

# WYOMING DISTRICT ROUND-UP



Wyoming District—LCMS  
2400 Hickory St.  
Casper, WY 82604  
(307) 265-9000  
[www.wylcms.org](http://www.wylcms.org)

MARCH  
2026

## "...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 has completed radiation and oral chemotherapy and is again serving his congregation.

## PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

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

**Our Savior, Cheyenne (Rev. Marcus Baikie)**: The congregation has called for a seminary candidate to serve as assistant pastor.

**Grace, Greybull** and **Zion, Emblem** served by **Rev. Ron Garwood (Christ the King, Cody)** are restoring the dual parish arrangement and have called for a seminary candidate.

**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**) have called for a seminary candidate.

**Rev. Dan Mulholland (Shepherd of the Valley, Fort Bridger)** has announced his retirement for the end of May. The congregation has called for a seminary candidate.

**Trinity, Riverton (Rev. Steve Kieser)** has called for a seminary candidate to serve as assistant pastor.

**Rev. Zachary Viggers (Trinity, Gillette)** is deliberating a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evansville (Indiana District).

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

From the Family of Faith to a Holy People  
From the desk of President Hill

Although Exodus follows immediately from Genesis, there seems to be little connection between the two in the kind of story that is being told. At the beginning of Exodus, Moses does remind us very briefly of the ending story of Genesis. He names the twelve sons of Jacob (or Israel), tells us that after Joseph's death the children of Israel multiplied greatly and that a Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. He then plunges into the account of the children of Israel's oppression as slaves in Egypt, the birth and preparation of Moses as a leader, and the birth of Israel as the people of God, a holy nation.

The thread that runs through both books, as through the entire Old Testament, is that the one true God is present and dealing graciously with his chosen ones. Even more, this gracious God has promised a Seed who would come from Abraham's line, be born of a woman without a man, and who would crush the power of Satan by dying in the place of sinful man.

But after the historical account of the creation and flood, with some details about the beginning generations of man from Adam and Eve, and then from Noah, the narrative focuses almost exclusively on one man and his family: Abraham. It appears that the one, holy, Christian Church is one man with his family. It is a preaching of faith in the true God and his promise of the Savior. The Word of God resides in one household, is taught by one preacher, and seems constantly to be on the verge of extinction.

We can add some details to the story. There were, in fact, other churches, others who had the Word of God. Job, the faithful and long-enduring Christian, lived in this time period. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob each had times when they gathered others around them from their Canaanite neighbors. Rulers in Canaan and Egypt at times acknowledged the true God. Melchizedek, king of Jerusalem, was the priest of God Most High (Genesis 14). It is possible, as Luther notes, that Melchizedek was actually Shem the son of Noah, having been named "King of Righteousness" (Hebrews 7).

We also know that Abraham and his family had been idolators in Ur of the Chaldees, deep in the heart of Mesopotamia in the delta of the Tigris and the Euphrates. The true Church of the living God had become a small minority religion scattered here and there throughout the ancient world. The lifestyle, the morality, the customs and habits of the ancient world descended into unholy chaos, a darkness which was always seeking to overcome the light of the Gospel of the coming Savior.

Even the family of Abraham often proved unreliable. Nephew Lot's family was overcome by the effeminate and sodomitic culture of Sodom and Gomorah. Abraham's son Ishmael mocked and rejected the promise given to his half-brother Isaac. Abraham's grandson Esau wanted to kill his brother who had received the promise of the Savior. Grandson Jacob's family hoarded and honored various household idols, went on a murderous rampage in the neighboring town of Shechem, and betrayed and sold one of their own brothers into slavery. The Church of the living God was a small and beleaguered household, living among neighbors sometimes friendly, sometimes hostile. As we have seen in our own times, the church has troubles, sometimes even enemies, right in her midst.

Genesis is the history of a Christian family, a story of justifying faith in Jesus Christ. But isolated families cannot build or sustain a culture that is able to withstand the menacing cultures around them. As Hebrews 11 tells us, they could build no permanent home, no lasting city. This is the picture of a very deep reality of our lives as Christians. Our faith in God and our hope for better things is rooted firmly in "the assurance of things hope for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

In Exodus 1, the Christian family has grown into great people, numerous, enslaved, and leaderless. As we will explore in our coming articles, in Exodus we see another picture of our Christian life, a picture of life as a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a consecrated and unique people of God.

