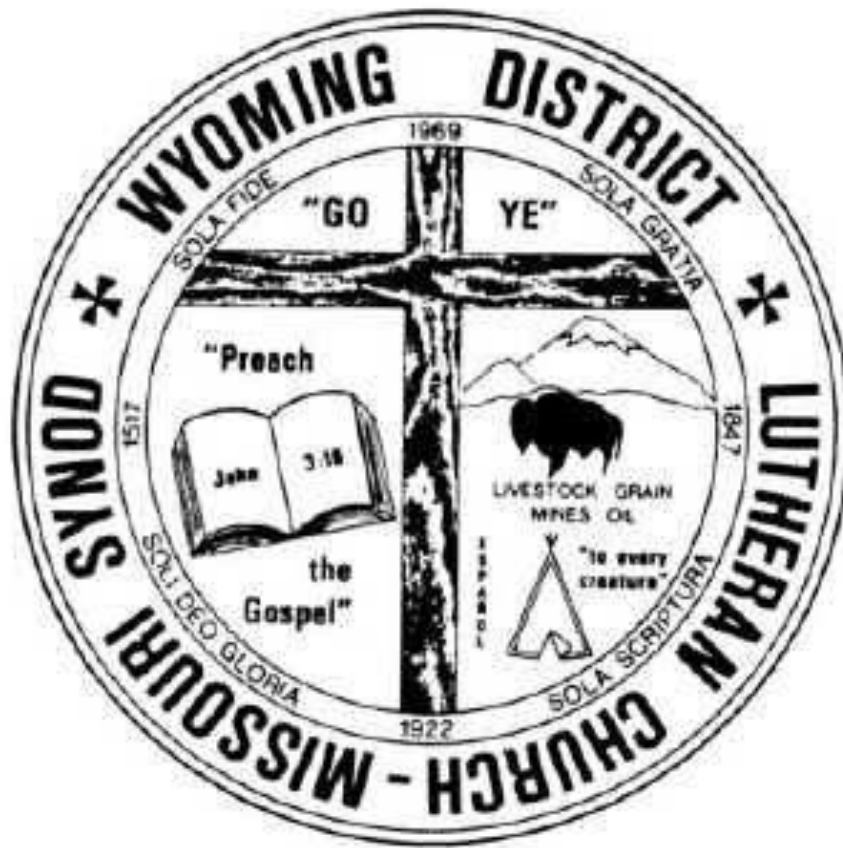


WYOMING DISTRICT
of the
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD
“Here I Stand before Kings and Princes”



2021 CONVENTION WORKBOOK
May 6-8, 2021

Lutheran Ministries Center
2400 Hickory Street
Casper, WY 82604
www.wylcms.org
Email: office@wylcms.org
307-265-9000

The 2021 Wyoming District Convention Workbook

Table of Contents

WELCOME **TAB 1**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1-3
AGENDA	4-5
DIRECTORY AND COMMITTEES	6-9
CONVENTION ROSTER OF VOTING DELEGATES	10-13
CONVENTION ROSTER OF ADVISORY DELEGATES	14-15
CONVENTION PRACTICES AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES	16-18

ECCLESIASTICAL ADMINISTRATION REPORTS **TAB 2**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1-15
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT	16
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT	17
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT	18
CONSTITUTIONS CHAIRMAN REPORT	18-19
EDUCATION REPORT	20-22
CONTINUING EDUCATION	22-23
DISTRICT TRUSTEE REPORT	23-24
MARRIAGE, LIFE AND FAMILY	25
CHIMNEY ROCK CIRCUIT (#1)	26-27
PINE RIDGE CIRCUIT (#2)	27-28
POWDER RIVER CIRCUIT (#3)	28-29
YELLOWSTONE CIRCUIT (#4)	29-30
HEADWATERS CIRCUIT (#5)	30
HIGH PLAINS CIRCUIT (#6)	30-31
CONFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP AND CIRCLE ALIGNMENT OF THE WYOMING DISTRICT	32-35

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION REPORTS **TAB 3**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	1-19
ARCHIVIST REPORT	20
WYOMING DISTRICT MEMORIAL LIBRARY	20-21
AUDITOR'S REPORTS AND BUDGET SUMMARY REPORT	22-25

MISSION AND MINISTRY REPORTS**TAB 4**

COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES	1-2
MISSION FACILITATOR REPORT	2
ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CAMPUS CENTER- LARAMIE, WYOMING	2-6
ETHNIC MINISTRIES	6
WIND RIVER LUTHERAN MISSION- FORT WASHAKIE, WYOMING	6-8
OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH- EVANSTON, WYOMING	8
PLATTE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH- SARATOGA, WYOMING	9
MISSION DEVELOPMENT	9
CAMPUS MINISTRY	10
CASPER COLLEGE- CASPER, WYOMING	10
CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE- RIVERTON, WYOMING	10
CHADRON STATE COLLEGE	10-11
EASTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE- TORRINGTON, WYOMING	11
LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE- CHEYENNE, WYOMING	11
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE- POWELL, WYOMING	11
SHERIDAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- SHERIDAN, WYOMING	12
WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE- SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA	12
WESTERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE- ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING	12
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE	12-13
LUTHERAN LAYMAN'S LEAGUE	14

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES REPORTS**TAB 5**

COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES	1-2
MARRIAGE, LIFE, AND FAMILY	2-3
ADULT MINISTRY/LEADERSHIP	3-4
EVANGELISM	4
YOUTH/OUTDOOR MINISTRY	5
STUDENT AID AND RECRUITMENT	5-6
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND	7
COMMUNICATIONS	8
STEWARDSHIP	8-9
DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL	9

NOMINATIONS REPORT**TAB 6**

NOMINATIONS REPORT FOR PRESIDENT AND FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	1
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY	2
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES	3-6
REPORT OF CIRCUIT VISITOR ELECTIONS BY CIRCUITS	7
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT	8
NOMINATIONS BIOGRAPHIES	9-19

OVERTURES**TAB 7**

TO CONFESS THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL...	1-2
TO PROVIDE FOR ONGOING CARE FOR THE WYOMING DISTRICT HANDBOOK	3-5
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WYOMING DISTRICT BYLAWS	6
SCHOOL GRANT GUIDELINES	7
TO REMUNERATE CIRCUIT VISITORS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRIPTURE	8-9

RESOLUTIONS**TAB 8**

TO CONFESS THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL...	1-2
TO FORM THEOLOGICAL COMMITTEES TO ADDRESS POSTMODERN HERESIES	3
TO PRODUCE BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL TEXTBOOKS....	4-5
NAME CHANGE AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY... WYOMING DISTRICT HANDBOOK	6-8
AMENDMENT TO WYOMING DISTRICT HANDBOOK	9
SCHOOL GRANT GUIDELINES	10
TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE WORK OF THE CIRCUIT VISITORS	11

2021 Wyoming District Convention
Agenda

Thursday, May 6

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Registration and Opening Hearings (9:30am-11:00am)
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Opening Worship: Rev. Mark Maas, 1st Vice President
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Formal Opening; Credentials Report:
1:15 p.m. – 1:25 p.m. Announcements
1:25 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Conference Business
1:35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Elections Committee
1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. State of the District: President John E. Hill
2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. Nominations Committee
2:25 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Elections Committee
2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Anniversary & Service Awards: Rev. Ted Bourret
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Caucus—District Regions; Advisory—Ordained
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Break
- 3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Elections Committee
3:30 p.m. – 4:25 p.m. Essay I with Q and A: “Here I Stand,” Rev. John Hill
4:25 p.m. – 4:35 p.m. Elections Committee
4:35 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Conference Business and Announcements
4:45 p.m. – 4:55 p.m. Closing Prayer: Rev. Kenneth Humphrey, Chairman, CCS
- 4:55 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Worship Preparation
6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Open House, Lutheran Ministries Center, 2400 Hickory St., Casper
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Worship Service {Rev. Peter Lange, Synod 1st VP, Preacher}
Mount Hope Lutheran Church, 2300 Hickory St., Casper
- 8:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Open House, Lutheran Ministries Center, 2400 Hickory St., Casper

Friday, May 7

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. Call to Order, Announcements
8:05 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Opening Devotion: Rev. Ted Bourret, 2nd Vice President
8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. Elections Committee
8:40 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. Resolutions Committee
9:05 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Elections Committee
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Synod Report I: Rev. Peter Lange, LCMS 1st VP
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Break
- 10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Synod Report II (with Q and A): Rev. Peter Lange, 1st VP
11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. Essay II with Q and A: “Confession in Holy Scriptures,” Rev. Kenneth Mars
11:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Announcements
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

Friday, May 7 (continued)

- 1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. Opening Devotion: Rev. James Martin, Chairman, CMS
1:40 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Essay III with Q and A: “Confession and the Church,” Rev. Dr. Christian Preus
2:35 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. Resolutions Committee
2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Unfinished Business
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Break
- 3:20 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Essay IV with Q and A: “Confession and the World,” Rev. Jonathan Lange
4:15 p.m. – 4:25 p.m. Minutes Review Committee Reports
4:25 p.m. – 4:35 p.m. Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Andrew Beyeler
4:35 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. LCEF Vice-President’s Report: Mr. Jeffrey Snyder
4:45 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. Resolutions Committee
5:10 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Announcements
5:15 p.m. – 5:35 p.m. Closing Devotion: Rev. Paul Cain, District Secretary
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Banquet, Fellowship, and Meeting with Synod and District Officers**

Saturday, May 8

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. Call to Order and Announcements
8:05 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Memorial Service: Rev. Richard Boche
8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Resolutions Committee
9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. District Administrative Team (DAT) Report and Ingathering
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Commission on Congregational Services (CCS) Report
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Commission on Mission Services (CMS) Report
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Resolutions Committee
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Unfinished Business
11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Closing: Matins and Installation of Officers: Rev. Jonathan Lange, Preacher
12:10 p.m. Adjourn and Formal Convention Closing

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WYOMING DISTRICT

President:	Rev. John E. Hill
First Vice-President: (East Region)	Rev. Mark Maas
Second Vice-President: (Central Region)	Rev. Ted Bourret
Third Vice-President: (West Region)	Rev. Jonathan Lange
Secretary:	Rev. Paul Cain
Treasurer:	Mr. Andrew Beyeler
Pastor-at-large:	Rev. Peter Bertram
Commissioned:	Mr. Steve Coniglio
Layman:	Mr. John Schmall
Layman:	Mr. Matt Huckfeldt

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Chimney Rock (#1)	Rev. Allen Strawn
Pine Ridge (#2)	Rev. Scott Firminhac
Powder River (#3)	Rev. Jon C. Olson
Yellowstone (#4)	Rev. Jais Tinglund
Headwaters (#5)	Rev. Daniel Mulholland
High Plains (#6)	Rev. Lincoln Winter

COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES

Chairman:	Rev. James Martin
Chairman-Elect:	Rev. Gerald Heinecke
Campus Missions:	Mr. Chuck Hall
Ethnic Missions:	Rev. Scott Firminhac
Missions Development:	Rev. Allan Wierschke
LWML District President:	Mrs. Barb Schaer
Missions Support:	Rev. Noah Fremer
Advisor:	Rev. Mark Maas
LLL District President:	Mr. Mark Willians

COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Chairman:	Rev. Kenneth Humphrey
Chairman-Elect:	Rev. James Rockhill
Adult Ministry/Leadership:	Mr. Tim Lindahl
Evangelism:	Rev. Jon C. Olson
Lutheran Church Extension Fund:	Mr. Jeffrey Snyder
Marriage, Life, & Family:	Rev. Jonathan Lange
Stewardship:	Rev. Joshua Scheer
Student Aid & Recruitment:	Rev. Richard Mueller
Youth/Outdoor Ministry:	Rev. Rene Castillero
Advisor:	Rev. Ted Bourret

HONORARY DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Rev. Richard Boche
Rev. Dr. Ron Garwood

WYOMING DISTRICT RECONCILERS

Rev. Marvin Temme
Rev. Darren Pflughoeft
Rev. Kenneth Mars
Mr. Ronald Mischnick

**WYOMING DISTRICT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ken Temme
Mrs. Tera Rice
Rev. John Hill

ARCHIVIST

Mrs. Tera Rice

DISTRICT LEGAL CONSULTANT

Mr. Larry Harrington

CONSTITUTIONS CHAIRMAN

Rev. Ted Bourret

MINISTERIAL GROWTH AND SUPPORT (CONTINUING EDUCATION)

Rev. Mark Mumme

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES CENTER OFFICE STAFF

Mr. Jeffrey Snyder, Business Manager/LCEF Vice-President
Mrs. Tiffany Hoff, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant to the District President

CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev. John Hill	Rev. Mark Maas
Rev. Ted Bourret	Rev. Jonathan Lange
Rev. Paul Cain	

CONVENTION MANAGER

Mr. Jeffrey Snyder, Casper, WY

PAGES

Paul Olson

Silas Witkop

HOST CONGREGATION

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

2300 Hickory Street

Casper, WY 82604

Rev. Dr. Christian Preus

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Richard Boche (Chairman)

Rev. Neil Carlson

Rev. Randolph Schnack

Mr. Terry Bourlier

Mr. Scott Leffers

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Shawn Kumm (Chairman)

Rev. Allen Strawn (Secretary)

Rev. Peter Bertram

Rev. Mark Preus

Dr. Tim Narjes

Mr. Greg Schmall

Mr. Benjamin Craig

Mr. Landis Benson

Mr. Steve Coniglio

REVIEW COMMITTEE #1**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/PASTORAL CONFERENCE MINUTES**

Rev. Samuel Needham (Chairman)

Rev. Travis Sherman

Mr. Jesse Neugebauer

Mr. Marty Finch

REVIEW COMMITTEE #2**COMMISSION ON MISSION SERVICES/COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES MINUTES**

Rev. Neil Carlson (Chairman)

Rev. Darrell Debowey

Mr. Stephen Geu

Mr. John Kissel

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Richard Neugebauer (Chairman)

Rev. Jared Korb

Mr. Kevin Frey

Mr. Mark Douthit

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Paul Cain, Sheridan, WY

Tiffany Hoff, Casper, WY

Mary Grant, Glenrock, WY

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Mr. David Wilson, Attorney at Law, Kimball, NE

SYNODICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Peter Lange, LCMS 1st Vice-President

Rev. Nabil S. Nour, LCMS 4th Vice-President

CONVENTION ROSTER OF VOTING DELEGATES

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE LAY DELEGATE</u>
Chimney Rock Circuit #1		
Mt. Calvary, Bayard**	Greg Schmall	John Schmall
St. Paul's, Bridgeport	Mark Douthit	-
Zion, Chappell**	"See Trinity, Sidney"	
Faith, Gering	Jesse Neugebauer	Keegan Harkins
Salem, Gurley**	"See St. Paul's, Potter"	
St. Paul's, Potter**	Richard Stahl	Aaron Brauer
St. James, Scottsbluff**	"See Mt. Calvary, Bayard"	
St. John's, Scottsbluff	Ronald Merritt	-
St. Paul's, Sidney	Stephen Geu	Ken Steffens
Trinity, Sidney**	Steve Hume	-
 Pine Ridge Circuit #2		
Immanuel, Alliance	Timothy Narjes	Ronald Brown
Our Savior, Chadron	Dennis Brown	Rex Cogdill
Bethlehem, Crawford**	Gary Witt	Joe Stecher
Grace, Gordon	Barb Schaer	-
Redeemer, Harrison**	"See Bethlehem, Crawford"	
Zion, Hay Springs**	Matthew Albrecht	Elizabeth Albrecht
St. Paul's, Lusk	-	-
Trinity, Morrill	Donita Allen	Virgil Ritz
Our Savior, Torrington	Bill Law	Tom Denniston
St. Paul, Rushville**	"See Zion, Hay Springs"	
 Powder River Circuit #3		
Prince of Peace, Buffalo	Dalton Frederickson	Steve Rzasa
Mt. Hope, Casper	Benjamin Craig	Larry Harrington
Trinity, Casper	Marty Finch	-
Zion, Douglas**	"See Redeemer, Glenrock"	
Trinity, Gillette	Mark Reimnitz	Seth Ahlers
Our Redeemer, Glenrock**	Larry Rice	Darold Moss
Bethlehem, Moorcroft**	-	-
Immanuel, Sheridan	Owen Mullinax	Justin Carlson
Mt. Calvary, Sundance**	"See Bethlehem, Moorcroft"	

Multi-congregational parishes have only **one lay vote and **one** pastoral vote.

CONVENTION ROSTER OF VOTING DELEGATES

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE LAY DELEGATE</u>
Yellowstone Circuit #4		
Christ the King, Cody	Andrew Allgeier	Ernie Hiltz
Zion, Emblem**	“See Grace, Greybull”	
Grace, Greybull**	John Olin	Victor Werbelow
St. John’s Lovell	Richard Fink	
Immanuel, Powell	James Thompson	Jake Dillinger
St. Paul’s, Thermopolis	John Kissel	-
St. Luke’s, Worland	Landis Benson	Richard Buckman
Headwaters Circuit #5		
Mt. Calvary, Dubois	Alan Gehrt	
Christ Our Savior, Star Valley**	“See Redeemer, Jackson”	
Our Saviour, Evanston**	Paul Albert	Immanuel Lange
Shepherd of the Valley, Ft. Bridger	Charles Robbins	
Emmanuel, Green River**	“See Trinity, Rock Springs”	
Redeemer, Jackson**	Ron Campbell	Steve Trogdon
St. Paul’s, Kemmerer**	“See Our Saviour, Evanston”	
Bethel, Lander	Bryk Cook	Dennis Oberlie
Peace, Marbleton**	“See Our Savior, Pinedale”	See Our Savior, Pinedale
Our Savior, Pinedale**	Gary Neely	William Lanning
Christ, Rawlins	-	-
Trinity, Riverton	Ed Steele	David Lininger
Trinity, Rock Springs	Michael Larsen	Maynard Suhr
Platte Valley, Saratoga	Bill Brudigam	-
High Plains Circuit #6		
Immanuel, Burns	“See St. John’s, Kimball”	
King of Glory, Cheyenne	Matt Huckfeldt	John Hippe Jr.
Our Savior, Cheyenne	Don Payton	Merle Ziegelman
Trinity, Cheyenne	Kenneth Eppich	-
St. John’s, Kimball	Everett Durham	Terry Bourlier
St. Andrew’s, Laramie	Kevin Frey	-
Zion, Laramie	David Maynard	Ronald Christensen
Grace, Pine Bluffs**	“See Zion, Grover”	
Trinity, Wheatland**	“See Zion, Grover”	
Zion, Grover, CO**	Mark Weisbrook	Marvin Roberts

Multi-congregational parishes have only **one lay vote and **one** pastoral vote.

CONVENTION ROSTER OF VOTING PASTORAL DELEGATES

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>PASTORAL DELEGATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>
Chimney Rock Circuit #1		
Mt. Calvary, Bayard**	Rev. George Naylor	
St. Paul's, Bridgeport	Rev. Allen Strawn	
Zion, Chappell**	"See Trinity, Sidney"	
Faith, Gering	Rev. Richard Neugebauer	
Salem, Gurley**	"See St. Paul's, Potter"	
St. Paul's, Potter**	Rev. Ted Bourret	
St. James, Scottsbluff**	"See Mt. Calvary, Bayard"	
St. John's, Scottsbluff	Rev. Jeffery Grams	
St. Paul's, Sidney	Vacant	
Trinity, Sidney**	Rev. Neil Carlson	
 Pine Ridge Circuit #2		
Immanuel, Alliance	Rev. Richard Mueller	
Our Savior, Chadron	Rev. Peter Bertram	
Bethlehem, Crawford**	Rev. James Rockhill	
Grace, Gordon	Rev. Travis Sherman	
Redeemer, Harrison**	"See Bethlehem, Crawford"	
Zion, Hay Springs**	"See St. Paul, Rushville"	
St. Paul's, Lusk	Rev. Darren Pflughoeft	
Trinity, Morrill	Rev. Kenneth Humphrey	
Our Savior, Torrington	Rev. Scott Firminhac	
St. Paul, Rushville**	Rev. Allan Wierschke	
 Powder River Circuit #3		
Prince of Peace, Buffalo	Rev. Gerald Heinecke	
Mount Hope, Casper	Rev. Christian Preus	Rev. Andrew Richard
Trinity, Casper	Rev. Jon Olson	
Zion, Douglas**	Rev. Jonathan Durkopp	
Trinity, Gillette	Rev. Jared Tucher	
Our Redeemer, Glenrock**	"See Zion, Douglas"	
Bethlehem, Moorcroft**	-	
Immanuel, Sheridan	Rev. Rene' Castillero	Rev. Paul Cain
Mt. Calvary, Sundance**	"See Bethlehem, Moorcroft"	

Multi-congregational parishes have only **one lay vote and **one** pastoral vote.

CONVENTION ROSTER OF VOTING DELEGATES

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>PASTORAL DELEGATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>
Yellowstone Circuit #4		
Christ the King, Cody	Rev. Shawn Kumm	
Zion, Emblem**	Rev. Jais Tinglund	
Grace, Greybull**	“See Zion, Emblem”	
St. John’s, Lovell	Rev. Jacob Benson	
Immanuel, Powell	Rev. Lee Wisroth	
St. Paul’s, Thermopolis	Rev. Samuel Needham	
St. Luke’s, Worland	Rev. Jared Korb	
Headwaters Circuit #5		
Mt. Calvary, Dubois	Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein	
Christ Our Savior, Star Valley**	“See Redeemer, Jackson”	
Our Saviour, Evanston**	Rev. Jonathan Lange	
Shepherd of the Valley, Ft. Bridger	Rev. Daniel Mulholland	
Emmanuel, Green River**	“See Trinity, Rock Springs”	
Redeemer, Jackson**	Rev. David Bott	
St. Paul’s, Kemmerer**	“See Our Saviour, Evanston”	
Bethel, Lander	Rev. Noah Fremer	
Peace, Marbleton**	“See Our Savior, Pinedale”	
Our Savior, Pinedale**	Rev. Kevin Rose	
Christ, Rawlins	Rev. Patrick Baldwin	
Trinity, Riverton	Rev. Mark Mumme	
Trinity, Rock Springs**	Rev. James Martin	
Platte Valley, Saratoga	Rev. Randolph Schnack	
High Plains Circuit #6		
Immanuel, Burns**	“See St. John’s, Kimball”	
King of Glory, Cheyenne	Rev. Mark Maas	
Our Savior, Cheyenne	Rev. Joshua Scheer	Rev. Marcus Baikie
Trinity, Cheyenne	Rev. John Preus	
St. John’s, Kimball**	Rev. Kenneth Mars	
St. Andrew’s, Laramie	Rev. Mark Preus	
Zion, Laramie	Rev. Darrell Debowey	
Grace, Pine Bluffs**	“See Trinity, Wheatland”	
Trinity, Wheatland**	-	
Zion, Grover, CO**	“See Trinity, Wheatland”	

Multi-congregational parishes have only **one lay vote and **one** pastoral vote.

CONVENTION ROSETER OF ADVISORY DELEGATES

Advisory- Ordained

Rev. David Anderson (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Marcus Baikie (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Paul Beyer (Casper, WY)

Rev. Richard Boche (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Vernon Boehlke (Riverton, WY)

Rev. David Boehnke (Casper, WY)

Rev. David Caspersen (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Sam Christensen (Dubois, WY)

Rev. Philip Found (Bayard, NE)

Rev. Philip Grovenstein (Powell, WY)

Rev. Dan Holthus (Casper, WY)

Rev. Ralph Jaeger (Laramie, WY)

Rev. Paul Nus (Beavercreek, OH)

Rev. John Rasmussen (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Don Rieman (E. Aurora, NY)

Rev. Fred Schroeder (Lander, WY)

Rev. Duane Simonson (Buffalo, WY)

Rev. Terry Wiley (Thermopolis, WY)

Rev. Lowell Kayser (Colorado Springs, CO)

Rev. Richard Keuck (Casper, WY)

Rev. Francis Koessel (Aurora, CO)

Rev. Ryan Mills (Niceville, FL)

Rev. Ralph Morris (Gering, NE)

Rev. Paul Cain (Sheridan, WY)

Rev. Lynn Christensen (New Orleans, LA)

Rev. Andrew Dimit (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Dr. Ron Garwood (Cody, WY)

Rev. Harold Hintzman, Jr. (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Thomas Jacobsen (Ashton, ID)

Rev. Shaun Daugherty (Alliance, NE)

Rev. Daniel Praeuner (Hot Springs, SD)

Rev. Andrew Richard (Casper, WY)

Rev. Lee Rupert (Maplewood, MN)

Rev. Scott Shields (Douglas, AK)

Rev. Marvin Temme (Torrington, WY)

Rev. Michael Wittrock (Chadron, NE)

Advisory- Commissioned

Dixie Ailts (Gillette, WY)

Tiffany Baikie (Cheyenne, WY)

Karen Bergquist (Riverton, WY)

Stanna Funk (Gering, NE)

Anna Hahn (Casper, WY)

Darcia Boche (Torrington, WY)

Bonnie Bourret (Potter, NE)

Shirley Bundschuh (Riverton, WY)

Elizabeth Carlson (Sheridan, WY)

Steven Coniglio (Riverton, WY)

Christa Doyle (Rock Springs, WY)

Garnet Dwyer (Cody, WY)

Breanna Erdman (Riverton, WY)

Roxane Humphrey (Morrill, NE)

Jennifer Kaelberer (Cody, WY)

Jill Mueller (Alliance, NE)

Audrey Partipilo (Riverton, WY)

CheriRae Pollom (Cheyenne, WY)

Cecelia Postma (Riverton, WY)

Leah Wierschke (Rushville, NE)

Susan Tucker (Riverton, WY)

Tarayca Walters (Casper, WY)

**Rules or Practices that have been
Observed over the years by our District**

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 name.
3. Each speaker from the floor and from the Resolutions Committee is encouraged to be **brief**. (Synod's Convention has a 2-minute rule)
4. If a substitute motion is offered, the Convention shall first decide, by majority vote without debate, whether to consider the substitute or not. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called 'Behnken rule' for dealing with substitute motions.)
5. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming Convention time.
6. Resolutions prepared by the floor committee which are not acted upon by the Convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next Convention by means of an overture.
7. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture, and as such subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
8. Unless covered by the above, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of **Robert's Rules of Order**.
9. Only substantive amendments to a resolution shall be offered from the floor (those impacting its purpose or effect). Any editorial corrections or non-substantive changes to introduced resolutions should instead be shared in writing with the Secretary. Until a resolution is presented to the delegates, any such changes should be suggested directly to the floor committee chair.
10. Since we are a small District (family) we have always been as informal as possible.
11. Christian love and courtesy dictate.

