

Convention Workbook



The 42nd Convention
of

Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji

Milford, IA

June 8-10, 2025

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DELEGATE INFORMATION

(Please read carefully.)

THE FORTY-SECOND CONVENTION of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod takes place, God-willing, from Sunday to Tuesday, June 8-10, 2025, at Camp Okoboji. The Registration Committee will be on duty Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. All attending the Convention must mail their meals and lodging registration sheet (ivory) to CAMP OKOBOJI by May 8. The congregation's treasurer must mail their convention assessment to IOWA DISTRICT WEST by May 1. No delegate shall stand accredited and receive a voting badge unless the congregation has paid the assessment fee in advance.

THE OPENING SERVICE with Holy Communion will be held Sunday evening at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Spirit Lake, The Rev. Paul Dare, pastor. (Immanuel is located about ½ mile south of the intersection of Highways 9 and 71, on the east side of Highway 71.) Announcement for Holy Communion is to be made on the space provided on your Registration Form. You must present this form when you register. LCMS President — The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is scheduled to deliver the sermon at our Convention. The Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich will edify the Convention attendees as essayist.

THE *CONVENTION WORKBOOK* is posted on our district website at www.idwlcms.org/convention.php. Be certain to read it through carefully. The various reports provide helpful background for Convention decisions. **Please remember you must bring a copy with you to the convention.** If you do not have access to a printer, please contact your pastor who will assist you. If you prefer, you may download a copy to a small laptop or tablet computer. However, no extension cords are allowed on the floor of the convention.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BIBLE AND YOUR COPY OF THE *CONVENTION WORKBOOK* TO THE CONVENTION. If the alternate delegate attends in your stead, please turn your copy of the *Convention Workbook* over to him/her.

THE CONVENTION COMMITTEES are listed immediately following the Convention Schedule. You will do well to look these over. The pastor whose name is listed first is the chairman of the committee. He will convene the committee and provide for the selection of a secretary. Committee reports are to be prepared in five copies, the original for the District Secretary for his permanent files, the four copies for the Committee, the Convention Chairman, the Press Committee, and the Assistant Secretary.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Floor Committees will hold open meetings which delegates can attend in order to receive clarification of an issue or provide input into an overture that may be presented to the Convention. These open hearings will be held in designated classrooms of Immanuel Lutheran Church beginning 20 minutes after the close of the Opening Service on Sunday, June 8. (See Schedule page in the *Convention Workbook*.)

CONVENTION MATERIALS: No materials are to be distributed on the floor of the Convention or at the door without permission of the Chairman.

THE CREDENTIALS form for lay delegates must be signed by the pastor and two officers of the congregation where membership is held. Unless all three signatures appear, the seating of a delegate could be questioned. Please see that the above procedure is observed. Each parish is entitled to two votes, one by the pastor and one by the lay delegate. You must present this form when you register. A dual or triple parish arrangement constitutes a single parish.

EACH DELEGATE SHOULD bring needed toilet articles, towels, bed linens, and maybe an umbrella or raincoat.

THE 2025 PROCEEDINGS: A copy of the 2025 *PROCEEDINGS* will be emailed to each congregation, delegate, ordained and commissioned worker. It will also be posted on our district website at www.idwlcms.org/convention.php. If you cannot open the document, please contact your pastor or the district office.

CONVENTION CHOIR: Once again there will be a Convention Choir. The first rehearsal will be Monday at 8:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE SERVICE: Address all mail in care of Camp Okoboji, 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford, Iowa 51351. Telephone 712-337-3325.

REGISTRATION FEE: Each congregation shall pay the registration fee and per communicant member assessment whether or not its voting delegates attend. **No delegate shall stand accredited unless the registration fee and assessment have been paid.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR LAY DELEGATES

When you download your *Convention Workbook*, make it a point to read through the reports of all Boards and Committees and thus familiarize yourself with the work which has been carried out within our District, as well as that which is planned for the days ahead. Whenever you encounter something which raises a question in your mind, mark it at once. Then arrange for a meeting with your pastor so that together you can discuss the items which will be coming before the Convention. The Floor Committees hold open meetings which delegates can attend in order to receive clarification of an issue or input into an overture that may be presented to the Convention. Times and locations for these meetings will be announced by the Chairman of the Convention following the Opening Service on Sunday evening.

On the floor of the Convention itself, the various floor committees in our District will make their reports. We are going to take for granted that everyone has studied the printed reports submitted by the District committees.

At any time during the Convention sessions, no matter what the issue under discussion, if something is not clearly presented so that you fully understand the issue, raise your hand and request clarification. Unless you clearly understand the issue, you can hardly be expected to vote intelligently in the manner. The Lord's work requires the faithful exercise of our talents in the best interest of His Kingdom.

During the Convention, you will also want to take notes on various presentations, as well as note specific actions taken by the Convention, so that you will be able to provide an accurate report to the congregation you are representing. As you participate in the business of the Convention, you will also realize that you have another responsibility besides that of reporting, namely, the responsibility between this Convention and the next of involving your congregation in the work of the Church. On the one hand, this will mean reminding them of distinct actions taken by the Convention in which they were represented. On the other hand, it will mean speaking about the very reasons for which the Church was established and encouraging them to be faithful to their God-given mission. It may mean reminding them to put first things first. God give you strength and courage for the task, and His blessing rest upon your witness.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask them at the Orientation Session after the service on Sunday evening. Remember to bring your Bible and your *Convention Workbook*. May the Lord bring you safely to the Convention.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The purpose is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to ensure justice and equality to all, particularly the minority, and to ensure that the will of the majority shall prevail.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ALL MEMBERS

The two basic rights of all members are to **speak** and to **vote**. These need to be exercised and used faithfully, wisely, and well. However, all members also have certain **basic privileges**, as a part of Parliamentary Procedure. These are important.

Any member has the right at **any** time, even interrupting a speaker, to:

1. Make a point of order – if the member feels that proper procedure has not been followed. The Chair either accepts the point and makes the correction or rules that the point is not well taken. (If a member abuses this privilege, the Chair need not recognize that person.)
2. Raise a question of privilege – if the member, for example, feels there is disorder, bad ventilation, etc., or feels a personal attack has been made, etc. (This, too, dare not be abused.)
3. Make a request for information – if something is not understood about a resolution, or the facts presented are not clear, etc.
4. Make a parliamentary inquiry – if the member does not understand the parliamentary situation, or wants to know what kind of motion to use, or what to say to accomplish his objectives, etc.

KINDS OF MOTIONS

1. Main Motions – A Main Motion is made to bring any particular subject before the assembly for its consideration. The Main Motion is the foundation upon which all procedure is built. Only one Main Motion may be pending at a time.
2. Subsidiary Motions – Subsidiary Motions are those which help or assist in disposing of the Main Motion in the most appropriate way. There are seven: postpone indefinitely, amend, commit or refer, postpone to a definite time, limit or extend debate, previous question, and table.
3. Privileged Motions – Privileged Motions have no connection with the Main Motion but are of such great importance that they take precedence over all other questions. If made when nothing is pending, they become Main Motions. They are: call for orders of the day, question or privilege, recess, adjourn, fix time to adjourn to.
4. Incidental Motions – Incidental Motions are such as arise out of another question which is pending, for example, close nominations, division of question, division of assembly, etc.

FREQUENTLY USED PROCEDURES AND POINTS

Following is information on a few of the most commonly used procedures and points in any assembly.

Amendments

- These are the most commonly used of the subsidiary motions. Forms of amendments are: inserting or adding, striking out, striking out and inserting or adding, substituting (a paragraph or whole resolution).

- Amendments must be germane to the motion, that is, they must relate to it, although they may not change an affirmative motion to negative.
- Amendments to the 2nd degree only are permitted, that is, an amendment to an amendment. And only one amendment of the 1st degree is permitted at a time, although any number may be offered in succession.

Substitute

- A subsidiary motion to substitute is actually an amendment, and is basically handled as such. (This amendment is often called “substitute motion,” although this is not the best form and is often confusing.)
- A motion to substitute is different from other forms of amendments in that it can do away entirely with the original resolution. It is also different because the original motion may be amended by secondary amendments while the substitute is pending.
- Since it is an amendment, **two** votes are always required. In other words, if the substitute has passed, all that has been decided is to substitute that paragraph or motion for the original one. The substitute has then become the main motion, is open for discussion, and must be voted on.

Previous Question

- The name of this motion is a little confusing, but it is simply a motion to stop debate and vote immediately on the pending question. It requires a 2/3 vote and is not debatable.
- Calling out “Question!” does not bind the Chair immediately to stop debate and call for the vote. Only the formal motion of the Previous Question and its adoption can do this.
- This motion may apply just to an amendment or any other subsidiary motion. If unqualified, it applies only to the immediately pending motion. If so stated, it may also apply to everything pending – back to the main motion.

