



WYOMING DISTRICT PASTORAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Mount Hope Lutheran Church
2300 S. Hickory Street, Casper, Wyoming
October 10-12, 2011

September 9, 2011

Dear brothers in Office,

Greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

This year's Fall Pastoral Conference will be held **October 10 – 12** (Monday – Wednesday) at **Mount Hope Lutheran Church in Casper, WY**. Mount Hope is located at 2300 Hickory St.

The speakers are Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President, and Rev. Herbert Mueller, LCMS 1st Vice-president. The conference theme is: **Witness, Mercy, Life Together**. Pres. Harrison will discuss the impact the new Synod emphasis has upon the work of the LCMS. VP Mueller will explain the **Koinonia Project**.

Enclosed you will find a Conference Information Sheet, Schedule, information about our Speakers and theme, and the Minutes from our last conference.

We wish to highlight the following:

1. Mr. Brad L. Peterson, benefit consultant from Concordia Plan Services, will be in attendance in order to answer any questions related to the various Concordia plans.
2. Rev. Neil Ray, admission counselor from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, will be present to answer questions related to the seminary.
3. Items to be provided by attendees in advance of the Conference include: Written reports for any boards or committees that you will be submitting to the conference and any overtures that you would like considered during conference business.
4. There will not be a 2012 Spring pastoral conference due to the District Convention to be held in Casper, Wyoming, May 10–12, 2012.
5. All of the enclosed and much more can also be found at the District website:
<http://www.wylcms.org/>.

We look forward to seeing you in Casper on October 10th. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Rev. Allen Strawn, *Committee Secretary*

Rev. Kenneth Mars, <i>Chairman</i>	(308) 235-2582	krmars@juno.com
Rev. Allen Strawn, <i>Secretary</i>	(308) 262-0424	stpaulpastor@alloisp.com
Rev. Gerald Paul, <i>Program Committee</i>	(307) 883-1012	chiro@silverstar.com
Rev. Darren Pflughoeft, <i>Program Committee</i>	(307) 334-2336	stpauls@wyoming.com
Rev. Paul Cain, <i>District Worship Chair</i>	(307) 461-7643	revpaulcain@gmail.com



WYOMING DISTRICT FALL PASTORAL CONFERENCE



Mount Hope – Casper, WY
October 10–12, 2011

CONFERENCE SITE INFORMATION

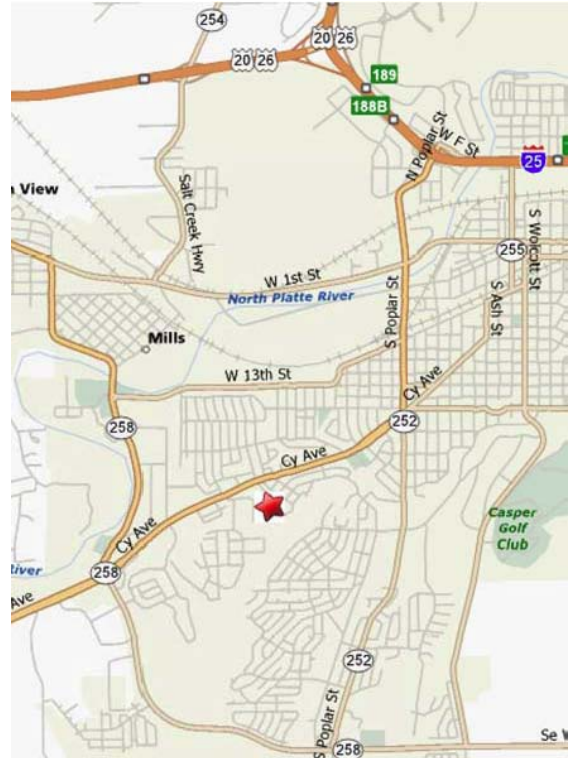
DIRECTIONS

Mount Hope is located at 2300 Hickory St. adjacent to the District Office. See the attached map for directions.

