

The 63rd
Texas District LCMS Convention

June 5-7, 2025

CONVENTION WORKBOOK

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Houston, Texas

txlcms.org | info@txlcms.org | 512.926.4272

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CONVENTION SCHEDULE



Thursday, June 5, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. Gloria Dei Doors Open
- 8:30 a.m. Convention Registration Opens (Life Center)
- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Floor Committee Hearings
Mission & Ministry Floor Committee - Student Center Room 198
Governance & Administration Floor Committee - Student Center Room 196
- 11:00 a.m. Vendor Area Opens (Life Center)
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Breakout Lunches
- Faith to the Moon and Back, Col. Michael Fossum (Chapel). Sponsored by Lightwell Insurance
 - Emotional and Mental Health in Life and Ministry, Rev. Jim Otte and DCE Christiane Hobbs (Student Center Gym). Sponsored by Concordia University Irvine
 - Kingdom Over Castle, Rev. Al Doering and Rev. Dr. Stephen Sohns (Rooms 211/213). Sponsored by The Center
 - Funnel Fusion: Leveraging Assimilation to Catalyze Multiplication, DCE Jason Phelps (Rooms 215/217)
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Coffee Break Sponsored by Legacy Deo
- 12:45 p.m. Gathering (Worship Center)
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. Opening of Convention
- 1:20 p.m. - 1:35 p.m. Devotion - Rev. Steve Garrabrant
- 1:35 p.m. - 2:25 p.m. Essay/Bible Study - President Michael Newman
- 2:25 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. Primer on Parliamentary Procedure - Rev. Larry Krueger
- 2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m. Keypad Orientation - Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
- 2:55 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration Report - Rev. Larry Krueger
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Ballot Instructions and Prayer for the Elections
Elections: District President, Vice Presidents and Rankings



3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	President's Report
4:15 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.	Registration Report and Prayer for the Elections Elections: District Secretary, Board of Directors, Board of Mission Administration, District Nominating Committee, Synod Committee for Convention Nominations, Alternate- Synod Committee for Convention Nominations, Ratification of Circuit Visitors
5:10 p.m.	Floor Committee 2 Special Presentation
5:30 p.m.	Closing Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann Registration Closes
7:30 p.m.	Worship - Rev. Dr. Scott Murray (Worship offering designated for Texas Partners in Mission)
8:30 p.m.	Convention Reception (Life Center)
10:00 p.m.	Convention Doors Close

Friday, June 6, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Convention Doors Open
7:30 a.m.	Coffee break Sponsored by Lifetime Commercial Roofing Registration Opens Vendor Area Opens
8:15 a.m.	Gathering (Worship Center)
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Devotion - Rev. Randy Miller
8:45 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	Minutes Review Committee Registration Report - Rev. Larry Krueger
8:50 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Business Session I
Noon	Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Breakout Lunches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewing Your Church and Reaching Out through Evangelist Development (Bilingual Session), Deaconess Noemi Guerra (Rooms 215/217) Pastors Wives and Friends: Major League Baseball, Life and Mission, Scott and Kelly Linebrink (Chapel). Sponsored by Concordia Plans Connecting with Jesus in Your Devotional Life and Prayer, Renee Page (Rooms 214/216) Connecting with your Community, Stephanie Knea (Student Center Gym)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Coffee break Sponsored by GSB Fundraising
1:30 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.	Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann
1:35 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Mission Report - Texas District Mission Team
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Business Session II



3:15 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Standing Prayer
3:20 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.	Essay/Bible Study - President Michael Newman
4:10 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.	Business Session III
5:10 p.m.	Closing Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann Electoral Caucuses (if desired - find a comfortable space to meet)
6:00 p.m.	Dinner (on your own) Vendor Area Closes Convention Door Closes

Saturday, June 7, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Convention Door Opens
7:30 a.m.	Coffee break Sponsored by FiveTwo
8:15 a.m.	Gathering (Worship Center)
8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Opening Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann
8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.	Minutes Review Committee - Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse Registration Report - Rev. Larry Krueger
8:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Synod Report - Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
10:00 a.m.	Closing Prayer - Rev. Dan Schepmann Break and Worship Preparation
10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Closing Worship and Memorial Service - Rev. Michael Newman
Noon	Convention Door Closes

All delegates, congregations, and guests must download or print (or save to an electronic device) their copy of the 2025 Texas District Convention Workbook.

The Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wishes to express appreciation to the following sponsors for their support of the 2025 Texas District Convention:



Texas District Church Extension Fund
Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





MEET OUR PRESENTERS



The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison has served as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 2010. As president, he is the chief ecclesiastical supervisor of the Synod and is responsible for the ministries directed by LCMS International Center staff, including the Office of International Mission and its nearly 150 missionaries serving around the globe.

Before becoming president, Harrison served for nine years as executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care (2001-2010), which expended over \$100 million for mercy efforts done in the clear name of Christ. These efforts included caring for people after 9-11, Katrina and many hurricanes, the great Asia tsunami, the Haiti earthquake, and many other disasters and humanitarian efforts.

Harrison also managed relationships with some 120 LCMS Recognized Service Organizations and other inter-Lutheran social ministry organizations, worked in consultation with LCMS partner/sister churches to build capacity during numerous mercy outreach efforts, and managed LCMS pro-life efforts.

From 1995 to 2001, Harrison served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Prior to that, he served St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa (1991-1995). Ordained in 1991, he has served in a number of elected and appointed positions in the LCMS and on various entity boards of directors. Harrison is co-founder and chairman of the board of The International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (Old Latin School), which hosts some 40 students and church planters from the European Union and beyond who are studying to become ordained pastors. In addition, Harrison chairs the board of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and serves on the executive committee of the International Lutheran Council. Harrison is also active in the pro-life movement and frequently speaks at such events.

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Harrison holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa. He attended Concordia University, Nebraska, in 1984. He has M.Div. and S.T.M. degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Harrison has pursued additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Furthermore, he has received honorary doctorates from Concordia University Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Since 2010, Harrison has served as assistant pastor of Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Mo. He has translated and edited five volumes of essays and letters by Lutheran theologian Hermann Sasse (published through Concordia Publishing House [CPH]). He has also revised C.F.W. Walther's *The Church and the Office of the Ministry* (CPH) and written several other books, including *Christ Have Mercy*, *A Little Book on Joy* and



At Home in the House of My Fathers. Harrison has been married to Kathy (Schimm) Harrison since 1981, and they have two sons (Matthew M.L. married to Courtney, and Mark M.C. married to Tara). The Harrisons have two grandchildren, Rosie and Shiloh.

In his spare time, Harrison enjoys reading, writing, vintage Jeeps, old banjos and books, and – most of all – time with family.



The Rev. Peter K. Lange, as first vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), assists the president in carrying out his responsibilities and chairs the colloquy committees for both the pastoral ministry and commissioned ministry. Lange was elected to this position in 2019 and re-elected in 2023. He also serves as an *ex officio* member of the LCMS Board of Directors and the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and is the Synod president's representative on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Board of Regents.

Previously, Lange served as president of the LCMS Kansas District (2015-2019). Prior to that, he served as senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kan. (1999-2015), and associate pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo. (1990-1999).

Born in Houston, Texas, Lange graduated from Concordia University, River Forest, Ill., in 1984 and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., with a Master of Divinity in 1988. Lange also earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1998 from Concordia Theological Seminary.

Lange has also served the church as secretary of the Council of Presidents (2018-2019), a member of the 2016 Resolution 13-01A Task Force "To Exalt and Equip the Blessed Partnership between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry," a chairman for Synod floor committees in 2016 and 2019, and a member of numerous boards and committees for the Missouri and Kansas districts from 1992-2015. Lange has also participated in short-term mission trips to England, Czech Republic, Germany and South Africa.

Lange and his wife, Marcia, live in St. Louis. They have four married daughters and 12 grandchildren.





The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray is a vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He has served as a vice-president of Synod since 2010.

He represents the church's West-Southwest Region. He served as senior pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, Tx. where he was called in 1996 until retiring in 2025.

Previously, Murray served St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cobourg, Ontario, Canada (1983-1985), and Salem Lutheran Church, Gretna, La. (1985-1996). He served on the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations — as a member from 1995 to 2001 and as a vice-chair from 1998 to 2001. He has served as chairman of the Board of Directors of Luther Academy from (2012-2015), an organization that promotes confessional Lutheran theology.

Born in Kitchener, Ontario, Murray graduated with a B.A. from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1980 and earned a M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1983. He also holds a M.A. from Loyola University and a Ph.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Murray wrote a devotion every weekday called “Memorial Moments,” which is based on the church fathers for 23 years. He also is the author of *Law, Life, and the Living God* (Concordia Publishing House, 2001), *A Year with the Church Fathers* (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), has edited a number of books including *The Gates of Hell* (Concordia Publishing House, 2018), provided chapters for several books, and has written numerous journal articles.

Murray and his wife, Maryann, live in Houston. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.



2025 TEXAS DISTRICT CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Convention Committee Chairman

Rev. Michael W. Newman
Texas District President

Convention Manager

Mrs. Lisa Candido
Texas District Staff

Gloria Dei Convention Coordinator

Mrs. Beth Koerber
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Worship Committee

Rev. Dan Schepmann
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Mr. Jason Phelps
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Mr. Omar Aguilar
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Prayer Team Leaders

Rev. Steve Garrabrant
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Rev. Randy Miller
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Rev. Andrew Walker
Texas District Staff

Registration Committee

Rev. Larry Krueger, Emeritus
Vice President, Area B

Ms. Amanda Berryhill
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Ms. Cindy Hilewitz
Texas District Staff

Ms. Jill Meyer
Texas District Staff

Hospitality & Volunteer Committee

Mrs. Audrey Duensing-Werner
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Mrs. Lori Knutson
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Mrs. Crystal Oliver
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Media Committee

Mr. Keith Howanitz
Texas District Staff

Mr. Mario Vargas
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Texas District Secretary

Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco

Texas District Treasurer

Mrs. Linda Hagge

Texas District Area D Vice President

Rev. Dr. John Davis
Memorial Lutheran Church, Katy

Texas District Circuit Visitor - Circuit 36

Rev. Matthew Brackman
Peace Lutheran Church, Texas City



Vendors and Sponsorships

Mr. Hugo Fonseca
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Mrs. Beth Koerber
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Ms. Jill Meyer
Texas District Staff

Spanish Translation Committee

Dcs. Gil de Rodriguez
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston

Rev. Lincon Guerra
Texas District Staff

FLOOR COMMITTEES

FLOOR COMMITTEE #1 - Mission and Ministry

Rev. Nathan Wendorf, St. Paul, Harlingen
Rev. Ted Doering, Narrative, Round Rock
Dcs. Perla Gil de Rodriguez, Gloria Dei, Houston
Rev. Lincon Guerra, Lubbock
Mr. Jeff Heath, St. Peter, Roanoke
Mr. Kurt Rosenhagen, Gloria Dei, Houston
Rev. Eric Stinnette, St. Paul, Wichita Falls
Rev. Juan Zamora, Our Redeemer, Irving

Area C Vice President, Chairman
Area C Ordained
Area D Commissioned
District Staff Advisory Member
Area B Lay
Area D Lay
Area A Ordained
Area B Ordained

FLOOR COMMITTEE #2 - Governance and Administration

Rev. Dr. John Davis, Memorial, Katy
Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther, Tomball
Rev. Martin Danner, Bethany, Austin
Rev. Eric Hiner, Hope, Lubbock
DCE Leslie Sullivan, St. John, Cypress
Rev. Martin Richardson, Crown of Life, Colleyville
Mike Martin, Faith, Georgetown
William Vorva, St. Paul, Fort Worth

Area D Vice President, Chairman
District Staff Advisory Member
Area C Ordained, Vice Chairman
Area A Ordained, Secretary
Area D Commissioned
Area B Ordained
Area C Lay
Area B Lay

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Kevin Hintze, Zion, Walburg
Mr. Keith Lund, Grace, Denison

MINUTES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse, St. Paul, Waco
Rev. Scott Schaller, Trinity, Taylor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected 2021 Convention)

Rev. Kevin Hintze, Zion, Walburg	Ordained Area B, Chairman
Rev. Dr. William Knippa, Bethany, Austin	Ordained Area C
Rev. Robert Pase, Our Savior, Abilene	Ordained Area A
Rev. Jon Salminen, Epiphany, Pearland	Ordained Area D
Mr. Paul Krentz, Narrative, Round Rock	Commissioned Area C
Mr. Keith Lund, Grace, Denison	Commissioned Area B, Secretary
Mrs. Kelly Bernhardt, Prince of Peace, Amarillo	Lay Area A
Mr. Gary Juhl, Concordia, San Antonio	Lay Area C
Mrs. Donna Snow, Salem, Tomball	Lay Area D
Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse, St. Paul, Waco	District Secretary

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

When group decisions are made, the group must follow certain rules of procedure to prevent chaos, confusion, and possible injustice. The rules which a group follows are called Parliamentary Procedure.

Unless rules and procedures are specified in the District Handbook, “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised” is followed by the District Convention.

It is impossible to cover everything, but the following information is given to help all delegates participate confidently and effectively in the decision-making process.

PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The purpose is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to ensure justice and equality to all, particularly the minority, and to ensure that the will of the majority shall prevail.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ALL MEMBERS

The two basic rights of all members are to speak and to vote. These need to be exercised and used faithfully, wisely, and well. However, all members also have certain basic privileges, as a part of Parliamentary Procedure. These are important.

Any member has the right at any time, even interrupting a speaker, to:

1. Make a point of order - if the member feels that proper procedure has not been followed. The Chair either accepts the point and makes the correction or rules that the point is not well taken. (If a member abuses this privilege, the Chair need not recognize him.)
2. Raise a question of privilege - if the member, for example, feels there is disorder, bad ventilation, etc., or if he feels a personal attack has been made, etc. (This, too, dare not be abused.)



3. Make a request for information - if something is not understood about a resolution, or the facts presented are not clear, etc.
4. Make a parliamentary inquiry - if the member does not understand the parliamentary situation, or wants to know what kind of motion to use, or what to say to accomplish his objective, etc.

KINDS OF MOTIONS

1. Main Motions - A Main Motion is made to bring any particular subject before the assembly for its consideration. The Main Motion is the foundation on which all procedure is built. Only one Main Motion may be pending at a time.
2. Subsidiary Motions - Subsidiary Motions are those which help or assist in disposing of the Main Motion in the most appropriate way. There are seven: postpone indefinitely, amend, commit or refer, postpone to a definite time, limit or extend debate, previous question, and lay on the table.
3. Privileged Motions - Privileged Motions have no connection with the Main Motion but are of such great importance that they take precedence over all other questions. They are: call for orders of the day, question of privilege, recess, adjourn, fix time to adjourn to.
4. Incidental Motions - Incidental Motions are such as arise out of another question which is pending, for example, close nominations, division of question, division of assembly, etc.

FREQUENTLY USED PROCEDURES AND POINTS

Following is information on a few of the most commonly used procedures and points in any assembly.

Amendments

- These are the most commonly used of the subsidiary motions. Forms of amendments are: inserting or adding, striking out, striking out and inserting or adding, substituting (a whole resolution).
- Amendments must be germane to the motion, that is, they must relate to it, although they may not change an affirmative motion to negative.
- Amendments to the 2nd degree only are permitted, that is, an amendment to an amendment. Also, only one amendment of the 1st degree is permitted at a time, although any number may be offered in succession.

Substitute

- A subsidiary motion to substitute is actually an amendment and is basically handled as such. (This amendment is often called "substitute motion," although this is not the best form and is often confusing.)
- A motion to substitute is different from other forms of amendments in that it can do away entirely with the original resolution. It is also different because the original motion may be amended by secondary amendments while the substitute is pending.
- Since it is an amendment, two votes are always required. In other words, if the substitute has passed, all that has been decided is to substitute that paragraph or motion



for the original one. The substitute has then become the main motion, is open for discussion, and must be voted on.

Previous Question

- The name of this motion is a little confusing, but it is simply a motion to stop debate and vote immediately on the pending question. It requires a 2/3 vote and is not debatable.
- Calling out "Question!" does not bind the Chair immediately to stop debate and call for the vote. Only the formal motion of the Previous Question and its adoption can do this: "I move the Previous Question."
- This motion may apply just to an amendment or any motion. If unqualified, it applies only to the immediately pending motion. If so stated, it may also apply to everything pending - back to the main motion and is stated as "I move the Previous Question on all pending motions."

(Lay on the Table)

- The motion to lay on the table sets the pending business aside temporarily to take up something else of immediate urgency. It may not be qualified in any way, for example, "I move to lay on the table the motion until tomorrow." If qualified in any way, it is actually a motion to postpone to a certain time.
- The above distinction is important, because a motion to lay on the table is not debatable, but a motion to postpone it to a certain time is debatable. The motion to lay on the table requires only a majority vote.

Reconsider

- This motion must be made by someone who voted on the winning side when the vote was taken on the motion it is proposed to reconsider. (It may be seconded by anyone.)
- This motion is in order only on the day the original vote was taken or the next succeeding day. After that the motion to rescind must be used.

2025 PROPOSED STANDING RULES

1. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state his or her name, the congregation represented and its location, and indicate pastoral voting delegate, lay voting delegate or advisory delegate status.
3. Voting Delegate Procedures
 - a. Voting delegates must wear their badges at all sessions and sit in the section reserved for voting members.



- b. Only delegates wearing voting delegate badges and seated in the section designated for them will be allowed to vote using the electronic voting system. Delegates may vote only on their assigned individual keypad.
 - c. Voting shall ordinarily be accomplished by use of an electronic response system that requires delegates to be in their seats during the times when such voting will occur. When the electronic system is not used, the Chair, on motions before the convention, shall request a voice vote or call for the raising of the right hand or use any other appropriate means of non-electronic voting.
4. Voting Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Guests
- a. Only voting delegates may introduce motions, speak on the floor of the Convention and vote.
 - b. Advisory delegates may speak, but not vote.
 - c. Non-delegate guests may attend and observe convention sessions, but are entitled to neither voice nor vote while the Convention is in session.
 - d. Upon proper clearance by the registration chairman, a person registered as an alternate voting delegate may be transferred from alternate to voting delegate at any time during the business sessions of the convention and shall retain the position of voting delegate throughout the remainder of the convention.
5. Discussion will be limited to two minutes for each voting or advisory delegate on each motion or resolution. No one may speak more than twice to each question. If necessary, floor committees will be granted additional time for response to questions, provision of additional information, etc. The chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule.
6. While any voting delegate may move to close debate (called the question) at any time that it is his or her turn to speak, a vote on closing debate (two thirds vote required) on the pending motion shall be put by the chair after every 20 minutes of debate. The chair may also call for a vote on closing debate (two thirds vote required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.
7. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two minutes to present rationale for why the committee believes the original motion is to be preferred. The convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the



affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion dies. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is the so-called Behnken rule for dealing with substitute motions.)

8. Whenever an amendment is offered from the floor that seeks to make it editorial or other helpful suggestions to a pending resolution coming from a floor committee, the chair of the floor committee shall have the option of accepting such an amendment. If it is accepted, then the amendment is made without further debate or formal vote of the assembly.
9. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the convention.
10. Any voting delegate who has spoken to an issue may not call the question to cease debate at the end of his/her speech.
11. Resolutions or motions from the convention floor, offered by voting delegates, may be brought to the attention of the delegates only between agenda items, as the chair moves to a new item on the agenda. Please address the chair, “Mr. Chairman”.
12. A motion from the floor of the convention must be presented in writing and signed by the delegate who offers the motion. A copy is to be handed both to the secretary and to the chair at or prior to the time of presentation of the motion.
13. The Chair shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which, in his judgment, must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
14. It shall be the discretion of the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee to read the preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the question and then as he calls for the vote
15. Proposed resolutions prepared by the floor committees, which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, die.
16. Area Vice Presidents will be ranked using three successive ballots. The first ballot will be used to rank the 1st Vice President (until one candidate receives a majority). The second ballot will be used with the remaining candidates to rank the 2nd Vice President (until one candidate receives a majority). The final ballot will rank the 3rd and 4th Vice Presidents.
17. Parliamentary Procedure



- a. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless in conflict with the Bylaws of the Texas District and/or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
 - b. The parliamentarian shall interpret the rules and advise the chair on parliamentary procedure when necessary and/or when asked to do so.
18. Announcements necessary during the convention should be handed to the pages, who will deliver them to the District Convention Office. At the chairman's discretion, announcements will be posted.
19. Phones and other sound producing or communication devices shall be silenced or turned off during the convention and shall not be used to influence delegate action or distract from proper convention communication during convention sessions.

A PRIMER OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

1. PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to insure justice and fairness to all, both the majority and the minority.

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

Above all, there should be a spirit of Christian love and trust.

2. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE

The motions or points listed below, 1 through 9, are in order of precedence.

In other words:

- A. When any of them is pending, you may not introduce one listed below it.
- B. You may introduce one that is listed above it.



You want To:	You Say	May speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is Second Required?	Is Motion Debatable?	Can This Motion be Amended?	Is Vote Required? What % Required?
1. Adjourn	I move we adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
2. Recess	I move we recess.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
3. Register a complaint	Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman.	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required
4. Suspend further consideration (To table)	I move to table this matter.	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
5. End discussion	I move the previous question.	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
6. Postpone consideration	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
7. Have further study on matter	I move we refer this matter to a committee.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
8. Amend a motion	I move this be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
9. Introduce a matter of business	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The items listed below are general points, proposals and motions, and they have no order of procedure over one another. You may introduce any one of them at any time, except:

- A. When a motion to adjourn is pending;
- B. When a motion to recess is pending;
- C. When a point of privilege is pending.

You Want To:	You Say:	May Speaker Be Interrupted to Make This Motion?	Is Second Required?	Is Motion Debatable	Can This Motion Be Amended?	Is Vote Required? What % Required?
1. Object to error in procedure due to a personal affront.	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	No
2. Request for information.	Point of Information	Yes, if urgent	No	No	No	No



3. Verify voice vote by taking actual count.	I call for a division of the house.	No	No	No	No	No, unless someone objects; then majority
4. Object to consider a matter you think improper	I object to consideration of this question.	Yes	No	No	No	Yes - 2/3
5. Take up a matter which has been tabled.	I move we take from the table	No	Yes	No	No	Yes, majority
6. Reconsider matter already disposed of	I move we reconsider our action relative to...	Yes	Yes	Yes, if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
7. Consider matter out of scheduled order	I move we suspend rules and consider...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
8. Vote on a ruling of the chair	I appeal the chair's decision.	Yes	Yes	Yes, if original motion was debatable	No	Majority



HONORED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Scott Murray, Third Vice President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

FORMER TEXAS DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Rev. Ken Hennings and Mrs. Val Hennings
Texas District President and First Lady 2006-2018

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. (Jerry) Kieschnick and Mrs. Terry Kieschnick
Texas District President and First Lady 1991-2001
LCMS President and First Lady 2001-2010

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Mr. John W.K. “Kirk” Overbey, PRP, Austin

PADGETT COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Trina Brown
Ms. Erianna Smith

CONVENTION SPONSORS

Texas District Church Extension Fund
Concordia Plans
Lightwell Insurance
Legacy Deo
Lifetime Commercial Roofing
GSB Fundraising
FiveTwo
The Center
Concordia University Irvine
Concordia Publishing House

VENDORS

BEMA Information Technology	Houston	TX
Biblically Balanced Prayer Life	Houston	TX



Breathe Life Ministries	Rosenberg	TX
Christian Olive Art	Lantana	TX
Christian Olive Art	Denton	TX
Concordia Historical Institute	St. Louis	MO
Concordia Plans	St. Louis	MO
Concordia Publishing House	St. Louis	MO
Concordia Seminary	St. Louis	MO
Concordia Theological Seminary	Ft. Wayne	IN
Crossroads Kids Club	Bartlett	IL
Disciples Made, Inc.	Kansas City	KS
Educational Opportunities Tours	Lakeland	FL
Evangelical Life Ministries	Cypress	TX
Expansión Mission Network	Rockwall	TX
Ratio Christi at Sam Houston University, FiveTwo	Huntsville	TX
Gleaner's Harvest	Houston	TX
Good Shepherd Travel	Dallas	TX
GSB Fundraising	Lantana	TX
Holy Land Experiences	League City	TX
Legacy Deo	Manor	TX
LCC Comfort Dog Ministry	Cedar Park	TX
Lifetime Commercial Roofing	Houston	TX
Lightwell Insurance Advisors	Hurst	TX
Lutheran Bible Translators	Concordia	MO
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	Macomb	MI
Lutheran Legacy Foundation	Paris	IL
Lutheran Student Center of Lubbock	Lubbock	TX
Lutherans For Life	Lakeville	MN
LWML Texas District		TX
Operation Barnabas	Houston	TX
Outside the Walls Senior Ministry Movement	Tomball	TX
Purposeful Journeys	Cape Girardeau	MO
Texas District Archives	Round Rock	TX
Texas District Care & Coaching	Round Rock	TX
Texas District Church Extension Fund	Round Rock	TX
Texas District Convention Prayer Team	Round Rock	TX
Texas District Evangelist Training	Lubbock	TX
The Center	Saline	MI
The Lutheran Hour - Lone Star District		TX
University Lutheran Chapel	College Station	TX
University Lutheran Church	Austin	TX
Upbring	Austin	TX



REPORT OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Michael W. Newman

Part One

At the 1929 National LCMS Convention, President Friedrich Pfotenhauer noted:

“And now, dear brethren, let us go to work in the name of God. May we have a convention that will delight the angels, bring joy to Christians, and promote the glory of our Savior! Amen.” (9)

That is my prayer for the 2025 Texas District convention. May we be God’s people doing God’s work in God’s house for His mission and glory.

We thank Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay for their hospitality and hard work to host our 2025 gathering. Special thanks to Rev. Dan Schepmann and his team for all their work to help make the gathering a success and blessing.

The mission of the Texas District is to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for one another, locally and globally. We are a partnership of nearly 400 congregations knit together for God’s mission, doing together what we could not accomplish alone.

What have we been doing as partners in ministry and mission over the past four years?

Strengthen Congregations

COVID-19: It may seem like a distant memory for some, but COVID-19 was still causing shut-downs before and after our last district convention. As congregations and workers struggled, we saw a wonderful collegial spirit in circuits and around the district. Our congregation and worker care team led by Rev. Jim Otte stepped up its care and connection with workers and congregations during this time of great need. We praise God for the love and care shown in remarkable ways. We also praise God for the Texas Church Extension Fund’s flexibility in helping ministries during special situations of need.

Disaster response: Pastoral care and grant assistance was provided for nearly 20 natural and man-made disasters from 2021-2024. Thanks to the generosity of donors, thousands of dollars in relief aid was shared with church workers, ministries, and community members in need.

Calling Workers: No congregation or school is left alone in the call process. Congregation Support Specialists and Mission and Ministry personnel team up with Circuit Visitors to assist congregations during vacancies and to help with the calling of new workers. School Ministry team members walk alongside schools as they seek new ministry staff, and the commissioned



minister call process receives the able assistance of the Texas District team. Ongoing improvements have been made to streamline the process and shorten the wait time for call lists thanks to Andrew Walker, Assistant to the District President. Even with a shortage of workers and some economic pressures that stand in the way of church worker movement, the district walks with each ministry to provide help in time of need, celebrating the blessing of new workers when they arrive in Texas. The annual new worker orientation helps each new worker feel at home.

Visitation: The district president (DP), vice-presidents (VP), and circuit visitors (CV) work together to provide quality visitation every year (per LCMS by-law 4.4.4). These servants team up to be present in congregations regularly and at circuit and district gatherings. Every CV connects with each of his circuit congregations annually and meets with the DP, VP, and deployed district staff member to review each congregation and pastor's situation (this happens at twice yearly CV retreats). Follow-up takes place based on needs. While there is always room for improvement, we effectively connect with every congregation every year with visitation. In addition, the district's very fine and capable staff bring assistance, counsel, and collegiality to our workers and ministries in wonderful ways.

Church anniversaries: We praise God as congregations in Texas reach new anniversary milestones. It has been a privilege to be present at many congregations as they give thanks to God for enduring ministries. God is truly faithful and the gates of Hades will not prevail against the advance of His Church (Matthew 16:18).

Mentoring and PALS: Each new seminary graduate is assigned a mentor for his first year of pastoral ministry. In addition, the Texas District participates in the Synod's PALS program (Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support). Each new graduate from the seminary is invited to participate in the PALS program. We give thanks to God for our self-sacrificial ministry couples who pour into the new graduates: Rev. David and Ann Jung (Area B and West Texas facilitator), Rev. Dr. Steve and Ursula Sohns (Area D facilitator), Rev. Steve and Rita Wagner (Area C and West Texas facilitator). Pastor and Mrs. Sohns have now handed the baton to Rev. Jim and Karen Menke.

Gatherings: Life together has been strengthened for congregations and church workers through regular conferences, theological convocations, a treasurer's workshop, and even hosting the LCMS Youth gathering 2022.

Texas District Archives: Taking over from faithful servants like David Goeke and Ron Lammert, Karen Lacy and Chelsey Doering have stewarded the Texas District archives in a remarkable way, even creating beautiful archive displays in the new Texas District Mission Support Center.

Communication: Texas District Director of External Relations, Lisa Candido, led the way in creating a culture of communication and gratitude through the Texas Messenger (redesigned



by Chelsey Doering), regular mailings, emails, and thank you letters to congregations and individual supporters. Jill Meyer played a key role in facilitating this communication effort. Lisa also worked with Tim Ristow to create remarkable video resources that tell the story of mission and ministry in Texas.

An Incredible District Team: The district staff displayed Christ's servant heart as they help to strengthen congregations and workers in so many ways. We are blessed to have such a remarkable and gifted team!

Reach the Lost

Church planting: While COVID-19 paused seeing the results of church planting in 2021, the Spirit led congregations and networks around the Texas District to launch 41 new congregations from 2022-2024. We praise God for the mission passion and action of Texas District congregations and workers who humbly follow Jesus' mandate to proclaim the Good News to all people.

Evangelist Initiative: Following our beloved Synod's exhortation to train lay people as evangelists, the Texas District continues its Evangelist development initiative. Deaconess Noemi Guerra has continued to develop new curriculum resources and new trainers for English, Spanish, and American Sign Language training. God's people are responding in wonderful ways to this opportunity for the priesthood of all believers to embrace their vocations as Jesus' disciples.

Hispanic Ministry: With about half of the Texas population rooted in the Hispanic culture, the Texas District is making great strides in developing church planters, deaconesses, evangelists, new ministries, and new workers to reach the Hispanic community. Rev. Lincon Guerra is leading a team that is increasing Hispanic worker gatherings, fellowship, prayer, and outreach.

Training: The Texas District has been partnering with a number of church workers and lay-leaders for enhanced outreach and multiplication training. Hundreds of district constituents have participated with many more to come.

Campus ministry: We rejoice in the many campus ministry efforts in the Texas District. Two of those ministries now have brand new buildings for gatherings and student outreach: Texas A&M and UT Austin. Campus Ministries in all areas of the Texas District have been nurturing Lutheran students and reaching many new people—particularly international students—with the Gospel. A number of baptisms have resulted. We praise God for our faithful campus ministries!

Texas Church Extension Fund: The Texas Church Extension Fund facilitates permanent Gospel presence in communities. We are so blessed to have this powerful and effective ministry in Texas. Under Executive Director Becca Jones' leadership, Texas CEF has



expanded its reach and has played a key role in providing resources for church multiplication.

Disciple the saved

Evangelist Training: The Texas District is a partnership of congregations that shares in discipleship growth and development. Shared prayer initiatives, learning events, resources, and more help grow God's people as followers of Jesus. A central focus in discipleship is the Evangelist Training Initiative. This important effort, recommended by the LCMS in convention, is equipping believers with greater faith understanding and pathways to share that faith with others and to start new communities centered on the Word of God, prayer, showing Christ's love, and nurturing new believers. Local congregations are even utilizing the Evangelist training modules for study and discussion. We give thanks for Deaconess Noemi Guerra's faithful work to grow and develop this ministry.

Prayer: The foundation of our mission together is prayer. We pray that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into His Harvest field (Luke 10:2). We cast our cares upon the Lord, for He cares for us (Psalm 55:22). We make prayers and intercessions for all people, pleasing God who desires all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In addition to our mission prayer email, Rev. Ben Gonzales has been cultivating a posture of prayer among Texas District constituents in order to develop stronger discipleship.

School Ministry: Who can say enough about the stellar Texas District early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools? With the support of Dr. Bill Hinz, collaborative leadership teams help fuel the outstanding ministry of LCMS schools around the district. Students and families are being transformed by the Gospel and equipped to serve in the name of Jesus through our educators, directors and administrators. Discipleship through Lutheran Schools cannot be underestimated. We pray God continues to bless the way our schools bring blessing to their communities.

Circuits: The Texas District has 40 circuit visitors who bring care and resources to their circuit congregations. The Visitors participate in collaborative conferences twice each year for fellowship, learning, resourcing, and reporting on their visitation activity. Each pastor who serves as a circuit visitor is helping on a volunteer basis, and each of their congregations offers their pastor's time as a gift to the greater church. As circuit visitors work with congregations and church workers in the call process, at local linkages, and in one-on-one care, sound discipleship grows and develops in the church.

Camp Lone Star: With two campuses in Texas, Camp Lone Star brings growth in faith to children, families, adults, congregations, and ministries by offering places and programs that enhance our walk with Christ. The Texas District rejoices in offering support to the Camp Lone Star ministry.



Care for people locally and globally

Worker and Family Care: The Texas District has one of the most robust church worker care systems in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. From baseline care programs like Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS), mentoring for new workers, and coaches for new church planters to more in-depth care like counseling and retreats, each church worker and church work family is valued and cared for as they serve God’s precious people. A highlight of the year is the annual Pastors Wives Retreat organized by pastors wives for the purpose of providing refreshment and restoration to these special servants in the church.

Scholarships: Financial support for university and seminary students from Texas is second to none. Congregational mission offerings combined with generous resources from the LWML and the Woltman Foundation bless dozens of workers enrolled in LCMS church worker training tracks each year. We thank Cindy Hilewitz, Assistant to the District President, for administering these funds throughout the years.

Pastoral care: The goal is that no one is left without a Shepherd to walk with in time of need. Texas District vice presidents and circuit visitors work with the president, the District Care and Coaching Team, the District Director of Church Worker Care, Rev. Jim Otte, and other helpful pastors to receive care for a variety of situations. We praise God for our willing and able servants who bless fellow workers.

Financial support: There are times when church workers run into financial difficulty. Working with LCMS programs like “Soldiers of the Cross,” the Texas District can stand in the gap when financial needs create hardship and challenge.

Card ministry: Faithful district team members gather regularly to send cards to people on the district prayer list. This personal prayer connection brings blessing and shows that we are Christ’s Church, bearing one another’s burdens in times of need.

Birthday Encouragement: Every pastor receives a personal birthday email from the district president, and Cindy Newman, President Newman’s wife, has sent a personally signed birthday card to every pastor’s wife for the past seven years. This caring connection brings joy to our life together.

Upbring: Upbring, formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South) is an approved organization of the Texas District and a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We treasure this partnership and support Upbring’s efforts to serve the least of these: children at risk. Through heroic and dedicated efforts, Upbring provides spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic support to children in foster care and unaccompanied minors fleeing danger in other nations. It is a blessing to see our Lutheran heritage of child well-being come alive in this outstanding ministry.



Mexico partnership: For decades, the Texas District has been linked to the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, our counterpart Synod in Mexico. Recently, through regular FOROs (forums/conversations with local mission leaders), new congregational partnerships have been formed and meaningful mission projects have been implemented. More local Texas congregations are being sought as partners and participants in the FOROs and projects. Contact the District President or Vice-president Rev. Nathan Wendorf to get involved.

Synodical Gifts: Nearly 30-percent of all congregational mission offerings sent to the Texas District are given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for ministry and mission. The Texas District helps fuel the mission of our national church body by providing more than \$1.25 million annually. The Synod is grateful for our partnership as Texas ranks in the top two district givers synodwide.

Stewardship of offerings: Ninety-percent of every dollar contributed by congregations in the Texas District for missions goes to help congregations with ministry, to raise up and train new church workers, to start new churches, and to share the Gospel with ones who do not know Jesus. Our district partnership is making a Kingdom difference! What a blessing it is to walk together!

A new building: In 2023, the Texas District team moved into a new facility, the Texas District Mission Support Center. Located in Round Rock, Texas, the new facility has become a center for training, equipping, and collaboration for Texas District constituents. A generous donor provided resources that allowed the property to be owned with no debt. The previous district property has been sold and is being used as a school for students learning the English language. We give thanks for our builder, Paradigm Construction, and their team. Dustin Hall, Bob Fretz, and many others brought great blessing to the process. Linda Hagge, Becca Jones, Keith Howanitz, Ben Gonzales, Tobias Gonzales, and Haleh and Kevin Kersten were instrumental in entire process. We pray this wonderful building will bless many for years to come. Everyone is invited to stop by for a tour!

Conclusion

The prophet Isaiah records God’s bold and hopeful message: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19). This is the miraculous power of the Gospel. New life. Grace. Forgiveness of sins. Eternal hope. Purpose. Community. The gifts of God for the people of God. In the Texas District, through the partnership of God’s people, thousands of people are receiving this Good News and this new life in Christ our Savior. We’re halfway to the goal of 500 new servant-leaders reaching 500 new communities by 2031, the 125th anniversary of the Texas District. Together, we are sending missionaries and evangelists to new places, cultures, and generations so that people may receive the gift of life in Christ.



Challenges lie ahead, but our Good Shepherd leads the way. He who came to seek and to save the lost shapes our hearts to be like His. Let us trust Him, keep His mission at the center, never depart from His Word and promise for His Church.

Please accept my sincere gratitude for allowing me to serve as your district president for the past seven years. I praise God for a devoted and talented district team; for self-sacrificial vice-presidents, board members, and circuit visitors; and for congregations and church workers second to none. My supportive and loving family has brought blessing upon blessing. Your prayers and encouragement have lifted me up and carried me through.

Let us continue to move forward in faith, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Rev. Michael W. Newman, President
Texas District LCMS

President's Report Part Two

Notes about Concordia University Texas:

In November of 2022, as events began to unfold between CTX and the LCMS, I shared a Pastoral Letter with the Texas District that provided context and details about the situation. See Appendix A immediately following this report in the workbook for that document. On April 5, 2023, I sent an update about CTX's status, the commencement of ecclesiastical action, and the request for prayers.

In July of 2023, prior to the 2023 LCMS Convention, I issued the document, "Ecclesiastical Investigation of the rostered leadership and regents of Concordia University Texas." That document summarized events and provided recommendations. See Appendix B after this report in the workbook for that document.

The 2023 LCMS Convention passed resolution 7-03, "To Call University Texas Leadership to Repentance" (LCMS 2023 Convention Proceedings, 168-170). I have been investigating and determining appropriate disciplinary action, and taking "appropriate actions to address this situation" as the resolution stipulates for appropriate ecclesiastical supervisors and appropriate district presidents.

It is important to note that the LCMS bylaws place oversight of universities under the office of the Synodical President (2019 Handbook 3.3.1.1.1.b; 3.3.1.2.a—the handbook in effect when the CTX and LCMS situation developed) and under the Concordia University System (20219 Handbook 3.6.6.1, 3.6.6.4). Neither the Texas District President nor the Texas District Board of Directors possess ecclesiastical authority over the university. That fact has



placed me in a limited role: overseeing the rostered workers and giving and receiving counsel from the LCMS President and fellow district presidents.

On September 1, 2023, the LCMS Board of Directors filed a lawsuit against Concordia University Texas for \$111 million. The legal process initiated by the Synod paused open conversation between CTX and LCMS representatives and moved communication to attorney representatives from both sides. This action also limited my ability to share communication with the district at large. During this time, at the request of the Synodical President, I remained as a member of the CTX Board of Regents.

At this writing (February 2025), the situation remains unchanged.

Some observations are as follows:

I rejoice in the repentant and collegial spirit I have seen and heard from CTX regents and administrative leaders. The letter sent by the CTX Board of Regents in July of 2023 is emblematic of the spirit and attitude I have encountered as I supervise rostered workers. This letter can be found as Appendix C in the workbook immediately following this report.

I rejoice that the new Concordia University System leadership has taken initiative to approach CTX leaders, resulting in some collegial dialog. This communication displays a churchly and God-pleasing spirit—which, if it had existed in the past, would have prevented the situation that exists today between CTX and the LCMS.

In my role as district president, I have offered counsel (bylaw 3.10.1.2) to the LCMS President and Board of Directors regarding the lawsuit. I have encouraged all involved to embark on a Scriptural and Confessional course for resolution of the issue. I've highlighted the Scriptural injunctions of 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 5:38-42, and Romans 12:14-21 (*"When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?"* 1 Corinthians 6:1-7)

I've noted a key section from the Apology to the Augsburg Confession that states regarding our conduct in public affairs, "Private remedy is prohibited not by advice, but by a command (Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:19)" (AP XVI, 58-59).



In addition, I have shared key sections from Martin Luther's Admonition to Peace, written 500 years ago (1525, Luther's Works, AE, Vol 46, 28-32). Luther notes in part:

In Romans 12 [:19] Paul says, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God." In this same sense he praises the Corinthians for gladly suffering if someone hits or robs them, II Corinthians 11 [:20]. And in I Corinthians 6 [:1-2] he condemns them for going to court for the sake of property rather than suffering injustice. Indeed, our leader, Jesus Christ, says in Matthew 7 [5:44] that we should bless those who insult us, pray for our persecutors, love our enemies, and do good to those who do evil to us. These, dear friends, are our Christian laws.

I say all this, dear friends, as a faithful warning. In this case you should stop calling yourselves Christians and stop claiming that you have the Christian law on your side. For no matter how right you are, it is not right for a Christian to appeal to law, or to fight, but rather to suffer wrong and endure evil; and there is no other way (I Corinthians 6 [:1-8]).

I rejoice that mediation efforts have been taking place between the LCMS and CTX. I also give thanks that the LCMS Board of Directors approached the CTX regents for the purpose of entering into discussion about settling the lawsuit. With the lawsuit in place, however, legal teams must take the lead and conversation between parties is limited until the lawsuit is dropped or settled.

At this point in time, CTX is a disaffirmed university and not part of the LCMS. CTX does not have the right to certify church workers and, as a disaffirmed entity, its students who have completed programs that had formerly led to certification, now abide by the colloquy process as outlined in bylaws 2.8.4, 2.8.4.1, and 3.10.3.3.

CTX is no longer connected with Concordia Plan Services (retirement, disability), having been removed from CPS as of June 30, 2024. In addition, a penalty for its departure from the retirement plan was assessed by CPS to CTX in the amount of \$4 million. Payment in installments has been arranged with an interest charge twice that of the current mortgage interest rate.

Because CTX has been removed from all connections with the LCMS, and because it is now considered disaffirmed with the adoption of the new 2023 LCMS bylaws, the Texas District cannot elect regents for CTX as stipulated by the Texas District bylaws when CTX was functioning as an agency of the LCMS. Nomination and election would be contrary to the new 2023 LCMS bylaws and outside of the permitted practice with non-affiliated organizations.

What is the path forward? Let us join in prayer that the lawsuit is dropped, that collegial conversations commence for the purpose of restoration and relationship, not simply financial



settlement. Let us pray that the solution shows humility on the part of all involved and that all who watch see the church shining brightly as servants of our Lord Jesus “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:6-7). May the self-sacrificial spirit of the Savior Jesus live in us all as we pray for resolution, speak charitably at all times, and do our all to realize reconciliation in the body of Christ.

Rev. Michael W. Newman, President
Texas District LCMS



Appendix A

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

Dear fellow servants of Jesus,

A blessed Thanksgiving week to you. We also stand on the threshold of the Advent season. How encouraging and uplifting it is to know our Savior draws near to us. May His presence restore you and lift you up as you give thanks and as you are filled with the hope of His coming!

Two weeks ago, I shared [a letter](#) from President Don Christian of Concordia University Texas (CTX) indicating that the CTX Board of Regents voted to adopt a structure whereby Concordia University Texas is governed solely by its Board of Regents. The letter emphasized that the intention of the Board of Regents was not to leave the LCMS, but to remain in alignment with LCMS while reframing the governance structure.

After productive conversations last week with both LCMS President Harrison and the Council of Presidents, I would like to provide an update and answers to questions I’ve received.

Why did the CTX Board of Regents vote to be the sole governing entity on November 8th? The Concordia University System (CUS) President, Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, disclosed that the CUS was bringing a resolution about CTX to the LCMS Board of Directors on November 18th. Neither the CUS President nor the CUS board chair would reveal what that resolution entailed. With no information revealed, and, understanding that the CUS might be recommending that CTX be closed or consolidated with another system university, the CTX Board of Regents wanted to prevent any possible demise of Concordia University Texas. The only path forward was to vote for sole governance responsibility.

What precipitated this chain of events?

It all started with the CTX Board of Regents providing feedback about the proposed changes in university system governance by the Synod’s 7-03 task force between July 2020 and February 2021. You can read the proposed bylaws [here](#). The proposed bylaws change the historic relationship of the Synod’s schools to the LCMS, making the schools affiliated institutions that could be disaffiliated upon recommendation of an accreditation team formed by a newly created Commission for University Education. The creation of the accreditation team would alter the Synod’s system of ecclesiastical oversight. The proposed bylaws even stipulate that a Concordia University would be required to surrender the name “Concordia” if disaffiliated by the Synod.

The CTX Board of Regents, the Texas District Board of Directors, and the Texas District Convention provided feedback as requested by the 7-03 task force. Part of the feedback asked for more discussion synodwide. No response was received.

In February of 2022, the CTX Board of Regents asked the LCMS Board of Directors to engage in a conversation that might lead to a new governance model. The LCMS Board of Directors indicated that the only conversation possible was through a current LCMS Bylaw that provided a path to separation (LCMS Handbook Bylaw 3.6.6.4.i). Rather than a separation, the CTX Board of Regents hoped to have a conversation that led to a reimagined relationship. The CTX Board of Regents wanted to meet personally with LCMS leaders to get to know one another and to talk



about goals and ideas. After a second request for dialogue was denied, the CTX Board of Regents agreed to follow a process toward separation that was outlined by the LCMS Board. A proposal was submitted to the CUS President in July, whereupon the CUS and CTX would work together to create an acceptable proposal for the LCMS Board of Directors. The CUS President requested additional information from the CTX Board of Regents and the CTX Board of Regents complied, asking for a timely response. No response came. When President Don Christian reached out to the CUS President to inquire about any intent to engage in discussion, the CUS president mentioned the secret resolution being brought to the LCMS Board of Directors on November 18th. This news created alarm and urgency for the CTX Board of Regents. Knowing that three Concordias suffered closure in recent years, understanding its bylaw responsibility to govern and steward CTX, fearful of losing CTX, and desiring to preserve a position of conversation with the LCMS, the CTX Board of Regents acted.

The intent was to be able to continue to engage in conversation and to remain faithful to the mission of Concordia University Texas and the mission of the LCMS.

Is this action permitted?

The LCMS bylaws require each university's board of regents to govern the institution within the general policies and broad assignments of the Synod. The board of regents is required to define and fulfill the mission of each institution and is to develop policies for the institution. It is the "governing body corporate of the institution" (see LCMS bylaws section 3.10.6). Failing to act would have violated the bylaws and the board of regents' fiduciary responsibility to the institution and to the church.

When the CUS departed from the process directed by the LCMS Board of Directors and when it abandoned its requirement to coordinate "the activities of the Synod's colleges and universities as a unified system of the Synod through their respective boards of regents" (LCMS Bylaw 3.6.6.1), the CTX Board of Regents acted as responsibly as possible within the bylaws.

Is this a doctrinal issue?

The CTX Board of Regents and leadership team are committed to the confession of the LCMS. CTX is not leaving the LCMS. The CTX Board of Regents is seeking dialog about sound governance as the Synod reshapes its approach to its universities. This is a governance discussion.

It is important for you to know that CTX is not pursuing a progressive liberal agenda. Any rumors about such a desire are not true and try to use isolated incidents to discredit CTX's unwavering commitment to all the LCMS believes, teaches and confesses. Any questions regarding doctrinal fidelity at CTX should be sent to President Christian for investigation, review and solutions.

Will there be doctrinal oversight at CTX?

The current CTX bylaws require all board of regents members to be members in good standing in LCMS congregations. The CTX bylaws also require adherence to the Biblical and Confessional standards of the LCMS. An external review of the university's alignment with the LCMS will be conducted every three years. Finally, the Board has seats reserved for a representative of the LCMS as well as from the Texas District.



In addition to oversight by the regents in this area, all called workers remain under the ecclesiastical oversight of the district president.

What are the next steps?

CTX remains committed to collegial dialog with leaders of our beloved church. President Harrison has committed to this dialog. The LCMS Board of Directors is designating representatives to engage in conversation with the CTX Board of Regents. I was encouraged by the spirit of President Harrison and the Council of Presidents in my meetings last week. While there is much work to be done and conversation to be had, I see a commitment to serve the church, the university and all God's people as we move forward.

Dr. Don Christian (president@concordia.edu) and Dr. Kristi Kirk (provost@concordia.edu) welcome your questions. You can find additional CTX information and updates [here](#). I will do my best to keep you informed as we move forward. Please do keep this process in prayer.

Thanksgiving blessings to you,
President Newman

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)



Appendix B

Ecclesiastical Investigation of the rostered leadership and regents of Concordia University Texas Preliminary Observations and Recommendations July 26, 2023

Conducted by:

District President Michael Newman and First Vice-president John Davis

Key to Abbreviations:

CTX: Concordia University Texas

CTX BOR: Concordia University Texas Board of Regents CUS: Concordia University System

LCMS: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS BOD: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of Directors

Introduction:

Issues surrounding the relationship of Concordia University Texas to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have become more complex leading up to the 2023 LCMS convention. President Harrison's reports highlighted several concerns regarding both governance and theological issues. Acting as the ecclesiastical supervisor for the CTX rostered leaders and board of regent members, President Michael Newman launched an investigation of worker actions. The investigation commenced April 5, 2023, following the CTX BOR's affirmation of its sole governance. In order to conform with LCMS bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures, President Newman invited Texas District First Vice-president John Davis to assist in the investigation for the purpose of avoiding bias in the investigation and reporting process.

This initial report contains observations and recommendations from findings in the investigation that is still in progress. Supporting documents, emails, resolutions and other communications—some confidential—are being held by the district president.

Observations:

1. CTX leadership/CTX Board of Regents and the LCMS BOD 7-03 Committee had a different understanding about the feedback process regarding the proposed 7-03 bylaws.

The CTX BOR understood that personal dialog would be part of the process of refining the 7-03 proposal. The LCMS BOD 7-03 committee understood the feedback process to be that of gathering input and examining it internally to determine the need for any adjustments to the proposal.

This misunderstanding, stretching from July 2020 through the fall of 2021, resulted in growing frustration, a sense of being marginalized, and diminished trust on the part of the CTX BOR toward the LCMS BOD 7-03 Committee and LCMS leadership.

2. CTX leadership/CTX Board of Regents and the LCMS BOD/CUS understood different motives in the CTX BOR's examination of alternate governance models.