But that history takes some telling. At the beginning of Exodus they were not a people, not royal, not a priesthood, not consecrated or unique. God created a new a wonderful thing in Exodus, as we shall see. And we will rejoice in this new and wonderful thing he has done in our midst making us into a Christian people of God.

## 2025 District Budget Report

The Wyoming District Board of Directors met January 27, 2026 to receive the report for 2025 revenue and expenses and approve a budget for the fiscal year 2026.

Let me begin this report by giving thanks to you, our beloved congregations and members, for your love, support, and prayers on behalf of the Wyoming District. You have opened your hearts to your brothers and sisters around the district for upholding and defending the doctrine of Holy Scriptures and maintaining the unity of our congregations.

I am amazed and humbled by your generosity and the outpouring of your gifts. I am well aware of the financial challenges that our congregations face in caring for their own pastors and providing for the needs of the congregation. As the Scripture says, you have given above and beyond, giving even of yourself (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Truly God is honored and glorified by your love for all his dear people. Thank you!

Here are some of the numbers: Total revenue for 2025 was \$909,810. Of that total, district congregations gave \$584,391 in pledges and \$33,295 in conference and convention assessments. Other noteworthy sources of revenue include \$101,653 from LCEF expense reimbursements and distribution of operating results; \$31,916 to the District President Discretionary Fund and the recently established Frederick the Wise fund for addressing emergencies that arise for our pastors and congregations; and \$64,765 received for establishing the Lutheran Laymen's Scholarship Fund.

Total expenses for 2025 were \$965,334, including \$20,138 for debt allocation (St. Andrew's parsonage). You may see in the attached chart that we forwarded \$150,000 to Synod to help fund our common work together at home and abroad. \$129,295 went to our campus mission in Laramie, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center. Ecclesiastical Administration included the District President's compensation, travel and other expenses, and disbursement of emergency funds. General Office

Administration included our Business Manager (60% District, the other 40% as LCEF District Vice President), Administrative Assistant, and numerous office expenses.

The 2025 expenses were offset with cash reserves, leaving \$4,626 in deficit spending. The Board of Directors has authorized the use of long-standing endowment income to balance the budget year over year. The 2026 budget projects an income of \$858,676, expenses of \$947,383 (including \$21,142 of debt retirement), and asset allocation of cash and investment proceeds of \$89,054 to balance the budget.

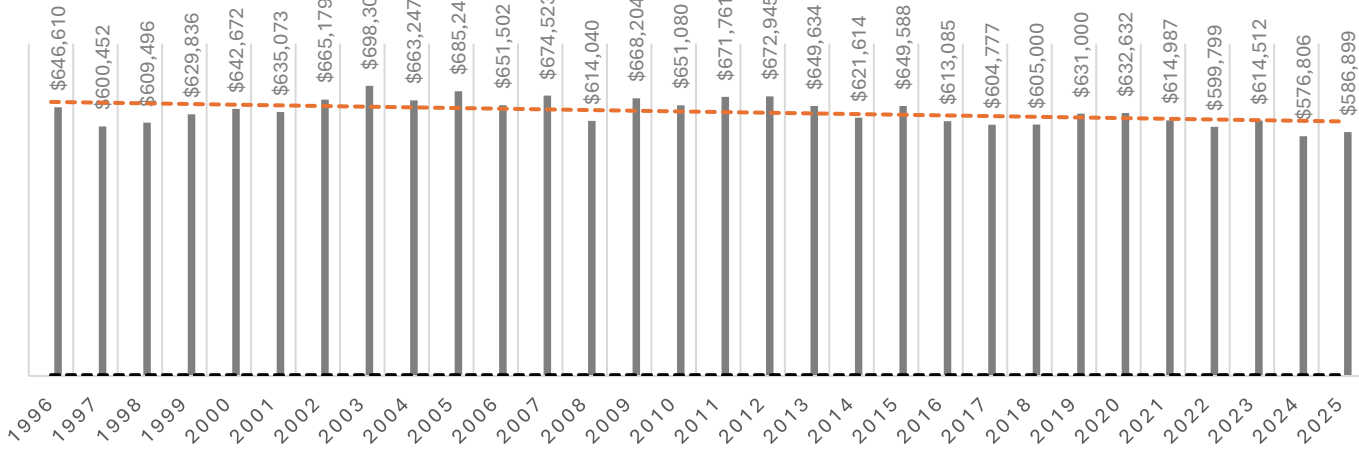
Many thanks to Business Manager Jeff Snyder, the Board of Directors, and District Treasurer John Schmall for their budget planning, reporting, and accountability.