HOTELS

Discounted rates have been arranged at the Quality Inn, the Best Western Ramkota, and the Shilo Inn. **Please mention “Lutheran Ministries” for discounted rates.** Other hotels are available in the area:

- **Quality In and Suites**
821 N. Poplar St. (307) 266-2400
<http://qualityinn.com>
\$72.99 single, \$77.99 double occupancy, mention Lutheran Ministries
- **Best Western Ramkota**
800 N. Poplar St. (307) 266-6000
<http://casper.bwramkota.com>
\$72/night, mention Lutheran Ministries
- **Shilo Inn**
739 Luker Lane (307) 237-1335
<http://shiloinns.com>
\$65/night, mention Lutheran Ministries
- **Parkway Plaza**
123 West East St. (307) 235-1777
<http://www.parkwayplaza.net>
- **Super 8 (near Mount Hope)**
3838 CY Ave. (307) 266-3480
<http://super8.com>



RESTAURANTS

Nearly all the main restaurant choices are on CY Ave, near the hotels, downtown, or near Eastridge Mall.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Activities in the Casper area can be found online at <http://www.casperwyoming.info/>.





WYOMING DISTRICT SPRING PASTORAL CONFERENCE



Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Casper, Wyoming
October 10-12, 2011

Witness, Mercy, Life Together

SCHEDULE

Monday, October 10th

12:00 pm	12:50 pm	Registration at Mount Hope
1:00 pm	1:35 pm	<i>Service of Prayer and Preaching</i>
1:35 pm	1:45 pm	Welcome & Overview
1:45 pm	3:05 pm	Session #1 – Pres. Harrison Witness, Mercy, Life Together
3:05 pm	3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm	4:35 pm	Session #2 – Q/A with Pres. Harrison
4:35 pm	4:45 pm	Conference Business
4:45 pm	4:50 pm	<i>A Closing Prayer</i>
[Break for Supper]		
7:00 pm	8:30 pm	<i>Divine Service at Mount Hope</i>

Tuesday, October 11th

8:05 am	8:40 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
8:45 am	10:05 am	Session #3 – VP Mueller Why a Koinonia Project: Nature and Purpose
10:05 am	10:15 am	Break
10:15 am	11:35 am	District President's Report
11:35 am	12:00 pm	District Reports
12:00 pm	12:20 pm	Conference Business
12:20 pm	12:30 pm	<i>Daily Prayer: Noon</i>
[Break for Afternoon/Evening Activities]		
9:00 pm	9:30 pm	<i>Compline</i>

Wednesday, October 12th

8:05 am	8:35 am	<i>Matins</i>
8:35 am	9:50 am	Session #4 – VP Mueller How is this Done: Getting the Details
9:50 am	10:00 am	Break
10:00 am	11:15 am	Session #5 – Q/A with VP Mueller
11:15 am	11:45 am	Conference Business
11:45 am	12:10 pm	<i>Responsive Prayer 2</i>

Happy Trails!



WYOMING DISTRICT PASTORAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Mount Hope Lutheran Church – Casper, WY
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Witness, Mercy, Life Together

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the 13th person to serve as president of the 2.3-million-member Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Before becoming president, Harrison served for nine years as the executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Harrison was baptized in a small, rural Lutheran church and raised in a large suburban congregation. Harrison served for more than a decade as a parish pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa, (1991-1995) and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. (1995-2001).

Currently, Harrison serves on the board of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Services in America. Previously, Harrison served on the LCMS Board for Mission Services (1998-2001), Fort Wayne Urban League Building Committee (1999) and the LCMS President's Church Relations Cabinet.

Harrison graduated with a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1984. Following graduation, he and his wife Kathy spent a year as missionaries in a remote Canadian Cree Indian village with the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Harrison went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree in 1989 from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from the same institution in 1991. In 2011, Harrison, who has pursued additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., received two honorary doctorates: a Doctor of Laws from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and a Doctor of Divinity from Concordia, Fort Wayne.

