

Presidential and Vice President Election



The newly elected president and praesidium (left to right): Rev. Richard Cody, Rev. Samuel Powell, President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, Rev. Craig Otto, and Rev. Randy Asbury.

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan was reelected president of the Missouri District Monday, June 23, 2025. He received 100% of the votes cast on the first ballot.

Rev. Craig Otto, senior pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, was elected first vice president by just one vote, receiving 50.16% of the ballots.

Elected second through fourth vice presidents, respectively, were: Rev. Randy Asbury, sole pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis; Rev. Samuel Powell, senior pastor of Trinity in Jefferson City; and Rev. Richard Cody, sole pastor of St. Peter in St. Joseph.

Monday Devotion



This morning, Rev. Michael Pottschmidt preached on "Our Living Hope," drawn from 1 Peter 1:3–9. The devotion reflected on a moment familiar to many—standing in a cemetery, committing a loved one to the ground. In that sacred space, all false hopes are stripped away, and the truth of the Gospel stands firm.

The devotion reminded us that many of the hopes we cling to—health, peace, stability—are not bad in themselves, but they are fragile. They can fade, fail, or disappear. These are dying hopes. But through Christ's resurrection, we are given something infinitely greater: a living hope. A hope that cannot die, because it is rooted in Easter.

This "living hope" is more than comfort—it is strength for today. It equips us to face trials with

courage, to serve our neighbor with joy, and to walk through grief with confidence. As Pottschmidt proclaimed, "We live and we die in a living hope that beats with the unending heartbeat of our resurrected Savior." Thanks be to God that our hope is not fleeting—it is eternal, and it lives in us because Jesus lives for us.



President's Report

President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan opened the 2025 Missouri District Convention with a message of hope rooted in Christ. Offering a summary of his complete report found in the *Convention Workbook*, President Hagan reflected on the past triennium (2022–25) as one marked by both opportunity and challenge for the congregations, schools, and workers of the Missouri District.

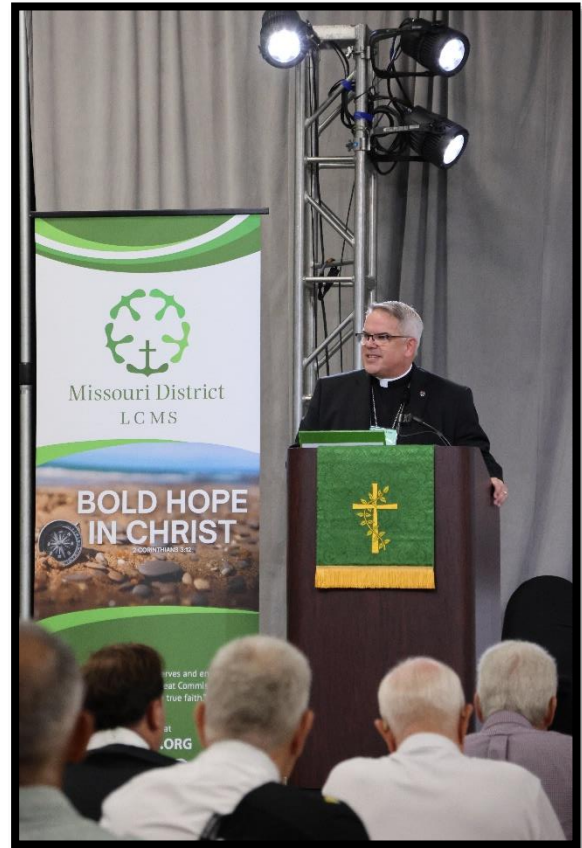
Drawing attention to visible signs of hope, the President highlighted the District's *SHINE!* Servant Event, which saw participation from over 10,000 individuals in the past three years. These events, along with the continued enrollment growth in Lutheran schools and the successful launch of new educational ministries, point to a church still actively serving its communities. The MOScholars program, which provided more than \$2.3 million in scholarships during the triennium, was celebrated as a key resource in supporting families and fostering continued engagement with Lutheran education.

The report also named serious challenges—particularly the continued decline in worship attendance, the pressure on families from a shifting culture, and the increasing need for faithful church workers and Christian counselors. Hagan underscored that while cultural forces grow more hostile to the Church, our response must be rooted in the Word and centered on Christ.

His report outlined four key targets guiding the District's work: church worker recruitment, family discipleship, community engagement, and shared ministry. Each of these efforts was presented as part of a broader call to remain bold in confession and hopeful in service. "While there are challenges," Hagan reminded delegates, "our hope is not in plans or programs, but in the risen Christ."

The report closed with a strong encouragement to go forward with Bold Hope in Christ. From campus ministries and military outreach to Recognized Service Organizations like Swaddling Clothes and Zoe's Home, the President noted that many doors for the Gospel remain open in Missouri. With the convention theme "Bold Hope in Christ" echoing throughout his message, Hagan reminded delegates that this is not a time for resignation but for boldness. The triennium ahead offers a renewed opportunity to confess, teach, and serve with joy—rooted in the abiding promise of Christ.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope," (Romans 15:13, ESV).