I encourage you and your congregation to be an example and a blessing in setting aside a portion of your congregational budget to support District and Synod. I also urge our members to consider providing special gifts to the District through bequests, wills, sale of stock options, and the like. In this same vein, I encourage our members to consider other worthy recipients, such as your own congregations, one of the schools of the District, Luther Classical College, our two seminaries, the Concordia Universities, and Synod with its many duties.

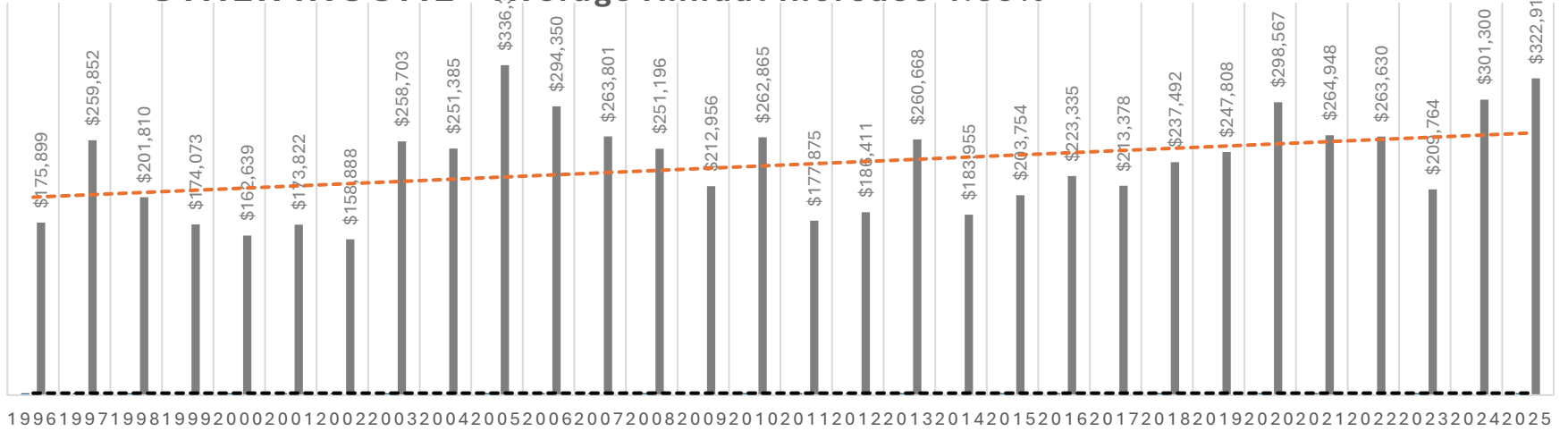
The church carries on its work through the generosity of its members. God grant us willing hearts, and the means needed to provide for the preaching and teaching of God's Word in our midst and beyond.