Practical Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure

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

In other words:

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

I want to:	You say:	Can you interrupt a speaker to make this motion?	Is a second necessary?	Is the motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is a vote required?
Adjourn	I move we adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority Vote required
Recess	I move we recess until...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority Vote required
Register a complaint	Point of Privilege, Mr. Chairman...	Yes	No	No (any resulting motion is debatable)	No	No vote required (Chair decides)
Suspend further consideration of a matter (to table)	I move we table this matter	No	Yes	No	No	Majority Vote required
End discussion or further debating of matter	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	Two-thirds vote required
Postpone consideration of a matter	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority vote required
Have further study on a matter	I move we refer this matter to a committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority Vote required
Amend a motion	I move this motion be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority Vote required
Introduce a matter of business (A primary motion)	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority vote required

These are general points, proposals, and motions that have no order of precedence 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. Point of privilege is pending

I want to:	You say:	Can the speaker be interrupted to make this motion?	Is a second required?	Is the motion debatable?	Can this motion be amended?	Is a vote required? What percent required?
Object to error in procedure or to a personal affront	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required; Chair votes
Request for information	Point of information	If urgent and to the point	No	No	No	No vote required
Verify Voice Vote by taking actual count	I call for a division of the house	No, but division must be called by the Chair before	No	No	No	No, unless someone objects then majority required
Object to consideration of a matter you consider improper or undiplomatic	I object to consideration of this question	Yes	No	No	No	Two-thirds vote required against consideration
Take up a matter which has been previously tabled	I move we take from the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority vote required
Reconsider something already disposed of	I move we reconsider our action relative to...	Yes, but for record only (business at hand takes precedence)	Yes	Yes, IF original motion was debatable	No	Majority vote required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and consider...	No	Yes	No	No	Two-thirds vote required
Vote on a ruling of the chair	I appeal the Chair's decision	Yes	Yes	Yes, IF original motion was debatable	No	Majority vote required

ECCLESIASTICAL ADMINISTRATION – REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Rev. John E. Hill

Wyoming District President

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” John 18:37

In the Small Catechism, we learn that when we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we are asking God that the truth would govern our faith and our lives. “God’s name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven.”

God is true in all His Words and in all His deeds. Truth describes the essential condition of the world itself, created by God’s Word. Truth is stamped into the very nature of the creation itself. When God became man, He declared, “I am . . . the Truth” (John 14:6). He is “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of Truth”, for He sends Him to undeceive us regarding the lies of our hearts and the world and the devil and to reveal Christ to us (John 15:26). And His Word, in which the Spirit of truth comes to us, is divine truth expressed in His divine words. “Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth” (John 17:17).

Set against the truth is the lie, any lie, every lie. The lies we say. The lies we hear and tolerate. The lies that deceive by concealing the truth. The lies we silently assent to. The lies we live and do. We are speaking here of lies that are meant to deceive, to harm, to pervert the truth, to gain advantage over others, to confound God’s will. Every such lie is demonic. The lie is a murder weapon. By a lie, the devil murdered the entire human race, including Jesus (John 8:44). The lie is dehumanizing; it lowers us to be and act like animals or demons (Romans 1:18–32). The lie subverts virtue, godliness, and good works (1 Timothy 6:3–5). The lie deprives us of courage in adversity, strength in our battle with sin and evil, compassion toward those in need, and the willingness to suffer all, even death, rather than sin against our Lord or fall away from Him. The lie destroys the unity of the church, the integrity of marriage and family, friendships, communities, nations. The lie is death. “Protect us from this, heavenly Father.”

We are assaulted by lies all around us. “Live not by lies,” one persecuted Christian reminded us. The truth is paramount. It takes precedence over all things. By the truth we learn to believe rightly, to confess, to live, to love, to forgive, to be courageous in what is right, to hate what is false and evil. The truth appears weak and politically helpless. But we love this weakness, for the truth subverts our culture of lies. Christians living honestly according to God’s Word confound even the bitterest foes. And “the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15), will ever stand upon the doctrine and ministry of

Christ's Word. God grant our pastors, our congregations, and our dear members to remain ever faithful to this truth.

Congregations with their Pastors

I have visited each of the Wyoming District's 60 congregations and one mission at least once in the 2018–2021 triennium, in meetings or at worship. I am deeply grateful that God has given us faithful congregations who love God's Word and sacraments, love and care for their pastors, and care for one another. I rejoice that God has given us pastors who preach and teach God's Word purely, administer the sacraments as He has commanded, and care for the dear people under their care. Faithful congregations and faithful pastors are among the greatest and rarest treasures on earth, and we have them in abundance in our district! And even as I get to know also the weaknesses and failures of our congregations and pastors (and oftentimes my own), I recognize that God has so richly blessed us here in the Wyoming District.

This past triennium was marked by the blessing of stability. During 2018–2021, five pastors retired and two accepted calls outside the district. We installed 11 pastors in 13 of the district's 60 congregations (through March 14). Of these installations, four of our own pastors began serving five congregations in new multi-congregation parishes (Pastors Naylor, Martin, Winter, and Sonnenschein). Three pastors (Richard, Dimit, Daugherty), all new to the district, were installed as assistant pastors. Only four pastors (J. Preus, Baldwin, Durkopp, Benson) who were new to the district were installed in vacant congregations (five congregations total). Only one congregation is vacant as of this writing, and that congregation is considering entering a multi-congregation parish arrangement. In summary, our congregations and pastors are able to develop long years of life together, growing in God's grace and in love toward each other.

The joining of congregations into multi-congregation parishes will be a significant feature of congregational life for more of our congregations in the years to come. We now have our 60 congregations and one mission organized into 45 parishes. These 45 parishes are served by 51 pastors (as of March 14), including two called emeritus (retired) pastors and one partially retired pastor. Three years ago there were 49 parishes. The newly formed parishes have brought stability to their congregations and enabled them to provide good care for their pastors. All our congregations receive the full pastoral service of preaching, sacraments, teaching, and pastoral care.

The leaders of our congregations recognized the needs that arise as congregational membership continues to age and decline in most of our communities. To address these needs we held regional meetings of congregational leadership and pastors in three areas of the district during the triennium: I-80 east from Cheyenne (including Wheatland and Bridgeport), involving 14 congregations; US 20 from Lusk to Gordon (including Alliance), involving eight congregations; and all seven congregations of the Yellowstone Circuit in the Bighorn Basin. In every case, the members of these congregations rejoiced to get together, considered the

circumstances and needs of their sister congregations, and spoke together about ways to care for each other and work together in the future.

In these meetings I sought to encourage them by reminding them that God has placed their congregations in their communities 1) that His pure Word may be preached and the sacraments rightly administered there regularly, 2) that a regular assembly of His faithful Christians may intercede for their neighbors and their communities, and 3) that they may serve their communities with love that is instructed by God's Word. I recalled to them that God commanded them to call pastors to carry out the ministry of His Word, and that it was their duty and privilege to care for their pastors with their prayers, encouragement, and the support of all their physical needs. I reiterated the District's commitment to the ongoing presence and wellbeing of their congregations in their communities. The District is especially committed to helping congregations arrange for regular and faithful pastoral service, even if the parish alignments change. It is my prayer that by working together, the congregations of our district will be able to thrive well into the future.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has presented the district and its congregations with a theological test. In late March and early April 2020, government orders in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado challenged our churches to determine a faithful course of action. On the one hand, our congregations had to consider tender consciences among their brothers and sisters in Christ, the very real dangers to those with compromised health situations, and the desire to avoid unnecessary offense to those in their communities. On the other hand, our congregations also had to wrestle with the dehumanizing effects of physical and psychological isolation caused by these orders, the lack of objective scientific data to guide decision-making, the politicization of the response to the virus, and potential precedents set for future governmental actions against the church. In every case, our congregations had to give heed to our Lord's command to gather together (Matthew 18:20, 26:26–28, 28:20; Hebrews 10:25) to hear His Word preached, receive the health-giving body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Communion, and to intercede as the church for the sick, the dying, the lonely, and for peace and wellbeing in community and state and nation.

Initial responses naturally and rightly varied greatly. Some congregations changed little to nothing of their worship life. Others made significant adjustments for a few weeks or months, offering multiple small services to those who were willing to gather. Still others closed for a number of Sundays while offering video or audio devotions to their members. Most, and now perhaps all, of our congregations have returned to something very close to the way things were done before. It is now time to attend to any damage that was done. In every congregation, there will be the need for the healing of relationships, the restoration of unity through the Gospel, and the need to seek the sheep who were led to stray and became lost by the enormous pressures put upon them in this crisis. We may discover that great spiritual damage has been done to many dear Christians. We will also learn that God has opened doors to great spiritual opportunities through these adversities.

I called the COVID crisis a theological test. It has tested our understanding and confession of doctrine across a wide array of Scripture's teachings: the church, the church as a gathered assembly and fellowship, the means of grace, pastoral ministry, the conscience, the nature of man, the nature of our physical or bodily existence, the limits of the authority of civil government, the extent of the authority of congregations regarding worship, the willingness of Christians to suffer scorn and civil penalties, the authority of the Word of God, and more. I recognize that all of us were found to fall short in some area or other. It is best if we recognize where we failed the test, repent, and amend our understanding with the study of God's Word. Having said that, I especially acknowledge and honor how conscientiously and faithfully our pastors and congregations were able to respond to COVID under difficult circumstances. God has been so good to us!

The district made deliberate attempts to minimize the impact of COVID and government orders on its mission and purpose. The 2020 Spring Pastors Conference and Pastors' Wives Retreat were cancelled, and the District LWML held an abbreviated "convention" in video format. By late May, however, all other activities continued in person, face-to-face, as scheduled, and were very well attended:

- Continuing Education for pastors near Chadron, Nebraska (June 1–5)
- Fathers and Sons Retreat, Casper Mountain (June 26–28)
- Homeschool Retreat, Casper Mountain (July 14–16)
- Wyoming Lutheran Youth Camp, Lander (August 2–6)
- Pastors/Teachers Conference, Casper (October 4–7)
- Continuing Education in Thermopolis (November 2–4)
- Tell the Good News About Jesus Convocation, Casper (February 5–6, 2021)
- All other regular District meetings were held in person, providing a video feed for those still unable to come.
- Circuit Pastors Conferences soon returned to normal meetings.
- The District President's travels and visits in the District resumed in full.

I remain deeply grateful that our congregation members, congregations, and pastors have—by and large—exercised great forbearance and charity toward one another in the COVID crisis. Looking forward, I encourage and urge all our congregations to prepare for the next event that will become the occasion for shutting down or curtailing church activities. Potential occasions for adverse government action include: another virus; the imposition of sexual orientation—gender identity laws; community opposition to our doctrine and practice; community unrest; and the like. The precedent for civil governments closing or limiting Christian worship has been set. We do not know if or when it will be done again. But we should be ready. “See, I have told you beforehand” (Matthew 24:25), Jesus says of the persecution of His church. “What I say to you I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:37), Jesus repeats for our benefit. And St. Paul reiterates the point, “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

My final word of encouragement to the District regarding the COVID crisis comes from the Reformer, Martin Luther. What follows is a portion of a letter from Luther to his friend, George Spalatin, who also served as secretary to Luther's ruler, Duke Frederick (December 29, 1520). Luther was anticipating the summons to appear before Emperor Charles V to answer for his doctrine, and very likely to be imprisoned or killed for holding fast to Scripture. Here are words of faith and courage, modelling for us the Christian refusal to allow the public preaching and confession of the Gospel to be silenced, even if it means death.

For He who saved the three men in the furnace of the Babylonian king still lives and rules. If He does not want to preserve me, then my head is of slight importance compared with Christ, who was put to death in greatest ignominy—a stumbling block to all and the ruin of many. No one's danger, no one's safety can be considered here. We must rather take care that we do not expose the gospel (which we have finally begun to promote) to the derision of the godless and thus give our enemies a reason for boasting over us because we do not dare confess what we have taught and are afraid to shed our blood for it. May the merciful Christ prevent such cowardice on our part and such boasting on their part. Amen.

Of course, it has come about that the kings and rulers of the earth would gather and rage with the nations and peoples against God and His Christ. Yet the Spirit teaches in that same Psalm [2] that those who trust in God will be blessed; and not only this, but also that the Lord will laugh and deride those who do not. Certainly, it is not up to us to decide whether my life, or for that matter my death, will bring greater or less danger for the gospel and the public welfare. You know that God's truth is a rock of stumbling set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel [Is. 8:14; Lk 2:34]. . .

Now you have my judgment and opinion on this matter. You may expect everything of me except flight and recanting. I do not want to escape, much less recant; may the Lord Jesus strengthen me in this. I could do neither without endangering piety and the salvation of many. (AE 48.188–190)

Summary of District President Activities

My office as District President is in many ways simply an extension of work God has assigned to the pastors of our congregations. As our pastors strengthen, encourage, teach, and defend their congregations and beloved members, so it is my task to do the same on behalf of the district as a whole, and before the Synod. I am reminded here that what is sung by the pious Christian is also true of the faithful church: "I walk in danger all the way" (LSB 716). Our greatest dangers come from the lies that are taught, believed, and lived among us. In the past triennium I have worked with our district pastors in giving attention especially to these areas of doctrine and life:

- The devaluation of Holy Scriptures by contemporary philosophical theories (Postmodern or Post-Christian ideologies);

- Various heresies regarding marriage and the human body, including no-fault divorce, feminism, abortion, anti-childbearing ideologies, sodomy, so-called “same sex marriage,” transgender theories, and the like;
- The duty of Christian parents to educate their own children for faith, good works, piety, and virtue;
- Failures in church and the civil community to teach and live according to God’s law (Antinomianism);
- The relationship of our pastors and churches to civil government, especially in addressing issues of truth and morality;
- The question of whether and how we can work with other Christian confessions in addressing common interests and concerns in our communities and states;
- Persecution, especially in raising awareness of the growing cultural and legal hostility to our church and her doctrine, in teaching God’s Word concerning persecution, and in preparing our hearts and minds to endure trials.

It is my great joy, on a daily and weekly basis, to aid and counsel our pastors, visit congregations in worship or in meetings of their leadership, help and advise congregations through the call process, assist in reconciling conflicted Christians, provide leadership and advice to our District Board of Directors and Commissions, represent our District in various Synod venues, preach and teach Bible Class when invited, read and study, meditate on God’s Word, and pray for you all daily. Here is an approximate summary of my work in the calendar years 2018 – 2020:

- 195 meetings or visits in congregations;
- 276+ meetings with individual pastors, teachers, and others;
- 117 times preaching;
- 29 times teaching Bible Class;
- 10 formal presentations given in congregations, circuits, District, and Synod;
- 10 official visitations, with 8 more planned in January–April;
- 1 pastor ordained (Rev. Patrick Baldwin) in the district;
- 9 pastors installed in 11 congregations (plus two more in February and March, 2021);
- 17 Circuit Pastors Conferences;
- 4 District Conferences (Pastors, Teachers);
- 134 District meetings over 135 days (Board of Directors—5 annually; Circuit Visitors—2 annually; Praesidium; Commission meetings; etc.);
- 93 days of meetings and travel for Synod (including Council of Presidents, Synod Convention, other);
- 28 days of continuing education.

I encourage you to read the pages that follow in the Convention Workbook. On behalf of the District, I thank those who have served in the various offices, commissions, committees, and activities of the District. Their work is freely given and serves us all. It is a great blessing we

have in the Wyoming District that the leadership of the District is raised up from the daily congregational life of our churches and schools. God grant us His grace to continue steadfast in purity of doctrine, faithfulness of life, and boldness of confession.

Almighty and gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast commanded us to pray that Thou wouldst send forth laborers into Thy harvest, of Thine infinite mercy give us true teachers and ministers of Thy Word, and put Thy saving Gospel in their hearts and on their lips that they may truly fulfill Thy command and preach nothing contrary to Thy holy Word, that we, being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted, and strengthened by Thy heavenly Word, may do those things which are well-pleasing to Thee and profitable to us; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen. (TLH p. 103)

Almighty and everlasting God, who wilt have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, we beseech Thy glorious majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, impart the grace and help of Thy Holy Spirit to all ministers of Thy Word that they may purely teach it to the saving of men. Bring to naught by Thine almighty power and unsearchable wisdom all the counsels of those who hate Thy Word and who, by corrupt teaching or with violent hands, would destroy it, and enlighten them with the knowledge of Thy glory, that we, leading a quiet and peaceable life, may by a pure faith learn the riches of Thy heavenly grace and in holiness and righteousness serve Thee, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen. (TLH. p. 103)



NEW MEMBERS / CONGREGATIONS OF SYNOD

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Patrick M. Baldwin

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Anna Hahn



OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE PRESIDENT

March 2, 2018 to March 1, 2021

MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATION

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish between St. James Lutheran Church, Scottsbluff, NE and Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Bayard, NE, May 22, 2018

Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish between Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Green River, WY and Trinity Lutheran Church, Rock Springs, WY, July 6, 2018

Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish between Trinity Lutheran Church, Wheatland, WY, Zion Lutheran Church, Grover, CO, and Grace English Lutheran Church, Pine Bluffs, WY, November 19, 2019

Formation of a Multi-Congregation Parish between Wind River Lutheran Mission, Fort Washakie, WY and Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Dubois, WY, December 6, 2020

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ENTERED THE DISTRICT

Rev. Andrew W. Dimit (Emeritus) from Rocky Mountain District, January 31, 2019

Rev. Andrew P. Richard (St. Silas Lutheran Church, North Liberty, IA) to Assistant Pastor, Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Casper, WY, May 30, 2019
(Installed by Rev. Jon C. Olson).

ENTERED THE DISTRICT (continued)

Rev. John C. Preus (Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, IA) to Sole Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Cheyenne WY, June 1, 2019 (Installed by Rev. Mark Maas)

Rev. Harold R. Hintzman, Jr (Emeritus) from Minnesota South District, July 15, 2019

Rev. Paul J. Beyer (Emeritus) from Nebraska District, August 31, 2019

Rev. Patrick M. Baldwin, graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN to Christ Lutheran Church (Rawlins, WY), July 19, 2020
(Ordained and Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

Rev. Jonathan Durkopp from Trinity Lutheran Church (Lamoure, ND) and Trinity Lutheran Church (Adrian, ND) to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Glenrock, WY) and Zion Lutheran Church (Douglas, WY), October 25, 2020
(Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

Rev. Shaun Daugherty (Candidate Status, Atlantic District) to Assistant Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alliance, NE, February 28, 2021 (Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Rev. Daniel C. Praeuner (Grace Lutheran Church, Pine Bluffs, WY, and Zion Lutheran Church, Grover, CO) to Emeritus, January 1, 2018

Rev. Paul F. Nus (Trinity Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY) to Candidate Status, July 1, 2018

Rev. George Naylor (Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Bayard, NE) to Dual Parish Pastor with St. James Lutheran Church, Scottsbluff, NE, July 8, 2018
(Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

Rev. Bradley D. Heinecke (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sidney, NE) to Emeritus, October 10, 2018

Rev. James Martin (Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Green River) to Dual Parish Pastor with Trinity Lutheran Church, Rock Springs, WY), January 13, 2019
(Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

Rev. Lincoln Winter (Trinity Lutheran Church, Wheatland) to Multi-Point Parish Pastor with Grace English Lutheran Church, Pine Bluffs, WY) and Zion Lutheran Church (Grover, CO), December 29, 2019 (Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

Rev. Christopher Brandt (St. John's Lutheran Church, Lovell, WY) to Emeritus, April 30, 2020

Rev. Terry Wiley (Christ Lutheran Church, Rawlins, WY) to Emeritus, June 30, 2020

Rev. Martin T. Schnare (Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Alliance, NE) to Emeritus, June 30, 2020

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT (continued)

Rev. Andrew Dimit (Emeritus) to Assistant Pastor, King of Glory Lutheran Church (Cheyenne, WY), September 20, 2020 (Installed by Rev. Mark Maas)

Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein (Wind River Lutheran Mission) to Dual Parish Pastor with Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Dubois, WY), December 6, 2020
(Installed by Rev. John E. Hill)

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Claude H. Constable, December 24, 2018

Rev. Joseph S. Hu, February 20, 2019

Rev. Robert C. Oberheu, April 22, 2019

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Daniel A. Hinton (Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY) to Christ Lutheran Church, Lubbock, TX, August 13, 2018

Rev. John H. Melms (Emeritus) to St. James Lutheran Church, Southern Pines, NC and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Whispering Pines, NC, November 17, 2018

Rev. Jakob D. Berger (Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glenrock/Zion Lutheran Church, Douglas) to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Thompson Falls, MT, November 18, 2019

Rev. Bradley D. Heinecke (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District, January 4, 2019

Rev. Roger D. Sterle (Emeritus) to Mid-South District, May 14, 2020

Rev. Martin T. Schnare (Emeritus) to Southern Illinois District, June 1, 2020

Rev. Christopher Brandt (Emeritus) to Montana District, June 10, 2020



COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

ENTERED THE DISTRICT

Anna Hahn (Concordia, Mequon), Commissioned/Installed at Mount Hope Lutheran School, Casper, WY, August 30, 2018 (Commissioned by Rev. Dr. Christian A. Preus)

Breanna Erdman, Teacher (Trinity, Riverton, WY)
from South Wisconsin District, August 25, 2019 (Installed by Rev. Mark Mumme)

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Shirley Bundschuh, Trinity Lutheran School, Riverton, WY to Emeritus, July 1, 2018

Susan Tucker (Candidate) to Emeritus, December 9, 2020

REMOVED

Karen Gabriel (DCE), Voluntary Resignation, December 10, 2020

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Laurie Anderson, Our Savior Lutheran Church (Cheyenne, WY) to St. John, Chester, IL,
September 15, 2018

Diane Schnare, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Alliance, NE) to St. Paul, Hamel, IL,
July 14, 2020



ANNIVERSARIES

Ordained Ministers

In the Year of Our Lord 2019

Rev. David Caspersen	50 years
Rev. Lynn Christensen	25 years
Rev. Allan Wierschke	25 years
Rev. James Martin	20 years
Rev. Darren Pflughoeft	20 years
Rev. Dan Holthus	20 years
Rev. Kenneth Humphrey	10 years
Rev. Samuel Needham	10 years
Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein	10 years

In the Year of Our Lord 2020

Rev. Harold Hintzman Jr	45 years
Rev. Phillip Grovenstein	35 years
Rev. David Anderson	30 years
Rev. Richard Keuck	30 years
Rev. Shawn Kumm	30 years
Rev. Jonathan Lange	30 years
Rev. John Hill	30 years
Rev. Richard Mueller	30 years
Rev. Jais Tinglund	25 years
Rev. Jeffery Grams	25 years
Rev. Mark Mumme	20 years
Rev. Paul Cain	20 years
Rev. Jared Tucher	15 years
Rev. Ryan Mills	15 years
Rev. Kenneth Mars	15 years
Rev. Mark Preus	10 years
Rev. Gerald Heinecke	10 years
Rev. Paul Nus	10 years
Rev. Marcus Baikie	10 years

In the Year of Our Lord 2021

Rev. Thomas Jacobsen	60 years
Rev. Francis Koessel	60 years
Rev. Duane Simonsen	45 years
Rev. Sam Christensen	45 years
Rev. Randolph Schnack	40 years
Rev. Peter Bertram	40 years
Rev. Andrew Dimit	35 years
Rev. Lee Rupert	30 years
Rev. Scott Firminhac	25 years
Rev. Phillip Found	25 years
Rev. Scott Shields	20 years
Rev. Michael Wittrock	20 years
Rev. Ted Bourrett	20 years
Rev. Jon Olson	15 years
Rev. Neil Carlson	10 years
Rev. John Preus	10 years
Rev. Dr. Christian Preus	5 years
Rev. James Rockhill	5 years
Rev. Jonathan Durkopp	5 years

Commissioned Ministers

In the Year of Our Lord 2019

Shirley Bundschuh	40 years
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In the Year of Our Lord 2020

Cecelia Postma	35 years
Leah Wierschke	25 years
Stanna Funk	20 years
Tarayca Walters	20 years
Dixie Ailts	15 years
Tiffany Baikie	15 years

In the Year of Our Lord 2021

Bonnie Bourret	40 years
Darcia Boche	20 years

In the Year of Our Lord 2021 (continued)

Jennifer Kaelberer	15 years
Susan Tucker	15 years

ANNIVERSARIES

Congregations

2019-2021

In the Year of Our Lord 2019

St. Paul- Rushville	130
Zion- Emblem	120
Our Savior- Chadron	95
St. John's- Kimball	90
Trinity- Gillette	90
Zion- Hay Springs	90
Redeemer- Harrison	90
Mount Calvary- Bayard	65
Bethlehem- Moorcroft	45
King of Glory- Cheyenne	30

In the Year of Our Lord 2020

Salem- Gurley	110
St. Paul's- Sidney	105
Our Savior- Torrington	85
St. Luke's- Worland	70
Trinity- Rock Springs	70
Mount Calvary- Dubois	65
Our Savior- Pinedale	60
Emmanuel- Green River	55
Peace- Marbleton	55

In the Year of Our Lord 2021

Trinity- Sidney	135
Immanuel- Alliance	110
St. John's- Scottsbluff	105
St. John's- Lovell	105
Zion- Grover	105
Grace- Gordon	100

In the Year of Our Lord 2021 (continued)

Zion- Laramie	95
Immanuel- Powell	85
Trinity- Morrill	75
Mount Calvary- Sundance	70
Grace- Pine Bluffs	70
Platte Valley- Saratoga	65
Christ the King- Cody	60



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Rev. Mark Maas
Cheyenne, WY

My responsibility as Wyoming District First Vice President has been to attend and preside over the Board of Directors meetings, and to sit as an Advisory member on the Commission on Mission Services, both of which meet five times a year. The year 2020 though proved to have some unique challenges to meeting and so there were “zoom” meetings. We did meet via that “zoom” format on a couple of extra occasions as Covid-19 matters were brought into play. I also served on the District Administrative Team and the Convention Committee. I attended Praesidium meetings held in conjunction with the meetings of the Board of Directors, as well as Circuit Visitors meetings which met twice a year.

I was also appointed to the Two Kingdoms, One Lord board to help oversee the work of this project. Duties with that this far have been to help write a brochure and promote the efforts that the project engages in for Marriage, Life and Family.

I was to conduct official district visitations of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wheatland, WY and Trinity Lutheran Church Casper, WY. Due to personal matters that arose I asked Rev. Pres. Hill to conduct the visit on Trinity, Casper. As of this writing the visitation of Trinity, Wheatland has not been completed. It has been an honor to serve in this role for the Wyoming District. The men who lead our District are tremendous, caring Christians. I have learned much and will treasure the time I spent in this position.



SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Ted A. Bourret
Potter, NE

I have been honored in serving the congregations, members, and pastors of the Wyoming District for the past three years in my office as second vice-president and regional vice-president representing the panhandle of Nebraska or the Chimney Rock and Pine Ridge Circuits.

It has been a wonderful privilege to serve with President John Hill, 1st Vice-President Rev. Mark Maas, and 3rd Vice-President Rev. Jonathan Lange. I have assisted President Hill and the Circuit Visitors in Nebraska with congregational visitations during my tenure and have enjoyed providing what service I can render to the District, Circuits, congregations, to the Lord and His Church. I have served on the District Administrative Team (DAT) and the District Convention Committee as part of my duties as vice-president.

My services as second vice-president of a more regular nature include being an advisory member of the Commission of Congregational Services, as well as the District Board of Directors. In this I have also attended Praesidium meetings and Circuit Visitor meetings. It has been a wonderful honor and privilege, as well as a humbling experience for me to serve with all the members of the Commission, the Board of Directors, the Circuit Visitors, and the leadership of the Wyoming District. We are very blessed with faithful and dedicated pastors and laity who give of themselves to continue the ongoing work of the mission and ministry of our beloved District. Thank you to all who have or are currently serving in any way in the District and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to know you and serve with you.