Convention Offering Update

We are blessed to announce additional offerings, bringing our updated total to \$22,463.52. You can read about the offering designation in Sunday *Today's Business* found online.

Essayist – Part I



Rev. Dr. Kevin Golden, associate professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, delivered the opening session of the 2025 Missouri District Convention essay under the theme “Bold Hope in Christ,” drawn from 2 Cor. 3:12. A familiar face within the district, Golden reflected on his 23 years of ministry—all served within the Missouri District—and spoke to delegates about the deep theological roots and practical implications of living with Christian hope in a fallen world.

Beginning with an illustration from *The Shawshank Redemption*, Golden explored the human longing for hope—how it can uplift, and when misdirected, how it can unravel. He reminded the assembly that Christian hope is distinct: it is grounded not in wishful thinking or uncertain dreams, but in the unshakable promises of Christ. “Hope is a good thing,” he noted, “maybe the best of things,” — especially when that hope is anchored in the person and work of Jesus.

Throughout the essay, Golden emphasized that hope cannot rest on itself—just as faith cannot be in faith alone. Rather, both must be rooted in Christ. “If your hope is in your hope, then your hope is uncertain and soon to vanish,” he warned. But when grounded in God’s promises, hope is specific, secure, and bold.

Golden offered a vivid cultural comparison between Corinth in Paul’s day and our contemporary world, noting the pressures of wealth, sexual decadence, and athletic idolatry that shaped—and continue to shape—people’s priorities. “How do you compete with that?” he asked, referencing the overwhelming cultural tides. His answer was clear: “You don’t have to. In Christ, we behold something far more glorious.”

Drawing deeply from the context of 2 Corinthians and the events at Mount Sinai (Exodus 34), Golden led delegates through a rich biblical narrative—from Moses’ veiled face to the glory of the Lord dwelling in the tabernacle, to its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The connection culminated in a powerful reminder: In Christ, the veil is lifted. We behold His glory, and we are being transformed—now—into His image.

Golden encouraged delegates to look around at their congregations and recognize the extraordinary in the ordinary: “You may not feel all that glorious, but your feelings do not determine reality. Christ has declared that His glory is transforming you.”

As Paul called the Corinthians to live boldly because of their hope, so too are we. “With that kind of hope,” Golden concluded, “how can you not act with much boldness?”

Other Elections

Secretary

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Hagerman, senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield

Board of Directors

Ordained: Rev. Andrew Gimbel, senior pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, O'Fallon

Commissioned: Dawn Walker, of St. Paul, Des Peres—reelected

Lay: Neal Bredehoeft, of Trinity, Alma—reelected; and Samuel Rathmann, of Faith, Jefferson City

Council on Mission and Ministry -

Ordained: Rev. Dr. Mark Rabe, of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Des Peres

Commissioned: DCE Leah Kortmeyer, of Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau

Lay: Kevin Herweck, of Concordia Lutheran Church, —reelected

Synod Convention Delegates

Ordained Advisory Delegates

Rev. David Burge

Rev. Stephen Kamprath

Rev. Bert Knapp

Rev. Mark Nebel

Rev. Mickey Wilkey

Alternate Ordained Delegates (in order of ranking):

TBD

Commissioned Advisory Delegates

Deac. Dr. Jennie Asher

Jason Becker

Jeffrey Burkee

David Fiala

Charles Gifford

Amanda Hankemeier

Matthew Janssen

Rebecca Little

John Maas

Nancy Maas

Deac. Ruth McDonnell

Dana Meyer

Thomas Nummela

Andrea Petree

Denise Rice

James Zickfield

Alternate Commissioned Advisory Delegates (in order of ranking):

Clint Colwell

Karla Perkowski

Deac. Jennifer Wientge

John Spangler

Mervin Dehning

George Nelson

Carolyn Thompson

Deborah Davis

Gary Moore

Carole Kleiboeker

Deac. Angeline Reitmeier

William Roundey

Joshua Douglas

Charles Peterman

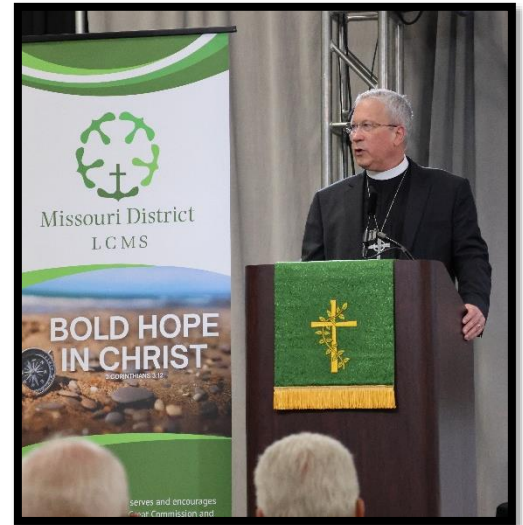
Michael Fischer

Greeters



The Convention delegates were blessed to have many visitors Monday. Some of those included formal greetings from Leah Sieveking (MOScholars), Marian Hoehner (president of Missouri LWML), David Fiedler (president of LCMS Foundation—please download his [PowerPoint presentation](#) here), Rev. Ken Kruger (president and chair of *MinistryFOCUS*), Jonathan Schultz (president of CPH), Kevin Herweck (vice-president and chief operating officer of Concordia Plans), Rev. Todd Biermann (executive director of Concordia Center for the Family).