Blessings,  
Pr. John Hill

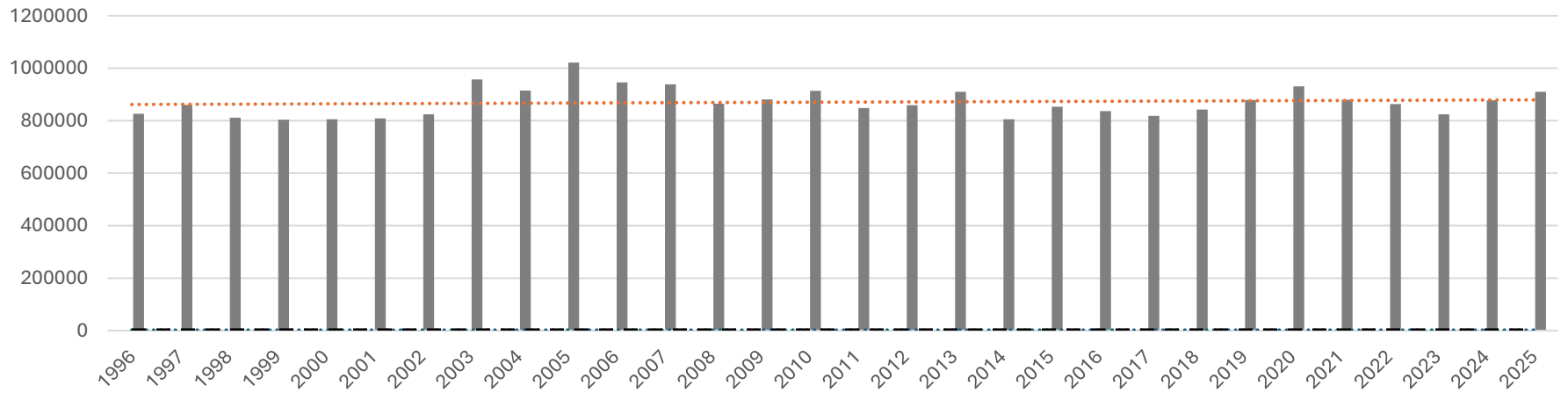
## CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGES - average annual decrease -.29%



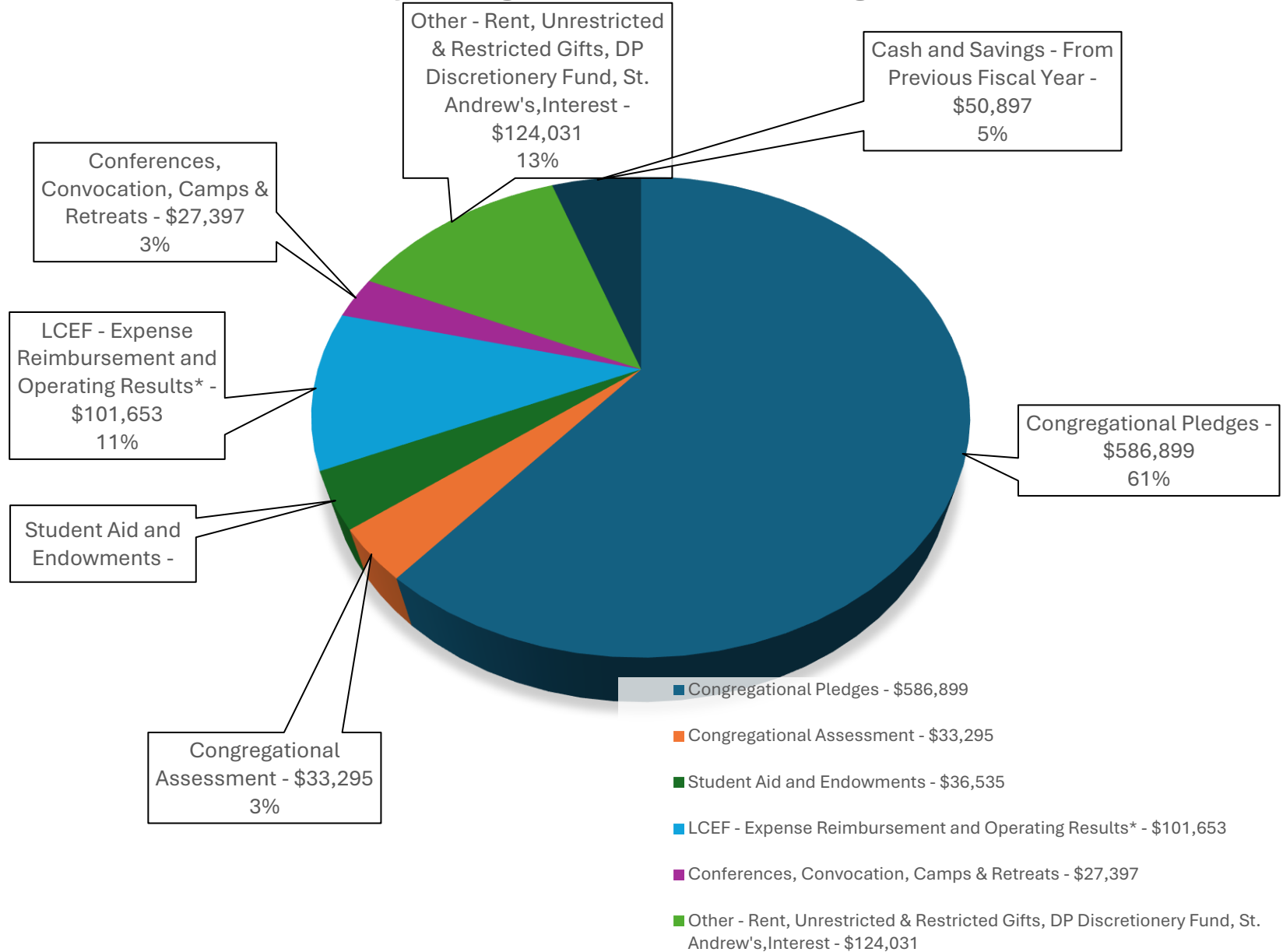
## OTHER INCOME - Average Annual Increase 4.38%