CTX understood a twofold purpose in this examination: a) To investigate contingency plans and procedures that may need to be in place if disaffiliation from the LCMS ever happened as



outlined in the 7-03 proposal, and b) To bring detailed suggestions to the LCMS regarding viable alternatives to the 7-03 bylaw draft.

LCMS leadership later saw this discussion, recorded in the CTX BOR meeting minutes, as a pre-planned effort to separate from the LCMS.

This misunderstanding continued to diminish trust between CTX and the LCMS and hampered the ability to dialog together about the goal of improved governance for the Concordia Universities. COVID Isolation contributed to the communication gap.

3. The deterioration of a collegial and trusting relationship between CTX and the LCMS was exacerbated by the sudden and vociferous introduction of theological concerns by the President of Synod at the November 17, 2021 gathering of the Council of Presidents and University Presidents.

The theological concerns dated back to June of 2020, 17 months earlier, with no communication about them prior to the November 2021 COP meeting. The encounter created a bigger gap in the relationship between the LCMS and CTX and further deteriorated the possibility of a trusting dialog. It also introduced the new element of theological concerns in the LCMS's work with CTX.

4. CTX leadership/CTX Board of Regents and the LCMS visitation team did not share a mutual understanding of the purpose or desired outcomes of the April 2022 LCMS visit.

LCMS President Harrison and a visitation team visited CTX from April 20-22, 2022. Team members met with a number of CTX leaders, administrators, faculty members, students, and BOR members. With no report or feedback until 8 months after the visit, the lack of trust and understanding between LCMS leaders and CTX grew.

5. The LCMS BOD/CUS and CTX leaders and the BOR understood different motives and outcomes with regard to the process outlined by the LCMS BOD as a way of discussing an alternate governance model.

The LCMS BOD introduced separation from the Synod as the only way permitted by the LCMS bylaws to discuss an alternate governance model at CTX. The LCMS BOD outlined a process for this separation discussion that would be managed by the CUS. The CTX BOR did not desire separation from the LCMS, but wanted a governance model that continued a relationship with the LCMS in place of the proposed 7-03 governance bylaws. Misunderstanding in communication grew—especially as it became limited to letters and a narrow bandwidth of email recipients per CUS leadership request.



6. CTX leadership/CTX BOR and the CUS understood different purposes and procedures for the process outlined by the LCMS BOD and managed by the CUS. Communication about the required proposal from CTX to the CUS diminished in effectiveness and clarity throughout the latter half of 2022.

The CTX BOR sent a draft proposal to the CUS in July of 2022 per the LCMS BOD process. CUS leaders requested unspecified additional documents, which CTX assumed to be governing documents to accompany the proposal. These were drafted and sent in September of 2022. While awaiting next steps for mutual discussion and refinement of the material, the CTX president was notified in late October of 2022 that the CUS had prepared a resolution, complete with supporting reasons and rationale, to share with the LCMS BOD at its November 18, 2022 meeting. The content of the resolution was not revealed by CUS leaders. Departing from the process outlined by the LCMS BOD, the introduction of a resolution from the CUS to the LCMS BOD and the refusal to reveal its contents caused confusion and concern for the CTX BOR..

7. CTX leadership/CTX Board of Regents and the CUS had no shared understanding about the CUS Board Resolution intended for LCMS BOD consideration on November 18, 2022.

The original discussion process between CTX and the CUS was now altered and a resolution with unrevealed content was to be presented by the CUS directly to the LCMS BOD. Understanding that the CUS and LCMS BOD could, acting together and without the consent of input of a local BOR, divest or consolidate CTX with another university according to bylaw 3.6.6.4.i (an authority granted with a 2019 change in bylaws), and having as a backdrop closure of three LCMS universities over the past four years, the CTX BOR, at an emergency meeting on November 8, 2022, voted 13-5 to adopt governing documents that gave the CTX BOR sole governing authority of the university.

8. Varied understanding about LCMS bylaws led to different conclusions regarding appropriate actions.

As the CTX BOR and LCMS leaders navigated the situation, varied understanding about the ecclesiastical supervision process (bylaw 1.2.1.j), CUS bylaw obligations (bylaw 3.6.6.1, *“coordinating the activities of the Synod’s colleges and universities as a unified system of the Synod through their respective boards of regents”*), university governance responsibilities (bylaw 3.10.6, 3.10.6.1, 3.10.6.4.a), and proper fiduciary duties toward the university (bylaw 3.10.6.4.i.6, *“In such event the board of regents shall have power to perform such acts as may be required by law to effect the corporate existence of the institution”*), created additional confusion and dissonance.

9. Subsequent communication between CTX and the LCMS showed broken trust and the inability to recover a working relationship.

In spite of meetings and conversations following the November 8, 2022 CTX BOR action, CTX and the LCMS remained at an impasse about the propriety of actions thus far and how to move



forward.

10. Theological concerns raised in November of 2021 were addressed throughout the remainder of 2021 through early 2023. Some of the theological issues were due to carelessness on the part of CTX leadership. Others were concerns that should have been vetted through the CTX leadership before they were brought to the Synod President's office. All have been addressed (see theological concerns summary page).

Some issues raised were based on hearsay and were not accurate. Other issues were legitimate and needed to be addressed through personal conversation and counsel. For each issue raised, the process required by the LCMS bylaws for handling theological questions and issues was bypassed.

Summary thoughts:

The situation between CTX and the LCMS is sad and distressing for the church. Lack of communication and a breakdown in trust led to the unfortunate outcome. In the context of the consideration of the 7-03 proposal and in general leadership style, CTX and LCMS leaders had different focal points, fears, communication tendencies, and personality characteristics. These differences contributed misunderstanding, an adversarial spirit, and the ultimate rupture in the relationship.

Findings thus far in this investigation indicate that no rostered worker at CTX or on the CTX BOR had an intention or desire to disparage or depart from the LCMS. However, outside circumstances contributed to a deteriorating relationship between CTX and the LCMS: COVID isolation and anxiety; apprehension surrounding cultural upheaval in the areas of race, gender and sexuality issues; tension about institutional administration in a radically changing higher education environment; and differing viewpoints about the LCMS relationship to the Concordia Universities.

CTX has served as a faithful university of the LCMS for nearly 100 years and continues to demonstrate faithfulness to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, rejoicing in successes and accepting counsel and correction where appropriate. While challenges will always exist in a university context, these challenges are reasons for rejoicing. At its universities, the LCMS has the opportunity to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to new generations, new cultures, and new people. In the midst of cultural upheaval and chaos, LCMS universities engage hopeless and drifting souls with the Good News of forgiveness and new life in Christ. Leaders entrusted with university ministries must ensure that mutual and collegial conversation and accountability prevail. The initial findings of this report indicate that the rostered LCMS workers at CTX and on the CTX BOR are committed to the theological standards of the LCMS, implementing corrective actions as counseled and committing to faithful action moving forward. Differences of opinion regarding the interpretation and implementation of bylaws (some noted in Observations point #8) still exist between some LCMS and CTX leaders/BOR members as evidenced in the CTX BOR action of April 4, 2023 and the communication between the LCMS BOD/CUS and the CTX BOR since that action. These outstanding differences lead to the following recommendations:



Recommendations:

1. CTX and LCMS leaders repent and return to the Scriptural foundations and direction for resolution of conflicts in order to build a trusting relationship as fellow Christians and servants of God.
2. After CTX and LCMS leaders build greater trust, they begin to discuss bylaw parameters that allow collegial conversation about governance models and practice, looking for the fruit brought about by the “ministry of reconciliation.”
3. Appropriate CTX and LCMS leaders enter into collegial dialog regarding theological concerns as they arise for the purpose of resolving issues, formulating solutions, and maintaining accountability and trust.
4. Mutual repentance on the part of all involved be expressed specifically, in person to one another, and publicly as necessary, trusting that repentance will bear God-pleasing fruit.

Theological Concerns Summary

The theological issues raised regarding CTX included:

- *Presentations by Dr. Darrell Jodock, an ELCA higher education scholar, Dr. Gina Garcia, an expert in Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Jelani Consulting, experts in managing diverse staffs and workplaces.* In each instance, CTX leaders received challenge and stimulation regarding the subject matter and applied it to the particular context of being a faithful Lutheran university, but did not adopt every area of teaching or recommendation. Such presentations with non-LCMS scholars were not unique to CTX, but are a common practice in higher education, including that of our seminaries <https://www.csl.edu/2021/07/registration-now-open-for-31st-annual-theological-symposium/>
- *The allegation that two faculty members were dismissed due, in part, to their fidelity to the Lutheran Confessions.* The identity of these faculty members has not been specified or addressed with CTX, but no faculty member has been dismissed for this reason in the history of CTX. Faculty members have only been released due to personnel issues, performance issues, or budget issues.
- *Chapel speakers.* A non-LCMS MBA graduate and former CTX employee was invited to give his testimony at a special evening chapel for the MBA students. He asked attendees to raise their hands to give indication of their commitment to Christ. His leading of chapel was a violation of LCMS worship practice and his calling for an indication of commitment caused doctrinal confusion. The CTX BOR discussed how to keep this from happening in the future.
- *The “Consent” web page.* Initially, Title IX verbiage was posted on the web page. Correction and counsel were accepted and changes were made. The page now stays within legal guidelines and reflects Lutheran Christian Biblical practice. There is no agenda on the CTX campus for a non-biblical approach to sexuality.
- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).* The Concordia University Texas student population is 60% students of color with at least 40% of the student body indicating



they are of Hispanic origin. CTX is committed to ensuring that students from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to complete higher education successfully. To that end, a University Equity Team was established. It is comprised of 9 faculty and staff members, 4 of whom are rostered LCMS church workers. The goal is to ensure that student support is given with the firm foundation of fidelity to the Scriptures and Confessions. Counseling is also offered to students by qualified mental health professionals. A part-time mental health professional was listed as “LGBTQ-affirming” on the CTX website. This incorrect notation was corrected to “LGBTQ trained,” indicating to students that the counselor understands these issues and can be trusted with this conversation. Each counselor and staff member at CTX operates according to Lutheran Biblical and Confessional standards. CTX has no intention of being a progressive liberal university and is not moving in the direction of a permissive and confused culture.

- *The visitation team members’ quotes that “CTX is Lutheran in name only, and they seem to be proud of that fact” and, CTX is “a church growth campus.”* No ecclesiastical conversations were had about these subjective and offhand observations. CTX is working to grow in outreach so as many people as possible can hear the Gospel and receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. CTX is very much Lutheran, with many students and staff receiving and confessing the great blessing of grace alone by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. God’s living Word is taught and practiced at CTX. The university is not content to go through Lutheran motions.
- *Science Curriculum.* The CTX Academic Freedom Policy notes that “A Concordia faculty member will not actively promote a doctrinal position that is in opposition to the doctrinal position of the LCMS.” The broad range of scientific history and theories are taught responsibly, making students aware of other teachings they will encounter without opposing the Biblical creation account.

Other questions raised included:

- *The number of LCMS faculty members at CTX.* 38% of faculty and leadership team members are members of LCMS congregations. This compares favorably to other CUS schools.
- *How CTX could remain faithful to the LCMS confession if not governed by the LCMS.* CTX continued to express its desire for a relationship with the LCMS along with theological accountability. CTX has reinforced its doctrinal commitment by including unconditional subscription to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions in its formation documents.
- *The professor of Lutheran Identity.* This professor was a former LCMS pastor who had a deep understanding of and adherence to Lutheran identity. The position is currently vacant.
- *The Eighth Commandment.* Unfortunately, each party involved in this disagreement has not consistently put the best construction on everything or explained everything in the kindest way.



Appendix C



July 14, 2023

Dear President Harrison and Members of the LCMS and Concordia University System Boards of Directors,

Greetings to you in the name of our Savior, in whom we are new creations and who bestows on us the ministry of reconciliation.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow members of LCMS congregations, and fellow members of our beloved LCMS, we share your desire to walk together as reconciled children of God. It has become clear that the communications we have been sharing in the form of resolutions and legal exchanges are missing an element that should have been firmly established at the very beginning of our communication in 2020: a strong relationship and a foundation of trust.

This past Monday, July 10, 2023, the CTX Board of Regents met to consider two documents:

1. The June 28 letter from Michael Kumm and Andrew Grams sent to the CTX Board of Regents.
2. The June 29 letter from LCMS lawyer Steven Levatino sent to CTX lawyers Albert Carrion and Clark Richard.

The CTX Board, in discussing these two documents, agrees it is time for CTX and the LCMS to reach resolution on this issue. That being said, the CTX Board also agrees that prior to any response proposal being written by us for consideration, we must engage in what St. Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, refers to as a ministry of reconciliation. That process of reconciliation works to restore relationships, from which a proposal can then be written and discussed to honor our Lord and serve the missions of the LCMS and CTX.

We sincerely desire to restart our communication on the foundation of what the LCMS outlines in its own formation documents:

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(1.10.1.3) The heart and center of all Christian conflict resolution is the justification of the sinner through grace in Christ Jesus. Biblical reconciliation of persons in conflict begins with God's truth that we are all sinners who have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Christ's "ministry of reconciliation" is one of the church's foremost priorities.

In the haste to seek and provide input about the 7-03 proposal, and in the midst of COVID's isolation, we believe the very foundation of effective life together was not addressed as it should be. LCMS Bylaw 1.10.1.2 says it well: "The parties and others attempting to effect resolution of a dispute must always remain mindful that the church has been given the 'ministry of reconciliation' (2 Cor. 5:18). Hence,

conflict resolution in the church is to lead to reconciliation, restoring the erring member in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1). Its aim is to avoid the adversarial system practiced in society."

Our hope and prayer is to walk with you in this spirit of gentleness, avoiding the adversarial system practiced in society, in order to allow the ministry of reconciliation to bear fruit. To do so, we propose to meet together, as we all should have at the outset of our conversations, and to engage in the process of reconciliation, both around the issue of CTX's separation of governance as well as any theological concerns first raised in November of 2021. Our prayer is that, together, we can experience the evangelical encouragement and support, care, protection, counsel, and advice in the ecclesiastical supervision process (LCMS bylaw 1.2.1 j) that will allow for a more fruitful and productive life together.

Would you be willing to come together and walk with us in the process of the ministry of reconciliation?

We look forward to collaborating in shaping what this looks like. At the very least, we see it involving personal meetings between President Harrison and President Christian in the company of trusted advisors. We see it involving personal meetings, both individually and in groups, between the CUS leadership and board and the CTX leadership and board, as well as personal meetings between the LCMS Board of Directors and the CTX Board of Regents. Our hope and prayer is that this process would bear the fruit of the ministry of reconciliation given to us by our Savior for the good of the church, Concordia University, and each of us as God's precious children.

Respectfully and collegially,

The Board of Regents Concordia
University Texas

cc: Dr. Donald Christian, President, Concordia University Texas



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REV. DR. JOHN F. DAVIS - AREA D
Senior Pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church, Katy

Area D of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is comprised of over 130 congregations, church plants, and discipleship ministries in Southeast Texas serving the greater Houston area and reaching as far as the Golden Triangle to Victoria to north of Bryan/College Station. The area is very economically and culturally diverse from the rural East Texas piney woods to the hills and ranches of the 2nd most Lutheran county in Texas per capita—Washington County—to the agriculture on the open coastal plains. And In the middle is the Greater Houston area, a hub for more than just the oil industry, space exploration, and championship baseball, but a center for the arts, the home of the world's largest rodeo and livestock show, and a wonderful blend of unique cultures. Houston boasts over 145 languages spoken, 3rd in the United States to only New York City and Los Angeles. 48% of the homes in Houston speak a language other than English. For perspective, in my own city of Katy, once a small rice farming and oil and gas producing community, there are at least 98 unique languages representing over 160 countries in Katy ISD, with an over 70% minority enrollment. Almost 1/5 of all Katy area residents are immigrants. The message to us: **Making disciples of *all* nations is an opportunity right in our own backyard!** With dynamic church planting and mission initiatives such as The Harvest Partnership and a collaboration of strong ethnic ministry leaders throughout the area, the Great Commission is being undertaken head on and in creative ways that are firmly grounded in God's Word and remain faithful to our confessional witness. Yet, there is still so much more to be done as congregations and church workers face the challenges of a quickly changing world and the realities of changed churches. And through it all, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8)*. Living by faith in Him who is with us and is coming again, we are confident in His grace and gifts and are not of those who shrink back (Heb. 9:35-39). And Jesus has given us *a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Tim. 1:7)*.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Ordinations	2	Congregations/Pastors visited or served	45
Installations	16	Pre-seminary interviews and reports	24
Funerals	5	Celebrations	5
Circuits Visited	5	Retirements	4

It has been a privilege to share the joys and sorrows and significant moments that are part of the life of the Church and God's people. *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1 Cor 12:26)*

OTHER DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



In addition to normal district activities such as bi-monthly Board of Director meetings and semi-annual Circuit Visitor conferences, I have taken on different assignments and attended various conferences and gatherings on President Newman's behalf, including:

- Coordinated Circuit Realignment for the District
- Attended:
 - The LCMS Adoption Conference
 - Mission Partner Events in Michigan and Arizona
- Worked with the Multi-District gathering on pastoral formation recommendations

AREA D JOYS AND CHALLENGES

- **Many in Area D were significantly impacted by Hurricane Beryl.** Member houses and congregational facilities were both impacted. Particularly challenging for our congregations is the difficulty in affording or even obtaining property insurance—in large measure due to our proximity to the Gulf of America. This storm has only magnified this concern. Always at the forefront of our District's disaster response is Julie Tucker, who is well supported by a team of generous and caring fellow disciples and congregations. On behalf of those affected in Area D, thank you Julie and thank you to all in the district and Synod who have helped in so many ways!
- **Area D continues to be passionate about church planting!** In the last four years, three congregations were chartered, and there were more than 22 new starts, 17 of which were satellites and five new, independent congregations. This is in addition to the many previous starts that have continued to work to build the Kingdom and are not yet chartered. It is exciting to be a part of a movement such as this, which is being encouraged and shepherded by some very gifted, entrepreneurial pastors and leaders, who are teaming with district staff to bring collaboration and support among the many mission-minded pastors in the area. The Harvest Partnership is a fine example of such an endeavor and can serve as a model for others in the District and Synod.
- **A special thanks to the Circuit Visitors of Area D** who have worked to keep community among the pastors and congregations of their circuit, especially in response to some much-needed circuit realignment (due to shifting membership numbers and difficult geographic connections). I am especially grateful to them for their selfless service in helping vacant congregations call and install pastors. They also serve faithfully in providing counsel in difficult situations that may arise.
- It has been a **special privilege to serve and support President Newman in his leadership of our district.** It has been a blessing to provide counsel when sought, assistance when needed, and serve on the various committees, task forces, and teams that are part of his and the district's support of the congregations and workers of the Texas District. Similarly, it has been a privilege to serve as asked in working with other districts and Synod leaders in support of our common mission and confession.



- Finally, I want to give thanks to God for the work of our district support team for Area D. Jon Braunersreuther, David Bahn and Stephen Sohns have formed an amazing team that devotes themselves to congregational care, mission development, and strong counsel and advice. They have served all of us in Area D with a tireless work ethic, a passionate missional enthusiasm, and servants' hearts. Whether it is providing information and insight to a calling congregation, helping others to work through disaster or conflict, offering strategic planning to congregations, missions, and ministries, or just being an encourager, they are a significant part of the health and ministry success of Area D.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve you these past four years. I pray that God will continue to work powerfully among the ministries and missions of Area D. I pray that He will challenge us when we need to be challenged, comfort us when we need to be comforted, and encourage us when we need to be encouraged. And where and when He calls us, may we be faithful. **To God be the glory!**

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REV. ALLAN C. ECKERT - AREA A

Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church and School, San Angelo

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:3.*

As I conclude my second term as vice president of Area A of the Texas District of the LCMS, I want to thank my brothers and sisters in Christ in west Texas who nominated me for this position and all the saints in the Texas District who elected me. I am profoundly grateful and humble for the trust you have placed in me and for your prayers and support over these years. I am especially thankful to the Lord for the support and encouragement of my dear wife, Caroline, who has walked with me every step of the way!

My Lutheran forebears came to this part of Texas in the mid-19th century. Generations of my family haven been members of the congregations that I have served as a pastor and circuit visitor and vice president. I am so very thankful to the Lord that there is still a vibrant Lutheran Church in west Texas-- serving the saints of God and reaching out to the lost with the Good News of Jesus.

I want to give you a picture of what that mission and ministry looks like in west Texas.

Our campus ministry at Texas Tech serves the many Lutheran young people of west Texas who attend school there--ministering to them at this particularly critical time in life as well as reaching out to the lost. Along with this effort, a number of our congregations in west



Texas have college-age groups and events to serve the students who attend colleges and universities in their communities.

The Panhandle South Plains Lutheran Camp Association provides a distinctively Lutheran summer camp experience for the children of west Texas, with pastors in the area giving up a week of their summer vacation to serve them with the Gospel and instruct them in the Faith and encourage them in their life with Christ.

Our Christian Day Schools and Early Childhood Centers not only provide an important community educational resource, but they are often times the first place where the children in their care hear about Jesus and His love for them. What a blessing to see unchurched children and their families be baptized and enter the Church through the ministry of the teachers and administrators in our Lutheran schools!

The Evangelist training that began in west Texas continues on with many folks in our area now better equipped to bear faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ for the sake of the lost. Just one fruit of that training has been the renewal in mission and ministry that has taken place at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hereford which has once again become a hub for the mission of Christ in that town.

The greatest blessing in my role as Vice President is the collegial, brotherly relationships I have with my fellow laborers in the Lord's Vineyard throughout west Texas. Their faithful service, and pastoral wisdom, and zeal for the Gospel ministry, has inspired and strengthened my faith and blessed their members.

In particular, our SMP pastors are a praise-worthy example of Christ-like service and commitment to their congregations, willingly serving in places where their own, deep roots there make for a much-needed, fruitful ministry that would not, otherwise, take place.

Also, we have been especially blessed in west Texas with pastors who have served their congregations for decades. Some of these brothers retired over the last few years—some of them are still working. Their commitment to live in, and serve communities and congregations over the span of generations, is inspiring.

It is my heartfelt prayer that the Lord of the Church will continue to bless His people in west Texas in the days to come and that the Lord would add to the Church daily those who are being saved!

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you to himself faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power; both now and forever. Amen. Jude 24,25.



THIRD VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REV. LARRY KRUEGER, Emeritus - AREA B

When Philip found Nathanael, he said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” To which Nathanael replied, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” (ref. John 1:45-46, ESV)

Following his “come and see” encounter with Jesus, Nathanael confessed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” (ref. John 1:49-50, ESV)

Of course, as Nathanael followed Jesus he was privileged to see many great things. These would include the turning of water into wine, the healings of miraculous proportions, the casting out of demons, the calming of the sea, the feeding of the 5000, the raising of the dead, the forgiving of sins, the teaching with authority, and ultimately the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.

As John reminds us, Jesus did these greater things and “many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31, ESV)

I remain thankful that a greater thing happened in my life at my Baptism, when through water and the Word I received the gift of faith. I am thankful that by grace through faith I am one who believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing I have life in his name. I am thankful for the means of grace, Word and Sacrament, through which God graciously forgives my sin for Christ’s sake and bestows upon me daily blessings. I am also thankful for the privilege to witness many of the greater things Jesus allowed me to “come and see” as a vice president.

When I began this term, I observed the lingering impact COVID had on congregations and church workers. At the same time, I observed that the Word could not be bound. The Holy Spirit is at work. In Area B people from many different countries of origin and many different backgrounds are being gathered around the Word of God. From U.S. born citizens, to immigrants from African nations and of Middle Eastern descent, to Hispanics from Mexico and Central and South America, God is bringing together people to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and adding to the number of those who were being saved.

Existing congregations are opening their doors to welcome the nations, providing place and space for new groups of believers to meet in worship and fellowship. Congregations are



opening new satellite missions to bring the Gospel into new communities. Church planting networks like Mosaic Mission Network, T2C2, Expansion Mission Network, Groundbreakers to Harvesters, City Lights, and one of the newest, Heart of Texas Church Planting Network, are planning and planting churches to reach new people for Christ. Our Lutheran schools are sharing the Gospel with students and families alike with staff who love Jesus and love those they teach.

Area B Mission Strategist, Rev. Ben Gonzales, and Area B Church Support Specialist, Mr. Martin Schardt, and District Director of Congregation and Worker Care, Rev. Jim Otte, are supporting congregations in mission outreach, in the call process, in governance and policy issues and in conflict resolution situations. Mrs. Laura Sanders, Evangelist Development Ministry Support Specialist for Area B, along with Lead Trainer, Rev. Juan Zamora, is leading the Evangelist Training efforts in this area. These and other leaders in Area B are making an eternal impact with the Gospel.

As Area B Vice President I have been privileged to walk alongside the many mission and ministry efforts in Area B, offering support and encouragement along the way. I have been privileged to worship in several of the 106 congregations across Area B. Plus, I have met with each of the circuit visitors of Area B and have been impressed with every one of them. These are godly men who love the Lord and serve the 13 circuits of Area B with due diligence and dedication.

Among my duties assigned by the president of the district, I conduct pastoral ordinations and installations on his behalf, conduct chartering services, represent him at special occasions, and other visitations, as assigned. I conduct interviews for pre-seminary students who will be studying as Residential Route students, Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), with the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS), and in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). I attend meetings of the Texas District Board of Directors and Circuit Visitor Conferences. Plus, I guest preach regularly at various congregations. A summary of these activities for this term of office is listed below.

Pre-seminary interviews: Residential - 10; SMP - 13; CHS - 5; EIIT - 2; Colloquy - 1
Ordinations conducted: 4; Installations conducted: 14
Charter congregations conducted & attended: 3; Anniversary celebrations attended: 5
Clergy funerals attended: 6; Guest preaching engagements: 46

It has been my privilege to serve as Vice President of Area B these past four years. This report is but a glimpse of the “greater things” Jesus is doing in Area B that I have been blessed to “come and see.” To God be the glory!



FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Nathan M. Wendorf - Area C
Senior Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Harlingen

Area C of the Texas District is quite a diverse region in our district, from the master planned communities in the north in Georgetown, to century old colonias to the south in Brownsville. From the westernmost parts of Del Rio, where ministry crosses international borders, to the bustling port of Corpus Christi. Might I mention the little villages of San Antonio and Austin somewhere in there as well? Area C has quite the variety of communities, all needing to hear the life saving message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The last 4 years have been my honor and joy to be able to serve the congregations and workers of our district, alongside and under the leadership of our incredible District, President Newman. Serving in the Rio Grande Valley keeps you a little cut off from the rest of the state at times, so it has been a privilege learning and assisting, as able, the ministry in Area C, especially the very capable and dedicated circuit visitors. They are incredible in the care they are providing to congregations and workers.

I must make special mention of the Rev. Kevin Jennings, who is completing his service as visitor this convention in the Corpus Christi circuit. He has done an admirable job through the years in this role, finding himself in recent times as the only regularly called pastor to a congregation for the entire circuit. Can you imagine the workload and the challenge of helping to coordinate and locate pulpit supply, while helping many congregations at the same time navigate calling a pastor, with multiple call lists and returned calls while negotiating workable dual parish situations?

Times have changed, and pastors like Rev. Jennings, are doing an incredible job of paving the path for the rest of us in the ever-changing landscape of the church. These kinds of changes can cause us to mourn over what has been lost, while I hope, at the same time, inspire and motivate us even more to join Jesus' invitation by "praying earnestly to the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:38) I have seen part of that answer to prayer in the dozens of pre-seminary and colloquy interviews from Area C that my interview team has completed these last 4 years. It is also a joy to participate in the ordinations and installations in Area C as more answers to that prayer. Yet at the urging of Jesus, we continue to pray for more laborers to be sent.

There is an old proverbial story told of days when traveling shoe salespersons were breaking into new territories to sell their wares. One salesperson entered a new village in a part of the world where he discovered no one in the village wore shoes. Downhearted, by his discovery he telegraphed his wife with the message, 'No one wears shoes here; coming home'. Another salesperson entered that same village and sent a telegram back to the home



office, ‘No one wears shoes here; send me all the inventory you can.’ Same situation, different perspective and approach.

We may be living at a time where the privileged position of Christianity has faded in society. At times, it is tempting to focus on what has been lost rather than focus on reaching people who are lost. Yet, it is a great time to be the church, with a huge mission field right where we live, learn, work, and play, of people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. How exciting to see this happening on the ground with the incredible work of the Evangelists being trained and sent in our District!

In our bimonthly board of directors’ meetings, I have been able to see firsthand the incredible work of our district staff in partnership with local congregations and networks do this by “strengthening congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people - locally and globally.”

I have also had the privilege in 2023 to take over as chair of the Theological Convocation following Rev. Dr. John Davis many years of faithful and creative service in that role along with a stellar committee and district staff support. I hope we can provide stimulating and invigorating convocations that support all workers in their callings to engage their communities with the Gospel.

Finally, it has been a joy to serve as a representative and supporter for the FORO (Forum) with *Sinodo Luterano de México* (SLM) and LCMS World Missions. These hermanos y hermanas are incredible pastors and deaconesses, serving faithfully in diverse, and many times challenging communities in Mexico. The resources, with which they must work are limited but the gospel message they proclaim is unlimited! It is exciting to meet with them twice a year and witness firsthand the work that is being done as we dream and plan for what more could happen with additional partners here in the USA.

We have our challenges, for sure, as the church has since day one, but the mission field and opportunities are ripe for the harvest.

It is a great time to be the church. It is a great time to be in the Texas District LCMS.



TEXAS DISTRICT ORDAINED & INSTALLED

Argueta, José R. (St. Louis) Ordained May 1, 2022 by Rev. Raymond Van Buskirk at St. Peter, Houston and installed May 1, 2022 by Rev. Raymond Van Buskirk at St. Peter, Houston to serve St. Peter as Associate Pastor

Bangert, David J. (St. Louis) Ordained July 31, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Our Savior, Rockwall and installed July 31, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Our Savior, Rockwall to serve Our Savior as Specific Ministry Pastor

Bauer, Jeremiah A. (St. Louis) Ordained September 2, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Prince of Peace, Carrollton and installed September 3, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Prince of Peace, Carrollton to serve Prince of Peace as Specific Ministry Pastor

Bray, Mark C. (St. Louis) Ordained January 23, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Our Savior, McKinney and installed January 23, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Our Savior, McKinney as Specific Ministry Pastor

Bresson, Chad R. (St. Louis) Ordained September 4, 2021 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at The Table, Los Fresnos and installed September 4, 2021 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at The Table, Los Fresnos as Specific Ministry Pastor

Burke, James D. (St. Louis) Ordained June 24, 2023 by Rev. Tim Fraker at Trinity, Weatherford and installed July 8, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman at Immanuel, Clifton as Sole Pastor

Christians, Corey J. (St. Louis) Ordained August 28, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Salem, Navasota and installed August 28, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Salem Navasota as Sole Pastor

Davis, William R. (Ft. Wayne) Ordained April 23, 2023 by Rev. Christopher Brynestad at St. Paul, Austin and installed April 23, 2023 by Rev. Christopher Brynestad at St. Paul, Austin as Specific Ministry Pastor

De Young, Mark K. (Ft. Wayne) Ordained July 3, 2022 by Rev. Allan Eckert at St. Peter, Bowie and installed July 3, 2022 by Rev. Allan Eckert at St. Peter, Bowie as Sole Pastor

Drengler, Micah J. (St. Louis) Ordained September 12, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman at Living Word, The Woodlands and installed September 12, 2021 by Rev. Jon Braunersreuther as Associate Pastor

Farrow, Arthur B. (St. Louis) Ordained July 17, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Trinity, Commerce/St. James, Windom and installed July 17, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Trinity, Commerce/St. James, Windom as Specific Ministry Pastor

Garrabrant, Steven A. (St. Louis) Ordained January 28, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Gloria Dei, Houston and installed January 28, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Gloria Dei, Houston as Specific Ministry Pastor



Gonzalez, Jaime (St. Louis) Ordained November 3, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Comunidad Cristiana Expansión and installed November 3, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Comunidad Cristiana Expansión as Sole Pastor

Hahn, Joshua R. (St. Louis) Ordained August 14, 2022 by Rev. Carl Roth at Immanuel, Giddings and installed August 14, 2022 by Rev. Carl Roth at Immanuel, Giddings as Associate Pastor

Hall, Joel D. (St. Louis) Ordained March 5, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Faith, Mexia and installed March 5, 2023 by Rev. Kurt Rutz at Faith, Mexia as Specific Ministry Pastor

Hein, Jerrell P. Certified through Colloquy on December 17, 2020 and installed August 15, 2021 by Rev. Craig DuBois at Grace, San Marcos as Assistant Pastor

Holaway, George D. (St. Louis) Ordained September 3, 2023 by Rev. John Davis at CrossRoad, Katy and installed September 3, 2023 by Rev. John Davis at CrossRoad, Katy as Specific Ministry Pastor

Johnson, Andrew J. (St. Louis) Ordained July 11, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Christopher Kennedy at Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio and installed July 11, 2021 by Rev. Dustin Lappe at Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio as Associate Pastor

Johnson, Gary L. (St. Louis) Ordained July 24, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Zion, Schulenberg and installed July 24, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Zion, Schulenberg as Specific Ministry Pastor

Jore, Ben Certified through Colloquy on April 3, 2023 and installed November 5, 2023 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at St. John, Uhland as Sole Pastor

Knippa, Kenneth C. (St. Louis) Ordained June 24, 2023 by Rev. Jack Schneider at Concordia, Garland and installed June 25, 2023 by Rev. Kenneth Krippner at Concordia, Garland as Specific Ministry Pastor

Korabandi, Paul A. Certified through Colloquy on March 4, 2022 and installed August 14, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Resurrection, Spring as Associate Pastor

Lee, Matthew A. (St. Louis) Ordained August 7, 2022 by Rev. Dr. Victor Kollmann at Messiah, Plano and installed August 7, 2022 by Rev. Dr. Victor Kollmann at Messiah, Plano as Specific Ministry Pastor

Lujang, Isaac L. (St. Louis) Ordained October 14, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger at St. Paul, Ft. Worth and installed October 14, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger at St. Paul, Ft. Worth as Assistant Pastor

MacMillin, Gregory C. (St. Louis) Ordained August 4, 2024 by Rev. William Tucker at Concordia, San Antonio and installed August 4, 2024 by Rev. William Tucker at Concordia, San Antonio as Assistant Pastor

McMaughan, Sean P. Certified through Colloquy on December 22, 2020 and installed October 30, 2022 by Rev. Harry Smith at Bethel, Dallas as Campus Pastor - Dallas Lutheran School & Sole Pastor - Grace, Ennis



Martinez, Luis G. (St. Louis) Ordained July 11, 2021 by Rev. John Davis at Trinity Klein, Spring and installed July 11, 2021 by Rev. John Davis at Trinity Klein, Spring as Associate Pastor

Morales-Lopez, Luis E. (St. Louis) Ordained November 5, 2023 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at Cristo El Salvador, Del Rio and installed November 5, 2023 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at Cristo El Salvador, Del Rio as Missionary-District

Nemec, Charles (Ft. Wayne) Ordained June 26, 2022 by Rev. Allan Eckert at Redeemer, Lubbock and installed June 26, 2022 by Rev. Eric Hiner at Redeemer, Lubbock as Sole Pastor

Payne, Mark E. (St. Louis) Ordained January 24, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman at Lamb of God, Flower Mound and installed January 24, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman at Lamb of God, Flower Mound as Specific Ministry Pastor

Pennington, Ryan W. (St. Louis) Ordained June 17, 2023 by Rev. John Heckmann at St. Paul, Gatesville and installed July 9, 2023 by Rev. John Heckmann at Fortress, Harker Heights as Specific Ministry Pastor

Prohl, Benjamin T. (St. Louis) Ordained July 31, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Trinity, Tyler and installed July 31, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman at Trinity, Tyler as Associate Pastor

Ridley, Charles (St. Louis) Ordained July 7, 2022 by Rev. Nathan Misch at Fishers of Men, Sugar Land and installed July 7, 2022 by Rev. Wayne Braun at Fishers of Men, Sugar Land as Associate Pastor

Roberts, Sammy G. (St. Louis) Ordained November 17, 2024 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Grace Divine, Hurst and installed November 17, 2024 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Grace Divine, Hurst as Sole Pastor

Roever, Robert C. (Ft. Wayne) Ordained January 29, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman at Alive in Christ, Big Spring and installed January 29, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman at Alive in Christ, Big Spring as Specific Ministry Pastor

Rose, William D. Transferred February 24, 2021 from Lutheran Church Canada on Candidate Status

Rowland, William D. (St. Louis) Ordained August 4, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Peace, Hurst and installed August 4, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Peace, Hurst as Specific Ministry Pastor

Sanders, Randall C. (St. Louis) Ordained February 18, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Zion, Abilene and installed February 18, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman at Zion, Abilene as Specific Ministry Pastor

Santos, Jesus (St. Louis) Ordained November 20, 2022 by Rev. Dr. David Kim at Christ Redeemer, La Porte and installed November 20, 2022 by Rev. Dr. David Kim at Christ Redeemer, La Porte as Sole Pastor

Scheusner, John L. Certified through Colloquy on May 26, 2021 and installed August 22, 2021 by Rev. Larry Krueger at Trinity, Tyler as Senior/Administrative Pastor



Seat, Stanley F. Certified through Colloquy on May 12, 2021 and installed September 12, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman at St. John, Mansfield on Emeritus Status

Thompson, Andrew L. (St. Louis) Ordained July 10, 2022 by Rev. David Thompson at Our Savior, McKinney and installed July 24, 2022 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf at Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista as Sole Pastor

Wallingsford, Jason (St. Louis) Ordained January 17, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Paul Meyer at Mt. Olive, Austin and installed January 17, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Paul Meyer at Mt. Olive, Austin as Specific Ministry Pastor

Weldtensai, Benyam Certified through Colloquy on May 16, 2023 and installed August 13, 2023 by Rev. Mike Newman at Zion, Dallas as Assistant Pastor

Woelmer, David C. (Ft. Wayne) Ordained July 9, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman at Grace, Smithville and installed July 9, 2023 by Rev. Mike Newman at Grace, Smithville as Sole Pastor

ORDAINED TRANSFERRED IN & INSTALLED

Abel, Nathan A., Sole Pastor, St. John, Wilcox, NE to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Fort Worth, February 12, 2023 by Rev. Andrew Audette

Albers, Grayson, E., Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Temple to Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Temple, June 26, 2022 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Allman, Phillip J., Associate Pastor, Grace, Midland to Sole Pastor, First Evangelical, Orange Grove, May 30, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Alzate, Beto M., Associate Pastor, Bethel, Dallas to Associate Pastor, Holy Cross, Dallas, September 19, 2021 by Rev. Thomas Zucconi

Audette, Andrew A., Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Fort Worth to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Fort Worth, March 27, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Bailey, Robert A., Associate Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston to Missionary, Texas District BMA, Austin, January 1, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Bailey, Robert A., Missionary, Texas District, Round Rock to Sole Pastor, South Lake, League City, January 21, 2024 by Rev. John Davis

Bashir, Sabir N., Candidate to Associate Pastor, Prince of Peace, Carrollton, January 9, 2022 by Rev. Daniel Trempala

Benson, Thayer K., Associate Pastor, Resurrection, Spring to Senior Pastor, Resurrection, Spring, March 5, 2023 by Rev. Stephen Sohns

Bestian, Brian R., Sole Pastor, Ascension, El Paso to Sole Pastor, St. Mark, Conroe, August 28, 2022 by Rev. John Davis

Bladel, Brady W., Sole Pastor, St. Philip, Dublin, CA to Sole Pastor, Zion, Pasadena, January 10, 2021 by Rev. Randy Ledbetter



Boessling, Jacob A., Associate Pastor, Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ to Campus Pastor, Concordia University Texas, Austin, January 12, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Boessling, Jacob A., Candidate to Missionary, Texas District BMA, Round Rock, September 23, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman

Borcherding, Kyle D., SMP, Our Shepherd, Avon, IN to SMP, Zion, Georgetown, October 8, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Brown, J. D., Candidate to Other Staff, Texas District, Austin, March 20, 2022 by Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick

Brynestad, Christopher P., Associate Pastor, King of Kings, Round Rock to Sole Pastor, King of Kings, Round Rock, September 25, 2022 by Rev. Peter Mueller

Brynestad, Dale L., Emeritus to Senior Pastor, Cross, New Braunfels, November 17, 2024 by Rev. Mark Barz

Burkhard, Kenneth M., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Magnolia, January 22, 2023 by Rev. Gene Johnson

Cecil, David C., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, Cross of Christ, Waller, November 28, 2021 by Rev. Gene Johnson

Celia, Anthony M., SMP, Water's Edge, Frisco to SMP, Bethany, Austin, July 24, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Cholak, Steven T., Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Roswell, NM to Assistant Pastor, Our Savior, Houston, March 13, 2022 by Rev. Laurence White

Cleland, James S., Candidate to Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Houston, July 24, 2022 by Rev. Timothy Engel

Danner, Martin D., Associate Pastor, Bethany, Austin to Senior Pastor, Bethany, Austin, February 7, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

De Beir, Jerome J., Candidate to SMP, Peace, Hurst, September 17, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger

DeMik, Stephen R., Associate Pastor, St. John, Cypress to Associate Pastor, Hope, Lubbock, June 9, 2024 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Derong, Wynn, SMP, Oikos, Houston to SMP, St. Andrew, Houston, May 15, 2022 by Rev. John Davis

Dinger, Timothy J., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Port Arthur to Sole Pastor, Peace, Groves, February 27, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Dommer, Douglas W., Emeritus to Senior Pastor, Living Word, The Woodlands, February 21, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Doria, Jeffrey S., Associate Pastor, St. John, Cypress to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Thorndale, November 19, 2023 by Rev. Scott Schaller

Doublestein, Philip S., Missionary, Texas District, Round Rock to Associate Pastor, Word of Life, Cibolo, November 3, 2024 by Rev. Rick Pfaff

Drengler, Micah J., Associate Pastor, Living Word, The Woodlands to Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Beaumont, November 3, 2024 by Rev. John Davis



Ebersole, James H., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Kingsville to Associate Pastor, Zion, Dallas, November 12, 2023 by Rev. Robert Preece
Edge, David A., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Grace, Denison, February 19, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Ferry, Patrick T., Synod/College Faculty, Concordia University, Mequon, WI to Staff, Concordia Lutheran High School, Pflugerville, August 18, 2021 by Rev. Delton Weiser

Garber, Alexander C., Associate Pastor, St. Peter's, Eastpointe, MI to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Livingston, July 16, 2023 by Rev. John Davis

Giese, Edward P., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Christ Our Savior, San Antonio, January 7, 2024 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf

Goeke, Paul A., Senior Pastor, Crosspoint, Katy to Associate Pastor, CrossRoad, Katy, August 7, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Gonzales, Ben, Candidate to Staff, Texas District, Austin, September 26, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Gonzales, Lonnie A., RSO, LINC, Houston to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Houston, November 27, 2022 by Rev. Michael Dorn

González, Eloy S., Emeritus to Sole Pastor (IIM), El Buen Pastor, McAllen, June 5, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Guelzow, Nathan J., Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Grove, IL to Other Specialized Ministry, Texas District BMA, Austin, April 24, 2021 by Rev. Jock Ficken

Guerra, Lincon, Associate Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines, IA to District Staff, Texas District, Austin, August 1, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Harrow, Gerald W., SMP, Fortress, Harker Heights to Missionary, Texas District BMA, Austin, May 1, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Herbert, Scott E., Senior Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Spokane, WA to Sole Pastor, Zion, Tomball, September 8, 2024 by Rev. John Davis

Hesse, Brian J., Senior Pastor, Trinity, Amarillo to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Waco, July 24, 2022 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Hildebrandt, Russell C., Emeritus to Sole Pastor (IIM), Trinity Our Savior, Corpus Christi, October 8, 2023 by Rev. Kevin Jennings

Hobratschk, Ralph W., Emeritus to Senior Pastor, Trinity, Spring, March 5, 2023 by Rev. Gene Johnson

Holaday, Robert W., Sole Pastor, Emmanuel, Littlefield to Sole Pastor (IIM), St. Paul, Vernon, September 17, 2023 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Holschuh, Edward B., Sole Pastor, Zion, Alamo to Sole Pastor, Epiphany, Bastrop, January 6, 2024 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf

Hopf, Lee A., Assistant Pastor, Trinity-Klein, Spring to Senior Pastor, Trinity-Klein, Spring, June 2, 2024 by Rev. Ralph Hobratschk

Hunsaker, Mark A., Senior Pastor, Praise & Worship, Branson, MO to Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood, September 10, 2023 by Rev. Allen Doering



Jenkins, William J., Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Lubbock to Missionary, Texas District, Austin, October 28, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Joeckel Jr., Ralph T., Sole Pastor, Bethlehem/Peace, Yakima/Selah, WA to Sole Pastor (IIM), Cross, New Braunfels, July 2, 2023 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf

Jurischk, Bradley W., SMP, St. Timothy, Houston to Senior Pastor, St. Timothy, Houston, January 9, 2022 by Rev. John Davis

Kachelmeier, Brian L., Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Los Alamos, NM to Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary, San Antonio, August 28, 2022 by Rev. Nathan Wendorf

Kachelmeier, Brian L., Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary, San Antonio to Associate Pastor, Crown of Life, San Antonio, December 10, 2023 by Rev. Mark Barz

Kalbas, Aaron C., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Thorndale to Sole Pastor, St. John, Hamilton, June 13, 2021 by Rev. John Heckmann

Karle, John E., Sole Pastor, St. John, Hattiesburg, MS to Missionary-District, Texas District BMA, Austin, March 28, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Knippa, Michael, Teacher, Lutheran High South, St. Louis, MO to Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Austin, July 10, 2022 by Rev. Kevin Westergren

Knobloch, Larry N., Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Bowie to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Riesel, April 3, 2022 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Krieg, Kelly D., Assistant Pastor, Our Savior, Houston to Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Brenham, April 23, 2023 by Rev. John Davis

Kunze, Seth L., Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood to Sole Pastor, The Dwelling, New Caney, March 14, 2021 by Rev. John Davis

Lahue, Alexander D., Associate Pastor, Messiah, Boerne to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Boerne, March 7, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Lahue, Alexander D., Sole Pastor, Messiah, Boerne to Associate Pastor, St. Timothy, Houston, August 21, 2022 by Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther

Lanham, Curtiss L., SMP, Crosspoint, Katy to SMP, CrossRoad, Katy, August 7, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

LeBlanc, Robert E., Sole Pastor, Hope, Winnie to Associate Pastor, St. Paul/Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Austin, September 4, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Lee, Jeffrey A., Staff, Minnesota North District, Brainerd, MN to Sole Pastor, Faith, Stephenville, November 5, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Lofgren, Richard S., Sole Pastor, Trinity Our Savior, Corpus Christi to Sole Pastor (IIM), Messiah, Boerne, October 2, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Luhman, Ethan M.L., Associate Pastor, First Immanuel, Cedarburg, WI to Associate Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio, October 9, 2022 by Rev. William Tucker

McIntosh, Zachary, Associate Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to Senior Pastor, Zion, Georgetown, January 22, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger



Madsen, Luke C., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Arlington, June 25, 2023 by Rev. Jonathan Thomas

Marriott, James F., Staff, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO to Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin, September 13, 2022 by Rev. Jacob Boessling

Marriott, James F., Candidate to Associate Pastor, Faith, Georgetown, July 9, 2023 by Rev. Walter Pohland

Middaugh, Michael S., Candidate to Associate Pastor, Mount Calvary, San Antonio, September 25, 2022 by Rev. Carlos Boerger

Misch, Stephen N., Associate Pastor, Epiphany, Pearland to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Plainview, November 6, 2022 by Rev. Robert Holaday

Moerbe, Ned A., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Blackwell, OK to Associate Pastor, Memorial, Houston, December 4, 2022 by Rev. John Davis

Moore, Tyler C., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Christ Memorial, Houston, August 15, 2021 by Rev. John Davis

Moreno, Jason A., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Christ Memorial, Houston, September 15, 2024 by Rev. John Davis

Mumm, David P., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, Christ, Lincoln, April 30, 2023 by Rev. Nathaniel Hill

Neuhaus, Ryan S., Staff, Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball to RSO, Lutheran Outdoor Ministry of Texas, La Grange, July 28, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman

Nguyen, Andrew, D., Sole Pastor, Grace Vietnamese, Vancouver, WA to Sole Pastor, Vietnamese Lutheran, Houston, May 15, 2022 by Rev. John Davis

Novacek, Mark D., Candidate to SMP, Concordia, San Antonio, June 25, 2023 by Rev. William Tucker

Ogrodowicz, Ryan, Associate Pastor, Grace, Brenham to Senior Pastor, Grace, Brenham, September 1, 2023 by Rev. Richard Lamb

Pacey, Ian S., Associate Pastor, Memorial, Houston to Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Houston, May 1, 2022 by Rev. Richard Gaub

Parks III, Vincent S., SMP, LINC, Houston to SMP, Salem, Tomball, September 26, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman

Pase, Robert J., Senior Pastor, Grace, Midland to Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Abilene, July 14, 2024 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Phifer, Phillip L., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Paw Paw, MI to Sole Pastor, Peace, Groves, August 11, 2024 by Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther

Pulliam, Mark T., Associate Pastor, Resurrection, Spring to Sole Pastor, Lazarus, Spring, January 22, 2023 by Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther

Ramey, John M., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Cape Coral, FL to Sole Pastor (IIM), Grace, Midland, November 10, 2024 by Rev. Erik Stadler



Reedy, David D., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Copperas Cove, January 3, 2021 by Rev. John Heckmann

Reedy, David D., Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Copperas Cove to Sole Pastor, Trinity/Immanuel, Copperas Cove, September 11, 2022 by Rev. Tim Ochsner

Reese, David A., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Fort Worth, January 3, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab

Reich, Keith A., Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Roseburg, OR to Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Cisco, December 4, 2022 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Richardson, Kyle J., Sole Pastor, St. John, Island Lake, IL to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Wilson, August 11, 2024 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Richardson Jr., James M., Associate Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville to Senior Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville, March 20, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Ridley, Charles, Associate Pastor, Fishers of Men, Sugar Land to Senior Pastor, Fishers of Men, Sugar Land, February 19, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman

Rodriguez, Nelson, RSO, LINC, Houston to Associate Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, August 28, 2022 by Rev. Daniel Schepmann

Rollefson, Stacy D., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Plano to Sole Pastor, Christ, Fort Worth, January 8, 2023 by Rev. Larry Krueger

Rose, William D., Candidate to Sole Pastor, St. John, Farwell, August 13, 2023 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Rosenthal, Timothy A., Chaplain-Military, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO to Sole Pastor, Grace, Menard, June 2, 2024 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Sansom III, Vernon J., Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood to Sole Pastor, Joy, Houston, April 13, 2024 by Rev. John Davis

Scheck, Benjamin I., SMP, Crown of Life, Colleyville to SMP, Lamb of God, Flower Mound, January 3, 2021 by Rev. Travis Hartjen

Scheck, Benjamin I., SMP, Lamb of God, Flower Mound to SMP, The Grove, Bartonville, September 6, 2022 by Rev. Greg Beutel

Schuetz, Daniel, Candidate to Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Baytown, August 6, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman

Schuller, Isaac S., Sole Pastor, First Immanuel, San Jose, CA to Associate Pastor, Grace, Brenham, August 6, 2023 by Rev. Richard Lamb

Schinnerer, Craig R., Candidate to Sole Pastor (IIM), St. Paul, Plano, July 2, 2023 by Rev. Adam Douthwaite

Scicluna, Jon D., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Arlington, February 20, 2022 by Rev. James Woelmer

Shane, Brain T., Associate Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Fargo, ND to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Canyon, July 23, 2023 by Rev. Joe Andrajack

Smith, Garrett, Sole Pastor, Christ, Lincoln to Sole Pastor, Peace, Waco, August 7, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman

Smith, Harry R., Associate Pastor, Our Redeemer, Irving to Senior Pastor, Our Redeemer, Irving, January 10, 2021 by Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab



Stephens, Richard C., Sole Pastor, St. Paul/Grace, Shelton/Wood River, NE to Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Benbrook, November 6, 2022 by Rev. Larry Krueger
Stinnette, Eric A., Candidate to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Wichita Falls, June 11, 2023 by Rev. Allan Eckert

Taylor, Mark M., Associate Pastor, Faith, Plano to Senior Pastor, Faith, Plano, August 3, 2024 by Rev. Michael Newman
Truenow, David L., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Evangelists, Kingsbury, February 11, 2024 by Rev. Rick Pfaff
Tucker, Jeffrey D., Associate Pastor, Christ, Phoenix, AZ to Associate Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio, August 27, 2023 by Rev. William Tucker

Van Buskirk, Raymond J., Associate Pastor, Lamb of God, Humble to Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Houston, August 15, 2021 by Rev. Michael Dorn
Vanderbush, Neil S., Emeritus to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Boerne, June 9, 2024 by Rev. Mark Barz

Weaver, Brian S., Associate Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston to Senior Pastor, Peace, Hurst, January 17, 2021 by Rev. Michael Newman
Weider, Michael J., Sole Pastor, Emmaus Road, Katy to Senior Pastor, CrossRoad, Katy, August 7, 2022 by Rev. Michael Newman
Whaley, Andrew D., Associate Pastor, Our Savior, McKinney to Associate Pastor, Water's Edge, Frisco, August 28, 2022 by Rev. Mark Schaefer
Wiechman, Steven L., Candidate to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Rosenberg, January 8, 2023 by Rev. Michael Newman
Winters, Thomas J., SMP, Concordia, San Antonio to SMP, St. Mark, Houston, September 25, 2022 by Rev. Matthew Popovits
Wuggazer, Mark T., Senior Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb, IL to Senior Pastor, St. John, Cypress, January 10, 2021 by Rev. John Davis

OTHER ORDAINED TRANSFERRED IN TO TEXAS DISTRICT

Adams, Ricky L., Emeritus, Pacific Southwest District, April 12, 2023
Anderson, Mark B., Emeritus, Northwest District, March 15, 2024

Barnes, Ryan E., Candidate, Pacific Southwest District, August 27, 2021
Baumann, Paul G., Emeritus, Mid-South District, August 2, 2021
Beltz, Dewyth D., Emeritus, Rocky Mountain District, September 25, 2021
Beyer, Jay B., Emeritus, Rocky Mountain District, January 2, 2024
Biesenthal, Bruce W., Emeritus, Missouri District, October 1, 2023
Brynstad, Dale, Emeritus, Northwest District, December 12, 2023

Carnahan, Mark D., Emeritus, Indiana District, November 1, 2024



Carter, Mark E., Emeritus, Oklahoma District, October 16, 2023

Doering, Martin, Emeritus, Northern Illinois District, June 14, 2022

Dubbelde, David V., Emeritus, Indiana District, July 20, 2022

Franckowiak, Michael S., Emeritus, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, March 29, 2021

Glander, Randall L., Candidate, Indiana District, January 5, 2023

Gonzales, Ben, Candidate, Minnesota South District, July 10, 2021

Herbrich, Rudy C., Emeritus, North Wisconsin District, November 13, 2023

Hilsabeck, Howard R., Emeritus, Missouri District, November 22, 2021

Jones, Richard J., Emeritus, Southeastern District, August 22, 2022

Koopmann, Gary A., Emeritus, Southern District, June 14, 2021

Kummer, Carl M., Emeritus, North Wisconsin District, January 26, 2023

Luedemann, Ronald S., Emeritus, Pacific Southwest District, December 6, 2022

Middaugh, Michael S., Candidate, Southeastern District, June 24, 2022

Molyneux, Daniel R., Emeritus, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, April 1, 2022

Moore, Tyler C., Candidate, Florida-Georgia District, May 19, 2021

Novacek, Mark D., Candidate, Northern Illinois District, March 1, 2023

Perry, Andrew G., Candidate, Rocky Mountain District, July 24, 2023

Rose, William, Candidate, Central LCC, February 5, 2021

Schuetz, Daniel, Candidate, New Jersey District, March 16, 2023

Schuller, Richard L., Emeritus, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, September 24, 2021

Swanson, Herbert C., Emeritus, Mid-South District, April 2, 2021

Symmank, C. Leo, Emeritus, Southern District, September 7, 2022

Tegtmeier, Dennis, Emeritus, Florida-Georgia District, September 15, 2022

Van Duzer, Thomas, Emeritus, Kansas District, February 14, 2023

Wagner, Robert W., Emeritus, Iowa West District, July 23, 2024

ORDAINED TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS



Allman, Phillip J., Sole Pastor, First Evangelical, Orange Grove to Northern Illinois District, Call, March 27, 2023

Anderson, Darren A., Candidate to Rocky Mountain District, April 27, 2022

Appel, Timothy A., Sole Pastor, Grace, Smithville to Southern Illinois District, Call, October 31, 2022

Bass, David J., Sole Pastor, Hosanna, Kerrville to Florida-Georgia District, Call, August 14, 2023

Bluege, Joseph R., Candidate to Missouri District, Call, April 29, 2022

Boarts, Matthew A., Chaplain-Military, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis MO to Florida-Georgia District, Call, June 11, 2022

Borkenhagen, Daniel G., Associate Pastor, Hope, Lubbock to Minnesota South District, Call, August 30, 2022

Burge, David M., Sole Pastor (IIM), Trinity, Riesel to Missouri District, June 1, 2021

Buvinghausen, Garrett K., Sole Pastor, Resurrection, Fredericksburg to Ohio District, Call, October 2, 2023

Byrd, Toby O., Emeritus to English District, Call, August 24, 2024

Carter, Timothy R., SMP, Salem, Tomball to Indiana District, Call, April 25, 2022

Cary, Bryan S., Emeritus to Rocky Mountain District, March 25, 2021

Cleland, James S., Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Houston to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, Call, July 2, 2024

Cody, Richard S., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Wichita Falls to Missouri District, Call, March 21, 2022

Cordrey, John, Associate Pastor, Trinity, Spring to Indiana District, August 13, 2021

Crowe, William L., Associate Pastor, Faith, Georgetown to Southern District, Call, January 1, 2022

Daniels, David M., Associate Pastor, Zion, Tomball to Southeastern District, Call, August 16, 2021

Duke, Cullen A., Emeritus to Mid-South District, March 18, 2024

Ehrke, Donald W., Candidate to Pacific Southwest District, May 16, 2023

Ferguson Jr., Louis P., Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Rockwall to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, Call, July 1, 2024

Fickenscher, Daniel P., Missionary-District, Cristo El Salvador, Del Rio to Indiana District, Call, April 17, 2023

Fickenscher, James W., Associate Pastor, St. Paul, McAllen to Missouri District, Call, July 1, 2024

Fraker, Timothy D., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Weatherford to North Wisconsin District, Call, May 20, 2024



Gallo, Stephen F., Emeritus to Iowa East District, January 24, 2023
Gaub, Richard M., Teacher, Memorial, Houston to Southern District, Call, June 20, 2022
Goodman, Harrison A., Associate Pastor, Mount Calvary, San Antonio to Iowa East District, Call, January 10, 2022

Hamilton, Morgan W., Assistant Pastor, Peace, Hurst to Mid-South District, Call, July 30, 2021
Heck, Joel D., Emeritus to Lutheran Church Canada - West Region, Call, May 30, 2023
Heckmann, Michael A., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Plainview to Nebraska District, Call, June 30, 2021
Herbert, Scott E., Sole Pastor, Messiah, Corpus Christi to Northwest District, Call, October 17, 2022
Hortsmeyer, Paul A., Assistant Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to Northern Illinois District, Call, July 4, 2022
Hughey, B. Stephenson, Emeritus to Southeastern District, November 8, 2021
Hull, Christopher J., Senior Pastor, Zion, Tomball to Central Illinois District, Call, November 15, 2023

Issak, Kbrab, RSO, LINC, Houston to Pacific Southwest District, Call, April 12, 2024

Jennings, James R., SMP, Faith, Huntsville to Florida-Georgia District, Call, June 30, 2021
Joeckel, Ralph T., Sole Pastor (IIM), Cross, New Braunfels to Northwest District, July 1, 2024
Jung, David S., Sole Pastor, St. Andrew, Houston to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, Call, July 31, 2021

Kieser, Stephen W., Associate Pastor, Faith, Plano to Wyoming District, Call, October 22, 2024
Koch, Mark A., Sole Pastor, Grace, Denison to Rocky Mountain District, Call, September 2, 2022
Kochendorfer, David L., Emeritus to Oklahoma District, August 24, 2021
Krengel, Douglas A., Sole Pastor, Family of Faith, Houston to Michigan District, Call, November 15, 2023

Ledlow, Landon M., Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Austin to SELC District, Call, July 19, 2021
Liefer, Todd W., Associate Pastor, Bethany, Austin to English District, Call, August 15, 2021
Lowrey Jr., George W., Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Arlington to Pacific Southwest District, Call, February 1, 2021
Luhman, Ethan M.L., Associate Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to North Wisconsin District, Call, October 8, 2024

McQuiggin, Brian S., Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Clifton to Minnesota South District, Call, July 15, 2021



Mayland Jr., James L., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Livingston to North Wisconsin District, Call, October 24, 2022

Moldenhauer, Mark A., Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Brenham to Southern District, Call, June 27, 2022

Moore, Tyler C., Sole Pastor, Christ Memorial, Houston to Northwest District, Call, October 2, 2023

Novacek, Mark D., SMP, Concordia, San Antonio to Northern Illinois District, Call, August 17, 2024

Nuckols, Mark S., Chaplain-Military to LCMS Board for International Mission, Call, February 26, 2022

Nuttelman, Christopher K., Associate Pastor, Crown of Life, San Antonio to English District, Call, March 28, 2022

Obersat, Thomas F., Sole Pastor, Ebenezer, Paige to Mt. Hope/Luther Classical College, Call, January 1, 2025

Odom, Weslie T., Sole Pastor, Beautiful Savior, Arlington to Rocky Mountain District, Call, June 1, 2021

Petering, Jonathan E., Associate Pastor, Hope, Friendswood to Mid-South District, Call, May 27, 2024

Prieto, Ely, Missionary, Texas District, Austin to Missouri District, Call, July 1, 2021

Richert, Aaron M., Staff, Lutheran South Academy, Houston to Rocky Mountain District, Call, June 1, 2023

Ristvedt, James W., Emeritus to Nebraska District, April 25, 2022

Roegner, Robert M., RSO, Texas District to Florida-Georgia District

Rupe, Ryan R., Chaplain-Military, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO to Missouri District, Call, August 1, 2023

Schrank, Benjamin J., Assistant Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, Call, August 8, 2022

Schroeder, David B., Sole Pastor, Lord of Life, Corpus Christi to North Wisconsin District, Call, April 25, 2022

Scott, Tobin L., Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Copperas Cove to Missouri District, February 10, 2021

Singer, Christopher M., Senior Pastor, Trinity, Spring to Northern Illinois District, Call, January 18, 2023

Stenson, Sherman D., Candidate to Kansas District, Call, May 15, 2024

Swanson, Herbert C., Emeritus to Mid-South District, May 30, 2024

Symm, David V., Emeritus to Kansas District, September 15, 2022



Ulmer, Matthew T., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Bishop to Indiana District, Call, September 11, 2023

Walther, John, Emeritus to Pacific Southwest District, May 17, 2021

Williamson, Peter C., Sole Pastor, St. John, Beaumont to North Wisconsin District, Call, May 28, 2024

Woelmer, James D., Senior Pastor, Faith, Plano to Kansas District, Call, August 14, 2023

ORDAINED CHANGE OF STATUS

Adler, David L., Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Palestine to Emeritus, July 17, 2021

Appel, Vernon L., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Childress to Emeritus, April 14, 2021

Auger, Edmund D., Sole Pastor, Faith, Stephenville to Emeritus, July 11, 2022

Bahn, David L., Senior Pastor, St. John, Cypress to Emeritus, January 9, 2021

Bauer, Allen J., Associate Pastor, Fishers of Men, Sugar Land to Emeritus, January 1, 2021

Bielefeldt, Douglas L., SMP, Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio to Emeritus, June 14, 2021

Boessling, Jacob A., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Candidate, April 12, 2023

Boldt, Gerald L., Sole Pastor, Christ Redeemer, La Porte to Emeritus, July 1, 2021

Boerger, Charles P., Associate Pastor, St. Paul, San Antonio to Emeritus, May 21, 2024

Bragdon, Dennis J., Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer, Longview to Emeritus, July 31, 2023

Braun, Wayne M., Senior Pastor, Fishers of Men, Sugar Land to Emeritus, February 1, 2023

Brown, J.D., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Candidate, October 12, 2021

Brown, J.D., Staff, Texas District, Round Rock to Emeritus, September 3, 2024

Brunette, Mark D., Sole Pastor, Joy, Houston to Emeritus, April 12, 2024

Burge, David M., ILM, Trinity, Riesel to Emeritus, June 1, 2021

Byrd, Toby O., Sole Pastor, Grace, Paris to Emeritus, April 1, 2024

Campbell, Willie C., Candidate to Emeritus, November 1, 2022

Cantwell, Francis J., SMP, King of Kings, San Antonio to Emeritus, November 7, 2022

Celia, Anthony M., SMP, Bethany, Austin to Associate Pastor, Bethany, Austin, April 3, 2024

Chambers, Danny E., Sole Pastor, Evangelists, Kingsbury to Candidate, September 3, 2022

Dankis, Mark J., Senior Pastor, King of Kings, Round Rock to Emeritus, December 31, 2021

Davenport, John M., Senior Pastor, Zion, Georgetown to Emeritus, May 2, 2022

Dinger, Timothy J., Sole Pastor, Peace, Groves to Emeritus, May 1, 2023

DuBois, Craig A., Sole Pastor, Grace, San Marcos to Senior Pastor, Grace, San Marcos, August 15, 2021

Ehrke, Donald W., Chaplain, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO to Candidate, February 1, 2023

Elser, John H., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Canyon to Candidate, July 22, 2023



Ferry, Patrick T., Staff, Concordia Lutheran High School, Pflugerville to Emeritus, July 1, 2022

Ficken, David W., Other Specialized Ministry, Texas District BMA, Round Rock to Candidate, September 16, 2024

Ficken, Jock E., Other Specialized Ministry, Texas District LCMS, Round Rock to Emeritus, September 1, 2024

Fraker, Donald D., Sole Pastor, Cross, New Braunfels to Senior Pastor, Cross, New Braunfels, October 20, 2019

Fraker, Donald D., Senior Pastor, Cross, New Braunfels to Emeritus, June 15, 2023

Giese, Curtis P., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Candidate, April 12, 2023

Glander, Randall L., Candidate to Emeritus, August 21, 2023

Goeke, Paul A., Associate Pastor, CrossRoad, Katy to Candidate, August 1, 2024

González, Eloy S., Senior Pastor, Our Redeemer, Irving to Emeritus, January 1, 2021

González, Eloy S., IIM, El Buen Pastor, McAllen to Emeritus, May 27, 2024

Gruhn, Michael V., Sole Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Franklin to Emeritus, June 7, 2021

Haedge, Randall S., Senior Pastor, Bethel, Dallas to Emeritus, August 1, 2021

Harris, Mark A., Associate Pastor, Cross, New Braunfels to Candidate, April 4, 2023

Heck, Joel D., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Emeritus, July 1, 2022

Heckmann, Peter T., Sole Pastor, Hope, Austin to Emeritus, February 1, 2023

Henze, Steven H., Senior Pastor, St. Timothy, Houston to Associate Pastor, St. Timothy, Houston, January 8, 2022

Henze, Steven H., Associate Pastor, St. Timothy, Houston to Emeritus, October 3, 2022

Hill, Robert W., Sole Pastor, Faith, Plano to Emeritus, September 6, 2021

Hintze, David J., Sole Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista to Emeritus, July 1, 2021

Hobratschk, Ralph W., Senior Pastor, Hope, Friendswood to Emeritus, May 2, 2022

Hobratschk, Ralph W., Senior Pastor, Trinity-Klein, Spring to Associate Pastor, Trinity-Klein, Spring, June 2, 2024

Jacobs, Matthew P., Senior Pastor, Grace, Brenham to Emeritus, September 1, 2023

Janssen, LaVerne A., Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Abilene to Emeritus, July 1, 2023

Jensen, Scott A., Assistant Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to Candidate, January 1, 2021

Joeckel, Ralph T., IIM, Cross, New Braunfels to Emeritus, July 1, 2024

Jung, David R., Senior Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville to Emeritus, August 28, 2021

Kelm Jr., Harvey F., Sole Pastor, Redeemer, Beaumont to Emeritus, May 1, 2023

Kieschnick, Clyde J., Sole Pastor, Zion, Abilene to Senior Pastor, Zion, Abilene, February 18, 2024

Kirklen, Don L., Sole Pastor, St. Mark, Mineral Wells to Emeritus, January 11, 2021

Kluth, David L., Staff, Concordia University, Portland, OR to Emeritus, May 1, 2020

Knippa, William B., Senior Pastor, Bethany, Austin to Emeritus, January 18, 2021



Korinek, Alan W., Sole Pastor, Grace, Lamesa to Emeritus, May 3, 2021
Krippner, Kenneth M., Sole Pastor, Concordia, Garland to Senior Pastor, Concordia, Garland, June 25, 2023
Krueger, Larry G., Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Waco to Emeritus, December 1, 2021

Lanham, Curtiss L., SMP, CrossRoad, Katy to Candidate, August 3, 2023
Lanham, Curtiss L., Candidate to Emeritus, June 12, 2024
Lapacka, John T., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Borger to Emeritus, July 30, 2022
Lofgren, Richard S., IIM, Messiah, Boerne to Emeritus, June 8, 2024
Londenberg, David L., Candidate to Emeritus, September 1, 2023

McKnight, David M., Assistant Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to Emeritus, August 24, 2022
McNamara, Jerome F., Sole Pastor, Gethsemane, Houston to Candidate, July 3, 2023
Madsen, Luke C., Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Temple to Candidate, May 1, 2023
Marriott, James F., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Candidate April 14, 2023
Mengsteab, Yohannes A., Staff, Texas District, Austin to Emeritus, August 1, 2022
Menke, James W., IIM, St. Mark, Conroe to Emeritus, March 1, 2022
Messmann, John A., Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Fort Worth to Emeritus, March 2, 2022
Meyer, Paul E., Sole Pastor, Mount Olive, Austin to Emeritus, February 1, 2021
Misch, Steven J., Staff, Texas District, Austin to Emeritus, January 1, 2021
Mitschke, Kenneth R., Sole Pastor, Word of Life, Cibolo to Senior Pastor, Word of Life, Cibolo, November 3, 2024
Muchow, Jeffrey A., Sole Pastor, Epiphany, Houston to Senior Pastor, Epiphany, Houston, February 9, 2020

Neuberger, Paul E., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Vernon to Emeritus, July 31, 2023
Nguyen, Ninh H., Sole Pastor, Vietnamese, Houston to Emeritus, May 14, 2022

Otte, James E., Associate Pastor, Messiah, Plano to Emeritus, April 8, 2024

Pelto, Joseph A., SMP, Faith, Laredo to Emeritus, May 2, 2020
Pilli, Sagar, Assistant Pastor, Memorial, Houston to Candidate, October 3, 2023
Pittock, Travis A., Sole Pastor, Christ, Fort Worth to Candidate, January 1, 2022
Preece, Robert C., Sole Pastor, Zion, Dallas to Senior Pastor, Zion, Dallas, August 13, 2023
Puffe, Paul J., Staff, Concordia University Texas, Austin to Emeritus, May 1, 2023

Rau, Carl R., Chaplain, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO to Emeritus, May 31, 2014

Reese, David A., IIM, Redeemer, Fort Worth to Emeritus, June 1, 2022
Reina, Andres L., Missionary, Texas District, Austin to Candidate, November 1, 2020
Rodriguez, Manny, Candidate to Emeritus, August 28, 2023
Rohde, David W., Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Wilson to Emeritus, August 10, 2024
Runge, Brian E., Candidate to Emeritus, October 15, 2024



Rynearson, Stephen P., Sole Pastor, Peace, Hewitt to Emeritus, January 17, 2022

Sager, William A., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Copperas Cove to Emeritus, August 29, 2022

Salomon, Jeffrey A., SMP, Trinity, Fairfield to Candidate, December 6, 2021

Schaefer, Mark A., Senior Pastor, Water's Edge, Frisco to Candidate, March 1, 2024

Schinnerer, Craig R., IIM, Trinity, Tyler to Candidate, August 21, 2021

Schinnerer, Craig R., IIM, St. Paul, Thorndale to Candidate, July 1, 2022

Schinnerer, Craig R., IIM, St. Paul, Plano to Emeritus, June 15, 2024

Schmidt, Neldo, Sole Pastor, King of Kings, San Antonio to Senior Pastor, King of Kings, San Antonio, January 27, 2019

Schueler, Wayne A., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Rosenberg to Emeritus, August 1, 2022

Seeger, Mark W., Associate Pastor, Holy Three-in-One Deaf, Houston to Emeritus, July 3, 2023

Snyder, Dale O., Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls to Emeritus, September 1, 2023

Sohns, Stephen J., Senior Pastor, Resurrection, Spring to Associate Pastor, Resurrection, Spring, March 5, 2023

Sohns, Stephen J., Associate Pastor, Resurrection, Spring to Emeritus, April 1, 2023

Stavig, Wendell C., Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Houston to Emeritus, February 22, 2021

Symm, David V., Sole Pastor, St. John, Lariat to Emeritus, August 1, 2022

Tews, Mark W., Sole Pastor, Trinity, Uvalde to Emeritus, August 26, 2024

Tieken, Russell W., Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Denton to Emeritus, May 1, 2024

Torea, Eduardo J., Associate Pastor, Peace, Garland to Candidate, January 1, 2021

Truenow, David L., Sole Pastor, St. John, Uhland to Candidate, January 1, 2021

Van Buskirk, Raymond J., Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Houston to Senior Pastor, St. Peter, Houston, May 1, 2022

Wagner, Stephen A., Associate Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio to Emeritus, August 1, 2020

Waiser, Walter E., Assistant Pastor, Lamb of God, Flower Mound to Emeritus, January 17, 2021

Walker, Andrew J., Missionary, Texas District, Austin to Candidate, January 1, 2021

Watson, Joseph M., Chaplain, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO to Emeritus, August 1, 2023

Wilhelmsen, Dana, Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Temple to Emeritus, January 1, 2022

Wolfmueller, C. Bryan, Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Austin to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Austin, September 4, 2022

Wuggazer, Mark T., Senior Pastor, St. John, Cypress to Candidate, June 4, 2024

Zucconi, Thomas A., Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Dallas to Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Dallas, September 20, 2021



ORDAINED RESIGNED OR REMOVED

Fickenscher, Michael H., October 5, 2023
Griffin, Benjamin, January 27, 2024
Kuenzel, Karl E., February 9, 2022
Reagan, William M., April 3, 2023

Rosentreter, Donald G., April 14, 2023
Talley, Phillip, October 23, 2024
Tilt, Aaron A., February 14, 2022

ORDAINED MINISTERS CALLED TO GLORY

Appel, Vernon L., August 26, 2021
Ascher, George P., December 31, 2022

Baisden, Kenneth W., April 9, 2023
Beck, Hubert F., January 27, 2023
Beltz, Dewyth D., March 13, 2022
Blakelock, B. Bruce, July 26, 2021

Case, Robert D., April 8, 2023
Chambers, Danny E., February 24, 2023
Coday, Terry J., September 15, 2021

Dobberfuhl, Ned A., March 12, 2021
Dretke, James P., August 24, 2021

Ebert, David F., July 22, 2021

Fibelkorn, John E., March 10, 2021
Finke, Norman R., July 27, 2024

Garcia, Ernesto L., April 25, 2023
Gerdes, Harvey A., February 21, 2021

Hadley, Tom C., February 12, 2023
Hartfield, Paul W., June 19, 2021
Haupt, James F., April 10, 2024
Hempelman, L. Dean, August 29, 2021
Hill, Arthur L., October 23, 2024
Hohle, Elmer M., April 29, 2021
Houppert, Ernest R., March 19, 2022
Houska, Charles L., June 27, 2023
Hoyer, Martin O., February 24, 2021

Joeckel, David B., September 20, 2022
Johnson, William A., December 22, 2022

Klaus, Kenneth R., March 23, 2023
Kluck, Herbert, May 31, 2021
Kohl, Carroll C., May 3, 2023
Koopmann, Gary A., March 27, 2024
Kuhlmann, Robert T., October 22, 2022

Loeffler, David G., August 14, 2024

McCown, Chester, June 21, 2022
Miller, John A., December 11, 2021
Mueller, Howard W., July 10, 2022
Musgrove, Alvin W., July 26, 2021

Nelson, Richard A., December 20, 2021
Neumann, Paul D., July 30, 2021
Nichols, Gerald L., April 12, 2021

Orea-Coria, Hiram, June 15, 2023

Pelto, Joseph A., March 11, 2023

Qualman, William A., May 24, 2021

Richardson Sr., James M., August 11, 2024
Rodeck, Ronald R., July 26, 2023
Rynearson, Stephen P., December 15, 2022

Schaibley, Robert W., December 13, 2022
Schumpe, Wayne E., June 10, 2023



Thiele, Gerald L., November 4, 2023

Wedergren, Robert B., July 30, 2024

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATIONS

Bartonville, The Grove, March 29, 2022

Bastrop, Epiphany, May 7, 2023

Copperas Cove, Immanuel/Trinity, September 1, 2022 (formation of a multi-congregation parish)

Corpus Christi, Trinity Our Savior, September 22, 2020

Ennis, Grace, April 18, 2021

Groves, Peace, November 30, 2021 (merger of St. Paul, Groves & Trinity, Port Arthur)

Hurst, Grace Divine, August 28, 2022

Katy, CrossRoad, August 7, 2022 (merger of Crosspoint & Emmaus Road, Katy)

League City, South Lake, January 21, 2024

Los Fresnos, The Table, May 18, 2021

Rockwall, Comunidad Cristiana Expansión, August 11, 2024

Robinson, Gathering, March 17, 2024

Spring, Lazarus, November 29, 2022

CONGREGATIONS DISBANDED OR DISSOLVED

Andrews, Faith, November 21, 2022

Brownsville, El Calvario, December 9, 2021

Childress, Trinity, May 2, 2021

Garland, Peace, January 12, 2023

George West, St. Paul, April 22, 2024

Grapevine, The Vine, July 31, 2020

Kingwood, Grace, July 26, 2021

Lyons, Immanuel, November 17, 2022

New Caney, Grace, July 26, 2021

Orange Grove, St. Paul, April 22, 2024

Paris, Beautiful Savior, August 12, 2024

Rowlett, Peace, January 12, 2023

Rosanky, Vineyard of Christ, January 20, 2022

Sommerville, Immanuel, November 17, 2022



COMMISSIONED MINISTERS COMMISSIONED & INSTALLED

Albers, Jessica, DCM (Mequon) Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, Missouri, Rev. Tim Niekerk, February 18, 2024

Angerman, Austin, DCE (Austin) Faith, Georgetown, Rev. Walt Pohland, February 13, 2022

Babisak, Matthew, (Seward-Colloquy) Faith, Plano, Rev. Stephen Kieser, August 27, 2023

Baehr, Carrie, (Seward-Colloquy) Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Lee Hopf, August 11, 2024

Bamsch, Abigail, (River Forest) Dallas Lutheran, Dallas, Rev. Dr. Victor Kollmann, August 22, 2021

Barron Valadez, Maria, Deaconess (St. Louis) Comunidad Cristiana Lutherana Expansion, Rockwall, Rev. Michael Newman, November 3, 2024

Boward, Megan, (Seward-Colloquy) Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, April 14, 2024

Butler, Stacy, (Seward-Colloquy) Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, March 1, 2024

Cherington, Lynette, (River Forest-Colloquy) Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White March 5, 2023

Dos Santos, Fabiana, Deaconess (St. Louis) Comunidad Cristiana Lutherana Expansion, Rockwall, Rev. Michael Newman, November 3, 2024

Eickstead, Andrew, (Austin-Colloquy) Lutheran High School of San Antonio, San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Brian Kachelmeier, May 4, 2023

Farrow, Aaron, (Austin) Faith, Sugar Land, Rev. Jeff Wuertz, August 6, 2023

Gerren, Hannah, (Austin-Colloquy) St. Paul, Thorndale, Rev. Aaron Kalbas, January 17, 2021

Hessong, Amelia, (River Forest) Lutheran High School of San Antonio, San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy, August 22, 2024

Hockemeyer, Brooke, (River Forest) Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, August 3, 2023

Holten, Rachel, (Irvine) Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 22, 2021

Jenkins, Jessica, (Seward) Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, August 19, 2022

Jonas, Faith, (Seward) Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy, August 13, 2023

Juergensen, Jessica, (Seward) Zion, Dallas, Rev. Dr. Robert Preece, August 21, 2022

Jungklaus, Rebecca, Deaconess (St. Louis) LifeBridge Community, Sealy, Rev. Dr. John Reinke, November 26, 2023



King, Amy, (Austin-Colloquy) St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. John Messmann, August 15, 2021
Krumwiede, Anastasia, (Austin-Colloquy) Memorial, Houston, Rev. Robert Paul, January 2, 2022

Liang, Megan, (Austin) Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 25, 2021
Lueckemeyer, Aliceson, (Seward-Colloquy) Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Lee Hopf, October 27, 2024

Lunsford, Charlotte, (Seward-Colloquy) Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Lee Hopf, October 27, 2024

Lutz, Katherine, DCE (River Forest) LOMT, La Grange, Rev. Michael Meissner, July 31, 2022

MacIntosh-Beatson, Joshua, DCE (Austin) Hosanna, Kerrville, Rev. David Bass, February 6, 2022

Mackowski, Elliot, DCE (Seward) Resurrection, Spring, Rev. Ted Benson, January 28, 2024

Medack, Madison, (St. Paul-Colloquy) Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Lee Hopf, October 27, 2024

Miller, Karl, DCM (Mequon) Fishers of Men, Sugar Land, Rev. Charles Ridley, June 23, 2024

Navas, Candice, (Austin-Colloquy) St. Mark, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, August 14, 2022

Nemec, Christianna, Deaconess (Fort Wayne) Redeemer, Lubbock, Rev. Thomas Eckstein, September 10, 2023

Payne, Stephani, (Seward-Colloquy) Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 18, 2024

Phillips, Kathryn, Deaconess (Fort Wayne) Memorial, Houston, Rev. Dr. Scott Murray, August 22, 2021

Pieper, Anna, DCE (Austin) LINC Ministries, Houston, Rev. Vince Parks, August 27, 2021

Pittock, Stephanie, DCE (St. Paul-Colloquy) Messiah, Plano, Rev. Dr. Victor Kollmann, May 22, 2022

Prince, Samuel, DCE (Austin) LOMT, La Grange, Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, July 25, 2021

Ringman, Melanie, (River Forest-Colloquy) Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, April 14, 2024

Schelen, Rebecca, (Austin) Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 22, 2021

Schneider, Erin, (Austin) St. Paul, Thorndale, Rev. Ben Gonzales, August 8, 2021

Straube, Julie, (Irvine) Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 18, 2024

Taylor, Kathryn, (Seward) Our Redeemer, Dallas, Rev. Brent McGuire, August 11, 2024

Thibodeaux, Victoria, DCE (Austin) Concordia University Texas, Austin, Rev. Steven Fick, October 18, 2021



Vogeler, Jason, (Austin-Colloquy) Memorial, Houston, Rev. Robert Paul, January 2, 2022

Winkelman, Tristan, (Austin) Zion, Walburg, Rev. John Davenport, July 18, 2021

Winkelman, Summer, (Austin) Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Yamin, Chelsea, (River Forest) Lutheran High North, Houston, Rev. Kelly Krieg, September 17, 2021

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS REINSTATED & INSTALLED

Blake, Sarah, 9/12/2024, to Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Lee Hopf, October 27, 2024

Eifert, Kimberly, to Candidate, 3/1/2022

Hengeveld, Adam, to Candidate, 11/13/2024

Jordening, Carol, to Candidate, 9/10/2021

Kemnitz, Alec, 11/17/2022, to Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, March 5, 2023

Maddux, Paula, to Candidate, 11/13/2024

Telschow, Jonathan, to Candidate, 11/13/2024

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS INACTIVE STATUS TO INSTALLED

Ahlman, Elizabeth, DCE/Candidate, Memorial Lutheran School, Houston, Rev. Robert Paul, August 22, 2021

Armstrong, Debra, Candidate, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Kelly Krieg, January 5, 2022

Bailey, Hayley, Candidate, Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, August 17, 2021

Bauer, Kaitlin, DCE/Candidate, Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, August 17, 2021

Black, Sarah, Candidate, Trinity, Amarillo, Rev. Rick Black, August 13, 2023

Bode, Joel, Emeritus, Concordia High School, Pflugerville, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 20, 2024

Cahill, Kyle, DPM/Candidate, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, January 16, 2022

Carey, Grant, DCE/Candidate, ACTS, Leander, Rev. Joshua Miller, February 18, 2024

Davis, Jennifer, Candidate, Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, September 24, 2021

Fingerle, Suzanne, Deaconess/Candidate, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022



Finke, Julie, Candidate, Salem, Tomball, Rev. Tim Niekerk, August 21, 2022
Finke, Elizabeth, DCE/Candidate, Christ, Fort Worth, Rev. Stace Rollefson, March 19, 2023
Friesen, Karen, Emeritus, Zion, Dallas, Rev. Dr. Robert Preece, August 18, 2024

Glandorf, Steven, Emeritus, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 22, 2021
Glandorf, Steven, Emeritus, Concordia High School, Pflugerville, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 20, 2024
Gray, Caroline, DCE/Candidate, Trinity Klein Lutheran School, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

Hobbs, Christiane, DCE/Candidate, Texas District, LCMS, Austin, Rev. Michael Newman, January 25, 2022
Hyslop, Dora, Candidate, Zion, Dallas, Rev. Dr. Robert Preece, August 21, 2022

Krueger, Julie, Candidate, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Levenhagen, Amy, Candidate, Concordia, San Antonio, Rev. William Tucker, August 14, 2022
Lutz, Katherine, DCE/Candidate, St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. Andy Audette, December 22, 2024

Meineke, Hannah, Candidate, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, December 31, 2024
Moerbe, Mary, Deaconess/Candidate, Memorial Lutheran School, Houston, Rev. Robert Paul, August 13, 2023
Moore, Bonnie, Candidate, St. Paul, Thorndale, Rev. Ben Gonzales, August 8, 2021

Parker, Sally, Candidate, Concordia, San Antonio, Rev. William Tucker, August 14, 2022

Rivers, Christine, Candidate, Faith, Plano, Rev. Stephen Kieser, August 16, 2022
Robison, Elizabeth, Candidate, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 15, 2021

Schultz, Melanie, Candidate, Trinity Klein Lutheran Church, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, November 13, 2022

Tamburello, Pamela, Candidate, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Houston, Rev. Jeff Muchow, January 3, 2021
Theis, Melissa, Candidate, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 21, 2022

Walther, Benjamin, Candidate, Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, January 20, 2023
Winkler, Kayla, Candidate, Concordia High School, Pflugerville, Rev. Dr. David Kluth, August 16, 2023



COMMISSIONED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED WITHIN TEXAS & INSTALLED

Bamsch, Abigail, Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Karl Ashcraft, August 28, 2024

Bangert, Jessica, Our Redeemer, Dallas, Rev. Brent McGuire, August 20, 2023

Baranski, Leah, Our Redeemer, Dallas, Rev. Brent McGuire, August 11, 2024

Bishop, Becky, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

Braun, Jonathan, DCM, Lamb of God, Flower Mound, Rev. Dr. Rance Settle, January 7, 2024

Brock, Kayla, DCE, Immanuel Lutheran School, Giddings, Rev. Robert Tiner, August 15, 2021

Brock, Kayla, DCE, Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Browning, Scott, LEAH - Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, August 16, 2024

Cahill, Kyle, DPM, Concordia, San Antonio, Rev. William Tucker, July 30, 2023

Carlove, Patrick, Concordia University Texas, Austin, Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott, January 25, 2023

Cattau, Daniel, LEAH - Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, August 16, 2024

Cavage, Rebecca, St. Paul, Thorndale, Rev. Dana Wilhelmsen, July 23, 2023

Chapman, Rosalie, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 21, 2022

Dueck, Erin, Crown of Life, Colleyville, Rev. Martin Richardson, August 13, 2023

Eisenbraun, Joel, LOMT, La Grange, Rev. Dr. Rich Noack, March 12, 2022

Entzenberger, Kathryn, LEAH Schools Downtown Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, June 6, 2021

Fick, Patricia, Redeeming Grace, Austin, Rev. Steven Fick, November 3, 2024

Fleming, Kate, LEAH - Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, August 19, 2022

Foote, Daniel, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Garcia, Vanessa, Immanuel, Giddings, Rev. Robert Tiner, August 15, 2021

Gil de Rodriguez, Perla, Deaconess, Gloria Dei, Houston, Rev. Dan Schepmann, January 9, 2022

Graham, Betsy, LEAH - Dallas Lutheran School, Dallas, Rev. Mark Couser, August 26, 2024

Hernandez, Jamie, Immanuel, Houston, Rev. Ian Pacey, August 11, 2024

Honeck, Jennifer, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

Hyslop, Dora, Our Redeemer, Dallas, Rev. Brent McGuire, August 20, 2023



Kahre, Renee, LEAH - Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Aaron Richert, August 19, 2022

Kirkwood, Tiffany, St. Paul, Thorndale, Rev. Ben Gonzales, August 8, 2021

Korte, Matthew, LEAH - Lutheran Education Association of Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, August 16, 2024

Luevano, Michelle, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Ralph Hobratschk, August 13, 2023

Martinez, Rosaura, Deaconess, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

McIntosh, Melody, Zion, Walburg, Rev. Zachary McIntosh, August 13, 2023

McNamara, Joshua, DCE, St. Paul, Waco, Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse, September 29, 2024

Moore, Bonnie, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 20, 2023

Moss, Corey, Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, August 27, 2023

Mueller, Leah, Our Redeemer, Dallas, Rev. Brent McGuire, September 12, 2021

Mueller, Dawn, Zion, Walburg, Rev. Dr. David Kluth, August 14, 2022

Nemec, Lisa, Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, August 4, 2022

Nunes, Brenna, Deaconess, Concordia University Texas, Austin, Rev. Jacob Boessling, October 1, 2022

Owens, Ross, DCE, LOMT, La Grange, Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, March 12, 2022

Phelps, Jason, DCE, Gloria Dei, Houston, Rev. Randy Miller, June 27, 2021

Prestwood, Elizabeth, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 21, 2022

Pulliam, Laura, DCE, Lazarus Church, Spring, Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther, January 22, 2023

Schneider, Kathryn, DCE, Resurrection, Spring, Rev. Dr. Stephen Sohns, May 2, 2021

Semler, Eric, Concordia International School Shanghai, China, Rev. Dr. Chris Mizel, August 11, 2024

Semler, Karin, Lutheran Hour Ministries, St. Louis, MO Rev. William Tucker, April 21, 2024

Stallings, Jennifer, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Staub, Michael, Memorial, Houston, Rev. Robert Paul, August 22, 2021

Stuewe, Kristin, Zion, Walburg, Rev. Dr. David Kluth, August 14, 2022

Uma Shankar, Kanagasabai, DCE, Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

Valencia, Sarah, DCE, CrossRoad, Katy, Rev. Paul Goeke, August 28, 2022

Valencia, Sarah, DCE, St. John, Cypress, Rev. Michael Newman, September 8, 2024

Walker, Sarah, Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 20, 2023



Warneke, Lindsey, Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, August 16, 2024

Wenthe, William, Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy, August 21, 2021

Werner, Dorinda, DCE, Texas District BMA, Austin, Rev. Michael Newman, August 28, 2022

White, Diane, Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 15, 2021

Winkelman, Steven, Concordia International School Shanghai, China, Rev. Dr. Chris Mizel, September 19, 2021

Zehnder, Stephen, Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garrabrant, August 16, 2024

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED TO TEXAS WITH CALL & INSTALLED

Arambel, Sally, Pacific Southwest District to Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Bigon, Katherine, Pacific Southwest District to Concordia, San Antonio, Rev. Zach McIntosh, August 22, 2021

Blake, Jennifer, Michigan District to St. Mark, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, August 9, 2024

Brandon, Catherine, Rocky Mountain District to Salem, Tomball, Rev. Tim Niekerk, August 21, 2022

Brandon, Michael, Rocky Mountain District to Salem, Tomball, Rev. Tim Niekerk, August 21, 2022

Brown, Kenzie, DCE, Southern District to King of Kings, Round Rock, Rev. Christopher Brynestad, July 9, 2023

Brutlag, Sarah, Northern Illinois District to Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 22, 2021

Cattau, Daniel, Pacific Southwest District to Concordia High School, Pflugerville, Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, August 17, 2022

Cholak, Stephanie, Rocky Mountain District to Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, August 21, 2022

Clift, Megan, CNH District to St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. Andy Audette, August 13, 2023

Crouch, Kellye, DCE, Southern District to Immanuel Lutheran School, Houston, Rev. Ian Pacey, August 13, 2023

Crouch, Richard, DCE, Southern District to Lutheran North Academy, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, August 23, 2023



Dueck, Daniel, California-Nevada-Hawaii District to Crown of Life, Colleyville, Rev. Martin Richardson, August 14, 2022

Dueck, Erin, California-Nevada-Hawaii District to St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. Andy Audette, August 14, 2022

Duensing-Werner, Audrey, DCE, Nebraska District to Gloria Dei, Houston, Rev. Dan Schepmann, July 31, 2022

Eggold, Stephen, Missouri District to Dallas Lutheran School, Dallas, Rev. Mark Couser, September 2, 2022

Eklund, Rachel, Pacific Southwest to Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, Rev. Brad Jurischk, August 22, 2024

Eklund, Todd, Pacific Southwest to Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, Rev. Brad Jurischk, August 22, 2024

Fogo, Scott, Pacific Southwest District to LEAH - Lutheran Education Association of Houston, Friendswood, Rev. Dan Schepmann, August 14, 2022

Gaide, Mary Laura-Li, DCE, Ohio District to Zion, Walburg, Rev. Dr. David Kluth, October 2, 2022

Garner, Emily, DCE, English District to Salem, Tomball, Rev. Vince Parks, July 31, 2022

Gowdy, Karsin, Northwest District to Crown of Life, Colleyville, Rev. Jack Schneider, August 11, 2024

Guerra, Noemi, Deaconess, Iowa West District to Texas District - LCMS, Austin, Rev. Michael Newman, August 1, 2021

Guynes, Allyssa, DCE, Northern Illinois District to Trinity, Woodway, Rev. Kevin Lentz, April 18, 2021

Heins, Joseph, Michigan District to St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. Andy Audette, August 11, 2024

Howard, Ryan, DCE, Atlantic District to Lamb of God, Humble, Rev. Tony Kobak, May 2, 2021

Howard, Roger, DCE, Pacific Southwest District to Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy, January 29, 2022

Hyslop, Scott, DPM, Michigan District to Zion, Dallas, Rev. Dr. Robert Preece, January 23, 2022

Irwin, Alexander, DCE, Minnesota South District to St. John, Cypress, Rev. Mark Wuggazer, September 11, 2022

Korte, Matthew, Nebraska District to Lutheran North Academy, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, August 23, 2023

Krueger, Steven, DCE, Michigan District to Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, November 7, 2021



Maynard, Patrick, CNH District to Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Steven Garabrant, August 16, 2024

McCarthy, Steven, DCE, Southeastern District to Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, February 19, 2023

Miller, Jordan, DPM, Nebraska District to Salem, Tomball, Rev. Tim Niekerk, September 3, 2023

Montgomery, Andrew, Northern Illinois District to St. Paul, Fort Worth, Rev. Andy Audette, July 7, 2024

Mueller, Jonathan, Missouri District to Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Dan Schepmann, August 8, 2021

Norris, Priscilla, Pacific Southwest District to Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Chris Singer, August 14, 2022

Parsons, Daniel, Pacific Southwest District to Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Karl Ashcraft, August 24, 2022

Pederson, Jessica, Northern Illinois District to St. Mark, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, August 9, 2024

Proctor, Jack, DCE, Florida-Georgia District to Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio, Rev. Zach McIntosh, August 22, 2021

Roesler, Kerrie, English District to Trinity Klein, Spring, Rev. Ralph Hobratschk, August 13, 2023

Ross, Laura, DCE, Southeastern District to St. Mark, Houston, Rev. Matthew Popovits, November 12, 2023

Salchert, Rachel, Northwest District to Redeemer, Austin, Rev. Kevin Westergren, August 21, 2022

Semler, Eric, Southeastern District to Concordia, San Antonio, Rev. William Tucker, August 20, 2023

Stahlecker, Brianne, Missouri District to Immanuel, Giddings, Rev. Robert Tiner, August 14, 2022

Strehlow, Kari, Florida-Georgia District to Zion, Walburg, Rev. Dr. David Kluth, August 14, 2022

Sugita, Tetsuya, DPM, Nebraska District to Bethel, Bryan, Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther, October 31, 2021

Thoeke, Kate, Southern Illinois District to Our Savior, Houston, Rev. Laurence White, July 11, 2021

Tripp, Mikhail, Minnesota South District to Immanuel, Giddings, Rev. Robert Tiner, August 11, 2024



Vasquez, Angela, Indiana District to Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Micah Miller, August 17, 2021

Walker, Kelsi, Pacific Southwest District to Prince of Peace Christian School, Carrollton, Rev. Karl Ashcraft, August 24, 2022

Walter, Bret, Pacific Southwest District to LEAH - Lutheran Education Association of Houston, Friendswood, Rev. John Davis, August 27, 2023

Warneke, Lindsey, Pacific Southwest District to Lutheran High North, Houston, Rev. Kelly Krieg, August 27, 2021

Welter, Leah, DCE, Florida-Georgia District to Peace, Hurst, Rev. Brian Weaver, January 9, 2022

Wilke, Christian, Michigan District to Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Rev. Dan Schepmann, August 8, 2021

Zehnder, Stephen, Pacific Southwest District to Lutheran North Academy, Houston, Rev. Lonnie Gonzales, September 27, 2023

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED TO TEXAS ON INACTIVE STATUS

Armstrong, Debra, Candidate, Pacific Southwest District, September 13, 2021

Bachmann, Lori, DCE/Emeritus, Florida-Georgia District, December 1, 2022

Cahill, Kyle, DPM/Candidate, Pacific Southwest District, November 19, 2021

Doering, Sandra, Emeritus, Northern Illinois District, August 2, 2021

Fingerle, Suzanne, Deaconess/Candidate, North Wisconsin District, August 9, 2022

Hagge, John, Emeritus, DCE/Teacher/North Dakota District, January 1, 2023

Hyslop, Dora, Candidate, Michigan District, January 1, 2022

Koopman, Karleen, Emeritus, South Dakota District, July 8, 2024

Krueger, Julie, Candidate, Michigan District, December 1, 2021

Loren, John, DCE/Candidate, Michigan District, February 13, 2023

Meyer, JoAnne, Emeritus, New England District, May 4, 2022

Moerbe, Mary, Deaconess/Candidate, Oklahoma District, May 25, 2023

Moudy, Lauren, Candidate, Mid-South District, July 22, 2022



Natonick, Marlys, Emeritus, Northwest District, July 1, 2024

Pauls, Rebekah, Candidate, Kansas District, May 7, 2024

Phifer, Jennifer, Candidate, Michigan District, November 1, 2024

Ridley, Stephanie, Candidate, Missouri District, June 3, 2022

Rivers, Christine, Candidate, Ohio District, April 27, 2022

Salmi, Kristine, Candidate, Southeastern District, August 21, 2024

Strehlow, Gloria, Emeritus, South Wisconsin District, August 16, 2024

Viray, Emmanuel, DCM/Candidate, Northern Illinois District, April 1, 2021

Walo, Karen, Candidate, Pacific Southwest District, December 20, 2021

Walther, Benjamin, Candidate, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, August 23, 2021

Warner, Stephanie, DCE/Candidate, Rocky Mountain District, January 25, 2022

Yung, Janice, Emeritus, South Dakota District, December 15, 2022

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Aadsen, Lori Emeritus to Rocky Mountain District, August 5, 2022

Bangert, Jason Called to Missouri District, July 1, 2024

Bangert, Jessica Called to Missouri District, June 30, 2024

Baringer, Brooke Called to Minnesota South District, July 1, 2021

Baringer, Todd Called to Minnesota South District, July 23, 2021

Barreto, Blythe DCE/Candidate to Florida-Georgia District, September 3, 2022

Bass, Katy DCE/Candidate to Florida-Georgia District, January 1, 2024

Beaver-Perez, Nichole Called to Pacific Southwest District, June 20, 2024

Boehme, Hannah Called to Missouri District, July 29, 2021

Brandon, Amy Called to Missouri District, July 1, 2021

Bredhoeft, Natasha Called to Ohio District, March 14, 2024

Brock, Chloe Candidate Called to Florida-Georgia, July 24, 2024

Brown-Fickenscher, Taylor Deaconess/Called to Indiana District, April 15, 2023

Buhler, Pamela Deaconess/Candidate to Indiana District, September 12, 2022

Cleland, Laura Emeritus to Mid-South District, September 9, 2022

Cordt, Victoria Emeritus to Florida-Georgia District, January 27, 2022



Drefs, Katherine Called to Missouri District, July 1, 2022
Duensing-Werner, Audrey DCE/Called to Nebraska District, July 1, 2021
Duke, Jacqueline Deaconess/Emeritus to Mid-South District, March 18, 2024

Finley, Jessica DCE/Called to South Wisconsin District, June 7, 2023
Fowler, Eleanor Emeritus to South Dakota District, February 19, 2024
Fritsche, Christopher Called to Michigan District, June 15, 2023
Fritsche, Kirsten Called to Michigan District, June 6, 2024

Gallmeier, Edward Emeritus to Florida-Georgia District, February 27, 2022
Gallmeier, Elizabeth Emeritus to Florida-Georgia District, February 27, 2022
Garcia, Brooke Called to Indiana District, July 8, 2023
Gmirek, Samuel Called to South Wisconsin District, June 7, 2024
Gorline, Gretchen Candidate to Missouri District, July 22, 2021
Gross, Jennifer DCE/Called to Minnesota South District, May 1, 2022