Today, the delegates will hear from Rev. Bart Day (president of Lutheran Church Extension Fund), Dr. Bernard Bull (President of Concordia University Nebraska), Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall (assistant vice president for mission and identity of CUC).



First Vice President Lange Gives Report

Rev. Peter K. Lange, first vice president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), gave a report highlighting key ministry efforts across the Synod. His presentation included two video messages from LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, focusing on our shared Lutheran identity and the many ways members of the LCMS are boldly sharing the Gospel.

Lange shared encouraging statistics and noted that, by God's grace, the Synod is in its strongest financial position in decades. He provided updates on church planting efforts, outreach among diverse communities, and the work of LCMS missionaries serving around the world. He also shared a hopeful outlook for the future of church work vocations, with hundreds of students currently preparing for ministry in our universities and seminaries. During a Q&A session, Lange and LCMS Second Vice President Rev. Benjamin T. Ball responded to questions on a variety of topics related to church life and mission. The report closed with a reminder of our bold hope in Christ and our shared calling to proclaim His name in every place God has planted us.

2025 President's Acceptance Speech

In the afternoon of June 25, 1530, Chancellor of Saxony Christian Beyer stood before Emperor Charles V and read the German version of the Augsburg Confession. Dr. Beyer's loud voice carried so that the crowd gathered outside the hall in the courtyard were able to hear its presentation, which lasted approximately two hours. Seven German princes and two city councils had subscribed to the confession. At the risk of their lives and their earthly kingdoms, they boldly confessed their hope in Christ. Beyer read these words from Article IV of the Augsburg Confession, "We receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us." This was their bold confession, and it remains what we believe, teach and confess still today!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, there is much fear and apathy among our congregations today. Church leaders may wonder if the best days are behind us. We look back upon the past with longing and look to the future with uncertainty. And at times, we are hesitant even in the present because of the feeling that we're too small or too old or we've tried it all before. But Jesus Christ has indeed risen from the dead. The living Christ gives hope to those who were paralyzed by fears and doubts. Christ is not in the tomb! He sits at the Father's right hand in glory. Last night we sang, "This is the feast of victory for our God," because Christ has conquered sin and death! This is the hope that we proclaim. This is what we believe, teach and confess. This is the hope of which we sing. Because Christ has risen we have such hope and because we have such hope, we are very bold! My prayer for our congregations is that the next three years would be marked by boldness in proclaiming the Risen Christ, that we have boldness to proclaim the Gospel. It may be proclaimed in different places and amongst different people, but it is the same Gospel of Christ's victory and the hope that it brings.

In Springfield and Washington circuits, the boldness of our congregations means starting new Lutheran high schools. That's bold. In some congregations, boldness means reaching out through ministries that support expectant mothers and children in need. In other congregations, they are boldly serving the underserved in their community by providing clothing, food and even shelter. You've certainly seen such things after the recent tornado in St. Louis. Their boldness may take on different forms, but it always provides opportunities to boldly confess Jesus Christ! That's why we are here, and it's why we serve.

The four critical targets that the district just adopted, that our district board of directors have wrestled with focus on key things for our future:

1. Church Worker recruitment and retention. We want to continue this emphasis, because of the great need for bold servants in our congregations and schools.
2. Discipleship in the home. Our goal is to continue to assist congregations in equipping the homes to be places where Christ is at the center of the home and the Gospel is boldly taught there.
3. Mission Field: Missouri. This is the recognition that we have a mission field of over three million souls who are unchurched right here in our own midst. As our mission statement says, "The Missouri District exists to serve and encourage congregations to fulfill the Great Commission and promote the unity of the true faith."
4. Leadership Development. The district will provide training to assist congregations in developing leaders for our congregations and schools, amongst rostered church workers and laypeople.

The common goal thread among the four targets is bold hope in Christ!