The second vice-president also serves the District as Constitutions Chairman (my report in that capacity is included in this workbook). In that work I would like to thank Rev. Mark Maas for his counsel as my predecessor in this office. I especially want to thank District President John Hill, who has provided me invaluable advice and assistance in reviewing the amendments, receiving, and answering the questions, and completing the duties of Constitutions Chairman.



THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Jonathan Lange
Evanston, WY

It has been an honor to serve the Wyoming District for the past triennium as Third Vice-President. In that capacity I chaired the semiannual meetings of the Circuit Visitors. At these meetings, the Visitors join the District Praesidium to pray, study the Lutheran Confessions, discuss the well-being of the several circuits and study topics of concern to the Church. In addition to these meetings, the Praesidium has regular meetings with the District President to consult concerning his duties. I also participated, as an advisory member, in all meetings of the District's Board of Directors save one from which I was excused to speak outside of the District. At the request of President Hill, I led two call meetings at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rock Springs as district representative. At these meetings, the congregation called Rev. James Martin to the office of pastor.



CONSTITUTIONS CHAIRMAN REPORT

Rev. Ted A. Bourret
Potter, NE

The 2nd Vice-President of the Wyoming District also serves as the District Constitution Chairman. This position thus serves as a liaison between the District congregations and parishes and the Board of Directors of the District. Congregations (and multi-congregations parishes) which find it necessary to amend their constitutions, bylaws, or articles of agreement are provided guidelines and assistance in that process that it would be done decently and in good order. Consideration and guidance are also given to these amendments and their approval relative to applicable state law(s). Many of the guidelines are available to the congregations through the Synod's website. In addition, it has been my honor to assist the District Board of Directors, the District President, and the District Secretary in review and amendment to the District Handbook and Guidelines and changes to those, as necessary. I want to thank the Congregations and their members who in this triennium have worked with me and the Board on any amendments or agreements. It has been my honor to work with you and serve you in this position.

Within the past triennium the following congregations (or parishes) have requested and received approval from the Board of Directors for constitution and/or bylaw amendments, or for amendments to multi-point parish agreements or for the approval of those agreements:

2018: Multi-Congregation Parish Agreement for Mount Calvary Lutheran Church – Bayard, NE, and St. James Lutheran Church – Scottsbluff, NE BOD approved May 22, 2018

Grace English Lutheran Church – Pine Bluffs, WY BOD approved May 22, 2018

Multi-Congregation Agreement for Trinity Lutheran Church – Rock Springs, WY, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Green River, WY BOD approved July 6, 2018

2019: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church – Fort Bridger, WY BOD approved January 22, 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Alliance, NE BOD approved January 22, 2019

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Buffalo, WY BOD approved January 22, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church – Cheyenne, WY BOD approved May 21, 2019

Mount Hope Lutheran Church – Casper, WY BOD approved May 21, 2019.

Zion Lutheran Church – Douglas, WY BOD approved August 27, 2019

Multi-Congregation Parish Agreement for Trinity Lutheran Church – Wheatland, WY, Grace English Lutheran Church – Pine Bluffs, WY, and Zion Lutheran Church – Grover, CO BOD approved November 14, 2019

2020: St. John’s Lutheran Church – Lovell, WY BOD Approved January 28, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church – Sidney, NE BOD approved March 24, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Crawford, NE BOD approved October 27, 2020

St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church – Laramie, WY BOD approved October 27, 2020

St. Luke Lutheran Church – Worland, WY BOD approved October 27, 2020

Multi-Congregation (Mission) Parish Agreement for Mount Calvary Lutheran – Dubois, WY, and Wind River Lutheran Mission – Fort Washakie, WY BOD approved October 27, 2020



EDUCATION REPORT

Rev. Paul J Cain
Education (Schools) Chairman and
NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) Commissioner
Sheridan, WY

The Education (schools) Chairman shall:

- work closely with the Teachers/Educators Conference to develop programs and professional growth opportunities for the workers;
- study and understand issues, programs, expansion efforts related to schools in our district and assist them;
- develop knowledge and resources from Synod and make the same available to schools or congregations wishing to start schools within our district.

Wyoming District Bylaw 3.401e

During my first triennium in this role of service, I established a new resource page on the Wyoming District website at: <http://wylcms.org/edu.html>

The Wyoming District is blessed with five grammar schools (three of which include or have recently included middle school grades) and thirteen preschools (three of which are connected to our grammar schools). We also serve families that seek Christian and classical education supplements to public education and families that choose to homeschool their children.

As Headmaster of Martin Luther Grammar School in Sheridan, I regularly see Martin Luther Grammar School and its middle school, Immanuel Academy. Thanks to the blessing of having fall conferences in Casper, I have been able to visit Mount Hope Lutheran School annually. Conversations (over the phone or via Zoom) with our educators at Immanuel Lutheran School, Alliance, Nebraska, Trinity Lutheran School, Cheyenne, and Trinity, Riverton were a substitute for in-person visits during the last twelve months of this triennium. We rejoice in accreditation renewal visits by the CCLE (Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education) to four of our Wyoming District schools during this triennium!

Our schools all embrace classical education and are intentionally Lutheran in their teaching and practice. What does this mean?

The Rev. John Hill explains this approach well: "To accomplish this mission more effectively, the schools of the Wyoming District have adopted a Classical (Liberal Arts) pedagogy and content for their curricula. Classical education not only emphasizes the verbal arts of the Trivium

(Grammar, Logic/Dialectic, and Rhetoric) and the mathematical/scientific arts of the Quadrivium (Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, and Music), but especially transmits to the children the historic culture and values of Western Civilization. Classical education teaches truth, goodness, and beauty, raising Christians who have a wise and eloquent piety. The purpose of our schools, in fulfillment of Christ's mandate, is to raise up Christian men and women who are equipped in heart, mind and life to serve their neighbor in the home, the church, the workplace, and the government. Four of the grammar schools of the District are accredited with the Consortium for Classical and Lutheran Education."

In other news, school statistics should be returned annually by 1 November. Rostered workers should have already updated their Lutheran Educators Information form (LEIF) to the new Commissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF) system.

Engaging LCMS School Ministry has its challenges. There has been resistance to keep NLSA accreditation fees affordable for the small school. A school here with 17 students pays the same annual fee as a large Lutheran high school with 1,200 students. I attended the National Accreditation Commission (NAC) in 2018 to argue my case for a different funding model for the School Ministry office. I did not attend in 2019 but attended via Zoom for NAC meetings in both July and December 2020.

The LCMS School Ministry website is <http://www.luthed.org/>, available to our schools thanks to an annual \$500 fee paid by each district. Our congregations with schools and preschools should review this site for some of its good resources. Consider the following:

In His Hands is a guide for starting and maintaining early childhood centers:

<http://www.luthed.org/in-his-hands/>

Consider this pdf for School Boards: <http://www.luthed.org/governing-board-resource/>

There is much work yet to be done, including rostering classical Lutheran teachers.

A Wyoming District Education Executive has just as much access to resources as a full-time Ph. D Ed Exec in other districts who has a cubicle at his/her district office! I am not the only volunteer in this position, but I may be one of the few (if not only) with a day job (a pulpit and a school). As far as I know, I am the only pastor in this role.

Our District has an opportunity to provide input to NLSA through an annual report (due June 15) where we can give constructive suggestions. I have completed the form annually. Much of the requested information does not apply to us because our schools would most likely get NLSA through the CCLE accreditation process.

Our annual Fall Teacher Conference in Casper is a joy to attend. I extend my sincere thanks for the faculty of Mount Hope Lutheran School for planning the schedule and inviting speakers in recent years. They are great hosts! We were edified in October 2020 with a guest speaker via Zoom speaking on the Progymnasmata, pre-rhetoric writing and speaking exercises.

This work on behalf of the Wyoming District coordinated well with my role as a permanent member of the board of The Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (www.ccle.org).

The Wyoming District Education Chairman fields questions and helps with concerns from our teachers and schools. Two congregations recently reached out to ask for information on starting new preschools. We rejoice in the ambitious goal of starting Luther Classical College in Casper, WY. Please prayerfully consider supporting this institution with your prayers and financial support.

I intend to conclude my service as Wyoming District Ed Exec and NLSA Commissioner by the 2021 District Convention. I love serving the Lord and His people as Senior Pastor of Immanuel, Sheridan and Headmaster of Immanuel Academy and Martin Luther Grammar School. My newest role is teaching one class of Classical Rhetoric each term for Wittenberg Academy. The latter gives me joy as an educator (instead of a part-time bureaucrat).



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Rev. Mark Mumme
Riverton, WY

The Wyoming District continues their longstanding practice of offering regular opportunities for pastors to gather for continuing education, with financial support available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A survey was done at the 2018 Fall Pastors Conference to gather topics of interest, desirable locations, and preferred time of year for future classes. Suggested topics were many and varied but focused primarily on exegesis, homiletics, and how best to address some of the issues of our day. Participants were open to a variety of locations but emphasized the need to keep travel and lodging costs to a minimum. The obvious markers for preferred time of year were between Easter and Thanksgiving.

In June 2019, the Rev Chad Kendall (CTS, Fort Wayne) was scheduled to present on *Early Christian Preaching in a Pluralistic Society* in Jackson, WY. The class was cancelled due to lack of interest, with many pastors commenting that both the cost and location were out-of-reach.

In November 2019, the Rev. Dr. David Adams (CSL, St. Louis) came to Thermopolis to share his latest book, *The Biblical Presence of God*. Attendants responded positively to moving the class from the hotel to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

In June 2020, the Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien (CTS, Fort Wayne) joined us to discuss *Natural Law* at Camp Norwesca near Crawford, NE. Originally scheduled to meet at Fort Robinson State Park, the class was moved last minute due to COVID-19 restrictions. Response was overwhelmingly positive as this setting provided the opportunity for whole families to attend.

In November 2020, the Rev. Dr. David Petersen (Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne) offered a preaching workshop in Thermopolis entitled *Classic Lutheran Preaching*. Sermons from Luther, Gerhard, and Walther were examined, advice was given on how to preach on current issues, and sermon outlines were discussed for the upcoming Sundays in Advent and Christmas.

In June 2021, the Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz (CTS, Fort Wayne) is scheduled to join us at Fort Robinson State Park to discuss *Christian Martyrdom in the First Three Centuries*, with an emphasis on how to prepare for the coming persecution of the Church in 21st century America. Pastors' families are encouraged to attend!

Congregations are urged to budget annually for the ongoing education of their pastor, since shepherds who are spiritually nourished and refreshed themselves are better able to serve the needs of the flock entrusted to their care.



DISTRICT TRUSTEE REPORT

Mr. Matt Huckfeldt
Cheyenne, WY

1. St. Andrew's – Parsonage

- a. The steel siding project has been completed by contractors.
- b. Water damaged sheet rock in garage has been repaired.
- c. Kitchen cabinets were installed and pass-throughs within two kitchen walls were constructed. After completion, it was painted.
- d. New driveway was poured in front of the garage with an extra pad to set garbage cans on.

- e. Water damaged flooring in the dining room was replaced. The water damage was caused by a leaking dishwasher. The congregation replaced the dishwasher.

2. St. Andrew's Student Center

- a. Electronic valves for the boiler system were installed.
- b. The leaking heat exchanger has been replaced.
- c. A glycol feeder was installed to prevent the heat exchanger from freezing in the future. The system was tested and is operating properly.
- d. One cold air return that was blocked when the altar area was tiled, needs to be re-routed.

3. Wind River Indian Mission

- a. We visited the Mission and identified needs at the current location, such as, a new sign and the possibility of pouring a basketball pad. The high-water table in the summer months continues to be a major problem.
- b. We also made contact with the Hines' to possibly acquire a different piece of real estate to build a new building. It may entail a property exchange rather than a property purchase. This is contingent upon the Bureau of Indians Affairs building a fire station. In conjunction with the building of the fire station, an access road will be created to access the new proposed Mission church site. We discussed the building size and needs of Pastor Sonnensheim and have a rough draft of a floor plan. An estimate of the cost of constructing the new building will have to be made and then funding acquired. This is all contingent on the Bureau of Indian Affairs building the fire station. And us working a deal with the Hines' on the land swap.

1. Wyoming District Office – Casper, WY

- a. The project of finishing the basement and adding a shower has been started. Jeff Snyder located a contractor who pulled the permits and will supervise the construction and the contractor will be present during city inspections. The work is being conducted by available church volunteers. There is no projected completion date currently.
- b. Initial planning for replacing light fixtures in the upstairs area with LED lights to improve lighting and reduce costs has been initiated.



MARRIAGE, LIFE, AND FAMILY

Rev. Jonathan Lange
Evanston, WY

The 2018 Convention of the Wyoming District (Resolution 1-05-2018) established a new position on the Commission for Congregational Services (CCS) to combine marriage, life, and family ministries into a unified position. The CCS appointed Jonathan Lange to fill the position. This position is focused on contemplating and expressing the Gospel contours of God's creation of man and woman and his creating of them a community of human beings. Articles are written weekly and shared with the Wyoming District through a blog site. These are also published in newspapers throughout the state.

In addition, the Marriage, Life, and Family facilitator works with legislators and community groups throughout the state and nation to encourage and support godly policies within municipal, county and state governance. During Wyoming state legislative sessions, the progress of bills touching these themes is reported in real time on the "Capitol Watch for Wyoming Families" blog. Attempts are also being made to partner with the Nebraska District of the LCMS to provide an outlet for the Wyoming District congregations of the Nebraska Panhandle to coordinate efforts with entities in the eastern part of the state in support of similar legislation.

During this time, the MLF facilitator is participating in ongoing discussions that explore and clarify the roles of pastor, laymen, Church, and district in civic affairs and in coordination with non-Church entities that share in certain common interests. God be praised, these conversations are bearing the fruit of clarity, confession, and Christian unity. Under district leadership, they will continue into the next triennium.

The MLF facilitator has also been asked to present at educational events both within and without the district. He is available for speaking engagements in district congregations, or to research and address ethical and practical questions on the sanctity of human life, the sanctity of marriage, and the place of the family in Christian theology as they arise in contemporary events. He also continues to be available to circuits of the district that would like to have conversation at Circuit Conferences or presentations at Circuit Forums.



CHIMNEY ROCK CIRCUIT (#1)

Rev. Allen Strawn, Circuit Visitor

The Chimney Rock Circuit currently has one vacant congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sidney, NE being served by Rev. Allen Strawn of St. Paul's Lutheran in Bridgeport, NE. During our last triennium there was one change in Pastoral Ministry, the retirement of Rev. Bradley Heinecke from St. Paul's Lutheran Sidney in August 2018. The congregations of St. Paul's Lutheran, Sidney, NE, Salem Lutheran, Gurley, NE, and St. Paul's Lutheran, Potter, NE are in discussions for the joining together in a multi congregation parish agreement. As of February 23, 2021, the Chimney Rock Circuit includes the following congregations and their pastors:

St. John's Lutheran Church, Scottsbluff, NE – Rev. Jeffery Grams

Faith Lutheran Church, Gering, NE – Rev. Richard Neugebauer

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, NE – Rev. Allen Strawn

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sidney, NE – vacant

And these congregations are dual parishes:

Salem Lutheran Church, Gurley, NE and St Paul's Lutheran Church, Potter, NE – Rev. Ted Bourret

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, NE and Zion Lutheran Church, Chappell, NE – Rev. Neil Carlson

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Bayard, NE and St. James Lutheran Church, Scottsbluff, NE – Rev. George Naylor

The Chimney Rock and Pine Ridge Circuits meet together for their regular Winkels. They celebrate the Divine Service or a prayer office with the host congregation as preacher and celebrant. Three studies are conducted at each Winkel. This year they are: An exegetical study from the original languages of Holy Scripture, Walther's Church and Office, and several practical discussion on preaching and theses on how our churches and pastors interact with government. Winkels also provide an opportunity for fellowship, circuit business and issues of casuistry and pastoral care as they arise.

The congregations of the Chimney Rock Circuit continue to receive regular triennial visitation by either the Circuit Visitor, Regional Vice President, or District President. All the congregations have been found to be faithfully preaching the Word of God in its truth and purity and administering the sacraments rightly.

At our last Circuit Forum, Rev. Richard Neugebauer was asked to serve as Circuit Visitor, pending the approval of the District in Convention. We have educational opportunities to the Circuit Forum, as was desired by the Circuit representatives.

By the grace of God the congregations and pastors of the Chimney Rock Circuit continue to strive together in unity of doctrine and practice to reach out to a fallen world with the love of God in Jesus Christ our Savior. To God alone be the glory!



PINE RIDGE CIRCUIT (#2)

Rev. Scott Firminhac, Circuit Visitor

The congregations of the Pine Ridge Circuit continue to serve the Triune God by carrying out the mission that God has given to each of these congregations and to each of us, the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. The ministry at Grace in Gordon, NE continues with Rev. Travis Sherman serving as their faithful shepherd for the last 8 years. St. Paul, Rushville, NE and Zion, Hay Springs continue to spread God's Word with Rev. Allan Wierschke as their pastor for the last 6 years. Rev. Peter Bertram continues to faithfully proclaim God's Word to the members of Our Savior, Chadron as their pastor since 1994, 27 years. Rev. James Rockhill has been sharing the message of Christ crucified at Bethlehem, Crawford, NE and Redeemer, Harrison, NE for the last 5 years. Rev. Darren Pflughoeft continues to serve the people of St. Paul's, Lusk, WY as their pastor since June 2002, 19 years. Rev. Scott Firminhac continues to serve at Our Savior, Torrington, WY since May of 2011, 10 years. The saints at Trinity, Morrill, NE are being faithfully served by Rev. Ken Humphrey since 2009, 12 years. The congregation of Immanuel in Alliance, NE, has seen some major changes in the last 12 months. After 24 years of faithfully serving the people of Immanuel, Rev. Tim Schnare retired. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for using Pastor Schnare as His instrument in proclaiming the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ to so many. Immanuel in Alliance continues to be served by Rev. Richard Mueller who has been their pastor since 1998, almost 23 years. After about a nine-month vacancy in the Associate Pastor position, Immanuel in Alliance Called Rev. Shaun Daugherty to be their Associate Pastor. Pastor Daugherty accepted the Call and was installed February 28, 2021. Immanuel Lutheran School is finishing up its 7th year (opened August 2014). Immanuel Lutheran School now offers classes through the 8th grade and is using Lutheran Classical Education model. They have experienced change over in the faculty over the last couple of years due to retirements. Currently the faculty is 8 teachers, a full-time secretary, 4 paraprofessionals, 2 custodians, and countless volunteers. Enrollment has stayed strong with between 125-140 students. COVID has brought challenges to the school, however God continues to richly provide His gifts to the school for it to continue. They are hoping to go through the accreditation process within the next few years. Immanuel Lutheran School would like to thank the Wyoming District office and all the congregations and pastors of the district for their support. Praise the Lord that all the congregations of the Pine Ridge Circuit continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all in their area.

Rev. James Rockhill has spearheaded a bi-monthly youth gathering held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alliance and hosted by participating congregations. These gatherings have grown over the past couple of years and have been a great blessing to all who have been able to attend.

The pastors of the Pine Ridge and Chimney Rock Circuits continue to meet regularly for Winkel conferences on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May each year. The meetings begin with the Divine Service which is followed by an exegetical study on the pastoral Epistles. These are led by the pastor whose congregation hosted the previous month's Winkel. After lunch we do various studies of books or topics the District and/or Synod ask us to study. For the past 3 years we have also been studying *The Church & The Office of the Ministry* by C.F.W. Walther, Matthew Harrison, editor.

The congregations and pastors of the Pine Ridge Circuit continue to proclaim the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments. We pray for God's continued blessings upon His children and His church on earth.



POWDER RIVER CIRCUIT (#3)

Rev. Jon C. Olson, Circuit Visitor

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Buffalo: served by Rev. Gerald Heinecke (November 2016).

Mount Hope Lutheran Church & School, Casper: Served by Rev. Dr. Christian Preus (July 2016) and Rev. Andrew Richard. Pastor Richard was installed as Assistant Pastor & Headmaster on May 30th, 2019 and teaches sixth grade through high school. Ms. Anna Hahn was called as Commissioned-Teacher, having served since September 2, 2018, and is currently teaching kindergarten through second grade. In 2018 Mt. Hope added high school classes. Mrs. Angie Hill has taught at the school on and off since 2004. She was interim headmaster from 2015-2019 and is currently teaching third through fifth grade. Tarayca Walters has been teaching at Mt. Hope as a Commissioned-Teacher since 2005 and is currently serving as part-time preschool teacher. 2020-2021 school enrollment: 62

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Casper: served by Rev. Jon C. Olson (November 2016).

Zion Lutheran Church, Douglas/Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Glenrock Dual Parish: Rev. Jakob Berger accepted a call to serve Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Thompson Falls, MT (November 2019). The vacancy at Our Redeemer, Glenrock was served by Rev. Jon C. Olson (Trinity-Casper) and Rev. Pflughoeft, (St. Paul's-Lusk). The dual parish is now being served by Rev. Jonathan Durkopp who was installed as pastor on October 25th, 2020.

Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Gillette: served by Rev. Jared Tucher (August 2011). 2020 Preschool enrollment: 39

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Moorcroft/Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Sundance Dual Parish is currently served by Rev. Norman Wacker (July 2012).

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Martin Luther Grammar School, Sheridan: served by Rev. Paul Cain (April 2009) as Senior-Administrative Pastor and Headmaster of Martin Luther Grammar School. Rev. Rene Castellero serves as Assistant Pastor and Lead Teacher of Martin Luther Grammar School (June 2017). 2020 school enrollment: 17 students.

The Powder River Circuit meets monthly for Winkel, consisting of the Divine Service or Matins, an exegetical study, lunch and conversation, confessional study, business, and pastoral casuistry.



YELLOWSTONE CIRCUIT (#4)

Rev. Jais Tinglund, Circuit Visitor

The Yellowstone Circuit is a Visitation Circuit and consists of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cody, Zion Lutheran Church in Emblem, Grace Lutheran Church in Greybull, Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Powell, Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Thermopolis, and Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in Worland.

The Pastors of the Circuit meet, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, in all months in which they are not expected to gather for major District events.

In terms of Synodical representation, the Yellowstone Circuit is joined with the Headwaters Circuit as “the Western Circuit of the Wyoming District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.” At the 2019 Synodical Convention the Circuit was represented by Pastor Samuel Needham of Thermopolis and Mr. Ed Peterson of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cody.

At a Circuit Forum at Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church in Thermopolis on Saturday, July 18, 2020, the Yellowstone Circuit voted for Pastor Jais H. Tinglund of Greybull to continue as Circuit Visitor for the Triennium of 2021-2024. At the Circuit Forum, President Hill and representatives of the congregations also shared information about the situation of the individual congregations and perspectives for how to secure both adequate and appropriate Pastoral service to the congregations in the future.

At the end of April 2020 Pastor Christopher Brandt retired as Pastor of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell. As this report is being written, the vacancy is being served by Pastor Jais H. Tinglund of Greybull.

Since the writing of the Circuit Report for the Wyoming District Convention of 2018, the Circuit Visitor has carried out visitations in all congregations in the Circuit except Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell, where the Circuit Visitor currently serves as Vacancy Pastor, and the

congregations permanent served by the Circuit Visitor, where the District President carried out a visitation in November of 2019.



HEADWATERS CIRCUIT (#5)

Rev. Dan Mulholland, Circuit Visitor

The headwater circuit has no vacancies at this time. Rev. Terry Wiley and Rev. Roger Sterle both retired in 2020. Mt. Calvary (Dubois) has an agreement with the District to share a pastor with the Mission at Ft. Washakie. Accordingly Rev. Greg Sonnenshein is the called pastor at both congregations. Christ Lutheran (Rawlins) called a candidate and is now served by Rev. Patrick Baldwin. Our circuit continues to meet in five two-day weeks a year. We are hosting a family retreat, open to all members of the District, June 17-19. Entitled, "Baptized for this Moment" the retreat will be a combination of teaching, worship and family oriented fun time.



HIGH PLAINS CIRCUIT (#6)

Rev. Lincoln Winter, Circuit Visitor

Pastoral Changes:

Since the last convention, Trinity Cheyenne has had both pastors leave, Pastor Nus, who moved to Ohio, and Pastor Hinton, who accepted a call to Christ in Lubbock (TX). Pastor John Preus was called and installed at Trinity, where he now serves as sole pastor. The School continues to teach the Gospel to children in the congregation and community.

Trinity Wheatland, Grace Pine Bluffs, and Zion Grover (Pastor Winter) entered into a tri-point agreement. The situation has been a blessing for all involved.

King of Glory Cheyenne added Pastor Andrew Dimit as a called emeritus pastor to assist Pastor Maas with his work.

The other congregations continue to be served by their faithful pastors:

Zion Laramie (Pastor Debowey) is finishing a renovation of the church building at their current location and are sharing a vicar with St Andrews. (A full report of Saint Andrews appears elsewhere in the Convention Workbook.)

Our Savior Cheyenne (Pastors Scheer and Baikie) continues to do mission work in the community. A distribution program for supplies for young mothers was instituted (and briefly interrupted by COVID) but should resume soon.

Saint John's Kimball and Immanuel Burns (Pastor Mars) continue to faithfully serve their communities. They have also held an event to distribute supplies to those in need and are planning to hold another when the weather allows.