Table (Lay on the Table)

- The motion to table may not be qualified in any way, for example, “I move to table the motion until tomorrow.” It is always indefinite. If qualified in any way, it is actually a motion to postpone to a certain time.
- The above distinction is important, because a motion to table is not debatable, but a motion to postpone it to a certain time is debatable. The motion to table requires only a majority vote.

Reconsider

- This motion must be made by someone who voted on the winning side when the vote was taken on the motion it is proposed to reconsider. (It may be seconded by anyone.)
- This motion is in order only on the day the original vote was taken or the next succeeding day. After that the motion to rescind must be used.

Division of the Assembly

- Any member, by demanding a “division,” can require a voice vote or a vote by show of hands to be retaken as a rising vote – but no individual member can compel it to be counted. If the Chair does not think it necessary and a member does, the members may move to have the vote counted.

PROPOSED SPECIAL STANDING RULES

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 or her name and congregation.**
3. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor, and for the committee during debate.
4. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. 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. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die.
6. 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.
7. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.
8. Resolutions that will require funding not included in the regular budget of the District must include the source of the additional funding.
9. Electronic devices may be used on the floor of the convention. However they must be operated on battery power as no electricity will be provided. Use of the internet, checking and receiving emails during convention sessions is prohibited. Please report any abuse of this rule to the chair. Cell phones must be in “silent” or “vibrate only” mode. **Please use proper etiquette and show respect to your fellow delegates, speakers, and the business of the convention.**

SCHEDULE

“From One Generation to Another”

SUNDAY—June 8, 2025

3:30-6:00 p.m. Registration at Camp Okoboji

5:00-6:00 Light Supper at Camp Okoboji

7:00 Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake

Sermon—The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President

Celebrant—The Rev. Paul Dare

- Immediately after the Opening Service, President Turner will hold an orientation session for all interested delegates in the nave of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Convention Floor Committees will hold open hearings beginning 20 minutes after the close of the Service. They will be held in designated classrooms of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Registration reopens at Camp Okoboji.

MONDAY—June 9, 2025

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at the Point—The Rev. John David Mull

7:00-8:00 Registration reopens at Camp Okoboji

7:30 Breakfast

Table Prayer—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain

8:00 Convention Choir Rehearsal – The Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Choir Director

The Rev. Timothy Frank, Organist

8:30 Welcome from Adam Hengeveld, Director of Camp Okoboji

Opening Devotion & President’s Address

9:00 Registration Report Floor Committee #1—Registration & Credentials

Opening of the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West

Appointments

Test the Voting Machines

Adoption of Standing Rules, see page 7 of Convention Workbook

Report of the Commission on Constitutions page 35, Convention Workbook

Presentation of the Nominations for President and Vice-Presidents

Prayer before the election—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain

Election of the District President

Election of District Vice-Presidents

Floor Committee #3—Administration and Finances

10:15 Morning Recess

10:25 Hymn to gather us

10:30 Report of the Synod’s President – Part 1 The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

11:45 Presentation of the Nominations Committee

Prayer before the election—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain

Election of District Officers

12:15 p.m. Recess for Lunch

Table Prayer—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:20 Hymn to gather us

1:30 Essayist: Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota

2:30 Report of the Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family Life—Rhonda Mohr

3:15 Floor Committee #2—Missions and Ministry

3:30 Recess
 3:55 Hymn to gather us
 4:00 Report of the Synod's President – Part 2 The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
 Time for questions & answers
 4:30 Greetings from the seminaries
 4:45 Report of the Assistant to the President for Missions—The Rev. Dr. Keith Haney
 Report of the Missionary-at-Large—The Rev. Pedro Lopez
 5:45 Floor Committee #3—Administration and Finances
 6:00 Recess for Dinner
 Table Prayer—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain
6:00-6:45 Dinner
 6:50 Hymn to gather us
 7:00 Evening Devotions—The Rev. Jon Riggert
 Celebration of faithful servants of the Church
 Honoring – President Steve Turner; Jim Schroeder, LCMS Foundation;
 Sue Light, IDW Administrative Assistant
 Ice Cream Social

TUESDAY—June 10, 2025

7:00 a.m. Point Devotions—The Rev. John David Mull
 7:30 Breakfast, Table Prayer—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain
 8:00 Convention Choir Rehearsal
 8:30 Memorial Service—The Rev. Paul Egger
 9:15 Lutheran Family Service—The Rev. Max Phillips
 9:30 Floor Committee #3—Administration and Finances
 9:45 Essayist—The Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich
 10:30 Recess
 10:45 Hymn to gather us
 10:45 Greetings from our Concordia Universities
 11:00 Report of the Assistant to the President for Stewardship and Human Care
 The Rev. Dr Keith Haney
 Report of the IOWAY Director and Disaster Response Coordinator—Julie Mann
 11:30 Floor Committee #2—Missions and Ministry
 11:45 Mission Central Report—Gary Thies/Rev. Steve Schulz
Noon-12:45 Lunch Table Prayer—The Rev. Merle Mahnken, Convention Chaplain
 1:00 p.m. Hymn to Gather Us
 1:00 Greetings from LLL & LWML
 1:15 Floor Committee #3—Administration and Finances
 1:30 Election of Circuit Visitors
 2:00 LCMS Foundation—Jim Schroeder
 LCEF Vice President—Josh Remington
 2:15 Floor Committee #2—Missions and Ministry
 3:00 Floor Committee #3—Administration and Finances
 3:15 Installation of Officers
 Floor Committee #4—Convention Minutes Review
 Final Report Floor Committee #1—Registration & Credentials

 Closing Devotion and Sending Service—President elect, Iowa District West
Official Close of Convention

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

#1 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

Ordained: Benjamin Perkins (chair), Donald Peterson (vice-chair)

Commissioned: Angie Schauer

Lay: Larry Stille, Marty Delperdang

#2 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY

Ordained: Ryan Roehrig (chair), Michael Boothby (vice-chair), Briton Nelson

Commissioned: Heidi Rains

Lay: John Kastendieck, Stan Ullerich, Tim Rohwer

#3 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

Ordained: Christopher Nitzel (chair), Cory Kroonblawd (vice-chair), Jessten Heimer

Commissioned: Merrilee Sump

Lay: Ralph von Qualen, David Reddel, Steve Doering

#4 CONVENTION MINUTES REVIEW

Ordained: Edward Durand (chair), Carl Wendorff, John Schonkaes

Commissioned: Sue Barlow

Lay: John Schneller, Kristina Cummins

#5 NOMINATING (elected at the 2022 Convention)

Ordained: Mick Wolfram (chair), Roger Carlisle, Timothy Geitz

Commissioned: Thomas Wilson

Lay: Tim Buelow, Ruth Gerken, Kirk Warnke

CONVENTION LEADERS, PRESENTERS, AND ASSISTANTS

CONVENTION MANAGER: Rhonda Mohr

CONVENTION BUSINESS MANAGER: Roger Curtis

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President; The Rev. Nabil S. Nour, Great Plains Regional Vice-President; The Rev. Michael Frese, deputy Director of Church Relations

ESSAYIST: The Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

HOST CONGREGATION: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake

HOST PASTOR: The Rev. Paul Dare

CONVENTION CHOIR DIRECTOR: The Rev. Nathan Sherrill

CONVENTION ORGANIST: The Rev. Timothy Frank

JUDGE OF ELECTIONS: The Rev. Alex Slotter

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS: Roger Curtis and Adam Hengeveld

PRESS AND RADIO: Stacy Travis

CONVENTION SECRETARY: The Rev. Richard Merrill

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: The Rev. Joshua Lowe

PARLIAMENTARIAN: The Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, President Emeritus, South Dakota District

CHAPLAIN: The Rev. Merle Mahnken

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Jill Davis and Sue Light

TECHNOLOGY: The Rev. Dr. Keith Haney and Josh Wudtke

OFFICERS OF IOWA DISTRICT WEST

President: The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501
First Vice-President: The Rev. Paul Egger, 400 Monona Street, Galva 51020
Second Vice-President: The Rev. Jonathan Riggert, 725 North Roosevelt Avenue, Cherokee 51012
Secretary: The Rev. Richard Merrill, 253 1st Street South, Charter Oak 51439
Treasurer: Mr. Scott Ernst, 6420 Golfview Place, Sioux City 51106

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voting Officers: The District President, Secretary, and Treasurer
Chairman of the Board: Mr. Terry Allers, 1913 North 7th Street, Fort Dodge 50501