The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead changes everything and gives our lives hope and purpose. Pastors all have their favorite theologians that they like to read. The last few years I've really gone back again and again to Swedish Lutheran Bishop, Bo Giertz. His writings are just as timely today as they were when he became Bishop in Sweden nearly seventy years ago. A newly translated work was called *A Shepherd's Letter*. It's encouragement for the church to be bold, to be bold as we hope in Christ. In it Bishop Giertz writes, "The church's whole existence depends on a miracle: that he who was dead has risen again and is now with them all their days. The church itself is a participation in this miracle. She would not exist if Christ's resurrection power was not at work in her ... Everything that the Resurrected One does and works, all that he draws into his sphere of life, all that he justifies and sanctifies, all that he uses in some way as a means of grace, it is permeated by the hidden power of the resurrection" (p. 9-10). "Everything depends on this: that Christ is risen, that God's Son was delivered for our trespasses and raised for our justification' (Rom 4:25)." (p. 17)

Dear friends in Christ, Our Lord has indeed risen from the dead. May this hope make us bold confessors of the faith as we hold to the truth of God's Word. May we be bold witnesses who tell others about the hope

that is within us. And may we be bold servants of Christ as we proclaim the Gospel boldly to all whom we serve. The resurrection of Jesus gives hope to every believer and that means that every congregation can be bold on account of the hope that we have in Christ Jesus!

June 24, 2025, in the afternoon, hundreds of God's people will return home from another convention, returning to their callings at home and at work and in the church. These are the places where God has called you to serve Him and to demonstrate the bold hope that we have in Christ. For less than forty-eight hours, we will have gathered here to be reminded of our Savior's resurrection and to know and to live out what that hope means in each and every one of our congregations! My prayer is that our congregations could be described as all having bold hope in Christ. He is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! May God grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

Resolutions Adopted Monday 6/23/25

**Denotes resolution was adopted as amended. See section "Resolutions Amended" for changes.*

Floor Committee 1 - Witness and Mercy

1-01: To Encourage a Heightened Awareness and Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries

1-02: To Make and Encourage Efforts in Mission Field Missouri

1-03: To Encourage and Celebrate Multiethnic Ministry

Floor Committee 2 - Life Together

2-01: To Approve Strategic Plan Critical Targets for 2025-2028 Triennium

2-02: To Encourage Congregations to Intentionally Recruit Youth and Young Adults to Consider Church Work Vocations

*2-03: To Encourage Church Worker Retention

*2-04: To Study Shared Ministry Among Small Congregations

*2-05: To Encourage Christian Discipleship in the Home

*2-06: To Encourage Fathers to Provide Spiritual Leadership in the Home

Floor Committee 3 - Theology, Church, and Culture

*3-01: To Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Small Catechism and Encourage Heads of Households to Teach It in the Home

*3-02: To Offer Care and Support for Families Affected by Homosexuality and Transgenderism

Floor Committee 4 - Structure and Administration

4-01: To Realign Circuits

4-02: To Revise Bylaws Article III.D and Article IV.A

4-03: To Revise Bylaws per CCM Recommendations

4-04: To Revise Bylaws Concerning the Convention Nominating Committee

4-05: To Revise Bylaws Concerning Conference Committees

4-06: To Review and Clarify Prior Approval

4-07: To Increase the Missouri District Church Worker Scholarship Endowment Fund

Late Resolutions

Resolution 3-06 To Oppose Missouri State Amendment 3

Whereas, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in convention has repeatedly condemned abortion on demand and affirmed the right to life for all, including the preborn in the womb (2019 Res. 11-01A, 2010 Res. 6-02A, 2007, Res. 6-06, 1998 Res. 3-14 and 6-02, 1979 3-02A, 1971 Res. 2-39); and

Whereas, the landmark 2022 Supreme Court Decision, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, overturned the constitutional right to abortion that had been enshrined in 1974's *Roe v. Wade* and 1992's *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, returning the issue of abortion rights to the states; and

Whereas, 2024 Missouri Constitutional Amendment 3 amended the state constitution to establish a right to abortion up to "fetal viability," limiting restrictions on or prohibition of abortion to the period after "fetal viability"; and

Whereas, congregations and workers of the Missouri District desire to stand against abortion and the harm it inflicts upon families and children within the State of Missouri, trusting the better hope found in God, our Maker and Redeemer; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention publicly declare its opposition to Amendment 3; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District encourage congregations to peacefully and proactively speak about God's gift of life within their callings and support political action at the state and local levels to abolish abortion.

Resolution 3-07 To Defend God's Gift of Life

Whereas, Scripture clearly teaches that life begins at conception (Job 10:9-11; Ps. 51:5; Ps. 139:13-17; Jer. 1:5, Luke 1:41-44), and that the child in the womb is a living human created by God to be protected from all harm, including murder (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts 7:19; 1 John 3:15); and

Whereas, the joy of Christ's birth is also for the child inside his mother's womb (Acts 2:39), as attested by the account of John leaping in Elizabeth's womb (Luke 1:41, 44), and

Whereas, the eternal Word becoming flesh in the womb of the Virgin is essential to how sinful man is saved (Gal 4:4-5; 1 Tim 2:5), since, as Gregory of Nazianzus put it, "For that which He has not assumed He has not healed; but that which is united to His Godhead is also saved (Critique of Apollinarianism, par. 5);" therefore, be it

Resolved, that the congregations and workers of the Missouri District be encouraged to pray for and work toward an end to abortion; and be it further

Resolved, that pastors and laity be encouraged to study the forthcoming CTCR update to its 1984 report on abortion, as requested by the 2023 Synod in Convention (2023 Res. 11-03); and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District of the LCMS in convention memorialize Synod in convention to declare, that the pro-choice and abortion rights ideology is a heresy, which no Christian in good conscience can hold.