Harrison has authored, edited and translated numerous articles and several books, including two volumes titled *The Lonely Way: Selected Essays and Letters* by Hermann Sasse (Concordia Publishing House). He is also the compiler and translator of *At Home in the House of My Fathers*, a collection of works of some of the founders of the LCMS; the author of *A Little Book on Joy*, a devotional-style book about finding delight in living a Christ-centered life in a today's society; and *Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action*, a book that urges Christians to consider the innumerable opportunities we have to show mercy to fellow Christians and to anyone God places in our path.

Harrison and his wife live in Ballwin, Mo., and are members of Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo., where he also serves as assistant pastor. They have two sons. Harrison is an avid bluegrass banjo player and builder of guitars, banjos and mandolins.





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ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Rev. Herbert Mueller

Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr. is serving as first vice-president, and member of the Praesidium, of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), a position he was elected to in 2010.

Previously, Mueller served as president of the LCMS Southern Illinois District from 1994 to 2010. Prior to that, he held district offices from 1988 to 1994 including secretary, second vice-president and first vice-president. Between 1979 and 1994, he served as a pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Chicago; Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, Ill., and Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Waterloo, Ill.

A native of Grand Forks, N.D., Mueller graduated from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1973; Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1975; and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., in 1979.



Mueller served on the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support from 1998 to 2007; the Synod Colloquy Committee from 1999-2000; and the Council of Presidents Program Committee from 2003 to 2009. Between 1997 and 2010, Mueller took six mission trips to southern Africa.

Mueller and his wife, Faith, live in Waterloo, Ill., and are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbia, Ill. They have two grown sons, one grown daughter and two grandchildren.

**Minutes of the
Wyoming District
Fall Pastor Conference
St. Andrew's Campus Center and U of W Coe Library Meeting Room.
Casper, Wyoming
May 9-11, 2011**

May 9, 2011

- I. Pastor Kenneth Mars called the meeting to order @1:50 p.m.
- II. Pastor Marcus Zill gave instructions and welcome to Laramie, the Campus Center, and Coe Library. He also gave an introduction to the overture he submitted to the conference.
- III. Pastor Kenneth Mars introduced our presenter, Dr. Andrew Steinmann.
- IV. Dr. Steinmann: Presentation 1 Introduction: Wisdom in Proverbs
- V. Thrivent representative presentation
- VI. Break 3:25 p.m.
- VII. Return from break at 3:50 p.m.
- VIII. District President's Report
 - a. Pres. Richard Boche gave greetings and encouragement from Scripture
 - i. President Boche announced the church worker changes:
 1. Pastor Michael Holm Christ the King Cody.
 2. Pastor Scott Firminhac installed at Our Savior, Torrington
 3. Pastor Joshua Scheer, installed as Assistant Pastor at Our Savior Cheyenne
 4. Trinity Gillette currently has a vacancy in the Senior Pastor position.
 5. Trinity Cheyenne filled the Associate Pastor position with a placement from Seminary, Mr. Daniel Hinten
 6. Pastor Lee Rupert is having rotator cuff surgery
 7. Pastor Phil Meadows will retire this year
 8. Pastor Grovenstein will retire this August and he is also undergoing surgery.
 9. Pastor David Anderson will be living in Cheyenne and available for pulpit supply.
 10. Pastor Sam Christensen will be retiring and moving back to Dubois.
 11. Teacher vacancies have been filled in our district.
 12. Layworker, Mr. Jim Dittman is undergoing cancer treatment
 13. Pastor John Johanson moved to assisted living in Green River.
 14. Gillette and Greybull/Emblem and Pinedale will be advised this summer on procedure for calling a pastor.
 - ii. District Convention information and biographical information need to be current.
 1. January 10, 2012 District President and Vice President nominations need to be received at the District Office. Circuit Visitors need to be elected. The process has changed. They are now elected by circuit forums instead of congregations.
 2. February 10, 2012 Delegate and alternate delegate registrations must be received at the District Office. Keep a copy on file at the church because that is the delegates' credentials.
 3. Overtures to the District Convention need to be received by February 10, 2012
 4. There is a March 29, 2012 deadline for mailing out workbooks. No paper copies will be sent unless they are requested directly. They will be available in PDF form.
 5. Open hearings and registration for the District Convention will be the morning of May 10, 2012.
 6. The District Convention will be May 10-12, 2012. The Convention theme: We believe teach and confess: The Office of the Holy Ministry
 - iii. The Council of President's meeting minutes were sent to all district pastors. At it there was discussion of a good resource on Internet Use: The book entitled, Covenant Eyes.
 - iv. There have been situations in congregations where record keeping has not been made a priority. One of the duties of a Circuit Visitor is to sit down with the pastor before he leaves a call to make sure the church records are up to date. Keeping church records up to date is part of the oversight of the pastor, even if the job is delegated to someone else.

