

# WYOMING DISTRICT ROUND-UP

Wyoming District—LCMS  
2400 Hickory St.  
Casper, WY 82604  
(307) 265-9000

[www.wylcms.org](http://www.wylcms.org)



DECEMBER  
2025

## **"...REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS..." (Eph. 1:16)**

For our active-duty chaplain, **Rev. Ryan Mills (Colorado)**.

For **Rev. Lincoln Winter (Trinity, Wheatland)**: Pastor Winter underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor (Astrocytoma) on November 28. His recovery is progressing very well. He will undergo radiation and oral chemotherapy beginning in January. The congregation is being served during his recovery and treatment by pastors of the district.

## **PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS**

**Rev. Travis Sherman (Grace, Gordon)** is serving **Grace, Merriman, NE** (Nebraska District).

**Our Savior, Cheyenne (Rev. Marcus Baikie)**: Rev. Erik Sorenson returned the call as Associate Pastor. The congregation has asked for an updated call list.

**Grace, Greybull** continues to be served by **Rev. Jared Korb, (St. Luke's, Worland)** and **Zion, Emblem** continues to be served by **Rev. Ron Garwood (Christ the King, Cody)**. The Yellowstone Circuit pastors and lay leaders have been gathering information from their congregations for exploring how they may help each other and work together in the call and care of their pastors.

**Salem, Gurley** (served by **Rev. Peter Preus, Bridgeport**), **St. Paul's, Potter** (served by **Rev. Richard Neugebauer, Gering**), and **St. Paul's, Sidney** (served by **Rev. Neil Carlson, South Divide/Chappell**) called Rev. Jacob Deal, who has returned the call.

**St. John's, Lovell** (served by **Rev. Dan Harrington, Immanuel, Powell**): Rev. Tyrel Bramwell will be installed on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 11 a.m.

**Rev. Patrick Baldwin (Christ, Rawlins)** is returned the call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Kroschel and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hinckley, Minnesota.

**Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau (Assisting Pastor, Mt. Hope, Casper with primary service at Luther Classical College)** received and has accepted a call to Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

**Mt. Hope, Casper (Rev. Dr. Christian Preus and Rev. Andrew Richard)** called **Rev. John Hill (Wyoming District President)** as Assisting Pastor. Rev. Hill accepted the call and was installed December 7. He will serve under the direction of the Senior Pastor in a limited capacity as mutually agreed.

**Mt. Hope, Casper** called **Rev. Brent Kuhlman (Trinity, Murdoch, Nebraska)** December 7 as Assisting Pastor with his primary service to Luther Classical College. His call is coordinated with a solemn appointment to LCC through its Board of Regents.

### **Building Up the Culture of the Family of God**

From the desk of President Hill

The cultural traditions of Christmas are enduring through generations. There are many people today who still celebrate Christmas in culturally recognizable ways, even after they have long since abandoned the Christian faith. Cultural traditions sink deep roots into our hearts and minds. In the case of our loved ones who have wandered far from the church, we pray that the cultural link to “the glad tidings of great joy” will someday be a door through which the Word of God once more enters their lives to give them repentance and forgiveness, faith, and life in Jesus. Healthy and stable Christmas traditions can keep the door open to the Christian faith.

Our cultural traditions in the church are evidence that Christian doctrine is not merely a bloodless, disembodied idea or a system of philosophical propositions. Doctrine is life, as my spiritual fathers taught me. This means that what we believe and what we do go together and have the same source in God’s Word. God’s Word actually changes and shapes how we live.

Consider how a simple theological fact and a beautifully narrated historical account of that theological fact has blossomed into the Christmas we love today. The theological fact is that God became man in the Person of our Savior Jesus Christ. This fact is at the heart and center of our entire Christian faith. The historical account of that fact is recorded beautifully in Matthew 1 and 2 and in Luke 1 and 2. The text is deeply ingrained in our hearts: “And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus...” The great doctrine of Christ’s incarnation happened in a particular time and place with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the little town of Bethlehem all becoming a part of that great historical event. This doctrine and event have become the Christmas we celebrate year by year.

The incarnation and birth of God is the wonderful reality and joy-filled conviction of our lives. It is expressed and reinforced by an endearing array of practices: Christmas trees, candles, lights, special foods and meals, celebrations, gift-giving and cards, carols and hymns, Scripture readings, worship services, and more. Each family and each congregation has its own particular variations. The blending of the Christmas doctrine with language and rituals and Christian piety takes deep root into our lives and shapes our convictions, emotions, and actions.

We Lutherans have always been careful to distinguish the divinely mandated doctrine and rituals, like the incarnation and the Lord’s Supper, from the liturgical traditions and cultural practices that express God’s Word. We don’t make law out of traditions. But we also have the knowledge that our humanity is made for rituals, traditions, and cultural practices. Man is a cultural, ritual creature. Our convictions, relationships, habits, and dispositions are formed and sustained by healthy cultural traditions. The richness and truth of our doctrine has conceived and brought forth such beautiful and pious practices among us Christians.

It is in the use of God’s Word—reading, teaching, preaching, hearing, pondering—that the Spirit of God sustain and keeps us in the true faith unto life everlasting. The Christmas traditions of our

Western cultural past would become mere tinsel and garish neon lights, ultimately empty and depressing, if the heart of our Christmas culture were not kept and treasured by using and believe God's Word. Thus, we gather in our homes to read and sing God's Word. So also, we gather in church to hear and believe together year after year the beautiful Word that the Son of God is born as a little man-child for our salvation. "And she brought forth her firstborn Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn."

God grant you and all your loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas as you join in the celebration of Christ's incarnation and birth!



**REFORMATION 500: The Peasants Revolt**

There is no Reformation article this month.



On behalf of ourselves and the district, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year filled with all the blessings of Christ's blessed Word and holy Sacraments. We are deeply grate for your faithfulness in the Gospel, your love and care for one another in your

congregations and throughout the district, and your zeal for the care and building up of all the churches. May God supply all our needs according to his grace toward us in our brother and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Tiffany, Jeff, and Pastor Hill

---

## Announcements

---

**President Bundor of the Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone** will be spending his Christmas break from seminary graduate studies (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne) in our district. Our district and congregations have provided support to him and the new seminary in Sierra Leone. If you would like to meet and hear him, please see his schedule within our district below and contact the local pastor for more information:

- December 22: Our Savior's, Pinedale, WY
- December 23: Shepherd of the Valley, Ft. Bridger, WY
- December 26 through December 29: King of Glory, Cheyenne, WY
- December 30: Trinity, Rock Springs, WY at 6:30 p.m.
- January 2 through January 4: Trinity, Casper, WY
- January 5 through January 9: Christ the King, Cody, WY

**Is Christianity good or evil?**, Violence in the Old Testament, The problem of evil, "Gregory the GOAT," Christianity and Slavery. All of these and more will be addressed by Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton, professor at Concordia- Chicago, at our annual Tell the Good News About Jesus Convocation that is held every year in Casper, Wyoming. Join us at the Ramkota Hotel, February 6-7, 2026. You'll leave with clear biblical answers, historical perspective, and practical tools for witness in your home, congregation, and community. Registration is available at [wylcms.org](http://wylcms.org) under the 'Events' tab.

## Dates to Remember

Jan. 26-28: District Meetings, Lutheran Ministries Center, Casper

Feb 6-7: TTGNAJ Convocation, Ramkota, Casper

Feb. 20-22: St. Andrew's High School Youth Breakaway, St. Andrew's, Laramie