Resolution 4-08

To Affirm That Pastoral Formation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is Done By Synodically Approved Seminaries

Whereas, the Office of the Holy Ministry has been instituted by Christ Himself (John 20:19-23, Ephesians, 4:11-16), and

Whereas, the third Objective of the LCMS Constitution (Article III) is to “Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth,” and

Whereas, a central purpose in the formation of the LCMS, 178 years ago, was to share together in the task of preparing and recognizing LCMS pastors, whom LCMS congregations would then be free to choose and call for service. Thus, the LCMS has, from its beginning, supported and operated its own seminaries: Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and

Whereas, in May 2025, the president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the president of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, wrote letters to the LCMS responding to questions about non-LCMS online theological programs appealing to LCMS students and donors.

Whereas, the presidents of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, clearly stated in their letters that graduates of neither of these programs may be ordained or installed in an LCMS congregation or ministry. Further, neither of these programs is owned, operated, or governed by the LCMS, and

Whereas, these two presidents (of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne) are two of the three members of the Pastoral Formation Committee. This Committee’s primary role is “... ensuring that the Synod’s objective of training pastors is fulfilled consistently (Bylaw 3. National Organization and Responsibilities, 3.10, Other Councils, Committees, and Boards, D. Pastoral Formation Committee and Constitution Article III, 3),” and

Whereas, the 2023 Synodical Convention, in Resolution 6-02A, resolved that “districts and members of the Synod honor, use, and promote Synod-approved programs and not create independent programs of pastoral preparation or direct men to a pastoral preparation program outside of our Synod’s seminaries,” therefore be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention acknowledge and affirm LCMS Bylaw 2.5.2 regarding calls and proper service, which states:

“Congregations that are members of the Synod and their association schools shall call and be served only by (1) ordained ministers who have been admitted to their respective ministries in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in these Bylaws and have thereby become members of the Synod; (2) candidates for the pastoral ministry who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls by the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments; or (3) ordained ministers who are members in good standing of church bodies that have been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod when agreements for such calls are in place”
and

Resolved, that any congregation that should call or be served by a man not certified to serve as a pastor in the LCMS be addressed by the appropriate Synodical disciplinary process as described in Bylaw 2.5.4, which states:

“Congregations that violate these requirements and persist in such violation shall, after due admonition, forfeit their membership in the Synod.” and be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also acknowledge and affirm Synod Bylaws 2.6.2. and 2.6.3, regarding qualifications for and right to Synod membership, which state:

Bylaw 2.6.2

“Individuals who have been declared qualified for a first call and assigned first calls in accordance with Bylaw sections 2.7–2.9 shall, by the rites of both ordination or commissioning and installation in accordance with Bylaw section 2.10, become members of the Synod,

Bylaw 2.6.3,

“There is no inherent right to membership in the Synod, and the decision as to qualification for a first call and the assignment of first calls shall be at the sole discretion of the Synod.”

And be it finally resolved, that the Missouri District in convention give thanks to God for the work of our seminaries and the Gospel they proclaim.

Late Overture

Overture 4-08

To Affirm that Pastoral Formation is Done Only by LCMS Seminaries

WHEREAS, The Office of the Holy Ministry has been instituted by Christ Himself (John 20:19-23, Ephesians, 4:11-16), and

WHEREAS, The third Objective of the LCMS Constitution (Article III) is to “Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth,” and

WHEREAS, A central purpose in the formation of the LCMS, 178 years ago, was to share together in the task of preparing and recognizing LCMS pastors, whom LCMS congregations would then be free to choose and call for service. Thus, the LCMS has, from its beginning, supported and operated its own seminaries: Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, In May 2025, the president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the president of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, wrote letters to the LCMS responding to questions about non-LC - MS online theological programs appealing to LCMS students and donors. The organizations cited were:

- Luther House of Study (LHOS) promoted among members by Unite Leadership Collective (ULC), a parachurch organization focused on developing local, congregational leadership.
- The Center, another parachurch organization focused on outreach that invites LCMS members to study at the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership (CMPL) a venture under the umbrella of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), and

WHEREAS, The presidents of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, clearly stated in their letters that graduates of neither of these programs may be ordained or installed in an LCMS congregation or ministry. Further, neither of these programs is owned, operated, or governed by the LCMS, and

WHEREAS, These two presidents (of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne) are two of the three members of the Pastoral Formation Committee. This Committee’s primary role is “...ensuring that the Synod’s objective of training pastors is fulfilled consistently (Bylaw 3. National Organization and Responsibilities, 3.10, Other Councils, Committees, and Boards, D. Pastoral Formation Committee and Constitution Article III, 3),” and

WHEREAS, The 2023 Synodical Convention, in Resolution 6-02A, resolved that “districts and members of the Synod honor, use, and promote Synod-approved programs and not create independent programs of pastoral preparation or direct men to a pastoral preparation program outside of our Synod’s seminaries,” therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Missouri District congregations will not issue Divine Calls to the Office of the Holy Ministry to men not trained or colloquized and certified through our LCMS seminaries and seminaries of church bodies in fellowship with us, and be it

Resolved, That any congregation that should call a man not certified to serve as a pastor in the LCMS has broken altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS, and be it

Resolved, That the 2026 Synodical Convention affirm that only the two LCMS seminaries and seminaries of church bodies in fellowship with the LCMS will formally train and certify men for the pastoral ministry in her fellowship, and be it finally

Resolved, that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reject those who attempt to enter the Pastoral Office within our fellowship by another way.

