FL- Hope | 133 | 5,526 | 5,526 | 0 | 5,526 |
| Mt Dora - The Cross | 480 | 7,200 | 6,600 | 0 | 6,600 |
| Oviedo, FL - St Luke's | 3,424 | 202,963 | 186,054 | 0 | 186,054 |
| Tampa, FL - Family of Christ | 523 | 4,500 | 3,375 | 0 | 3,375 |
| Viera / Rockledge, FL - Faith | 810 | 34,000 | 35,360 | 0 | 35,360 |
| Wesley Chapel, FL - Faith | 28 | 2,400 | 2,200 | 0 | 2,200 |
| TOTAL SOUTHERN CIRCUIT | 6,292 | \$311,589 | \$290,325 | \$0 | \$290,325 |
| %BUDGET ATTAINED | | | 93.18% | | |
| Total Congregation Support | 11,289 | \$521,513 | \$458,593 | \$27,227 | \$485,819 |
| %BUDGET ATTAINED | | | 87.94% | | |
| OTHER | | | | | |
| Lutheran Witness Subscriptions | | 3,800 | 4,214 | 0 | 4,214 |
| 2023 Mission Contributions | | 2,316 | 7,230 | 0 | 7,230 |
| 2025 Convention registration, etc. | | 0 | 23,475 | 0 | 23,475 |
| LCMS Foundation - Brackenridge, Pa | | 3,708 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LCEF Distribution | | 52,483 | 37,254 | 0 | 37,254 |
| Reimbursements | | 0 | 163 | 0 | 163 |
| Interest on Savings | | 40,000 | 31,594 | 0 | 31,594 |
| Interest / Foreign Currency / Bank Fees | | 0 | -1,338 | 0 | -1,338 |
| Ascension pastor support | | 86,180 | 47,753 | 0 | 47,753 |
| TOTAL | | \$188,487 | \$150,345 | \$0 | \$150,345 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 11,289 | \$710,000 | \$608,938 | \$27,227 | \$636,165 |
| % GOALS ATTAINED | | | 85.77% | | |
| * Unconfirmed 2024 goal / membership | | | | | |
| | | | Prepared by : | Larry Schultz | |
| | | | | Financial Secretary | |
| | | | | 1566 Bushkill Center Road | |
| | | | | Bath, Pa 18014 | |

Delegate Voting

We will again be using Poll Everywhere. This is an app that you can install on your smart device - iPhone, Android, or tablet. This is only for Pastoral and Lay delegates. Please install the app on your device of choice prior to arriving at the Convention. **If you will not have a device with you at the Convention, please email the District Office as soon as possible at selc.lcms@gmail.com or call us at 610-965-3265, press 6.**

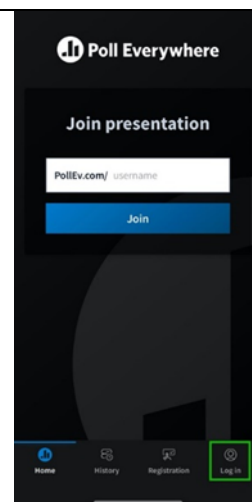
Install

Open the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#), depending on your device, and search for Poll Everywhere (if you're reading this from a mobile device, the previous links will take you right to the Poll Everywhere page in the respective store). Once at the Poll Everywhere page tap the Get (for iOS) or Install (Android) button to install the app.



Log in

To log in, you'll need a Poll Everywhere account. You can get a free account at www.polleverywhere.com/signup. Once you have an account, click the menu button in the top right corner of the app, select Log in from the list, and enter your credentials. You are now ready to create, manage, and present activities.



Joining & Responding

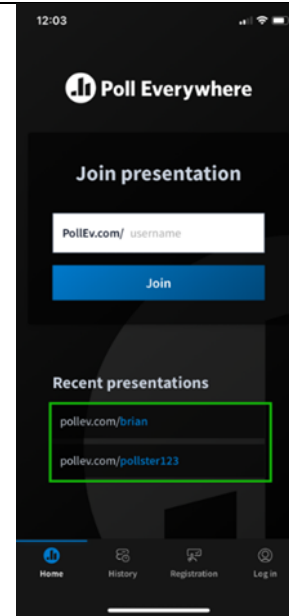
To respond to an activity, you need to join an active presentation. Open the mobile app on your device, enter the presenter's username (this will be displayed on the presentation slide), and tap the **Join** button. You can now respond to the currently active question or survey.



If the presenter hasn't activated the question or survey yet, you'll see a screen letting you know you're ready to do and the screen will update automatically.

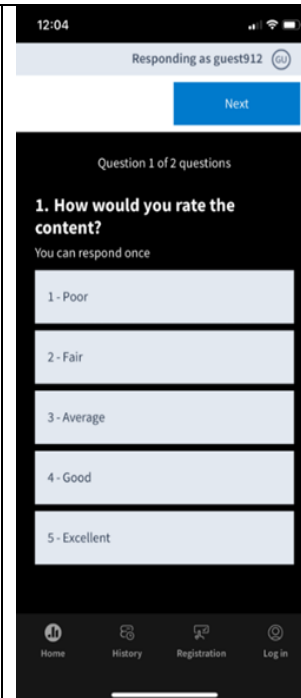


Helpful tip: The last three sessions you've joined using your mobile device will appear below the joining bar. You can quickly join sessions by those presenters by tapping their usernames in the list.



Responding to Surveys

Responding to Surveys works much the same on the mobile app as it does on a web browser. The Survey will appear in your app once the presenter has activated it. Depending on how the presenter has configured the Survey, you will either answer each question individually and tap the Next button or scroll through the entire Survey answering questions as you go. Either way, once you're done, tap the Submit survey button to complete the activity and submit your responses.



Additional Information Received after Initial Printing

Look for information submitted after printing online on the District website.