CONFESSIOAL FELLOWSHIP
OF THE
WYOMING DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Baptized Members	10,831	10,558	10,063
Communicant Members	8,519	8,348	8,011
Congregations	60	60	60

ADMINISTERING AND RECEIVING
WORD AND SACRAMENT

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Children Baptized	116	90	93
Juniors Confirmed	87	65	73
Adults Confirmed	48	50	36
Avg. Congregation Size (Baptized)	180	176	168
Avg. Congregation Size (Confirmed)	142	139	134

OFFERINGS

(Average per Communicant member to
administer Word and Sacrament)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Work at home	\$712.97	\$709.81	\$654.34
District and Synod/Other	\$77.76	\$70.38	\$82.67
TOTAL	\$790.73	\$780.19	\$737.01



ORGANIZED CONGREGATIONS 2019 (SIX CIRCUITS)

Assisted Congregations/Missions	4
Self-supporting Congregations	56
Total Congregations	60

CAMPUS MINISTRY AND INDIAN MISSIONS

Campus Congregations	Laramie, Wyoming	1
Wind River Lutheran Mission	Ft. Washakie, Wyoming	1

SCHOOLS

Preschools (standalone)	9
Preschools/Kindergarten/Elementary Schools	5



CIRCUIT ALIGNMENT
Wyoming District
Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

Circuit #1- Chimney Rock

	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Mount Calvary, Bayard	49
St. Paul's, Bridgeport	200
Zion, Chappell	75
Faith, Gering	271
Salem, Gurley	99
St. Paul's, Potter	74
St. James, Scottsbluff	70
St. John's, Scottsbluff	212
St. Paul's, Sidney	181
Trinity, Sidney	<u>113</u>
Total:	1,344

Circuit #2- Pine Ridge

	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Immanuel, Alliance	393
Our Savior, Chadron	154
Bethlehem, Crawford	77
Grace, Gordon	178
Redeemer, Harrison	30
Zion, Hay Springs	97
St. Paul's, Lusk	110
Trinity, Morrill	111
St. Paul, Rushville	56
Our Savior, Torrington	<u>252</u>
Total:	1,458

Circuit #3- Powder River

	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Prince of Peace, Buffalo	80
Mount Hope, Casper	226
Trinity, Casper	243
Zion, Douglas	100
Trinity, Gillette	441
Our Redeemer, Glenrock	48
Bethlehem, Moorcroft	45
Immanuel, Sheridan	382
Mount Calvary, Sundance	<u>61</u>
Total:	1,626

CIRCUIT ALIGNMENT (continued)

<u>Circuit #4- Yellowstone</u>	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Christ the King, Cody	317
Grace, Greybull	35
Zion, Emblem	30
St. John's, Lovell	178
Immanuel, Powell	175
St. Paul's, Thermopolis	65
St. Luke's, Worland	<u>145</u>
Total:	945
<u>Circuit #5- Headwaters</u>	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Peace, Big Piney	26
Mount Calvary, Dubois	36
Christ Our Savior, Etna	17
Our Saviour, Evanston	22
Shepherd of the Valley, Fort Bridger	32
Emmanuel, Green River	93
Redeemer, Jackson	25
St. Paul's, Kemmerer	35
Bethel, Lander	144
Our Savior, Pinedale	46
Christ, Rawlins	119
Trinity, Riverton	327
Trinity, Rock Springs	149
Platte Valley, Saratoga	<u>65</u>
Total:	1,136
<u>Circuit #6- High Plains</u>	<u>Communicants (2019)</u>
Immanuel, Burns	48
King of Glory, Cheyenne	141
Our Savior, Cheyenne	378
Trinity, Cheyenne	370
Zion, Grover	22
St. John's, Kimball	107
St. Andrew's, Laramie	47
Zion, Laramie	224
Grace English, Pine Bluffs	55
Trinity, Wheatland	<u>110</u>
Total:	1,502.
<u>Total Communicants</u>	<u>8,011</u>

WYOMING DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The duties of the Board of Directors are stated under Article III: District Organization, Section B – District Organization, pages 9ff in the 2018 Wyoming District Handbook.

Since the publication of the 2015 Wyoming District Board of Directors' Report, the Board of Directors met in regular session 15 times on the following dates:

March 20, 2018	October 22, 2019
May 22, 2018	January 28, 2020
August 28, 2018	March 24, 2020
October 23, 2018	May 19, 2020
January 22, 2019	August 25, 2020
March 26, 2019	October 27, 2020
May 21, 2019	January 26, 2021
August 27, 2019	

In addition to the above regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings were scheduled and held via Zoom on November 20, 2018; April 1, 2020; April 15, 2020; and May 6, 2020.

As of the date of this report, the following individuals serve on the various Boards, Offices, Commissions, and Committees of the Wyoming District:

Board of Directors (BOD)

Rev. Mark Maas	Chairman, First Vice-president, Region #2 (Central)
Rev. President John Hill	District President
Rev. Ted Bourret	Second Vice-president, Region #1 (East)
Rev. Jonathan Lange	Third Vice-president, Region #3, (West)
Rev. Paul Cain	Secretary
Rev. Peter Bertram	Pastor-at-Large
Mr. Andrew Beyeler	Treasurer
Mr. Steven Coniglio	Commissioned Minister
Mr. Matt Huckfeldt	Lay Member
Mr. John Schmall	Lay Member

Circuit Visitors (CV)

Rev. Allen Strawn	Chimney Rock Circuit (#1)
Rev. Scott Firminhac	Pine Ridge Circuit (#2)
Rev. Jon Olson	Powder River Circuit (#3)
Rev. Jais Tinglund	Yellowstone Circuit (#4)
Rev. Dan Mulholland	Headwaters Circuit (#5)
Rev. Lincoln Winter	High Plains Circuit (#6)

Commission on Mission Services (CMS)

Rev. James Martin	Chairman
Rev. Gerald Heinecke	Chairman-Elect
Mr. Chuck Hall	Campus Missions
Rev. Scott Firminhac	Ethnic Missions
Rev. Allan Wierschke	Missions Development
Rev. Noah Fremer	Missions Support
Rev. Mark Maas	CMS Advisor

Commission on Congregational Services (CCS)

Rev. Kenneth Humphrey	Chairman
Rev. James Rockhill	Chairman-Elect
Mr. Tim Lindahl	Adult Ministry/Leadership
Rev. Jon Olson	Evangelism
Rev Jonathan Lange	Marriage, Life & Family
Mr. Jeffrey Snyder	LCEF
Rev. Rene Castillero	Youth/Outdoor Ministry
Rev. Joshua Scheer	Stewardship
Rev. Richard Mueller	Student Aid & Recruitment
Mrs. Barb Schaer	LWML District President
Mr. Mark Williams	LLL District President
Rev. Ted Bourret	CCS Advisor

Commission on Ecclesiastical Services (CES)

Mr. Ken Temme	Memorial Library
Mrs. Tera Rice	Archivist
Rev. Ted Bourret	Constitutions Chairman
Mr. Larry Harrington	District Legal Counsel
Rev. Darren Pflughoeft	Chairman of Reconcilers
Rev. Mark Mumme	Ministerial Growth and Support
Rev. Paul Cain	Education Chairman
Rev. Jeffrey Grams	Worship Chairman
Rev. Ted Bourret	Communications Chairman

Wyoming District Reconcilers

Rev. Darren Pflughoeft (Chairman)
Rev. Kenneth Mars
Mr. Ronald Mischnick
Rev. Marvin Temme (Facilitator)

Wyoming District Pastor Conference Committee

Rev. Marcus Baikie	Chairman
Rev. Jais Tinglund	Secretary
Rev. Mark Mumme	Program Committee
Rev. Neil Carlson	Program Committee

Tell the Good News about Jesus Convocation Committee

Rev. Jon Olson (facilitator)

Summary of Board of Director Meetings

During the regularly scheduled Board of Directors (hereafter BOD) meetings, reports were received from committee chairmen, board members, the district treasurer, and minutes from the district secretary. The following is a summary of major board decisions and actions since the publication of the 2018 Wyoming District Board of Directors Report. All regularly scheduled meetings were held at the Lutheran Ministries Center in Casper, Wyoming or via Zoom.

March 20, 2018

The BOD returned money designated for the District High School Task Force back to the fund designated from the sale of the District President's Residence.

The BOD approved a motion to investigate an offer on property owned by the District in Star Valley, Wyoming.

Note: No special session of the BOD was held immediately following the conclusion of the 2018 District Convention

May 22, 2018

Current and newly elected members of the BOD were in attendance.

The BOD approved the dual parish agreement between Mt. Calvary, Bayard and St. James, Scottsbluff. The BOD also approved revised Constitution and Bylaws for Grace English, Pine Bluffs.

The District Convention approved all resolutions submitted for revision. We will update the handbook to reflect those changes and distribute the 2018 handbook by fall pastoral conference. A few items will need to be submitted to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters. The BOD adopted a motion to approve all official acts (elections and resolutions) of the District Convention as recorded in the provisional District Convention Minutes with final approval of the Minutes to be conducted later via email. The BOD also adopted a motion to destroy the convention election ballots.

The BOD approved a motion to authorize President Hill to continue gathering information for a library renovation project from funds in the pre-existing Library Fund.

The BOD approved a motion to deed the Star Valley Property to Christ Our Savior congregation.

Mr. Andrew Beyeler was appointed to serve as district treasurer for the next three years.

Rev. Mark Maas, First Vice-president elect, was elected to be the chairman of the BOD.

The out-going members of the BOD were thanked for their service to the District. Newly elected members of the BOD were reminded that they do not officially take office until thirty (30) days following the conclusion of the District Convention.

The BOD approved five motions via email vote between the May and August BOD meetings.

Via email votes, the BOD adopted two motions related to LCMS School Ministry. One motion requested revisions to the Synod program to help start schools, the Genesis Project. The other motion proposed an alternate National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) fee structure.

Via an email vote, the BOD approved the final form of District Convention Resolutions.

Via an email vote, the BOD approved the dual parish agreement for Trinity, Rock Springs and Emmanuel, Green River.

Finally, via an email vote, the BOD approved Electoral Circuit Exceptions for the Chimney Rock Circuit and the combined Yellowstone/Headwaters Circuit and asked that the exceptions be granted by the President of Synod.

August 28, 2018

The BOD met on Monday, August 27 for an In-Service to review the role and responsibilities of the Wyoming District BOD and its officers, including a review of the Board Manual and District Properties.

At its Tuesday meeting, Rev. Cain presented the Minutes from the District Administrative Team (DAT), highlighting the role of the DAT, Convention resolutions requiring further action (including submission to Synod), the new District Triennial themes, and Assignments in process.

The BOD ratified the appointment of the following facilitators on the CCS:

Mr. Tim Lindahl	Adult Ministry/Leadership
Rev. Jon Olson	Evangelism
Mr. Jeffrey Snyder	Foundation/LCEF
Rev. Jonathan Lange	Marriage, Life, and Family
(note convention-change)	
Rev. Joshua Scheer	Stewardship

Rev. Richard Mueller and Mr. Jack Hyde	Student Aid & Recruitment:
Rev. James Rockhill	Youth/Outdoor Ministry

The BOD approved the appointment of the following facilitators on the CMS:

Mr. Chuck Hall	Campus Missions
Rev. Vern Boehlke	Ethnic Missions (Indian, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)
Rev. Allan Wierschke	Missions Development
Rev. Noah Fremer	Missions Support

The BOD approved three motions related to Wind River Lutheran Mission (WRLM). The BOD approved a motion authorizing Rev. Sonnenschein to find local rental housing. The BOD moved to redesignate \$44,000 for the WRLM sewer project toward general WRLM use. The BOD appointed a committee to address WRLM physical and ecclesiastical issues.

The BOD approved the appointment of Mr. Mike Wendorf to serve as the District's property trustee.

The BOD approved the appointment of Commission on Ecclesiastical Services Area Facilitators:

Mrs. Tera Rice	Archivist
Rev. Kenneth Humphrey	Communications
Rev. Paul Cain	Education/NLSA Commissioner:
Mr. Ken Temme	Library
Rev. Mark Mumme	Ministerial Growth and Support/Continuing Education
Rev. Darren Pflueghoeft	Reconciliation
Rev. Jeffery Grams	Worship

The BOD appointed Rev. Paul Cain as the BOD Advisory Representative to the 2019 LCMS Convention.

The BOD approved the Draft District Calendar.

The BOD adopted a motion to nominate the Rev. Randall Golter for the vacant position on the Concordia St. Louis Board of Regents.

The BOD adopted new Pastor Compensation Guidelines and approved health insurance changes for Mr. Snyder, pending review and approval of President Hill and Mr. Beyeler.

The BOD adopted a motion to nominate Judge Ruth Neeley for the Miles Christi (Soldier of Christ) Award at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne.

October 23, 2018

The BOD discussed a motion to adopt a Consent Agenda that would approve reports received by adopting the Agenda for a meeting. No action was taken, but having reports available in advance was deemed very helpful (Minutes, Treasurer, CCS, CMS, Constitutions, Trustee, District President).

CCS Chairman Kenneth Humphrey reported that Wyoming District Facebook pages will be consolidated into one.

The BOD adopted a motion to appoint Rev. Scott Firminhac as Ethnic Ministries Facilitator for the CMS.

The BOD adopted a motion approving a governance change at Emmanuel, Green River, moving from four Elders to three.

President Hill reported that Rev. Sherman of Grace, Gordon, is also serving a Nebraska District LCMS congregation at Merriman. A long-term arrangement may lead to a preaching station, a dual parish, and possible transfer of the congregation to the Wyoming District.

Pr. Lange and Rev. Secretary Cain reviewed which resolutions need to be submitted to Synod. Rev. Cain will submit 2018 Resolutions 1-01, 1-02, 1-03, 1-05, 1-06, 3-01, and 4-02 as Overtures to the 2019 LCMS Convention. Pr. Lange will identify what in-district implementation needs to take place for convention resolutions and will inform the District Administrative Team (DAT).

Rev. Secretary Cain and Rev. President Hill met in October to update the District Handbook.

The BOD adopted a motion providing a housing allowance for Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein, WRLM Missionary.

November 20, 2018

The BOD met via video conference call (Zoom) to review all Wyoming District investments and designated funds.

The BOD adopted the following motions:

1) The BOD moves to change the designation on the “2014 Koinonia Project” fund to be designated for “Synodical Relations”.

2) The BOD moves to change the restrictions on the following Temporarily Restricted Investments to be temporarily restricted for “WRLM – General Support”

- a. Indian Student Scholarship
- b. Kaun Investment

3) The BOD moves to change the designation of the “High School Task Force” fund to be designated for “Parish Schools – Wyoming District”

4) The BOD moves to recognize the following accounts and balances as permanently restricted endowments:

- a. St Andrew’s campus Endowment Fund - \$15,000
- b. St Andrew’s Luth. Campus Center Endowment - \$36,531.14

c. St Andrew AAL Endowment Fund - \$10,225.66

5) The BOD moves to recognize \$20,000 of the St Andrew's Lutheran Campus Cong Scholarship as a permanently restricted endowment and the remaining balance of \$33,578.90 as temporarily restricted.

6) The BOD moves to recognize St Andrew's Lutheran C.C. Scholarship as temporarily restricted (\$8,942.06).

7) The BOD moves to re-designate the "District Youth Gathering" funds to be used for "Youth Fellowship Activities"

8) The BOD moves to recognize \$20,000 of the St Andrew's Thrivent – inactive operating endowments as a permanently restricted endowment and the remaining balance of \$48,384.30 as temporarily restricted.

9) The BOD moves to change the Fiscal Year End of the Wyoming District – LCMS to December 31. This change will be effective immediately and the current fiscal year will be January 16, 2018 –December 31, 2018.

January 22, 2019

The BOD continued its long-term study of the Augsburg Confession led by President Hill.

A final copy of the Dual Parish Agreement between Emmanuel, Green River and Trinity, Rock Springs has been received by the Constitutions Chairman.

Revised Constitution and Bylaws were approved for Shepherd of the Valley, Fort Bridger, Prince of Peace, Buffalo, and Immanuel, Alliance.

Mr. Wendorf shared an extensive Trustee report. Utilities to the former WRLM parsonage are being disconnected. The balance due the District on the Hanna property is approximately \$12,000.

A proposal was adopted by the BOD to remodel the basement of the Lutheran Ministries Center to provide a better library and study space. Rev. Keuck donated his library to the District.

A meeting with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis is still in the works.

President Hill instituted a larger quarterly District Roundup.

Discussion was held about a past convention resolution mandating that the district maintain a \$75,000 balance of unrestricted funds in checking. (The chair asked that Secretary Cain locate the resolution under discussion so that we can look at the actual wording of the resolution.) Rev. Cain subsequently found the adopted resolution in the 1994 Convention Proceedings, 2-01-94

The BOD approved the District's 2019 balanced budget.

A revised Housing Allowance resolution was adopted by the BOD for Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein.

It was unanimously held that Mr. Snyder and President Hill have the authority to move forward on the District website.

The BOD adopted a motion via email in February.

The motion accepted an offer to purchase the WRLM mobile home (former parsonage) and move it at no additional cost to the District.

March 26, 2019

Rev. Ted Bourret, Second Vice President, chaired the BOD meeting.

Rev. Cain reported that he will serve as Secretary of LCMS Convention Floor Committee 3, Mercy, with Bishop/President Jamison Hardy of the English District. President Hill will serve as Chairman of Floor Committee 6.

The CMS approved assistance to Christ Our Savior, Star Valley, retroactive from January through June 2019. Deed paperwork for COS is still pending. CMS plans to send a representative to the 2019 Rural/Small Town Ministry Conference in November.

Based on a CCS survey, there is not much of a Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) presence in the District. The last elected LLL District President, Mr. Mark Williams, is now a member at Immanuel, Sheridan. Rev. Cain has been meeting with him. Rev. Cain is the contact with national LLL for now.

Rev. Cain reported that our schools in Casper and Riverton recently had accreditation visits from the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education. Rev. Lincoln Winter's book *Fixing Confirmation* is a good resource for schools as well as pastors, parents, and congregations. Immanuel, Alliance has requested two teachers from our Concordias.

Mr. Wendorf, Trustee, reported that the sale of the Hanna property has been completed. Proceeds of about \$9000 have been received by the District.

May 21, 2019

When possible, the BOD prays Matins at Mount Hope with the children of Mount Hope Lutheran School.

The BOD approved the appointment of Rev. René G. Castellero as Youth Ministry Facilitator.

There was initial discussion of combining the CCS and CMS.

Revised Bylaws for Our Savior, Cheyenne and Mount Hope, Casper were approved by the BOD.

Rev. Cain, Rev. Castellero, and Rev. Rockhill will serve as some of the preachers and liturgists for the annual Conference of the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education in July on the campus of Concordia, Chicago. CCLE is now a RSO of the LCMS.

August 27, 2019

The Treasurer reported that the Financial Committee is working on a plan for consolidating investments before the October meeting.

The BOD approved revised Bylaws for Zion, Douglas.

Rev. Cain reported that the National Accreditation Commission plans to raise National Lutheran School Accreditation annual fees \$50 per year in perpetuity. They will be \$650, no matter how large or tiny a school is. Mrs. Betty Garwood was recognized by the CCLE as Magistra Magna, Master Teacher, by the CCLE BOD. Mount Hope, Casper was recognized as an Exemplary School. Rev. Cain received certification as a Classical Lutheran Administrator. Rev. Castellero received certification as a Classical Lutheran Educator. Mount Hope, Casper agreed to host the 2020 CCLE Conference July 14-16.

The BOD adopted a revised document for Congregations in Transition and revised St. Andrew's Seminary Scholarship guidelines.

District Employee Performance Evaluations are in process.

The BOD adopted revised Compensation Guidelines for 2020.

A motion to commend Alliance Defending Freedom was presented but not acted upon.

October 22, 2019

Rev. Cain, District Secretary, was tasked to setup a private online archive for BOD records. Both the District President Administrative Assistant and the District Secretary will have access.

The Finance Committee shared a report with recommendations, including a new Investment Strategy that was adopted by the BOD.

The CCS requested that the BOD appoint a committee consisting of one member of the CMS and one member of the CMS to discuss the suggestions of Rev. Cain and Rev. Scheer about a potential merger of the commissions.

Rev. Cain as Education Exec reported that Mr. Trent Demarest was approved through the LCMS Teacher Colloquy Process.

The Star Valley property deed has been transferred to Christ Our Savior congregation and is insured by them.

The BOD nominated Ron Mischnick (Immanuel, Alliance) and Chuck Vandervort (Emmanuel, Green River) as Reconcilers.

The BOD adopted the following as a website disclaimer:

The resources linked here do not originate with an LCMS entity. "Insofar as (quatenus) they are in accord with [Article II of the LCMS constitution] they should be regarded and used as helpful interpretations and explanations" of Holy Scripture. (cf. FC SD Rule and Norm, 10 – Kolb/Wengert)."

The District calendar, as printed in the Fall 2019 Directory, was adopted.

The BOD approved a motion that CMS and CCS meet jointly at least once per year during the January budget meeting and other times as is prudent.

The committee requested by CCS was begun: Rev. Cain, Rev. Scheer, and a member of CMS TBD.

The BOD adopted a motion in support of St. Andrew's/Zion applying for a vicar.

The BOD adopted the following:

To Join the ADF Ministry Alliance

Whereas a swiftly changing legal environment is impinging on the free exercise of religion in ways that are both unpredictable and directly impact the ministry of Word and Sacrament in both church and school; and

Whereas the Alliance Defending Freedom offers sound and timely assistance to address emerging challenges to religious freedom through the ADF Church Alliance and the ADF Ministry Alliance; and

Whereas the Alliance Defending Freedom has already substantially supported both LCMS congregations as well as lay-members of LCMS congregations in ways which have a redounding benefit to the church at large; therefore, be it resolved

That the Board of Directors of the Wyoming District join the ADF Ministry Alliance, paying the annual fee of \$500; and be it finally resolved

That the Board of Directors inform the congregations of the Wyoming District that they are entitled to a 20% discount in joining the ADF Church Alliance and make use of the legal advice and support that it offers in order to be best positioned for the ongoing work of Word and Sacrament ministry.

The BOD adopted a motion to consider candidates for an Administrative Assistant to the District President (hereafter DPAA) at up to 25 hours/week at up to \$20/hour with additional development responsibilities. The BOD also approved a gift to acknowledge five years of service by Mary Grant as DPAA.

The BOD approved a plan to apply for a District LWML grant of \$4000 to support congregations sending their pastors to DOXOLOGY.

January 28, 2020

Rev. Rockhill helped Rev. Cain to establish a private online archive (ftp folder) for BOD paperwork. This will allow easy remote access for District Office archives and reference.

Rev. Mueller reported that \$27,000 was distributed in debt relief to pastors and workers in the District.

Due to a CCS Motion, expenditures in the Wyoming Pastors Network (WPN) line item in the District Budget will be approved by the CCS.

In a report to CMS about the Rural/Small Town Ministry Conference, Rev. Heinecke commended Rev. Senkbeil's presentations and new book by Lexham Press.

An amended congregational Constitution for St. John's, Lovell was approved by the BOD.

Based on the recommendations of the District Trustee, Mr. Wendorf, the BOD adopted a motion to address concerns at the Laramie parsonage and contact a Realtor to explore other housing options for Pr. Preus.

Mr. Mike Wendorf resigned as a member of the BOD and as District Trustee effective February 1, 2020 due to relocating to Prescott, AZ.

The BOD appointed Rev. Cain, Rev. Scheer (CCS), and Rev. Heinecke (CMS) to a committee to explore a possible CMS/CCS merger.

A motion to apply a portion (\$2185.39) of remaining scholarship funds to Pr. Mark Preus as debt reduction.

Various motions were made and adopted that revised the proposed 2020 District budget. A final resolution was adopted that approved a balanced 2020 District budget.

March 24, 2020

All members of the BOD participated via Zoom videoconferencing except for President Hill and Mr. Snyder.

Mr. Beyeler, Treasurer reported that we're 20% through the fiscal year, yet pledges are only at 13%. Overall expenses are coming through as normal. We are operating at a \$100,000 deficit, including a one-time \$33,000 expense for St. Andrew's heating system.

Our Synod has rejected the practice of saying that a pastor is without a Call (e.g., "both congregations shall be considered vacant") if a Multi-Parish Agreement is dissolved. A CCM

(Commission on Constitutional Matters) ruling means Wyoming District will need to change our Handbook at the next District Convention. The BOD tabled a motion to approve a revised Dual Parish Agreement for Zion, Douglas and Our Redeemer, Glenrock.

A revised Constitution for Trinity (South Divide), Sidney, NE was approved by the BOD.

Rev. Cain, Education Executive noted that District schools are taking different approaches during the “COVID-19 Interim.” He hosted a Zoom meeting with President Hill and the Casper, Riverton, and Sheridan schools. He reached out to the other two grammar schools separately and had many conversations with other District educators. He also reported that CCLE XX, scheduled for July at Mount Hope, Casper, may become online only.

President Hill noted that traveling has come to an end for at least a while. Council of Presidents meetings will be via Zoom, too. Every District is given a representative to the LCMS Foundation. We have not appointed a representative, so President Hill is that representative. Annual meeting is in November.

The BOD mission grant proposal to send pastors to DOXOLOGY was selected by the Wyoming District LWML for their slate.

In separate motions, the BOD appointed Matt Huckfeldt to complete the term of Mike Wendorf as Lay Member (until the 2021 District Convention) of the Wyoming District Board of Directors and appoint Mr. Huckfeldt as District Trustee.

The BOD approved a \$36,000 contract for consulting service with Rev. Jonathan Lange related to Marriage, Life, and Family issues.

The BOD nominated Greg Schmall for the vacancy of Layman, Great Plains Region, Board for International Mission. Rev. Cain and President Hill will submit appropriate paperwork.

The BOD discussed possible District actions, counsel, advice, schedule, events, finances, and support to congregations and pastors during the COVID-19 emergency.

April 1, 2020

Pres. Hill presented our main topic for the meeting, potentially applying for the Payroll Protection Plan under the CARES Act as the Wyoming District.

He met with the District Vice Presidents earlier in the day. Religious non-profits are eligible. There appear to be no “strings” that would limit our confession of Christ. Applicants can apply directly through the Small Business Administration or through local banks on Friday, 3 April.

A motion to apply for the loan was adopted by the BOD.

President Hill explained that Soldiers of the Cross is geared up to help workers. LCEF has deposited funds to disburse if needed through the regular application process. Preschools are a priority. No Board action is needed at this time.

Mr. Snyder and Mr. Beyeler reported on the financial condition of the District.

It was agreed by consensus to meet every two weeks during the pandemic to review our financial condition.

April 15, 2020

President Hill reported that our pastors appear to be doing well.
He is contemplating new rounds of communication with the Circuit Visitors and School.

President Hill has a weekly Council of Presidents (COP) meeting on Friday.

There will be many things to think through (regarding theology, practice, government restrictions) once we get through this.

Pr. Cain (Education) reported that he contacted our Wyoming District school headmasters.

Mr. Snyder reported that it has been quiet, given Holy Week and Easter. Some congregation are looking at Payroll Protection Plan (PPP).

The Wyoming District has received PPP funding as of April 8 through Platte Valley Bank.
The loan amount is \$71,700. Interest is 1%.

We are one of the first synodical entities to receive funding.

Qualifying spending from the loan will be forgiven. Our window closes June 8.

Mr. Beyeler is fine with what we have done. We have procedures to account for everything properly. Our first payroll will withdraw from those funds today.

Mr. Snyder reported on the financial condition of the District on behalf of Mr. Beyeler.
Congregational pledges are behind by \$40,632,06.

No changes have been made to the budget. It is too early to note any trends.

Cash Analysis includes special lines for PPP and Soldiers of the Cross.

PPP loan will be noted in Cash Analysis until it is forgiven.

We will return all of the Soldiers of the Cross funds to Synod unless we disburse them.

\$4,000 has been received and will be disbursed according to the Two Kingdoms, One Lord consultation agreement.

May 6, 2020

The Wyoming District is now only \$31,000 behind in pledges.

The PPP loan amount is \$71,700. Interest is 1%. By June 8, we expect to have spent \$69,000. We should look for a ripple financial effect 60-90 days out.

PPP loan will be noted in Cash Analysis until it is forgiven. We have a 90-day window to apply for forgiveness. We will return all of the Soldiers of the Cross funds to Synod unless we disburse them. No requests have been made for these funds yet.

Eighteen District congregations applied for PPP and received loans.

Mr. Huckfeldt, District Trustee reported on the St. Andrews parsonage. Funds are budgeted for the smaller projects and they may proceed.

Since the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education conference was cancelled, a home school conference is being planned for July 14-16.

Board members provided brief updates based on questions.

The BOD adopted a motion to move our District and St. Andrew's Checking Accounts over to Platte Valley Bank.

May 19, 2020

As directed by the BOD, Pr. Cain submitted a nomination for the LCMS Board for International Mission (Great Plains, layman) on behalf of the BOD for Gregory Schmall on April 14.