Department Chairmen

Christian Education: The Rev. Benjamin Dose, 605 North Church Street, Algona 50511
Missions: The Rev. Joshua Lowe, 1103 Central Avenue, Hawarden 51023
Human Care: The Rev. Thomas Vanderbilt, 1603 West Girard Avenue, Indianola 50125
Stewardship: The Rev. Russ Senstad, 4211 Eldorado Court, Sioux City 51106
Student Financial Aid: The Rev. Joseph Pierson, 905 Beach Street, Webster City 50595
Youth: The Rev. Ryan Roehrig, 1321 North Main Street, Carroll 51401
Ordained Minister
Member-at-Large: The Rev. Merle Mahnken, 511 5th Street, Schleswig 51461
Commissioned Minister
Member-at-Large: Ms. Merrilee Sump, 1951 390th Street, Westside 51467
Lay Members-at-Large: Mr. Mark Schulz, 6568 320th Street, Unit A, Hartley 51346
Mr. Mark Kramer, 5200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines 50312
Mrs. Tracy Stetzel, 1114 Indiana Avenue, Casey 50048
Advisory Members: The Vice-Presidents and the Executive Assistants to the President
Assistants to the President -
Education, Youth & Family Life:
Ms. Rhonda Mohr, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501
Missions, Human Care & Stewardship:
The Rev. Dr. Keith Haney, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Adair Circuit: The Rev. Jeffrey Kuening, 313 Marshall Street, Dexter 50070
Algona Circuit: The Rev. Scott Kozisek, 1585 290th Street, Garner 50438
Boone Circuit: The Rev. Stephen Ude, 1239 Jasmine Place, Ogden 50212
Carroll Circuit: The Rev. Jonathan Conner, 519 12th Street, Manning 51455
Cherokee Circuit: The Rev. Don Meyer, 5752 C Avenue, Marcus 51035
Council Bluffs Circuit: The Rev. Nathan Sherrill, 19232 Garner Avenue, Council Bluffs 51503
Denison Circuit: The Rev. Chad Trunkhill, 2460 Kenwood Road, Dow City 51528
Des Moines East Circuit: The Rev. Michael Barnes, 2731 Cedar Street, Apt. 104, Norwalk 50211
Des Moines West Circuit: The Rev. James Stogdill, 4100 46th Street, Des Moines 50310
Fort Dodge Circuit: The Rev. Kendall Meyer, 2954 22nd Avenue North, Fort Dodge 50501
Le Mars Circuit: The Rev. Michael Boothby, 607 Elm Street, Ireton 51027
Mapleton Circuit: The Rev. Neil Wehmas, 804 Badger Creek Dr, Apt 5C, Ida Grove 51445
Sac City Circuit: The Rev. David Lyons, 306 S Dundas Street, Schaller 51053
Sioux City Circuit: The Rev. James Travis, 3622 Pierce Place, Sioux City 51104
Southwest Circuit: The Rev. John Rutz, 800b North Sumner Avenue, Creston 50801
Spencer Circuit: The Rev. Michael McGinley, 310 East 4th Street, Spencer 51301
Storm Lake Circuit: The Rev. Bradley Ketcham, 504 Gran Drive, Storm Lake 50588

APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Commission on Constitutions:	The Rev. Richard Merrill, Chairman The Rev. Merle Mahnken The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner
Archivist-Historian:	The Rev. Aaron Zimmerman, Farnhamville
<i>The Lutheran Witness</i> District Editor:	Jill Davis
Student Financial Aid Committee:	The Rev. Joe Pierson, Webster City, Chairman Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President Robyn Kratz, Fort Dodge Mrs. Andrea Johnson, Denison The Rev. Jessten Heimer, Boone
Communication Services:	Assistant Sarah Wudtke

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

President:	The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
First Vice-President:	The Rev. Peter K. Lange
Second Vice-President:	The Rev. Benjamin T. Ball
Third Vice-President:	The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Fourth Vice-President:	The Rev. Nabil S. Nour
Fifth Vice-President:	The Rev. Christopher S. Esget
Sixth Vice-President:	The Rev. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.
Secretary:	The Rev. Dr. John W. Sias
Chief Administrative Officer:	Felix Loc
Chief Financial Officer:	Nathan Haak
Chief Mission Officer:	The Rev. Kevin D. Robson

ROSTER

CONGREGATION

Adel, Faith
 Algona/Burt, Trinity/St. John
 Alta, St. John
 Alta, St. Paul
 Altoona, Christ the King
 Ames, Memorial
 Ames, St. Paul
 Anita, Holy Cross
 Ankeny, Christ
 Ankeny, St. Paul
 Ankeny, Sudanese
 Arcadia, Zion
 Atlantic, Zion
 Auburn/Early/Sac City, Zion/Faith/St. Peter
 Audubon/Wiota, St. John/First
 Aurelia, St. Paul
 Battle Creek, St. John
 Battle Creek/Anthon, St. Paul/Trinity
 Bedford, St. Timothy
 Boone, St. Paul
 Boone, Trinity
 Carlisle, Holy Cross
 Carroll, St. Paul
 Casey/Dexter, St. John/Zion
 Charter Oak, Immanuel/St. John/St. Paul
 Cherokee, Trinity
 Clarinda/Shenandoah, Immanuel/Trinity
 Clarinda, St. John
 Clarinda, St. Paul
 Climbing Hill, St. John
 Clive, Living Faith
 Corning, Redeemer
 Correctionville, Grace
 Council Bluffs, Faith
 Council Bluffs, St. Paul's
 Council Bluffs, Timothy
 Creston, Trinity
 Deloit, Faith
 Denison, Amigos en Cristo
 Denison, Christ
 Denison/Dow City, Our Savior/Bethlehem
 Denison, Zion
 Des Moines, Asian
 Des Moines, Calvary (Deaf)
 Des Moines, Hope
 Des Moines, Mount Olive
 Des Moines, Our Saviour
 Des Moines, Peace
 Des Moines, Trinity

PASTOR

Matthew Krause
 Benjamin Dose/Briton Nelson
 Merritt Demski
 Alan Miller
 John Schonkaes
 Mark Heilman/David Beagley
 Todd Jenks
 Ted Weishaupt
 Paul Rieger
 Joel Newton
 vacant
 Andrew Noble
 Kyle McBee
 Chuck Bettin
 Michael Bodkins
 vacant
 Randall Cormeny
 Martin Davis
 vacant
 Michael Standfest
 Jessten Heimer
 Kevin Johnson
 Ryan Roehrig
 Jeffrey Keuning
 Richard Merrill
 Jonathan Riggert
 Wade Brandt
 Mitchel Schuessler
 David Herald
 David Schoop
 Luke Timm/Dan Petrak
 vacant
 vacant
 Ron Rosenkaimer
 Tim Frank/Nathan Sherrill
 Bill Clark
 John Rutz
 vacant
 Pedro Lopez
 Ted Torreson
 Chad Trunkhill
 vacant
 vacant
 vacant
 Tim Braun/Shane Acers
 Garret Kasper
 David Kuhfal
 Michael Barnes
 Carl Wendorff

LAY DELEGATE

Kristina Cummins
 Daryl Thompson
 Dave Friedrich
 Mike Aswegan
 Mark Astleford
 Dennis Tice
 Steve Wahlert
 Tom Rohwer
 David Reddel
 Chris Toft
 Jeanie Hansen
 Alan Zobel
 Myron Pingel
 Jonathan Kuhlmann
 Nathan Thede
 Chad Huedepohl
 Tyler Helfert
 Ralph von Qualen
 Mitch Hambleton
 Frank Koeppe
 Burton Friedrichsen
 Mike Koval
 Bob Riddle
 Ted York
 Doug Darnell
 Blake Anderson
 Nancy Goddard
 William "Bill" Kruse
 Stanton "Stan" Ullerich
 Ed Booth
 Chuck Downing
 Dana Boeck
 Sue Barlow
 Scott Nielsen
 John Schneller

ROSTER (continued)