Submitted by:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Kansas City, Missouri

Monday End of Day Registration Report

Registrant Group	Registered	Potential Registrants
All Registrants	423	448
Voting Pastoral Delegates	161	166
Voting Lay Delegate	171	179
Non-Voting Clergy	13	17
Commissioned DCE	3	3
Commissioned Deaconess	2	3
Commissioned Teacher	7	7
Commissioned Emeritus	7	7
Non-Voting Emeritus Pastor	10	10
Guest	18	25
District Staff, Volunteers	31	31

Resolutions Amended

Floor Committee Two – Life Together

Resolution 2-03

To Encourage Church Worker Retention

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, one of the objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is to “Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Constitution Article III 3); and

Whereas, another objective of the LCMS is to “Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties” (Constitution Article III 8); and

Whereas, the vocation of professional church worker is filled with great opportunities to encourage people in their faith daily; and

Whereas, the number of active rostered church workers has decreased from 14,647 in 2020 to 11,885 in 2023; and

Whereas, congregations have limited resources for providing a sabbatical; and

Whereas, research findings from a 2024 Synod survey of workers and congregational lay leaders indicate that lay leaders recognize and affirm their responsibility in caring for church workers; and

Whereas, **that** lay leaders desire to be more proactive in the care they provide for support and welfare of their church workers; and

Whereas, lay leaders would appreciate any information, resources, or best practice recommendations to this end; therefore be it

Resolved, lay leaders and church workers be encouraged to collaborate for the mutual building of the body of Christ with its church workers; and be it further

Resolved, that the District President and the District staff provide a sample sabbatical guideline to each congregation’s Board of Elders; and be it further

Resolved, that the Convention commends Lutheran Church Extension Fund for its partnership with MinistryFOCUS to provide grants to professional church workers for educational debt; and be it further

Resolved, that the Convention also commends the ministries of Grace Place Wellness Ministry, DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, and Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat for their efforts to provide church workers spiritual, emotional, and psychological tools, personal consultation, refreshment in the Word, and advanced education; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations and the congregational leaders of the Missouri District be encouraged to refer their church workers to the above opportunities; and be it finally

Resolved, to proactively foster a culture of care and appreciation through prayer, recognition, and practical support for those serving in church work.

Resolution 2-04

To Study Shared Ministry Among Small Congregations

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, Missouri District currently has a growing number of congregations that are too small and/or lack the resources to call a full-time pastor; and

Whereas, the Missouri District experiences the ongoing challenge to supply Synodically trained, ordained and commissioned workers to serve in their midst; and

Whereas, in the Holy Scriptures we hear how the first disciples responded to the needs of fellow believers during a time of famine in another region, “So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea” (Acts 11:29); and

Whereas, God leads us to consider other congregations and their needs by sharing the resources of workers, with these words “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others...I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon” (Philippians 2: 4, 19); and

Whereas, in 2 Corinthians 9:2c-3 we hear how congregations stewarded the support for workers by collaborating in advance to ensure the success of shared resources and by their zeal in the resurrected Lord, saying “...And your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready...”; and

Whereas, the Synod Handbook provides an orderly way to respond to the needs of congregations struggling to support workers, stating;

“The circuit forum is the group which aids the process of keeping congregations, particularly the lay leaders, commissioned ministers, and pastors, supportive of one another in their common confession and mutually active in developing programs for the good of member congregations, in considering and recommending new work, and in suggesting improvements for services and programming at the national and District levels and is encouraged to meet at least twice a year” (Synod 2023 Handbook Section 5.3.1); and

Whereas, “(a) The Circuit Visitor shall endeavor to provide resources, opportunities, and assistance so God’s people can grow in their faith” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.3.1); and

Whereas, “(b) Among the functions which the circuit forum may perform are the following:”

... “(3) To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of circuit congregations, lay leaders, teachers, and pastors” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.3.1); and

Whereas, “The circuit convocation is a larger gathering of members from circuit congregations during a year in which there is no national or District Convention” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.4.1); and

Whereas, “The purpose of a circuit convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know of and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the circuit forum, may discuss and evaluate mission potential within the circuit, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and the Synod” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.4.1); and

Whereas, “(a) Its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, and motivation, and mission and theological discourse both within and beyond the circuit. The convocation should also be a place for in-depth discussion among all circuit congregation members of the theological and missiological issues before the Synod” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.4.1); and