Mr. Beyeler, Treasurer, reported that we're doing OK with congregational pledges. We have been using the PPP loan for allowed expenditures. Those funds have helped. There is currently nothing noticeable in YTD spending. We are in "wait and see" mode over the next few months.

As markets took a dive in March, the financial committee refrained from converting/transferring designated funds to the LCMS Foundation. As that transfer now moves forward, there is a concern about asset allocation by going to a slightly more aggressive approach, given the uncertainty in the market.

There were many event changes announced by the CCS. The Men's Retreat will be relocated to the Lions Camp on Casper Mountain (due to the previously announced location, Camp Roberts, remaining closed). Lander Youth Camp is scheduled to proceed as announced. Volunteer counselors and staff will be needed. Some applications have already been received. Registration will be available online. Higher Things has cancelled three of five planned conferences, including the one in Colorado. It is unlikely that the conference in Michigan will be held. An online conference is a possibility. LWML President Schaer reported that the District LWML Convention will now be a one-day video conference on Saturday, June 20.

CMS reported that St. Andrew's received a vicar. Pr. Sonnenschein reported that ministry opportunities have been limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. VBS volunteers from MO are unable to travel. CMS completed a draft of a document to revise the handbook on communication guidelines for congregations in transition.

President Hill reported attending two Winkels and countless Zoom meetings. He also tracked his time on the phone. He shared a draft letter to Governor Gordon in response to his Orders.

Rev. Cain met with Rev. Scheer and Rev. Heinecke regarding a possible CCS/CMS merger. Rev. Cain presented a report and answered questions. The BOD by motion referred the report back to the committee to draft and present a conceptual resolution to the BOD regarding a merger to the 2021 Convention.

The Procedure/Communications Guidelines for Congregations in Transition document was presented to the BOD. A motion to call for its final review and for Rev. Cain and President Hill to prepare an overture on behalf of the BOD to the Convention was adopted.

August 25, 2020

Mr. Beyeler, Treasurer, noted that \$40,000 has been received from national LWML toward the Wind River van. We still have LCMS Soldiers of the Cross funds. Platte Valley Bank has been receiving PPP loan forgiveness requests as of August 10. Our loan was for \$71,700.

He also shared that operations have been doing very well. We have sufficient cash flow. YTD Received: \$326,226.94. Pledged: \$339,580.29. We are only short \$13,353.35. 2020 Revenue YTD: \$467,531.42. 2020 Expense YTD: \$508,885.79.

The CCS reported that Mr. Jack Hyde resigned from the Commission (Student Aid). John Schmall will conduct a survey of pastor and teacher indebtedness to help address the issue. Rev. Lange updated the CCS on multiple court rulings and new laws. Lander Youth Camp proceeded as planned with a record attendance.

CMS discussed the Commission Merger Committee report.

The BOD adopted a motion to establish a three-member committee to draft a sample congregational Constitution and Bylaws with review by Alliance Defending Freedom for Wyoming District Congregations.

The Education Chairman reported that the CCLE (Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education) Board honored Rev. John Hill as Magister Magnus (Master Teacher) at CCLE XX, and recognized Rev. Paul Cain and former Wyoming District teacher Diane Schnare as Certified Classical Lutheran Educators.

The District Trustee, Mr. Huckfeldt, reported that the St. Andrew's parsonage kitchen project was completed in mid-June. The driveway project was completed in August.

President Hill reported that Rev. Gerald Heinecke has been commissioned as a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. Immanuel, Alliance is putting a job description together to Call a pastor to be in charge of the school. Trinity, Riverton is looking to Call a pastor as head of school.

President Hill also shared that two sets of theses are being prepared by a pair of Wyoming District Pastors.

Rev. Cain presented an Executive Summary with Rationale for merger of our Commissions with additional information on rationale provided by Rev. Heinecke. President Hill shared a historical perspective on our Wyoming District Commissions. A sizeable number of congregations received subsidy or were mission plants. CMS used to have more to do. There is limited lay representation on our current commissions. The BOD adopted a motion to refer the report back to the Committee to provide more detail (including a brief summary of our current structure) in advance of a presentation to the Fall Conference, congregations, and the October BOD meeting toward a possible Commission merger overture for the 2021 Wyoming District Convention.

Time and place of the 2021 District Convention are set. District pastors will serve as speakers. October 2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wyoming District. The 2021 Convention is responsible to elect a layman to serve on the 2022 Committee for Convention Nominations.

By a BOD motion, President Hill, Rev. Bertram, and Rev. Maas were appointed as the Two Kingdoms, One Lord Oversight Committee.

The BOD adopted a motion to keep the 2021 Compensation Guidelines the same as the 2020 Compensation Guidelines.

There was BOD consensus to pursue a District Bylaw addition from LCMS Secretary Sias:
“When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the district secretary* and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.”

Rev. Cain, Secretary suggests the following as a Special Standing Rule for the District Convention:

“Only substantive amendments to a resolution shall be offered from the floor (those impacting its purpose or effect). Any editorial corrections or non-substantive changes to introduced resolutions should instead be shared in writing with the Secretary. Until a resolution is presented to the delegates, any such changes should be suggested directly to the floor committee chair.”

Such guidance may help clean up the District Handbook.

In addition, the BOD by consensus will allow President Hill and Secretary Cain to remove “scare quotes,” correct misspellings, fix incorrect titles, and make other editorial corrections and other non-substantive changes to the Handbook, including removing items that may be more appropriately located in the Board of Directors Manual.

October 27, 2020

Mr. Beyeler noted that we are a head of last year's receipts and are only short \$9,384.95 with regard to congregational pledges. We have held off on applying for forgiveness on the PPP loan funds. The application is done and will be submitted. We should receive 100% forgiveness.

Mr. Snyder is proceeding with the next step in consolidating our funds with the LCMS Foundation. It had been planned to be done already, but electoral and financial uncertainty reflected in the market made a delay prudent.

Rev. Olson, Evangelism Chairman, reported that the Ramkota is reserved for the Tell the Good News about Jesus (TTGNAJ) Convocation for February 5-6, 2021 with Pr. Brent Kuhlman as speaker and President Hill as banquet speaker.

CCS and CMS discussed the proposed merger report. The BOD discussed the possibility of a CCS/CMS Merger as proposed by the report. Ideas from committee: avoid "meeting just to meet", appointments of facilitators and meetings as needed by events or situations. CMS ideas and concerns: streamlining, coordination, concern that facilitator responsibilities had lessened (fewer subsidized congregation, BOD adoption of salary guidelines). CCS ideas and concerns: a concern that things were falling through the cracks, potential reduction in expenses (one chair, chair-elect, advisor). Other concerns: communication of information flowing to congregations, the workload upon single individuals, possibly fewer people knowing what's going on, possibly fewer people doing the work.

There is no consensus to proceed to the Convention with a more formal merger of CMS and CCS at this time. The BOD gave the following recommendation to the Commission Chairs: We encourage the CMS and CCS meet together in January (25th). Minutes of each Commission should be regularly shared with the other. The BOD commended the merger committee for its work.

The BOD approved revised Constitution and Bylaws for Bethlehem, Crawford, St. Andrew's, Laramie, and St. Luke's, Worland.

Rev. Cain, Education Chairman, asked the CCLE BOD that Mount Hope, the intended host of XX be given first right of refusal to host the next time the West is up on rotation in 2023. The seven sessions on the Progymnasmata from our guest speaker (via Zoom) at Fall Teacher Conference are available on Pr. Cain's YouTube channel. Rev. Cain and Rev. Lange attended a meeting the afternoon of October 6 at the LMC with educators, legislators, and experts on school choice to possibly work toward such legislation in the State of Wyoming.

Rev. Castellero will be participating in his first CCLE accreditation visitation team this week. Mrs. Jill Mueller will be participating in her first CCLE accreditation visitation team in early November. That early November visit will be to Wyoming District school Trinity, Cheyenne.

Trustee Matt Huckfeldt reported that furnace work is now complete at St. Andrew's. Fire suppression was checked and is good for another ten years. Other projects are in process or ongoing. Contractors are reviewing city-approved plans for the LMC Library.

Rev. Heinecke, the next CMS Chair, and Rev. Firminhac, Ethnic Ministry Facilitator, have had conversations on how to support the Wind River Lutheran Mission, including a possible land swap (Hines General store property behind a proposed new fire hall). They are currently gathering information and assessing interest. Mr. Wendorf had shared that the septic field for the church building has exceeded its useful life.

The BOD approved a Ministry Agreement with Mount Calvary, Dubois.

Secretary Cain received approval of the BOD by motion to craft an Overture to the Convention to adopt a proposal to maintain the District Handbook.

The BOD, via motion, expressed its support to Mount Hope, Casper, to found Luther Classical College.

January 26, 2021

Pr. Cain is working with President Hill and DPAA (District President Administrative Assistant) Tiffany Hoff on the Convention Workbook, including the DP/VP Nomination Report, Delegate names, and summaries of BOD Minutes.

Treasurer Beyeler reported that we applied for and received forgiveness for the PPP loan. Mr. Beyeler noted that over the last four years, if we remove one-time items, we are trending in a good direction. Congregation receipts exceeded pledges by over \$58,000.

Mr. Snyder explained that the balance sheet is approximately \$200k lower (in properties and unrestricted assets) due to the removal of the Star Valley church and land that was on our books, but the final audit of 2019 shows it now removed.

CCS reports that Rev. Scheer believes that the Heath Curtis presentations had the biggest impact and suggested having something similar done again in the future. Individual presentations at congregations do not seem to have much impact. Further discussions need to be held about helping congregations with building projects with Laborers for Christ ceasing operations. Regarding scholarships, Rev. Mueller reported four students at Seward and one at Fort Wayne. Mr. Snyder reported that Zion, Laramie's loan has been finalized.

The CCS had extensive discussion for the second year in a row regarding the Wyoming Pastors Network line item in the District budget.

CMS heard reports on the visit to WRLM by Rev. Firminhac and Rev. Heinecke. Rev. Fremer reported on subsidy requests from Evanston and Saratoga. The BOD approved subsidy for both congregations.

Rev. Cain desires to conclude his service District Education Executive and NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) Commissioner for Wyoming District at the end of the current Triennium. The two roles may be done by two different people. All Ecclesiastical Commission positions are appointed by the District President.

President Hill reported receipt of \$4000 from District LWML to send pastors to DOXOLOGY. Only two of our visitation circuits meet the requirement of a Synod electoral circuit. COP plans to meet in-person in April at Fort Wayne.

The BOD discussed line item 7370-355 for WPN in light of Bylaw 3.405 d. After a significant time spent in conversation, the BOD adopted a motion designating the line item as Events with the understanding that the facilitator will work with the District President and the CCS on expenditure of these funds.

A resolution to rewrite the School Grant Guidelines based on the current Church Worker Assistance Guidelines was adopted.

A proposed Constitutional amendment shared with the Wyoming District in a letter from Secretary Sias (2019-12-04) will be sent as an Overture to the Wyoming District Convention.

The BOD also adopted a resolution as an Overture to the District Convention “To Provide for Ongoing Care for the Wyoming District Handbook.”

The BOD agreed to fund the Lutheran Seminary in Sierra Leone from District funds in the amount of \$2500.

The BOD approved the District’s 2021 balanced budget.

Summarized and condensed by Rev. Paul J Cain, Secretary, Wyoming District Board of Directors



ARCHIVIST REPORT

Tera Rice, District Archivist

Archives of the District are part of the Wyoming District Memorial Library. Records are kept for each congregation of the District, and it is important that booklets and bulletins of anniversaries, dedications, ordinations and installations, or any special occasion be sent to the archives. Newspaper clippings and pictures also help to preserve the history of a congregation, pastor, and auxiliary.

When sending clippings, it is important to have the name of the newspaper and date on the article. Copies of historical items are also sent to the Historical Institute in St. Louis. Send all of the items to the District office marked "Archives."

I thank all of you for your help in keeping your congregation's records up to date for our Wyoming District History. I have filed materials according to the guidelines I have been given.



LCMS - WYOMING DISTRICT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Ken Temme, Chairman

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be Glory now and forever." 2 Peter 3:18*

As we reflect on the objective of the WY District Library, we must be reminded that the WY District Library's purpose is to make available to Congregations, Lay Persons, Officers, Pastors, and Teachers of the District such Books, Materials, Articles, Archives, Translations, and Audio-Visual Materials to assist, support, and enhance the general Call of all Christians and the particular Call of the Office of the Ministry.

There are four specific functions and areas of focus. These are:

1. To house and maintain the District Archives.
2. To house the District Audio Visual Library
3. To house Books and Materials suitable for use by Pastors, Teachers, and Lay Leaders, and
4. To encourage, produce, promote and distribute translations of "Lutheran Heritage" works.

Our biggest challenge continues to be our ability to communicate to the pastors, teachers and member congregations of the WY District the materials available for use within the WY District Library. Our current Audio-Visual Catalog is a hard paper copy. A review of electronic cataloging systems allowing direct electronic communication is ongoing. While several systems have been identified, work is in progress to determine an electronic system which best meets the WY District's needs. In the coming year, our goal is to complete the review and begin the transition to an electronic cataloging system.

Following conversion to electronic cataloging, our goals are as follows:

- Update current catalog of all WY District Library materials including a review of current materials and recently received publications and books,
- Provided an updated catalog to the WY District,
- Meet with the BOD to review improved WY District Library information communication throughout the WY District,
- Continue to request, review and obtain new library material and data, and
- Evaluate and implement means and methods for more effective use of the WY District Library material.

Current remodeling work underway at the WY District office will allow greater use of the basement area for in-person and virtual meetings, study areas, and expansion of the WY District Library needs. This will also allow additional bookshelves to be added in the current library room.

We thank Pastors Richard Keuck and Lowell Kayser for their recent donations from their personal libraries now that they have retired from full-time ministry. We pray that these will be a blessing to current and future pastors within the WY District.

Luther's Works - While some theologians want to delve into Luther's Works on their computer using an English translation, others may prefer the opportunity of hands-on study of the volumes in the original German typeface. The complete set in German of Dr. Martin Luther's *Sämtliche Schriften*, Concordia Publishing House, 1880-1910 is available for use in the WY District Library. This set, along with other books both in German and English, were donated from the personal library of Rev. Theodore Gerken (1914-1995). Some of the books had also been used by his father, Rev. Augustus Gerken (1888-1960) during his ministry.



WYOMING DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY REPORTS

Three Year Summarized Budget Comparison				
	Actual Expenses			Projected Expenses
	<u>2018*</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Synodical Budget Pledge</u>	<i>Shorter Fiscal Year</i>			
Higher Education, World Missions, Congregational Services & Administration, etc.	\$147,000.00	\$147,000.00	\$147,000.00	\$150,000.00
<u>District Mission Projects</u>				
Program Administration, District Mission Work, Campus Ministry, Subsidized Congregations, & Institutional Ministries	\$227,525.00	\$261,342.00	\$259,522.00	\$260,084.00
<u>Student Assistance</u>				
Student Aid & Recruitment, Schwieger & Fern Preis Scholarship, LWML Scholarship, Jensen & Splittgerber Scholarships	\$44,132.00	\$52,547.50	\$46,309.00	\$58,100.00
<u>Congregational Services</u>				
Program Administration, Adult Education, Outdoor & Youth Ministry, Evangelism, Stewardship, Human Care & Family Ministries	\$24,512.00	\$33,199.00	\$27,064.00	\$40,650.00
<u>Ecclesiastical Administration</u>				
President's Office, Vice Presidents and Circuit Counselors, Reconcilers, District Board of Education, DP Discretionary Fund	\$155,190.00	\$168,636.00	\$166,871.00	\$181,790.00
<u>District Administration</u>				
Financial & General Office, Board of Directors, Properties, Synod/District Conventions, Workshops, Pastors Conferences, Continuing Education, LCEF, Memorial Library, etc.	\$242,723.00	\$254,657.00	\$255,921.00	\$275,338.00
Total Expenditures (minus depreciation)	<u>\$841,082.00</u>	<u>\$917,381.50</u>	<u>\$902,687.00</u>	<u>\$965,962.00</u>
Total Income - (Actual & Projected)	<u>\$803,547.00</u>	<u>\$872,483.00</u>	<u>\$931,198.00</u>	<u>\$875,831.00</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(\$37,535.00)</u>	<u>(\$44,898.50)</u>	<u>\$28,511.00</u>	<u>(\$90,131.00)</u>
Assets/Investments for Expenditure Offset	<u>\$27,373.00</u>	<u>\$44,993.00</u>	<u>\$18,952.00</u>	<u>\$90,852.00</u>
District Capital Surplus (cumulative)	<u>-\$10,162.00</u>	<u>\$94.50</u>	<u>\$47,463.00</u>	<u>\$721.00</u>

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2018

TOTAL 2018 PLEDGED AMOUNT	
	\$ 580,188.00

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2019

TOTAL 2019 PLEDGED AMOUNT		
	\$ 598,405.72	

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

TOTAL 2020 PLEDGED AMOUNT	
\$	582,937.67

MISSION AND MINISTRY- REPORTS

Commission of Mission Services (CMS)

Rev. James Martin, Chairman

The Commission of Mission Services is served by the following members:

Chairman- Rev. James Martin

Chairman Elect- Rev. Gerald Heinecke

Campus Ministry Facilitator- Mr. Chuck Hall

Ethnic Ministry Facilitator- Rev. Scott Firminhac

Missions Development Facilitator- Rev. Allan Wierschke

Mission Support Facilitator- Rev. Noah Fremer

LWML District President- Mrs. Barbara Shaer

LLL District President- Mr. Mark Williams

Marriage, Life, and Family Facilitator- Rev. Jonathan Lange

CMS Advisor- Rev. Mark Maas

The Commission on Mission Services provides reports and recommendations to the Wyoming District Board of Directors in its efforts to support a number of important entities within our district. Following is a brief synopsis of the Commission's responsibilities.

The Commission provides mission support to Wind River Lutheran Mission at Ft. Washakie and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center at the University of Wyoming. It also provides oversight to all of the district's subsidized congregations. It reviews and recommends the yearly budget expenses for these congregations to the Board of Directors, including their ongoing maintenance needs. The Rev. Noah Fremer currently serves as the facilitator in this position.

Mr. Chuck Hall serves as the Commission's facilitator for campus missions, reaching out to all of the students attending colleges within the district. This includes the University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY; Chadron State College, Chadron NE; Casper College, Casper, WY; Central Wyoming Community College, Riverton, WY; Eastern Wyoming Community College, Torrington, WY; Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, WY; Northwest Community College, Powell, WY; Sheridan Community College, Sheridan, WY; Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff, NE; and Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs, WY.

The Rev. Allan Wierschke serves as facilitator of Missions Development. This branch of the Commission researches and provides recommendations for mission opportunities within the district, such as Hispanic ministries, broadcast radio ministry, new congregation missions, etc.

The Rev. Scott Firminhac serves as the facilitator for Ethnic Missions to provide support and input to the Commission in its outreach to minorities, particularly the Native Americans living on the reservations within the Wyoming District.

The Commission is also blessed to be served by advisory members. They include the Rev. Mark Maas, 1st Vice-President of the Wyoming District, Mr. Mark Williams, president of the Wyoming District Lutheran Laymen's League, and Mrs. Barb Schaer, president of the Wyoming District Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The Commission on Mission Services remains ready to serve every member of the Wyoming District in any way it can. It covets your prayers and is eager to listen to and respond to your suggestions. On behalf of the members of this Commission, I praise God and thank you for your support.

MISSIONS

Rev. Noah Fremer, Facilitator

In the areas of supporting our missions, God's work continues and is ongoing with the two subsidized congregations that remain under our care. Platte Valley, Saratoga and Our Savior, Evanston continue to receive direct financial assistance and continue to be diligent in their respective locations. Despite the COVID epidemic and the many challenges thereof, both congregations and their pastors (Rev. Randolph Schnack in Saratoga, Rev. Jonathan Lange in Evanston) are doing their duty to the Lord and to the community and we thank them for their service.

The Mission Support arm of the Commission, and the congregations discussed previously, have worked to reduce expenditure and allocation of resources to the best of ability. COVID, fluctuating energy markets, and all the other challenges facing the Wyoming District today remain. In light of this, Mission Support has focused on meeting the needs that we have as opposed to adding new ones.

Prayer is the first and last weapon of the Christian church and we ask that intercession be made for the district, the congregations we support, and the church at large.



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center – Laramie, WY

Rev. Mark Preus

To my brothers and sisters in the Wyoming District,

God has blessed the last three years at St. Andrew's with fruitful work in His harvest. There have been a dozen baptisms, as many and more confirmations, and several weddings. We now

have 8 young families, including mine (if I may call myself young!) with some 25 children. This growth is due in large part to two of our members, Ocean Andrew and Hunter Andersen, fixing the headquarters for their company *On the Hook Fish and Chips* in Laramie. Many of their employees attend St. Andrew's. God has blessed us through their love for His Word.

The families' presence has helped us be able to fix the organ and fund a vicar. This has been helpful to me, since the work of running after college students can be very tiring, and to have an Aaron to hold up my hands is very much appreciated. We intend to have a vicar this next year as well. It is nice to have someone closer to the students' age being trained to be a pastor. The experience is sharpening my knowledge and assessment of what needs to be done at a campus ministry. Campus ministry is the mission of St. Andrew's, and what we spend our time on. The young families, most of whom attended here as students, fully support this, and want to see it thrive and continue.

In the last year St. Andrew's Lutheran Church has been through this turbulent time as have you all, with a lot of challenges, but by God's grace we are weathering the storm, so to speak. We have had full services since Easter of 2020, and our attendance has suffered only a little, with many of the older students still attending. Unfortunately, very few freshmen have come to church at all. This is due to a few factors. First, there was no freshmen orientation in person this year, and so the usual list of some 20 LCMS Lutherans didn't exist. Second, many freshmen, as well as upperclassmen, simply stayed at home instead of going to Laramie only to do school online. Finally, even those few freshmen who are coming (there are about 3 or 4), came very rarely, since every time someone with whom they had contact contracted Covid, they would have to quarantine for 14 days.

Nevertheless, some came to events outside of Sunday morning, including Theology on Tap, led by the vicar, Matins, Bible Study, and Vespers. Attendance in these varies tremendously, depending on the week, but we still have at least a dozen in midweek Bible Study, and around 40 for midweek Vespers. Matins gathers anywhere from 5-10, but the spoken divine service Wednesday mornings sees at least 10 and even 20 some weeks. Sunday morning Bible Study attendance has risen with the smaller families joining. It averages about 25-30. We should be starting a Sunday school again soon, which we dropped because of Covid last year. In the last three years our average attendance for Sunday morning divine service during the school year has been about 75, where it is right now, but in some years is higher, closer to 80-85. About 15-25 of these are students, depending on the Sunday.

The young families here at St. Andrew's have been a great boon to the congregation. They offer an encouraging picture and example to many college students who are taught that career and money are all that they are studying for. Every Sunday you have to step carefully so as not to run over a little kid running around. The parents find babysitters here!

About 15 members, including about 10 students, have been joining in to help tutor my children since last year. This has been a wonderful novelty that we pray will continue. The students donate 1-3 hours a week, which they can put on their resumes, get to know other students who are tutoring, and are able to contribute to helping build the church. We hope eventually to hire a teacher, but the funds simply aren't there right now. Even if we do hire a teacher, we plan to

keep the students as tutors, incorporating St. Andrew's vital and indispensable mission to the college students into the growth and overall duty of a congregation to assist parents in teaching their children God's word and all good and useful knowledge and arts.

Right now, the students have been helping tutor the children in Latin, math, science, history, literature, piano, and strings, as well as a few fun courses on photography and other things. This semester they will also be learning some cooking, gun maintenance and use, economics, sewing and hopefully skiing. My children are receiving a good education!

The vicar began his work on June 10th, and he has been growing steadily ever since. He has recently begun in earnest to exercise and eat well, which is building his confidence. Whatever deficiencies he has are being helped by the work he does here. He helps me teach adult catechumens (we have confirmed 4 in the last year and still have 3 we are teaching), as well as Wednesday Bible Study, and his taking over the Theology on Tap on Monday nights is especially helpful to me, since I had to drop doing that to be with my family several years ago.

The vicar is also learning to preach. He preaches once a month on Sunday and once a month during the midweek. He is learning to study in a way he never did at seminary. I am having him memorize Walther's Theses on Law and Gospel, as well as dozens of good Bible passages. He never read Pieper at seminary (can you believe that??), so he will have all three volumes finished by the end of his time here. He visits shut-ins with Pr. Debowey from Zion and helps him with youth confirmation. Vicar Dane Breitung gets along well with the members here. He is a charming young Lutheran man and is learning to be well suited to the pastoral office. We hope and pray to get another vicar this year.

St. Andrew's raised the salary of Kantor Hoffman this year for a couple of reasons. First, he lost his job at the university, and so lost some income. Second, we would like his skills to be passed on to Lutherans who will be able to continue the blessing of an organ with any congregations they move to. Kantor has five organ students this semester, starting this week Thursday. We would also like him to participate in some organ workshops in the district as well. Pr. Mark Maas and I have talked about this and need to get together again to arrange this.

Although many of the students were already gone, I kept my Christmas party this year, and it was a fun and huge success. The parsonage Christmas party is a wonderful event! We carol around my neighborhood, and then we have wood-chopping, ice-dancing (on my ice rink), and nagel-schlagen contests. The neighborhood is getting to know our caroling, and this year they were especially grateful for the Christmas cheer we spread. I tell the students, "We're going to go caroling and inflict Christianity on my neighborhood!" We often have a few parts in harmony learned. It is a fun time that brings people closer together and forges friendships. We have one couple who was just married this past fall who had their first dance together on our ice rink at the parsonage Christmas party! Becky and I have hosted other events like this, as well as several students to my house, because the times are so lonely, and many have no one to be with in real person. I shudder to think of all the freshmen Lutherans who don't know about us here, or who are too afraid to go to church because of various fears and threats that they face within and without. God bring them to Church to the one thing needful!

We postponed the Youth Breakaway to February since Laramie has many that are stringent in coviding everyone. I invented that verb. It has two meanings. *to covid* (verb) 1. To cough or sneeze in the vicinity of people; 2. To enforce with the fear of death and social ostracism various rules and regulations which may or may likely not have any effect on the spread of Covid-19. *Examples: You just covided all over me! Thou shalt not covid. Let's covid that Church until the Gospel is silenced and no one goes there!*

The Breakaways have been going very well. I have an able corps of volunteers to help out and monitor all the youth who come, and the pastors in the district are eager and willing to teach. After having attended Lander Camp this past Summer and seeing many of the same students, I thank God for the Christian culture that He is cultivating among us! I pray that God give us a confessional Lutheran classical college where these young people can learn and fall in love and get married.

The latest Breakaway of February 19-21 was a wonderful time, but we had a LOT of students in our little building. 80 is too much! So we are going to have two retreats in the future, a high school and a junior high retreat, one in the Fall, another in the Spring, God willing.

I pray that the University will open up more this semester and next year, but it doesn't look good. I heard from a member that even freshmen orientation is likely to be online again this year. God save us from the "new normal!" Our district's mission to the college students is severely hampered by the stringent rules of the University, although in some ways, it has brought us closer together and strengthened the fellowship we have.