Hankemeier, Amanda Candidate Called to Missouri District, July 1, 2024
Heidtbrink, Natalie Called to Nebraska District, August 31, 2022
Hill, Matthew Called to Indiana District, July 31, 2021
Hill, Lorna Deaconess/Emeritus to Minnesota South District, January 14, 2022
Hoffschneider, Larry Emeritus to SELC District, January 25, 2021
Hoffschneider, Nancy Emeritus to SELC District, January 25, 2021
Hohnstadt, Elizabeth Candidate to Northwest District, November 4, 2021
Holman, Matthew Called to South Wisconsin District, August 16, 2022
Hook, Chelsea Called to Minnesota South District, June 7, 2024

Jahnke, Amanda DCE/Called to Southeastern District, July 31, 2022
Jahnke, Philip Candidate Called to Southeastern District, July 31, 2022
Jordening, Carol Candidate to Pacific Southwest District, September 15, 2021

Karner, Steven Called to South Wisconsin District, August 11, 2022
Kilpatrick, Andrea Candidate to Mid-South District, April 6, 2022
Koester, Elizabeth Deaconess/Called to Southern Illinois District, June 6, 2023
Kortze, Matthew DCE/Called to Northwest District, June 25, 2023
Kroemer, Jeff Called to South Wisconsin District, June 1, 2022

Liefer, Kelly Candidate to English District, August 31, 2021
Littmann, Aaron DCE/Called to Indiana District, February 5, 2024
Lohman, Tessa Called to Pacific Southwest District, July 31, 2021
Lorenzen, Michael Called to Michigan District, June 1, 2021
Lotz, Jennifer Candidate to Southern District, June 3, 2022

Maynard, Patrick Called to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, July 1, 2022



Miller, Deanna Called to Missouri District, July 23, 2022
Moore, Cassandra DCE/Candidate to Northwest District, October 23, 2023
Moritz, Todd Called to Pacific Southwest District, March 1, 2022
Mueller, Carol Emeritus to Nebraska District, August 18, 2021
Mueller, David Emeritus to Nebraska District, August 18, 2021
Mull, Lisa Called to Missouri District, June 30, 2022
Mussell, Leah Called to South Wisconsin District, June 1, 2022

Nash, Cora Called to Pacific Southwest District, June 1, 2022
Netherton, Karen Emeritus to Iowa East District, March 1, 2022
Nitz, Todd Called to Northern Illinois District, July 3, 2023
Nitz, Angela DCE/Called to Northern Illinois District, July 23, 2023

Osborn, Jeffrey Called to Southeastern District, July 1, 2021

Palisch, Daniel Emeritus to Missouri District, January 21, 2022
Perry, Andrew DCE/Candidate to Rocky Mountain District, May 10, 2021
Phillips, Kathryn Deaconess/Called to Southern District, June 23, 2023
Preston, Emily DCO/Called to Pacific Southwest District, July 18, 2021
Preston, Matthew DPM/Called to Pacific Southwest District, July 18, 2021
Psencik, Robert Candidate to Nebraska District, July 22, 2021
Psencik, Sheila Candidate to Nebraska District, July 22, 2021

Raebel, Micah DPM/Candidate to Pacific Southwest District, September 14, 2021
Robinson, Joel Emeritus to Indiana District, August 18, 2021
Rockrohr, Megan Candidate to South Wisconsin District, April 11, 2022
Roettjer, Stephanie DCE/Candidate to Rocky Mountain District, June 26, 2022
Rogers, Randall Candidate Called to Northern Illinois District, April 29, 2022

Schlie, Rachel Candidate to Mid-South District, January 31, 2022
Schneider, Kathryn DCE/Called to Iowa West District, February 9, 2023
Schultz, Jane Candidate to Michigan District, August 1, 2024
Seeliger, Michaela DCE/Called to Missouri District, August 25, 2024
Segovia, Brenda DCE/Candidate to Northwest District, January 12, 2021
Seris, Philip Called to South Wisconsin District, June 25, 2021
Seter, Guy DCE/Candidate to Nebraska District, April 26, 2022
Sievert, Kathryn DCE/Called to Pacific Southwest District, December 19, 2021
Smith, Skylar DCE/Called to Southern District, August 15, 2021
Sommermeyer, David Emeritus to Indiana District, January 18, 2021
Studer, Kiara Called to Southeastern District, July 12, 2024
Swanson, Craig Emeritus to Pacific Southwest District, January 15, 2022

Thompson, Michelle Called to Pacific Southwest District, April 9, 2021



Vega, Aaron DCE/Called to Rocky Mountain District, June 1, 2023

Welter, Leah DCE/Called to Minnesota South District, November 15, 2024

Winckler, Michael DCE/Candidate to Missouri District, June 17, 2024

Wolfgang, Barbara Emeritus to Pacific Southwest District, August 1, 2024

Wolfgang, Dale Emeritus to Pacific Southwest District, August 1, 2024

Wollenberg, Katherine Called to Southern Illinois District, January 31, 2021

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS CHANGE OF STATUS

Antrim, Joanne, Active to Candidate, April 21, 2023

Auger, Cherie, Candidate to Emeritus, September 16, 2022

Bahr, Donald, Candidate to Emeritus, April 19, 2021

Barreto, Blythe, DCE/Active to Candidate, July 1, 2022

Bartz, Bradley, DCE/Active to Candidate, August 16, 2021

Bass, Katy, DCE/Active to Candidate, August 14, 2023

Becker, Michael, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024

Black, Sarah, Active to Candidate, September 1, 2022

Bode, Joel, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2023

Boehne, Bruce, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2023

Bortnem, Brett, DCE/Active to Candidate, September 1, 2021

Brandenburger, Corey, Active to Candidate, March 2, 2024

Braun, Linda, Candidate to Emeritus, June 11, 2022

Braunersreuther, Rachel, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2022

Brotzman, Ruth, Candidate to Emeritus, May 31, 2021

Buchheimer, Paul, Candidate to Emeritus, April 7, 2024

Buhler, Pamela, Deaconess/Active to Candidate, September 1, 2022

Burdick, Brenda, Active to Candidate, September 1, 2021

Canez, Joan, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2021

Carey, Grant, Active to Candidate, April 25, 2023

Carlove, Patrick, Active to Candidate, April 2, 2023

Christian, Donald, Active to Candidate, April 11, 2023

Cleland, Laura, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2022

Crouch, Richard, DCE/Active to Candidate, July 1, 2024

Cunningham, Chloe, Active to Candidate, June 5, 2021

Davis, Mark, Candidate to Emeritus, February 20, 2022

Devine, Connie, Active to Emeritus, September 1, 2022

Diaz, Linda, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2021



Doering, Mike, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2022
Drake, Chase, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2023
Driskill, William, Active to Emeritus, November 1, 2022

Eggold, Stephen, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024
Ehrhardt, Monica, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2023
Einem, Randy, Active to Emeritus, June 15, 2022
Evert, Catherine, Candidate to Emeritus, March 15, 2022

Fick, Patricia, Active to Candidate, April 13, 2023
Finke, Julie, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2023
Fowler, Eleanor, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2022
Fraker, Sharon, Candidate to Emeritus, July 1, 2022
Frantz, Teri, DCE/Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Fritsche, Kirsten, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2023

Gaertner, Mary Beth, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2022
Gary, Sue, Active to Emeritus, March 1, 2024
Gatlin, Connie, Candidate to Emeritus, January 10, 2023
Gerard, Lance, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2021
Gerard, Dana, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2023
Gerard, Dana, Candidate to Emeritus, March 12, 2024
Glandorf, Steven, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2023
Goedecke, Keith, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2023
Goedecke, Stephanie, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2023
Goeke, David, Candidate to Emeritus, March 9, 2021
Gray, Caroline, DCE/Active to Candidate, March 29, 2021
Gremmer, Elizabeth, Active to Emeritus, January 1, 2021
Griedl, Mary, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2023
Griffin, Michelle, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2021
Guynes, Allyssa, DCE/Active to Candidate, July 20, 2024

Hahn, Christopher, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Hilgendorf, Thomas, Active to Emeritus, May 25, 2023
Himmler, Gary, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2022
Hohle, Gwendolyn, Active to Emeritus, October 1, 2022
Hohnstadt, Elizabeth, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
House, James, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024
Huwyler, Sue, Active to Emeritus, May 27, 2022

Kemnitz, Dirk, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024
Kirk, Kristi, Active to Candidate, April 5, 2023
Kleb, Michelle, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2024



Kleinberg, Jordyn, Active to Candidate, July 2, 2023
Krause, Bradley, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024
Kretzmann, Norma, Active to Emeritus, October 1, 2021
Krumwiede, Anastasia, Active to Candidate, June 1, 2024

Lange, Kristi, Active to Candidate, January 13, 2022
Lerch, Kathleen, Candidate to Emeritus, July 26, 2023
Loesch, Jonathan, DCE/Active to Emeritus, May 1, 2024
Lutz, Katherine, DCE/Active to Candidate, January 1, 2024

MacIntosh-Beatson, Joshua, DCE/Active to Candidate, January 1, 2024
Meineke, Hannah, Active to Candidate, April 12, 2023
Menke, Thomas, Candidate to Emeritus, August 1, 2024
Moehring, Cheryl, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2024
Molitor, Laura, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Moore, Cassandra, DCE/Active to Candidate, November 14, 2022
Mueller, Carol, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2021
Mueller, David, Active to Emeritus, July 1, 2021

Nichols, Jayme, DCE/Active to Candidate, February 1, 2021
Norris, Julianne, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2022
Nunes, Brenna, Active to Candidate, April 7, 2023

Paluch, Martin, Active to Emeritus, July 31, 2021
Pata, Ronda, Candidate to Emeritus, January 30, 2023
Paulsel, Brenda, Candidate to Emeritus, April 13, 2021
Perez, Harmony, DCE/Active to Candidate, January 1, 2022
Pittock, Stephanie, DCE/Active to Candidate, November 6, 2022
Psencik, Robert, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Psencik, Sheila, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Pulfer, Denise, DCE/Active to Emeritus, May 21, 2023

Raebel, Micah, Active to Candidate, September 2, 2021
Ragaisis, DeeAnn, Active to Candidate, January 1, 2022
Ragaisis, DeeAnn, Candidate to Emeritus, January 13, 2023
Rogers, Randall, Active to Candidate, January 22, 2022
Rudi, Carol, Candidate to Emeritus, January 1, 2021
Rupp, Donna, Active to Emeritus, July 22, 2023
Ryan, Rick, Active to Emeritus, August 1, 2023

Sanchez, Leticia, Deaconess/Active to Emeritus January 1, 2023
Schaefer, Susan, Candidate to Emeritus, May 26, 2021
Schultz, Melanie, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2021



Schultz, Jane, Active to Candidate, May 25, 2024
Seris, Elizabeth, Active to Candidate, July 1, 2021
Siegrist, William, Candidate to Emeritus, May 7, 2021
Snow, Abigail, DCE/Active to Candidate, October 9, 2023
Stuenkel, Paul, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2021
Styf, Sarah, Active to Candidate, February 12, 2021

Thibodeaux, Victoria, DCE/Active to Candidate, April 2, 2023

Vogt, Lisa, Active to Candidate, July 2, 2024

Walo, Karen, Candidate to Emeritus, May 31, 2022
Whightsil, Sharon, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2023
Wilk, Mark, Candidate to Emeritus, June 30, 2021
Wimberley, Linda, Active to Emeritus, June 1, 2021
Wolfgram Dale, Active to Emeritus, June 16, 2024
Wrege, Thomas, Active to Candidate, August 1, 2024

Youmans, Jacob, Active to Candidate, April 12, 2023

Zoch, Anita, Candidate to Emeritus, April 25, 2024

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS CALLED TO GLORY

Arltdt, Judith, April 4, 2021

Bachmann, Lori, December 14, 2024
Berry, Jerome Gayle, May 11, 2023
Bilich, Andrew, October 21, 2024
Boerger, Mark, October 4, 2024

Deterling, Lillian, May 26, 2023

Greenwald, Linda, April 10, 2022

Held, Michael, March 19, 2024
Henke, Stephen, September 22, 2022
House, Robert, March 8, 2024

Kamprath, James, February 22, 2024
Koenig, David, March 9, 2021
Kunz, Reynold, June 19, 2021

Lacey, Howard, September 18, 2021
Lindsay, Kay, October 28, 2021
Lubben, William (Bill), October 21, 2023
Lunsford, Amy, January 20, 2021

Menke, Steven, December 16, 2021
Mueller, Gene, March 10, 2024

Oettel, Robert, August 20, 2024

Roskavich, Eloise, September 19, 2024
Rudi, Bruce, December 24, 2023

Schepmann, Darrell, April 3, 2022

Telschow, Connie, October 1, 2023



Wallis, Diane, June 25, 2023
Wenthe, William, September 25, 2024
Williams, John, June 18, 2021

Zielke, Donald, August 9, 2021
Zoch, Theodore, January 7, 2024

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS REMOVED/RESIGNED

Allman, Richard, August 1, 2023
Anderson, Chris, June 27, 2024
Appel, Kristin, August 1, 2024
Aufdemberge, Carol, January 1, 2024

Baker, Sarah, July 2, 2021
Barrett, Heidi, July 9, 2021
Bielefeldt, Angie, August 1, 2024
Bielefeldt, Teresa, January 9, 2024
Bleier, Heather, June 28, 2022
Boehnke, Annette, June 15, 2023
Bortnem, Brett, February 17, 2022
Brandenburger, Melissa, May 27, 2021
Bransky, Karen, August 1, 2024
Brda, Ellen, August 1, 2024
Brown, Allison, August 1, 2024
Brumbaugh, Zachary, June 1, 2024
Buchheimer, Matthew, July 2, 2021
Buffington, Linda, December 31, 2022
Burdick, Brenda, January 9, 2023

Carey, Carrie, May 24, 2021
Carpenter, Aaron, June 1, 2023
Chai, Joshua, February 4, 2022
Constantino, Correne, August 1, 2023
Craig, Tamra, August 1, 2024

DeHaven, Stephanie, June 1, 2024
Denow, Lola, October 1, 2021
Deutsch, Cathlyn, August 1, 2024
Dietzmann, Lisa, January 1, 2024
Domin, Michelle, July 9, 2021
Dominguez, Candice, November 7, 2021
Drosche, Amy, June 28, 2022

Eliassen, Connie, January 24, 2023

Engbretson, Chelsie, August 1, 2024
Esquivel, Katie, October 1, 2021
Evans, Tanner, June 1, 2022

Feinberg, Rhonda, August 1, 2024
Fraker, Emily, June 29, 2022
Fuessel, Susan, August 1, 2024

Galler, Kelly, August 12, 2024
Goddard, Bartley, September 14, 2022
Goedecke, Keith, June 4, 2024
Goedecke, Stephanie, June 4, 2024
Gottula, Holly, August 4, 2021
Griffin, Michelle, August 1, 2024
Guerrero, Melissa, July 2, 2021

Hanson, John, July 9, 2021
Harmann, Craig, April 13, 2021
Hauser, Andrea, January 1, 2024
Hayes, Steven, January 1, 2024
Helfers, Brooke, March 3, 2022
Hengeveld, Adam, June 23, 2022
Henning, Gail, August 1, 2024
Hipp, Jennifer, July 9, 2021

Irwin, Alexander, March 24, 2024

Kemnitz, Alec, July 2, 2021
Kemnitz, Detlef, June 1, 2024
Kersten, Kevin, April 27, 2021
King, Elizabeth, June 1, 2021
King, Jennifer, January 1, 2024
Kirby, Jean, August 1, 2023
Kleinberg, Jordyn, September 13, 2024
Kluth, Adam, July 2, 2021
Koehler, Sarah, July 9, 2021



Kruse, Stanley, August 15, 2023

Lange, Lois, August 1, 2024
Lauder, Kimberly, August 1, 2022
Lawrence, Katy, August 1, 2024

Manthe, Kamara, July 2, 2021
Martindale, Justin, July 2, 2021
McEwin, Robert, July 2, 2021
Menzel, Kathleen, November 16, 2022
Miles, Catherine, July 16, 2021
Miller, Linda, July 9, 2021
Miller, Pauline, August 15, 2023
Mitchell, Deborah, July 2, 2021
Munz (Morrow), Rebekah, August 8, 2023

Nichols, Jayme, February 19, 2024
Noack, Bonnie, December 31, 2022
Norris, Julianne, June 10, 2024

Pape, Allison, March 28, 2022
Perez, Harmony, April 10, 2023
Perry, Laura, July 2, 2021
Pipho, Gerhardt, August 1, 2024
Prince, Samuel, August 28, 2022

Rahn, Joel, February 25, 2022
Reagan, Theresa, August 1, 2024
Redmond, Jana, December 7, 2022
Robbins, Nathan, June 1, 2024

Rostkowski, Lisa, August 1, 2024

Sage, Janice, July 9, 2021
Schaekel, Bert, August 11, 2023
Schraeder, Amber, June 4, 2021
Schutz, Aimee, August 11, 2021
Stoneburner, Elizabeth, June 25, 2022
Strandt, Marlene, August 1, 2024
Streit, Karl, June 28, 2022
Styf, Sarah, August 1, 2022
Swisher, Jonathan, January 1, 2024

Taylor, Christina, July 2, 2021
Telschow, Jonathan, August 8, 2023
Tesfaye, Abigail, June 1, 2022
Thiede, Mary, July 3, 2024
Thomas, Jaimie, June 2, 2021

Walker, Audrey, August 4, 2021
Wasson, John, November 11, 2021
Weaver, Victoria, January 28, 2022
Wetuski, Angela, June 28, 2023
Whitaker, Abby, July 9, 2021
Whitson, Linda, January 1, 2024
Wilk, Mark, August 1, 2024
Williams, Elizabeth, November 10, 2024
Winkler, Chris, April 14, 2023
Wolbert, Gregory, July 1, 2021
Wuensche, Christina, July 2, 2021
Young, Angelica, January 5, 2023



ANNIVERSARIES

Significant anniversaries, beginning with the 25th, are being observed at the District Convention for the four years beginning with the last convention year. Therefore, in 2025, we observe anniversaries in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Anniversaries for 2025 will be observed at the District Convention in 2028.

ORDAINED MINISTERS' ANNIVERSARIES

75th Anniversary		Donald Muchow	1962
Edward Schneider	1949	Glenn O'Shoney	1962
		David Schultz	1963
70th Anniversary			
Richard Wagner	1953		
65th Anniversary		55th Anniversary	
Donald Black	1958	Donald Berg	1968
Alvin Franzmeier	1957	Daniel Canion	1966
Walter Harms	1959	David Couchman	1969
Eugene Krentz	1958	David Dubbelde	1969
Walter Marth	1959	Fred Gersch	1967
Thomas Petersen	1956	James Haner	1966
Benjamin Rathgeber	1958	Stephen Kappler	1967
Wilbert Sohns	1959	David Londenber	1969
Mark Steege	1957	Richard Mayerhoff	1969
Waldemar Wehmeier	1959	Wayne Renning	1966
		Gary Schaper	1966
		Richard Schroeder	1967
		Frank Starr	1967
60th Anniversary		Norman Stoppenhagen	1968
Paul Dorn	1961	Dennis Tegtmeier	1966
Walter Dube	1963		
Harold Fleischhauer	1964	50th Anniversary	
Roger Grummer	1961	Paul Baumann	1972
Robert Hill	1961	Neil Bockelmann	1972
Kenneth Holdorf	1964	William Dasch	1973
Alston Kirk	1964	Gilbert Franke	1972
Carl Kummer	1961	Wayne Graumann	1974
Alvin Lange	1963	Kenneth Hennings	1973
Wilbern Michalk	1963	John Hirsch	1973



Paul Howe	1972
Richard Kessler	1971
William Knippa	1973
Gary Martin	1974
Richard Miller	1974
Richard Mohr	1974
Marcus Mueller	1974
Dewayne Nelson Jr.	1973
Irvin Newman Jr.	1972
Richard Noack	1974
Gary Pohl	1971
Robert Preece	1973
Charles Rogers	1972
Jack Schneider	1974
David Schroder	1972
John Selle	1971
Kenneth Sinclair	1971
Robert Teichmiller	1973
Stephen Wagner	1973
Laurence White	1974

45th Anniversary

David Adler	1979
David Bahn	1979
Allen Bauer	1977
David Bergman	1979
Gordon Besel	1979
Bruce Biesenthal	1976
Charles Boerger	1977
Gerald Boerger	1977
Robert Budewig	1976
Todd Dittloff	1976
Ruben Dominguez-	
Martinez	1979
John Frahm	1976
Michael Frick	1978
David Hintze	1977
Ralph Hobratschk	1976

Roger Hotopp	1979
Laverne Janssen	1977
David Kluth	1977
Robert Kobler	1976
Donald Loesch	1976
George Loudonback	1977
James Mann	1976
Elder McCants	1977
David McKnight	1979
Milferd Meyer	1979
Paul Puffe	1979
David Quail	1976
Curtis Schneider	1977
Roland Schutz	1977
Mark Seeger	1979
Paul Teske	1976
Thomas Van Duzer	1979
Randy Walquist	1978

40th Anniversary

Mark Barz	1982
Henry Beverly	1982
Dennis Bragdon	1982
Wayne Braun	1984
Mark Brunette	1983
Kenneth Burkhard	1982
Mark Dankis	1983
John Davenport	1983
Timothy Dinger	1982
Allen Doering	1983
Douglas Dommer	1981
Craig DuBois	1981
Mark Elliott	1984
Donald Fraker	1983
Alfred Gallmeier	1982
Arthur Goldberger	1984
Michael Gruhn	1981
Randall Haedge	1982



Steven Henze	1981	Richard Snyder	1981
Rudy Herbrich	1981	Stephen Sohns	1984
Chris Johnson	1981	Russell Tieken	1981
David Jung	1984	Russell Weise	1982
Douglas Kabell	1982	Craig Whitson	1984
Mark Karle	1982		
Donald Kasper	1982	35th Anniversary	
Donald Kirklen	1984	John Austin	1986
Victor Kollmann	1981	Michael Bailey	1986
Alan Korinek	1981	Brian Bestian	1987
Steven Larsen	1983	Dale Bohm	1989
David Leeland	1981	Jon Braunersreuther	1989
Thomas Lubeck	1982	John De Young	1989
Michael Mattil	1984	D. Bruce Drees	1988
James Menke	1983	Timothy Engel	1989
John Messmann	1982	Patrick Erickson	1986
Paul Meyer	1981	Patrick Ferry	1988
Chad Miller	1983	Gregory Finke	1989
Steven Misch	1982	Ronald Gebauer	1986
Steve Morfitt	1982	Richard Goodwill	1987
David Mumm	1981	Edward Greenthaner	1987
Scott Murray	1983	Charles Hamit	1988
Richard Nelson	1983	Robert Holaday	1989
Charles Paulson	1982	Matthew Jacobs	1989
Richard Pfaff	1983	Kenneth Krippner	1988
John Raddatz	1982	Larry Krueger	1986
John Ramey	1984	Randy Ledbetter	1986
Carl Rau	1984	Jeffrey Lee	1987
David Rohde	1984	Sun Moon Lee	1989
Kurt Rutz	1984	Laurence Lieder	1987
Ralph Sackschewsky	1981	Richard Lofgren	1986
David Sawhill	1981	Gregory Lorenz	1989
Craig Schinnerer	1983	James Martin	1989
Landon Schkade Jr.	1984	Kenneth Mitschke	1988
Neldo Schmidt	1984	Daniel Molyneux	1986
Wayne Schueler	1982	John Moore	1986
Richard Schuller	1982	Paul Neuberger	1988
Stanley Seat	1984	Michael Newman	1987



Robert Pase	1989
Walter Pohland	1988
Jared Raebel	1987
John Reinke	1989
Scott Rische	1988
Timothy Rosenthal	1988
Jon Salminen	1989
John Stennfeld	1989
Kenyon Stroud	1988
William Tucker	1987
Richard Turner Jr.	1989
Kevin Westergren	1987
Billy Woolsey	1987
James Wright	1986

30th Anniversary

Terrance Adamson	1992
Joseph Ardy	1991
Kenneth Bersche	1994
Jay Beyer	1993
Ronald Bogs	1992
Martin Brauer	1994
Willie Campbell Jr.	1994
John Davis Jr.	1993
Michael Dorn	1991
John Elser	1992
Gerald Epperson	1993
Michael Erickson	1993
Russell Etzel	1992
Robert Gentet	1993
Curtis Giese	1994
Michael Hafer	1992
Peter Heckmann	1992
Dimas Jimenez	1992
Richard Jones	1991
Paul Kaiser	1992
Arthur Maynard	1994
Jerome McNamara	1991

Yohannes Mengsteab	1991
Jeffrey Muchow	1993
Ninh Huu Nguyen	1992
David Reese	1991
Stacy Rollefson	1992
Eddie Scheler Jr.	1991
John Schmidt	1992
William Sharp	1993
Scott Stewart	1991
James Sturgis Sr.	1994
Robert Sweet	1992
M. Alan Taylor	1993
Mark Tews	1992
Jon Thomas	1994
Kenneth Watson	1994
Delton Weiser	1991
Dana Wilhelmsen	1993
Philip Wottrich	1993
Jeffrey Wuertz	1993
Kyu Yi	1993

25th Anniversary

Mark Anderson	1996
Joseph Andrajack Jr.	1999
Jon Arbogast	1998
Keith Aschenbeck	1999
David Bailes	1996
Randall Bard	1997
Greg Beutel	1998
Brady Blasdel	1998
Edward Boineau	1997
Gerald Boldt	1996
Jonathan Bontke	1999
John Cain	1996
David Cecil	1996
Thomas Chryst	1999
Allan Eckert	1999
Jock Ficken	1998



Gilberto Flores	1996
Michael Franckowiak	1999
Jayson Galler	1998
Edward Giese	1998
Jonathan Goeke	1996
Scott Heitshusen	1996
Robert Hemsath	1996
Kevin Jennings	1997
Herbert Keistman	1996
Richard Lamb	1996
J. Tom Lapacka	1998
Robert LeBlanc	1996
Ronald Luedemann	1999

Michael Meissner	1996
Pete Mueller	1998
Timothy Niekerk	1997
Phillip Phifer	1998
David Reedy	1996
Steven Roth	1996
Daniel Schepmann	1996
Dale Snyder	1998
Erik Stadler	1998
David Truenow	1996
Joseph Watson	1997
Byron Williams	1996

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS' ANNIVERSARIES

70th Anniversary

Rollin Cattau	1954
R. Leroy Hohle	1954

Lee Stocker	1964
Helen Wenthe	1961
Carolyn Wilke	1962
Eva Zoch	1964

65th Anniversary

Vernon Clausen	1959
Betty Dorn	1958
Jonathan Fischer	1959
Leland Frese	1959
Dorothea Jacob	1957
JoAnne Meyer	1959
Dalton Noack	1959

55th Anniversary

Fred Bleeke	1967
Janet Brunette	1967
Carol Bradley	1968
Paul Buchheimer	1968
Roy Capdeville	1968
Thomas Couser	1969
Dorothea Eckert	1966
Rodney Eckert	1966
Sharlyn Fritz	1966
Lowell Goecker	1967
Carol Helms	1968
Eunice Hendrickson	1969
Dr. Lou Jander	1966
Martha Jander	1966
Paulette Kamprath	1969
Wayne Karcher	1968
Alice Klement	1969
Joyce Kokel	1968
Eloise Kuhlmann	1967

60th Anniversary

Elisabeth Bennett	1963
Ina Diepenbrock	1964
Ray Diepenbrock	1964
Laura Dinda	1964
William Driskill	1964
Katherine Gerdes	1962
Jay Musfeldt	1963
Sharon Richter	1963
Curtis Riske	1964
David Schultz	1962
James Stevenson	1964



Virgil Losey	1966	Susan Moerbe	1974
Larry Meissner	1968	Mary Mountford	1971
Janet Meyer	1968	Carol Mycock	1973
Michael Odinga	1969	Michael Naleieha	1973
Allan Paluch	1969	Sandra Nun	1971
Margaret Schaefer	1968	Marilyn Petersen	1971
Bruce Schaller	1968	Jane Pohl	1974
Rita Schaller	1968	Linda Rottermond	1971
Melvin Schiwart	1967	Larry Saalfeld	1974
James Schroeder	1968	Vincent Straub	1974
Betty Schulze	1968	Paul Stuenkel	1974
Mary Lou Sentesi	1969	Donn Trautner	1973
Gilbert Sernett	1967	Ardith Vandercook	1971
Carolyn Shaver	1967	James Vandercook	1971
Marjorie Tracy	1969	Janet Whitson	1971
Cheryl Wildauer	1969		
Larry Wissner	1969		
John Zacho	1968		
50th Anniversary		45th Anniversary	
Steven Allmon	1972	Donald Bahr	1977
Deborah Baacke	1973	Jean Bangert	1978
Mark Baacke	1973	Deborah Beisert	1977
Donna Coppersmith	1972	Kathy Bodin	1979
Sandra Doering	1971	Sandra Clinkenbeard	1976
Gary Einem	1972	Connie Devine	1977
Carolyn Keys	1973	Lynette Eickemeyer	1977
Glen Kieschnick	1973	Christine Eilers	1977
Carol Kluth	1973	Randy Einem	1976
Sylvia Kokel	1971	Thomas Farrand	1979
Wayne Kramer	1972	Ronald Fritsche	1976
Barbara Krause	1973	Connie Gatlin	1979
Paul Krentz	1971	Rob Gerlach	1978
Rebecca Krentz	1971	Karla Heerssen	1977
		William Hinz	1978
Linda Leitner	1973	James House	1979
Cheryl Linebrink	1971	Ann Jung	1977
Jan Lohmeyer	1971	Carolyn Koslan	1977
"N.J." Malenke	1972	Keith Lund	1976
Robert Malzahn	1971	David Lundin	1977
Naomi Matthys	1973	Leann McClain	1976
Timothy Miesner	1974	Mark McClain	1976
Randall Moerbe	1973	Dr. James McConnell	1977
		Deborah Merkord	1977
		Lanny Merkord	1977
		Eunice Meyer	1979



Kurt Niebuhr	1979
Martin Paluch	1977
Kimberly Pfaff	1979
David Rahberg	1978
Michael Rathje	1976
Carol Rudi	1976
Julia Sawhill	1977
Kevin Schlichting	1979
Wyatt Schultz	1978
Kathryn Stevens-Verdi	1976
Timothy Weber	1979
Angela Zuehsow	1976

40th Anniversary

Elizabeth Alyea-Brooks	1982
Kimberly Appel	1982
Virginia Axtell	1982
Michael Becker	1983
Joel Bode	1983
Rachel Braunersreuther	1984
Ruth Brotzman	1981
Dr. Don Christian	1981
Sue Davis	1982
Stephen Eggold	1984
Cathy Evert	1984
Patricia Fick	1984
R. Jeff Fink	1981
Kathleen Fischer	1983
Judith Friesenhahn	1982
Thomas Geyer	1984
Matthew Headley	1982
Gary Himmler	1981
Gwendolyn Hohle	1983
Nancy Horton	1982
John Kaster	1984
Dirk Kemnitz	1981
Michael Kesar	1983
Richard Knotts	1984
Pamela Krause	1982
Sandra Leger	1984
George Leitner	1982
Jonathan Loesch	1983
Thomas Menke	1982

Cindy Miller	1982
Carol A. Mueller	1984
Donna Mueller	1981
Becky Neumann	1983
Carrie Reber	1984
Richard Ryan	1982
Daniel Schaefer	1982
Susan Schaefer	1982
Penny Schimank	1983
Diane Severson	1981
William Siegrist	1981
Ellen Stamp	1982
Audrey Stoneburner	1984
Gordon Stoneburner	1984
Gloria Strehlow	1981
Pamela Tamburello	1984
Douglas Urban	1981

35th Anniversary

Debra Armstrong	1986
Kevin Baker	1986
Gene Benson	1986
Stephen Brennan	1989
A. LaNell Buchhorn	1988
Veloyce Dorn	1986
Kathryn Entzenberger	1987
Lance Gerard	1986
Sandra Hampton	1986
Archie Harlow	1986
Roger Howard	1986
Nancy Hurst	1987
Dr. Gertrude Keiper	1989
Dr. Paul Keiper	1987
Karleen Koopman	1987
Bradley Krause	1986
Kathleen Lerch	1988
Kathryn Leslie	1986
Richard Leslie	1988
Rebecca McArthur	1986
Bonnie Moore	1988
Dawn Mueller	1986
Lisa Quickel	1988
Dee Ann Ragaisis	1989



Penny Robbins	1987
Carolyn Rouse	1987
Donna Rupp	1987
Donna Schelen	1986
Lisa Schmidt	1989
Sheryl Seybold	1988
Rose Marie Stoermer	1989
William Wenthe, Jr.	1989
Phillip Wilke	1988
Robert Williams	1988
Suzan Winkelman	1988
Sharon Wottrich	1986
Lea Zimmerman	1987

30th Anniversary

Cheryl Bailes	1993
Sarah Black	1994
Amy Boatman	1994
Bruce Boehne	1993
Harold Boldt	1992
Maxine Bradshaw	1992
Jan Brennan	1991
Patrick Carlove	1991
Guelda Cullen	1994
Linda Diaz	1994
Audrey Duensing-Werner	1992
James Eifert	1992
Kimberly Eifert	1992
Shannon Fincke	1994
Sheri Fischer	1993
Scott Fogo	1993
Nathan Frerking	1991
Michelle Grant	1994
Mary Sue Griedl	1994
Tami Heupel	1994
Mary Hooper	1993
Dora Hyslop	1991
Julie Kangas	1992
Matthew Korte	1991
Nancy Kurio	1994
Timothy Merritt	1994
Walter Mischnick	1992
Mark Palmer	1991

Brenda Paulsel	1991
Heidi Peterson	1992
Denise Pulfer	1992
Garret Riveness	1993
Michelle Scheer	1994
Dr. Eric Semler	1994
Karin Semler	1993
Dr. Kurt Senske	1994
Janel Skrabanek	1994
Michele Snow	1994
Shelli Stuewe	1994
Tetsuya Sugita	1994
J. Scot Walter	1994
Kimberly Warneke	1993
Rebecca West	1992
John Wilt	1994
Steven Winkelman	1993

25th Anniversary

Peter Bergman	1997
Carol Bowen	1998
Corey Brandenburger	1997
Ruth Brandon	1998
Scott Browning	1996
Holly Dornak	1999
Emily Drees	1997
Kim Droegemueller	1998
Daniel Dueck	1998
Erin Dueck	1996
Joyce Dykes	1997
Joel Eisenbraun	1998
Kurt Frieling	1998
Shannon Galloway	1999
Rachel Garrabrant	1998
C.J. Greenwald	1996
Billie Griffith	1997
Rachael Hamre	1996
Chad Henke	1999
Heidi Henke	1999
Paige Hodges	1999
Freddie Holman	1998
James Johnson	1997
Sean Kangas	1997



Michelle Kleb	1999	Margaret Reed	1997
Stephanie Knea	1999	Lisa Roldan	1997
Jeanne Kretzmann	1998	Gloria Ruppel	1996
Richard Leslie	1998	Juli Schkade	1999
Kari Lettow	1998	Bret Schroeder	1998
Amy Levenhagen	1998	Cory Smith	1999
Jeremy Lowe	1999	Paul Stark	1996
Priscilla Lucas	1997	Judith Stevens	1996
Sheri Luedemann	1996	Matthew Straub	1999
Joan Luker	1998	Sharon Teague	1998
Paula Maddux	1998	Jonathan Telschow	1998
Janice Marut	1998	Kate Thaelke	1996
Diane McCamant	1998	Paula Thomson	1999
Judith Meyer	1999	Kara Tobaben	1996
Erika Mildred	1999	Christina Vaupel	1997
Jennifer A. Miller	1998	Bret Walter	1997
Michael Miller	1997	Jennifer Ward	1996
Carrie Oblinger	1997	Millard Watson	1996
Serena Pace	1997	Gretchen Weesner	1996
Jessica Pederson	1999	Diane White	1996
Dale Quickel	1999	Linda Wimberley	1996
Donna Rabel	1999	Jacob Youmans	1997



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

Personnel

The voting members of the Texas District Board of Directors at the beginning of the 2021-2025 term were:

The Rev. Michael Newman - President (Chairman of the Board)
The Rev. Dr. John Davis - First Vice President (Vice President Area D)
The Rev. Allan Eckert - Second Vice President (Vice President Area A)
The Rev. Larry Krueger - Third Vice President (Vice President Area B)
The Rev. Nathan Wendorf - Fourth Vice President (Vice President Area C)
The Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse - Secretary
Mrs. Charessa Koontz - Commissioned Minister
Mr. Seth Gehrke - Commissioned Minister
Mr. David Balder - Layperson Area A
Mr. Katari (KT) McDonald - Layperson Area B
Mr. Ray Walther - Layperson Area C
Mrs. Elizabeth Killinger - Layperson Area D
Mr. James Runzheimer - Layperson at Large

The Board is also served on a full-time basis by Treasurer, Mrs. Linda Hagge, who is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the board of directors.

The Reverend Bill Crowe was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary until receiving a divine call outside of the district in March, 2022. The Reverend Dale Snyder was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary until his retirement. The Reverend Garrett Smith was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary in November, 2023. In March 2025, the Reverend Scott Schaller was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary.

Function and Duties

The bylaws of the district state, “The board of directors shall serve as the policy making body within the district and as such shall act on behalf of and in the best interest of the district between conventions where such action is required.” (District Handbook 6.009).

In addition, the bylaws of the Synod charge the district board of directors, as follows: “It shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the district’s business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management and supervision is effected.” (Synod Handbook 4.5.1.b) and further, “Between conventions it shall provide for implementation within the district of the decisions of the national and district conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the national and district budgets.” (Synod Handbook 4.5.1.d).

For full description of the responsibilities of the District Board of Directors, see the respective handbooks of the district (District Bylaw Article VI) and synod (Synod Bylaw 4.5.1).



Board Actions This Term

Given the charge, for the sake of Christ's mission and empowered by the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, the Board of Directors conducted its goals to disciple the saved, strengthen congregations and care for people locally and globally during a unique four-year term, summarized, as follows:

The board routinely ratified constitutions and bylaws of congregations that had been approved by the District Committee for Constitution and Bylaw Review. The board also approved circuit assignments for new congregations. Additionally, the board also realigned electoral circuits of the district for optimization of representation in Synod as well as greater opportunity for participation in mission. The board appointed necessary members, as per bylaw directives, to the Board for Church Extension, the District Committee for Constitution and Bylaw Review, Texas District Lutheran School Accreditation Commission, the Board of Mission Administration, District Reconcilers and Archivist. The Board also fulfilled its responsibilities in regard to the Board for Church Extension (BCE), providing oversight and giving approval to decisions by the BCE that require Board of Directors action.

Throughout this four-term the Board of Directors also routinely received reports from district staff on the work of the Board of Mission Administration (BMA) from Rev. Lincon Guerra; Texas Partners in Mission (TPIM) from Lisa Candido; School Ministry from Dr. Bill Hinz; Districtwide Evangelist Development Leader from Deaconess Noemi Guerra; and the Director of Districtwide Strategy from the Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther.

Additionally, reports were shared with the Board from a variety of ministries within the district including Concordia University Texas, Legacy Deo, Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL), Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Texas (LOMT), and Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

In general oversight regarding the welfare and well-being of district workers, the Board approved and accepted changes to the policies of the Texas District Employee Handbook, and approved salary recommendations as well as "Worker Choice" selections from Concordia Health Plan Options for the district staff and employees.

The Board also adopted the following resolutions to memorialize the LCMS in the 2023 Convention:

- To Provide Comment to the LCMS 2019 Res. 7-03 Committee Concerning the CUS Governance Model Proposal
- To Direct Districts and the COP to Provide a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan to Provide For Worker Care.

The Board annually reviewed and adopted budgets for the work of mission and ministry in district. The annual budgets adopted were, as follows:

2022 - \$6,981,611; 2023 - \$7,835,201; 2024 - \$7,677,262; 2025 - \$8,452,087.



The Audit Committee of the Board annually reviewed and presented for Board approval the annual audit report of the district.

Highlights and other actions taken by the Board of Directors include the following:

- July 2021: Adopted proposed district Bylaw XV: Dissolution of the District.
- January 2022: Extended a Part-time call to DCE Christiane Hobbs as Youth Ministry and Commissioned Minister Specialist to replace Paul Krentz. The Board also extended a call on behalf of Lutheran Foundation of Texas or Legacy Deo to Rev. Jeff David (J.) Brown as Legacy Giving Ambassador.
- March 2022L The Board unanimously approved the sale of the former district office at 7900 East Highway 290 and the additional parcel of land at 8108 Exchange Drive, with the proceeds of this sale to be applied to the construction of a new Texas District Mission Support Center 1221 Satellite View, Round Rock, TX 78665.
- July 2022: Extended a call to Rev. Ben Gonzalez to serve full-time as Facility and Supplies Coordinator and Area B Mission Strategist.
- July 2022: Authorized the construction budget of the Texas District Mission Support Center (new district office) not to exceed \$7,600,000.
- January 2023: Approved the revision of the divine call to Deaconess Noemi Guerra from part-time to full-time as the Districtwide Evangelist Development Leader. The Board of Directors also designated \$100,000 to the Cultivating Life Campaign at Camp Lone Star.
- July 2023: Dedication and Grand Opening of the new Texas District Mission Support Center in Round Rock.
- July 2024: In accordance with Texas District bylaw 2.001: “Realignment of circuits shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors.” The board adopted a realignment of the circuits of the Texas District.
- September 2024: Board increased financial support of Camp Lonestar in fiscal year 2024-2025 by \$75,000 as a one-time gift.
- January 2025: Board of Directors received official LCMS Visitation from Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison during the board’s regularly scheduled meeting.
- January 2025: The board endorsed the Michael and Cindy Newman Mission Fund to Support Texas Partners in Mission with a goal of \$300,000 that is to be managed by the Texas District.

The mission of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod remains to “Strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people - locally and globally.” It is the goal of the Board of Directors to support and enable God’s people in the Texas District of the LCMS to fulfill that mission. To God alone be the glory!

Reverend Doctor Brian J. Hesse
Secretary, Texas District Board of Directors



TEXAS DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS

The Texas District's Committee on Constitutions reviews new and amended constitutions and bylaws of congregations in the Texas District in accordance with the bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2.2.1 and 2.4.1), confirming that polity documents “are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, the Confessions, and the teaching and practices of the Synod”. New or amended polity documents are to be approved by a congregation's district before enactment. Information about the review and approval process can be found on the Texas District website. The committee also offers informal counsel to congregations which are chartering or considering amendments to their constitutions and bylaws.

The current Committee on Constitutions was elected by the Texas District Board of Directors after the 2021 Texas District Convention, composed of two ordained members, one commissioned member, and one lay member. Rev. Christopher Bramich, Deaconess Suzanne Krahn, and Dr. Cynthia Chapa have served with me on the committee these years with faithfulness and diligence, and I as the committee's chair have thanked God for them in every report submitted to the Board of Directors. During this committee's “extended” tenure due to the delay of the synodical convention cycle, a large number of constitutional reviews were completed - a total of seventy-four submissions approved by the Board of Directors at the writing of this report near the start of March 2025. (Another dozen submissions might be reviewed and approved before the actual date of this convention.) The new constitutions and amendments approved by the Board of Directors since the last district convention are listed here chronologically according to the dates of the board's meetings and their listing on the committee's report to each meeting:

Immanuel Lutheran Ministries, Temple (September 2021)
Faith, Plano (September 2021)
Saint Peter, Bowie (November 2021)
Trinity, Borger (November 2021)
The Edge, Azle (November 2021)
Resurrection, Fredericksburg (November 2021)
Peace, Groves (November 2021)
Water of Life, Forney (November 2021)
Water of Life, Forney (January 2022)
The Grove, Argyle (March 2022) - newly chartered congregation
Saint John, Uhland (March 2022)
Good Shepherd, Cedar Park (May 2022)
Mount Olive, Austin (May 2022)
Trinity, Woodway (May 2022)
Trinity, Riesel (May 2022)



Our Savior, Whitney (July 2022)
 The Family of Faith, Cypress (July 2022)
 Grace Divine, North Richland Hills (July 2022) - newly chartered congregation
 Concordia, Garland (July 2022)
 CrossRoad, Katy (July 2022) - a newly merged congregation
 Saint Timothy, Houston (September 2022)
 Saint Paul, McAllen (September 2022)
 Memorial, Katy (September 2022)
 Cross of Christ, DeSoto (September 2022)
 Saint John, Beaumont (November 2022)
 Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls (November 2022)
 Saint John, Athens (November 2022)
 Mission, Liberty Hill (November 2022)
 Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Austin (November 2022)
 Fishers of Men, Sugar Land (November 2022)
 Lazarus, Spring (November 2022) - newly chartered congregation
 LifeBridge Community Church, Sealy (November 2022)
 Memorial, Katy (January 2023)
 Messiah, Houston (January 2023)
 Faith, Corsicana (January 2023)
 Immanuel, Giddings (January 2023)
 Faith, Graham (January 2023)
 Bethlehem, Palestine (March 2023)
 Zion, Alamo (March 2023)
 Epiphany, Bastrop (March 2023) - newly chartered congregation
 Epiphany, Pearland (May 2023)
 Faith, Corsicana (July 2023)
 Trinity, Tyler (July 2023)
 Zion, Walburg (July 2023)
 Zion, Pasadena (September 2023)
 Southlake, League City (September 2023) - newly chartered congregation
 Saint Mark, Houston (November 2023)
 Grace, Victoria (November 2023)
 Saint Paul, Bellmead (November 2023)
 The Dwelling, New Caney (January 2024)
 Gathering, Robinson (January 2024) - newly chartered congregation
 Our Savior, Austin (January 2024)
 Lamb of God, Humble (January 2024)
 Hope International, Austin (March 2024)
 Crown of Life, San Antonio (March 2024)
 Saint Paul, Bishop (March 2024)
 Christ Memorial, Houston (March 2024)
 Trinity Our Savior, Corpus Christi (May 2024) - newly merged congregation



Trinity Klein, Spring (May 2024)
Immanuel, Giddings (May 2024)
Saint Michael's, Winchester (May 2024)
Immanuel, Houston (July 2024)
Our Redeemer, Irving (July 2024)
Expansión, Rockwall (July 2024) - newly chartered congregation
The Dwelling, New Caney (September 2024)
Christ Memorial, Houston (September 2024)
Lord of Life, Corpus Christi (September 2024)
Immanuel, Copperas Cove (December 2024)
Living Word, The Woodlands (December 2024)
Faith, Woodville (December 2024)
Saint John, San Benito (December 2024)
Cypress Chapel, Cypress (December 2024) - newly chartered congregation
Christ, Austin (January 2025)
Grace, Victoria (January 2025)

Soli Deo Gloria
Craig Schinnerer, Chair

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Texas District—LCMS is one of the largest Districts within Synod and a significant contributor to Synod mission work. Texas is one of the largest mission fields within the United States.

The District is a corporation comprised of two funds: The General Fund and the Church Extension Fund (please see separate CEF report)

Sources of Funds

The primary source of funding for the General Fund is contributions from Texas District member congregations. Other sources include donor restricted gifts, Texas Partners in Mission, funding agreement repayments, endowments, interest from CEF cash deposits, and school assessments.

We are thankful mission receipts from congregations held steady for the three years as shown below. A concern, however, is that not all congregations financially support the district's vital ministry. We ask each congregation to prayerfully consider their financial support.

Lisa Candido, Director of External Relations, has provided outstanding leadership in advancing the Texas Partners in Mission (TPIM) development program. This program has been a huge blessing to the district's ability to support and encourage missions. She performs a



vital role in sharing ministry success stories through numerous communication modes. One outcome of her leadership is the receipt of a \$196,000 estate contribution to TPIM in 2024.

	2022 (ended 1/31/23)	2023 (ended 1/31/24)	2024* (ended 1/31/25)
Total All Sources	\$7,210,376	\$7,314,724	\$13,246,107
Total All Uses	\$6,866,264	\$7,622,362	\$7,939,075
Total Mission Receipts from Congregations (included in "Total All Sources" above)	\$4,633,711	\$4,572,279	\$4,671,392
World Mission Contributions to Synod	\$1,302,003	\$1,279,069	\$1,299,800
World Mission Contribution %	28.01%	27.97%	27.88%

*Unaudited (includes sale of old office property, large estate gift and insurance proceeds from fire claim
Please note the corporation is audited annually in April. Texas District corporate financial statements are available by July/August of each year for the prior fiscal year.

Use of Funds

The Board of Mission Administration under the leadership of Rev. Lincon Guerra (Mission & Ministry Facilitator, Area A) coordinates and directs the mission portion of the district's total General Fund budget. Within the budget, the district provides financial support to the Synod, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (Camp Lone Star), and Upbring.

A substantial portion of the mission budget pays for planter training and coaching, mission planter screening and selection, mission field worker salaries and mission conferences. The budget includes funds for a few missions through direct subsidy. Subsidy dollars are being diminished over time in favor of "Funding Agreements." Funding Agreements are no interest loans that are repayable over 20 years. Repaid dollars are used to fund future additional church starts in Texas.

The mission fund also sponsors a variety of ministries including college campus, ethnic, deaf, and Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalitions (LINC) locations in Austin and San Antonio.

The construction of a new Texas A&M Lutheran Student Center was completed in the fall of 2023 under the excellent leadership provided by Rev. John Karle. The ground lease revenue from this project will support Texas ministries for the long-term.



A shortage of church workers is anticipated in the future. To encourage church worker education, other budget categories include the provision of scholarships to undergraduate students and seminary students interested in church work. Through the President's Office, a scholarship program is managed as well as confidential financial assistance for church workers in need from both anonymous contributors and Soldiers of the Cross (a Synod program).

Contributed mission dollars support our school administrators, educators, students, and schools' success through our Education Department. School assessment revenue does not fully cover the cost of operating our Education Department. Assessment revenue rebounded with the economic recovery following COVID. Dr. Hinz has provided significant leadership as a board member for the Texas Private School Association seeking passage of the Parental School Choice Bill by the Texas Legislature. In the 2024-25 school year, over 16,500 students in the Texas District Lutheran Schools learned daily about Jesus and His love and forgiveness. Please see the report by Dr. Bill Hinz, District Education Director.

Additional budgeted funds are used for two annual Circuit Visitor meetings, six annual Board of Director meetings as well as for confidential counseling services for pastors and their families. The President's team coordinates these activities as well as the Pastoral Call Process, the District's pastor/congregation database, and congregation reconciliation efforts.

The General Fund budget also covers services to congregations as provided by a team of deployed mission staff members throughout the state. This includes "Mission and Ministry Facilitators" (MMF), "Mission Strategists," and congregation support specialists who assist congregations with the call process, strategic planning, and other congregational needs. Many positions are contract for services only.

Under the Board of Directors' leadership, the district undertook steps to reduce overhead costs by selling properties carrying elevated levels of deferred maintenance or considered underutilized. These steps reduced the impact of building maintenance expenses and insurance costs on current and future budgets. Construction in Round Rock of a new "Texas District Mission Support" center was completed in July 2023. Proceeds from an anonymous donor (\$3.2 million), capital on hand, and proceeds from the sale of the old building, paid for the new office location in full.