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>
Eagle Grove/Rowan, Mt. Calvary/Immanuel	Mark Eichler	Mike Loux
Emmetsburg/West Bend, St. Paul/Peace	Keith Christiansen	John Bredehoeft
Estherville, Immanuel	Thomas Marth	Jim Creech
Farnhamville/Pomeroy, Holy Trinity/Immanuel	Aaron Zimmerman	Wayde Warehime
Fenton, St. John/Whittemore, St. Paul	Mark Resner	Jennifer Jensen
Fort Dodge, Good Shepherd	Nicholas Thackery	John Kastendieck
Fort Dodge, St. Paul/Prince of Peace	Kendall Meyer	Bryan Friedrichs
Galva, St. John	Paul Egger	Alan Bennett
Garner, St. John	Mark Lund	Gene Toppin
Garner, St. Paul	Scott Kozisek	David Roeber
Glenwood, Trinity	Michael Metzler	Matt Codney
Glidden/Coon Rapids, Peace/Trinity	vacant	
Greenfield/Winterset, Immanuel/Faith	Keith Schweitzer	
Guthrie Center/Panora, Immanuel/St. Thomas	Steven Wichtendahl	
Hartley, St. Paul	Christopher Nitzel	Mark Schulz
Hawarden, Trinity	Joshua Lowe	Bill Buryanek
Honey Creek, St. John	vacant	Jeff Royer
Humboldt, Zion/Fort Dodge, Trinity	Aaron Flatau/Mark Hansen	Kent Stern
Ida Grove, St. Paul	Neil Wehmas	Greg Steenbock
Indianola, Mt. Calvary	Tom Vanderbilt	Ken Tague
Ireton, St. John/St. Paul	Michael Boothby	Scott Vreeman
Jefferson, Trinity	Dennis Martens	David Pedersen
Johnston, Messiah	Jim Stogdill	Maryann Mori
Kingsley, First	Jason Letsche	
Kiron, St. John	vacant	
Lake City, Pilgrim	Paul Ferderer	Paul Armbrecht
Lake Park, Concordia	Adam Jacobsen	Jacob Money
Lake View, Emmanuel	Donald Peterson	
Lawton, Bethel	Robert Zellmer	
Le Mars, Grace	Timothy Geitz/Daniel Mapur	Ryan Zittrisch
Lidderdale, Immanuel	vacant	
Livermore/LuVerne, Immanuel/Zion	Steve Struecker	Carter Nath
Logan, Immanuel	Daniel Steeb	
Lone Rock/Cylinder, Immanuel/St. Luke	Duane Miesner	Alan Luedtke
Mallard/Ayrshire, Trinity/Zion	Paul Schulz	Leo Stephas
Manilla, Trinity	Zachary Staehr	Mark Segebart
Manning, Zion	Jonathan Conner	Steve Page
Mapleton, St. Matthew	vacant	Mark Witzel
Marcus, Peace	Kevin Roop	Sheila Roop
Marcus/Hinton/Quimby, Trinity/Trinity/Pilgrim	Alex Kaldahl	Steven Olson
May City/Ocheyedan, St. John/St. Peter/Zion	Richard Milbrandt	Gene Fenske
Missouri Valley, First	Joseph Hanson	
Newell, St. Peter	vacant	Rusty Corderman
Oakland/Hastings, St. Paul/St. John	Christopher Maronde	Bret Seipold
Odebolt, Trinity	vacant	Bob Auen
Ogden/Perry, Zion/Christ	Max Phillips/Stephen Ude/ Christopher Walters	Damon Adair
Orange City, Faith	Thomas Batchelder	Mike Blankenfeld
Osceola/Leon, Immanuel/Our Savior	Aaron Wendorff	Brandon Rettig
Paullina (Germantown), St. John	Carl Stenzel	Scott Ebel
Paullina/Sutherland, Zion/Bethel	Don Meyer/David Matthews	Steve Heeren
Perry, Trinity	Ken Bose	

ROSTER (continued)CONGREGATIONPASTORLAY DELEGATE

Polk City, Beautiful Savior	vacant	Don Stratmann
Remsen, Christ	Matthew Martin	David Sonnichsen
Rock Rapids/Larchwood, Peace/English	Alex Sloter	Douglas Cherry
Rockwell City/Manson, Immanuel/Trinity	Chadric Dietrich	Mark Essing
Sac City, St. Paul's	Cory Kroonblawd	Steve Burns
Sanborn, St. John	vacant	
Schaller, St. Paul	David Lyons	Rex Rimmer
Schleswig, Immanuel	Merle Mahnken	Leroy Hight
Sergeant Bluff, Shepherd of Peace	Benjamin Perkins	
Sheldon, Our Savior	George Clausen	Charles Voll
Sioux City, Bethany	vacant	Ronald Johnson
Sioux City, Calvary	James Travis/Alex Smith	Zack Karrer
Sioux City, Faith	Ezra Grabau	Eric James
Sioux City, Redeemer	Russell Senstad/David Zirpel	Marty Delperdang
Sioux City, St. Paul	Kenny Hsu	Dallas Schulz
Spencer, Christ the King	Michael McGinley	Bradley Peterson
Spencer, First English	Paul Kaldahl	Dan Knaak
Spirit Lake, Immanuel	Paul Dare	Larry Stille
Storm Lake, Grace	Bradley Ketcham	Steve Musfeldt
Storm Lake, St. John	Bruce Lesemann	Jerry Johnson
Storm Lake, Zion	Lucas Booher	Norlin Gutz
Swea City, Our Savior	David Schultz	
Terril, Immanuel	vacant	
Urbandale, Gloria Dei	Joe Meyer/Ben Johnson/	
	Tim Phillips/Christopher Peiper	Steve Junge
Ute, St. Paul	Nathan Peitsch	Marc Clemon
Van Meter, Trinity	Ed Durand	
Villisca, Mt. Calvary	Jerome Wagoner	
Wall Lake, Peace	David Wenndt	Trish Freier
Walnut/Persia, Our Savior/Trinity	Merlene Ostebee	
Webster City, St. Paul	Joseph Pierson	Steve Doering
West Des Moines, Shepherd of the Valley	John David Mull/Eugene Krueger	

ADVISORY PASTORS

Bauer, Jeffery (EM)
Benson, Steven (EM)
Boeschen, Donald (EM)
Bohmer, Glenn (EM)
Bossard, Gerald (EM)
Brammeier, James (EM)
Buchholz, Gordon (EM)
Chuol, Paul (Candidate)
Cloeter, Carl (EM)
Doellinger, David (Candidate)
Ericksen, David (EM)
Ewoldt, Virgil (EM)
Foreman, Curtis (EM)
Friedrich, Henry (EM)
George, Gus (EM)
Gerken, Mark (EM)
Hansen, Lyle (EM)
Hanson, Carl (Foreign Missionary)
Hayen, Neil (EM)
Hedberg, Carl (EM)
Hodges, Leon (EM)
Holowach, James (EM)
Jackson, Bruce (EM)
Jacobsen, Jon (EM)
Johnson, Paul (EM)
Kaiser, Kurt (EM)
Kleckner, Mark (EM)
Kottlowski, David (EM)
Kuhn, Henry (EM)
Kuhnle, David (EM)
Lamb, James (EM)
Litner, Joel (EM)
Lohman, John (EM)
Maaske, Dennis (EM)
Oliver, Stephen (Candidate)
Osslund, Richard (EM)
Peffer, Bruce (EM)
Petri, Michael (EM)
Phiwthong, Khamphorn (EM)
Raab, Klaus (EM)
Raether, Jerry (EM)
Riebhoff, John (EM)
Riemer, Leroy (EM)
Riggert, Robert (EM)
Ritter, Phil (EM)
Salemink, Michael (Lutherans For Life-RSO)
Schauer, John (EM)
Schenck, John (EM)
Schillo, Eric (EM)

Sewing, David (EM)
Sharp, Michael (EM)
Siegel, Jeffrey (EM)
Sieveking, Paul (EM)
Simonson, David (EM)
Splett, David (EM)
Tews, James (EM)
Tompkins, Daryl (EM)
Turner, Steven (District President)
Van Nostrand, Bill (EM)
Vogel, Daniel (EM)
Warnke, Matthew (EM)
Watkins, Lindsay (EM)
Wendzel, Linden (EM)
Wheeler, J R (EM)
Wolfram, Michael (EM)

EM=Emeritus Status

RSO=Recognized Service Organization

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Acers, Gina
Adams, Chelsea
Aeikens, Madison
Bailey, Jonathon
Baker, Jodene (EM)
Barlow, Susan
Bernau, Emily
Boeck, Susan (EM)
Bohl, Noreen
Brammeier, Kathleen (EM)
Brown, Gail (EM)
Carnoali, Jean (Candidate)
Chellew, Deborah (Candidate)
Clement, Laveta
Davis, Alyce (EM)
Davis, Christine (Candidate)
Deranleau, Sarah (Candidate)
Dorn, Richard (EM)
Dreyer, Debra (EM)
Dueker, Julie
Emily, Cory
Espinosa, Lisa
Finkel, Aaron
Fuller, Jennifer
Funke, Caleb (Candidate)
Gamble, Lori (EM)
Geurink, Brenda (Candidate)
Gingerich, Kathleen (Candidate)
Gosch, Gretchen
Greenfield, Rebecca (Candidate)
Gunn, Sarah (Candidate)
Haake, Jean (EM)
Hadley, Linda (EM)
Hanusa, Lois (Candidate)
Heggemeier, Lyle (EM)
Heinicke, Rebecca (Candidate)
Hengeveld, Adam (Candidate)
Henschen, Rebekah
Herald, Elizabeth
Hilchen, Le Ann (Candidate)
Hodges, Doreen
Hoffman, Cherryll (EM)
Holle, Kathryn
Horkey, Marsha (Candidate)
Hornbuckle, Rebekah
Jahnke, Jane (EM)
Johnson, Tiffany (Candidate)
Jones, Marilyn (EM)
Kabrick, Bonnie (EM)
Kading, Douglas (EM)
Kempfert, Elizabeth
Keuning, Lynette (Candidate)
Kightlinger, Tim
Kleckner, Kimberly (Candidate)
Kozisek, Barbra (EM)
Kraayenbrink, Sally (Candidate)
Kratz, Robyn
Kuhlmann, Bethany (Lutheran Family Service-RSO)
Lorentz, Deborah (Candidate)
Mann, Julie
McCue, DeAnn
Millen, Jai (Candidate)
Moeller, Janet (EM)
Mohr, Rhonda
Mosemann, Russell (EM)
Neumeyer, Rosalie (EM)
Newton, Sarah (Candidate)
Niemeyer, Brad (Candidate)
Nigh, Rose
Owen, Madison
Pedersen, Melissa (EM)
Pierson, Hannah (Candidate)
Pipho, Donald (EM)
Popp, Sarah
Pugh, Tia
Rains, Heidi
Roethler, Heather
Rudlaff, Richard (EM)
Sanford, Julianne
Schauer, Angela
Schlueter, Michelle (Candidate)
Schneider, Kathryn
Schroeder, Amy
Schumann, Lois (EM)
Schutt, Kathleen (EM)
Shults, Marilyn (EM)
Simmons, Olivia (Candidate)
Smith, Kari (Lutheran Family Service-RSO)
Smith, Sarah (Candidate)
Speltz, Tona
Sprengeler, Cathy (EM)
Stelling, Dwight (EM)
Storm, Cindy (EM)
Stuhr, Lonnie (EM)
Sump, Merrilee (EM)
Torreson, Megan
Trunkhill, Brenda
Venzke, Jeanette (EM)
Wagoner, Mary Lou (EM)
Wallace, Lydia
Wiley-Pearce, Jarryn
Wilson, Thomas
Yoakum, Marilyn (EM)
Zimmerman, Jennifer (Candidate)