- v. Vacancy report (after placements, 35 districts reporting) Calling: Sole—199; Senior—32; Associate/Assistant—28; Calling congregations--Total=259; Non calling permanent—416; Non-calling temporary—162; Non-calling congregations--Total=578; (837 grand total.)
- vi. Tuesday afternoon is when Pres. Boche will be available beginning at 1:30pm.
- vii. Commentary was held on the relationship of the Circuit Visitor and District President to private Confession and Absolution.
 - 1. The Circuit Visitor is an extension of the District President and is responsible to the District President.
 - a. Questions to think about: Is the Circuit Visitor your pastor? Father Confessor? Officer of Synod? Yes. Responsible for Ecclesiastical Supervision? Yes Ordination vows? Would the state recognize it as pastor/penitent relationship? What if it requires ecclesiastical supervision? What if the confession is to hide behind sin? What if it endangers others? (It is more important to protect others than the confession). The Circuit Visitor needs to think about such possibilities and also that he took a vow in front of the convention to uphold his responsibilities.
 - b. The Pastor and Penitent Relationship, report from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Most parishioners believe that any conversation is a privileged conversation.
- viii. Synod is working through substantial cutbacks, with up to 33% reduction in workers. There is a special issue of the Lutheran Witness on the topic. Unrestricted dollars are the area of concern.
- ix. President Boche's Stewardship presentation has been in 50% of our congregations.
- x. Parish Planning is not often being done in our congregations.
- xi. President Boche extended his thanks for the support of his marriage with Cindy.
- xii. President Boche gave thanks for, and continues to pray for and support all the pastors. There is nothing more important than the work of the pastor. The Lord has bid us to come and die.
- xiii. Jeff Snyder, District Business Manager and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) representative
 - a. District Finances are doing well. Revenue is ahead of schedule. Expenses are normal to light.
 - b. Schools must fill out Form 5578 and it must be filed by May 15, 2011. It must be adopted by the governing body of the school.
 - c. The school's statement of non-racial discrimination must be publicized annually in public media.
 - d. Churches: If you do not file annually to the Secretary of State(WY) biannually (NE) to the state that you continue to be a non-profit, there may be legal ramifications.
 - e. Health Savings Account and Health Reimbursement Account distinctions were given.
 - f. Small business health care tax credit. Congregations could benefit from it if the congregation is withholding tax dollars from their paycheck.
 - g. If you have a facility use agreement for outside use entities, the district would like to see it. Can the church be liable to the outside group for injury? Can the church be liable to discrimination? We are allowed to discriminate. Are we liable to injury? Yes.
 - h. LCEF: loans are down in synod by 50% Energy audits may help qualify for rebates. Laborers for Christ is authorized to do energy audits.
- 2. Pastor John Hill Constitutions and Education Chairman:
 - a. Constitutions: as you revise, your constitution requires approval. Get advice first before you vote on the revisions as a congregation.
 - b. Education: 11th Annual Conference on Classical and Lutheran Education Conference will be held at Immanuel, Sheridan July 12-14, 2011
- 3. Pastor Terry Wiley Ministerial Growth and Support Continuing Education will be held at Thermopolis on November 14-16, 2011 and Jackson Hole, June 1-3, 2011 Hebrews: a Christological Homily, Dr. Arthur Just. \$150

4. Pastor Paul Cain (in absentia) Wyoming District Theological Conference on Worship, June 24-25, 2011 beginning at noon.
- IX. Pastor Mars moved adjournment for the day at 5:05 p.m.
 - a. Closing prayer was given by Pastor Mars.