In July 2024, a fire destroyed the fellowship hall at Centro De Fe (Texas District owned and insured facility) while a volunteer repair person worked on the A/C. At the time of this report the future of this facility is unknown.

Low interest rates combined with inflation prompted District leadership to explore generating improved returns on investable assets. As a result, the Texas District has established various investment accounts with Graystone Investments, a Morgan Stanley



associated investment firm. A conservative, highly diversified approach (minimizing risk) was adopted to earn rates that typically exceed savings account returns.

Service-Focused

The Treasurer's Office provides comprehensive financial services and counsel to several groups, including:

- President's Office
- Board of Directors
- Circuit Visitors
- Congregation Management Teams
- New Mission Starts

The Treasurer's Office serves as a resource for pastors, church leaders, and congregation treasurers with questions related to numerous aspects of church administration. One such resource included a training session titled Treasurers Workshop in October 2024. This event will be held again in October 2025 as it was well attended and received.

The Treasurer's Office also provides services and advice on church/school accounting policies and procedures, property management, insurance issues, convention/conference planning, payroll and Concordia Plan benefit administration, employee policies and practices, internal controls as it relates to safeguarding assets, budget development, and the annual District pledge process.

Keith Howanitz, Director of Information Technology, plays a critical role in network security and administration. Fraud attempts are an ongoing concern. Keith is instrumental in establishing policies, training, procedures, and implementing measures that safeguard District online usage, investor/donor data and assets.

The Treasurer's office played a significant role in the receipt and distribution of donations in response to the Uvalde School Shooting, Helene Hurricane, Houston derecho, California wildfires, to mention only major disasters. (Please see Disaster Relief report by Julie Tucker.) In addition, churches and church workers have benefited from our donors' generosity for smaller disaster events such as roof, hail and water damage.

District leadership continually questions and refines its application of resources to support ministry and to do so in a successful and cost-effective manner. Resources are limited. We prayerfully assess the pattern of past contributions to the success of the Texas District's mission on the part of individuals, agencies, and ministries to determine the future distribution of financial support. We remain results oriented.

Thank you for supporting the Texas District financially and in prayer!

Linda Hagge, MBA, MAFM, CPA
Treasurer (CFO) of the Texas District



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSION ADMINISTRATION

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” —Matthew 9:36-38 ESV

Jesus’ words remind us of the great need for the Gospel and the urgency of sending laborers into the harvest. This is our mission at the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

***To strengthen congregations to: reach the lost, disciple the saved,
and care for people—locally and globally.***

With unwavering trust in the Lord, we continue to prayerfully and diligently identify, train, and send redeemed servants of Christ throughout Texas, sharing the Good News and planting new congregations.

Over the past quadrennium, congregations across the Texas District LCMS have united in mission, facilitating a growing movement of the Gospel. Through the prayers, generosity, and encouragement of faithful mission-minded congregations, hundreds of people are being reached each week with Christ’s love in many different languages. This shared commitment has not only supported the planting of new churches but has also provided essential resources for missionaries, evangelists, seminary students, and other ministries.

In addition to advancing the mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the faithful stewardship of Texas District congregations extends to key ministry partners, including Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Texas and Upbring, bringing hope and transformation to many lives.

How blessed we are to be part of God’s mission in Texas! Thank you for your steadfast partnership, spiritual support, and faithfully sending laborers into His harvest.

NEW MISSIONS Progress report

The Board of Mission Administration (BMA) of the Texas District is deeply committed to sharing the Gospel in partnership with congregations and organizations across our District.

A. New Ministries

Over the past three years, we have been blessed with nearly forty 40 newly planted churches/satellites/missions of existing congregations. These Word and Sacrament ministries are:



2021 (Pandemic period)

2022

1. Ignite Church, Telegu, Spring
2. Hope Lutheran, Farwell (Satellite of Hope Lubbock)
3. Comunidad Cristiana Bethel, Dallas
4. Comunidad Cristiana Elevate. Garland
5. Gathering Lutheran Church, Robinson
6. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Sweet Flower) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
7. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Suddley Castle) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
8. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Cherry Creek) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
9. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, El Campo (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
10. Project 242 Church, Conroe (satellite of Christ the King, Kingwood)
11. Epiphany, Bastrop
12. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Crosby (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
13. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Atascosita (satellite of Memorial, Katy)

2023

1. Iglesia Gracia, Arlington
2. St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield—Hispanic Ministry
3. Christ Lutheran, Mosaic Worship, Fort Worth
4. Cristo mi Salvador, Plome Grove, (Cleveland, Santa Fe)
5. Living Water, The Woodlands (satellite of Living Word, The Woodlands)
6. Vietnamese, Pasadena (satellite of Vietnamese, Houston)
7. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Brookshire (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
8. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Ridge Berry) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
9. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Prospect Meadow) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
10. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (May Shower) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
11. Oikos Hispanic Ministry, Houston (Downey Violet) (satellite of Memorial, Katy)
12. The Lighthouse, Deer Park (satellite of Zion, Pasadena)

2024

1. Gracia de Dios, Ennis
2. The Table, Celina
3. New Way of Life, African Min. San Antonio
4. Vida Nueva Lutheran Church, Houston
5. Hope International, Austin
6. Project 242 at Bristol Park, Conroe (satellite of Joy, Houston)
7. Project 242 at Village Green, Conroe (satellite of Joy, Houston)
8. Zion Multiethnic, Dallas
9. Reclaim Lutheran Church, Justin
10. New Beginnings, Fort Worth (satellite of St. Paul, Fort Worth)



11. Comunidad Cristiana Prince of Peace, Carrollton
12. Project 242 At Avanti Vision Park, Conroe (satellite of Joy, Houston)

With these new ministries, the Texas District has planted a total of 188 Word and Sacrament ministries across Texas from 2004 to 2024, nearly 10 new ministries per year. We give thanks to God for the local congregations and church-planting networks that actively support the launch of new missions and the strengthening of existing ministries.

B. New Ministry Planning and Support

A strong and well-defined strategy is essential when launching new missions. In the Texas District, we recognize that church planting requires more than just good intentions—it demands intentional planning, prayerful discernment, and strategic execution. Our approach to starting new churches is built on three critical pillars: identifying the **right person**—a mission-minded leader equipped to plant a new church; selecting the **right place**—a community where the Gospel can take root and flourish; and developing the **right plan**—a mission strategy tailored to the unique needs and opportunities of that specific context and ensuring sustainability. By focusing on these key elements, we seek to support and strengthen the start-up of new churches.

Every potential ministry leader completes a thorough Church Planter Assessment administered by Mr. Larry Rietz and sponsored by the Texas District. The Texas District Mission Team (Catalyst Team) works with regional mission networks and local congregations to develop the right plan for the right place. Coaching and ongoing training are also provided for church planters as the Texas District continues to catalyze a church planting movement in Texas.

FUNDING THE MISSION

The BMA remains dedicated to faithfully stewarding the offerings entrusted by God’s people in the Texas District. As more people than ever need the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, the BMA continues to advance a sound and strategic mission funding plan to support and expand Gospel outreach.

1. The BMA continues to implement funding plans for new ministries. New church planters can apply for up to \$70,000 (\$35,000 per year for two years) in Church Planter Training mission grant funds.
2. In addition, the BMA offers Funding Agreements, which are mission funds up to \$200,000, repayable over a twenty-year period with no interest, made available to qualifying new church/mission starts. Other support is available through church planter assessment, coaching, and scholarship funds for seminary students.
3. Returned capital from Funding Agreements is placed in a Texas District Church Extension Fund account and reinvested in new mission repayable Funding Agreements every



year to start new congregations. Ministries return more than \$200,000 each year to be reinvested in additional new mission starts.

4. The BMA also supports mission multiplication through scholarships for church planting training. Over the past four years, the BMA has supported approximately 150 church workers, evangelists, and lay leaders in attending Exponential Learning Communities and 110 for the Exponential Conference, an organization dedicated to disciple-making and church multiplication. The BMA sponsors the \$1,000 registration fee per participant in the learning communities and \$100 for the conference, along with travel expenses. Numerous testimonies and multiplication results have emerged from ministries across the District, reflecting the impact of this investment in mission growth.

The BMA gives thanks to God for His guidance and for the support and partnership of congregations and organizations in boldly sharing the Gospel with those who do not know Christ.

C. HISPANIC MINISTRY

The Texas District continues to invest in developing new Hispanic pastors and church leaders to serve growing Hispanic communities. Currently, eight students are enrolled in pre-seminary courses under the guidance of Rev. Rodrigo Fernandez, preparing for admission to the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) pastoral formation program next year. This training pathway equips students with a solid theological foundation while allowing them to remain actively engaged in their local congregations. The commitment to forming new leaders goes beyond the classroom—mentorship and hands-on ministry experience are integral components of their preparation. These future pastors and deaconesses work closely with experienced mentors, gaining practical skills in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

As the Hispanic population in Texas continues to grow, so does the need for trained church workers who can minister effectively in Spanish-speaking communities. The district remains dedicated to raising up faithful and mission-minded leaders who will boldly proclaim the Gospel and shepherd the next generation of believers.

1. Next Generation: Over the past two years, 23 Hispanic youth have participated in the “Vocatio Tour” program at Concordia Seminary, exploring ministry vocations and discerning how they might serve in the church. It was inspiring to witness their enthusiasm as they considered how they could bring God’s light into their communities. The continued engagement of Hispanic youth in these programs is a promising sign of a new generation of church leaders being raised up for mission and ministry.

2. Hispanic Church Workers Retreat: last October, we celebrated our second annual Hispanic Church Workers Retreat, with 40 participants from across the district for a time of renewal, learning, and fellowship. The retreat is focused on spiritual and emotional wellness, offering a space for encouragement and connection, allowing church workers, pastors, deaconesses



and vicars to share their experiences, challenges, and joys in ministry. Attendees participated in workshops, group discussions, and worship, strengthening their sense of unity and support within the district's Hispanic ministry network.

3. Evangelists: A key element of the Texas District's Hispanic mission strategy is the training and equipping of Spanish-speaking evangelists who are passionate about sharing the Gospel and planting new faith communities. We are grateful for the dedicated work of four Evangelist Trainers—Deaconess Noemi Guerra, Rev. Juan Zamora, and Deaconess aspirants Dayana Fernandez and Gladys Franco—who have played a crucial role in raising up and mentoring local evangelists. These trainers have been instrumental in teaching, equipping, and mobilizing evangelists in various Hispanic congregations throughout Texas. Through in-person workshops, online training sessions, and one-on-one mentorship, they help lay leaders develop skills in Gospel proclamation, discipleship, and mission outreach.

As we look forward, we celebrate the growing number of Hispanic leaders, pastors, deaconesses, and evangelists who are boldly sharing the Gospel. We give thanks to the Texas District and its congregations for their generous support, prayers, and partnership, which continue to make this ministry flourish. To God be the glory!

D. EVANGELIST TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

The Texas District Evangelist Training Ministry is a movement of God's people, equipping everyday Christians to share the gospel and establish faith communities in everyday places. Over the past three years, the ministry has experienced rapid growth, with major curriculum improvements, leadership expansion, and new faith communities forming across the district. The Evangelist Training Ministry has developed a comprehensive and accessible curriculum to equip a diverse group of evangelists. Training is currently available in English for adults and has been adapted for youth and young adults to ensure relevant instruction for younger generations. To meet the needs of Hispanic evangelists, a Spanish-language curriculum has been launched, expanding opportunities for mission outreach. Additionally, an ASL curriculum is in development to make training accessible to the Deaf community. As evangelists establish new faith communities, the ministry is also creating a continuing education program to provide ongoing mentorship, resources, and guidance, ensuring long-term spiritual growth and discipleship.

Since its establishment in 2017, the ministry has equipped approximately **230 evangelists** through its training system.

Over the past three years:

- Nearly 142 evangelists remain actively engaged, regularly applying their training to reach people with the gospel.
- Around 82 individuals are currently undergoing training, demonstrating continued expansion.
- In 2024 alone, 54 new evangelists completed their training and joined the mission field.



Each evangelist is equipped with eight core competencies for their evangelistic ministry.

The Evolution of Evangelist Training

From the Green Book to Thinkific

- 2017-2021: Evangelist training was based on printed materials, including the Evangelist 101 “Green Book” and Evangelist 201.
- December 2022: The transition to the Thinkific online platform began, allowing for a more interactive and accessible training model.
- October 2024: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez, Professor of Systematic Theology, reviewed and refined the curriculum, ensuring theological clarity.

Key Curriculum Changes

1. Eliminated Evangelist Certification:
 - Evangelists are now “trained and sent,” avoiding confusion with LCMS-certified church workers.
 - Background checks were removed, saving administrative costs.
2. Revamped Discovery Bible Study (DBS):
 - DBS now follows Martin Luther’s ITCP method:
 - Instruction: What does this passage tell you?
 - Thanksgiving: What are you grateful for?
 - Confession: What leads you to repentance?
 - Prayer/Petition: How will you live this out?
 - This approach provides theological depth while remaining practical.
3. New Coaching Model:
 - Training is now transformation-focused, not just informational.
 - Suggested coaching questions help trainers guide evangelists to personal growth and ministry application.
4. Expanded Resources & Videos:
 - LCMS-produced materials (LHM, LCMS President’s Letter, etc.)

Evangelist Training Development Leadership

- Deaconess Noemí Guerra: Districtwide Evangelist Development Ministry Director
- Laura Sanders: Evangelist Development Ministry Support Specialist
- Shari Stinnette: Area A Lead Trainer
- Rev. Juan Zamora: Area B Spanish Lead Trainer
- Laura Sanders: Area B Lead Trainer (formerly Area C)
- Rev. Jake Boessling: Area C Lead Trainer
- Gladys Franco: Area C Spanish Lead Trainer
- Rev. Aaron Lytle: Area D Lead Trainer
- Dayana Fernández: Area D Spanish Lead Trainer
- Deaconess Becky Jungklaus: ASL Lead Trainer

Faith Communities



Faith communities are emerging in workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and online spaces as evangelists actively share the Gospel and disciple new believers. In workplaces, groups like Faith at Work Fellowship and Marketplace Missionaries encourage professionals to integrate faith into their daily routines, while Teachers' Discipleship Groups provide spiritual support for educators. In neighborhoods, gatherings such as Front Yard Fridays and Community Blessing Circles create opportunities for prayer, Bible study, and acts of kindness that bring people together. Among young adults and students, ministries like Texas State Gospel Conversations and Bible & Brews offer spaces for faith discussions in casual and accessible settings. Specialized outreach efforts extend to diverse communities, including Prison Ministry Fellowship for the incarcerated, Soccer for the Savior for athletes, and Hands Raised for Christ, an ASL-based ministry for the Deaf community, and many more. Each of these faith communities serves as a place where Christ meets people, relationships are formed, and disciples are made, reflecting the transformative impact of evangelist training in the Texas District.

We give all glory to God for the abundant blessings He has poured out on this ministry. Through His grace, evangelists are boldly proclaiming the Gospel, leaders and trainers are faithfully equipping and mentoring them, and faith communities are forming and growing. We are deeply grateful to the Texas District and our partner congregations, whose steadfast support, prayers, and generosity continue to make this ministry possible. As we move forward, the Texas District Evangelist Training Ministry remains steadfast in its mission: "Building spiritual wells, offering the living water of Jesus."

For more information or to get involved in this ministry, please visit:
[Texas District Evangelist Training Ministry](#)

THANK YOU

In addition to self-sacrificial offerings and donations from congregations and individuals, dedicated servants of Christ continue to support the District Mission Program through the following organization:

A. MISSION PROGRAM

- The **B. M. Woltman** Foundation of Houston provides grants to financially assisted congregations to aid in the developing of their ministry.
- The Texas District, Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- Texas Partners In Mission

In addition, Legacy Deo oversees a number of endowment funds that also directly benefit the Texas District Mission Program.

- Louis E and Patricia Ann Kieschnick Biar Endowment
- Born-Johnson Endowment
- Disciples of All Nations Endowment
- Bill and Kathryn Dube Family Endowment



- Equipping the Great Commission Endowment
- James E. Gillett Endowment
- Ken and Val Hennings Mission Support Endowment
- Herwald Family Endowment
- Houston Deaf Ministry Endowment
- Pastor James and Jean Linderman Endowment
- Mission Endowment of St. Michael Lutheran Church - Houston
- Harry and Edna Mitschke Endowment
- Ernest and Marie Moerbe Memorial Endowment
- Walter L. Pfluger Endowment
- Henry C. and Joanna D. Ritter Memorial Endowment
- Mathilde E. Taube Endowment Trust
- Texas District Deaf Ministry Endowment
- Texas District Hispanic Ministry Endowment
- Texas District Mission Planting Endowment
- Texas Fund for Deaf Ministry
- Texas Partners in Mission Endowment
- Oscar Paul Thieme Memorial Endowment
- Urban Ministry Endowment of Grace Lutheran Church - Dallas

B. SCHOLARSHIPS

The following provided assistance with tens of thousands of dollars for student scholarship aid for Texas District students preparing for church vocations at our Lutheran schools and seminaries.

- The **B. M. Woltman** Foundation
- The Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- The Texas District, LCMS
- **Mr. Robert R. Trapp**

In addition to the above, the following scholarship endowments are managed by Legacy Deo and awarded by the BMA.

- William E. Bird and Edna L. Bird Scholarship Endowment
- Ernest and Ruth Bolland Endowment
- Brune Family Memorial Endowment
- Doris (Dodie) Heckmann DeYoung Scholarship Endowment
- Kenneth P and Doris Heckmann DeYoung Family Scholarship Loan Endowment
- Elma K. Dutschmann Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Eckert-Watters Endowment
- Fishers of Men Scholarship Endowment of Trinity Lutheran Church - Taylor
- Rev. Edmund P. and Esther J. Frank Student Loan Endowment
- Hope Lutheran Church Scholarship Endowment



- Wanda and Harold Jungman Scholarship Endowment
- Alvin and Martha Kieschnick Family Scholarship Endowment
- Legacy Endowment of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church - Crosby
- Lutheran Church Musician and SMP Scholarship Endowment
- Joseph Maxwell and Elizabeth Jane McKinney Memorial Endowment
- Lin Charles Pfluger Scholarship Trust
- Vastine E. and Louise R. Pietsch Endowment
- Seminary Student Scholarship Endowment of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Henderson

Over the past quadrennium, many congregations and individuals have generously given above and beyond their regular District and Synod support to advance specific ministries. Their commitment and generosity play a vital role in advancing the mission, ensuring that resources are available to plant, nurture, and sustain Gospel-centered ministries.

We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed to this mission effort and pray for their continued partnership in advancing the Mission Program of our District.

C. THE BOARD OF MISSION ADMINISTRATION

We also praise God for those who have served the Texas District as members of the Board of Mission Administration during the last triennium.

BMA Members:

Ms. Stephanie Knea - Nassau Bay, TX (chairperson)	Rev. Andy Audette - Fort Worth, TX
Rev. Ted Doering - Round Rock, TX (secretary)	Mrs. Beth Lauterbach - Canyon, TX
Rev. Stephen DeMik - Lubbock, TX	Mrs. Laura Pulliam - Spring, TX
Dr. Margaret Peterson - Midland, TX	Rev. Byron Williams - Dallas, TX
Mrs. Gladys Franco - Harlingen, TX	Rev. David Murillo - San Antonio, TX
Mr. Don Treude - Mansfield, TX	

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Board of Mission Administration for their faithful service and dedication to advancing the Gospel. Their wisdom, insight, and mission-driven hearts have been a tremendous blessing, and their contributions will continue to shape the work of the BMA for years to come. Praise God for these servant-leaders for their mission hearts!

The Texas District Catalyst Team collaborates with congregations and local mission networks to cultivate and advance a dynamic mission movement across Texas. Through these partnerships, we work to expand the reach of the Gospel, strengthen local ministries, and support new mission initiatives that bring Christ's love to our communities.



Mission Team Contact Information:

Area A (Circuits 1-6):

Rev. Lincon Guerra

Mission and Ministry Facilitator, BMA Liaison, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

Lincon@txlcms.org

Dcs. Noemi Guerra

Director of Districtwide Evangelist Training Development

noemi@txlcms.org

Area B (Circuits 7-19):

Rev. Ben Gonzales, Mission Strategist and Discipleship Development

bgonzalez@txlcms.org

Mr. Marty Schardt, Congregation Support Specialist

mshardt@txlcms.org

Area C (Circuits 20-29)

Rev. Pete Mueller, Mission Strategist

pmueller@txlcms.org

Mr. Larry Rietz, Congregation Support Specialist

lrietz@txlcms.org

Area D (Circuits 30-40):

Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther, Mission Strategist, Director of Districtwide Strategy

jon.braunersreuther@txdistlcms.org

Rev. Dr. David Bahn, Congregation Support Specialist

dbahn@txlcms.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Sohns, Associate Mission Strategist

steve.sohns@txlcms.org

Over the past quadrennium, the Texas District LCMS has witnessed extraordinary and God-given growth in mission development. From the expansion of regional church-planting networks to innovative mission initiatives led by local congregations, the planting of numerous new ethnic ministries, and the multiplication of Evangelists, the Lord has richly blessed the mission efforts across the district. By His grace, we have the privilege of participating in His mission—bringing the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ to people of all nations and communities.



If you would like to become a prayer partner for the Texas District mission efforts, go to <http://txlcms.org/mission-prayer/>. If you would like to contribute financial support for missions in the Texas District, go to <https://txlcms.org/tpim/>.

I would like to take a moment to say that I am deeply grateful to God, to the entire leadership of the Texas District, to the Catalyst Team, and to President Michael Newman for this incredible opportunity to serve God and His Church as part of the Missions Team. It is a great honor and privilege to be part of a district with such a heart for missions and for reaching the lost with the message of the Gospel. As a missionary myself in this nation, this season has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. To God alone be the glory!

Through your prayers, encouragement, and steadfast financial support, our district remains a beacon of light, reaching thousands who are coming to know and serve the Lord. As we stand firmly on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we continue to shine His love and truth into communities across the district.

Rev. Lincon Guerra
Liaison to the Board of Mission Administration





TEXAS PARTNERS IN MISSION

Lisa Candido, Director of External Relations

Texas Partners in Mission (TPIM) serves as the mission funding arm for the Texas District, LCMS, effectively bridging the financial gap between standard operating income and the district's vision for mission growth and discipleship. With a relentless commitment to strengthening congregations, TPIM equips leaders with essential tools and resources to courageously proclaim the Gospel.

A key goal for the district is to develop 500 servant leaders to reach 500 new communities by 2031 through evangelist training, church planting, and leadership development. In the last three years, 250 church leaders have participated in Exponential church planting training, 188 evangelists were certified, and 99 in training in 2025. TPIM provides financial assistance for these initiatives. It also provides critical support for Hispanic ministries, empowering leaders to create a lasting impact in their communities - 22 students in pre-seminary classes in the last three years and nine in seminary right now. Additionally, through ministry partnerships, TPIM aids congregations and networks in establishing ministry best practices while offering coaching, mentoring, and prayer support.

One hundred percent of the financial gifts to TPIM directly support mission efforts, such as funding an annual start-up grant of \$35,000 for a church plant, sponsoring evangelist training for \$1,200, providing a \$10,000 scholarship for an EIIT or SMP student, and offering an Exponential church planting experience to a church leader for \$1,750. These contributions empower leaders, strengthen communities, and advance the Gospel throughout Texas and beyond. TPIM remains committed to enhancing congregations for mission work, raising up and sending servant leaders, and fostering disciple ministry partnerships to expand the reach of God's Kingdom.

Continued Growth and Gratitude for Your Support

Since 2021, donations to TPIM have consistently increased, reflecting our supporters' growing impact and generosity. Between February 1, 2021, and January 31, 2023, more than \$1.2 million was raised. In 2024 alone, **\$591,008 was donated**, demonstrating a shared commitment to spreading the Gospel. We are sincerely grateful for this ongoing support and heartened by the increasing number of people participating in this mission movement.

TPIM's communication strategy is strong, featuring the inaugural Mission Day in 2024. Mission Day is a dedicated day inviting supporters to pray for the mission work in the Texas District and give



generously. Furthermore, inspiring monthly videos that visually showcase the stories of lives transformed by the gift of eternal life, titled “[Mission Stories](#),” are shared in the weekly [Mission Prayer e-newsletter](#) and distributed on social media platforms. These videos emphasize church planters, new missions, and how congregations have stepped up to serve their communities.

Thank you for being part of this life-changing work! For more information about TPIM, please visit txlcms.org/tpim/.

TEXAS DISTRICT EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Lisa Candido, Director of External Relations

The Texas District's External Relations Department supports the district's mission through strategic communication, branding, and event planning. The team includes a director of external relations, a coordinator, a database specialist, and a volunteer archivist. The department also oversees the production of the *Texas Messenger*.

This department is responsible for developing and implementing the district's communication strategy, which includes fundraising correspondence for Texas Partners in Mission (TPIM). Key communication efforts consist of direct mailings, social media, website management, the Texas District Snapshot, and district newsletters such as *Minister to Minister*, *Mission Prayer*, and the *Texas Messenger*. In 2024, the option to receive the *Texas Messenger* online only was introduced.

To enhance awareness of the Gospel-centered work being done across the district, the department prioritizes storytelling through *Mission Stories*—videos highlighting congregations, mission work, evangelist training and initiatives, and more. Eleven *Mission Stories* are produced annually as a storytelling tool and a historical archive of mission efforts across the district for future generations.

The department also oversees the ongoing development of the district's archive, which preserves significant historical materials and records. The district has and will continue to enhance its archival work further. Since moving into the Texas District Mission Center, regular themed displays have been introduced, showcasing the district's rich history.

The database specialist has a unique role in ensuring the accuracy of the district's constituent database, which includes congregations, church workers, school administrators, partners, evangelists, missionaries, and TPIM supporters. In 2024, the Texas District launched a new software platform to improve communication and acknowledgment of TPIM supporters.



The External Relations Department also plans and coordinates district-wide events, including the Pastors Conference, Theological Convocation, Professional Church Workers Conference, and District Convention.

For more information, please contact Lisa Candido, the Director of External Relations, at lcandido@txlcms.org.

DISASTER RELIEF REPORT – TEXAS DISTRICT

Julie Tucker, Texas District Disaster Relief Coordinator

Texas has faced a multitude of significant disasters from 2021 to the present, ranging from natural events such as hurricanes, winter storms, and tornadoes to human-made tragedies. This report provides an overview of notable disasters affecting the state during this period, highlighting some of their impacts, responses, and ongoing recovery efforts. Understanding the patterns and consequences of these events is crucial for future preparedness and mitigation strategies.

2021 Events:

February 13-17 Winter Storm: A severe winter storm caused unprecedented cold temperatures, snow, and ice across Texas, leading to subzero temperatures in certain areas.

Impact:

- Millions experienced power outages due to a strained electrical grid.
- Water supply issues emerged due to frozen pipes.
- At least 210 fatalities linked to the storm.
- Extensive damage to homes and infrastructure, with repair costs estimated in the billions.

Response: The Texas District received numerous grant requests and was able to provide financial assistance for repair and recovery efforts, and we continue to provide resources to long-term recovery groups providing assistance to families impacted by this storm.

September 14-15, 2021 - Hurricane Nicholas made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane.

Impact:

- Significant flooding in southeastern Texas, particularly in Houston.
- Power outages affected tens of thousands of residents.

Tornadoes: Several tornadoes impacted Texas throughout 2021, notably in spring and late summer.

Impact: Various levels of property damage reported, with significant impacts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Injuries were reported, but no fatalities occurred.



Heat Wave: Extreme summer temperatures contributed to dry conditions and wildfires throughout the state.

Human-Made Disasters:

Incidents: Notable events included a road rage shooting in San Antonio, a shooting at a bar in Waco, and an outlet mall shooting in Allen.

2022 Events:

Winter Storms: Texas experienced a series of winter storms in January and February.

Impact: Property damage, power outages, and disrupted transportation.

Response: The Texas District provided financial resources to help offset the cost of repairs to houses and congregations.

March 21, 2022: Tornadoes affected regions including the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Impact: Extensive property damage and widespread power outages.

Heat Wave and Drought: The state faced extreme heat waves, continued drought conditions, and associated wildfires during the summer months.

Spring and Late Summer Flooding: Heavy rainfall led to flash floods in various regions.

May 24, 2022 - Uvalde School Shooting

Impact: 19 children and 2 adults were killed, community forever changed.

Response - The Texas District mobilized to provide immediate supplies for first responders, families traveling for funerals and, working with the FBI, supported victims' families hospitalized in San Antonio providing case management and resource distribution.

2023 Events:

January 24-25, 2023: Severe Thunderstorms and Tornado Outbreak

Impact: Damage to homes and businesses, with thousands affected by power outages.

Spring 2023 Flash Flooding: Several rainstorms led to significant flash flooding in cities such as Houston and Fort Worth.

Impact: Evacuations in flood-prone areas and damage to infrastructure, homes, and roadways.

Hurricane Harvey Anniversary: Although the disaster occurred in August 2017, recovery efforts continued into 2024 with the final disbursements for assistance in May of 2024.



Response: The Texas District actively vetted cases and provided resources for long-term recovery. All the monies have been allocated for this disaster, although many families still face housing challenges.

2024 Events:

Severe Storms and Flooding: From April - June, Texas experienced many severe storms including heavy rainfall, flooding, damaging winds and flash flooding.

Impact: Wide spread damage in many parts of the state.

Derecho: On May 16, 2024, a derecho, which is a long-lived damaging thunderstorm, struck the Houston Metropolitan area.

Impact: Wide spread and excessive damage, downed powerlines and trees, shattered windows and millions of homes and businesses were left without power for days.

Tornado Outbreaks: Several tornado outbreaks occurred across the state.

Impact: On May 25, the tornado caused damage to 100 homes and destroyed 200 homes. Seven Deaths were reported and 100 injuries.

Response: Many of our congregations jumped into action opening their facilities to provide shelter, food and pastoral care in the wake of the disaster.

Hurricane Beryl: On July 8, 2024, Hurricane Beryl made landfall near Matagorda.

Impact: Damaging winds cause downed power lines and trees and left millions of Texans without electricity for days.

Summary:

Congregations played a pivotal role in disaster relief efforts, serving as vital support systems within their communities during crises. Through the mobilization of volunteers, provision of essential resources, and delivery of spiritual and emotional care, the Texas Districts Congregations, lay leaders and members acted as beacons of hope and resilience throughout the years. Drawing inspiration from Galatians 6:3, which encourages believers to “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,” congregations embraced their call to compassionate action. This scripture underscores the importance of solidarity and love in times of adversity, highlighting how a community’s strength is rooted in its willingness to share both struggles and support. As we look ahead, the commitment of congregations to service and collaboration will remain essential in addressing the challenges posed by disasters.

Recommendations for the future:

1. Enhance Emergency Preparedness: Develop and implement more robust emergency preparedness training programs for congregations and communities. Prepare mental health resources for affected individuals to support our pastors as they address the emotional impacts of disasters in the congregation and community.



2. Community Engagement: Foster partnerships between local organizations, emergency management, and community leaders to strengthen disaster response and recovery efforts.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL MINISTRY

Dr. William V. Hinz, Director of School Ministry
(Reporting period 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Office of School Ministry - Here to Serve

The office of the school ministry has been established by the Texas District to serve its congregations and those who are in ministry in congregations and schools. Please call us if we can assist your congregation in any way: Dr. Bill Hinz, 512-769-6791; Mrs. Lee Gaines 512-970-4886.

School Ministry in Congregations

Our Texas Lutheran Schools have the blessing each day to share God's Word, and HIS love and forgiveness with every student that attends our Lutheran Schools. Understanding that the love and forgiveness of Jesus is God's gift for them is our most important opportunity. Helping students/children understand their eternal value as a child of God is more important now than ever. Building their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ is critical for our students. Cultivating all the abilities and gifts that God has blessed them with is crucial for our students to serve and love God, and their future families, future congregations, and their neighbors.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

School ministries are outreach ministries for congregations as they are involved in reaching into their communities. The teachers and staff members are Front Line Missionaries. The students/children are being equipped as they hear and learn of the love of Jesus every day, to become Front Line Missionaries wherever God places them right now and in their future endeavors. What a tremendous blessing we have in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod with our heritage of Lutheran schools! Each school day our students hear about God's great love in Christ Jesus for each of us. Schools and centers are often able to reach students, children, and family members that would otherwise often not be reached. The faith of all students is strengthened as they experience the love of Christ and learn more about Him in their Lutheran schools daily.

Lutheran School Ministry in the Texas District

Currently in the 2024-2025 school year we have the privilege to share Jesus with 16,653



students every school day in our 120 Lutheran schools and early childhood centers in the Texas district with 2,667 educators. We are blessed with 78 early childhood, 31 elementary and 11 high school programs. We are preparing future leaders, as our students are being equipped with the Word by caring, loving teachers.

A Time of Recovery and Growth

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted not only our nation and the world, but our Lutheran schools across all age and grade levels. By God's grace, and through His power, our schools have seen growth and expansion. Additional classrooms are being added, new buildings are being erected that will provide more space for students and children to grow in their faith. As our enrollment continues to grow, we celebrate new beginnings and give thanks to God for the blessings of funding that will enable our schools to expand their preschool programs into elementary programs, equipping them to reach more students for God's kingdom.

Synodical Lutheran School Statistics

Statistics are gathered each year by the LCMS Department of School Ministry. Data for 2023-24 contains the following important statistics: **Total number of LCMS schools: 1,784**; Early Childhood Centers: 1,641; Elementary schools: 732; Middle Schools: 623; High schools: 109. **Total number of students: 172,565**; Early Childhood Centers: 65,245; Grades K-8: 88,443; Grades 9-12: 18,877; **Total number of teachers: 21,500**; Rostered teachers: 10,152; Non-rostered teachers: 11,348. LCMS Operated International Schools Number of students: Hong Kong International: 2,917; Concordia International Shanghai: 1,157; Concordia International Hanoi: 500.

Office of School Ministry - School Assessment

The Office of School Ministry is involved in a variety of activities and processes affecting schools such as: accreditation, leadership development, staffing assistance, legal issues, curriculum, Texas Education Agency (TEA) issues, teacher certification, continuing education, conferences, synodical connections, consulting, coordination, visioning, educational trends, conflict management, federal & state educational issues and the like.

Over the years the Board of Directors has made incremental increases to the school assessment level. In January 2023, the Texas District Board of Directors passed an increase in the School Assessment fee of \$1 per student to take effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

The work of the office of the school ministry is supported in part by the school assessment fee. The current school assessment fee is \$15 per student attending a Lutheran high school; \$12.50 for students in Lutheran schools in grades one through eight, and \$10.00 per student for early childhood through kindergarten students.



Early Childhood Education Ministry

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Council of the Texas District was formed in 1998 to assist congregations with early childhood centers. Members of the ECE Council of the Texas District include the following: Gail Winningham, Bethel, Dallas; Brandy Simmons, Lamb of God, Flower Mound; Suzanne Davis, Our Redeemer, Dallas; Sheri Losoya, Salem, Tomball; Kathy Entzenberger, LEAH Downtown Academy, Houston; Amy Sanders, Crosspoint, Katy; Christine Armstrong - Resurrection, Spring; Tiffany Kirkwood - St. Paul, Thorndale; Annette Wright - Concordia, San Antonio; Diane Dillow - Crown of Life, San Antonio; Katy Rohr - Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio; along with Dr. William Hinz, Director of School Ministry and Mrs. Lee Gaines, Executive Assistant, Office of School Ministry.

Annual Early Childhood Educators' (ECE) Conference - the ECE Conference has been held in late January throughout the years and rotates to different regions. In 2021 a virtual learning opportunity was provided and in 2022, due to rising COVID numbers, no conference was held. In response to COVID surges, the conference timeframe was moved to late February. In 2023, the conference was held in San Marcos and our most recent conference was held February 20 - 22, 2025, at Trinity-Klein Lutheran Church and School in Spring.

Directors and Assistant Directors Workshop

The ECE Council began the annual Directors and Assistant Directors Workshop in 1998. This workshop promotes leadership development and an opportunity to look at new resources and gain additional insights through networking. The workshop takes place usually the first weekend in November. The next Directors' Leadership Workshop will be held November 3-4, 2025.

Professional Development Opportunities for Early Childhood Directors and Teachers The Early Childhood Certificate of Christian Education is a professional and spiritual program that consists of 4 modules: 1) Mission and Ministry in Early Childhood Education; 2) Lutheran Thought and Teaching; 3) Methods and Materials of Early Childhood Christian Education; and 4) Faith Development of Children and Families.

The Texas District School Ministry Office and Early Childhood Council members are committed to providing these 10 hours of professional development to any region where 10 or more educators are registered for this instruction.

Additionally, monthly professional development zoom calls are scheduled during the school year with guest speakers on a number of vital topics. Each zoom provides 1 hour of professional development and a resource for directors to provide in-service training to their staff.

Training Future Lutheran Leaders - NEW and Existing Professional Development



Two new additional outstanding professional development programs for our leadership teams are; the **Herzog Foundation Institute and Principal 360** (Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation):

We are blessed to be able to partner with the Herzog Foundation, bringing leadership training right here in Texas.

The Herzog Foundation Institute provides training, events, and conferences to address relevant topics within the Christian education sphere. These events are led by national thought leaders and experts in subjects such as marketing, donor development, and culture building.

All training events are specifically designed for Christian educators, leaders and organizations with their unique needs in mind; these events are plentiful and fully funded by the Herzog Foundation for Christian educators and administrators of all denominations.

Principal 360, is an intense 11-month leadership development program. We have been blessed to have been able to bring this outstanding program here to Texas which will allow our teams to enhance their leadership skills.

Along with the Herzog Foundation Institute and Principal 360, the **FACT** (Future Administrator Candidate Program) continues to be an important growth opportunity for our secondary school leaders. ALSS (Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools) provides this as training for future Lutheran Secondary School leaders.

The mission of FACT is to identify, encourage, and prepare participants to be the next generation of Lutheran high school administrators. Coming alongside our future leaders is the Texas District Church Extension Fund in creating a special scholarship program to assist with the costs. It has been a blessing and a fruitful partnership.

This one-year cohort program will provide our future secondary administrators with a well-rounded learning journey—from traditional modes of learning to the very latest in Lutheran school administrator know-how and practitioner experiences. Participants will spend time and learn with other cohort members, ALSS members, Concordia University partners, and other experts in the field of leadership and school administration. This program is designed to help future administrators discover their leadership strengths and grow in confidence as they begin to use them in new and different ways. By the time each participant finishes the program, they will have enhanced their knowledge, skills, and dispositions as they prepare for a new leadership challenge as a Lutheran administrator.

The Van Lunen Center consists of two vital leadership programs; the **Van Lunen Fellows program** which is designed for the heads of Christian schools who have been in their positions for at least one year and report directly to the governing board of their schools and the **Van Lunen Ascending Leaders program**, designed to prepare individuals for their first



head of school position while strengthening management skills in current administrative roles.

SLED - The School Leadership Development Project (SLED), provided by the LCMS National Lutheran School Ministry Office, continues to be a vital learning opportunity for future leaders of our Lutheran schools. Its sole purpose is to identify, encourage and prepare early childhood, elementary and secondary school leaders to serve in leadership roles. SLED is a year-long professional development experience consisting of two on-site events led by leaders in Lutheran education and designed specifically for aspiring teacher leaders and administrators who are new in their leadership positions. It is essential that the recruitment and training of current and future leaders remains a priority. Each year The Texas District has been blessed to nominate a number of future leader candidates to participate in this vital program.

Resources for our Schools

Genesis Project - The Genesis Project assists congregations who are seeking to start a Lutheran School. Applications can be received through the Texas District-Office of School Ministry.

Lutheran School Consulting Services (LSCS) - The purpose of Lutheran School Consulting Services (LSCS) is to strengthen and revitalize Lutheran schools so God's children are well served and His kingdom expanded. LSCS focuses on the school and its ministry. As schools are strengthened, so are congregations and their ministries.

LSCS uses a specific process to assess, evaluate, and make relevant recommendations based on the various needs of the ministry requesting assistance. Trained assessors and consultants work hand in hand with ministries throughout the entire process to ensure that their needs are met, and their overall ministries are strengthened.

MissionInsite allows you to study the community context of your mission. If you or your congregation is being led to plant a church, establish a second worship site, or discover potential outreach opportunities such as starting a preschool/school program, this is the tool to use to become acquainted with your surrounding neighborhoods. With MissionInsite you can better understand your community and the people you serve.

Measure—MissionInsite answers the question “Who are we?” by providing an analysis of your current reach among members and donors, so that you can clearly identify strengths and weaknesses, and measure success.

Identify—MissionInsite answers the question “Who is my neighbor?” by defining the unique and dynamic demographic diversity of your service areas so that you can observe migrations of people and the changing needs of the community.



Discover—MissionInsite answers the question “What is our plan?” by revealing opportunities to serve more people and engage more in the community and identifying emerging opportunities and challenges as you expand your service area.

Congregations Calling a Head of School, Principal or an Early Childhood Director

One of the most critical times in the school ministry of a congregation is the calling of a new Head of School, Principal or an Early Childhood Director. The Director of School Ministry of the Texas District works together with Call Committees in this important endeavor. Dr. Hinz and the Office of School Ministry, Texas District assist throughout the Calling Process. Often the congregational leadership team invites Dr. Hinz to meet with the Call Committee at the start of the process to review the important steps of the Calling Process and the generation of potential candidates. A 10-page document has been developed by the Texas District Office of School Ministry to assist congregations

Congregations Calling Teachers - The Concordia University System is unique in all of America. The teachers coming out of our Concordia University Systems are exceptionally well prepared. In addition to our Lutheran Schools some of the best public districts in the state love to have Concordia graduates. Congregations need to continue to encourage young people to prayerfully consider church work. Many congregations have established financial assistance for these young people.

Beginning Teachers’ Workshop - Each year a special workshop is held for all first- and second-year teachers, and those new to teaching in Lutheran Schools. There is a need for congregations and schools to provide special care during the first few years of transitioning into the teaching profession. The Beginning Teachers’ Workshop is held on the first Sunday and Monday in October.

Lutheran High School Ministry in the Texas District

The Texas District is blessed to currently have eleven high schools: Grace Lutheran Classical School, Brenham; Concordia High School, Austin; Prince of Peace, Carrollton; Dallas Lutheran School, Dallas; Lutheran South Academy, Houston; Memorial Lutheran Classical School, Houston; Faith Lutheran Classical School, Plano; Trinity Lutheran School, San Angelo; Lutheran High School, San Antonio; Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball; Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas, Warda (Giddings). And starting in the 2025-26 school year, Westlake Lutheran Academy, Katy will add a high school program. The administrators of the Texas District Lutheran High Schools meet on a regular basis for the purpose of spiritual growth and for leadership development.

The graduates of our Lutheran high schools have been blessed to go on to the finest schools (Universities) in our country and do exceptionally well as leaders in their own families, communities, and congregations. This is a tribute to the Christian upbringing they receive in their own families and to the development of their Christian faith through the various



Christian teachers and mentors they experience. This process is enhanced by the Christian role models they see each day in their Lutheran High Schools.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (LSAC)

The Lutheran School Accreditation Commission (LSAC) is an accrediting agency for schools (Early Childhood Centers, Elementary and High Schools) of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Accrediting associations recognized by the Texas Commissioner of Education is to accredit non-public schools in Texas through the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). Member associations of TEPSAC, like LSAC, are authorized to accredit those schools that meet all the Accreditation Standards. All accredited schools of the Texas District are listed on the TEPSAC website: www.tepsac.com Texas School Directory.

LSAC is certified by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TPSAC) and is recognized by the Commissioner of Education of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in accordance with Texas Administrative Code Title 19 Part II, Chapter 97, Subchapter A, #97.7. The accreditation on non-public schools under this arrangement became effective on February 12, 1986.

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) allows student teachers to do their student teaching in an accredited non-public school. The teaching requirement for Texas certification may be fulfilled by teaching in an accredited non-public school. The website <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/leadership/state-board-for-educatorcertification> gives information about certification in Texas.

In addition to accreditation by LSAC, LCMS schools may also apply for National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). All of the schools accredited by LSAC currently also hold national accreditation.

LSAC through an NLSA agreement has a working agreement with Cognia (formerly known as AdvancEd; originally it was Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - SACS). CCLE (Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education) has a working agreement with NLSA. CCLE also has a working agreement through LSAC, for schools accredited through the CCLE process to be recognized by LSAC, and therefore by TEPSAC.

A total of forty-five schools (which consist of freestanding early childhood centers, elementary and high schools) are now accredited or currently in the process by LSAC & NLSA or CCLE. The following schools are accredited by Lutheran School Accreditation Commission of Texas (LSAC) and the National Accreditation Commission (NLSA) of the LCMS. The current school administrator is also listed. Schools currently accredited By the Lutheran Schools Accreditation Commission of Texas (LSAC).



School Name	City	Administrator
Trinity	Amarillo	Sarah Black
Concordia High School	Austin	Dr. Marianne Rader
Mt. Olive Preschool	Austin	Brandy Sego
Redeemer	Austin	Tom Geyer
Messiah Preschool	Boerne	Gina Husky
Grace **	Brenham	Rev. Isaac Schuller
Prince of Peace Christian School	Carrollton	Dr. Jeremy Lowe
Crown of Life	Colleyville	Dan Dueck
St. John Preschool	Cypress	Tiffany Bunker
Dallas Lutheran School	Dallas	Betsy Graham
Our Redeemer	Dallas	Suzanne Davis
Zion	Dallas	Dr. Jeff Thorman
Lamb of God Preschool	Flower Mound	Brandy Simmons
St. Paul	Ft. Worth	Andrew Montgomery
Zion-Walburg	Georgetown	Suzan Winkelman
St. Paul-Serbin	Giddings	Kelsey Schatte
Immanuel	Giddings	Justin Fierro
Christ Memorial Preschool	Houston	Barb Tanz
Epiphany Lutheran School	Houston	Jon Fraker
Gethsemane Preschool	Houston	Kim Perry
Gloria Dei Preschool	Houston	Shani Vindas
Immanuel Preschool	Houston	Cathy Swanstrom
Lutheran South Academy	Houston	Scott Browning
Memorial	Houston	Rev. Robert Paul
Our Savior	Houston	Kate Thielke
St. Mark	Houston	Heidi Jerry
Faith	Huntsville	Cheryl Bailes
Crosspoint Preschool	Katy	Amy Sanders
Memorial Lutheran Preschool	Katy	Jessica Griffith
Westlake Lutheran Academy	Katy	Stacey Walter
Messiah Classical Academy	Keller	Allison Smith
St. Paul	Mc Allen	Marco Lopez
Grace Preschool	Midland	Amy Hoppman
Cross	New Braunfels	Dyanna Eastwood
Faith	Plano	Tom Bartel
Trinity	San Angelo	Ron Fritsche
St. Peter Preschool*	Roanoke	Jennifer Murff
Concordia	San Antonio	Susan Kirby
Lutheran High School	San Antonio	Andrew Eickstead
Shepherd of the Hills	San Antonio	Katy Rohr
Trinity-Klein	Spring	Tracy King



St. Paul	Thorndale	Becky Cavage
Concordia Lutheran High School	Tomball	Julie Kangas
Salem	Tomball	Dr. Amy Boatman
Trinity Preschool	Tyler	Penny Robbins
Faith Lutheran High School	Warda	Nikki Kueck
*=In Process		
**=CCLE only		

Each year an accredited school must submit an Annual Report documenting the progress being made toward meeting the recommendations made by the Accreditation Visit Team. Each report is reviewed by LSAC. The progress of each school is rated on the basis of the report. For those schools holding National Lutheran School Accreditation the District commission is responsible for reviewing annual reports and submitting to the National Accreditation Commission its recommendations for continuing national accreditation for Texas District schools.

Each commissioner is appointed by the Texas District Board of Directors for a three-year term - (*denotes Regional Chair) Commission members are:

Chairperson: Dave Glienke, Emeritus, Redeemer, Austin

Vice-Chairperson: Matthew Schleicher, Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball

Austin Area

*Kris Becker, Emeritus, Redeemer, Austin
 Jeff Fink, Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio
 Suzan Winkelman, Zion-Walburg, Georgetown

Houston Area

*Debbie Baacke, Emeritus, Lutheran South Academy, Houston
 Sheryl Seybold, Emeritus, St. Mark, Houston
 Rachel Garrabrant, Lutheran South Academy, Houston

Dallas Area

*Tim Merritt, Faith, Plano
 Corey Moss, Prince of Peace, Carrollton
 Teri Bielefeldt, Emeritus, St. Paul, Ft. Worth

Office of School Ministry

Dr. William V. Hinz, Executive Director
 Mrs. Lee A. Gaines, Executive Assistant, Office of School Ministry



PARISH COMMISSIONED WORKERS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

DCE Christiane Hobbs, Youth Ministry and Commissioned Minister Specialist

I began shadowing Paul Krentz in the Fall of 2020 as he served in this part-time role for the Texas District, and I was called to fill the role in 2021.

This part-time role includes three main areas of focus: commissioned minister calls, support of parish workers, and youth ministry.

Parish Commissioned Minister Calls

I provide call lists to congregations for all commissioned ministers other than Lutheran School teachers and administrators, which includes:

- Directors of Christian Education (DCE)
- Deaconesses
- Directors of Parish Music (DPM)
- Directors of Church Ministry (DCM)
- Directors of Family Life Ministry (DFLM)
- Directors of Christian Outreach (DCO)

Since the fall of 2021, I have assisted congregations in 54 commissioned minister call processes. This work includes reviewing position descriptions, talking with pastors or call committee members, searching the LCMS Commissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF) database, making use of other sources of information on commissioned workers, and providing congregations with CMIF documents for potential candidates. At the time of this writing (early March), I am actively working with 7 congregations in commissioned minister call processes.

Serving and Supporting Parish Commissioned Ministers and Lay Workers

There are around 140 commissioned ministers of the above listed classifications currently serving in the Texas District. There are also many individuals who are rostered as teachers who serve Texas District congregations in music, outreach ministry, or educational ministry for children, youth and families. Additionally, there are many exceptional lay people who have been raised up from within churches of our District to serve their community in these ways.

I am available to provide support and encouragement for all these types of congregational workers. I regularly meet with DCE cluster groups around our District and have also met with parish musicians. I work with DCEs in our District to plan the Texas District Spiritual Renewal Retreat that is held annually in February. More than 40 people involved in parish ministry attend this retreat.



My involvement as a member of the Texas District Care and Coaching team helps equip me and sharpen my skills for the work of supporting parish workers. I coordinate with the members of this team to provide articles for Minister to Minister on the topic of worker care and wellness.

Youth Ministry

I provide support and resources for youth ministry and youth ministry leaders throughout the Texas District in a variety of ways, including:

- Managing the Texas District DCE Page, Youth Ministry Page, and Glorybound YouthServe Grant pages on Facebook.
- Sending out a subscription-based newsletter to share information about upcoming youth ministry events and opportunities in our district and throughout the LCMS.
- Overseeing the Glorybound YouthServe grant process for congregational youth ministry partnerships that apply for funds for youth mission and service events in Texas.
- Writing grant requests for youth ministry events and activities, including the Missional Youth Retreat which takes place on the campus of Concordia Texas every summer. This event, led by the CTX DCE program staff and students, in partnership with church workers from around the district, has played a pivotal role in raising up church workers for over 40 years!
- Partnering with Charessa Koontz as Co-District Coordinator for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering (New Orleans, July 19-23). By early February, over 1,500 youth and adults from Texas were already registered to attend the Gathering!
- Connecting with youth ministry leaders from around our District and Synod and encouraging strategic partnerships.