OFFICIAL ACTS

PASTORS – CALLED TO GLORY

PASTOR DUANE JALAS, emeritus, Sutherland, October 6, 2022

PASTOR ANDREW JOHNSON, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla, April 4, 2023

PASTOR PETER WEGNER, emeritus, West Des Moines, October 22, 2023

PASTOR ALBERT BUELOW, emeritus, West Des Moines, April 23, 2024

PASTOR DR. RAY OHLENDORF, emeritus, Remsen, October 10, 2024

PASTOR LARRY TROXEL, emeritus, Waukee, November 15, 2024

PASTOR DAVID VIGGERS, pastor of Trinity, Odebolt, December 4, 2024

CONGREGATIONS ESTABLISHED/DISSOLVED

Trinity Lutheran Church, Dayton, disbanded May 19, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church, Harlan, disbanded March 6, 2025

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - CALLED TO GLORY

ROMAINE MARQUARDT, emeritus, Alta, April 14, 2024

JOANN YORK, emeritus, Clarinda, February 26, 2025

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Denison, Our Savior Open Arms Preschool, May 29, 2024

Ankeny, St. Paul Lutheran Preschool, July 30, 2024

Sergeant Bluff, Little Lambs Preschool & Childcare Center, October 27, 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From One Generation to Another

The theme verse for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West is from Psalm 145:

*One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.* (Psalm 145:4)

It is an honor to bring you this report at the end of my third and final term as President of Iowa District West. This is a bittersweet moment for me because it has been an absolute joy to serve the Lord with all of you in western Iowa for 40 years. I feel a little sad as I transition out of this role as your president. I refer to this as a transition because I'm not going anywhere! My wife Darlene and I have settled into a townhouse in Des Moines, and I look forward to continuing to serve the people and the congregations of Iowa District West. I will soon, but not immediately, (I am taking a few months off) be available for pulpit supply and visitation ministry where I am needed.

Since our last District Convention, we have worked together under the theme adopted for our 2022 convention "Partners in the Gospel" from Paul's letter to the Philippians, *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now* (Phil. 1:3-5 ESV).

When Paul refers to his "partners" in Philippi, he uses the Greek word *koinōnia*. This word is sometimes translated as fellowship, joining together, and, of course, partnership. It is always used with a sense of a shared relationship. In the business world, a partnership is an association of two or more persons who agree to carry on a business in common with the object of sharing in profit and losses of the partnership. The partners agree to provide the capital and share the responsibility of running the business on an agreed basis.

There is a need for more partnerships in Iowa District West. Partnerships come into being because we cannot go it alone or at least going alone makes it more difficult. The founders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod knew this was true. The constitution of the LCMS recognizes the importance of partnerships. One of the purposes of the Synod is to: **Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world** (Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod page 14). I am quite certain your congregational governing documents echo this need for congregations and people to partner with others in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your community and throughout the world.

The very first partnership begins with God knowing that it's not good for Adam to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Adam and Eve shared in the tending of the garden and all of God's creation. Adam needed help and Eve was his helper. God shaped and formed Adam from the dust. He shaped and formed Eve from Adam. She was God's best choice for Adam. Their union was sacred because God joined them together, male and female. The relationship of Adam and Eve was the ideal partnership until Eve decided to do something independent of her husband.

Satan understands that the people of God are stronger when they stand together. He separates Eve from Adam and seduces her while she is alone. He seeks to divide and separate because he

knows we are weaker alone. The Scriptures illustrate over and over how passionate God is about bringing and keeping His people together. **Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken** (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV).

Partnership is a great word when referring to our shared work between congregations, church workers and Iowa District West. This partnership may be two or more neighboring congregations being served by one pastor. It might be a group of congregations employing a business manager. It could be circuit congregations joining together to fund a missionary, either locally or internationally. The Lutheran day schools in Iowa District West are all supported through partnerships in one way or another. Simply put, congregations can accomplish more through ministry partnerships than they can on their own. Like the very first humans, we need one another. We are stronger together.

Instead of seeing other congregations as competition or worrying about how working with another church might cause us to give up things like worship time or programs, we need to be asking: how we can work together efficiently for the sake of the Gospel? The leadership of Iowa District West is committed to cultivating healthy ministry partnerships. We support and encourage collaboration in a way that strengthens the overall ministries in our communities.

Our pastors are faithfully proclaiming God's Word and administering His Sacraments which are the very means of grace that keep us in the one true faith. Pastors are present with their people as they faithfully visit the sick and shut-ins of their congregations. Teachers, Deaconesses, Directors of Christian Education, and other church professionals are forming and informing the next generation of Christians. Church members volunteer to serve in their congregations and communities. We are blessed!

The *partnership* we share with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a blessing. The seminaries and the colleges are providing pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay leaders for now and the next generation. In the last three years, the congregations of Iowa District West have provided \$4,308,018 for our work together with the LCMS. We are blessed! Mission Central is a unique partnership between Iowa District West, the Nebraska District, and LCMS World Mission. This year, people from all over the world partnered through Mission Central and sponsored nearly 100 missionary families. Our partnership with missionary Gary, and now his assistant Rev. Steve Schulz, has made Mission Central the single largest missionary supporting ministry in the LCMS. We are blessed!

This *partnership* in the Gospel is lived out every day in the congregations of Iowa District West. Our urban centers have more people and a diverse demographic. Our rural communities may be getting smaller, but they also have a more varied population. Long-time members remember when the church was packed most Sundays and enjoyed an active ministry. They look at declining attendance, facilities in need of repairs, an aging congregation, and wonder why this is happening to their congregation. There is no easy or simple answer to these challenges. I believe that congregations that wish to thrive into the future need to be preparing today. *Partnerships* will prove to be helpful in serving these changing communities. Pastors and

congregations need to know what the mission of God is in their communities. This begins with an intentional and intensive study of God's Word. This is a time of reflection on God's will and God's promises.

God is sending us the opportunity to share the Gospel with the world, right here in Iowa. Who would have thought 40 years ago we would have waves of immigrants coming to our state? District Missionary Pastor Pedro Lopez has been serving now for over four years. He is bringing the love of Jesus to our communities. God is sending African refugees to cities and small towns in Iowa. These brothers and sisters in Christ often come with their own Christian pastors and asking us to help them become Lutherans. We have four men who are enrolled or beginning the process to become pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The congregations, pastors and professional church workers in Iowa District West have a long history of *partnership* with Lutheran Family Service. Lutheran Family Service (LFS) provides hope and support for individuals and families with services such as adoption, unplanned pregnancy support, and mental health and marriage counseling. Church worker wellness has been a major focus of LFS the past three years. They have worked hard to take away the stigma of church workers seeking help from mental health counselors. Iowa District West provided a major grant of \$400,000 to the LFS *Healthy Together* Capital Campaign. The goal is to equip LFS to grow their mental health counseling capacity to serve all church workers in Iowa and across the Upper Midwest!

I value these and all the other *partnerships* we have in the Gospel. I have chosen Psalm 145:4 *One Generation will commend you works to another* as the theme for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West because this Psalm recognizes that the transfer of leadership from one generation to another is a critical process that ensures the continuity of the Church. It was chosen as the theme for this convention because at this convention we will recognize several transfers of leadership.

We celebrate that Carole White who recently retired from almost 26 years as our LCEF Vice President, has assisted over 140 congregations with loans, demographics and other services. She has assisted over 2,500 individuals with investments that support local congregations. She has also served as a faithful member of the District Missions Committee, District Ministry Excellence Fund, and the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization Board. We are happy that Josh Remington will be our new LCEF Vice President.