May 10, 2011

- I. Pastor Mars called the meeting to order with some housekeeping items @9:05 a.m. He gave instructions on District biographies.
- II. Dr. Andrew Steinmann: Continuation of Presentation 1 and began Session 2: Understanding Wisdom.
- III. Break 10:25 am
- IV. Reconvened 10:45 Continued Session 2
- V. Pastor Jim Martin Commission on Congregational Services Report
 - a. Lander Camp Aug 7-11, 2011 No Beaver Valley Camp because the Agreement with Beaver Valley became null and void when we did not have a camp last year.
- VI. Pastor Scott Firminhac Commission on Mission Services Report (see attached)
- VII. \$266 collected during the offering at the Divine Service. Options discussed. St. Andrews, Concordia. Selma and Ann Arbor. By voice vote Offerings will remain with St. Andrews.
- VIII. Dr. Steinmann provided presentations on jump drive and can be requested via email to Pastor Kenneth Mars.
- IX. Don Rhodes, Lutheran Layman's League (LLL) Representative.
 - a. 1917 LLL established to reduce Synod debt
 - b. 1930 Lutheran Hour approved
 - c. LLL conventions will now be every other year.
- X. Information: \$3000 savings for many reasons for this conference. There will be an Organ recital at 7pm. Evening Prayer 7:30pm. Gemutlichkeit following at St. Andrews.
- XI. Closing 12:15 pm

May 11, 2011

- I. 8:55 Pastor Mars called the meeting to order.
 - a. Acknowledgements of those who served, St. Andrew's Campus Center
- II. Dr. Steinmann Presentation Session 4 "Proverbs 30"
- III. Break 10:00 a.m.
- IV. Reconvened at 10:20 a.m. Dr. Steinmann Presentation "A Biblical Chronology"
- V. Conference Business resumed at 11:20 a.m.

Credentials Report: 47 pastors, 1 vicar, 10 excused and 18 absent (10 emerit, 1 chaplain, 3 candidate, and 4 active pastors)
- VI. President Boche gave an update on congregations and tax exempt status in our district for Mr. Jeff Snyder.
 - a. Congregations need to conduct a financial review. If your constitution and bylaws contain an "audit committee" it needs to be removed.
- VII. The Overture was presented to the Conference and it was seconded by Pastor Shawn Kumm.
 - a. President Boche spoke to the specific purpose of the official district conference. He also asked us to personally explore thoroughly and completely and to use biblical wisdom before acting quickly.
 - b. Discussion was held.
 - c. An objection was made to consideration of this overture on grounds that it is out of the scope of the official Pastor's Conference.
 - d. The chairman ruled that this overture is not out of order. The Conference objected to the ruling of the chairman. The chairman's ruling was defeated by majority vote. The Overture was ruled out-of-order by the conference. The overture was withdrawn.
 - e. Pastor Kirk Peters offered the suggestion to pray for this timely matter concerning the campus ministry in Minnesota. Unanimously accepted. President Boche offered prayer on behalf of wisdom and our campus ministries.
- VIII. Chairman Pastor Kenneth Mars brought a point of information for the reimbursements for emeriti and retired pastors for attending the Pastor's Conferences.

a. President Boche encouraged us to consider bringing an overture after thought over the summer to the District Convention

IX. Fall Conference Mt. Hope Casper October 10-12.

X. Thanks given to Pastor Zill and his members. Leaders for the worship

XI. Yellowstone Circuit is up for assisting with worship for the fall conference.

XII. Closing worship held at 12:05 p.m.

XIII. Conference concluded at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Allen Strawn

Pastoral Conference Secretary