It is an honor to serve the people and congregations of the Texas District LCMS.

Please reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you or your congregation!

Email: chobbs@txlcms.org

May you be Blessed to be a Blessing!

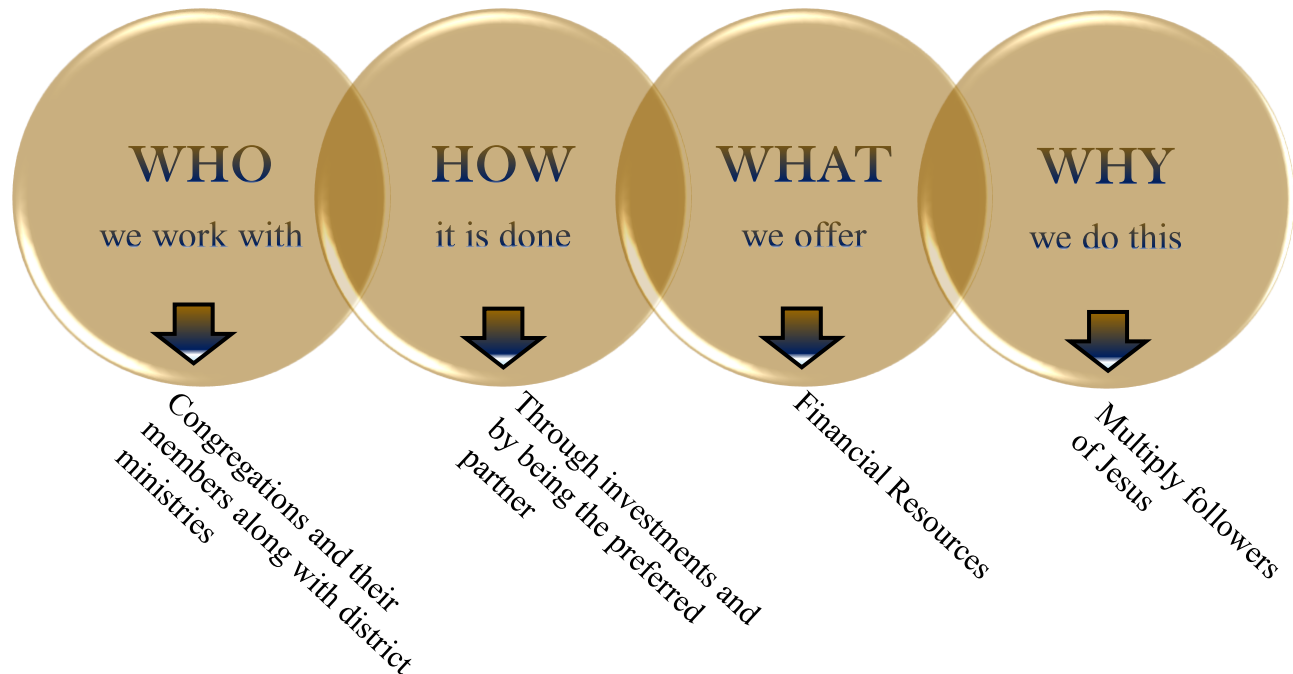




Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas CEF)

Through investments from Texas District LCMS congregations and their members, Church Extension Fund will be the preferred financial resources partner for district ministries focused on multiplying followers of Jesus.

This mission statement, updated in 2021, concisely explains our work, staying true to our past, encompassing the present and outlining the future.



The Core Values of Texas CEF

- We believe that God is the heart of everything we do.
- We believe that Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples" drives our work.
- We believe that all decisions must be made with prayer.
- We believe that Texas CEF serves investors and borrowers by being the preferred financial resources partner.
- We believe that financial responsibility should be practiced by Texas CEF and promoted among congregations and investors.
- We believe the Texas CEF ministry must expand and grow to help multiply followers of Jesus.
- We believe that we must be flexible to meet the changing ministry needs in the Texas District.
- We believe in the strength and value of teamwork in the Texas District.



Texas CEF: Blessed to be a Blessing to Others

Mission Thrives: The Texas Two-Step Program

The collaboration between Texas CEF and Texas Partners in Mission continues to be a success. Designed to increase financial resources for new ministries across Texas, the “Texas Two Step” program has made a lasting impact.

\$2,481,650.60
in
matching gifts!

With the goal to increase financial resources available for starting new ministries in Texas, this program continues to succeed!

Since its inception in 2001, Texas CEF has matched donations to Texas Partners in Mission, resulting in a remarkable total of over **\$2,481,650.60!** With every dollar contributed going directly to support missions in the Texas District, we are blessed by the generosity of over **1,145 gifts from investors** who have participated in this wonderful program.

The “Texas Two-Step” Program is a special way to take steps across Texas to share Jesus. Your support makes a difference, and together, we continue to make strides for the mission.

Incentive Rebate Program: Past, Present and Future

The Past

Since its inception in 1999, Texas CEF has distributed **2,566 loan rebate checks** to congregations. This equates to **\$11,044,298.17** given back to support ministry!

The Present

All Texas District LCMS congregations with an active Texas CEF loan can earn an annual loan rebate. This rebate is determined by the ratio of a congregation’s “supporting investments” to its remaining loan balance. Every Texas CEF investor can list a Texas LCMS congregation to receive “loan rebate credit” for their investment. The total investment amounts of those investors supporting a specific congregation are used in the ratio.

\$11,044,298.1
7 returned
to ministry!

The Future

As we celebrate the past success of the Incentive Rebate Program, we are also looking to the future. Our goal is to celebrate and strengthen our relationship with congregations in an even more impactful way. Be on the lookout for details on the expansion and enhancements of this program! **To God Be ALL the Glory!!!**



REPORT ON 2025 NOMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

The nomination process for the Offices of President and Area Vice Presidents was initiated on schedule as ballots and instructions were mailed prior to the deadline on October 4, 2024 to the chair of each congregation of the district.

All nomination ballots sent to the secretary by the deadline of February 4, 2025 for the Office of President and Area Vice Presidents were tabulated by the secretary. The pastors with the highest number of ballots, who received at least five nominations (President) or three nominations (Vice President) and who accepted nomination, defines the slate for these offices. The slate for these offices is limited to five nominees, or fewer, if fewer than five nominees received the minimum number of nominations. The slate could exceed five nominees if there was a tie for the fifth spot on the ballot.

The willingness of each nominee for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot was secured in writing, in accord with bylaw requirements. Biographical information for the workbook was received from each nominee, which was then compiled by district office staff for inclusion in the workbook. The results of the nominating procedure are reported in this workbook as reflected in the slate of candidates for the office of president and the respective offices of area vice presidents.

Regarding the slate for president and vice presidents, “The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the amendment, deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for the chair to ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of the biographical form). Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the secretary of the district this document and written pertinent information concerning this nominee. After all such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates prior to each election” (Bylaws 1.023 f & g and 1.047 f & g, 2018 Handbook of the Texas District). In accord with district bylaws (1.023.a and 1.047.a), to be eligible for nomination one must have previously received the minimum number of nominations, five for president and three for vice president.

Voting for circuit visitor nominees was accomplished within most circuits at circuit forums in accord with procedures detailed in the Handbook of the Synod (Bylaw 5.2.2.a-e). A few circuits did not conduct circuit forums to elect a circuit visitor nominee. In each of those cases, in accord with the bylaws of the Synod (Bylaw 5.2.2.f), a circuit visitor nominee was selected by the district president for the election slate. The complete slate of circuit visitor



nominees for ratification by the 2025 convention is presented in this workbook. Election to any office is by majority vote.

Respectfully submitted,
 Brian Hesse
 District Secretary

District Secretary Report of District President and Area Vice President Nominations

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Name	Rank	Total Nominations: 160
Jon Braunersreuther	1	65
John F. Davis	2	61
Thomas E. Chryst	3	14
Tab C. Ottmers	4	6
Peter C. Kolb	4	6

Others receiving less than five ballots (nomination requires five nominating ballots): Nathan W. Hill (1), Nathan Wendorf (1), Robert J. Pase (1), Patrick Ferry (1), Geoffrey Brent McGuire (1), Bryan Wolfmueller (1), Scott Murray (1), Joel Shaltanis (1).

VICE PRESIDENT AREA A

Name	Rank	Total Nominations: 19
Robert Pase	1	10
Eric D. Hiner	2	9

Others receiving less than three ballots (nomination requires three nominating ballots): None

VICE PRESIDENT AREA B

Name	Rank	Total Nominations 33
Larry Krueger	1	21
Jon Thomas	2	6

Others receiving less than three ballots (nomination requires three nominating ballots): Tab Ottmers (2), John Messmann (1), Jared Raebel (1), Geoffrey Brent McGuire (1), Joel Shaltanis (1).

VICE PRESIDENT AREA C

Name	Rank	Total Nominations 27
Nathan M. Wendorf	1	12
C. Bryan Wolfmueller	2	9
Martin D. Danner	3	5



Others receiving less than three ballots (nomination requires three nominating ballots): Carl Roth (1).

VICE PRESIDENT AREA D

Name	Rank	Total Nominations 61
John F. Davis	1	27
Gene Johnson	2	9
Lonnie Gonzales	3	7
Kelly D. Krieg	4	5
Ted Benson	5	4

Others receiving less than three ballots (nomination requires three nominating ballots): Matthew Brackman (2), Michael Dorn (2), Russell A. Etzel (1), Jon Salminen (1), Timothy Engel (1), Jon Braunersreuther (1).

Nominations were made by 105 total congregations participating in the process.

15 Congregations from Area A

27 Congregations from Area B

27 Congregations from Area C

37 Congregations from Area D

Overall, this nomination cycle experienced increased participation from the previous convention.



District Secretary Report of Circuit Visitor Nominee Elections

Circuit #1	Rev. Joseph Andrajack	Circuit #21	Rev. Richard Mittwede
Circuit #2	Rev. Nathan Misch	Circuit #22	Rev. Carl D. Roth
Circuit #3	Rev. Eric Stadler	Circuit #23	Rev. Nathaniel Hill
Circuit #4	Rev. Richard Mittelstadt	Circuit #24	Rev. Dr. Brian Kachelmeier
Circuit #5	Rev. Tom Chandler	Circuit #25	Rev. David Murillo
Circuit #6	Rev. Steven Brummett	Circuit #26	Rev. Thomas W. Winter
Circuit #7	Rev. Stephen Sandfort	Circuit #27	Rev. Mark Carnahan
Circuit #8	Rev. Paul Terrall	Circuit #28	Rev. Gregory Lorenz
Circuit #9	Rev. Greg Beutel	Circuit #29	Rev. Christopher Brynestad
Circuit #10	Rev. Andy Whaley	Circuit #30	Rev. Michael P. Dorn
Circuit #11	Rev. Adam Douthwaite	Circuit #31	Rev. Scott Heitshusen
Circuit #12	Rev. Mark Huston	Circuit #32	Rev. Richard Lamb
Circuit #13	Rev. Scott Sundbye	Circuit #33	Rev. Doyle Theimer
Circuit #14	Rev. Joe Mashburn	Circuit #34	Rev. Joshua Knippa
Circuit #15	Rev. Harry Smith	Circuit #35	Rev. Jonathan Salminen
Circuit #16	Rev. Jonathan R. Thomas	Circuit #36	Rev. Matthew Brackman
Circuit #17	Rev. Timothy Ochsner	Circuit #37	Rev. James Moreno
Circuit #18	Rev. Michael Nemec	Circuit #38	Rev. Brad Jurischk
Circuit #19	Rev. Scott Schaller	Circuit #39	Rev. Gene Johnson
Circuit #20	Rev. Jonathan C. Bontke	Circuit #40	Rev. Timothy Engel

Sola Deo Gloria



THE NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT

(Nominees in alphabetical order by last name)

REV. DR. JON BRAUNERSREUTHER, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICTWIDE STRATEGY/MISSION STRATEGIST, TEXAS DISTRICT - LCMS, TOMBALL; AGE 62

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Associate pastor, Zion, Brighton, Colorado, 1989-1992. Pastor, Prince of Peace, Amarillo, Texas, 1992-1996. Mission and Ministry Facilitator, Texas District—LCMS, 1996-2001. Senior Assistant to the President, LCMS, 2001-2010.

Years as Member of Synod: 36

Year of Ordination: 1989

Previous District or Synod Offices: Assistant Secretary, Rocky Mountain District, 1990-1992. Circuit Visitor, Texas District, 1995-1996

Educational Background: B.S. in Education, Lutheran Teacher Diploma—Concordia University Nebraska, 1985 (with highest honors; outstanding graduate in pre-seminary and elementary education programs). M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1989. D.Min., Regent University, Virginia Beach, 2019 (outstanding graduate).

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Rotary Club, 1989-1992; Board of Directors, House of Neighborly Services, Brighton, Colorado, 1989-1992; LCMS President's Church Relations Cabinet, 2001-2010; Board of Directors, Lutheran Community Foundation, 2003-2012; LCMS liaison to Thrivent Financial, 2004-2010; Texas District representative, Church Planters Leadership Fellowship, 2011-present.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Texas District Developing Leaders for Ministry facilitator—1993-2001; Texas District convention floor committee member—1994; Texas District Developing Leaders for Ministry project coordinator—1996-2001; Texas District convention floor committee staff—1997, 2000, 2015, 2018, 2021; LCMS President's assistant, Council of Presidents meetings—2001-2010; LCMS Corporate Synod Executives meeting facilitator—2001-2010; LCMS President's Leadership Group meeting facilitator—2001-2010; LCMS Blue Ribbon Task Force on Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution—2002-2004; LCMS convention floor committee staff—2004, 2007, 2010; LCMS Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance—2007-2010; Steering committee, Texas District Professional Workers Conference—2011, 2014, 2016; Board of Directors (ex officio), LINC—2011-present; Board of Directors (ex officio), Global Mission—2021-present.



Goals: If entrusted with the sacred responsibility of the presidency of the Texas District, I envision deepening our commitment to our common convictions centered on Jesus Christ and found in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. I picture deepening our commitment to our common cause—reaching out with the pure, precious Gospel of our convictions to a world that is literally dying without a Savior. I see deepening our commitment to community—our convictions are best maintained and our cause is best achieved when we encourage and challenge one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ. To that end, I would implore God’s help: “Dear God, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small” (Breton Fisherman’s Prayer).

REV. THOMAS E. CHRYST, PASTOR, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, KELLER; AGE 50

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Associate Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Racine, WI. Part-Time Instructor, Concordia University Wisconsin, Kenosha Campus. Strategic Mission Developer, Office of International Missions, (Missionary to Singapore). Strategic Mission Developer, Office of National Mission. Associate Pastor and Sole Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Keller, TX.

Years as Member of Synod: 26

Year of Ordination: 1999

Previous District or Synod Offices: Circuit Counselor (Visitor); Committee for Convention Nominations - Synod; Committee for Convention Nominations - District; Seminary Student Interview Committee; LWML Convention Counselor; Racine Lutheran High School Board of Trustees; Doctrinal Review; Vicarage and Diaconess internship supervisor.

Educational Background: M. Div. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1999; Bachelor of Arts, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, 1995.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Regional Committee Member for Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation. Chess coach and tutor; tournament level player. Multi-family real estate passive investor certification.

Other Experience/Qualifications: I’m a parish pastor with a wide variety of experiences but no particular expertise or specialization. I have experience with Lutheran schools at every level from Preschool to College. I’ve served overseas and also built relationships with over 70 congregations to support my mission work, and have seen a wider swath of the Synod than many. I’ve also supervised and mentored a variety of contract and commissioned workers.



Goals: I'm humbled to be nominated and, if elected, would serve to the best of my abilities. Texas is a large district and faces many challenges because of that alone. The demographic growth of our state is a great opportunity for continued mission work and, especially, church-planting. That district serves best which encourages and equips congregations and workers toward faithful Lutheran doctrine and practice. It's also important that congregations are visited by the District President as often as possible, a great challenge for Texas with over 360 congregations.

REV. DR. JOHN F. DAVIS - SR. PASTOR, MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, KATY; AGE 61

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Memorial, Katy, Associate Pastor (1993-1999). Immanuel, Giddings, Associate Pastor (1999-2002). Immanuel, Giddings, Senior Pastor (2002-2007). Memorial, Katy, Senior Pastor (2008 - Present).

Years as Member of Synod: 31

Year of Ordination: 1993

Previous District or Synod Offices: Circuit Counselor, Circuit 22 (2001-2003); Circuit Visitor, Circuit 38 (2008-2018); Texas District First Vice President (Area D) (2018- Present)

Educational Background: Texas A&M University - BS Civil Engineering (1985). Concordia Seminary, St. Louis - Master Divinity (1993). Concordia Seminary, St. Louis - Doctor of Ministry (2025).

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Surface Warfare Officer, US Navy (1985-1989; active reserve 1989-1991). Protestant Lay Reader, USS Nicholson, DD-982 (1986-1989). Can-Do Missions Steering Committee (1995-2002; chair 1997-2002). Lutheran Social Services of the South, Spiritual Care Advisory Committee (2 years). Apple of His Eye Houston, Board of Directors (1997-1999). Texas District LWML Pastoral Counselor (2006-2010). Texas District Theological Convocation Committee (2005-2022, chair 2007-2022). Texas District Board of Directors (2018 - Present). LCMS Convention Delegate (1998, 2013, 2016, 2023). Contributor, Texas District Evangelism Curriculum (2017). Williamschase Homeowners Association Vice President (1995-1999). Whispering Lakes Homeowners Association President (2011 - Present). Katy ISD Superintendent's BEAM committee (2 years). Katy ISD Keys Mentoring Program (2011- 2021). Katy Elementary Campus Advisory Team (2013, 2018 - 2022). Texas High School Basketball referee (1998-2008). Little League Baseball Coach (9 years).

Goals: It has been a privilege and blessing to be able to serve the congregations and people of the Texas District as an area vice president for these past seven years. And for me, that is the key word: serve. As a pastor, I have been called to serve the Priesthood of all Believers,



to prepare them for works of ministry (Eph 4:11–12). As a district president, it would be my goal to extend that service to the congregations and people of the district so that together we might reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people locally and globally. It would be my desire to support and encourage both the laity and church workers in a rapidly changing culture and in the midst of significant challenges for the Church and to provide appropriate assistance when needed or requested. Another of my goals would be to help, defend, and lift up those who faithfully and courageously seek to bring the beauty of the Gospel and our Lutheran witness to the world. I would prioritize working with Synod leaders and institutions to develop and implement pathways to form pastors so that the congregations of Texas would have the pastors they need to serve the mission and ministry our Savior has set before us. Finally, looking ahead, it would be my goal to prepare the next generation of leaders to serve the Texas District to not only continue God's Kingdom work being done here, but further it among us. Most of all, I pray that in all I do, Jesus' name will be glorified and the Kingdom of God increased.

REV. PETER C. KOLB, PASTOR, ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH, WACO; AGE 55.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Faith Lutheran Church, Corsicana, Texas
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Vandalia, Illinois. LCMS Missionary-Asia, Chaplain, Church plant:
Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod).

Years as Member of Synod: 25

Year of Ordination: 2000

Previous District or Synod Offices: Texas Seminary Interview Committee; LWML Counselor;
District CID (Central Illinois District) Pastor's Conference Planning Committee 2 years-four
conferences; LCMS Missionary: Chaplain - Asia, church plant; LCMS Life Grant Reviewer;
Texas District Pro-Life Representative.

Educational Background: San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, California. Concordia
Nebraska, Bachelor Science: Geography. Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Master of Divinity.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Nursing Home Worship 2006-2014,
2024-present, Radio Outreach 2007, Golden Circle 2006-2014, Board of Directors-Lighthouse
Pregnancy Center 2013, Pro-life Waco 2017-Present, 40 Days for Life 2017-present, Pot of
Gold 2024-present.

Other Experience/Qualifications: My experience is in serving as a parish pastor for almost 25
years, along with time as a missionary serving as a chaplain to missionaries and their families
in Southeast Asia, and planting an English speaking congregation in Hong Kong. Serving
missionaries and their families was a valuable experience that has prepared me to serve as



District President, as one who cares for pastors and their families. The opportunity to plant a church in Hong Kong helped reenforce what is important in a church. Wherever a church is planted it should proclaim Christ crucified for sinners.

Goals: My goals as District President include serving our Lord for the benefit of the saints here in Texas and reaching out to the lost and encouraging pastors and congregations to be Lutheran in their worship and teaching. This would include assisting, visiting, and equipping our Lutheran churches in Texas to tell the Good News about Jesus (Acts 8:35), and be faithful with His Word and Sacraments. This a great opportunity to reach out to the many cultures and languages we have here in Texas with our solid Lutheran teaching of God's grace, mercy and truth, all found within the pages of the Holy Scriptures.

REV. TAB C. OTTMERS, PASTOR, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRVIEW; AGE 46.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: None.

Years as Member of Synod: 15

Year of Ordination: 2010

Previous District or Synod Offices: Texas District Pre-Seminary Interview Committee, 2010-2013. Texas District Theological Convocation Committee, 2013-2018. Texas District Circuit Visitor, 2016-2022. LCMS Synodical Floor Committee 12, Retention. June 2019.

Educational Background: University of Texas at Arlington, Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies 2004.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: President, Lutheran Student Center, University of Texas at Arlington 2001-2003.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Establishing, training and enforcing a unified training program for drivers within a major parcel carrying corporation. This not only required knowledge of systems and procedures but also required building unity and consensus across diversified people groups.

Goals: Just as Our Lord himself prohibits lordship in Luke 22:25 among the apostles, "And he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.'" My first goal would be no different than every pastor and member in the Texas District, to bring glory to the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. However, as a leader who serves, secondly, I pray that by the Holy Spirit, I would "hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give



instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” As chief executive of the district, I would represent the Synod in an evangelical way working to build unity and joy in mission and faithfulness among the congregations of our district. Finally, my last goal would be to visit and support the pastors and congregations assisting them in the mission that our Lord has blessed them with.

THE NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT – AREA A

REV. ERIC D. HINER, SR. PASTOR, HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, LUBBOCK; AGE 45.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: 2007-2009 Associate Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church - Denton, TX. 2009-2014 Sole Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church - Fort Worth, TX. 2014-Present Senior Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church - Lubbock, TX.

Years as Member of Synod: 18

Year of Ordination: 2007

Previous District or Synod Offices: 2015-2024 Circuit 3 Visitor; 2018-2019 Vicarage Supervisor; 2016-2019 PALS Facilitator; 2018 Texas District Convention Chairman of Floor Committee A.

Educational Background: Concordia University - Seward, NE, Bachelors in Business
Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO, Master of Divinity

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: 2017-2023, Camp Director - Panhandle South Plains Lutheran Camp Association. 2020-2022 Advisory Board Member of The Lutheran Student Center of Texas Tech. 2020-Present, Member - Frenship ISD Foundation. 2019-Present, Stephen Leader for Stephen Ministry.

Other Experience/Qualifications: I have served in Area A for the past 10 years as a pastor, circuit visitor, and as a general advocate for the ministry that is unique to the West Texas landscape. I have had the privilege to work with many of the churches in Area A through their call processes, vacancies, and strategic planning meetings. Through it all I have experienced the blessings that they are to our communities.

Goals: As Vice President of Area A, I would seek out ways to support each congregation in their mission and ministry and to faithfully represent the Texas District in so doing. I believe the greatest resource we have as a church body are the people who gather faithfully in



worship and 'daily emerge and arise to live before God' (Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of Baptism). I look forward to the opportunity to learn from and walk with the congregations of Area A as we together seek to serve the Lord.

REV. ROBERT PASE - PASTOR, OUR SAVIOR, ABILENE; AGE 62

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Grace, Lamesa, 1989-96. Peace Mission, Seminole, 1989-91. Bethlehem, Palestine, 1996-2000. Grace, Midland, 2000-2024. Our Savior, Abilene, 2024-current.

Years as Member of Synod: 35

Year of Ordination: 1989

Previous District or Synod Offices: Circuit Visitor, 12 years: Synodical Convention delegate, 1995, 2004, 2010, 2013, 2019, 2023. Synod Convention Floor Committee member, 2023.

Educational Background: Concordia, Ann Arbor, BA. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, M.Div..

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Rotarian 1990-2016. Former club president (2005-06). Assistant District Governor, District #5730, 6 years. District Financial Committee, 2 years. Member of county Child Welfare Board in Dawson, Anderson, and Midland Counties. President of Anderson County CWB for 2 years.

Other Experience/Qualifications: I have served and traveled throughout Area A for 31 of my 35 years of pastoral ministry. I am well aware of the uniqueness of our Area. And I am not shy about speaking up for the ministries happening in West Texas.

Goals: My goal as Vice President of Area A is the same goal I have as a Pastor. To be present. To listen. To support. To advocate. To be sure that Area A has a clear, distinct voice at every Board of Directors meeting. To be present means also that I will attend every Winkel in every circuit every year and to make every special service and/or event of any congregation in Area A.



THE NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT – AREA B

*=Incumbent

***REV. LARRY KRUEGER - EMERITUS, MEMBER: IMMANUEL LUTHERAN MINISTRIES, TEMPLE;
AGE 68**

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Sr. Pastor, St. Paul, Waco, 2013-2021; Assoc. Pastor, Concordia, San Antonio, 2011-2013; Asst. to LCMS President, 2002-2010; Pastor, University Chapel, College Station, 1998-2002; Pastor, Grace, Midland, 1995-1998; Pastor, St. Paul, Denton, 1991- 1995; Assoc. Pastor, Redeemer, Peoria, IL, 1988-1991; Pastor, First, Tahlequah, OK, 1986-1988.

Years as Member of Synod: 39

Year of Ordination: 1986

Previous District or Synod Offices: Texas District Secretary, 2015 - 2021. Third Vice President of the Texas District (Area B), 2021- Present.

Educational Background: The University of Texas in Austin, BBA, Management 1978
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Master of Divinity, 1986

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Texas District Evangelist Training, 2025; Waco Chapter of Texas Exes, Board of Directors (5 years); Baylor Community of Campus Chaplains, 2014-2021; Homeless Task Force, Bellmead, 2019-2021; Bellmead Chamber of Commerce, 2014-2021; Dal-North LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor, 1992-1995; LWML Texas District Pastoral Counselor, 1996-2000; President's Representative to the LWML, 2007-2010.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Having served as secretary, a vice president, and on the board of directors of the district, I have a broad working knowledge of the operation of the district. As Vice President of Area B, I have gained first-hand knowledge of mission efforts of the congregations, circuits, and church planting networks in this area. I have developed personal relationships with area circuit visitors and many of the pastors, including in the Hispanic and African Immigrant communities. Having grown up in Central Texas and previously having served as a pastor in two congregations in Area B, I appreciate the opportunity to serve and support the mission and ministry work throughout this region of the district.



Goals: The mission statements of the LCMS and the Texas District are stated, respectively, as follows: “In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.” “The mission of the Texas District is to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people - locally and globally.” Therefore, a primary goal for me is to assist in the fulfillment of these mission directives. Accordingly, an equally important goal is to serve in an evangelical manner that gives glory to God through our Lord Jesus, upholds Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and offers Christian love and respect for the people with whom I serve. Finally, I will strive to fulfill the bylaw requirements of this office to the best of my abilities by assisting the president of the district as he requests, including visitation throughout the area and encouragement of area mission and ministry endeavors.

REV. JONATHAN R. THOMAS - SENIOR PASTOR, ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, MANSFIELD; AGE 56

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Associate Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, TX 1994-2003. Executive Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Ministries, Lake Mary, FL 2003-2011. Senior Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Orange, CA 2011-2015. Senior Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Mansfield, TX 2016-present.

Years as Member of Synod: 31

Year of Ordination: 1994

Previous District or Synod Offices: Ministerial Youth Retreat Committee, TX District 1995-2002. Advisory Counsel for Youth Ministry, FL/GA District 2003-2011. Summer Mission Trip Leader, FL/GA District 2003-2011. Regional Mission Counsel Chairman, PSW District, 2012-2016. Pastoral Advisor Pedal Pushers, Lutheran Layman’s League, 2012-2016. Circuit Visitor, 2020-present.

Educational Background: Bachelor of Arts - Concordia University Ann Arbor, MI 1990, Major: Psychology Minor: Greek and Math. Master of Divinity - Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO 1994.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: YMCA Board of Directors - Houston, TX 1999-2003. Lake Mary Pastors Association Chairman, Lake Mary, FL 2006-2010. Wellbeing Mansfield, 2023-present. Board of Directors - Belize Mission Society - 2023-present. Mansfield Churches for the City President - 2024-present. Board of Directors - Mansfield Mission Center - 2024-present.



Other Experience/Qualifications: Pastoral Leadership Institute, Class of 2001

Goals: Simply, to serve. I would love to be a part of more lives, more congregations, more ministries being transformed by Jesus. I would like the Texas District to be known for missions, unity and generosity.

THE NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT – AREA C

*=Incumbent

REV. MARTIN D. DANNER, LPC, LMFT - SR. PASTOR, BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN; AGE 43.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: St. Paul - Ft. Worth, Texas - Associate Pastor

Years as Member of Synod: 17

Year of Ordination: 2008

Previous District or Synod Offices: None listed

Educational Background: Concordia University Texas - English and Communication. Concordia Seminary St. Louis - M.Div. LeTourneau University - Master of Arts - Psychology - LPC/LMFT.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Therapy Services for Veterans with PTSD - Samaritan Center - 2017-2020 Vice President - Fundraising - Elm Grove Elementary - 2024-present Substitute Teaching - Hays CISD 2020-present Acute/Brief Therapy for school district and community - 2018-present (as needed and available).

Goals: As I serve the Lord in the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, my goals are rooted in the support of the duly elected President of the Texas District and faithfulness to God's Word, a commitment to strengthening our congregations, and a passion for expanding the reach of the Gospel.

***REV. NATHAN M. WENDORF - SR. PASTOR, ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, HARLINGEN; AGE 46.**

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Assistant Pastor Our Savior McKinney Texas 2005-2010.



Years as Member of Synod: 20

Year of Ordination: 2005

Previous District or Synod Offices: Texas District Area C 4th VP June 2021- present; Circuit Visitor (Circuit 8 2009-2010)

Educational Background: Concordia Seminary St Louis MDiv 2005; Concordia University Chicago BA, Education and Lutheran Teaching Diploma, 2001

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Board of Directors Habitat for Humanity of Rio Grande Valley 2016-2024 (Vice Chair 3 years, Chair 1 year) ; RioMac (Rio Grande Mission Action Council) 2012-present (Vice Chair 2018- present); LINC South Texas 2022-present (Vice Chair 2023-present) ; Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Leadership Harlingen Board (2013-2019) Vice chair 2016-17, Chair (2018); McKinney Chamber of Commerce Leadership Advisory Board (2008-2010); LWML Zone Counselor 2008-09, Texas District Theological Convocation Committee Chair 2023 - present, LCMS World Missions Mexico FORO 2020 - present

Goals: It is an incredible time to be the church of Jesus Christ in the Texas District. The fields are ripe for harvest and the opportunities are abundant to share the hope that we have in Christ! It is an incredible time to especially be in the Texas District where through partnerships with our local churches, circuits, areas and district we can together carry out the mission that Christ has gathered and sent His Church on in faithful and creative ways to reach as many people as possible. As we go about this mission it is vital that we continue to strengthen and encourage existing church workers in their unique callings caring for their spiritual, physical, and emotional health. We have the great opportunity and calling to raise up the next generation of church workers that express the diversity of languages and cultures that Texas has been blessed and entrusted with. We do this all by carrying out our continual mission till Jesus returns to “strengthen congregations: to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people - locally and globally” It is a great time to be the church and I look to support our new district president in whatever way he needs to carry out the work of the Texas District.

REV. C. BRYAN WOLFMUELLER - SR. PASTOR, ST. PAUL AND JESUS DEAF CHURCHES, AUSTIN; AGE 47.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: 2005-2019, Pastor, Hope Lutheran, Aurora, CO

Years as Member of Synod: 26

Year of Ordination: 2005



Previous District or Synod Offices: National Mission Board 2009-2012

Educational Background: University of New Mexico, BA. Concordia Theological Seminary, MDIV. Concordia University, Irvine, Honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Doxology Collegium Fellow 2014-present

Other Experience/Qualifications: By God's grace, my pastoral experience has equipped me to support congregations and pastors in faithfully preaching Christ and His gifts. I have served through preaching, teaching, catechesis, publishing, and theological engagement, both domestically and internationally. Through writing, podcasting, and leading theological tours, I have connected with Lutherans worldwide, strengthening our shared confession. My work in encouraging pastors, fostering strong Lutheran doctrine, and engaging the Church across various platforms has prepared me to serve with clarity, conviction, and joy.

Goals: My goal in serving the Texas District is to uphold and proclaim the pure doctrine of Christ, strengthening pastors and congregations in their calling to preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and provide faithful pastoral care. The Church is built not on human strategies but on the Lord's means of grace, and I am committed to fostering strong catechesis, a rich sacramental life, and steadfast pastoral formation so that pastors may serve with confidence and joy. By keeping our focus on God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, we ensure that Christ's gifts remain at the center of our life together for the strengthening of His Church.

THE NOMINEES FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT AREA D

*=Incumbent

REV. TED BENSON - SR. PASTOR, RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SPRING; AGE 44.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Campus Pastor and Assoc. Pastor Our Redeemer Lutheran Moorhead, MN. Assoc. Pastor Redeemer Lutheran Peoria, IL. Assoc. Pastor Resurrection Lutheran Spring, TX.

Years as Member of Synod: 16

Year of Ordination: 2009



Previous District or Synod Offices: None listed

Educational Background: Winona State University MN, B.A. Special Education. Concordia Theological Seminary St. Louis, M.Div.

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Harvest Partnership-Sending Church (2017-present). Coach for Pastoral Leadership Institute (2019-present). India Transformed-board member (2020-present).

Other Experience/Qualifications: Pastoral Delegate to Synodical Convention (2013). Exponential Learning Cohort Participant. TX District Catalyst Lab Team.

Goals: Investing and sending God's people to share the goodness of the Gospel in their spheres of influence is a primary goal of mine. With an urgent sending of the Gospel, our robust Lutheran theology, and the priesthood of all believers we fervently are being called daily to connect the disconnected to Jesus. Equipping and empowering the beloved children of the Father is essential. As a VP, it would be my desire to support and extend the work of the TX District President and ensure that Kingdom workers and congregations have the support and encouragement they need to serve well in order to multiply the Gospel.

***REV. DR. JOHN F. DAVIS - SR. PASTOR, MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, KATY; AGE 61**
Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Memorial, Katy, Associate Pastor (1993-1999). Immanuel, Giddings, Associate Pastor (1999-2002). Immanuel, Giddings, Senior Pastor (2002-2007). Memorial, Katy, Senior Pastor (2008 - Present).

Years as Member of Synod: 31

Year of Ordination: 1993

Previous District or Synod Offices: Circuit Counselor, Circuit 22 (2001-2003); Circuit Visitor, Circuit 38 (2008-2018); Texas District First Vice President (Area D) (2018- Present)

Educational Background: Texas A&M University - BS Civil Engineering (1985). Concordia Seminary, St. Louis - Master Divinity (1993). Concordia Seminary, St. Louis - Doctor of Ministry (2025).

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Surface Warfare Officer, US Navy (1985-1989; active reserve 1989-1991). Protestant Lay Reader, USS Nicholson, DD-982 (1986-1989). Can-Do Missions Steering Committee (1995-2002; chair 1997-2002). Lutheran Social Services of the South, Spiritual Care Advisory Committee (2 years). Apple of His Eye Houston, Board of Directors (1997-1999). Texas District LWML Pastoral Counselor (2006-2010). Texas



District Theological Convocation Committee (2005-2022, chair 2007-2022). Texas District Board of Directors (2018 - Present). LCMS Convention Delegate (1998, 2013, 2016, 2023). Contributor, Texas District Evangelism Curriculum (2017). Williamschase Homeowners Association Vice President (1995-1999). Whispering Lakes Homeowners Association President (2011 - Present). Katy ISD Superintendent's BEAM committee (2 years). Katy ISD Keys Mentoring Program (2011- 2021). Katy Elementary Campus Advisory Team (2013, 2018 - 2022). Texas High School Basketball referee (1998-2008). Little League Baseball Coach (9 years).

Goals: It has been a privilege, honor, and blessing to be able to serve the congregations and people of Area D for these past seven years. It is a joy to be a part of the Texas District's mission to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people locally and globally, as this is exactly what Jesus called His Church to do. It has also been a privilege to assist and support our district president as he has strived to continue to make this mission a reality. My goals would be to: simply continue to be a faithful servant to the congregations, schools, ministries and church plants of Area D; encourage their laity and church workers in a rapidly changing culture and in the midst of significant challenges for the Church; provide Godly counsel when sought or necessary; and apply Spirit-led discernment when called for. My goal would also be to provide the same service, encouragement, counsel and discernment to our district president and the district Board of Directors. Most of all, I pray that in all I do, Jesus' name will be glorified and the Kingdom of God increased.

REV. LONNIE GONZALES, ASSOC. PASTOR, TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOUSTON; AGE 53.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Associate Pastor of Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, Sugar Land, Texas from 2000-2005; Associate Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas from 2005-2018; Military Chaplain - United States Army Reserve from 2012-2020; City Director - LINC Houston, Houston, Texas from 2018-2022; Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Houston Texas 2022-current.

Years as Member of Synod: 25

Year of Ordination: 2000

Previous District or Synod Offices: None listed

Educational Background: Lutheran High North, Houston, Texas 1991; Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas 1995; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri 2000; Military Chaplain School House, Fort Jackson-Columbia, South Carolina 2013.



Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Concordia University Texas, Board of Regents 2 Years, LINC Houston Strategic Advisory Board 2 Years; IDEAME Spiritual Advisor 2 years; Texas District - Discipleship Development Team 2 Years; National Youth Gathering - Multi-Ethnic Team Lead 3 Years; Military Chaplain United States Army Reserves 8 years.

Other Experience/Qualifications: Served and lived in the Houston Metropolitan Area since 1983 and as a Minister of the Gospel for 25 years. As the LINC Houston City Director served area churches and their pastors throughout Area D. During military service served as the Deputy Command Chaplain under a Brigadier General Officer over a large area of operation for one year overseeing strategic planning and spiritual formation for over 5000 Soldiers and their Families.

Goals: There are three essential goals to vitalize and unify Area D during the Vice-President's first term: The first goal is to work toward unity by activating a prayer initiative in collaboration with the Texas District Discipleship Development Team. The second goal is a strategic plan for establishing a ministry of presence among the circuits and the pastors to increase the participation and collaboration in local circuit meetings. The third goal is to enhance with local ministry effort to stimulate more missional activity by partnering with local existing networks and congregations in collaboration with the Area D Mission Strategist.

REV. GENE JOHNSON - ASSOCIATE PASTOR, TRINITY KLEIN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, KLEIN; AGE: 53

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church; Port St Lucie, FL.

Years as Member of Synod: 17

Year of Ordination: 2008

Previous District or Synod Offices: Circuit Visitor Circuit 39 - Texas District, Circuit Mission Officer Treasure Coast Circuit - Florida-Georgia District.

Educational Background: University of Houston - BA. Concordia Seminary-St Louis - M.Div..

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: Board of Directors - Sarah's Kitchen - Port St Lucie, FL 2010-2014

Other Experience/Qualifications: 2013 Pastoral Delegate to the Synodical Convention 2014 graduate of Pastoral Leadership Institute - Missional Leader. Associate Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation - using this skill to coach church planters and mentor new church workers in the Texas District. In 2022, our congregation walked through the



process of Ambassadors of Reconciliation. The skills learned in this process have been invaluable when assisting other congregations dealing with conflict.

Goals: If elected to serve as Vice President, my goal is to faithfully support the District President in executing the mission and vision of the Texas District. I will be a strong advocate on the Board of Directors to uphold our missional identity of strengthening congregations in reaching the lost, discipling the saved, and caring for people locally and globally. Specifically, I will encourage Area D circuits and congregations to collaborate in planting new churches to reach new communities with the Gospel. Additionally, I am committed to providing loving support and encouragement to the pastors and congregations of Area D, walking alongside Circuit Visitors to foster healthy, thriving ministries that build God's Kingdom.

REV. KELLY D. KRIEG - PASTOR, BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILLIAM PENN; AGE: 47.

Former Pastorates/Ministry Roles: Ass. Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church - Houston

Years as Member of Synod: 8

Year of Ordination: 2017

Previous District or Synod Offices: LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (White Oak Zone - Houston, 3 years)

Educational Background: Angelo State University - BA - Government. Texas State University - MA - Political Science. Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne - MDiv

Community, Government, or Inter-Church Involvement: 40 Days for Life Speaker and Sidewalk Counselor (Houston and College Station, 8 years); LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (White Oak Zone - Houston, 3 years); Podcast host (Sorry Not Sorry, Lagers with Luther, In the Land of Uz); Guest for various radio broadcast on KFUE (Sharper Iron; Thy Strong Word); Speaker at Houston Lutherans for Life Spotlight on Life Conference - 2024); Higher Things Breakout Presenter (6 years); Houston Youth Rugby - I started a youth team for the community so more families would be familiar with our church (2019-2023); Write Daily Devotions for our church and community (available on Church website - 2019-Present).

Other Experience/Qualifications: Prior to entering the ministry, I was a teacher in Texas, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Lithuania, where I held leadership positions that required cooperation with coworkers and members of the local community. These experiences equipped me with the ability to navigate diverse cultures, communities, and personalities, enhancing my skills as an effective communicator and problem solver.



In my pastoral ministry, I have been intentional about engaging with the communities I serve, not only as their pastor but as a fellow resident, fostering relationships that strengthen both the congregation and the broader community. This commitment to connection and collaboration aligns well with the responsibilities of the District Vice President, particularly in visiting congregations, advising the district president, and serving as a representative on boards and committees. My background in leadership, cross-cultural engagement, and problem-solving would be valuable assets in carrying out the duties of this office.

Goals: My goal as District Vice President of Area D is to serve the congregations and pastors of the Texas District with faithful leadership, encouragement, and support, always grounded in the truth of God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions. I would work to foster strong relationships between congregations, circuit visitors, and the district leadership, ensuring open communication and collaboration in service to Christ's Church. Additionally, I would seek to strengthen pastoral care and support for my fellow servants in ministry, recognizing the unique challenges and opportunities they face in their respective contexts. By visiting congregations, advising the district president, and engaging with the broader community, I would strive to uphold and promote the mission of the Texas District: to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people - locally and globally. Above all, my goal is to serve humbly and faithfully, seeking the Lord's guidance in all things and working alongside others to further His kingdom.

REPORT ON 2025 NOMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Texas District Nominating Committee, elected by the 2021 convention, was responsible for soliciting nominations for District Secretary and the open positions on the District Board of Directors, Board for Mission Administration, District Nominating Committee and the LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations at the June 2025 Texas District Convention.

The Committee met twice in person. At the initial meeting held in July 2024, we reviewed the positions for which we needed to secure nominees and prepared the nomination packets to be sent to the four areas of the district soliciting the appropriate nominations.

After nominations were received, we then sought the consent of those nominated to allow their names to be considered by this committee. There were ninety-two individuals that were nominated for the positions listed above. Of those individuals, fifty-seven gave consent for their names to be considered by the committee.



The Committee met again in February 2025 to prayerfully consider all names submitted and to finalize the slate of candidates to be presented on the ballot at this convention. Thanks to all the congregations and candidates who have been in communication throughout this process of nominations!

Convention Nominating Committee

Lay:

Mr. Gary Juhl

Mrs. Angela Newton

Mrs. Donna Snow

Commissioned Ministers:

Mr. Keith Lund, Secretary

Mr. Paul Krentz

Pastors

Area A: Rev. Robert Pase

Area B: Rev. Kevin Hintze, Chairman

Area C: Rev. Dr. Bill Knippa

Area D: Rev. Dr. Jon Salminen

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Vote for One (1)

* = Incumbent

(Nominees in alphabetical order by last name)

***REV. DR. BRIAN HESSE, DMIN - SR. PASTOR; AGE: 50**

Sr. Pastor, St. Paul, Waco, 2022-present; Sr. Pastor, Trinity, Amarillo, 2004-2022; Asst. Pastor, Trinity, Amarillo, 2001-2004.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Secretary, 4 yrs.; Constitution Committee, Chair, 3 yrs.; Texas District Nominating Committee, Ordained Area A, 7 yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Bushland ISD Band Boosters, Treasurer, 2 yrs.; Lutheran Society for Missiology, Supporting Member, 7 yrs.; Heart of Texas Church Planting Network, Co-Founder, 1 yr.



I have served as district secretary for the last 4 years. I have gained considerable knowledge and understanding of my role. I have developed good working relationships with other members of the district's Board of Directors. Additionally, I have grown in my understanding of parliamentary procedure, synod constitution and bylaws, as well as the bylaws of the Texas District. As a district secretary I understand the need to keep these documents in harmony with each other as they help enable the mission emphases and objectives of the Texas District.

GOALS IF ELECTED: As the district secretary it will be my honor to serve in support of our newly elected District President and the district's Board of Directors. Working and walking together we will strive to continue Jesus' mission in Texas. As district secretary I would seek to represent the congregations of the Texas District faithfully in any capacity as assigned by the District President.

REV. AARON KALBAS, MDIV - SOLE PASTOR; AGE: 43

Sole Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Hamilton, 2021-present; Sr. Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thorndale, 2015-2021; Assoc. Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pearland, 2009-2015

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 2019

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Lion's Club President/Vice President, 3 Yrs.

I have served in a variety of different ministry contexts -- large congregation vs mid-sized, city vs small town, Lutheran School ministry, Multi Site/Multi Campus ministry (5 years).

GOALS IF ELECTED: I want to see the district grow and reach the culture around us with a ministry that is relevant and Christ Centered. 15 years of ministry has shown me the opportunities to bring people into the church are endless. It is a great time to be the church!!!

REV. CARL ROTH, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR; AGE 48

Sole Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, 2010-present; Sole Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Livingston, 2006-2010

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 2014-present

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology - Secretary, Senior Editor, 18 Yrs.; Luther Academy, Secretary of Board of Directors, 8 Yrs.; Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund, Secretary and Treasurer, 8 Yrs.



I am organized, a good communicator, and have experience serving as the secretary for various institutions.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I will perform the duties exactly as described in the bylaws and conscientiously vote for the best interests of the Texas District of the LCMS as a member of the board of directors.

TEXAS DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS / COMMISSIONED MEMBER: Vote for One

***MRS. CHARESSA KOONTZ, MS, DCE, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE, BETHANY, AUSTIN; AGE 46**

DCE/DFLM, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA, 10 Yrs; DFLM, Trinity, Amarillo, 4 Yrs ; DFLM, Bethany, Austin, 2019-present

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Board of Directors, 7 Yrs.; English District Board of Directors, 2 Yrs.; Southeastern District Board of Directors, 5 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Family Life Educator National Council of Family Relations, 19 Yrs.; Coach through the US Center for Missions, 6 Yrs.; Mediator for the JDR court for the Commonwealth of Virginia, 5 Yrs.

I have served in various church settings in Texas, Georgia, Virginia and Nebraska which has allowed me the opportunity to see God's church at work throughout the US. I have also had the joy of serving on three District Board of Directors for a total of 14 years of service. I love seeing the greater church come together in missional movements as we encourage and equip the saints. I would love the opportunity to once again serve as we continue to strengthen congregations, ministries and the people of God for the work God has prepared in advance for us to do!

GOALS IF ELECTED: I would love to continue to support the amazing district team who are doing a wonderful job of leading ministry in challenging times. They have created a dynamic strategy for mission and resources that will shape the church for generations to come. What a legacy of faithfulness! I plan to support all of the Texas District membership at large by taking my role seriously as a team player by listening, encouraging, and advocating where needed. Having served in three of the geographical areas of Texas (A,B and C), I know that our needs can be different based on context. I also want our commissioned workers to know that they have a voice that represents them as well. It has been my privilege and honor these past seven years to serve with so many tremendous leaders, and I pray for another six years to continue the work.



MRS. ELIZABETH MILBRATH, BS, DCE, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, EPIPHANY, PEARLAND; AGE 55

Youth and Children's Ministry Staff, Epiphany, Pearland, 8 Yrs.; DCE, Epiphany, Pearland, 8 Yrs.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Most importantly, I pray that God would work through me to fulfill His purposes for this position. As the Director of Christian Education at Epiphany, I oversee youth and children's ministry and adult small groups. This includes setting goals, budgets, and strategic plans for these ministries. In addition to role as a DCE, I also have a degree in chemical engineering and worked as an engineer for several years before taking a break to focus raising my children. My DCE and engineering background have given me ministry experience/viewpoints, professionalism, organizational skills and teamwork capabilities that would help me serve on the board of directors.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I pray this board would work cooperatively to faithfully to help fulfill the mission of the Texas District to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people - locally and globally. In addition to the amazing work that is currently being done, I pray we will continue to seek new ideas and ways to spread the Gospel and disciple God's people.

MR. JORDAN MILLER, BA, DPM, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP, SALEM, TOMBALL; AGE 32

Director of Worship Arts, Our Savior, Norfolk, NE, 8 Yrs.; Director of Worship, Salem, Tomball, 1 Yr.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I've been an LCMS Church member my whole life. I grew up with parents who were called LCMS church/school workers. I have a big passion for service in the church.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To serve well with respect to God, the Church, and the people of God.



TEXAS DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS / LAY MEMBER (AREA A): Vote for One (1)

MR. DAVID G. BROOKS, SR., RETIRED, TRINITY, AMARILLO; AGE 75

Manager of Construction & Inspection in the Eastern TX Panhandle & Western OK

Congregation, District and Synod Positions or Offices: Trinity, Amarillo, Elder, 24 Yrs.; Vice President, 4 Yrs., Congregational President, 2 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

EXPERIENCE: Planning projects and ensuring their successful completion within the applicable codes and standards of the governing bodies.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My objective would be to assist the Texas District in remaining faithful to God's word, to be good fiscal steward, receptive to the concerns of congregations, and institutions of learning.

MR. FREDERICK HERM, MBA, PRINCE OF PEACE, AMARILLO; AGE 54

Data Architect, Project Manager

Congregation, District and Synod Positions or Offices: Prince of Peace, Amarillo, Board of Elders, 4 Yrs., Call Committee Chair, current, Head Elder, 4 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: American Legion, Veteran Assistance Counseling, current.

EXPERIENCE: In serving as Head Elder I have the opportunity to serve the church's Board of Directors in planning the ministry and mission of our church. As an evangelist with the district, I helped start and assist the Energizers, a social group of special needs young adults and their families.

My goal in this position is for me to aid and liaison the district's mission of strengthening congregations in their work to reach the lost and make disciples. This can be achieved through establishing a Hispanic Ministry Support Network and other inter-circuit coordination of ministries here in Area A.

MR. THOMAS WOLFMUELLER, BS, GRACE, MIDLAND; AGE 43

VP of Drilling, Saxum Energy Partners; Owner, Wolfmueller Consulting, Engineer



Congregation, District and Synod Positions or Offices: Grace, Midland, Treasurer, 4 Yrs.; Elder, 10 Yrs.; Vice President, 6 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Society of Petroleum Engineers, 8 Yrs.