Jim Schroeder, our Gift Planning Counselor, will be retiring in August after 36 years of service. Jim has served our district and our congregations in two primary ways. First is working with individuals in estate planning and wills workshops. He has met with over 3,000 individuals. He has assisted them in directing gifts to their favorite LCMS ministries in both the district and the Synod. Iowa District West would not be one of the healthiest financial districts in the Synod without Jim's work with families and individuals supporting the work of the district.

Sue Light who for over 45 years has been that calm voice on the other end of the line when people call the district office with all kinds of issues. She is always so helpful and directs those calls where they need to go. Not to mention her important service to the schools, preschools, and commissioned workers. And finally, there will be a new District President.

This is an exciting time for Iowa District West and I am certain that God in His Grace will continue to shower His blessings on us. Each generation brings to the Church its own set of values, experiences, and expectations. For instance, Baby Boomers, who are currently retiring from leadership roles, often value hard work, loyalty, and an appreciation for congregational and synodical structure. My guess is most of the lay delegates to our convention will be from this demographic group. In contrast, many of the pastors are Millennials and Generation Z. These demographic groups tend to prioritize flexibility, work-life balance, and a more collaborative approach. Understanding these generational differences is crucial for the future of the Church.

Bridging the gap between generations is essential for our congregations to continue serving in our communities. We need to ensure that the wisdom of the past is not lost while not being afraid to embrace new methods and technologies. Effective transfer of leadership from one generation to another involves clear and open communication, mutual respect, and a willingness to learn from each other. Psalm 145 is a Psalm of King David. He is celebrating the greatness and goodness of God. Verses 4-7, in particular, emphasize the importance of passing down the knowledge of God's mighty works and righteousness from one generation to the next. This passage highlights the intergenerational nature of faith, encouraging believers to share their experiences and reflections on God's wonderful deeds.

I believe that Psalm 145:4-7 is a great theme verse for this convention. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of celebrating and sharing God's mighty works across generations. Our district will honor God and welcome new leaders. Knowing that His mighty acts and abundant Grace will be celebrated for many generations to come.

Always in Grace,

Rev. Dr. Steven Turner

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One generation commends Your works to another (Ps 145:4). Thank You, Heavenly Father, for Jesus. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for opportunities to commend Your works to the next generation, and the one after that.

As First Vice President of IDW, this past triennium President Turner asked me to represent our district in his absence at an LCMS Council of Presidents quarterly multi-day meeting in St. Louis. He also asked me to represent IDW at a Pastors Day on the Hill in Des Moines, and preach in his absence for our IDW conference in Council Bluffs.

President Turner included me on various visits to district pastors and congregations. I participated in partnership discussions at Quimby/Marcus and also Newell, and assisted Ida Grove with their call process.

This past triennium, I served on our Board of Directors as well as the committees for Youth, Stewardship, Endowment/Legacy, and Conference Planning. Several of these committees asked me to write district convention overtures and/or lead devotions.

I participated in all Circuit Visitor training events, all Kapfer Symposiums, all "Mutual Consolation" events, a Wellness Retreat, a Healthy Together Conference, and our district golf outings.

God gave me opportunity to officiate/attend the ordinations/installations for Pastors Carl Wendorff, Merritt Demski, David Wenndt, Alex Smith, Matthew Martin, Alex Kaldahl, Zachary Staehr, Steve Schulz and Alan Miller.

As First Vice President, I preached for the IDW Organist Workshop (Manning). Also, I was honored to officiate Pastor David Viggers' funeral.

Other activities during this past triennium include LERT training, representing IDW (along with my wife Stephanie) at the annual LCEF meeting in St Louis, and presenting "The Epistle of Jude" at a Nebraska dual-circuit Reformation celebration.

It has been a joy to participate with you in commending God's works to this and the next generations,

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Paul Egger, First Vice-President

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The theme for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West, David's inspired words from Psalm 145, "*One generation shall commend your works to another, (and shall declare your mighty acts),*" is a fitting theme for any gathering of God's people with varied ages, stations of life, and life experiences. It's especially fitting for this gathering in convention.

In the role of 2nd VP of Iowa District West and previously serving as chair of other committees within the district, I've witnessed and appreciated the collective wisdom and works of the pastors, commissioned church workers, non-called leaders serving various ministries of congregations and schools, and lay people within our district. Even as many faithful servants have transitioned or will soon transition to retirement or toward other plans the Lord has in store, that wisdom and work is and will be missed by many. Yet with thanksgiving, the Lord never leaves His people nor lets the opportunities for the Gospel work and proclamation to stagnate. The Holy Spirit continues to call, gather, and enlighten in the work which continues to be set forth. Why? Because as many faithfully work and have worked, *one generation commended their work to another.*

I was blessed to be a "young generation" member of Iowa District West from age three until college, from the rural parsonage of Cylinder/Lotts Creek to the German brick main street of Manning, as my father served as pastor and within the district. Alongside parental influence in those most formative years of growth and knowledge in the life of faith, I was able to experience first-hand as a youth the blessing Iowa District West is through support of congregational ministry, youth gatherings both within the district and national, encouragement and support for Camp Okoboji experiences, financial support for church work education, and more. As a very young boy through older years of youth, and now a pastor for 20 years with almost 15 of those in IDW, I witnessed and was impacted by the district and thankful for IDW investing one generation toward another, and through it all *one generation commending their work to another.*

In the past triennium as 2nd VP supporting President Turner's leadership in various ways whether in officiating ordinations/installations, serving an advisory role to various committees, consulting in district matters and more, it's realized the leadership he and others have provided our district will be missed. But in all those experiences, and amid many people seen and met along the way, it is realized and affirmed that Iowa District West will continue to be blessed through many faithful congregations, schools, pastors, church workers, and gifted lay people - blessed not just in the immediate time of transitions - but blessed for generations to come. For it is by God's grace and the guidance of the Spirit in faith drawing us to and keeping us in Christ, that together as God's people there will be a continuance to support, lead, model, and through it all: *keep on commending work for the sake of generations now and the many generations to come.*

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jonathan Riggert

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Iowa District West consists of fourteen voting members: the District President, the District Secretary, the Chairman of the Board, the District Treasurer, the chairman of the Missions Committee, the chairman of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, the chairman of the Human Care Ministries Committee, the chairman of the Christian Education and Family Life Committee, the chairman of the Youth Services Committee, one ordained minister member-at-large, one commissioned minister member-at-large, and three layperson members-at-large. The District President, the District Secretary, and the committee chairmen are all ordained ministers. The Chairman of the Board and the District Treasurer are laypersons. The First Vice-President of the District and Second Vice-President of the District serve as advisory members. The Assistants to the President are advisory members and provide reports at meetings. The District business manager attends and provides reports. The Student Financial Aid Director provides a yearly report. Auxiliary staff members who provide periodic reports include the Christian Estate Planning Counselor, the Mission Development Counselor, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod Vice President for Iowa District West, and the IOWAY Director.

The Board meets quarterly (February, May, August, and November) to hear reports from the District President and Assistants to the President, the District Treasurer, and the committee chairmen. Special meetings may be called as needed. Any action items from the President or from the committees are voted on by the Board. The Board establishes the annual budget for the District at its February meeting.

The Board has held eleven meetings since the last convention, with the May 2025 meeting still to be held as of the time of this writing. The Board normally meets at the District Office in Fort Dodge. Zoom access is still provided for those who cannot join, or for health reasons prefer not to join, the meeting in-person.

At the November 2022 meeting, the Board approved the appointment of the Rev. Thomas Vanderbilt as Chairman of the Human Care Ministries Committee, replacing the Rev. Seth Kaiser, who accepted a call out of the District. All other positions on the Board of Directors have remained constant during the period since the 2022 convention.

On a personal note, I have now served two terms as District Secretary. I am thankful to God for the partnership of the members of the Board of Directors who have served with me for the sake of the Gospel these seven years. It has truly been a blessing to work with these fellow saints in Christ under the leadership of President Turner. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank President Turner for his years of service to the District and wish him God's blessings in his retirement as he continues to serve Christ's Church.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT MISSIONS, HUMAN CARE AND STEWARDSHIP

As we gather for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West, we are reminded of the timeless truth in Psalm 145:4, “One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.” This verse beautifully encapsulates the mission of our multigenerational congregations. Our churches are vibrant communities where the faith and works of God are passed down from one generation to the next, ensuring that His mighty acts are declared and celebrated across all ages. Together, we continue to build a legacy of faith, hope, and love, united in our commitment to share the Gospel and serve our communities.

Rural and Small Community Focus

Our meeting underscored the unique strengths found in rural and small community areas that larger churches and communities lack. These strengths include being communities of care, emphasizing the interconnectedness of rural and small-town life. Iowa’s small towns truly represent the heart and soul of the state, celebrated for their welcoming atmospheres, charming Main Streets, and the friendly, hard-working residents who call them home.

Here is a sample of some of the Rural and Small-town ministry grants in this triennium.