Whereas, “(b) The Circuit Visitor shall serve as Chairman of the circuit convocation and other circuit gatherings” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.4.1); and

Whereas, “(c) The Circuit Visitor and any other officers shall have the primary responsibility of preparing the agenda for the circuit convocation” (*Synod 2023 Handbook* Section 5.4.1);

Resolved, that Circuit Visitors initiate the planning and implementation of a circuit forum to consider the needs of their small congregations, **and to study and instruct on what Scripture and our confessions teach on the Church, the ministry, and the call, and study shared ministry recommendations for supporting small congregations;** and be it finally

Resolved, that circuits meet in convocation in non-Convention years as required by Synod bylaws (5.4.1) to address and recommend support needs for our sister congregations that are small.

Resolution 2-05

To Encourage Christian Discipleship in the Home

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, the home is the foundational setting for Christian discipleship;

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7); and

Whereas, daily devotions, prayer, and hymn singing are vital practices for nurturing faith; and

Whereas, Christian education in the home strengthens family bonds and nurtures faith; and

Whereas, congregations often provide training for parents in leading devotions and resources such as Bibles, *Small Catechisms*, hymnals, Portals of Prayer, and other devotional materials; and

Whereas, the Missouri District has trained more than a dozen Tell the Next Generation facilitators in collaboration with Concordia Center for the Family to help congregations equip parents in discipleship in the home; therefore be it

Resolved, that parents and other guardians responsible for the care of children are encouraged to read God's Word, pray, and have devotions in the home as part of faith formation utilizing the Bible, Luther's *Small Catechism*, ~~*Lutheran Service Book*~~, **hymnals of the Synod**, and a family altar; and be it

Resolved, that congregations of the Missouri District provide **theologically sound** devotional resources for Christian discipleship in the home; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations in need of assistance in family discipleship be encouraged to utilize a Tell the Next Generation facilitator through the Missouri District office.

Resolution 2-06

To Encourage Fathers to Provide Spiritual Leadership in the Home

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures teach "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4); and

Whereas, secular society provides competing values to draw fathers away from their Christian vocation of discipleship for their children; and

Whereas, children are more likely to remain faithful to the Christian faith into adulthood when they see their father actively leading in this area; and

Whereas, faith formation has been misunderstood as primarily the responsibility of the church, while the above Scriptures, as well as sociological studies, show that parents are the primary influence on faith formation:

- when the father and mother attend church regularly, 33 percent of their children end up as regular churchgoers;
- when the mother attends regularly but the father is non-practicing, only two percent of their children become regular churchgoers;
- when the father attends regularly but the mother is non-practicing, 44 percent of the children become regular churchgoers (Haug and Warner, "Vol. 2 of Population Studies No. 31", [Strasbourg, 2000]);
- and the church's responsibility lies in equipping the parents; and

Whereas, another study, focused on Sunday School, found similar results on the impact of parents:

- when both parents attend Bible study in addition to the Sunday service, 72 percent of their children attend Sunday school when grown;
- when only the father attends Sunday school, 55 percent of the children attend when grown;
- when only the mother attends Sunday school, 15 percent of the children attend when grown;
- when neither parent attends Sunday school, only six percent of the children attend when grown (Nick Cady, "The Impact on Kids of Dad's Faith and Church Attendance", June 20, 2016, www.nickcady.org); and

Whereas, additionally, the survey found that:

- if a child is the first person in a household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5 percent probability everyone else in the household will follow;
- if the mother is the first to become a Christian, there is a 17 percent probability everyone else in the household will follow;

- when the father is first, there is a 93 percent probability everyone else in the household will follow; therefore be it

Resolved, that fathers are encouraged to take a more active role in the Christian education of their children, providing guidance and leadership in faith formation; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations of the Missouri District provide *theologically sound* resources for fathers in the home.

Floor Committee Three – Theology, Church, and Culture

Resolution 3-01

To Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Small Catechism and Encourage Heads of Households to Teach It in the Home

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, the year 2029 marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of both Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms; and

Whereas, in the year 2029 the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will gather for its 70th Regular Convention and, prior to the Convention, will choose a Convention theme; and

Whereas, Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* is fundamental for teaching the basic doctrines found in the Scriptures to persons desiring to understand God's truth concerning the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar including instructions for individuals (*Table of Duties*) and various prayers; and

Whereas, the *Small Catechism* is a magnificent teaching tool for the head of household to use for the devotional life of the family and teaching foundational Biblical truths by using the questions and answers within each chief part, the table of duties, basic questions and answers for the family, and daily prayers; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourage congregations and various entities within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to recognize and celebrate the treasure for the sake of the church that is Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourage the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to include in its regular Convention theme for 2029 the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourage *pastors*, congregations, and *schools* to continue to use the Luther's *Small Catechism* to teach the Christian faith to their members and those considering membership, and encourage members to use the Catechism at home for family devotions; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourage the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to promote the 500th anniversary of Luther's *Small Catechism* by publicizing this important event in the history of the Lutheran Church and to produce materials that will encourage and equip heads of households to teach the *Catechism* within the home.