We have had a few miscarriages in our congregation, which has been sad, but we have also had a few births and are expecting some more babies! Three matrons in our congregation are expecting a baby. It is wonderful to see the smiles on students' faces when they see cute little babies! We hear the coos and cries of little children every Sunday. "If the church ain't crying, the church is dying!" someone once said, and now I say it all the time!

The health of the congregation is overall very good. God has used the trying times of the past year to draw us closer together. Many strong bonds of friendship have been formed, and there is a lot of help coming from students to each other, as well as from young mothers and fathers for each other.

The parsonage got a new driveway this Summer, which is very nice and spacious! But the best part was when Matt and Linda Huckfeldt redid our kitchen, knocking out some windows in the two walls and putting in new cupboards and cabinets. The difference has been truly life-changing for Becky, and so very helpful. They also fixed a part of the wood flooring that had decayed due to a leaking dishwasher, and put tile there instead, which fits because that is where the door to the deck is. Becky and I are so very thankful to God for the Huckfeldts. We have a few trustees, especially Jason Shute and Austin Bubash, who come by the house and fix things for us, for which we are also very grateful. Gradually and steadily the parsonage is not only being maintained, but being improved!

My dad retired from the ministry in August, but his and my mom's new retirement home is not yet finished in Minnesota, so they have been living in my brother Samuel's basement apartment since November. Their presence here has brought us a lot of joy in this hard year, and my dad's counsel has helped me tremendously, especially with the vicar.

I think I could say more. It has been such a strange year. Somehow God has kept things together, and we are still His children, relying on His grace and mercy every day of our lives. The Lord bless His work here among us and grant that many find grace here at St. Andrew's.



Ethnic Ministries

Rev. Scott Firminhac, Facilitator

No Report



Wind River Lutheran Missions – Fort Washakie, WY

Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein

Pre-Covid

Sunday services alternate between Divine Services 3 and 4 with every Sunday Communion. Bulletins that contain the entire service are available for visitors and those who find the service in the hymnal problematic. Confession and Absolution continues to be placed just before the Service of the Sacrament to accommodate members with punctuality difficulties. The average attendance is 12.

Sunday school is held in the early afternoon. Two passenger vans are used to transport the children. In 2020, a grant given through the national LWML allowed the mission to replace the older van with a 2019 fifteen-passenger Ford Transit. This generous gift will allow us to safely transport more children at one time without having to make multiple runs. The program begins with Bible songs and then the children are divided by age into two groups. Two classes are held simultaneously. Afterward, snacks are distributed, and the children play outside until it is time to be taken home. The Mormons began ramping up their activities which affected our numbers in 2019-2020. Since they offer full meals on Sunday, many of our regular attendees were drawn away by their families. The average attendance before they reopened their facility was 36. Afterwards, that dropped to 21. While disappointing, this smaller group did allow us more individual attention with the children who continued to attend. Sunday school is not held during the summer due to numerous tribal and family activities.

Evening "Monday" school continues at Big Wind Hall in Crowheart. The average attendance is 4.

A Children's Christmas program was traditionally held on Christmas Eve at Fort Washakie. In 2018 the tribes began holding pow-wows on that evening which greatly affected attendance. To rectify this, we changed the program to the Sunday evening before Christmas. Unfortunately, the tribes also decided to have another pow-wow that evening also. For example, in 2017, 40 children participated. In 2018 that dropped to 10. With the schedule change in 2019 and the additional pow-wow we had 13. Sloppy Joe's are still served after the program along with other side dishes the children's families bring.

Sunday services at the local nursing begin at 9:00 a.m. and run approximately 45 minutes. Rachel provides music on the piano. The average attendance is 13.

Sunday Bible study at the mission is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. To encourage participation, a hot breakfast is served. Classes for both adults and children are offered. The average attendance is 8.

Studies at the Fort Washakie jail are held on Thursday evenings. I am still the only pastor allowed into the facility. Studies are held in both the men's and women's blocks. Each block runs from 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours. Occasionally, studies are canceled due to prison lockdown or inmates refusing me entrance into the cell. Attendance for each block averages around 12. Clothing giveaways continue twice monthly, except during June, July, and December. The donations we have received are very much appreciated.

In 2018 we hosted sixteen members from Pathfinder Church (formally St. John Lutheran Church, Ellisville, MO) for VBS. The average attendance over two days was 46 children. Their work at the mission included painting the front ramp, back porch, garage trim, and women's bathroom and landscaping/seeding the back lawn.

Post Covid

The mission was closed March 14, 2020 due to reservation restrictions. Just prior to this the nursing home went into full quarantine. The jail would not allow any visitation the following week. Sunday school and the clothing give-away was also cancelled. The meeting hall at Crowheart was closed, effectively canceling us there. After submitting a reopening plan to the tribe and Indian Health Services we began services in Fort Washakie on June 7. The jail and nursing home are currently still closed to the public. Because of possible liability issues we have not yet restarted the Sunday school program or the clothing give-away. Pathfinder Church cancelled VBS in 2020 and I was recently informed that they will also not be traveling for mission projects this summer.

Due to my service at Mount Calvary, Dubois as interim pastor and pastor, the schedule at the mission has been altered. Services are now held at 11:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. When Bible study resumes, the members have consented to holding it on a weeknight. Services at the nursing home will have to be held during a weekday if permissible. The Sunday school and jail schedules will remain the same.

Thank you to the congregations of the Wyoming District for your prayers and support of Christ's work on the Wind River Indian Reservation.



Our Saviour Lutheran Church – Evanston, Wyoming

Rev. Jonathan Lange

Our Saviour Lutheran Church serves the far southwest corner of Wyoming with Christ's Word and Sacraments. The members of the Wyoming District have been both generous and patient to assist the saints in Evanston to continue work with a highly Mormon population coupled with a volatile energy economy. Specific work in community outreach that started in 2006 has increased the visibility of Our Saviour both in the city and county. Nevertheless, conversion from Mormonism to Lutheranism remains rare and those catechized into the Lutheran Church rapidly move away.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the pastor received two calls and was also considered for a synodical position stemming from his work in the community. These events gave the leadership an opportunity to visit with the District President and discuss a vision for the future. These discussions led to a redoubling of the community outreach while also seeking additional ways to fund the pastor's work in the public square. As a result, in March, 2020, the Wyoming District Board of Directors approved the "Two Kingdoms, One Lord" project. This project, supervised by a subcommittee of three board members, receives donations from entities outside the district and uses them to supplement Our Saviour's resources. Currently, this project is 33 percent funded. The goal is to stretch current congregational resources for enough time that weekly offerings and bequests can fund the ministry fully.



Platte Valley Lutheran Church – Saratoga, WY

Rev. Randolph Schnack

Before Covid hit, PVLC was holding a Sunday morning Bible study and a Monday evening community Bible study from the original Greek. He was also teaching a Biblical Hebrew class to several interested people in the community.

With Covid, the Bible classes and Hebrew class were suspended, and we went to two services to keep numbers low.

When the restrictions were eased, we went back to one service on Sundays. Attendance and offering continued pretty much without effect from Covid until October.

We also had to replace both the church heater and roof, and the parsonage roof. Thanks to some very generous special gifts and money in both the church and parsonage building funds, we were able to do this work without having to borrow any funds.

In October, our Pastor's children contacted Covid and services were suspended for 2 weeks while our Pastor was under quarantine.

In the last quarter, attendance and offerings were much more greatly affected. Average attendance was down almost 50% with giving down about a third.

We thank the District for their continued support and pray things get back to normal soon.



Missions Development

Rev. Allan Wierschke, Facilitator

No Report



Campus Ministry

Mr. Chuck Hall, Campus Ministry Liaison Representative

Campus ministry is a very important mission program of the Wyoming District. Although the main focus of campus ministry is at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Laramie, individual parishes make efforts to reach students at Chadron State University and several community colleges across our district.

Pr. Preus has been at St. Andrews for 6 ½ years and is doing a wonderful job. Pr. Preus currently provides many opportunities to receive God's gifts. In addition to regular Sunday services, Sunday morning bible class is held, as well as various other bible classes, midweek Matins and Vespers and adult catechesis. Fellowship activities are also a priority at St. Andrew's. Ski trips, choir, movie nights, and community help projects help build bonds amongst the members and create opportunities for outreach even in these challenging times with COVID restrictions. Thankfully, St. Andrew's has been able to reduce its subsidy request to the district through increased giving by its members as well as using its resources to train a vicar (in cooperation with Zion). While many churches struggle with finances, it is good to see the commitment from St. Andrew's and the Wyoming District so God's word can continue to be preached to our college students.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Wyoming District in this capacity.

Casper College – Casper, WY

No Report

Central Wyoming Community College – Riverton, WY

No Report

Chadron State College

Rev. Peter Bertram

Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Chadron, Nebraska is privileged to have a fine four-year college – Chadron State College – almost on her doorstep. It is only a block from our church building to the college campus. This makes our work with the students of Chadron State College a natural outgrowth of our Gospel outreach work.

Ministry to college students is ever-changing, for as the Missouri Synod Lutheran students cycle through Chadron State, so they cycle through our congregation. Since our last report to the 2018

Wyoming District Convention, each academic year has seen different challenges. The 2018 – 2019 academic year saw only a small handful of students take advantage of our congregation’s ministry. 2019 – 2020 saw an increase in activity as we once again began offering a weekly Saturday meal and Bible study to all interested students. In the fall of 2019, we averaged 5 – 7 students with 2 or 3 congregational members providing the meals. The Saturday meals and studies continued into 2020 until COVID-19 hit. That brought everything to a screeching halt. For the 2020 – 2021 academic year, we have not been able to offer anything like we had been doing. Thankfully, and most importantly, we have had an average of 5 – 7 students attend the Sunday morning Divine Service each week with a high of 9 one Sunday. May our gracious God grant us the wisdom to know how best to serve Chadron State College students with His precious Gospel.



Eastern Wyoming Community College – Torrington, WY

No Report



Laramie County Community College – Cheyenne, WY

No Report



Northwest Community College – Powell, WY

No Report



Sheridan Community College – Sheridan, WY

Rev. Paul Cain, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rene' Castellero, Assistant Pastor

Immanuel Lutheran, Sheridan, Wyoming is a congregational “home away from home” for students attending Sheridan College. Services at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. are opportunities to receive the Lord’s gifts in Word and Sacrament.

Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, NE

No Report



Western Wyoming Community College – Rock Springs, WY

No Report



Lutheran Women’s Missionary League

Barb Schaer, President

The LWML is an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. The LWML Wyoming District is proud to be a part of this great organization. There are six zones in the Wyoming District. These zones host rallies, workshops, retreats and conventions, all offering Christ centered events for all the women of the district.

The LWML Wyoming District convention is held every two years. Last year 2020 the convention was to be held in Rock Springs, Wyoming, June 18-20. Theme for the convention was “Share the Hope”. Due to the pandemic, the in-person convention became a one-day Zoom event. Each biennium a new mission grant goal is set and new mission grant projects are voted on and chosen. The following is the list of grants that were selected:

Grant	Amount	Paid
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Sierra Leone, West Africa	\$4,000	\$4,000
Empowered Parenting – Heart to Heart Clinic, Laramie	\$3,000	\$3,000

Wyoming District LCMS Prison Ministry	\$2,500	\$2,500
Faith Lutheran Preschool – Gering, NE	\$1,500	
Training Up a Child Ministry – Sierra Leone West Africa	\$2,050	
Swaddling Clothes, Our Savior Lutheran, Cheyenne, WY	\$3,000	
Support WY District Pastors Attending Doxology	\$4,000	
Bringing Christ’s Light to Those in Darkness, Lutheran Braille Workers	\$4,000	
Healing Spaces – Chapel Furniture – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	\$3,000	
Support for International Grad School Students, St Louis Seminary	\$3,000	
Support for Lutheran Family Services of Haiti: Jacmel Lutheran Home	\$3,000	
Equipping People with Disabilities – Bethesda Auxiliary	\$3,000	
LCMS WY District Women’s Retreat (Partial Pay)	\$1,400	
TOTAL	\$37,550	\$9,500

In addition to the mission grants, the LWML Wyoming District awards 5 scholarships to students who are members of the Wyoming District LCMS and are attending a Lutheran School. These scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000 each and are divided between the first and second semesters. The applications are accepted in the spring of each year.

All of these projects are funded with mites from the women and men throughout the district.

The LWML national mite goal for the current biennium, which ends in June 2021 is \$2.1 million dollars. As of the middle of February 2021, this goal has been met. This means that all of the mission grants chosen at the past convention can be funded. Two of the national grants which were chosen came from members of the Wyoming District. And both have received funding.

The next national LWML Convention will be held this summer June 23-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky under the theme “Running the Race . . . Looking to Jesus”. Many of the ladies are making plans to attend.

The planning continues as the LWML Wyoming District makes plans for its next convention which will be held in Gering, Nebraska – June 23-25, 2022. Our theme for this convention will be Joshua 1:9 – *Be Strong and Courageous*.

I am in my third year as President of the LWML Wyoming District. I have met with dedicated, amazing and wonderful women from all across our district and nation. These women have given of their time, talent, treasures and themselves and are truly “women in mission”.

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

Lutheran Laymen's League

No Report



CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES- REPORTS
COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Rev. Kenneth Humphrey, Chairman

The Commission on Congregational Services (CCS) serves the congregations of the Wyoming District in several areas. During the last triennium, there have been a number of changes in the makeup of those serving on the commission. Presently, those serving are:

Chairman: Rev. Kenneth Humphrey
Chairman Elect: Rev. James Rockhill
Adult Ministry/Leadership: Mr. Tim Lindahl
Evangelism/TTGNAJ: Rev. Jon Olson
Lutheran Church Extension Fund: Mr. Jeffrey Snyder
Stewardship: Rev. Joshua Scheer
Student Aid & Recruitment: Rev. Richard Mueller
Youth/Outdoor Ministry: Rev. Rene' Castillero
Marriage, Life, & Family: Rev. Jonathan Lange

In our work, we sponsor, plan, and conduct workshops, convocations, and camps. We make reports and recommendations to the Wyoming District Board of Directors in the areas which the CCS has been tasked. Facilitators have also represented our District at some Synodical meetings as well as bringing information back from Synod to the District and its congregations. Of course, due to the COVID crisis which affected most of 2020 and this year as well, many of the typical duties and events have been disrupted.

With the exception of the Chairman and Chairman-elect, the facilitators are appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the District President and approved by the Board of Directors. The Chairman and Chairman-elect are elected by the Wyoming District in convention and serve for six years (three years as Chairman-elect and then three years as Chairman). The Wyoming District's 2nd Vice-president, Rev. Ted Bourret, serves as advisor to the CCS and the Wyoming District's presidents of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (Mrs. Barb Schaer) and Lutheran Layman's League (Mr. Mark Williams) serve in an advisory capacity.

Please read through the individual reports from the CCS members for specifics as to the work performed over the last triennium. There have been several changes since the last convention in terms of duties and those serving. Foremost of the changes would be the creation of a Marriage, Family, and Life facilitator at the 2018 convention, which combined the marriage and human care/family life positions into one. The work of the commission continues to be capably handled by all those involved, and their work is greatly appreciated by the outgoing chairman.



MARRIAGE, LIFE, AND FAMILY

Rev. Jonathan Lange

The 2018 Convention of the Wyoming District (Resolution 1-05-2018) established a new position on the Commission for Congregational Services (CCS) to combine marriage, life, and family ministries into a unified position. The CCS appointed Jonathan Lange to fill the position. This position is focused on contemplating and expressing the Gospel contours of God's creation of man and woman and his creating of them a community of human beings. Articles are written weekly and shared with the Wyoming District through a blog site. These are also published in newspapers throughout the state.

In addition, the Marriage, Life, and Family facilitator works with legislators and community groups throughout the state and nation to encourage and support godly policies within municipal, county and state governance. During Wyoming state legislative sessions, the progress of bills touching these themes is reported in real time on the "Capitol Watch for Wyoming Families" blog. Attempts are also being made to partner with the Nebraska District of the LCMS to provide an outlet for the Wyoming District congregations of the Nebraska Panhandle to coordinate efforts with entities in the eastern part of the state in support of similar legislation.

During this time, the MLF facilitator is participating in ongoing discussions that explore and clarify the roles of pastor, laymen, Church and district in civic affairs and in coordination with non-Church entities that share in certain common interests. God be praised, these

conversations are bearing the fruit of clarity, confession and Christian unity. Under district leadership, they will continue into the next triennium.

The MLF facilitator has also been asked to present at educational events both within and without the district. He is available for speaking engagements in district congregations, or to research and address ethical and practical questions on the sanctity of human life, the sanctity of marriage, and the place of the family in Christian theology as they arise in contemporary events. He also continues to be available to circuits of the district that would like to have conversation at Circuit Conferences or presentations at Circuit Forums.



ADULT MINISTRY/LEADERSHIP

Mr. Tim Lindahl

Mr. Tim Lindahl has served as the facilitator for Adult Ministry/Leadership on the Commission of Congregational Services since 2016. He is stepping down from this position as he has taken a new job out of the area. Mr. Lindahl has our commission's sincerest thanks for his faithful and capable work for our district and we wish him God's continued blessings in the future.

The Commission on Congregational Services, through Adult Ministry/Leadership has encouraged and supported a yearly Pastors' Wives Retreat throughout the past triennium. While the CCS sponsors these retreats, the wives of our District pastors have planned and conducted them. Retreats were held in Casper (2018 and 2019); however, 2020's retreat was cancelled. Response and attendance has been good. Another retreat is being planned for the summer of 2021.

A District-wide Men's or Father and Sons retreat has been held every summer this past triennium, including last year at the Allen H. Stewart Lions Camp on Casper Mountain. 2018's Men's Retreat took place in July at the KOA outside of Buffalo, and 2019's Fathers and Sons took place in June at Camp Roberts outside of Buffalo.

We adjusted the theme of the men's retreat to be that of fathers and sons in an effort to put a focus on a father's role as head of the house and engage our sons to become good Christian fathers and Church leaders. Many Pastors stepped up to help in planning and coordinating these events and I greatly appreciated the time and help that they provided. It remains extremely important to increase the engagement of our members so that we can continue to raise up solid Christian leaders in our congregations.

This year's retreat will take place at Fort Robinson State Park in Crawford, Nebraska June 25th through the 27th. A lodge has been reserved for our use. At the time of this writing (2/4/21), the topic(s) and speaker(s) have not been finalized.



EVANGELISM

Rev. Jon Olson

Rev. Olsen assumed the duties of the facilitator for evangelism and the Tell the Good News About Jesus Convocation after 2018's District convention. The convocation serves as the primary evangelism instruction program sponsored by the District (other events take place which are not under the purview of the CCS). TTGNAJ usually takes place on the last weekend of January; however, due to venue availability, this year's convocation took place during the first weekend of February.

The topics and speakers for the last three convocations were: 2019, Rev. Benjamin Ball and Dr. Joseph Herl presented on "Lutheran Liturgy & Hymnody." In 2020, Rev. Todd Wilken, host of Issues, Etc. taught on the "Christian Use of Social Media." This year's convocation was led by Rev. Brent Kuhlman, who presented on "Christian Persecution" and the last days. As always, if you have any suggestions for topics or presenters for the convocation, please feel free to pass that along to the CCS.

YOUTH/OUTDOOR MINISTRY

Rev. Rene' Castillo

The Youth and Outdoor Ministry Facilitator position has seen some turnover. Rev. Rockhill has been mentoring myself, Rev. Castillo, over the course of the last year and a half. Most energies are spent on the Wyoming Lutheran Youth Camp ("Lander Camp"). With good guidance and proactive planning to get through COVID, the camp hit record numbers and increasing positive reviews. Work still needs to be done in regards to unifying the district youth, suggestions welcome. Only a few CPH products have been reviewed. There has been communication with the coordinators and planners for the NYG as they had requested district personnel (laymen and clergy) to participate in their strategic planning and advertising. I have given a straightforward reply declining the invitation on behalf of the District and also extended myself to talk further. No correspondence has occurred, since. Based on interest gathered at WY-District youth events, I have reached out to CTSFW to begin planning a retreat here.

Youth activities in the Wyoming District continue the tradition of offering a balance of teaching the Truths of our Lutheran Christian faith and good clean fun. The annual Youth Breakaway Weekend took place at St. Andrew's Campus Center in Laramie, Wyoming this February. Rev. Mark Preus, pastor of St. Andrew's, continues to bring knowledgeable and engaging speakers.



STUDENT AID/RECRUITMENT

Rev. Richard C. Mueller, Student Aid/Recruitment Facilitator

The Wyoming District has made a commitment to support students from the Wyoming District going into full-time Church Work attending one of our Synod's Schools. 6 % of the pledges given to the Wyoming District by the District congregations go for Financial Aid.

Since the last Wyoming District Convention 13 scholarships were awarded: 2018-2019 — 4 scholarships; 2019-2020 — 4 scholarships; 2020-2021 — 5 scholarships. The financial aid

is given based on unmet needs. All eligible students since the Fall of 2001 have received a minimum amount of \$1,000 in student aid per academic year, regardless of their unmet needs.

The Wyoming District has also decided to help students pay off their school debt once they graduate and are working in a church or church school. Students from the Wyoming District receive funds wherever they are placed and pastors and teachers coming into the Wyoming District can apply for debt reduction funds. Over the past three years there have been 36 applications for help. In 2018, 15, 2019, 11, and 2020, 10, pastors and teachers were helped with their school debt. What a blessing that we can help them out this way.

Application forms and information concerning district financial aid and debt reduction can be found on the WY District web site: wylcms.org, Resources tab, Form library. If you do not have internet access, information and forms may be requested from Rev. Richard C. Mueller, Immanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 715, Alliance, NE, 69301, or by calling 308.762.4663. These applications are then forwarded by the applicant as directed in the information and guidelines (by May 1 for student aid and Oct.1 for debt reduction) and are required each year from the applicant. Funds are made available to the respective universities and seminaries in September and January, and after October for debt reduction.

The number of students going into full time church work (Pastors, Teachers, DCE, Deaconess program, etc.) are down in our District. The CCS is discussing different ways that we can support our students and encourage others to go into the Lord's work. There is a great need for workers in God's Church on earth. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Encouraging someone to go into Church work begins with you. Please take time to encourage the young people and others in your congregation to pursue a career in the work of the Lord.

May God continue to bless the work of the WY District as we support our students, pastors and teachers.



LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Mr. Jeffrey Snyder, LCEF District Vice President

Over the last 120 years, the concept and practice of the “Church Extension Fund” has been there to assist our congregations, districts, and Synod to support and fund the work of the church through its dedicated members who invest in this concept. Over the decades, districts pooled together to form the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to better serve the church. Beyond loans and investments, LCEF has developed many support services to assist congregations with demographics, capital campaigns, architectural needs, and much more.

Since the last convention report, the Wyoming District currently has a total of 9 congregational loans, totaling \$1.57M, which include:

Trinity - Gillette, WY: Our Savior - Torrington, WY Trinity -Rock Springs, WY
Bethlehem - Moorcroft, WY King of Glory – Cheyenne, WY Zion – Laramie, WY (2)
Emmanuel - Green River, WY Our Savior – Cheyenne, WY

Of course, these loans would not be possible if it were not for our faithful investors. Synod-wide, LCEF has over 80,000 investors totaling \$1.85 Billion in investments. In the Wyoming District, we have 433 people participating with over \$12 million dollars invested, of which 116 are children/young investors.

LCEF encourages parents to participate with two investment opportunities, the Family Emergency StewardAccount and the Young Investors Club. The Family Emergency StewardAccount helps parents set money aside for that ‘rainy day’ when the car breaks down or a major appliance needs to be replaced, eliminating the need to put expenses on a credit card. The Young Investors Club helps parents teach their children the importance to saving money, spend, and share the monetary gifts they receive from allowances, birthdays, and Christmas, for instance. Teaching children good stewardship practices while they are young will help them become faithful stewards and more responsible adults.

LCEF continues to operate with a strong financial position, enabling LCEF to serve the church in many ways. One of those ways is by sharing in our ‘operational blessings’ with every district through the distribution of operating results. This distribution is typically around \$33,000 every year and comes directly to the Wyoming District when feasible.

Overall, LCEF has been blessed by God in serving our Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod with these various “tools.” We continue to seek your support by becoming an investor so that we can continue assisting our congregations in their missions for generations to come!

COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Ken Humphrey

The Wyoming District Communications Chairman is an appointed position serving the District through oversight of the District website and social media accounts, and also serves as a contact person for those reaching out to the District. Additionally, the Chairman reports convention proceedings to the Synod and serves as requested by the District President to disseminate information.

Since the last triennium, the District website has been completely redesigned largely due to the efforts of Rev. James Rockhill, and it has been maintained by a number of others in the District, primarily Tiffany Hoff, President Hill's administrative assistant and District office manager. The District maintains a presence on Facebook, with the pages for this convocation as well as the District youth having been merged into it some two years ago. I want to express my sincerest thanks to Rev. Rockhill, Mr. Snyder, and Mrs. Hoff for their work on the redesigned website and its upkeep.



STEWARDSHIP

Rev. Joshua Scheer

Stewardship Presentations by Rev. Heath Curtis, LCMS Director of Stewardship: Rather than spending our district dollars on going to conferences, I used our money to bring the head of LCMS Stewardship to speak to various regions of the district. In the previous triennium he had spoken to Cheyenne and Alliance. This triennium he spoke at Casper (March 11, 2019) and Thermopolis (March 12, 2019). Over half of the congregations in those regions took part and hopefully benefitted from his presentations.

Stewardship Presentations: As part of my duties I go to speak on Stewardship topics to congregations around the district. This past triennium I spoke on the "Stewardship of the Body" at Immanuel, Alliance for their Stewardship weekend (Nov 23-24, 2019) and also a general teaching on Stewardship at Trinity, Sidney (Feb 19, 2020). In those presentations, the idea of vocation and the "new obedience" came into play as stewardship is nothing more than rightly handling what God gives us as baptized children of God.

District Stewardship Conferences: For years the district has been paying an annual fee to the Michigan District for a District Stewardship Conference (apart from the National Stewardship Conference). Working with Mr. Jeff Snyder we stopped paying for this. I am opposed to paying taxes/fees on legacy programs that no longer benefit our district's congregations.

Commission on Congregational Services: As stewardship chairman I attended meetings of the Commission on Congregational Services and participated in budgeting, discussion, and decision-making in that commission.

Covid and Stewardship: The past year should remind every congregation of the need for faithful catechesis on matters of stewardship. Membership in a congregation is a solemn and sacred duty. We benefit from our pastor's stewardship of the Gospel in his preaching and administration of the Sacraments. We likewise bless our congregation and fellow members with our efforts and gifts as God makes us able. Members should not only consider their first-fruit, proportionate giving, but also the end-of-life giving as well. With a good reminder now of how death has not been beaten by this world and all its technology, we are drawn to the only cure for death which we have by our Lord Jesus Christ. Our gifts then can help make sure that the real cure for death that is in Christ alone continues to be preached for generations to come.

Thank you to the district leadership and CCS Chairman Rev. Humphrey for allowing me to serve this District's congregations these past years.



DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Larry Harrington

No Report



NOMINATIONS REPORT

For President and First Vice-President

The Secretary of the Wyoming District is responsible for receiving and tabulating nominations for President and First Vice-President from the congregations of the District. The congregations of the Wyoming District had the opportunity to nominate pastors for the two positions (*Wyoming District Guidelines, Policies and Strategies*, 3.601 President and First Vice-President).