1. **Holy Trinity, Farnhamville, for their Dwelling Program:**

- **Start Date:** Fall 2024
- **Description:** A midweek Wednesday program for families featuring meals, family worship, and devotional modeling.
- **Objective:** To provide families with tools to grow in faith together.
- **Participation:** Open to all members, especially families, during the school year.

2. **St. Paul’s, Sac City, for their Swaddling Clothes Program:**

- **Start Date:** September 2022
- **Description:** Provides free diapers, wipes, baby clothing, equipment, and baby care items to families in Sac, Buena Vista, Calhoun, and Pocahontas counties.
- **Objective:** To share Christ’s mercy through practical support and Christian witness.
- **Additional Activities:** Distribution of Christian children’s books and a monthly newsletter from the Pastor.

3. **St. Paul, Carroll, for their All Hallows’ Eve Party:**

- **Time:** 5-7 PM
- **Description:** A community event with popcorn, hot chocolate, crafts, and games, including a Satan/Dragon piñata.
- **Theme:** Christ is the Light of the World who overcomes darkness, death, and evil.
- **Objective:** To teach the Gospel message and invite the community to worship.

Our Mission Partners

Grace Lutheran Church, Le Mars

Welcoming Sudanese Community:

- **Objective:** Attract and assist Sudanese immigrants by fostering a welcoming community.
- **Community Support:** Help newcomers adjust to the area and provide assistance with immigration issues.
- **Celebrations:** Gather for life events such as blessings after childbirth, baptisms, and other special occasions to help newcomers assimilate and provide comfort.
- **Outreach:** Welcome families and individuals not previously involved in church life, using Sudanese culture as a bridge to faith.
- **Saturday Sunday School:** To preserve cultural heritage and appreciation, teach children about Sudanese culture, the Dinka language, and stories from God's Word.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Des Moines

Mission Goals:

- **Transformation:** Focus on transformation through God's Word and Sacrament within accountable relationships.
- **Genuine Hospitality:** Create a welcoming environment for a diverse community, offering belonging even before belief.
- **God's Truth:** Proclaim the life-saving power of God's Word and call for life change.
- **Church is Not a Building:** Act as the Family of Christ, building relationships in various community settings.
- **Heart of Service:** Serve Jesus inside and outside the church, engaging the community in service, leading to baptisms and faith growth.

Highlights of the Last Year:

1. **Baptisms:** Pastor John David Mull baptized three adults and eight children from the Eritrean community in 2024.
2. **ESL Ministry:** Paused to focus on the growing Eritrean community.
3. **Community Integration:** Facilitated connections between multicultural families and the congregation through joint services and events.
4. **Church Renovation:** Expanded space for the Eritrean community, aiding children's assimilation into youth ministries.
5. **Leadership Development:** Mentored Niguse Alemayo, an Eritrean leader in the EIIT process, and supported his full-time ministry.
6. **Outreach:** Maintained Facebook and social media campaigns for outreach in 2025.

Christ Lutheran Church, Ankeny

Mission Goals

Hospitality and Relationships:

- **Gift of Hospitality:** Utilize hospitality to care for both church members and the wider community, fostering authentic relationships.
- **Purpose:** Lead the lost to Christ and strengthen the faith of those who are wandering through these relationships.

Discipling Gatherings:

- **Objective:** Help baptized members grow in their faith and disciple-making abilities.

- **Activities:** Wednesday evening gatherings for meals and study (excluding Advent and Lent).
- **Goals:** Enhance faith, prayer life, Scripture study, and willingness to engage in Christian conversations and disciple-making.
- **Involvement:** Led by the Pastor, assisted by the Life Team, with participation from the congregation.

Outreach to Family and Friends:

- **Objective:** Connect with unbaptized or wandering family members and friends.
- **Goals:** Each member identifies one person to lead to Christ, inspired by John 1:43-51.
- **Involvement:** Pastor and Life Team encourage members who connect with specific individuals in their lives.

Community Service:

- **Objective:** Be a blessing to the community by addressing its needs.
- **Activities:** Collaborate with the Ankeny Service Center or other organizations.
- **Goals:** Live out the command to love our neighbor and demonstrate the impact of faith through actions.
- **Involvement:** Members of Christ Lutheran and community organizations.

Financial Independence:

- **Objective:** Achieve financial independence from Iowa District West.
- **Goals:** Increase member giving to support the congregation's growth from a plant to an established church.
- **Involvement:** Members and non-member donors.
- **Measurement:** Aim to increase the annual tithe by \$100,000.

Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

The joint ministry between Iowa District West and the Nebraska District has successfully built relationships with their Siouxland Hispanic neighbors, sharing Christ's love and Gospel. They provide community services, teach God's Word, and establish a strong doctrinal foundation in LCMS beliefs while maintaining connections with Siouxland congregations. They are currently seeking a replacement for Rev. Paul Flo, who has moved to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The Siouxland Hispanic Mission has achieved financial self-sufficiency, and churches are encouraged to continue supporting this vital ministry.

Their goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Hispanic community in the Siouxland area and encourage active participation in Hope Lutheran Church's congregational life. They achieve this by faithfully preaching and teaching God's Word and LCMS doctrine and developing meaningful relationships with Hispanic neighbors.

The ESL program has experienced significant growth in attendance this winter, leading to a request for volunteers from local congregations and schools to assist with childcare and teaching. Furthermore, the Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Mission received a \$50,000 grant from the LWML National Convention, which will support their ongoing efforts. This grant will help fund current programs and allow them to reach more individuals and families with the Gospel. The mission is thankful for the LWML's support and looks forward to increasing their service to God's Kingdom. Continued prayers are appreciated as they rely on the Lord to guide their work.

The Partnership Process

I am the contact person for the partnership process in Iowa District West. This process involves several key steps to ensure successful collaboration. First, define the mission and ministry goals by reflecting on necessary changes and assessing whether the timing is appropriate. Explore scriptural foundations to understand the Church's purpose and seek proactive support from circuit visitors and district personnel. Conduct a self-evaluation using tools like re:Vitality and Asset Mapping and assess the demographics and resources of the mission field.

Identify potential ministry partners and explore collaboration opportunities, including joint events like VBS. Determine whether to proceed and consider alternative solutions if needed. Create a ministry agreement that outlines flexibility and strengths, and seek external assistance for legal, financial, and Synod/District support.

If a ministry is coming to an end, manage the process thoughtfully. Celebrate the partnership's inception with special events and public announcements and prepare for ongoing evaluation and celebration. Execute the plan, adjusting expectations as necessary, and identify the most effective partnership models. Oversee the planning process with a task force, establish a timeline, and create a communication strategy to keep everyone informed. This comprehensive approach ensures a well-coordinated and effective partnership.

Workshop Summary: The Art of Neighboring

Over the past two years, we have successfully conducted three Art of Neighboring Workshops in Carroll, Ankeny, and Le Mars. We are excited to announce that more workshops are planned for the next three years.

When asked to summarize everything into one command, Jesus said to love God with everything we have and our neighbors as ourselves. Unfortunately, many of us have turned this simple idea into a nice saying, putting it on bumper stickers and refrigerator magnets and then going on with our lives without actually putting it into practice.

What would happen if every Jesus-follower took the invitation to be a good neighbor literally?

Could it be that the solution to our society's greatest issues has been right under our noses for the past two thousand years?

In The Art of Neighboring Workshop, we will show you how to:

- **Create genuine friendships** with the people who live in close proximity to you.
- **Overcome the barriers** that keep you from getting to know your neighbors.
- **Make small steps** and give from what you have to make a difference.
- **Commit to good neighboring** as a lifestyle.

Stewardship - Addressing Common Stewardship Challenges



While every church is unique, they all face similar stewardship challenges and needs. Unfortunately, stewardship campaigns are often overlooked, with some congregations having only one or two individuals consistently seeking financial support or lacking a stewardship team or focus altogether. This booklet is available free of charge to download on the Iowa District West Website under Stewardship Resources.

Purpose of the Handbook

This Handbook aims to provide congregations with essential ideas for stewardship development and support. It includes straightforward assessments and planning tools to create a tailored stewardship action plan. The Handbook serves as a guide to foster a congregation's stewardship mindset and commitment, offering guidance and interactive communication with your stewardship partner at the Iowa District West office.

Goals and Benefits

- **Developing a Generosity Attitude:** Encouraging a culture of giving within the congregation.
- **Strengthening Ministry:** Enhancing the congregation's ability to carry out its mission.
- **Gospel Outreach:** Expanding the reach and impact of the church's work in the community.