EXPERIENCE: Glory to God for the opportunity to serve the District. My deep commitment to our Church's mission, combined with my professional expertise and my dedication to faithful stewardship, positions me to serve our District effectively in this crucial role. Throughout my career, I have managed complex drilling operations that require careful attention to detail, strategic planning, and responsible oversight of multi-million-to-billion-dollar budgets. In my current role, I regularly make decisions that balance technical requirements, safety considerations, and financial stewardship—skills that would serve our District well as we navigate the complex challenges and opportunities of God's kingdom on earth. I understand the weight of responsibility that comes with serving on the Board of Directors. The decisions made at this level impact congregations, schools, and missions throughout our District. My professional background has prepared me to engage thoughtfully with complex issues, while my faith background ensures that all decisions would be grounded in our Lutheran confessions and beliefs.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Some of my goals for the board are to promote theological clarity and maintain a distinctly Lutheran identity within our District, guided by thoughtful and faithful leadership rooted in our shared Lutheran heritage. To work diligently to advance LCMS mission and proclaim the Gospel while ensuring responsible stewardship of our resources. To uphold LCMS values in accordance with the Texas District Mission statement and Goals. To perform all duties outlined in the District Handbook, Section VI, 6.009 to the best of my God given ability.

TEXAS DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS / LAY MEMBER

(AREA B): Vote for One (1)

***MR. KATARI MCDONALD, BA, ST. PAUL, DALLAS; AGE 51**
Corporate Sales Executive

Congregation, District and Synod Positions or Offices: St. Paul, Dallas Congregational President, 6 Yrs.; Secretary of the Church Council, 4 Yrs.; Texas District Board of Directors, 4 Yrs.



Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Society of Petroleum Engineers, 8 Yrs.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Support the Texas District mission of strengthening congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for the people. Offer diverse thoughtful leadership toward minority congregation building and mission work.

MR. CHRIS RODGERS, MAOL, ST. PAUL, FORT WORTH; AGE 63

Church Administration, Director of Finance and Operations

Congregation, District and Synod Positions or Offices: St. Paul, Fort Worth, Church Council - Personnel Board Chair, 5 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Central American Lutheran Mission Society Board of Directors & Adjunct staff, 6 Yrs.; Chikondi Malawi Mission Agency - Board of Directors, 5 Yrs.; Tarrant County Builders Association Board of Directors, Exec. Board, Committee Chair, 7 Yrs.

EXPERIENCE: I have served as the COO & CFO at St. Paul/Fort Worth since 2012, including a mixture of other regional and global missions roles along the way. St. Paul operates under a policy-based governance model, similar to the TX District. The St. Paul Church Council acts on behalf of the Congregation when a Forum is not in session. I have a close monthly working connection with the Church Council and a long history of policy governance practices. On behalf of the Senior Pastor, I lead the budgetary and financial administration of St. Paul's nearly \$6M annual church and school budget with a thorough understanding of, and experience with, non-profit accounting practices. Previous careers as a commercial banker & construction business owner provided industry experiences for all aspects of business operations and financial practices. During my years as the owner of a design/build custom home business, I invested a season in serving a 1,500+ member trade association through committee leadership, at-large Board member and a 2-year term on the executive committee. In addition to my Master's degree studies in Organizational Leadership from Concordia University Irvine, I also hold vision strategist certifications in vision framing and vision planning from Auxano; a process that guides church leaders to greater levels of clarity and mission advancement.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My foremost goal will be to demonstrate the highest levels of integrity and hold to our shared confession of Jesus Christ as taught in Holy Scripture, and be in full support of the mission of the Texas District. A second goal will be to faithfully partner with fellow Board members in service as the policy making body within the District. It will be a priority for me to faithfully adhere to the Functions and Duties as the layperson representative from Area B. My ministry experience provides a unique opportunity to fulfill those duties and it will be a goal to use my gifts and talents to their full potential, and I will



be eager to see exponential growth in God's people throughout the District reaching the lost, discipling the saved and caring for people with the love of Jesus.

BOARD OF MISSION ADMINISTRATION / ORDAINED MEMBER: Vote for One (1)

REV. BRADY BLASDEL, MDIV, PASTOR, ZION, PASADENA; AGE 52

Pastor, Zion, Pasadena, present; Pastor, St. Philip Lutheran Church, California 7 Yrs.; Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Texas, 4 Yrs.; Pastor, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Iowa, 9 Yrs.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 4 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Trained Mission Planter of the LC-MS (1998). Mentored the first Pakistani pastor in the LC-MS and launched with him a new mission outreach to Islamic peoples (2010). With Eloy Gonzalez launched a Spanish-church planting network in the Dallas area (2011). Began an afterschool program in California that expanded to 5 separate communities reaching 500 Buddhist and Hindu families with the Gospel. (2019). Began a micro-church in Deer Park (2023). New Vietnamese mission start with Andrew Nguyen (2023). New Spanish mission start with Jose Flores (2024).

GOALS IF ELECTED: (1) Assist English-speaking congregations to launch, support, and fully integrate with cross-cultural ministries on their campuses. (2) Identify, train, and mentor cross-cultural lay persons, church-workers, and pastors.

***REV. TED DOERING, MDIV, PASTOR, NARRATIVE, ROUND ROCK; AGE 37**

Pastor, Narrative, Round Rock, 9 Yrs.; PASTOR, Faith Lutheran Church, 1 Yr.; DCE

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Board of Mission Administration, 3 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have served on this board for three years and have been blessed by my time. As a church planter I have experienced the blessings of the Board of Mission Administration in the process of starting a new church. It has been helpful to have the insight of planting a church working on this board over the last three years. Beginning my ministry by serving at our sending church, Faith Lutheran - Georgetown, and being part of a group of churches, The Harvest Partnership, that seek to plant churches and connect disconnected people to



Jesus has given me experience in working on both the receiving end of mission assistance and the giving end of prayer and finances.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I look forward to seeing the board continue to enable our mission and church planting efforts through prayer, administration, and financial capital. There is incredible potential within our district to connect with churches that are eager to establish new Gospel outposts, communities where churches need to be planted, and mission opportunities to serve and love our neighbors within this state. I would love to see us take what this board has already established as a foundation and continue to grow as God is calling all of us into the mission field through the congregations of the Texas District.

REV. AARON KALBAS, MDIV - SOLE PASTOR; AGE: 43

Sole Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Hamilton, 2021-present; Sr. Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thorndale, 2015-2021; Assoc. Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pearland, 2009-2015

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 2019

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Lion's Club President/Vice President, 3 Yrs.

I have served in a variety of different ministry contexts -- large congregation vs mid-sized, city vs small town, Lutheran School ministry, Multi Site/Multi Campus ministry (5 years).

GOALS IF ELECTED: I want to see the district grow and reach the culture around us with a ministry that is relevant and Christ Centered. 15 years of ministry has shown me the opportunities to bring people into the church are endless. It is a great time to be the church!!!

***REV. DAVE MURILLO, MDIV, SR. PASTOR, ST. PAUL, SAN ANTONIO; AGE 40**

Senior Pastor, St. Paul, San Antonio, 2014 - present

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: San Antonio Area Pastors Conference (winkler) President, 2 Yrs.; Texas District Board of Mission Administration, 2022-present

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Presa Community Center Board Chair, 6 Yrs.



Having served an inner city parish for the past decade in downtown San Antonio, my view of mission and ministry has been shaped profoundly by the context and the people that I serve. As the BMA seeks to do its work in the state of Texas, a place with as heterogeneous and fluid demographics as anywhere in the country, the experience I bring from a multi-cultural, intergenerational, and socio-economically diverse congregation can offer fresh insights to the board.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I was asked by President Newman and Peter Mueller to fill a vacancy on the BMA in 2022 in place of Pastor Chis Singer after he took a call to serve outside the Texas District. It has been a great joy and honor to serve on this board over these past couple years and if elected I would be delighted to continue my service.

***REV. MATT POPOVITS, MDIV, SR. PASTOR, ST. MARK, HOUSTON; AGE 44**

Senior Pastor, St. Mark, Houston, 2018-present; Pastor, Our Saviour, New York, 2012-2018; Pastor, Crosspoint Community, 2006-2012; Founder, Make It Simple Ministry

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Synod Blue Ribbon Task Force - Church Planting, 2005

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have been blessed to be involved in urban church planting, church revitalization, and the launch of several multi-site ministries as well as the coaching and development of several church planters.

GOALS IF ELECTED: If given the privilege to serve on the District Board of Mission Administration, my focus would be to prioritize the planting of new mission outposts and the revitalization of established congregations across the Texas District. I would advocate for a comprehensive and strategic approach, ensuring that potential mission leaders and sponsoring congregations undergo thorough assessments to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of their efforts. Additionally, I would emphasize the importance of providing ongoing care, mentorship, and professional development for missionaries in the field, equipping them to navigate challenges and remain steadfast in their calling to share the Gospel.

REV. DR. PHILIP SCHIELKE, PHD, PASTOR, VICTORY IN CHRIST, NEWARK; AGE 53

Sole Pastor, Victory in Christ, Newark, 2019 - present; Concordia University Texas, 2011-2019; LCMS World Mission, 2007-2011

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed



Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I served as a missionary in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan as a vicar with LCMS World Mission. I worked for LCMS World Mission for two years state side. My work as Concordia Texas included teaching New Testament and preaching at chapel services, very much mission work.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My first task would be to learn what the board does practically, and what their current goals are. I would like to see our district continue to build up word and sacrament ministry not only among underrepresented groups but also in locations where there is no LCMS congregation. I know I would benefit greatly from training programs designed to help current parish pastors start a preaching station/mission congregation in their area, and perhaps the board could work on such resources or make them more prominent if they exist.

REV. TROY SCROGGINS, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR, ST. JOHN, DUMAS; AGE 61

Sole Pastor, St. John, Dumas, 2018-present; Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS, 2007-2017.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have served in the Kansas District for ten years, and in the Texas District for six years. In this time in the ministry, I have learned many things as a Pastor in what the congregations are needing, and what the members want in a congregation. As a Law Enforcement Chaplain, I was able to bring hope and comfort to a lot of people in their time of tragedy, sorrow, and need, to not only citizens but also to the fellow Law Enforcement Officers. I listen to every concern and I want to bring this experience to this Area A who needs some representation in the Texas Panhandle and serving on the District Board of Missions Administration can bring more to the Texas Panhandle and to Area A, with the help from God.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My goals are to trust in God and His ways of what is best for the Texas District and for Area A of the Texas Panhandle for the District Board of Missions Administration. I want to bring my experience in the ministry as a Pastor to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest all that is given and make a prayerfully guided decision with the help of God that it is what is best for Area A and the Texas Panhandle and for the Texas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the District Board of Missions Administration.



REV. JONATHAN R. THOMAS, MDIV, SR. PASTOR, ST. JOHN, MANSFIELD; AGE 56

Senior Pastor, St. John, Mansfield, 2016-present; Pastor, Salem, Orange, CA, 2011-2015; Pastor, Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, 2003-2011; Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 1994-2003

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Circuit Visitor, 2020-present; 2003-2011 Regional Mission Counsel Chairman, PSW District, 2012-2016; Summer Mission Trip Leader, FLGA District.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: President, Mansfield Churches for the City, 2003-present; Wellbeing Mansfield, 2003-present; Lake Mary Pastors Association Chairman, 2006-2010.

Missions and church planting is what I have been involved in throughout my entire ministry. I was a part of Pastoral Leadership Institute and believe in Ephesians 4, (finding) training and equipping people to do the work of ministry.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, maximizing both the financial and the human resources to accomplish the mission.

REV. THOMAS VAN DUZER, MDIV, PASTOR EMERITUS, MEMBER: HOLY CROSS, COLLEGE STATION; AGE 71

Pastor, Our Saviour, Kansas City, KS, 2012-2019; Pastor/Planter, Light of Life, Indio, CA, 2005-2012; Pastor/Planter, Fishers of Men, Sugar Land,, 1988-2004; Pastor/Planter, Lamb of God, Pewaukee, WI, 1979-1988

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Circuit Visitor, 2000-2004; Vice Chairman, LCMS Commission on Worship, 2007-2010; Core Group Developer, Crosspoint, Katy, 1998-2000

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Immanuel Community Outreach Association Board, Kansas City, KS, 2020-2023; Life Spring Maternity Home, President, Board of Directors, Houston, 1990-1995



I have planted three congregations (two presently active) and was the core group developer for a fourth. I was a Church Planter trainer, assessor, and mentor for the LCMS. I was Chair of Kansas District Church Planting Advocates for 3 years. I have 10 years outreach experience with Chinese nationals living in the U. S. through ESL teaching.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My goals are for the Texas District to remain at the forefront of church planting in our rapidly- growing areas, I believe there is no better way of extending the Gospel to people in this present time than starting new churches. Exploring ways that existing congregations can birth new or partner with new churches spreads the excitement and struggle of this process and encourages others in outreach. In addition, I would like to see targeted outreach to other people groups coming into our state... even to Northerners.

REV. JEFF WUERTZ, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR, FAITH, SUGAR LAND; AGE 63

Sole Pastor, Faith, Sugar Land, 2020-present; Pastor/Planter, Chesapeake Community of Hope, Chesapeake, VA, 2003-2020; Pastor, St. Mark, Omaha, NE,, 1993-1997

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Associate Chaplain, Sugar Land Police Department, 2023-present

I've served in a variety of church backgrounds; traditional and contemporary as well as mixed styles and of ethnic diversity. I've started a church from scratch, including fund raising for a large portion of the budget. I'm currently in a church revitalization. I recognize the culture has shifted significantly and raises new missional challenges. I'm at a point where my goal is to be more of an encourager and advisor than a player. Probably my biggest help would be my heart to reach the lost. I am also currently involved in the Exponential disciple making group with the district.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My first goal would be to better understand the culture of the Texas District Mission Board, as it is already being used in wonderful ways to plant many churches for the kingdom. I don't look at myself as bringing any new ideas to an already successful movement, but rather to understand what God is doing and ask probing questions as to ways the Lord might be wanting to tweak the current approach. I also have a deep appreciation of the spiritual warfare aspect for the Kingdom of God. My ultimate goal is to stay within God's will and support any way I can.



BOARD OF MISSION ADMINISTRATION / LAY MEMBER: Vote for One (1)

MR. JAY CORNILS, MA, ASCENSION, CLEBURNE; AGE 75

Ascension, Cleburne, Financial Secretary, 2024-2025; Treasurer, 2017-2024; Elder, 1987-1989

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit 16 lay delegate to the 2019 Synod Convention.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Board of Directors for National Federation of President, Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), 2003-2004; Member CHSAA executive committee, 1999-2004; CHSAA board member, 1994-1996; Interscholastic Officials Association, 1993-1998; President Colorado Athletic Directors Association, 1997-1998

Having served through the years on numerous committees and boards at the local, state and national level, I have developed strong leadership and personal interaction skills. Those who know me find me to be loyal to my commitments, which I approach with full intentions of completion. I am very thorough in my methods of performance. I articulate my reports very clearly with attention to detail. My previous position as treasurer of the church and my current position as financial secretary, substantiates the trustworthiness from my colleagues and fellow church members.

As a member of the Board of Mission Administration, I will help to develop a vision of the future of the Texas District to grow in spirit and in faith. I would look to guide the district in a meaningful and judicious manner in accord with the Lutheran doctrine and God's Word.

***MRS. GLADYS FRANCO, BBA, ST. PAUL, HARLINGEN; AGE 40**

St. Paul, Harlingen, Deaconess Intern

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Area A Evangelist Lead Trainer; Children's Ministry Coordinator; Board of Directors, St. Paul, Harlingen, Early Childhood Center-Great Beginnings.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I am a dedicated Lutheran believer with over 15 years of service to the Church, where I passionately share the love of Christ through leadership, mission work, and education. Born in Mexico, I have long been deeply involved in the faith and community, taking on a variety of roles within the Lutheran Church.

Currently, I am pursuing the Deaconess program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO,



with a focus on Hispanic Studies. Through this program, I am committed to expanding the reach of the Gospel among Spanish-speaking communities while fostering deeper spiritual engagement across diverse cultural backgrounds.

I am an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Harlingen, where I serve as a Deaconess Intern and as a member of the Board of Directors for St Paul's Early Childhood Center. In this capacity, I work alongside church leadership to support and guide the congregation and the center. Additionally, I assist in the Fishers of Men ministry as a pastor's assistant, contributing to various church activities such as worship leading, Bible studies, and children's ministry.

Since 2021, I have been honored to contribute to the Board of Mission Administration for the Texas District and I participated in the Catalyst Innovation Lab in 2023 and 2024. I now embrace the role of Spanish Lead Evangelist Trainer for Area C, focusing on equipping everyday Christians to confidently share the gospel and establish vibrant faith communities in everyday settings.

I remain dedicated to faith-based education, mission outreach, and helping others grow in their relationship with Christ.

GOALS IF ELECTED: As I think about the mission of the Texas District and the role of the Board of Mission Administration, my goal is to use the gifts and experience God has given me in ministry to help create strategies and practices that allow us to be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us. I want to help expand His Kingdom and support the work we're doing to reach people.

By using the skills and wisdom God has provided, I hope to contribute to creating systems that help the church grow spiritually and practically. Above all, I want to serve faithfully, work together with others, and help spread the Gospel in a way that reflects Christ's love and grace.

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / ORDAINED MEMBER AREA A: Vote for One (1)

REV. NATHAN MISCH, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR, ST. PAUL, PLAINVIEW; AGE 40

Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Plainview, 2022-present; Associate Pastor Epiphany, Pearland, 2016-2022; Sole Pastor, Lord of Life, Corpus Christi, 2012-2016

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit 2 Visitor, 2023-present; Circuit 37 Visitor, 2021-2022



Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

My experience across multiple congregations in the Texas District and my time as chairman of a non-profit mission organization have given me an appreciation for the need to nominate capable, competent people to fulfill the necessary duties of any organization and the necessity for all those elected to do their duty in a timely, organized manner.

GOALS IF ELECTED: If elected, my goal is to support the Texas District in her mission by fulfilling the responsibilities of this office to the best of my abilities.

REV. RICHARD MITTELSTADT, BS, SOLE PASTOR, GRACE BROWNWOOD; AGE 64

Sole Pastor, Grace, Brownwood, 5 Yrs.; Sole Pastor, Grace, Seguin, 8 Yrs.; Sole Pastor Trinity/Grace, Eden/Menard, 3 Yrs.

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: San Antonio Pastors Conference President, 4 Yrs.; Circuit Visitor, 1 Yr. Pastoral Delegate to three Synodical Conventions, 3 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Home Owners' Association President, 4 Yrs; Eden Cancer Relief Board, 2 Yrs.

Having served in 2 different areas within the District and meeting pastors and lay members in the other 2 areas over the years has given me exposure to a variety of people within the District. Have always sought to be active within the circuit and District, through various conferences and convocations.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To assist in participating in the selection process of the various positions in District, that they continue to be filled by competent, faithful people.

REV. ERIC STINETTE, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR, ST. PAUL, WICHITA FALLS; AGE 55

Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Wichita Falls, 2023-present; Candidate Status, 2017-2023; Sole Pastor, St. Peter, Gun Barrell City, 2014-2017; Redeemer, Cisco, 2010-2014

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

In both teaching and serving as sole pastor, I've learned ways to stay organized and use time wisely in order to complete the task at hand.



GOALS IF ELECTED: My only goal is to find people who will serve joyfully and not out of a sense of duty, using the gifts that God has given them for the sake of the kingdom.

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / ORDAINED MEMBER AREA B: Vote for One (1)

***REV. KEVIN HINTZE, MDIV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, ZION, WALBURG; AGE 42**
Assoc. Pastor, Zion, Walburg, 2014-present; Assoc. Pastor, Grace, Arlington, 2009-2004

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: 2025 Texas District Nominating Committee Chair, 2022-2025

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Leadership Georgetown, 2015

I have been blessed to serve on this committee over this last 2022-2025 triennium. With fifteen years of pastoral ministry in the Texas District, what a joy it is to continually connect with mission minded servants who have a heart to serve in this beloved district!

GOALS IF ELECTED: If elected, I will once again do my best to fulfill the duties of the Nominating Committee process and to serve the Texas District well. I will continue to inquire with gifted leaders from all areas of the district as to how their God-given talents can be activated!

REV. DR. RANCE SETTLE, DMIN, SENIOR PASTOR, LAMB OF GOD, FLOWER MOUND; AGE 51
Sr. Pastor, Lamb of God, Humble, 2017-present; Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Prior Lake, MN, 2011-2016; Assoc. Pastor, Redeemer, Rochester, MN, 2006-2011

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have served in various places where working with others is paramount and in the interest of the Synod for the Glory of God. I would hope to serve in such a way to recognize candidates for office that would serve to that end, as well.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I would be diligent in seeing that those names brought forward would be people who serve the Lord and His Kingdom.



DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / ORDAINED MEMBER AREA C: Vote for One (1)

REV. MARTIN DANNER, MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, BETHANY, AUSTIN; AGE 43

Sr. Pastor, Bethany, Austin, 2021-present; Assoc. Pastor, Bethany, Austin, 2015-2021; Assoc. Pastor, St. Paul, Fort Worth, 2008-2016

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Vice President, Fundraising, Elm Grove Elementary PTA Board, 2024-2025

I have served in the Texas District for 17 years and know pastors and leaders from the areas I served as well as the area I grew up in (A). I am a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist which requires not only confidentiality but accurate record keeping for state mandated ethics and HIPPA regulations.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To faithfully serve and execute objectives as stipulated by district handbook as well as serve collegially with other committee members

REV. KEVIN WESTERGREN, MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, REDEEMER, AUSTIN; AGE 62

Sr. Pastor, Redeemer, Austin, 2020-present; Assoc. Pastor, Redeemer, Austin, 1994-2020; Assoc. Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Richfield, MN 1987-1994

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have served on the District Nominating Committee three times before and served as chair for two of those terms. During my time we were able to move from paper to electronic forms which made the process so much more efficient for all concerned.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To develop a slate of the best candidates to serve the District so that the mission of Christ can go forward in Texas.

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / ORDAINED MEMBER AREA D: Vote for One (1)



REV. DR. RONALD BOGS, DMIN, SENIOR PASTOR, ST. MATTHEW OF WESTFIELD, HOUSTON; AGE 65

Sr. Pastor, St. Matthew-Westfield, Houston, 2002-present; Sole Pastor, Mt. Olive, Corpus Christi, 1996-2002; Assoc. Pastor, St. Mark's, Steeleville, IL, 1992-1996; DCE, King of Kings, San Antonio, 1984-1988; Teacher, Holy Cross, North Miami, FL, 1982-1984

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Boy Scouts of America and Cub Scouts of America Chaplain, 2002-2014; Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls Chaplain/Shepherd, 2014-2023

Having service in various capacities in congregational work (teacher, DCE, pastor) and having served in various capacities in civic organization (chaplain as well as committee chair and the like) and having served in various congregations I believe I have the ability to discern those qualified or not to serve on committees.

GOALS IF ELECTED: I would seek to make sure that candidates do not simply "identify" with the doctrine and practices of the Lutheran Church, but more importantly "confess" and practice according to our subscription to the Lutheran Confessions.

REV. SETH KUNZE, MDIV, SOLE PASTOR, THE DWELLING, NEW CANEY; AGE 38

Sole, Pastor, The Dwelling, New Caney, 2021-present; Planter, Christ the King, Kingwood, 2016-2021; DCE, Grace, Bradford, PA, 2009-2012

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

With ministry connections throughout the Texas District, I believe I could serve in this role helping to identify those people who have a heart for missions and the vision of The Texas District, who could then be asked to consider being nominated for the positions which needed filled.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To simply fulfill the job of identifying people who believe in the vision of the Texas District and its mission to reach disconnected people for Jesus.

REV. DAN SCHEPMANN, MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON; AGE 56

Sr. Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 2013-present, Pastor, St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA, 2003-2013; Assoc. Pastor, Christ, Little Rock, AR, 1996-2004



Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: FLGA District Reconciler, 2011-2013; Circuit Visitor, 2005-2008; Various Task Force committees in FLGA district, 2005-2008

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Twenty-eight years of pastoral experience. Served in multiple size congregations in various pastoral roles. Extensive knowledge of LCMS. Broad network of LCMS pastors in various settings in majority of LCMS Districts. Very familiar with the nominating process on the District and Synodical Levels. Have a heart for utilizing the gifts and talents of the body of Christ within the LCMS. -

GOALS IF ELECTED: Seek to bring the best candidates for the positions based on skill sets, ministry experiences, and a passion for Kingdom work through the LCMS.

Seek to bring a variety of voices, demographics, ethnicities, and experiences to the various boards, committees, and positions in our District and Synod that represent the entirety of our church body.

Seek to raise up the next generation of leaders and servants in the LCMS.

Serve as a voice for nominations that have a passion to live out the Great Commission and our Lutheran Confessions.

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / COMMISSIONED MEMBER: Vote for Two (2)

MR. SCOTT BROWNING, MA, PRINCIPAL, LUTHERAN SOUTH ACADEMY, HOUSTON; AGE 50
Head of School, Lutheran South Academy, Houston, 2024-present, Principal, St. Paul, Fort Worth, 2013-2024; Principal, Immanuel, Memphis, 2005-2013

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Mid-South District Board of Directors; Texas District Lutheran Schools Accreditation; LCMS School Leadership Development Mentor

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Treasurer, Houston Association of Lutheran Schools

As part of my service to Lutheran education in Texas since 2013, I have been able to connect with ministries from Amarillo to McAllen, Houston to San Angelo. I have attended or served a Lutheran school for 45 years, and understand the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through people in ministries. It is a joy for me to see people serving in



areas that God has gifted them. As part of serving on this committee, I have the ability to draw on all the relationships I have made over the years to help connect people in Texas who would be great fits for possible roles.

GOALS IF ELECTED: If elected, my goal would be to work faithfully and diligently so that God's people have an opportunity to serve the mission of the Texas District well with the gifts, passion, and abilities God has given them. I feel it is important to continue to draw on long-standing, faithful people who have served in the past, while also raising up new leaders and bringing in new people to have a well-balanced and strong skill set in each committee.

MR. LANCE GERARD, M. ED., EMERITUS, MEMBER: MEMORIAL, HOUSTON;

Principal, Our Savior, Houston, 2007-2021; Teacher, Our Savior, Houston, 1993-2007; Teacher, St. Paul, Harlingen, 1986-1989

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have 15 years experience working through the call process as a Principal of an elementary school.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My goal is to be faithful to Christ and The Church for the betterment of His Kingdom.

MRS. AMANDA IWABUCHI, M. ED., TEACHER, REDEEMER, AUSTIN; AGE 40

Director of Children's and Women's Ministry, Redeemer, Austin, 2019-present; Teacher, Shepherd of the Hills, Zion, WPLS, Redeemer, 2008-2019

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have been raised in the Lutheran church and school as a child to a young teenager. I have served in the Lutheran schools for 11 years. I have worked in parish ministry for 5 years. I have had opportunity to be mentored by seasoned ministry workers and have had the opportunity to return the service to younger educators and college students in ministry.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My goal would be to focus on Jesus' calling on us as a committee.



***MR. PAUL KRENTZ, BS, EMERITUS, MEMBER: NARRATIVE, ROUND ROCK; AGE 75**

Texas District Mission & Ministry Facilitator, 1995-2014; Director of Christian Education, Cross View, Edina, MN, 1985-1995; Director of Christian Education, St. Paul, Trenton, MI, 1981-1995

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Nominating Committee, 2021-present; LCMS National Youth Gathering Planner, 1980-2022; Associate in Youth Ministry and DCE Call Process (part-time) 2014-2022

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: President, LCMS National DCE Organization (NADCE), 1981-1985

I have served on the Nominating Committee for the last two Texas District Conventions

GOALS IF ELECTED: Finding lay and professional church workers who will help the Texas District continue to faithfully carry out the mission of the Texas District to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people, locally and globally.

***MR. KEITH LUND, BS. ED., EMERITUS, MEMBER: GRACE, DENISON; AGE 70**

Executive Director/Director, Lutheran Outdoor Ministry of Texas, 1983-2017; Principal, Immanuel, Lakefield, MN, 1978-1983; Teacher, Immanuel, Lakefield, MN, 1976-1977

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Nominating Committee, 2021-present; National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Assoc. Treasurer, President, Admin. Officer, 1983-2014

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: ALDE Board of Directors Secretary, Membership, Conference Committee, 2002-2015; Lone Star-Lutheran Laymen's League Secretary, Vice President, 2002-2015; NLOMA Camp Consultant Team Leader, 2000-present

I have served in the Texas District since 1983 and through my role with Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas I have come in contact with many of the leaders within the Texas District as well as up and coming pastors, educators and lay persons who love their church and district and who would make excellent servants. I am currently the secretary of the Nominating Committee and would look forward to another term if elected.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Working within the nominating process to locate, recruit, and nominate quality candidates for the various boards and officers is a high priority for a strong district. I would work to follow the guidelines and existing process to provide names, encourage candidates to serve, work to meet deadlines and take actions necessary to fill the ballot with candidates for election.



MR. JOSH MCNAMARA, BS, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ST. PAUL, WACO; AGE 32

Director of Youth and Family Ministry, St. Paul, Waco, present; DCE, Epiphany, Houston, 6 Yrs.; DCE, Grace, Pensacola, FL

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

I have been a lifelong Lutheran and have spent most of my life here in the Texas District. My father served as an MMF for Area C of the Texas District earlier in my life and I have relationships and connections with churches and their church workers in various cities throughout the Texas District. I have also served with a number of churches in our District whether it was through my practicum studies, my fieldwork, or through the Concordia Youth Ministry program that I was able to help lead, in addition to my years of service as a Commissioned DCE.

GOALS IF ELECTED: If elected I have two main goals that I would do my best to accomplish. My first goal would be to faithfully carry out and uphold the duties given to me as part of the District Nominating Committee. Secondly, I would work at helping to spread awareness to other Commissioned church workers about how they can get involved, serving in partnership with the Texas District.

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2028 / LAY MEMBER: Vote for Three (3)

MRS. CHRISTINE ARMSTRONG, DIRECTOR, RESURRECTION EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, SPRING; AGE 51

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Director, ELC, Resurrection, Spring, 2015-present; Board of Directors, Secretary, Living Word, The Woodlands, 1996-1998;

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed



As an active member of our congregation since 2009, as well as an executive staff member of Resurrection, I thrive serving in collaborative environments that work towards a common goal. I value asking questions that ascertain where others can utilize their gifts, skills and abilities.

I have also completed PLI Leadership Essentials (2022-2024) and now serve in the Leadership Pipeline leading others. The experience has been invaluable in the service and leadership of myself and others.

GOALS IF ELECTED: As an active member of the District Nominating committee, I desire to work alongside others in a collaborative environment as we seek to put forth nominations.

***MRS. KELLY BERNHARDT, BUSINESS OWNER, MEMBER: PRINCE OF PEACE, AMARILLO; AGE 64**

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Prince of Peace, Amarillo, Financial Secretary, 6 Yrs.; Treasurer, 4 Yrs., Recording Secretary 8 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: LWML Texas District, VP of Communications, 3Yrs.s, Treasurer 4 Yrs.; LWML Texas District Panhandle Zone President, 4 Yrs., Recording Secretary, 2 Yrs.; LWML Texas District Prince of Peace Group President, 10 Yrs., Treasurer, 3Yrs.; LWML District Technology Support Committee (DTSC), 2Yrs.

I am currently serving my first term on the Texas District Nominating Committee and have a better understanding of what the position entails. I have served on our Congregational Nominating Committee and have chaired it numerous times.

GOALS IF ELECTED: My goal is for the committee to work together to find the best possible names for the convention ballot.

MR. JEFF BIBLER, BSCE, FINANCIAL ASSOCIATE, THRIVENT FINANCIAL, MEMBER: GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON; AGE 73

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTS, GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON, 2000-2022; CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ELDER, GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON, 1986-1988

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: PRESIDENT, CENTRAL AMERICAN LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY, 2008-2022



Served as our circuit's lay delegate to the LCMS National Convention in 2023. Served as our congregation's lay delegate to the Texas District Convention (late '80's or early '90's)

GOALS IF ELECTED: If elected I would want to help assemble a slate of nominees representing a cross-section of district congregations truly committed to carrying out the Great Commission.

MR. JAY CORNILS, MA, ASCENSION, CLEBURNE; AGE 75

Ascension, Cleburne, Financial Secretary, 2024-2025; Treasurer, 2017-2024; Elder, 1987-1989

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit 16 lay delegate to the 2019 Synod Convention.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Board of Directors for National Federation of President, Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), 2003-2004; Member CHSAA executive committee, 1999-2004; CHSAA board member, 1994-1996; Interscholastic Officials Association, 1993-1998; President Colorado Athletic Directors Association, 1997-1998

Having served through the years on numerous committees and boards at the local, state and national level, I have developed strong leadership and personal interaction skills. Those who know me find me to be loyal to my commitments, which I approach with full intentions of completion. I am very thorough in my methods of performance. I articulate my reports very clearly with attention to detail. My previous position as treasurer of the church and my current position as financial secretary, substantiates the trustworthiness from my colleagues and fellow church members.

GOALS IF ELECTED: As a member of the District Nominating Committee, I will help to develop a vision of the future of the Texas District to grow in spirit and in faith. I would look to guide the district in a meaningful and judicious manner in accord with the Lutheran doctrine and God's Word.

MR. STEVE GIESE, BS, SALES OPS LEADER FOR BENEFITMAIL, MEMBER: THE GROVE, ARGYLE; AGE 60

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Elder, The Grove, Argyle, 2018-2021; Capital Campaign Chair, The Grove, Argyle, 2017 & 2024; Stewardship Chair, The Grove, Argyle, 2016-2017

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed



Over the past 40 years have served in almost every role imaginable in my congregations including some Call Committees, which should directly translate to this position. Have also served on numerous committees both civically and professionally. My earliest experience in a similar role was serving on the Search Committee for a new Dean of Students as a freshman in college.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To ensure we nominate individuals who are qualified, spiritually mature, and committed to growing God's Kingdom and fulfill our District's Mission and Vision. We need to practice spiritual discernment, maintain fair and transparent processes while maintaining the appropriate confidentiality, and demonstrate integrity and accountability that our outcomes reflect the Texas District values and God's will.

MRS. RUTH HANSON, BS, MEMBER: MEMORIAL, HOUSTON; AGE 68

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Memorial School Board, 10+ Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Wharton Co. Republican Party, Vice Chair, 8 Yrs.; Wharton Co. Homeschool Coop, 8 Yrs.; Wharton Co. Election Judge 20+ Yrs.

In my local congregation when living in Wharton Co., I served as the organist and children's choir director. I have also served as the VBS Director, Sunday School teacher, LWML officer, Call Committee member and other various positions within the church as needed.

As the CFO of Blue Creek Foundry for 20 years, I served in all aspects of the family business w/ annual sales of \$8 mil. Responsible for all HR related areas, hiring/firing, serving customers and vendors alike.

I was a School Board member at Memorial Lutheran School for 10+ years, then hired by MLS when we started the high school in 2019. Have served as Exec. Assistant to the Headmaster and now as Director of Admissions/Accreditation. As Admissions Director, I am the sole person responsible for all aspects of Admissions, from newborn babies through high school. I am also responsible for compiling the annual accreditation reports for both NLSA and CCLE accreditation.

I have served in various volunteer positions within County government in Wharton Co. Early Voting Ballot Board, auditing voter rolls, Community Development Corporation - organizing events such as Ducks Unlimited banquet, United Way fundraiser, RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program in public school.



GOALS IF ELECTED: My goal for the committee would be to create a slate of candidates from multiple areas, each with a unique background that would be willing to serve the TX District if selected. The ideal candidate should be willing to put aside any personal agenda and be willing to work for the good of every congregation in the Texas District.

MR. LARRY HARVEY, JD, ATTORNEY, MEMBER: ST. MATTHEW OF WESTFIELD, HOUSTON; AGE 73

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Board of Education, Chair Board of Education, 1976-present; Chair Elders, President Elders, Vice President Elders; Adult and High School Bible Study Teacher; Member, District Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee, 2001-2003

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: General Counsel, Director, President, Crossties Lutheran Ministry Resources, Inc., 1991-present

Over twenty years of working with numerous LCMS congregations in Texas in Church Planting education in Lutheran doctrine, and congregation conflicts.

GOALS IF ELECTED: To be a part of strengthening the Lutheran bond between Texas District congregations in walking together in the Lutheran Confessions and practices.

SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS 2026 LCMS CONVENTION (AD HOC) PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKER (ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED): Vote for One (1)

MRS. CHARESSA KOONTZ, MS, DCE, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE, BETHANY, AUSTIN; AGE 46
DCE/DFLM, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA, 10 Yrs; DFLM, Trinity, Amarillo, 4 Yrs ; DFLM, Bethany, Austin, 2019-present

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Board of Directors, 7 Yrs.; English District Board of Directors, 2 Yrs.; Southeastern District Board of Directors, 5 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Family Life Educator National Council of Family Relations, 19 Yrs.; Coach through the US Center for Missions, 6 Yrs.; Mediator for the JDR court for the Commonwealth of Virginia, 5 Yrs.

I have served in various church settings in Texas, Georgia, Virginia and Nebraska which has



allowed me the opportunity to see God's church at work throughout the US. I have also had the joy of serving on three District Board of Directors for a total of 14 years of service. I love seeing the greater church come together in missional movements as we encourage and equip the saints. I would love the opportunity to once again serve as we continue to strengthen congregations, ministries and the people of God for the work God has prepared in advance for us to do!

GOALS IF ELECTED: I would love to continue to support the amazing district team who are doing a wonderful job of leading ministry in challenging times. They have created a dynamic strategy for mission and resources that will shape the church for generations to come. What a legacy of faithfulness! I plan to support all of the Texas District membership at large by taking my role seriously as a team player by listening, encouraging, and advocating where needed. Having served in three of the geographical areas of Texas (A,B and C), I know that our needs can be different based on context. I also want our commissioned workers to know that they have a voice that represents them as well. It has been my privilege and honor these past seven years to serve with so many tremendous leaders, and I pray for another six years to continue the work.

REV. JAMES “MARTIN” RICHARDSON, JR., MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, CROWN OF LIFE, COLLEYVILLE; AGE 40

Sr. Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville, 2022-present; Assoc. Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville, 2010-2022

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Board of Directors, Camp Lone Star, 2019-present

I have had the privilege of serving as a synodical delegate on multiple occasions, providing me with valuable insight into the operations of the synodical convention. Additionally, I served for over five years on the Board of Directors for Camp Lone Star. During that time, we conducted a prayerful and deliberate search for a new CEO, ensuring the process was guided by faith and discernment.

GOALS IF ELECTED: With the help and by the grace of God, I will faithfully pray for and over the individuals presented to the committee, seeking His will for the future of our beloved Synod. I am committed to collaborating with my fellow committee members to reach consensus, while also striving to advance the mission-focused vision of the Texas District.



REV. DAN SCHEPMANN, MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON; AGE 56

Sr. Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 2013-present, Pastor, St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA, 2003-2013; Assoc. Pastor, Christ, Little Rock, AR, 1996-2004

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: FLGA District Reconciler, 2011-2013; Circuit Visitor, 2005-2008; Various Task Force committees in FLGA district, 2005-2008

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Twenty-eight years of pastoral experience. Served in multiple size congregations in various pastoral roles. Extensive knowledge of LCMS. Broad network of LCMS pastors in various settings in majority of LCMS Districts. Very familiar with the nominating process on the District and Synodical Levels. Have a heart for utilizing the gifts and talents of the body of Christ within the LCMS. -

GOALS IF ELECTED: Seek to bring the best candidates for the positions based on skill sets, ministry experiences, and a passion for Kingdom work through the LCMS.

Seek to bring a variety of voices, demographics, ethnicities, and experiences to the various boards, committees, and positions in our District and Synod that represent the entirety of our church body.

Seek to raise up the next generation of leaders and servants in the LCMS.

Serve as a voice for nominations that have a passion to live out the Great Commission and our Lutheran Confessions.

REV. DOYLE THEIMER, MDIV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, CHRIST THE KING, KINGWOOD; AGE 62

Assoc. Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood, 1998-present; Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Brooklyn, NY, 1990-1998

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 2021-present; Commission on Doctorial Review, 2002-2009; Atlantic District Secretary, 1996-1998

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Experience in networking for mission development; ability to see potential in people; ability to work well with others; ability to manage tension between other opposing viewpoints; experience communicating Biblical and Confessional theology in Lutheran and non-Lutheran contexts.



GOALS IF ELECTED: To put forward candidates who respect the Confessional integrity of the vast majority of LCMS members and who prioritize Christ's mission to disciple the nations among the objectives of Synod.

REV. JONATHAN R. THOMAS, MDIV, SR. PASTOR, ST. JOHN, MANSFIELD; AGE 56

Senior Pastor, St. John, Mansfield, 2016-present; Pastor, Salem, Orange, CA, 2011-2015; Pastor, Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, 2003-2011; Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 1994-2003

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Circuit Visitor, 2020-present; 2003-2011 Regional Mission Counsel Chairman, PSW District, 2012-2016; Summer Mission Trip Leader, FLGA District.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: President, Mansfield Churches for the City, 2003-present; Wellbeing Mansfield, 2003-present; Lake Mary Pastors Association Chairman, 2006-2010.

Missions and church planting is what I have been involved in throughout my entire ministry. I was a part of Pastoral Leadership Institute and believe in Ephesians 4, (finding) training and equipping people to do the work of ministry.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, maximizing both the financial and the human resources to accomplish the mission.

ALTERNATE - SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS - 2026 LCMS CONVENTION (AD HOC) PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKER (ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED): Vote for One (1)

MRS. CHARESSA KOONTZ, MS, DCE, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE, BETHANY, AUSTIN; AGE 46
DCE/DFLM, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA, 10 Yrs; DFLM, Trinity, Amarillo, 4 Yrs
; DFLM, Bethany, Austin, 2019-present

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Board of Directors, 7 Yrs.; English District Board of Directors, 2 Yrs.; Southeastern District Board of Directors, 5 Yrs.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Family Life Educator National Council of Family Relations, 19 Yrs.; Coach through the US Center for Missions, 6 Yrs.; Mediator for the JDR court for the Commonwealth of Virginia, 5 Yrs.



I have served in various church settings in Texas, Georgia, Virginia and Nebraska which has allowed me the opportunity to see God's church at work throughout the US. I have also had the joy of serving on three District Board of Directors for a total of 14 years of service. I love seeing the greater church come together in missional movements as we encourage and equip the saints. I would love the opportunity to once again serve as we continue to strengthen congregations, ministries and the people of God for the work God has prepared in advance for us to do!

GOALS IF ELECTED: I would love to continue to support the amazing district team who are doing a wonderful job of leading ministry in challenging times. They have created a dynamic strategy for mission and resources that will shape the church for generations to come. What a legacy of faithfulness! I plan to support all of the Texas District membership at large by taking my role seriously as a team player by listening, encouraging, and advocating where needed. Having served in three of the geographical areas of Texas (A,B and C), I know that our needs can be different based on context. I also want our commissioned workers to know that they have a voice that represents them as well. It has been my privilege and honor these past seven years to serve with so many tremendous leaders, and I pray for another six years to continue the work.

REV. JAMES “MARTIN” RICHARDSON, JR., MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, CROWN OF LIFE, COLLEYVILLE; AGE 40

Sr. Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville, 2022-present; Assoc. Pastor, Crown of Life, Colleyville, 2010-2022

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: None listed

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: Board of Directors, Camp Lone Star, 2019-present

I have had the privilege of serving as a synodical delegate on multiple occasions, providing me with valuable insight into the operations of the synodical convention. Additionally, I served for over five years on the Board of Directors for Camp Lone Star. During that time, we conducted a prayerful and deliberate search for a new CEO, ensuring the process was guided by faith and discernment.

GOALS IF ELECTED: With the help and by the grace of God, I will faithfully pray for and over the individuals presented to the committee, seeking His will for the future of our beloved Synod. I am committed to collaborating with my fellow committee members to reach consensus, while also striving to advance the mission-focused vision of the Texas District.



REV. DAN SCHEPMANN, MDIV, SENIOR PASTOR, GLORIA DEI, HOUSTON; AGE 56
Sr. Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 2013-present, Pastor, St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA, 2003-2013; Assoc. Pastor, Christ, Little Rock, AR, 1996-2004

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: FLGA District Reconciler, 2011-2013; Circuit Visitor, 2005-2008; Various Task Force committees in FLGA district, 2005-2008

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Twenty-eight years of pastoral experience. Served in multiple size congregations in various pastoral roles. Extensive knowledge of LCMS. Broad network of LCMS pastors in various settings in majority of LCMS Districts. Very familiar with the nominating process on the District and Synodical Levels. Have a heart for utilizing the gifts and talents of the body of Christ within the LCMS. -

GOALS IF ELECTED: Seek to bring the best candidates for the positions based on skill sets, ministry experiences, and a passion for Kingdom work through the LCMS.

Seek to bring a variety of voices, demographics, ethnicities, and experiences to the various boards, committees, and positions in our District and Synod that represent the entirety of our church body.

Seek to raise up the next generation of leaders and servants in the LCMS.

Serve as a voice for nominations that have a passion to live out the Great Commission and our Lutheran Confessions.

REV. DOYLE THEIMER, MDIV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, CHRIST THE KING, KINGWOOD; AGE 62
Assoc. Pastor, Christ the King, Kingwood, 1998-present; Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Brooklyn, NY, 1990-1998

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Circuit Visitor, 2021-present; Commission on Doctorial Review, 2002-2009; Atlantic District Secretary, 1996-1998

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: None listed

Experience in networking for mission development; ability to see potential in people; ability to work well with others; ability to manage tension between other opposing viewpoints; experience communicating Biblical and Confessional theology in Lutheran and non-Lutheran contexts.



GOALS IF ELECTED: To put forward candidates who respect the Confessional integrity of the vast majority of LCMS members and who prioritize Christ's mission to disciple the nations among the objectives of Synod.

REV. JONATHAN R. THOMAS, MDIV, SR. PASTOR, ST. JOHN, MANSFIELD; AGE 56

Senior Pastor, St. John, Mansfield, 2016-present; Pastor, Salem, Orange, CA, 2011-2015; Pastor, Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, 2003-2011; Pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston, 1994-2003

Circuit, District/Synod Positions or Offices: Texas District Circuit Visitor, 2020-present; 2003-2011 Regional Mission Counsel Chairman, PSW District, 2012-2016; Summer Mission Trip Leader, FLGA District.

Civic and/or Professional Organizations: President, Mansfield Churches for the City, 2003-present; Wellbeing Mansfield, 2003-present; Lake Mary Pastors Association Chairman, 2006-2010.

Missions and church planting is what I have been involved in throughout my entire ministry. I was a part of Pastoral Leadership Institute and believe in Ephesians 4, (finding) training and equipping people to do the work of ministry.

GOALS IF ELECTED: Be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, maximizing both the financial and the human resources to accomplish the mission.