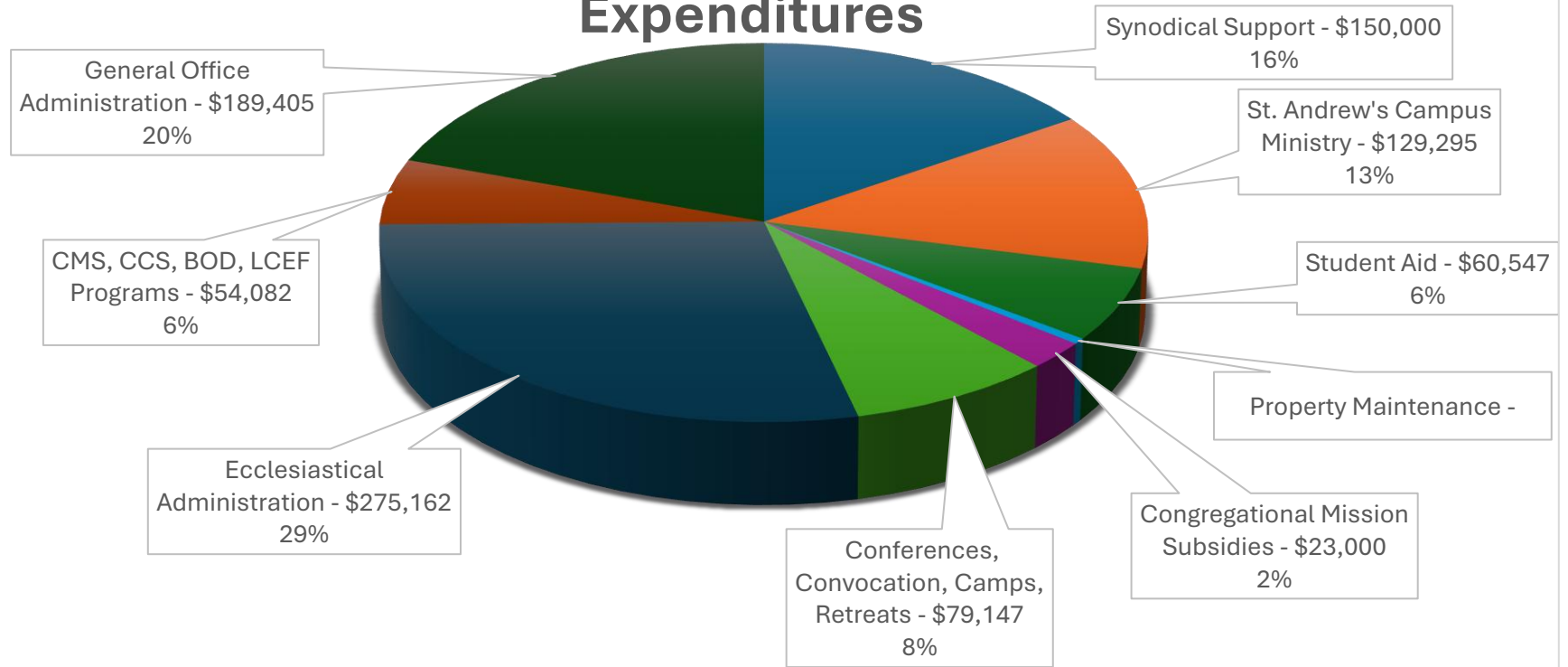
**TOTAL INCOME - 30 Year Average Annual Increase = .49%**