Resolution 3-02

To Offer Care and Support for Families Affected by Homosexuality, ~~and~~ Transgenderism, and Sexual Libertinism

R-1 pp. 28-31

Whereas, God in His almighty power has made humans in His image, which has subsequently been defaced and damaged through original sin (Genesis 1; Apology 2.17-18; *Formula of Concord Solid Declaration* 1.10-11); and

Whereas, God made humans male and female (Gen 1:27, Matt. 19:4), and designed marriage between a man and a woman (Gen 2:24) for the purposes of companionship and support (Gen 2:18, 20–23), procreation (Gen. 1:28), and protection from sin (1 Cor 7:1-9); and

Whereas, God has designed and gifted sexual intimacy and intercourse to occur only within marriage between one husband and one wife (Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:18; Num. 5:11-31; Matt. 5:27-30); and

Whereas, the world and our own sinful flesh continue to tempt Christians away from God's design for marriage and sexuality, with errors such as sexual libertinism, homosexuality, and transgenderism; and

Whereas, the families of our congregations and church workers face these temptations and struggle to find resources for instruction, spiritual care, and personal counseling that are faithful to Biblical designs for marriage and sexuality; and

Whereas, Synod's Created Male and Female Task Force, created by the Office of National Mission in accordance with 2019 Res. 11-03A and continued by Synod in 2023 Res. 1-04A, has begun its work in studying these problems among rostered church workers and in Synod schools, identifying existing and needed resources, and developing programs that might offer care to those struggling with these temptations and their families; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourage its member congregations and church workers to pray for those whose families have been affected by homosexuality, ~~and~~ transgenderism, **and sexual libertinism** and also encourage them to remain steadfast in their commitment to uphold and teach God's design for marriage and sexuality while navigating difficult familial relationships, and lovingly support them as they bear these burdens; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District continue its efforts to identify Biblically faithful counselors and make that list available for those whose families are affected by homosexuality, ~~and~~ transgenderism, **and sexual libertinism**; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District thank the Created Male and Female Task Force for its work and study its report in anticipation of the 2026 Synod Convention; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District memorialize the Synod to continue the Created Male and Female Task Force in the next triennium, with a specific encouragement to develop and facilitate conferences, seminars, and retreats to help the families of our congregations and church workers who have loved ones dealing with these temptations; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District memorialize Synod to direct its seminaries, colleges, and other responsible agencies (Districts, RSOs, etc.) to identify Biblically faithful Lutheran counselors who will abide by God's revealed design for marriage and sexuality, and aid in providing theological education and standards to ensure their Biblical faithfulness; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District memorialize Synod to direct its seminaries, colleges, and other responsible agencies (Districts, RSOs, etc.) to identify and support theologically trained pastors, seminarians, and laypeople who may wish to seek further training in counseling in order to provide care to those struggling with these challenges; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention memorialize Synod to encourage the institutions of the Concordia University System to establish or expand counseling programs that provide for both Biblically faithful counseling to students tempted by homosexuality, ~~and~~ transgenderism, **and sexual libertinism** and the training of Biblical faithful counselors to care for those inside and outside of the church who are tempted or whose lives and families have been affected by homosexuality, ~~and~~ transgenderism, **and sexual libertinism**.

Departed Saints

R. Michael Alexander

Rev. Victor Atsinger

Rev. Thomas Baker

Craig Busseau

Rev. Dr. Victor Constien

Paul Crisler

Rev. William Doubek III

William Dougherty

Linda Dressler

Rev. Frank Eberhart

Jimmy Ebers

Vicki Fisher

Dale Fisk

Rev. Dennis Garrels

William Gasau

Dr. Ralph Geisler

Rev. Dr. Arthur Graudin

Rev. Barton Gray

Lloyd Haertling

Orlyn Heimsoth, Sr.

Ellen Hetz

Rev. Ronald Jansen

Rev. David Johnson

James Johnston

Rev. Howard Kramer

Rev. Robert Kriete

Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn

Rev. Gary Lampe

Gene Ladendorf

Janice Ladendorf

Rev. Karl Leeman

Rev. John Loum

Rev. Mark Martin

Rev. Dr. Donald Miesner

Dr. Carl Moser

Jami Murray

Donald Petering

Wilbert Rusch, Jr.

Rev. Henry Schaefer

Rev. Rudolf Schaser

Rev. Paul Scheidt

Paul Schmalz

Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt

Dr. Arnold Schmidt

Rev. Warren Schmidt

Rev. Walter Schoedel

Rev. Ronald Schuette

Rev. Benjamin Schumacher

Rev. Gregory K. Smith

Gary Spieler

Rev. Milton Stohs

Rev. Alger Tormoehlen

Rev. Otto Urban, Jr.

Rev. Mark Wenger

Rev. Blake Wolf

Rev. Kenneth Young