FLOOR COMMITTEE #1 RESOLUTIONS

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Resolution 01-01-25

Re: Report of The Board of Mission Administration

SUBJECT: TO CELEBRATE AND CONTINUE THE TRAINING AND WORK OF EVANGELISTS IN THE TEXAS DISTRICT

WHEREAS, The prophet Isaiah declares, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (Isaiah 52:7); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”(Ephesians 4:11-12); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul in his second letter to Timothy extols, “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention resolved, “That congregations and districts be encouraged to identify individuals for special training in and attention to evangelism and outreach...” (2016 Res.13-01A); and

WHEREAS, The Texas District in convention resolved to: “...uphold and pray for the goal to raise up 500 servant-leaders to reach 500 new communities by 2031...” and “...encourage member congregations to identify and send candidates for evangelist training...” (2021 Res.01-01-21); and

WHEREAS, The Evangelist Training Ministry of the Texas District since 2017 has equipped 230 evangelists (2025 Convention Report of The Board of Mission Administration); and

WHEREAS, 142 of those evangelists remain actively engaged in the last three years and in 2024 alone 54 completed their training and 80+ are currently undergoing training (2025 Convention Report of The Board of Mission Administration); and

WHEREAS, Evangelist trainers and congregational leaders have observed that the Evangelist Training Ministry has been beneficial to our congregations for outreach to local communities; therefore be it



1 *Resolved*, That the Texas District in convention celebrate and give thanks to the Lord
2 for the Evangelist Training Ministry, both leadership and trainers; and be it further
3

4 *Resolved*, That the Texas District in convention celebrate and give thanks to the Lord
5 for trained evangelists and the new faith communities they are serving; and be it further
6

7 *Resolved*, That the Texas District continue to encourage local congregations to
8 identify and send candidates for evangelist training; and be it further
9

10 *Resolved*, That congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to pray for
11 evangelist candidates to be trained and sent; and be it finally
12

13 *Resolved*, That congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to pray for
14 evangelists actively working in their local communities.
15

16
17 **Resolution 01-02-25**

18 **Re: Report of The Board of Mission Administration; President's Report, Part One**

19 **SUBJECT: TO CELEBRATE NEW WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRIES AND CONTINUE THE**
20 **MISSION**
21

22 WHEREAS, St. Matthew tells us, "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in
23 heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
24 baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching
25 them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the
26 end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20); and
27

28 WHEREAS, Jesus tells us, "...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
29 Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
30 (Luke 10:2); and
31

32 WHEREAS, St. Paul writes to the church in Corinth, "What then is Apollos? What is Paul?
33 Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos
34 watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,
35 but only God who gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:5-7); and
36

37 WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of the Texas District is: To strengthen congregations
38 to: reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people—locally and globally; and
39

40 WHEREAS, The Texas District of the LCMS in convention resolved to: "...strongly
41 encourage congregations, both large and small, to start new ministries in order that many
42 more people will be reached with the Good News of Jesus..." (2018 Res.01-05-18A); and
43



1 WHEREAS, There were 40 new starts in the last three years (2025 Convention Report of
2 The Board of Mission Administration; 2025 Convention President's Report, Part One);
3 therefore be it
4

5 *Resolved*, That the Texas District in convention celebrate and give thanks to the Lord
6 for the formation of 40 new word and sacrament ministries over the past three years; and be
7 it further
8

9 *Resolved*, That the Texas District continue to encourage local congregations and
10 church planting networks to partner and start new word and sacrament ministries in order to
11 reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people—locally and globally; and be it further
12

13 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to utilize the resources of the Texas
14 District to explore and start new ministries; and be it finally
15

16 *Resolved*, That congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to pray for new
17 ministries and harvest workers.
18

19
20 **Resolution 01-03-25**

21 **Re: Overture 01-01-25**

22 **Subject: TO ENCOURAGE THE PLANTING OF NEW HISPANIC CHURCHES & PARTNERSHIPS**
23

24 WHEREAS, There is a strong desire to create a network of strong Hispanic congregations
25 connected to the confessional Lutheran faith, equipped with biblical theology, and led by
26 pastors who reflect the love and mission of Christ; and
27

28 WHEREAS, The United States of America is experiencing a massive influx of Hispanic
29 peoples from throughout Latin America; and
30

31 Whereas, as of 2020 there are 11.4 million Hispanic or Latino residents in the great
32 state of Texas, constituting 39% of the population; (2020 Decennial Census
33 source [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)) and
34

35 WHEREAS, Too few LC-MS trained pastors and church leaders are available to serve the
36 many new Hispanic immigrants and current Spanish-speaking Americans; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:37-38 that “the harvest is plentiful, but the
39 workers are few”; and
40

41 WHEREAS, Many local house-church pastors within Texas are already leading growing
42 house-church and small-church communities; and
43



1 WHEREAS, Other Hispanic leaders have already helped established English-language
2 churches to befriend and partner with existing Hispanic congregations; and
3

4 WHEREAS, Many of these Spanish-speaking pastors are desiring further theological
5 training, mentoring, and the exploration of partnership with local Lutheran pastors and
6 congregations; therefore be it
7

8 *Resolved*, That the leadership teams of local churches be encouraged to prayerfully
9 evaluate potential Hispanic partnerships in their area; and be it further
10

11 *Resolved*, That congregation and area mission teams be encouraged to announce and
12 pray for the success of new Hispanic church-planting efforts; and be it finally
13

14 *Resolved*, That the Texas District and the Board for Mission Administration explore the
15 potential of Hispanic church-planting friendships and opportunities throughout the Texas
16 District.
17

18
19 **Resolution 01-04-25**

20 **Re: Overture 01-02-25**

21 **Subject: TO ENCOURAGE RECRUITMENT OF COMMISSIONED WORKERS**
22

23 WHEREAS, Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Luke, “The harvest is plentiful, but the
24 laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers
25 into his harvest.”; and
26

27 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established the Set Apart to Serve
28 initiative which “encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily
29 through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation” (SAS); and
30

31 WHEREAS, Lutheran education has been a substantial part of the Lutheran Church—
32 Missouri Synod since its foundation; and
33

34 WHEREAS, It is increasingly difficult to find qualified Lutheran teachers and
35 commissioned ministers to serve in our Lutheran schools and churches; therefore be it
36

37 *Resolved*, The pastors, commissioned workers, and congregations of the Texas District
38 identify and encourage children, students, and adults to enter these much-needed
39 vocations; and be it further
40

41 *Resolved*, The pastors, commissioned workers, and congregations of the Texas District
42 support commissioned workers through prayer, scholarships, other financial gifts, and



1 mentorship to attend one of the universities of the LCMS to be trained as a commissioned
2 minister; and be it finally
3

4 *Resolved*, The Texas District memorializes the Synod in convention to encourage
5 congregations to do the same.
6

7
8 **Resolution 01-05-25**

9 **Re: Overture 01-03-25**

10 **Subject: TO ENCOURAGE THE RAISING UP OF PUBLIC SERVANTS**
11

12 WHEREAS, Our Lord commands us to pray for those who serve in public office, “First of
13 all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all
14 people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet
15 life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good and it is pleasing in the sight of God our
16 Savior.” (1 Timothy 2:1-3); and
17

18 WHEREAS, Our Lord commands us to respect these levels of government, “Let every
19 person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God,
20 and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1); and
21

22 WHEREAS, Our Lord reminds us through the words of St. Paul, “...the authorities are
23 ministers of God, attending to this very thing.” (Romans 13:6); and
24

25 WHEREAS, Serving in elected or appointed offices within our local community, county,
26 state, and nation is a God-ordained vocation; therefore be it
27

28 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to
29 continue to pray for peace and good will among all the people of our nation, especially
30 praying that the eyes of all people would turn to our Lord and Savior through whom we have
31 true peace; and be it further
32

33 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to pray
34 for those serving at city, county, state, and federal levels of government; and be it further
35

36 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations of the Texas District be encouraged in
37 providing a good example for others in how to discuss politics, politicians, and all aspects of
38 public service; and be it further
39

40 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to
41 identify, encourage, and raise up from within our midst those with the gifts and abilities to
42 serve God and their neighbor in public service; and be it finally
43



1 *Resolved*, That the Texas District memorialize the Synod in convention to encourage
2 congregations of the Synod to do the same.
3

4 5 **RESOLUTION A**

6 WHEREAS, Many overtures request action that is the responsibility of various boards,
7 commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

8 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission,
9 task force, staff or individual:

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>		<i>Board, Commission, Staff,</i>		
	<i>Individual</i>					
	Overture 01-04-25	To Encourage Formation of Local Public Afterschool Kids Clubs		District Staff		

17 **FLOOR COMMITTEE #2 RESOLUTIONS** 18 **GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

19 20 **Resolution 02-01-25**

21 **RE: Overture 02-01-25**

22 **Subject: To Encourage Congregations, Schools, and Ministries of the Texas District to**
23 **Utilize Sabbaticals for Worker Care and Ministry Health**

24
25 WHEREAS, the Word of God points to the command for Sabbath rest, (Genesis 2:3
26 Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 25:4ff) and our Lord Jesus emphasizes the need for rest, by giving
27 it to all who come to Him (Matt 11:28-29); and
28

29 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has previously encouraged a greater
30 consideration of sabbaticals by congregations, ministries, and workers (*2007 Resolution 6-08:*
31 *To Encourage Congregations to Provide Professional Church Worker Sabbaticals*) and has
32 provided guidance for sabbaticals through its Commission on Ministerial Growth and
33 Support (*2010 Convention Report, R5-03, Appendix C, "Sabbatical Guidelines"*); and
34

35 WHEREAS, In March 2004, the Texas District, LCMS BOD provided a set of sabbatical
36 guidelines, “presented to the churches and schools of the district for their implementation
37 in their own ministry settings” (*Sabbatical Guidelines and Resources for Professional Church*
38 *Workers, Texas District, LCMS*); and
39

40 WHEREAS There is historical precedent in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod going back to
41 the first Synod President, C.F. W. Walther, who in 1859 took a much needed ministry



sabbatical to be refreshed and renewed, and in doing so blessed the LCMS with an example of renewed energy and great productivity; and

WHEREAS, Sabbaticals serve to bless both the church worker and the congregation/ministry when there is a mutual awareness of the need of and opportunities provided by such a sabbatical; and,

WHEREAS, Sabbaticals can reinvigorate and renew both workers and congregations/ministries and strengthen them for future kingdom work, as well as combat worker burnout, reduce worker discouragement, refresh perspectives by worker and ministry alike, potentially increase worker retention, and cultivate longevity among current church workers, which is beneficial to the whole church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Congregations, Schools, and other ministries in the Texas District be encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Texas District's *Sabbatical Guidelines and Resources for Professional Church Workers* along with other material posted on the Texas District website; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District provide a template for a Sabbatical Policy Guideline for congregations, schools, and other ministries, as well as workers, to adapt and adopt to their circumstances that encourage them to explore and implement sabbaticals that share a common understanding of need and purpose, and are mutually beneficial for both worker and ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District work together with other LCMS districts to put together and maintain a list of current available grants and scholarships which help provide necessary funding for sabbaticals; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations, schools, and other ministries of the Texas District be encouraged to set aside funding regularly to support their church workers in taking a sabbatical.

Resolution 02-02-25

RE: Overture 02-02-25

Subject: To Address the Interference of Those Who, without a Proper Call, Impose Themselves into the Internal Affairs of a Congregation

Whereas, the psalmist writes, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore" (Psalm 133, NIV84); and



Whereas, in LCMS Constitution Article III.8, the Synod has reserved for itself the “supervision, counsel, and care” of individual members of the Synod “in the performance of their official duties”; and

Whereas, in LCMS Constitution Article III.9, the Synod is required to “Provide protection for the congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights”; and

Whereas, those who, without a proper call, impose themselves into the internal affairs of a congregation often cause great harm to the congregation and its duly-called workers; and

Whereas, material in the Circuit Visitors Manual of the LCMS addresses this issue; therefore be it

Resolved, that the president of the Texas District be encouraged to review the material concerning the interference into the internal affairs of a congregation by an individual without a proper call with the circuit visitors; and be it further

Resolved, that circuit visitors be encouraged evangelically to address this topic with their circuits at their earliest convenience; and be it finally

Resolved, that all individual members of the Synod in the Texas District be reminded joyfully to exercise their responsibilities within the parameters of their call.

Resolution 02-03-25

RE: Overtures 02-03-25 - 02-06-25

Subject: To: Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity

WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach us that out of God’s great love and mercy, Jesus, the Son of God *took on* our identity as a man:

- **Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV):**

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

- **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV):**

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

and



1 WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that the identity of all believers is therefore found in Christ
2 alone, as they are made new creations and children of God through faith in Him:
3

4 • **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV):**

5 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed*
6 *away; behold, the new has come.”*

7 • **Galatians 2:20 (ESV):**

8 *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who*
9 *lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of*
10 *God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

11 • **1 John 3:1 (ESV):**

12 *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called*
13 *children of God; and so we are.”*

14 and

15
16 WHEREAS, this identity is *given* to us individually and collectively through our baptism—not
17 chosen by us and not established in us or for us by our actions:
18

19 • **1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV):**

20 *“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...”*

21 • **Galatians 3:26-29 (ESV):**

22 *“for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were*
23 *baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither*
24 *slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you*
25 *are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”*

26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, the Scriptures establish that a Christian's identity is not rooted in human
29 traditions but in faith in Christ, and also warn against placing external rituals or human
30 traditions above the sincere devotion of the heart:
31

32 • **John 4:23**

33 *“the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship*
34 *the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship*
35 *him.”*

36 • **Matthew 15:8-9 (ESV)**

37 *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain*
38 *do they worship me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.”*

39 • **Galatians 5:1 (ESV):**

40 *“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit*
41 *again to a yoke of slavery.”*

42 and



1 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions uphold and affirm that a Christian's identity—not just
2 individually but also corporately—may be expressed differently in different places because
3 of our unity in faith and simultaneously our freedom in Christ:
4

5 *"It is enough for the true unity of the Church to agree about the teaching of the Gospel*
6 *and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions,*
7 *rites, or ceremonies instituted by human beings be alike everywhere."*

8 – Augsburg Confession, Article VII (Kolb-Wengert)
9

10 *"...ceremonies and ecclesiastical practices that are neither commanded nor forbidden in*
11 *God's Word but have been introduced into the church with good intentions for the sake*
12 *of good order and decorum or to maintain Christian discipline... At the same time, this*
13 *article also concerns Christian freedom...weakening this article and forcing human*
14 *commands upon the church as necessary—as if their omission were wrong and sinful—*
15 *already paves the way to idolatry. Through it human commands will ultimately increase*
16 *and will be regarded as service to God equal to that which God has commanded; even*
17 *worse, they will even be given precedence over what he has commanded."*

18 – Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article X, 1 and 15 (Kolb-Wengert)
19

20 *We do not want to hear what they command or forbid in the name of the church,*
21 *because, God be praised, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is: holy believers*
22 *and "the little sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd." This is why children pray in*
23 *this way, "I believe in one holy Christian church." This holiness does not consist of*
24 *surplices, tonsures, long albs, or other ceremonies of theirs that they have invented*
25 *over and above the Holy Scriptures. Its holiness exists in the Word of God and true faith.*
26 --Smalcald Articles, Article 12 (Kolb-Wengert)
27

28 and
29

30 WHEREAS, Martin Luther wrote, in his preface to the Smalcald Articles, concerning the
31 council for which the Articles were composed:
32

33 *"If participants in the council were to deal with the chief concerns in the spiritual*
34 *and secular estates that are opposed to God, then their hands would be so full that*
35 *they would forget all about the child's games and fool's play of long robes, great*
36 *tonsures, broad cinctures, bishop's and cardinal's hats, crosiers, and similar clowning*
37 *around. If we had already been following God's command and precept in the spiritual*
38 *and secular estates, then we would have found the spare time to reform food,*
39 *vestments, tonsures, and chasubles. But if we swallow such camels and strain out*
40 *gnats or let logs stand and dispute about specks, then we might just as well be*
41 *satisfied with such a council."*

42 --Martin Luther's Preface to the Smalcald Articles, 13 (Kolb-Wengert)
43



1 WHEREAS, our Lutheran church fathers further establish our identity and freedom
2 fundamentally in Christ;

3
4 *“The Lutheran Church is not defined by cultural or national identity but by its
5 confession of Christ and the pure teaching of His Gospel. To be Lutheran is to confess
6 what the Scriptures teach and what the Church has always believed.”*

7 – Herman Sasse, *Here We Stand: Nature and Character of the Lutheran Faith* (Emphasis
8 added)

9
10 *“We are faithful to this church, not because it is the church of our Fathers, but because
11 it is the church of the Gospel; not because it is the church of Luther, but because it is
12 the church of Jesus Christ.”*

13 – Herman Sasse, *Here We Stand: Nature and Character of the Lutheran Faith*

14
15 *“Christian freedom means that in matters where God has not commanded or forbidden,
16 the conscience is not bound. The Church should never burden consciences by imposing
17 man-made traditions as though they were divine commands.”*

18 – C.F.W Walther, *Essays for the Church*

19 and

20
21 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) states in Article II of its constitution
22 (emphasis added):

23
24 Article II Confession

25 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

26 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and
27 the only rule and norm of faith **and of practice**;

28 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and
29 unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three
30 Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed),
31 the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the
32 Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and
33 the Formula of Concord.

34 and

35
36 WHEREAS, The term “Lutheran Identity” has taken on a greater use in the LCMS and within
37 the LCMS bylaws, particularly regarding university education, yet has no clear statement
38 defining such, and therefore could confuse and imply an identity distinct from or in addition
39 to that which we have in Christ; therefore be it

40
41 RESOLVED, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined and affirmed as identity in Christ
42 through baptism, as that identity is further explicated in the full counsel of Holy Scripture



1 (norma normans) and understood in the Lutheran Confessions, to which we subscribe
2 because they are in agreement with Holy Scripture (norma normata); and be it finally
3

4 RESOLVED that “the churches are not to condemn one another because of differences in
5 ceremonies when, in Christian freedom, one has fewer or more than the other” (FC SD X 31
6 [Kolb-Wengert]), but should rejoice together in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace
7 alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of “Lutheran identity”
8 upon which we stand.
9

10 Resolution 02-04-25

11 Subject: To Clarify and Update Language in the Governing Documents of the Texas 12 District 13

14
15 Whereas, with the passage of time, the connotations and nuances of specific terms may
16 change, so that what was originally intended by those terms may no longer be
17 communicated effectively or may be confusing; and
18

19 Whereas, the term “race” has evolved in its meaning over time ([https://www.merriam-](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/race)
20 [webster.com/dictionary/race](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/race)), reducing its effectiveness in clear communication; and
21

22 Whereas, the bylaws of the Texas District utilize the term “racial groups” in Bylaw 4.031.b.
23 and 9.005.b.; and
24

25 Whereas, the terms “ethnic groups” or “ethnolinguistic groups” may more effectively
26 communicate the intent of the bylaws, either as a replacement or an addition; and
27

28 Whereas, there may be other instances of language utilized in the governing documents of
29 the Texas District that do not communicate clearly the intent of those documents; and
30

31 Whereas, for the convention of the Texas District to amend the bylaws of the district, prior
32 approval is required by Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of The Lutheran
33 Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) [Texas District Bylaw 15.001.a.2.; cf. LCMS Bylaw 4.1.1.2
34 (b)], before being presented to a district convention; and
35

36 Whereas, Texas District Bylaw 6.009 indicates concerning the board of directors of the
37 district, “The board of directors shall serve as the policy making body within the district and
38 as such shall act on behalf of and in the best interest of the district between conventions
39 where such action is required”; and
40

41 Whereas, it would be prudent to examine the entirety of the governing documents of the
42 Texas District for language that is confusing or does not communicate effectively; therefore
43 be it



Resolved, that the Texas District Board of Directors (TDBOD) be directed to conduct a study of the district's governing documents, for the purpose indicated above; and be it further

Resolved, that the TDBOD submit proposed amendments for the district's governing documents to the LCMS CCM for prior approval, as required; and be it further

Resolved, that the TDBOD consider replacing the term "racial groups" by utilizing the term "ethnic groups" or "ethnolinguistic groups" or other such language as clearly communicates the intent of the governing documents, without confusion; and be it further

Resolved, that the TDBOD submit the results of its study and the results of its submission to the CCM to the 2028 convention of the Texas District as a report in the convention Workbook; and be it finally

Resolved, that the TDBOD's report be considered by the appropriate floor committee for convention action.

Omnibus Resolution B

Whereas, overtures have been presented that address issues to which the Synod in convention has previously spoken; and

Whereas, after careful consideration of these matters, there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the stated position of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, that petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention actions as indicated.

Number	Subject	Previous Action
02-08 - 02-10	To Use Only Synod Approved Hymnals and Hymns for Worship and Devotional Services at Texas District Sponsored Events	LCMS Constitution Article III, 1992 Res. 2-02, 1998 Res. 2-10, 2001 Res. 2-05A, 2004 Res. 2-04, 2013 Res.3-12A, 2016 Res. 4-04A

Omnibus Resolution C—To Respectfully Decline Overtures

Whereas, the floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for reasons given that the following overtures should be declined; therefore be it



1 Resolved, that the following overtures be respectfully declined:
2

Number	Subject	Reason
Overture 02-11	To Request a Study on the Recreational Use of Marijuana by Clergy, Called Workers, Laity	Recreational marijuana use is illegal according to Texas state law and federal law
Overture 02-12	To Improve Relationships through Visitations	Information already available
Overture 02-13	To Require Recusal for CTCR Members Discussing Their Own Theological Issues	Vague and inconsistent with the purpose of the CTCR
Overture 02-14	To Request a Theologically Informed Opinion on Self-Defense from the CTCR	Insufficient rationale

3



OVERTURES/MISSION AND MINISTRY

Overture 01-01-25

SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE THE PLANTING OF HISPANIC CHURCHES

WHEREAS, there is a strong desire to create a network of strong Hispanic congregations connected to the confessional Lutheran faith, equipped with biblical theology, and led by pastors who reflect the love and mission of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is experiencing a massive influx of Hispanic peoples from throughout Latin America; and

WHEREAS, 13.5 million residents of the state of Texas are projected to be Spanish-speakers by the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, too few LC-MS trained pastors and church leaders are available to serve the many new Hispanic immigrants and current Spanish-speaking Americans; and

WHEREAS, Jesus tells us in Matthew 9:37-38 that “the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”; and

WHEREAS, many local house-church pastors within Texas are already leading growing house-church and small-church communities; and

WHEREAS, other Hispanic leaders have already helped established English-language churches to befriend and partner with existing Hispanic congregations; and

WHEREAS, many of these Spanish-speaking pastors are desiring further theological training, mentoring, and the exploration of partnership with local Lutheran pastors and congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, that the leadership teams of local churches be encouraged to prayerfully evaluate potential Hispanic partnerships in their area; and be it further

Resolved, that congregation and area mission teams be encouraged to announce and pray for the success of new church-planting efforts; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Texas District and the Board for Mission Administration explore the potential of church-planting friendships and opportunities throughout the Texas District.

Circuit 36 - 1-09-25

/s/ Matthew Brackman - Circuit Visitor



1 **Overture 01-02-25**

2 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE RECRUITMENT OF LUTHERAN TEACHERS**

3
4 WHEREAS, the Synod has established the Set Apart to Serve initiative “encourages
5 young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and
6 faithful involvement with their congregation” (SAS) and,
7

8 WHEREAS, Lutheran education has been a substantial part of the Lutheran Church
9 Missouri Synod since its foundation; and
10

11 WHEREAS, It is increasingly difficult to find qualified Lutheran teachers to serve in our
12 Lutheran Schools; therefore be it
13

14 *Resolved*, The Pastors, Commissioned Workers, and Congregations of the Texas
15 District identify and encourage children, students, and adults to enter this much-needed
16 vocation; and be it further
17

18 *Resolved*, We support them through prayer, scholarships, other financial gifts, and
19 mentorship to attend one of the Concordia’s of the LCMS to be trained as a Commissioned
20 Minister; and be it finally
21

22 *Resolved*, The Texas District memorializes the Synod in convention to do the same.
23

24 Circuit 36 - 1-09-25

25 /s/ Matthew Brackman - Circuit Visitor
26

27
28 **Overture 01-03-25**

29 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE THE RAISING UP OF PUBLIC SERVANTS**

30
31 WHEREAS, Serving in elected or appointed offices within our local community, county,
32 state, and nation is pleasing in God’s eyes; and
33

34 WHEREAS, Our Lord commands us to respect these levels of government, “Let every
35 person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God,
36 and those what exist have been instituted by God.” Romans 13:1; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Our Lord commands us to pray for those who serve in public office, “First of
39 all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all
40 people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet
41 life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good and it is pleasing in the sight of God our
42 Savior.” 1 Timothy 2:1-3; therefore be it
43



Resolved, That Pastors and Congregations of the Texas District continue to pray for peace and good will among all the people of our nation, especially praying that the eyes of all people would turn to our Lord and Savior through whom we have true peace and be it further

Resolved, The Pastors and Congregations of the Texas District pray for those serving at city, county, state, and federal levels of government; and be it further

Resolved, The Pastors and Congregations of the Texas District be encouraged in providing a good example for others in how to discuss politics, politicians, and all aspects of public service; and be it further

Resolved, The Pastors and Congregations of the Texas District identify, encourage, and raise up from within our midst those with the gifts and abilities to serve God and their neighbor in public service; and be it finally

Resolved, The Texas District memorializes the Synod in convention.

Circuit 36 - 1-09-25
/s/ Matthew Brackman - Circuit Visitor

Overture 01-04-25

SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC AFTERSCHOOL KIDS CLUBS

WHEREAS, 82% of children are in public schools
(<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/acs/acs-55.pdf>)
; and

WHEREAS, 63% of children begin to actively follow Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14 years old (<https://brucegerencser.net/tag/4-14-window/>); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ says, in Matthew 28:19 “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations”; and

WHEREAS, Crossroads Kids Club, formed in 1998, currently supports 49 total club throughout the United States and 53 overseas clubs; and

WHEREAS, Crossroads Kids Club provides coaching, curriculum and resources to congregations as they share the gospel on public elementary school campus'; and

WHEREAS, Crossroads Kids Club connects the church to the school legally through renting space on campus; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Crossroads Kids Club teaches church members how to share their faith and
3 provides an opportunity to share with children; now, therefore, be it
4

5 *Resolved*, that the Texas District staff is encouraged to further explore and learn
6 about Crossroads Kids Club as a possible mission and ministry opportunity for Texas District
7 congregations.
8

9
10 Circuit 36 - 1-09-25
11 /s/ Matthew Brackman - Circuit Visitor
12

13 OVERTURES/ 14 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION 15

16 Overture 02-01-25

17 SUBJECT: To Address the Abuses of the Sabbatical 18

19 WHEREAS, “The word ‘sabbatical’ is derived from ‘Sabbath.’ Historically in church and
20 academia, the professionals were given a Sabbath (sabbatical) every seventh year. The
21 observation was that academic professors and clergy were so worn out after six years of
22 teaching and leading that they needed a year of rest, recovery, renewal and reeducation for
23 their field of endeavor. The assumptions were that it benefited the professional person
24 (avoiding breakdown, burnout, depression or distress) and that it benefited the institution
25 (re-energized, renewed and strengthened service and leadership). It is based on Genesis
26 2:1-4a in which God modeled and later required (Exodus 1:8-11) the setting aside of 1/7 of
27 our time for restoration,”¹; and
28

29 WHEREAS, this practice of the “sabbatical” has been adapted and adopted by many
30 church workers, in conjunction with their congregations, across the Lutheran Church -
31 Missouri Synod (hereafter known as LCMS) with varying lengths of time in accordance with
32 the individuals’ goals; and
33

34 WHEREAS, various districts within the LCMS have designed their own sets of guidelines
35 and resources for the purpose of assisting the professional church workers within the
36 membership of their districts; and
37

38 WHEREAS, this practice has been established for the purpose of blessing the worker and
39 the congregation, so that the relationship between the two can be strengthened for the goal
40 of extending their walk together into the foreseeable future; and

¹ Sabbatical Guidelines and Resources for Professional Church Workers, Texas District, LCMS, Prologue, page 1



1
2 WHEREAS, there are situations within the LCMS where the church worker and the
3 congregation are in conflict; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the district president and/or his representative become involved with the
6 hope of bringing about a reconciliation through confession and absolution because the Law
7 and Gospel of God's Word has affected the people; and
8

9 WHEREAS, there have been cases where the district president conducted an initial
10 investigation into the issue, but after several attempts to bring about a reconciliation, only
11 witnessed a continued polarization between the two parties (church worker and
12 congregation) involved; and
13

14 WHEREAS, instead of persisting until truth avails itself through confession and
15 absolution, the "sabbatical" agreement is introduced, where the pastor is put outside the
16 congregation for a period of time on a paid leave with finances provided by the
17 congregation; and
18

19 WHEREAS, it is the understanding of all parties involved that during this time the
20 district president will assist the church worker during his "sabbatical" to receive another
21 Call, with the intent of the worker never returning to the congregation refreshed; and
22

23 WHEREAS, leaving the issue within the congregation unresolved and unknown to others
24 outside the conflict; and
25

26 WHEREAS, changing the "sabbatical" from a time of renewed blessings for the church
27 worker to a time of stress, uncertainty, and confusion, thus misusing and abusing the
28 "sabbatical" as a tool to bring about an artificial peace and to present both parties with a
29 white-washed appearance, as if there is no harboring of hatred against and hurt from the
30 other; therefore be it
31

32 Resolved, that the Board of Directors of Texas District of the LCMS be encouraged to
33 establish a review board to oversee all "sabbaticals" that are initiated while a district
34 representative is engaged with a congregation involved in a dispute, with the goal of
35 protecting the congregation and the church worker; and be it further
36

37 Resolved, that the Texas District in Convention memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synodical
38 Convention to create "Sabbatical Guidelines and Resources for Professional Church Workers"
39 which will include an appeals process for church workers to address the reasons for a forced
40 sabbatical; and be it finally
41

42 Resolved, that thanksgiving shall be given to all church workers and congregations
43 who are striving to be faithful in their calling with the Texas District.



/s/ Robert Wawrzyniak, President
/s/ Lois Teinert, Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Austin, TX

Overture 02-02-25

SUBJECT: To Reaffirm *Kirche und Amt* as Official Doctrine of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Rebuke Pastors (active and emeritus) who Interfere with the Internal Affairs of a Congregation without a Proper Call

WHEREAS, The first objective of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is to “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10)...” (Constitution Article III 1), and also to “Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the...maintenance of their rights” (Constitution Article III 9); and

WHEREAS, As a condition of acquiring and holding membership in the Synod, as stated in Const. Art. VI 3 of the Constitution of the Synod, every congregation and minister must agree to observe and respect the individual congregation's right to call a pastor and not interfere with that pastor's proper authority in matters pertaining to his call, and

WHEREAS, C.F.W. Walther's *Kirche und Amt*, adopted by the LCMS in Convention as official doctrine (2001: RES 7-17A), further defends the aforementioned rights and explicitly clear that pastors are not to meddle in congregations to which they have no call; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas District reaffirm these beliefs, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas District memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm these beliefs, and be it further

RESOLVED, That ecclesiastical supervisors, especially circuit visitors, training and or study materials to directly address meddling in circuit congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, That ecclesial supervisors fraternally, yet strongly, rebuke any pastors interfering with the internal affairs of a congregation to which they are not properly called, and therefore be it finally

RESOLVED, That if no repentance is made in a timely fashion, disciplinary action be taken by the appropriate ecclesial authority, in accordance with existing disciplinary procedures to preserve the unity of the church's witness and prevent schism.



Overture 02-03-25

SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:

Article II Confession

The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;
2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined solely by the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that adds moral, ethical, cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg Confession: "Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or words. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4)"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that uses traditions and rites as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to article VII of the Augsburg Confession: "The Church is the congregation of the saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or



ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. As Paul says, ‘One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all’ (Ephesians 4:5-6)”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that venerates Martin Luther or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the Large Catechism: “This we ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition and followers among other people and advance with power throughout the world. So we pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the kingdom of grace and become partakers of salvation...” (LC, The Lord’s Prayer, 52); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that limits Christian freedom in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession: “It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, ‘do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’ (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they are changed without offending others” (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God’s ordinances, but even placed above them” (15); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined and affirmed as adherence to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that “the churches will not condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them” (FC SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the Lutheran confession.

Adopted on 1/14/2025
Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer, Houston, TX

/s/ Rev. Russell Strimple, Pastor
/s/ Steve Hutchinson, Congregational President
/s/ Barbara Gadd, Congregational Secretary

Overture 02-04-25



1 **SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity**

2
3 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:

4
5 Article II Confession

6 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 7 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and
8 the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;
9 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and
10 unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three
11 Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed),
12 the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the
13 Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and
14 the Formula of Concord.

15
16 therefore be it

17
18 Resolved, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined solely by the Scriptures and
19 Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

20
21 Resolved, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that adds
22 moral, ethical, cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical
23 Lutheran confession, but first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg
24 Confession: “Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own
25 strength, merits, or words. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when
26 they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s
27 sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for
28 righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4)”;

29
30 Resolved, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that uses
31 traditions and rites as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but
32 according to article VII of the Augsburg Confession: “The Church is the congregation of the
33 saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered.
34 For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and
35 the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites
36 or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. As Paul says, ‘One Lord,
37 one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all’ (Ephesians 4:5-6)”;

38
39 Resolved, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that
40 venerates Martin Luther or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according
41 to the Large Catechism: “This we ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have
42 accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition
43 and followers among other people and advance with power throughout the world. So we



1 pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the kingdom of grace and become
2 partakers of salvation..." (LC, The Lord's Prayer, 52); and be it further
3

4 Resolved, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that limits
5 Christian freedom in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of
6 the Augsburg Confession: "It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be
7 preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order
8 to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, 'do not submit again to a yoke
9 of slavery' (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely
10 that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of
11 worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences
12 are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they
13 are changed without offending others" (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the
14 Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: "As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and
15 human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin
16 to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are
17 multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God's ordinances, but even
18 placed above them" (15); and be it further
19

20 Resolved, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined and affirmed as adherence to
21 the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that "the churches will not
22 condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one
23 has less or more of them" (FC SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation
24 of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the
25 Lutheran confession; and be it finally
26

27 Resolved, that the Texas District in convention forward this resolution to the Synod in
28 convention as an overture.
29

30 Circuit Forum - 1-9-25
31 /s/ Rev. Matthew Brackman
32 Circuit Visitor, Circuit 36
33

34
35 **Overture 02-05-25**

36 **SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity**
37

38 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:
39

40 Article II Confession

41 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

42 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and
43 the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;



1 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and
2 unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three
3 Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed),
4 the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the
5 Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and
6 the Formula of Concord.

7
8 therefore be it
9

10 *RESOLVED*, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined solely by the Scriptures and
11 Lutheran Confessions; and be it further
12

13 *RESOLVED*, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that adds moral,
14 ethical, cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran
15 confession, but first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg Confession: "Our
16 churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or
17 words. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that
18 they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death,
19 Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight
20 (Romans 3 and 4)"; and be it further
21

22 *RESOLVED*, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that uses traditions
23 and rites as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to
24 article VII of the Augsburg Confession: "The Church is the congregation of the saints in which
25 the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true
26 unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the
27 administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or
28 ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. As Paul says, 'One Lord, one
29 faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all' (Ephesians 4:5-6)"; and be it further
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31 *RESOLVED*, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that venerates
32 Martin Luther or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the
33 Large Catechism: "This we ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have
34 accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition
35 and followers among other people and advance with power throughout the world. So we
36 pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the kingdom of grace and become
37 partakers of salvation..." (LC, The Lord's Prayer, 52); and be it further
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39 *RESOLVED*, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that limits
40 Christian freedom in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of
41 the Augsburg Confession: "It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be
42 preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order
43 to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, 'do not submit again to a yoke



1 of slavery' (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely
2 that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of
3 worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences
4 are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they
5 are changed without offending others" (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the
6 Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: "As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and
7 human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin
8 to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are
9 multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God's ordinances, but even
10 placed above them" (15); and be it further

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12 **RESOLVED**, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined and affirmed as adherence to the
13 Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that "the churches will not
14 condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one
15 has less or more of them" (FC SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation
16 of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the
17 Lutheran confession; and be it finally

18
19 **RESOLVED**, that the Texas District in convention forward this resolution to the Synod in
20 convention as an overture.

21
22
23 Adopted on January 21, 2024
24 Circuit 39 of the Texas District LCMS

25 /s/ Rev. Gene Johnson, Circuit Visitor
26

27
28 **Overture 02-06-25**

29 **SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity**
30

31 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:

32
33 Article II Confession

34 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 35 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only
36 rule and norm of faith and of practice;
37 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated
38 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the
39 Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg
40 Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large
41 Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

42
43 therefore be it



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3 Lutheran Confessions; and be it further
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5 *RESOLVED*, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that adds moral,
6 ethical, cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran
7 confession, but first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg Confession: “Our
8 churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or
9 words. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that
10 they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake. By His death,
11 Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight
12 (Romans 3 and 4)””; and be it further
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14 *RESOLVED*, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that uses traditions
15 and rites as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to
16 article VII of the Augsburg Confession: “The Church is the congregation of the saints in which
17 the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true
18 unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the
19 administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or
20 ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. As Paul says, ‘One Lord, one
21 faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all’ (Ephesians 4:5-6)””; and be it further
22

23 *RESOLVED*, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that venerates
24 Martin Luther or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the
25 Large Catechism: “This we ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have
26 accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition
27 and followers among other people and advance with power throughout the world. So we
28 pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the kingdom of grace and become
29 partakers of salvation...” (LC, The Lord’s Prayer, 52); and be it further
30

31 *RESOLVED*, that the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that limits
32 Christian freedom in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of
33 the Augsburg Confession: “It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be
34 preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order
35 to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, ‘do not submit again to a yoke
36 of slavery’ (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely
37 that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of
38 worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences
39 are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they
40 are changed without offending others” (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the
41 Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and
42 human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin
43 to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are



multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God's ordinances, but even placed above them" (15); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined and affirmed as adherence to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that "the churches will not condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them" (FC SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the Lutheran confession.

RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention forward this resolution to the Synod in convention as an overture.

Adopted on (date) 1/12/2025
Lazarus Lutheran Church, Spring, TX

/s/ Rev. Mark T. Pulliam, Pastor
/s/ Michael L. Adrian, Congregational President
/s/ Jennifer Roberts, Congregational Secretary

Overture 02-07-25

SUBJECT: To Remove "Race" from the Governing Documents of the Texas District (Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy Documents) and Replace with "Languages"

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches us that there is only one human race (the descendants of Adam, and subsequently of the family of Noah); and

WHEREAS, the use of the word "race" to divide up humanity is neither taught in the Scripture nor required by our doctrine, nor is in any way helpful to the life and practice of the church, and in fact is detrimental to the same; and

WHEREAS, language is essential to a human culture and communication, and the use of different languages is helpful for the promulgation of the Gospel; therefore be it

Resolved, that each use of the words "race, races, and racial" (used in reference to various human divisions) be removed from the Texas District Constitution, By-laws, policy books, and any other official documents; and be it finally

Resolved, that where appropriate, the words "race," "races," or "racial" be replaced with the word "language(s)."

For example:



1
2 Bylaw 4.031.b

3 The nominations committee shall seek to include in its nominations for all
4 elected positions representatives from each of the major *racial* groups in
5 Texas, especially giving attention to the major boards of the district (board of
6 directors and board of mission administration).
7

8 Would become:

9 The nominations committee shall seek to include in its nominations for all
10 elected positions representatives from each of the major *language* groups in
11 Texas, especially giving attention to the major boards of the district (board of
12 directors and board of mission administration).
13

14 The same change would be made in Bylaw 9.005.b.
15

16 /s/ Robert Wawrzyniak, President

17 /s/ Lois Teinert, Secretary
18

19 St. Paul Lutheran Church
20 Austin, TX
21

22
23 **Overture 02-08-25**

24 **SUBJECT: To use only Synod approved hymnals and hymns for worship and devotional**
25 **services at Texas District sponsored events**
26

27 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod divides itself up into districts including
28 the Texas District; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the objectives for forming the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod included
31 providing “resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving,
32 and defending their confessional unity in the true faith” and to “encourage congregations to
33 strive for unity in church practice, but to also develop an appreciation of a variety of
34 responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of
35 faith” (Constitution of the LC-MS, Article III); and
36

37 WHEREAS, we believe, teach and confess that the community of God in every locality
38 and every age has the right, authority, and power to change, to reduce, or to increase
39 ceremonies according to the circumstances, as it may be most profitable and edifying to the
40 community of God, (FC Epitome Article X.4); and
41

42 WHEREAS, it is no longer a matter of indifference or adiaphora in a time of confession,
43 as when enemies of the Word of God desire to suppress the pure doctrine of the holy Gospel,



1 the entire community of God, yes, every individual Christian, and especially the ministers of
2 the Word as the leaders of the community of God, are obligated to confess openly, but not
3 only by words but also by their deeds and actions, the true doctrine and all that pertains to
4 it, according to the Word of God (FC Solid Declaration X.10); and

5
6 WHEREAS, many worship forms are man-centered rather than Christ-centered; and

7
8 WHEREAS, orders of service include a risk of introducing or reinforcing doctrines or
9 practices that contradict or confuse Scriptural teaching; and

10
11 WHEREAS, we live in a time when a clear confession of the gospel is necessary; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH), a corporation of Synod, has published
14 several hymnal editions; and

15
16 WHEREAS, these hymnal editions published by CPH include a variety of liturgies and
17 orders of service developed over the centuries and have been vetted for their faithfulness to
18 the Gospel; and

19
20 WHEREAS, these hymnals published by CPH include a variety of hymns that have been
21 vetted by doctrinal review panels, and have been gathered as faithful representations of the
22 Christian faith expressed throughout the centuries, and include hymns drawn from different
23 cultures; and

24
25 WHEREAS, these liturgies and hymns help to connect us with the theological
26 understandings of the historic Church; therefore, be it

27
28 Resolved, that all events sponsored by the Texas District of the LC-MS which include
29 opening or closing devotions or worship services, such as conferences and conventions,
30 should conduct those devotions or worship services using only orders of service, hymns, or
31 other materials found in hymnals published by Concordia Publishing House; and be it finally

32
33 Resolved, that the 2025 convention of the Texas District of the LC-MS praise God for
34 the worship materials published by Concordia Publishing House.

35
36 /s/Scott Hartman, President

37 /s/ Susan Hopkins, Secretary

38
39 Christ Lutheran Church
40 Pattison, Texas
41



1 **Overture 02-09-25**

2 **SUBJECT: To use only Synod approved hymnals and hymns for worship and devotional**
3 **services at Texas District sponsored events**
4

5 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod divides itself up into districts including
6 the Texas District; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the objectives for forming the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod included
9 providing “resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving,
10 and defending their confessional unity in the true faith” and to “encourage congregations to
11 strive for unity in church practice, but to also develop an appreciation of a variety of
12 responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of
13 faith” (Constitution of the LC-MS, Article III); and
14

15 WHEREAS, we believe, teach and confess that the community of God in every locality
16 and every age has the right, authority, and power to change, to reduce, or to increase
17 ceremonies according to the circumstances, as it may be most profitable and edifying to the
18 community of God, (FC Epitome Article X.4); and
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20 WHEREAS, it is no longer a matter of indifference or adiaphora in a time of confession,
21 as when enemies of the Word of God desire to suppress the pure doctrine of the holy Gospel,
22 the entire community of God, yes, every individual Christian, and especially the ministers of
23 the Word as the leaders of the community of God, are obligated to confess openly, but not
24 only by words but also by their deeds and actions, the true doctrine and all that pertains to
25 it, according to the Word of God (FC Solid Declaration X.10); and
26

27 WHEREAS, many worship forms are man-centered rather than Christ-centered; and
28

29 WHEREAS, orders of service include a risk of introducing or reinforcing doctrines or
30 practices that contradict or confuse Scriptural teaching; and
31

32 WHEREAS, we live in a time when a clear confession of the gospel is necessary; and
33

34 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH), a corporation of Synod, has published
35 several hymnal editions; and
36

37 WHEREAS, these hymnal editions published by CPH include a variety of liturgies and
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39 the Gospel; and
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41 WHEREAS, these hymnals published by CPH include a variety of hymns that have been
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8 opening or closing devotions or worship services, such as conferences and conventions,
9 should conduct those devotions or worship services using only orders of service, hymns, or
10 other materials found in hymnals published by Concordia Publishing House; and be it finally

11
12 Resolved, that the 2025 convention of the Texas District of the LC-MS praise God for
13 the worship materials published by Concordia Publishing House.

14
15 /s/ Rev. Richard Mittelstadt, Circuit Visitor
16 /s/ Randy McCamey, Secretary

17
18 Circuit #4
19 Brownwood, TX
20

21
22 **Overture 02-10-25**

23 **SUBJECT: To use only Synod approved hymnals and hymns for worship and devotional**
24 **services at Texas District sponsored events**

25
26 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod divides itself up into districts including
27 the Texas District; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the objectives for forming the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod included
30 providing “resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving,
31 and defending their confessional unity in the true faith” and to “encourage congregations to
32 strive for unity in church practice, but to also develop an appreciation of a variety of
33 responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of
34 faith” (Constitution of the LC-MS, Article III); and

35
36 WHEREAS, we believe, teach and confess that the community of God in every locality
37 and every age has the right, authority, and power to change, to reduce, or to increase
38 ceremonies according to the circumstances, as it may be most profitable and edifying to the
39 community of God, (FC Epitome Article X.4); and

40
41 WHEREAS, it is no longer a matter of indifference or adiaphora in a time of confession,
42 as when enemies of the Word of God desire to suppress the pure doctrine of the holy Gospel,
43 the entire community of God, yes, every individual Christian, and especially the ministers of



1 the Word as the leaders of the community of God, are obligated to confess openly, but not
2 only by words but also by their deeds and actions, the true doctrine and all that pertains to
3 it, according to the Word of God (FC Solid Declaration X.10); and
4

5 WHEREAS, many worship forms are man-centered rather than Christ-centered; and
6

7 WHEREAS, orders of service include a risk of introducing or reinforcing doctrines or
8 practices that contradict or confuse Scriptural teaching; and
9

10 WHEREAS, we live in a time when a clear confession of the gospel is necessary; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH), a corporation of Synod, has published
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21 Christian faith expressed throughout the centuries, and include hymns drawn from different
22 cultures; and
23

24 WHEREAS, these liturgies and hymns help to connect us with the theological
25 understandings of the historic Church; therefore, be it
26

27 Resolved, that all events sponsored by the Texas District of the LC-MS which include
28 opening or closing devotions or worship services, such as conferences and conventions,
29 should conduct those devotions or worship services using only orders of service, hymns, or
30 other materials found in hymnals published by Concordia Publishing House; and be it finally
31

32 Resolved, that the 2025 convention of the Texas District of the LC-MS praise God for
33 the worship materials published by Concordia Publishing House.
34

35 /s/ Donald Krause, President
36 /s/ Careen Baslee, Secretary
37

38 Grace Lutheran Church
39 Brownwood, TX



1 **Overture 02-11-25**

2 **SUBJECT: To Request a Study on the Recreational Use of Marijuana by Clergy, Called**
3 **Workers, and Laity**
4

5 WHEREAS, The LCMS has historically addressed moral and ethical issues by applying
6 biblical teachings, such as the Fourth Commandment (honoring lawful authority), to societal
7 concerns, including its longstanding position opposing the recreational use of marijuana due
8 to its illegality under federal and state law; and
9

10 WHEREAS, The LCMS has consistently sought to provide a biblical framework for
11 addressing cultural and ethical challenges facing the church, such as its studies on human
12 sexuality and other moral issues; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Many states have now legalized or decriminalized the recreational use of
15 marijuana, creating a significant ethical question for Christians and church workers in these
16 contexts regarding its use; and
17

18 WHEREAS, Recent articles such as *"God the Most High"* (2022)² demonstrate that there
19 are diverging views on the subject of recreational marijuana use within the LCMS, even
20 among clergy, creating a need for further theological reflection and clarification; and
21

22 WHEREAS, The Fifth Commandment calls Christians to "... fear and love God so that we
23 do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical
24 need."; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Alcohol use has long been acknowledged in Lutheran theology as acceptable
27 in moderation, while drunkenness is explicitly condemned (e.g., Prov. 20:1; Eph. 5:18),
28 raising important questions about whether the recreational use of marijuana can or should
29 be approached with similar distinctions; and
30

31 WHEREAS, Clergy and called workers are called to live above reproach as examples for
32 the flock (1 Tim. 3:2-3; Titus 1:7-9), which raises specific concerns about the
33 appropriateness of marijuana use for those in public ministry roles; and
34

35 WHEREAS, The recreational use of marijuana raises theological and ethical
36 considerations distinct from its medicinal use, particularly with regard to its impact on the
37 body (1 Cor. 6:19-20), the mind (1 Peter 5:8), and its potential for impairment of judgment
38 and vocation (Eph. 5:18); therefore be it
39

40 Resolved, That the Texas District in its 2025 Convention memorialize the Synod in
41 Convention to request the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to prepare

² Michaela A.S. Dub, "God the Most High: Cannabis for Christians," *Cornerstone: Concordia Theological Seminary Student Journal*, Fall 2022, 30-31



1 a study on the recreational use of marijuana by clergy, called workers, and laity; and be it
2 further
3

4 Resolved, That this study carefully examine the biblical, theological, and confessional
5 principles relevant to the topic, including but not limited to the Fourth Commandment, the
6 Fifth Commandment, and Lutheran teachings on vocation, moderation, and Christian
7 freedom; and be it further
8

9 Resolved, That the study consider how the LCMS should distinguish between
10 marijuana use and alcohol use, particularly in light of the Synod's theological understanding
11 of moderation, self-control, and the preservation of the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit
12 (1 Cor. 6:19-20); and be it further
13

14 Resolved, That the study provide practical guidance for pastors, teachers, and
15 congregations on addressing the topic in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care; and be it
16 finally
17

18 Resolved, That upon completion, the resulting study be made available to all
19 congregations, districts, and LCMS seminaries and universities for the benefit of the church
20 and its workers as they seek to live faithfully in a rapidly changing cultural context.
21

22 /s/ Rev. Kurt Rutz, Circuit Visitor
23 Circuit 18 - 12/8/2024
24

25 **Overture 02-12-25**

26 **SUBJECT: To Improve Relationships through Visitations**

27
28
29 WHEREAS, the duties of the district president are outlined in the Synodical Handbook of
30 the LCMS; and
31

32 WHEREAS, an official visit of every congregation in the district is required by the
33 Synodical Handbook 4.4.4: "The district president shall, in accordance with the Constitution
34 of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical supervision, visit the congregations of the
35 district. (a) He shall arrange in advance for an official visit to each congregation of his
36 district at least once every three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary. He may call
37 upon the circuit visitors and vice-presidents to assist him with the triennial visitation of
38 congregations"; and
39

40 WHEREAS, congregations and pastors are benefited by these visits; therefore be it
41



1 Resolved, that the District President present a report of the visitation activity
2 annually to the District Board of Directors (including visits made by the President and visits
3 made on his behalf), and published for all the members of the District; and be it finally
4

5 Resolved, that an official visitation report be presented at each District Convention.
6

7 /s/ Robert Wawrzyniak, President

8 /s/ Lois Teinert, Secretary
9

10 St. Paul Lutheran Church
11 Austin, TX
12

13
14 **Overture 02-13-25**

15 **SUBJECT: To the CTCR, Require Recusal for CTCR Members Discussing Their Own**
16 **Theological Issues**
17

18 WHEREAS, the Commission for Theology and Church Relations serve the church well
19 when it issues the Biblical and well-researched opinions regarding current topics of dispute;
20 and
21

22 WHEREAS, the members of the CTCR are also active writing and teaching theologians in
23 our church body; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the CTCR often considers topics which might involve writings of members of
26 the CTCR; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the involvement of a theologian with controverted opinions serving on the
29 CTCR casts doubt on the authenticity of that opinion; therefore be it
30

31 Resolved, that any theologian who has written or published on a topic of controversy
32 being considered by the CTCR recuse themselves from the opinion; and be it finally
33

34 Resolved, that all recusals be published along with the opinion.
35

36 /s/ Robert Wawrzyniak, President

37 /s/ Lois Teinert, Secretary
38

39 St. Paul Lutheran Church
40 Austin, TX
41

42
43 **Overture 02-14-25**



1 **SUBJECT: To Request a Theologically Informed Opinion on Self-Defense from the CTCR**

2
3 WHEREAS, there have been various statements in Synodical publications and resources
4 about the propriety of self-defense, some pro and some con; and

5
6 WHEREAS, our pastors and people would be helped by clarity on this issue; therefore be
7 it

8
9 Resolved, that the Texas District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention
10 to request a Biblical and Confessional Statement on Self-Defense from the CTCR; and be it
11 finally

12
13 Resolved, that the Texas District encourage the faculty of each seminary to take up
14 the question and publish their respective opinions.

15
16 /s/ Robert Wawrzyniak, President

17 /s/ Lois Teinert, Secretary

18
19 St. Paul Lutheran Church
20 Austin, TX
21
22



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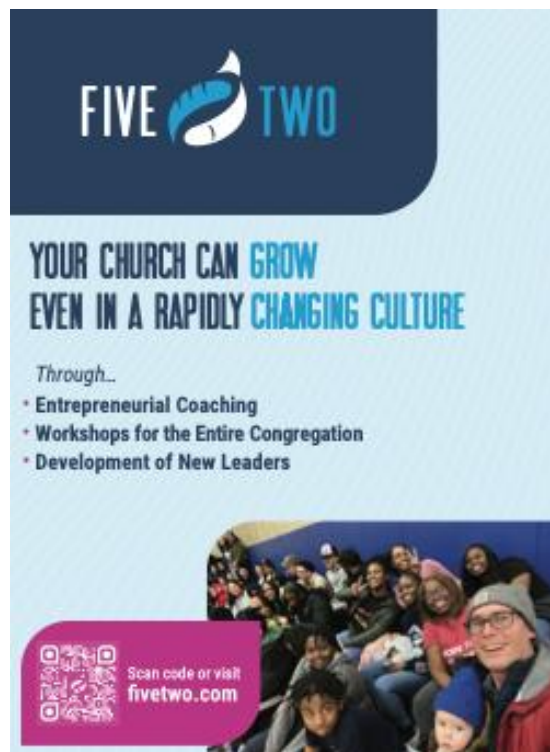

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Concordia University Irvine serves our students, colleagues, and community by being:

- **Gospel-Centered:** The faculty and staff, guided by God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, welcomes all qualified students who are willing to engage with its mission and proclaims God's grace in Christ to each person.
- **Faithfully Relevant:** Concordia offers exceptional, rigorous, holistic, and sought-after programs in the liberal arts and professional studies, rooted in the Lutheran intellectual tradition, that prepare servant leaders who proactively address the contemporary needs of the church and the world.
- **Sustainably Excellent:** Concordia invests its resources of time, talent, and treasure in wise and sustainable ways by empowering each faculty, staff, and student to live out their vocations and to support the ongoing excellence and fulfillment of the university's mission.
- **Courageously Loving:** At Concordia, all are called to love one another, forming a community that faithfully cultivates humility and responsibility, fosters honest and charitable conversations, and offers a path to personal growth that equips students for lives of service in a diverse world.
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