## 2025 Wyoming District - LCMS Budgeted Income



# 2025 Wyoming District - LCMS Budget Expenditures



- Synodical Support - \$150,000
- Student Aid - \$60,547
- Congregational Mission Subsidies - \$23,000
- Ecclesiastical Administration - \$275,162
- General Office Administration - \$189,405

- St. Andrew's Campus Ministry - \$129,295
- Property Maintenance - \$4,696
- Conferences, Convocation, Camps, Retreats - \$79,147
- CMS, CCS, BOD, LCEF Programs - \$54,082
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## **REFORMATION 500: The Peasants Revolt**

There is no Reformation article this month.

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## Announcements

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**Registration for Lander Camp** is open! Lander Camp this year will be held August 9-13 at the Fremont County Youth Camp. This year's theme is Ephesians - "Alive Together in Christ." Registration is due June 15 to receive a T-shirt. Registrations after that date will not receive a T-shirt. Final registrations are due July 30. Please contact the District Office with any questions. Registration is available at [wylcms.org/events/lander-camp](http://wylcms.org/events/lander-camp)

**The list of names below** are students who are currently enrolled (those starting in the summer or fall of 2026 are marked with an \*) in one of the Concordia's, at Luther Classical College, or at one of the Seminaries. These students are enrolled in church work (teacher, pastor, DCE, etc.). It is our hope that you would pray for them during their time in school and consider supporting them financially, if you are able, to help lessen their debt when they enter the work field. If there is someone that has been left out of this list, please notify the District Office. The coming roundup's will include a "Spotlight on Church Work Students" to allow you to get to know them from afar.

### **Seminary Students**

Nathaniel Mars (CTSFW)

Samuel Preus (CSL)

\*Brian Joachim (CTSFW in June '26)

### **Luther Classical College Students**

Noah Waterbury (Pre-Sem)

Donavan McConnell (Pre-Sem)

Simon Ristau (Pre-Sem)

Miriam Kieser (Teacher)

Rose MacPherson (Parish Music)

Paul Olson (Parish Music)

\*David Preus (Pre-Sem in August 2026)

\*Bridger Allred (Pre-Sem in August 2026)

## Concordia Students

\*Deborrah Hoff (Teacher)

Ben Firminhac (Lutheran Elem. Ed)

Timothy Mars (Church Music)

Luther Classical College continues to open its doors to students from all over the country. We will soon reach the end of our first academic year, and we cannot thank the congregations of the district enough for your prayers and financial support. LCC remains unabashedly Lutheran - our staff and faculty are all members of LCMS congregations, and our student body is made up of 100% confessional Lutherans. Chapel, classrooms, the lunchroom, and extracurricular activities are all carried out with a Lutheran understanding of vocation and the culture here is incredible. Come see it for yourself! If your congregation (or congregants!) would like a tour of the campus, or would like a visit from the college, please reach out to the Rev. Jacob Benson, Chief Advancement and Admissions Officer at [Jacob.benson@lutherclassical.org](mailto:Jacob.benson@lutherclassical.org).

## Dates to Remember

Mar. 24: District Meetings, Lutheran Ministries Center, Casper

Apr. 11: Homeschool Symposium, Luther Classical College, Casper

Apr. 20-21: PALS Meeting, Lutheran Ministries Center, Casper

May 11-13: Spring Pastors Conference, Trinity, Cheyenne

June 2-3: LCC Christian Culture Conference, Luther Classical College, Casper

June 4-6: Pastors Wives Retreat, C'Mon Inn, Casper

June 11-13: LWML District Convention, C'Mon Inn, Casper

July 7-9: Homeschool Retreat, Lion's Camp, Casper Mountain, Casper

July 14-17: CCLE, Concordia Chicago

July 18-23: The 69<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod, Phoenix, AZ

Aug 9-13: Wyoming Lutheran Youth Camp, Lander