The tally of nominations received is as follows:

President		First Vice-President	
Rev. John Hill, Casper:	33	Rev. Mark Maas, Cheyenne:	13
Rev. Paul Cain, Sheridan	5	Rev. Paul Cain, Sheridan:	7
		Rev. Jonathan Lange, Evanston:	5
		Rev. Daniel Mulholland, Ft. Bridger	4
		Rev. Jon Olson, Casper,	4
		Rev. Christian Preus, Casper:	3
		Rev. Scott Firminhac, Torrington:	2
		Rev. Darrell Debowey, Laramie	1
		Rev. Kenneth Mars, Kimball:	1
		Rev. Richard Neugebauer, Gering:	1

The following individuals have given their consent to serve if elected and therefore constitute the official slates, in alphabetical order, for District President and First Vice-President:

President:

Rev. John Hill, Casper

First Vice-President:

Rev. Paul Cain, Sheridan

Rev. Jonathan Lange, Evanston

Rev. Daniel Mulholland, Fort Bridger

The above slates will be submitted to the Convention for adoption as presented or as amended by the Convention. The amendment procedure is governed by the following bylaws:

3.601 President and First Vice-President

i. The convention retains the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor will do so with a simple motion, a second, and vote on the amendment. Prior consent shall have been obtained from the nominee and the proper written information concerning the nominee as described in paragraph “h” above [see *Wyoming District Guidelines, Policies and Strategies*], will immediately be submitted to the District Secretary.

j. After any such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates prior to each election.

PRESIDENT NOMINEE

Rev. John E. Hill
3630 Navarre Road
Casper, WY 82604

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
57	1990	Pastor- 25 years

Present Position

President, Wyoming District- LCMS

Experience

Wyoming District Education Chairman
Wyoming District First Vice-President
Wyoming District Board of Directors Chairman
North Dakota Circuit Visitor
Synodical Convention Pastoral Delegate and Advisory Delegate
Powder River Circuit Visitor
LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations
Wyoming District Second Vice-President
Wyoming District Constitutions Chairman

Former Pastorates

Bethlehem Lutheran Church- Forbes, ND (1990-1995)
Mount Hope Lutheran Church- Casper, WY (1996-2015)

Other Specific Experience

Papers presented at District Pastor's Conferences (North Dakota and Wyoming Districts)
CCLE Board of Directors, Conference Presenter
STM From CTS (2009)

Home Congregation

Mount Hope Lutheran Church- Casper, WY

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT NOMINEE

Rev. Paul J Cain

910 Idaho Ave.
Sheridan, WY 82801

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
47	2000	Pastor- 20 years

Present Position

Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church- Sheridan, WY
Headmaster, Martin Luther Grammar School/Immanuel Academy- Sheridan, WY
Rhetoric Instructor for Wittenberg Academy
Sheridan County Jail Ministry
Editor, *Lutheran Book Review* (formerly *Liturgy, Hymnody, & Pulpit Quarterly Book Review*)
LCMS Doctrinal Reviewer
Board of Directors, The Consortium for Classical and Lutheran Education (permanent director)
School Accreditation Visitor and Educator Certification Reader for CCLE
Wyoming District Secretary, Wyoming District Board of Directors
Wyoming District Education Chairman and NLSA Commissioner
Narrator for Steadfast Lutherans devotions (audio podcast)
Occasional guest on KFUE Radio

Experience

Wyoming District Worship Chairman
Pastoral Conference Planning Committee
Tell the Good News About Jesus Conference Committee, District Evangelism Chairman
Inter-District Resource Committee on Mormonism, Chairman
Green River Advisory Council for Sweetwater Co. Family Resource Center
LWML Zone Counselor
Circuit Visitor, Yellowstone Circuit
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013)
LCMS Convention Advisory Representative (Wyoming District BOD, 2019)
LCMS Convention Floor Committee, Secretary (2019)
Lutheran Hymnal Project/*Lutheran Service Book* Contributor
Lutheran Service Book Introductory Session Presenter
Contributor to *LSB Hymnal Companion*
Liturgist, Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music
Contributor to *Concordia Pulpit Resources*
Contributor to *Lutheranism 101*
Author of *5 Things You Can Do to Make Your Congregation a Caring Church*

Former Pastorates

Emmanuel Lutheran Church- Green River, WY
Trinity Lutheran Church- Morrill, NE

Other Specific Experience

Vicar, Bethlehem Lutheran Church- Rapid City, SD

Congressional Intern- Washington, DC

Summer Staff for Nebraska State 4-H Camp- Halsey, NE

KNLV Radio- Ord, NE

Home Congregation

Immanuel Lutheran Church- Sheridan, WY

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT NOMINEE

Rev. Jonathan G. Lange

221 Southridge Road
Evanston, WY 82930

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
57	1990	Pastor- 23 years

Present Position

Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church- Evanston/St. Paul Lutheran Church- Kemmerer, WY
Wyoming District Marriage, Life and Family facilitator
Chair, LCMS District Life Coordinators

Experience

Rawlins Circuit Visitor, 1997-2000
Wyoming District Life Chair, 2012-2018
Marriage, Life and Family facilitator, 2018-present
LWML Zone Counselor
Synodical Convention Pastoral Delegate, 1992
Concordia Theological Seminary Alumni Board
Delegate to Pittsburgh Convention
LCMS Life Ministries Committee, 2013-present
District Life Coordinator Chairman, 2014-present
Concordia Institute for Christian Studies Instructor, Sierra Leone, 2016
Wyoming District 3rd Vice President
Editor, LCMS Free to Be Faithful Newsletter, 2018-present.

Former Pastorates

Immanuel Lutheran Church- Spencer/Christ Lutheran Church- Lynch, NE

Other Specific Experience

Chairman, Niobrara Valley Hospital Board- Lynch, NE
Evanston Civic Chorus, 2008-present
Clergy Discussion Group, 2008-2015
Founding Leader of Wyoming Pastor's Network, 2014-present
Weekly Columnist- Uinta County Herald and Kemmerer Gazette, 2016-2020
Weekly Columnist- Wyoming Tribune Eagle, 2018-present
Occasional contributor- The Federalist and Cowboy State Daily, 2016-present
Uinta County Committeeman, Delegate to the state GOP Convention, 2016, 2020

Home Congregation

Our Savior Lutheran Church- Evanston/St. Paul's Lutheran Church- Kemmerer, WY

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT NOMINEE

Rev. Daniel L. Mulholland

PO Box 280

Fort Bridger, WY 82933

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
65	1998	Pastor- 22 years; Vicar- 1 year

Present Position

Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church- Fort Bridger, WY

Experience

Wyoming District LWML Counselor

Headwaters Circuit Visitor

Third Vice-President Wyoming District

Former Pastorates

Other Specific Experience

Vacancy Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church-Pinedale, WY

Vacancy Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church- Marbleton, WY

Vacancy Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church- Green River, WY

Home Congregation

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church- Fort Bridger, WY

REPORT OF CIRCUIT VISITOR ELECTIONS BY CIRCUITS

The Secretary of the Wyoming District is responsible for receiving and reporting the election of circuit visitors from duly assembled circuit forums. The election of circuit visitors was conducted according to the bylaw 5.5.2. The results of circuit visitor elections are as follows:

Chimney Rock	(#1):	Rev. Richard Neugebauer (Gering, NE)
Pine Ridge	(#2):	Rev. Scott Firminhac (Torrington, WY)
Powder River	(#3):	Rev. Jon Olson (Casper, WY)
Yellowstone	(#4):	Rev. Jais Tinglund (Greybull, WY)
Headwaters	(#5):	Rev. Dan Mulholland (Fort Bridger, WY)
High Plains	(#6):	Rev. Marcus Baikie (Cheyenne, WY), has declined the nomination for Circuit Visitor. The High Plains Circuit will need to caucus at Convention for another nomination.

The above slate will be submitted to the Convention for adoption as presented or as amended by the Convention. The amendment procedure is governed by the following Synod bylaws:

5.2.2. Circuit Visitors

g. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.

h. The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

2021

Board of Directors Nominees:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| District Secretary: | 1) Rev. Paul Cain (Immanuel, Sheridan)
2) Rev. Darrell Debowey (Zion, Laramie) |
| BOD Commissioned: | 1) Mr. Steve Coniglio (Trinity, Riverton)
2) Ms. Brianna Erdman (Trinity, Riverton) |
| BOD Layman: | 1) Mr. Justin Carlson (Immanuel, Sheridan)
2) Mr. Phillip Scheel (St. Paul, Thermopolis)
3) Mr. Martin Finch (Trinity, Casper) |

Commission (CMS, CCS) Chairman-Elect Nominees

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| CMS: | 1) Rev. Travis Sherman (Grace, Gordon)
2) Rev. Kenneth Humphrey (Trinity, Morrill) |
| CCS: | 1) Rev. Jared Tucher (Trinity, Gillette)
2) Rev. David Bott (Redeemer, Jackson) |

Nominating Committee (2024) Slates

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Slate #1: | 1) Rev. Dan Holthus (Emeritus)
2) Rev. Darren Pflughoeft (St. Paul's, Lusk)
3) Mr. Landis Benson (St. Luke's, Worland)
4) Rev. Travis Sherman (Grace, Gordon)
5) Mr. Ken Steffens (St. Paul, Sidney) |
| Slate #2: | 1) Rev. Marvin Temme (Emeritus)
2) Rev. Sam Needham (St. Paul, Thermopolis)
3) Rev. Ted Bourret (St. Paul, Potter/Salem, Gurley)
4) Mr. Benjamin Craig (Mount Hope, Casper)
5) Mr. Tim Narjes (Immanuel, Alliance) |

LCMS 2022/23 Nominations Committee

- 1) Mr. John Schmall (Mount Calvary, Bayard)
- 2) Mr. Landis Benson (St. Luke's, Worland)
- 3) Mr. Tim Hu (St. Andrews, Laramie)

DISTRICT SECRETARY NOMINEE

Rev. Paul J Cain

910 Idaho Ave.
Sheridan, WY 82801

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
47	2000	Pastor- 20 years

Present Position

Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church- Sheridan, WY
Headmaster, Martin Luther Grammar School/Immanuel Academy- Sheridan, WY
Rhetoric Instructor for Wittenberg Academy
Sheridan County Jail Ministry
Editor, *Lutheran Book Review* (formerly *Liturgy, Hymnody, & Pulpit Quarterly Book Review*)
LCMS Doctrinal Reviewer
Board of Directors, The Consortium for Classical and Lutheran Education (permanent director)
School Accreditation Visitor and Educator Certification Reader for CCLE
Wyoming District Secretary, Wyoming District Board of Directors
Wyoming District Education Chairman and NLSA Commissioner
Narrator for Steadfast Lutherans devotions (audio podcast)
Occasional guest on KFUE Radio

Experience

Wyoming District Worship Chairman
Pastoral Conference Planning Committee
Tell the Good News About Jesus Conference Committee, District Evangelism Chairman
Inter-District Resource Committee on Mormonism, Chairman
Green River Advisory Council for Sweetwater Co. Family Resource Center
LWML Zone Counselor
Circuit Visitor, Yellowstone Circuit
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013)
LCMS Convention Advisory Representative (Wyoming District BOD, 2019)
LCMS Convention Floor Committee, Secretary (2019)
Lutheran Hymnal Project/*Lutheran Service Book* Contributor
Lutheran Service Book Introductory Session Presenter
Contributor to *LSB Hymnal Companion*
Liturgist, Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music
Contributor to *Concordia Pulpit Resources*
Contributor to *Lutheranism 101*
Author of *5 Things You Can Do to Make Your Congregation a Caring Church*

Former Pastorates

Emmanuel Lutheran Church- Green River, WY
Trinity Lutheran Church- Morrill, NE

Other Specific Experience

Vicar, Bethlehem Lutheran Church- Rapid City, SD

Congressional Intern- Washington, DC

Summer Staff for Nebraska State 4-H Camp- Halsey, NE

KNLV Radio- Ord, NE

Home Congregation

Immanuel Lutheran Church- Sheridan, WY

DISTRICT SECRETARY NOMINEE

Rev. Darrell Debowey

24 S Corthell Rd

Laramie, WY 82070

Age

62

Year Ordained

2003

Number of Years in WY District

Pastor- 4 years

Present Position

Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church- Laramie, WY

Experience

Cardiovascular research – 17 years

Former Pastorates

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield, Illinois – 14 years

Other Specific Experience

Member of the Central Illinois District Committee on Constitutional Matters – 6 years; 3 years as chairman.

Member of the Central Illinois District Conference Committee – 2 years

Member of the Lutheran Retirement Association Board of Directors, Springfield, IL – 4 years

This board oversaw operations at Concordia Village, a member of Lutheran Senior Services.

Home Congregation

Zion Lutheran Church- Laramie, WY

BOD COMMISSIONED NOMINEES

Mr. Steve Coniglio, age 65, is the 7th and 8th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Riverton, WY. He has served there the past 24 years. Prior to teaching at Trinity, he spent one year teaching court appointed students, and was previously in the construction business. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverton, WY.

Ms. Breanna Erdman, age 28, is currently the 5th and 6th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Riverton, WY. Before becoming a teacher at Trinity, she taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at St. Stephen Lutheran School in Horicon, WI. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverton, WY.

BOD LAYMAN NOMINEES

Mr. Justin Carlson, age 45, works in manufacturing serving oil and gas, as well as semiconductor industries. He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sheridan, WY and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Board of Elders. He also teaches 5th grade Sunday School. In the past he has served as Chairman for Martin Lutheran Grammar School parent group, organized events, shared skills, and participated in community groups.

Mr. Philip Scheel, age 38, is the co-owner with his wife and CEO of Tumbleweed Propane, a retail propane delivery company. He has served as a delegate to district convention and served on the resolutions committee. He is currently serving his second term as Hot Springs County Commissioner. He is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Thermopolis, WY where he has served the congregation as an elder for 10 years, as well as Vice-President. With his wife, he manages the LWML National Grant 'Water and Word' which provides pastoral ministry and clean water to rural schools in Kenya, East Africa.

Mr. Martin Finch, age 62, is a retired teacher of Agriculture Business. He was a teacher for 30 years at Sheridan Community College and Casper Community College. He has been a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Casper, WY for 15 years. During those years, he has served as Elder and was a member on the Board of Education. He has extensive training in agribusiness skills, promotion and management, websites, coaching, and teamwork.

CMS CHAIRMAN-ELECT NOMINEE

Rev. Travis W. Sherman

622 Fairview Dr.
Gordon, NE 69343

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
36	2012	Pastor- 8 years

Present Position

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church- Gordon, NE

Past Experience

Evangelism Facilitator
Evangelism Convocation Chairman
Pastoral Conference Committee
Resolutions Committee- 2015 Wyoming District Convention

Former Pastorates

Other Specific Experience

Home Congregation

Grace Lutheran Church- Gordon, NE

CMS CHAIRMAN-ELECT NOMINEE

Rev. Kenneth Humphrey

332 Washington Court
Morrill, NE 69358

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
56	2009	Pastor- 11 years

Present Position

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church- Morrill, NE
Commission on Congregational Services Chairman
Communications Chairman

Experience

Wyoming District LWML Junior Counselor
Wyoming District LWML Senior Counselor

Former Pastorates

Other Specific Experience

Technical/Information Services Projects & Management

Home Congregation

Trinity Lutheran Church- Morrill, NE

CCS CHAIRMAN-ELECT NOMMINEE

Rev. Jared Tucher

2313 Birch Ave
Gillette, WY 82718

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
42	2005	Pastor- 15 years

Present Position

Sole Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church- Gillette, WY

Experience

District Pastoral Conference Program Committee

Circuit Visitor - Powder River Circuit

Former Pastorates

Assistant Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church- Gillette, WY

Other Specific Experience

Program Committee- Pastoral Conference Committee

Board of Directors- Women's Resource Center of Northeast Wyoming

Circuit Visitor, Powder River Circuit

Home Congregation

Trinity Lutheran Church- Gillette, WY

CCS CHAIRMAN-ELECT NOMINEE

Rev. David Bott

PO Box 1624

Jackson, WY 83001

<u>Age</u>	<u>Year Ordained</u>	<u>Number of Years in WY District</u>
60	2003	Pastor- 17 years

Present Position

Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church- Jackson/Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church- Star Valley, WY

Experience

Wyoming District Evangelism Committee

Host to Continuing Education and Higher Things Extreme Retreat

Circuit Visitor, Headwaters Circuit

Synodical Convention Replacement for the Replacement Delegate

District Nominations Committee

Former Pastorates

Other Specific Experience

St. John's Medical Center- Ethics Panel

Chairman, Board of Directors- Teton County V.O.A.D (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters)

Board of Directors- Jackson Hole Gun Club

Lead Shooting Instructor- Jackson Holy Shooting Experience

Teton County Long Range Emergency Planning Committee

Teton County Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee

Home Congregation

Redeemer Lutheran Church- Jackson/Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church- Star Valley, WY

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SLATE #1

Rev. Dan Holthus, emeritus, has been in the Wyoming District for 17 years as a pastor. During his time as pastor, he served as the Powder River Circuit Visitor, was the Chairman on the CMS, and served on the TTGNAJ Convocation Committee. He has 22 years of experience as the Wyoming Department of Corrections Administrator and has counseling experience. He is currently a member of Mount Hope Lutheran Church in Casper, Wyoming.

Rev. Darren Pflughoeft is currently the pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lusk, Wyoming. He has been in the Wyoming District for 18 years. He was a Chaplain for the United States Army Reserve 411 Combat Engineering Battalion in Oahu, Hawaii, was a grade school and middle school Theology Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Oahu, Hawaii, and a Colloquy Instructor at Concordia University in Irvine, CA.

Mr. Landis Benson, age 67, is retired from the real estate business and provides financial consultation with NE homeowners part-time. He has been a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Worland, WY since 1975. As a member, he is currently the congregation president for the second time, has served as elder several times, and plays piano as needed for worship services. He has attended several district conventions as a delegate and attends the TTGNAJ Convocation as well.

Rev. Travis Sherman is currently serving as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Gordon, Nebraska. He has been in the Wyoming District for 8 years. He has served as Evangelism facilitator, Evangelism Convocation Chairman, and served on the Pastoral Conference Committee.

Mr. Ken Steffens, age 57, is the Assistant Customer Service Manager at Sandhills Global. He is a member of St. Paul's in Sidney, Nebraska. He has served his congregation as secretary, president, vice-president, and elder. He is currently serving as elder and is on the Multi-Congregation Parish Committee to establish a potential agreement with two other congregations. He has been a lay delegate for District Conventions several times and served as a delegate to the 2010 Synod Convention. He has served on the District Blue Ribbon Task Force prior to the 2009 District Convention. He served as a District Lay Reconciler and attended training for reconciler in 2011.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SLATE #2

Rev. Marvin Temme, emeritus, has been in the Wyoming District for 47 years. During his time as a pastor, he served the congregations of Platte Valley (Saratoga) and Grace (Hanna), Our Savior (Torrington), Prince of Peace (Buffalo), and served as a pastor in Oklahoma. He has served on the Board of Directors as First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Secretary. He was the District Reconciler and LWML Counselor. He has served on the Nominations Committee for Synod and was a synodical convention advisor. He is currently a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Torrington, Wyoming.

Rev. Samuel Needham is the pastor at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Thermopolis, Wyoming. He has been in the district for 5 years. Before becoming a pastor, he was in the construction business. Before moving into the Wyoming District, he served as pastor at Concordia in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Rev. Ted Bourret is the pastor of a dual parish congregations, Salem Lutheran Church in Gurley, Nebraska and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Potter, Nebraska. He has been in the district for 19 years and is currently serving as the Second Vice-President and Constitutions Chairman on the Board of Directors. Previously he has served as a Synodical Convention lay delegate and pastoral delegate, LWML Zone Counselor, Circuit Visitor, and has served on the Commission on Mission Services in several capacities.

Mr. Benjamin Craig, age 53, is currently working for UPS and doing various jobs after having been laid off from the oil field. He has been a member of Mount Hope Lutheran Church in Casper, Wyoming for the past 25 years. As a member, he is currently serving as elder, as well as on the Board of Education and the Board of Stewardship. He was previously a delegate to a Synod Convention and District Convention

Dr. Tim Narjes, age 42, is a family physician. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church, South Divide in Sidney Nebraska and attended Trinity faithfully from 1978-2007. In 2007 he joined Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alliance, NE, where he is a faithful member and has served as Chairman on the Board of Stewardship since 2009, was a lay delegate for the Wyoming District Convention in 2018 and a lay delegate for Synod Convention in 2019.

LCMS 2022/23 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. John Schmall, age 39, is a faithful member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Bayard, NE. He is currently a Field Service Representative for Rural Community Insurance Services. He has previously worked for Federal Crop Agency, Simplot, Ameri-Co Carriers, and Reliant Transportation. He is currently the treasurer on the Chimney Rock Pioneer Days Committee, the president on the Board of Directors for the Bayard Depot Museum and is on the Wyoming District LCMS Board of Directors. He was a delegate to the Wyoming District Convention in 2009 and 2018 and a delegate to the LCMS Synodical Convention in 2019.

Mr. Landis Benson, age 67, is retired from the real estate business and provides financial consultation with NE homeowners part-time. He has been a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Worland, WY since 1975. As a member, he is currently the congregation president for the second time, has served as elder several times, and plays piano as needed for worship services. He has attended several district conventions as a delegate and attends the TTGNAJ Convocation as well.

Mr. Tim Hu, age 56, is a faithful and active member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center in Laramie, WY, where he serves as the congregational president and head elder. He has been a voting delegate to district convention twice previously. He is currently a Regent of Concordia University in Nebraska and works as an Electrical/Computer Engineer.

To Confess the Immortality of the Soul And to Clarify the Synod's Public Doctrine

OVERTURE 1-01-2021

WHEREAS, *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches us to say, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my *body and soul*, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them" (First Article); and

WHEREAS, the Synod's first Explanation of the Small Catechism by Johann Konrad Dietrich (1575-1639), explicitly affirms that the soul is immortal: "But why do you believe in the resurrection of the body only? Because, properly speaking, only that shall rise which has perished; but the body only has perished; therefore only the body shall rise again. The soul can literally neither die nor rise again, because it is immortal. Matt. 10:28, Eccl. 12:7, Acts 7:59, 1Pet. 3:19, Rev. 6:9, Wis 3:1" (p. 130, q. 312, 1902 English tr.); and

WHEREAS, the 1896 Schwan Explanation teaches concerning eternal life, "That all believers when they die are, according to the *soul*, at once present with Christ, and, after the last day, shall be with Christ, *body and soul*, and live with Him in eternal joy and glory. Luke 23:43, Rev. 14:13, John 10:27-28, 1 John 3:2, Ps. 16:11, John 17:24, Rom. 8:18" (p. 108, q. 205, 1905 English tr.); and

WHEREAS, the 1943 Explanation likewise teaches, "(A.) That at the time of death the *soul* of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ. Phil. 1:23, Luke 23:43, Rev. 14:13. (B.) That at the Last Day the believer will live with Christ, according to *body and soul*, in eternal joy and glory. 1 John 3:2, Ps. 16:11, John 17:24, Rom. 8:18" (p. 143, q. 197); and

WHEREAS, the 1991 Explanation also teaches, "(A.) Eternal life is a present possession. John 17:3, John 3:16, Rom. 10:9, John 3:36. (B.) At the time of death, the *soul* of a believer is immediately with Christ in heaven. Eccl. 12:7, Luke 23:43, John 17:24, Phil. 1:23-24, Rev. 14:13. (C.) At the Last Day the believers, in both *body and soul*, will begin the full enjoyment of being with Christ forever. 1 Cor. 15:51-52, Matt. 25:34, Ps. 16:11, Rom. 8:18, 1 John 3:2" (p. 166-7, q. 190); and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Explanation, breaking with the pattern of words (1 Tim. 1:13) established by all previous synodical Explanations, teaches, "What happens to me as a Christian when I die? When I die, the God-given unity of my *body and spirit* will be broken. *I* will immediately be in the presence of Christ, in heaven, but my *body* will remain in the grave until the resurrection. Philippians 1:23-34, Philippians 3:20, 2 Corinthians 5:8, 2 Timothy 4:18, Luke 23:43, John 17:24" (p. 224, q. 223). Thus, the newest *synodical* catechism conspicuously avoids confessing anything about the *soul* either in death or in the resurrection; and

WHEREAS, the Synod's newest systematic theology teaches, "What does the scriptural understanding of *body and soul* mean for the 'immortality of the *soul*'? It denies this view, if my '*soul*' one means, as is usually intended, a separate principle that a human being has or receives" [Samuel H. Nafzger, ed., *Confessing the Gospel: A Lutheran Approach to Systematic Theology* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017), 1:285, and see footnote 68]; and

WHEREAS, the 1969 Commission on Theology and Church Relations position paper, *A Statement on Death, Resurrection, and Immortality*, rejects the immortality of the soul claiming that, "The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions compel us: ...To reject the teaching that the *soul* is by nature and by virtue of an inherent quality immortal" (III, 6, e). The paper does not, however, affirm that, like the angels, the soul is immortal by the ongoing and active will of God; and

WHEREAS, any denial of the immortality of the soul clearly contradicts the synod's first catechism by implying that the *soul* can literally "die" and "rise again." This, in turn, contradicts the bipartite anthropology of the Athanasian Creed wherein "the rational *soul and flesh* is one man." It also contradicts Luther's Small Catechism confessing that God "has given me my *body and soul*;" and

WHEREAS, we confess both the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body; therefore be it;

Resolved, That the Wyoming District in convention affirm the immortality of the soul; and be in further

Resolved, That the Wyoming District in convention commend to its pastors the study of Howard Tepker's two-part article titled, "Problems in Eschatology" published in *The Springfielder*, vol. XXIX, no. 2 (1965) & vol. XXX, no. 2 (1966); and be it further

Resolved, That the Wyoming District both commend and make available the paper of J.A.O. Preus titled, “Immortality of the Soul and Resurrection of the Body” that was presented to the CTCR in discussion immediately prior to its 1969 issuance of, *A Statement of Death, Resurrection, and Immortality*; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Wyoming District in convention ask the CTCR to clarify: Does the Synod, in its teaching, affirm that mas has an immortal soul, deny this, or leave it as an open question?

Overture to the Wyoming District Convention
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Evanston, Wyoming
February 5, 2021

To Provide for Ongoing Care for the Wyoming District Handbook

OVERTURE 2-01-2021

Rationale

Various communications and concerns with the current state of the “Wyoming District Handbook: Guidelines, Policies, and Strategies 2018” prompted the suggestion that the book be reorganized and portions of it placed into the care of those who are responsible for its sundry pages.

In effect, this would remove all but the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws from the direct supervision of the District in Convention. Convention time, as well as Workbook and Proceedings space, would be economized. Most of the items would be placed in the care of the Wyoming District Board of Directors (BOD), who have the task of carrying out those items. Amendment of non-convention items could take place on a rolling or as-needed basis, rather than every three years during valuable convention time. The BOD will consult or receive proposed amendments or additions from the commissions or entities and act upon them.

All these items are public and both the Handbook and the BOD Operating Manual should be made available upon request to any member of the District (i.e. congregations and rostered workers).

Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Wyoming District Handbook include a notification that the Handbook of Synod is also the Handbook of the Wyoming District and be it further

Resolved, That the Wyoming District Handbook divided as noted below (according to 2018 page numbers), with ongoing maintenance by the responsible entity identified below;

Convention

- 4–6 Articles of Incorporation
- 7–19 Bylaws

Pastors Conference

- 20–23 Wyoming District Ordained Ministers (Pastors) Conference Guidelines

Circuit Visitors (including Praesidium)

- 24–25 Guidelines and Procedures for Ordained Ministers (Pastors)
- 26–28 Guidelines/Procedures for Vacant Congregations. . .
- 37–53 Ministry Support: Compensation Guidelines for Church Workers

Board of Directors

- 29 Wyoming District Moving Procedure Guidelines
- 31 –36 Wyoming District (LC-MS) Pastor Compensation
- 54 Housing Guidelines for Professional Church Workers
- 55–56 Stewardship of the Parsonage
- 57–60 Guidelines for Articles of Agreement for *Multi-Congregation* Parishes
- 61 Conflict of Interest Policy

1	• 62	Consulting with District President on Appointments
2	• 63	Guidelines for Recognition of District Service
3	• 64	Guidelines for Expenses Incurred by District Officers
4	• 65–66	Wyoming District Travel Procedures and Guidelines
5	• 67	Wyoming District Office Mail Policy
6	• 68	Worker Salary Increases, Effective Date
7	• 69	Wyoming District Data Policy
8	• 70–71	District Office Personnel Electronic Communications Systems Policy
9	• 72	Guidelines for District Website
10	• 73	Endowment Guidelines
11	• 74	Wyoming District-LCMS “In Kind” Gift Policy
12	• 75	“In Kind” Gift Receipt
13	• 76	Wyoming District Capital Reserve Policy
14	• 77–78	REVISED: Investment Policy
15	• 79	Church Worker Assistance Guidelines
16	• 80	Gifts for District Missionaries and Office Staff
17	• 81	Compensation Policy for District President Transition
18	• 82–86	Wyoming District Sexual Misconduct Guidelines
19	• 87–91	TO BE REMOVED: Guidelines for Investigating Alleged Sexual Misconduct
20	• 92–93	Indemnification of Directors in Lawsuits
21	• 94	Wyoming District LCMS Image, Likeness, Picture Release Form
22	• 95	Honoraria Guidelines
23	• 96–97	School Grants Fund
24	• 98	Wyoming District Library Guidelines
25	• 99	Guidelines and Directives for Mission Work in the Wyoming District
26	• 100–102	REVISED: Procedure/Communication Guidelines . . . Assisted Cong. . .
27	• 103–104	Relationship and Communication Guidelines, St. Andrew’s
28	• 105–106	Wind River Reservation Mission Strategy
29	• 107	Remunerated and Un-Remunerated Extra-Curricular Activities. . .
30	• 108–113	Guidelines for Awarding of Student Financial Aid
31	• 114–116	Lander Camp (various)

32
33 and be it

34 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District Board of Directors be granted discretion to include some of its items in its
35 BOD Manual and others in the Handbook; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Wyoming District Supplement be published electronically at least once every three years before the Convention to all delegates and members of the District, with paper copies printed upon request.

Wyoming District Board of Directors

Rev. Mark Maas, Wyoming BOD Chairman

Rev. Paul Cain, Wyoming District Secretary

Proposed Amendment to Wyoming District Bylaws

OVERTURE 2-02-2021

WHEREAS, LCMS Secretary Sias submitted a letter to the Wyoming District dated 2019-12-04 with recommended wording to facilitate changes in governance language following an action of Synod in Convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following language recommended by Synod Secretary Sias be added to Section V of the Wyoming District Bylaws in an appropriate location:

When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendment may be made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the district secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitution Matters.

Wyoming District Board of Directors

Rev. Mark Maas, Chairman, Wyoming District Board of Directors

Rev. Paul J Cain, Wyoming District Secretary

1 **School Grant Guidelines**

2 **OVERTURE 2-03-2021**

3 WHEREAS, the 2018 Wyoming District Convention adopted Resolution 2-12-2018 To Strengthen, Publicize, and
4 Fund the School Grants Fund; therefore be it

5 *Resolved*, That the current School Grants Fund guidelines (2018: 96-97) be replaced with simpler language based
6 on Church Worker Assistance Guidelines (2018: 79) as found below:

7 **School Grant Guidelines**

8 The purpose of this fund shall be for assisting schools that are in financial need where immediate relief will
9 make a genuine difference. This assistance, while primarily financial, may also include financial guidance on
10 budgeting, tuition rates, and development.

11 Situations that come to the attention of the district president or education executive shall be considered in
12 light of circumstances surrounding the request for aid. Investigation of need, background history, etc., shall be
13 conducted as a basis for assistance. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall determine appropriate boundaries for
14 granting assistance.

15 Funding shall be determined by the BOD as to source of funds, the amount provided for these purposes, and
16 the method of dispersing these funds. Grants may be provided as appropriate to the circumstances of the school
17 needing assistance. The BOD shall determine appropriate amounts for dispersal at the discretion of the district
18 president, and the level of amounts requiring consultation before dispersal.

19 Accountability shall be set up for the sake of the school through the district president or education executive.
20 Reports of a general nature shall be made to the BOD as appropriate on a regular basis.

21
22 and be it finally

23 *Resolved*, That members of the congregations of the Wyoming District and congregations themselves be
24 encouraged to contribute to the School Grants Fund.

25 Wyoming District Board of Directors

26
27 Rev. Mark Maas, Chairman, Wyoming District Board of Directors

28
29 Rev. Paul J Cain, Wyoming District Secretary

To Remunerate Circuit Visitors, in Accordance with Scripture

OVERTURE 2-04-2021

WHEREAS, Our Lord instructs us in Holy Scripture, “do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain” (Deuteronomy 25:4, 1 Corinthians 9:9), and writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Saint Paul warns the church, “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this the Wyoming District has established guidelines for congregations to support their pastor in his work as an encouragement to follow these scriptural obligations, and WHEREAS, [Enter another preamble clause (repeat as needed); initial letter capitalized]; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming District uses these guidelines for the support of their own mission workers, and in addition the Wyoming District recognizes and honors the increased workload and responsibilities of the District President by paying at a rate that is 125% of the guidelines, which is not required by the synod bylaws, but which is a laudable and honorable thing to do and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of synod require that the Wyoming District elect Visitors from among the pastors of each circuit to assist the District President in his duties, and

WHEREAS, the synod allows – and the Wyoming District requires – that our District President sign a “consent to serve” form in order to be considered on the ballot, owing to the great responsibility and burden of the office of Ecclesiastical Supervision, and

WHEREAS, all other officers of the district must also fill out a consent to serve form, making them truly volunteer offices, and

WHEREAS, the synod does not allow Circuit Visitors to opt-out of being elected to that office, neither requiring nor allowing a consent to serve, but trusting to the wisdom of the circuit and district in nominating and electing the best pastor for the job, and

WHEREAS, the office of Circuit Visitor is critically important to the health and wellbeing of our district congregations, assisting the District President in his duties of visitation and ecclesiastical supervision of congregations and pastors in the circuit, and

WHEREAS, this assistance takes a great deal of time away from the congregation and especially the family of the Circuit Visitor, as noted here in a typical yearly summary of time committed to the office :

2 Meetings each year (24 hours each: Total 48 hours)

2-3 Visitations each year (typically 20 hours each: Total 40-60 hours)

Assisting with the call process, otherwise assisting congregations (typically 20-40 hours / year)

Total: 120-150 hours / year

Normal work year for full time job = roughly 2000 hours.

Workload roughly 7% of full time job

And,

WHEREAS, the District only reimburses expenses of the Circuit Visitor, but makes no account for his time and effort, as scripture requires of us, and

WHEREAS, Trinity Lutheran Church in Wheatland believes that this error was made in ignorance, not willful neglect of God’s servants who minister to our congregations on behalf of the District President, and

WHEREAS, it would be sinful to continue this practice, now that it has been brought to the attention of the Wyoming District, therefore be it

Resolved, that Trinity Lutheran Church, Wheatland, WY memorializes the Wyoming District with the above rationale, and the following :

Resolved, that the Wyoming District, in recognition of the importance of the work of Circuit Visitors as officers of the synod and assistants to the District President in his task of Ecclesiastical Supervision, and in fulfillment of the Scripture Command, which we are not at liberty to disregard, mandate that Circuit Visitors be reimbursed for their time, at either an hourly rate of 1/2000th the District Guidelines for cash salary, or at an annual rate of between 7% & 10% of the guidelines for cash salary, or at some other comparable rate of remuneration, as the Board of Directors may dictate, and be it finally

Resolved, that the Wyoming District give thanks to God for the work of Circuit Visitors in assisting the District President to provide Ecclesiastical Supervision, encouragement in the work of ministry among our pastors and congregations, and Brotherly Advice to pastors as they carry out their ministries.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wheatland, WY

The Reverend Lincoln Winter, Pastor

John Skoog, Elder

**To Confess the Immortality of the Soul
And to Clarify the Synod’s Public Doctrine**

**RESOLUTION 1-01-2021
(OVERTURE 1-01-2021)**

WHEREAS, *Luther’s Small Catechism* teaches us to say, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my *body and soul*, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (First Article); and

WHEREAS, the Synod’s first Explanation of the Small Catechism by Johann Konrad Dietrich (1517-1639), explicitly affirms that the soul is immortal: “But why do you believe in the resurrection of the body only? Because, properly speaking, only that shall rise which has perished; but the body only has perished; therefore only the body shall rise again. The soul can literally neither die nor rise again, because it is immortal. Matt. 10:28, Eccl. 12:7, Acts 7:59, 1 Pet. 3:19, Rev. 6:9, Wis 3:1” (p. 130, q. 312, 1902 English tr.); and

WHEREAS, the 1896 Schwan Explanation teaches concerning eternal life, “That all believers when they die are, according to the soul, at once present with Christ, and, after the last day, shall be with Christ, *body and soul*, and live with Him in eternal joy and glory. Luke 23:43, Rev. 14:13, John 10:27-28, 1 John 3:2, Ps. 16:11, John 17:24, Rom. 8:18” (p. 108, q. 205, 1905 English tr.); and

WHEREAS, the 1943 Explanation likewise teaches, “(A.) That at the time of death the *soul* of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ. Phil. 1:23, Luke 23:43, Rev. 14:13. (B.) That at the Last Day the believe will live with Christ, according to *body and soul*, in eternal joy and glory. 1 John 3:2, Ps. 16:11, John 17:24, Rom. 8:18” (p. 143, q. 197); and

WHEREAS, the 1991 Explanation also teaches, “(A.) Eternal life is a present possession. John 17:3, John 3:16, Rom. 10:9, John 3:36. (B.) At the time of death, the *soul* of a believer is immediately with Christ in heaven. Eccl. 12:7, Luke 23:43, John 17:24, Phil. 1:23-24, Rev. 14:13. (C.) At the Last Day the believers, in both *body and soul*, will begin the full enjoyment of being with Christ forever. 1 Cor. 15:51-52, Matt. 25:34, Ps. 16:11, Rom. 8:18, 1 John 3:2” (p. 166-7, q. 190); and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Explanation, while it teaches that “I will enjoy being with Christ in His new creation, in *body and soul*, forever.” (p. 225, q. 224), yet avoids speaking of the immortality of the soul and the Christian’s soul dwelling with Christ upon death, and so breaks with the pattern of words (1 Tim 1:13) used by all previous synodical Explanations, when it teaches, “What happens to me as a Christian when I die? When I die, the God-given unity of my *body and spirit* will be broken. *I* will immediately be in the presence of Christ, in heaven, but my *body* will remain in the grave until the resurrection. Philippians 1:23-24, Philippians 3:20, 2 Corinthians 5:8, 2 Timothy 4:18, Luke 23:43, John 17:24” (p. 224, q. 223); thus, the newest synodical catechism conspicuously avoids confessing what happens to the *soul* in death; and

WHEREAS, the Synod’s newest systematic theology teaches, “What does the scriptural understanding of *body and soul* mean for the ‘immortality of the *soul*’? It denies this view, if by *soul* one means, as is usually intended, a separate principle that a human being has or receives” [Samuel H. Nafzger, ed., *Confessing the Gospel: A Lutheran Approach to Systematic Theology* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017), 1:285, and see footnote 68]; and

WHEREAS, the 1969 Commission on Theology and Church Relations position paper, *A Statement on Death, Resurrection, and Immortality*, rejects the immortality of the soul, claiming that, “The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions compel us: ...To reject the teaching that the *soul* is by nature and by virtue of an inherent quality immortal” (III, 6, e). The paper does not, however, affirm that, like the angels, the soul is immortal by the ongoing and active will of God; and

WHEREAS, any denial of the immortality of the soul clearly contradicts the synod’s first catechism by implying that the *soul* can literally “die” and “rise again.” This, in turn, contradicts the bipartite anthropology of the Athanasian Creed wherein “the rational *soul and flesh* is one man.” It also contradicts Luther’s Small Catechism confessing that God “has given me my *body and soul*,” and

1 WHEREAS, the Scriptures in various places speak of the soul or spirit as distinct from the “personal
2 identity of a person,” e.g. “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (Lk 1:46-47);
3 “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me bless His holy name.” (ps. 103:1), etc.; and

4 WHEREAS, our hymnody and accepted prayers of the Church follow this sound pattern of words, e.g. in
5 *This Body in the Grave we Lay* (LSB 759/TLS 596, stanza 3), “The soul forever lives with God, etc.”; and in *Awake,*
6 *My Heart, with Gladness* (LSB 467, stanza 1), “My Savior there was laid/Where our bed must be made/When to the
7 realms of light/Our spirit wings its flight!”; and in the common bedtime prayer, “And if I die before I wake,/I pray
8 the Lord my soul to take.” And

9 WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit never teaches us to say, “My ‘personal identity’ magnifies the Lord” or “Into
10 Your hands I commit my ‘personal identity’ or “The ‘personal identity’ is willing, but the flesh is weak” and the
11 Church does not sing, “our personal identity wings its flight,” and

12 WHEREAS, we confess both the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body; therefore be it

13 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District in convention affirm the immortality of the soul; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District in convention commend to its pastors the study of Howard Tepker’s
15 two-part article titled, “Problems in Eschatology” published in the *Springfielder*, vol. XXIX, no 2 (1965) & vol.
16 XXX, no. 2 (1966); and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District both commend and make available the paper of J.A.O. Preus titled,
18 “Immortality of the Soul and Resurrection of the Body” that was presented to the CTCR in discussion immediately
19 prior to its 1969 issuance of *A Statement on Death, Resurrection, and Immortality*; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District request that President Hill choose a theologian from our District to
21 write a paper on the immortality of the soul to be presented at the Fall pastors conference, and invite the contributing
22 author of Nafzger’s *Systematic Theology* to give a defense of calling the soul “personal identity” instead of soul; and
23 be it finally

24 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District in convention ask the CTCR to clarify: Does the Synod, in its
25 teaching, affirm that man has in any way an immortal soul, deny this, or leave it as an open question?

1 **To Form Theological Committees to Address Postmodern Heresies**

2 **RESOLUTION 1-02-2021**

3 *(PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TAB 2, P. 6)*

4 **Rationale**

5 WHEREAS, Wyoming District President John Hill rightly includes “feminism: and “transgender theories”
6 among the heresies we should watch out for and oppose as Christians and pastors in Christ’s Church,

7 Therefore be it

8 *Resolved,* That the Wyoming District in its 2021 May Convention commission two committees to write
9 theological resolutions condemning “feminism” and “transgenderism” as heresies, to be presented to and discussed at
10 the Fall Pastors Conference of 2021, for the possibility of a Spring 2022 conference presenting them as overtures to
11 the 2023 LC-MS synodical convention.

**To Produce Biblically Faithful Textbooks/Curricula
For our Day Schools, High Schools, and Home Schools**

RESOLUTION 1-03-2021
(PRESIDENT'S REPORT, TAB 2 P. 5)

Rationale

WHEREAS, education in all subject areas is first and foremost about what is taught, namely that which is good, true, and beautiful; and

WHEREAS, secular education in all subject areas is increasingly subject to forces from anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-family, pro-death, amoral, anti-truth, and even anti-beauty perspectives; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Scriptures provide the norm and framework for knowledge in all subject areas, all being interwoven in significant ways with right theology, ethics, history, and human nature as revealed by God therein; and

WHEREAS, the LC-MS has the second largest system of parochial schools in America, but too often they are using secular textbooks/curricula, or publications from non-Lutheran traditions; and

WHEREAS, many Lutheran parents who homeschool their children find good, biblically faithful textbook/curricula options to be sorely lacking; and

WHEREAS, Christian schools and home schools in general would benefit greatly from having more biblically faithful Christian textbook/curricula options; and

WHEREAS, the natural sciences, especially biology and earth sciences, are prone to the grievous errors of Darwinism and Deep Time which directly undermine the integrity of the Scriptures, and the Gospel itself by putting Death before the Fall; and

WHEREAS, the Discovery Works science textbooks available from Concordia Publishing House, the only day school curricula available from CPH besides Religion Curriculum and some Lesson Plans, are outdated (© 1999) and rather limited (Grades 1-6); and

WHEREAS, it was resolved in Synodical Convention in 2019 'that pastors and other church workers be encouraged to confess, witness to, and uphold in their teaching the Synod's publicly stated positions as set forth in A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, Article 5 (adopted 1932):

We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God's own record, found in God's own book, the Bible. We accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures." '

which certainly should include writings as presented to students by their teachers via textbooks/curricula; and

WHEREAS, the need is urgent, as common experience among shows many young adults rejecting their baptismal vows, their doubts arising in middle school and high school when Darwinism and its many related false "isms" are preached by the secular textbooks, while either no counter arguments for biblical truth are available or those presented are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the LC-MS has a university system and two seminaries housing expertise across all subject areas, including early childhood education, for producing excellent textbooks/curricula for grades K-12 as well as providing theologically sound editorial oversight to ensure content is biblically faithful in its Christian apologetic (defending Gen. 1-11 as it defines marriage between one man and one woman, and human nature as fallen, infected with original sin from Adam, but tells of the seed of the woman, the second Adam, Who would crush Satan's head,

1 and as it describes Earth's early history with creation ex nihilo in six natural days less than 10,000 years ago and the
2 global flood in Noah's day); and

3 WHEREAS, the LC-MS has its own publishing house; therefore, be it

4 *Resolved*, that the Wyoming District of the LC-MS memorialize the Synod in convention to direct and coordinate
5 the systematic preparation and production of biblically faithful textbooks/curricula across all subject areas, prioritizing
6 biological and earth sciences, for grades K-12; and be it finally

7 *Resolved*, that this curriculum be ready for market by 2024.

Name Change and Maintenance Responsibility to the Wyoming District Handbook

RESOLUTION 2-01-2021 (OVERTURE 2-01-2021)

Rationale

Various communications and concerns with the current state of the “Wyoming District Handbook: Guidelines, Policies, and Strategies 2018” prompted the suggestion that the book be reorganized and portions of it placed into the care of those who are responsible for its various sections.

In effect, this would remove all but the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws from the direct supervision of the District in Convention. Convention time, as well as Workbook and Proceedings space, would be economized. Most of the items would be placed in the care of the Wyoming District Board of Directors (BOD), who have the task of carrying out those items. Amendment of non-convention items could take place on an as-needed basis, rather than every three years during valuable convention time. The BOD will consult or receive proposed amendments or additions from the commissions or entities and act upon them.

All these items are public and both the Handbook and the BOD Operating Manual shall be made available upon request to any member of the District (i.e. congregations and rostered workers).

Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Wyoming District Supplement, previously known as the Wyoming District Handbook include a notification that the Handbook of Synod is also the Handbook of the Wyoming District; and be it further

Resolved, That the Wyoming District Supplement be divided as noted below (according to 2018 page numbers), with ongoing maintenance by the responsible entities identified below;

Convention

- 4–6 Articles of Incorporation
- 7–19 Bylaws

Pastors Conference

- 20–23 Wyoming District Ordained Ministers (Pastors) Conference Guidelines

Circuit Visitors (including Praesidium)

- 24–25 Guidelines and Procedures for Ordained Ministers (Pastors)
- 26–28 Guidelines/Procedures for Vacant Congregations. . .
- 37–53 Ministry Support: Compensation Guidelines for Church Workers

Board of Directors

- 29 Wyoming District Moving Procedure Guidelines
- 31 –36 Wyoming District (LC-MS) Pastor Compensation
- 54 Housing Guidelines for Professional Church Workers
- 55–56 Stewardship of the Parsonage

1	• 57–60	Guidelines for Articles of Agreement for <i>Multi-Congregation</i> Parishes
2	• 61	Conflict of Interest Policy
3	• 62	Consulting with District President on Appointments
4	• 63	Guidelines for Recognition of District Service
5	• 64	Guidelines for Expenses Incurred by District Officers
6	• 65–66	Wyoming District Travel Procedures and Guidelines
7	• 67	Wyoming District Office Mail Policy
8	• 68	Worker Salary Increases, Effective Date
9	• 69	Wyoming District Data Policy
10	• 70–71	District Office Personnel Electronic Communications Systems Policy
11	• 72	Guidelines for District Website
12	• 73	Endowment Guidelines
13	• 74	Wyoming District-LCMS “In Kind” Gift Policy
14	• 75	“In Kind” Gift Receipt
15	• 76	Wyoming District Capital Reserve Policy
16	• 77–78	REVISED: Investment Policy
17	• 79	Church Worker Assistance Guidelines
18	• 80	Gifts for District Missionaries and Office Staff
19	• 81	Compensation Policy for District President Transition
20	• 82–86	Wyoming District Sexual Misconduct Guidelines
21	• 87–91	TO BE REMOVED: Guidelines for Investigating Alleged Sexual Misconduct
22	• 92–93	Indemnification of Directors in Lawsuits
23	• 94	Wyoming District LCMS Image, Likeness, Picture Release Form
24	• 95	Honoraria Guidelines
25	• 96–97	School Grants Fund
26	• 98	Wyoming District Library Guidelines
27	• 99	Guidelines and Directives for Mission Work in the Wyoming District
28	• 100–102	REVISED: Procedure/Communication Guidelines . . . Assisted Cong. . .
29	• 103–104	Relationship and Communication Guidelines, St. Andrew’s
30	• 105–106	Wind River Reservation Mission Strategy
31	• 107	Remunerated and Un-Remunerated Extra-Curricular Activities. . .
32	• 108–113	Guidelines for Awarding of Student Financial Aid
33	• 114–116	Lander Camp (various)
34		
35	and be it further	

1 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District Board of Directors be granted discretion to include some of its items in its
2 BOD Manual and others in the Supplement; and be it finally

3 *Resolved*, That the Wyoming District Supplement be published electronically at least once every three years
4 before the Convention to all delegates and members of the District, with paper copies printed upon request.

Amendment to Wyoming District Bylaws

RESOLUTION 2-02-2021

(OVERTURE 2-02-2021)

WHEREAS, LCMS Secretary Sias submitted a letter to the Wyoming District dated 2019-12-04 with recommended wording to facilitate changes in governing documents following an action of Synod in Convention; therefore be it

Resolved, that the routine and obligatory alignment of language to the Wyoming District Bylaws necessitated by synod convention action be reviewed by the district Constitutions Chairman before it is brought to the Wyoming District Board of Director; and be it finally

Resolved, That the following language recommended by Synod Secretary Sias be added to Section V of the Wyoming District Bylaws in an appropriate location:

When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws, or otherwise directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendment may be made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the district secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitution Matters.

1 **School Grant Guidelines**

2 **RESOLUTION 2-03-2021**
3 *(OVERTURE 2-03-2021)*

4 WHEREAS, the 2018 Wyoming District Convention adopted Resolution 2-12-2018 To Strengthen, Publicize, and
5 Fund the School Grants Fund; therefore be it

6 *Resolved*, That the current School Grants Fund guidelines (2018: 96-97) be replaced with simpler language based
7 on the Church Worker Assistance Guidelines (2018: 79) as found below:

8 **School Grant Guidelines**

9 The purpose of this fund shall be for assisting schools that are in financial need where immediate relief will
10 make a genuine difference. This assistance, while primarily financial, may also include financial guidance on
11 budgeting, tuition rates, and development.

12 Situations that come to the attention of the district president or education executive shall be considered in
13 light of circumstances surrounding the request for aid. Investigation of need, background history, etc., shall be
14 conducted as a basis for assistance. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall determine appropriate boundaries for
15 granting assistance.

16 Funding shall be determined by the BOD as to source of funds, the amount provided for these purposes, and
17 the method of dispersing these funds. Grants may be provided as appropriate to the circumstances of the school
18 needing assistance. The BOD shall determine appropriate amounts for dispersal at the discretion of the district
19 president, and the level of amounts requiring consultation before dispersal.

20 Accountability shall be set up for the sake of the school through the district president or education executive.
21 Reports of a general nature shall be made to the BOD as appropriate on a regular basis.
22 and be it finally

23 *Resolved*, That members of the congregations of the Wyoming District and congregations themselves be
24 encouraged to contribute to the School Grants Fund and include communication to the education executive of the
25 Wyoming District.

To Give Thanks to God for the Work of Circuit Visitors

RESOLUTION 2-04-2021

(OVERTURE 2-04-2021)

WHEREAS, our Lord instructs us in Holy Scripture, “do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain” (Deuteronomy 25:4, 1 Corinthians 9:9), and writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Saint Paul warns the church, “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” (Galatians 6:6-7); and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this, the Wyoming District has established guidelines for congregations to support their pastor in his work as an encouragement to follow these scriptural obligations; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of synod require that the Wyoming District elect Visitors from among the pastors of each circuit to assist the District President in his duties; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Handbook bylaw 5.2(d) states “All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors whose names are nominated prior to the day of the circuit forum shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws” which trusts the wisdom of the circuit and district in nominating and electing the best pastor for the job, and noting that a nominated pastor may reject the nomination; and

WHEREAS, the office of Circuit Visitor is critically important to the health and wellbeing of our district congregations, assisting the District President in his duties of visitation and ecclesiastical supervision of congregations and pastors in the circuit; and

WHEREAS, this assistance takes a great deal of time (100 hours or more a year) away from the congregations and especially the family of the Circuit Visitor; and

WHEREAS, the District reimburses expenses of the Circuit Visitor, such as mileage, meals, etc., while the congregation continues to account for his time and effort, as Scripture requires of us; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming District Praesidium, and the Board of Directors are to look after the care and well being of the Circuit Visitor and his congregations(s) and can provide means to aid in cases of need; therefore be it

Resolved, that the congregation(s) of the Circuit Visitor continue to support their pastor in his role as both pastor of the parish and in his role as Circuit Visitor and see their importance to the health of the congregations of the Wyoming District; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations view the time and finances (like pulpit supply) incurred by their pastor serving as Circuit Visitor as gift and service to the congregations of the Wyoming District; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Wyoming District give thanks to God for the work of Circuit Visitors in assisting the District President to provide Ecclesiastical Supervision, encouragement in the work of ministry among our pastors and congregations, and brotherly advice to pastors as they carry out their ministries.