Human Care

Chaplaincy Services (The District covers mileage for our chaplains who are listed on the District website.) Those chaplains are:

Des Moines area
Rev. Donald Boeschen
515-278-4134 (home)

Sioux City
Rev. James Travis
712-202-8516

Rev. James Stogdill
515-240-7700

WELLNESS

The Wellness Goals for 2025 and beyond concentrate on improving the overall well-being of church workers and their communities. Key areas include emotional wellness, where individuals are encouraged to recognize, express, and manage their feelings, supported by resources like Lutheran Family Service, Grace Place, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Social wellness focuses on establishing a supportive network based on mutual trust and respect, with initiatives promoted at Pastors Conferences. Physical wellness underscores the significance of adequate sleep, balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and medical check-ups, with assistance from tools like Sword and Omada. Financial wellness entails effectively managing finances, utilizing resources like Soldiers of the Cross and Concordia Plans. Intellectual wellness promotes lifelong learning and critical thinking, fostering a culture of mutual support within the Synod. Additional initiatives feature video devotions by President Harrison, church revitalization efforts, and mental health presentations. These goals aim to create a holistic approach to wellness, ensuring that church workers are well-supported in their spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and intellectual needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney
Executive Assistant for Missions, Human Care and Stewardship

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT EDUCATION, YOUTH, AND FAMILY LIFE

I am grateful to serve the district in the areas of youth, education and family life. Partnerships in the Gospel have and continue to be evident throughout the district. While our theme for this convention is “One generation commends Your works to another,” we will continue to be partners in the Gospel. All of the partnerships we have across the district really are about commending the work of the Lord to the next generation. The following items listed contain a glimpse of various ways we work.

Commending His work to another generation through the Iowa District West and the Synod’s Lutheran School Ministry Office

- National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) - all 8 of our Lutheran schools are accredited by NLSA. We are grateful that through NLSA we have accreditation reciprocity with the State of Iowa. Acorns and Oaks Christian Academy, Perry, Iowa is a new school start in the district that has been approved for pre-accreditation status by NLSA and hopes to begin this fall.
- GOSPEL (Gathering of School People-Education Leaders) and CONFEDX (Education Executives) meet quarterly through Zoom and in person twice a year where we collaborate, share challenges, spend time in God’s Word and prayer as we give support to our respective districts.
- Schools in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serve children in early childhood programs through grade 12 in over 1,900 schools nationwide and 3 schools internationally. Additionally, 8 colleges and universities operate to serve post-secondary and graduate students across the nation. These programs reach 150,000 students with 21,000 educators. What a wonderful way to “Commend Your works from one generation to the next” through Lutheran education.
- Ongoing support of our principals, directors and teachers through various conferences provided by the district help to spiritually equip and strengthen our educators.
- Our Lutheran schools in Iowa West grew by over 200 students in the last 4 years, mainly due to the Education Savings Account (ESA) Bill that passed to allow for Parent Choice in Education. Families are drawn to our Christ-centered quality Lutheran schools.
- Our day school governing boards gathered in Des Moines for a special school board training.

Commending His work to another generation through Youth and Family Ministry

- We provide spiritual growth and fellowship opportunities through our district youth gatherings as well as support for attending our LCMS gatherings. In July this year, 400 of our IDW youth and adults will be attending ENDURE, the LCMS gathering in New Orleans.
- DCE types meet regularly for mutual conversation, consolation and support as they work with their congregations to enhance and encourage spiritual growth of their youth and families.
- IDW supports students to attend the YouthLead training in St. Louis as well as youth scholarships to attend Cub Weeks, Junior High Week, and Youth Week at Camp Okoboji.
- We point people to various resources available and have offered VBS workshops which help equip and encourage lay people in their important role of passing on the faith through VBS programs.

Respectfully submitted telling of His works to the next
generation,
Rhonda J. Mohr
Assistant to the President - Education, Youth, and Family Life

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY-AT-LARGE

Greetings from your Hispanic Ministry IDW. This is our third year in IDW serving God as we reach out to the Hispanic community. We do this in different areas as God opens doors and hearts of different congregations looking to do the same. We are happy to share with you some of the great things that are happening in the Iowa District West.

Ministry by Word and Sacrament:

- a) Denison Hispanic Ministry at “Amigos en Cristo” (Model is two languages two churches) worshipping out of Zion Lutheran continues with an average of 3 to 10 people on Sunday and individual and family Bible studies during the week.
- b) Storm Lake Hispanic Ministry at “Grace / Gracia” (Model is two languages one church) worshipping an average of 5 to 10 people and a midweek Bible study that happens at family houses most of the time.
- c) We have been volunteering at the St. John’s Church in support to their Swaddling clothes program to help with their Spanish speaking participants that come in. The idea was brought up to these participants about starting a new program of English as a Second Language (ESL). The participants were excited and said they would participate. Involving both St. John and Grace Church members as volunteers we are planning to start ESL classes twice a week for 10 weeks.
- d) Carroll Hispanic Ministry “St. Paul / San Pablo” (Model is two languages one church) Praise, Pray and Bible study happening every Saturday with an average of 10 to 15 people (sometimes over 20 people) attending. This Bible study became possible with the people we met at ESL class. Individual and family Bible studies happening during the week too. ESL here in Carroll is in the 5th sessions serving over 100 people with over 20 volunteers involved throughout this period. The Word of God is shared, and new members have come out of this ministry. We have a couple of young people who have become active with the youth ministry at St. Paul.
- e) Hartley Hispanic Ministry “St. Paul / San Pablo” (Model is two languages one church) an average of 8 to 12 new people involved. We are in our 5th session of ESL. New members are participating in the English worship service and participate in a midweek Bible study and individual and family Bible studies. Our Deacon Noel (Head Hispanic Elder and future LCMS Pastor), whom we met at one of our first ESL classes in Carroll, is now leading in this area of the IDW.
- f) We made an indent in the Fort Dodge area by having an ESL program and meeting several Hispanic families from the area. We still have an ongoing fellowship with a couple of people we met there.
- g) We have been making friends in Early, Iowa. We had a fall festival with these families at a community event where we met a few more families and now have been asked if we can provide a Bible study in their town. It is hard for them to travel to a different town to attend any of our established services since they are hardworking people and only have Mondays off work. Since we don’t have a Bible study on Mondays that they can participate at, we are making plans to open a Bible study on Mondays.
- h) Our LWML Hispanic branch is happening within the Hispanic women of our ministry. My wife, Paquita, is helping to develop this ministry for our ladies. This has also restarted with ladies that we met at the ESL program and now participate at our Praise, Pray and Bible study on Saturdays.

As of today, we have two congregationally commissioned Deacons (Head Hispanic Elders) supporting the ministry. As mentioned above, Noel lives in Hartley and Fili lives in Carroll. They met through the ESL program in Carroll. They both support the needs of leading Bible study and worship (no Sacraments unless an ordained minister is present).

We have Noel, Fili, Hugo, Adrian, Paquita, Sandra, Yury, Jenny, Bani and Rosa as prospect seminarians to take classes to become future Pastors and Deaconesses to support the ongoing needs of the Hispanic Ministry. Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith. They are from different places of our successful Hispanic Ministry.

Many events have taken place around the district thanks to the many volunteers and ongoing support from our District staff and churches. Thanks to the LWML and all the churches, organizations, businesses, foundations and individuals that have supported and continue to support our Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Pedro Lopez
Missionary-at-Large

COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONS

The following congregations have submitted Constitution and/or Bylaw revisions in accord with Synod Bylaw 2.4. They have been reviewed by the District Commission on Constitutions and are recommended for ratification by the Board of Directors of Iowa District West.

February 16, 2023

- Grace, Correctionville – revised constitution and bylaws
- Trinity, Algona/St. John, Burt – new multi-point parish agreement
- Faith, Sioux City – revised constitution and bylaws

May 17, 2023

- Gloria Dei, Urbandale – revised constitution and bylaws
- Grace, Le Mars – revised constitution and bylaws

August 16, 2023

- Memorial, Ames – revised constitution and bylaws

January 25, 2024

- Christ, Denison – new constitution and bylaws
- First, Wiota – revised constitution and bylaws

May 16, 2024

- Our Saviour, Des Moines – revised constitution and bylaws
- Timothy, Council Bluffs – revised constitution and bylaws
- Trinity, Marcus/Pilgrim, Quimby/Trinity, Hinton – new multi-point parish agreement

August 17, 2024

- Zion, Atlantic – revised constitution and bylaws
- St. Paul, Sac City – revised constitution and bylaws

November 7, 2024

- St. John, Galva – revised constitution and bylaws
- St. Paul, Ute – revised constitution and bylaws

January 30, 2025

- Zion, Paullina/Bethel, Sutherland – new multi-point parish agreement
- Calvary, Sioux City – revised bylaws

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Richard Merrill, Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.” (Psalm 145:4-7)

This theme is perfect for the Education and Family Life Committee! Education is passing on that which we have received from the Lord to the next generation on a parish/home education level, day school/preschool level, and in our societal level as we see cultural values clash with Christian values. These are all the areas we reach and have contact with in this Committee. We have met over Zoom and in person these past three years discussing the education ministry opportunities in Iowa District West. The three areas of ministry we have focused on this triennium are as follows.

- **Parish/Home Education**

In this area of ministry, we have focused on strengthening the congregations in Iowa District West regarding Sunday school, catechesis, and Vacation Bible School. There were two different VBS Best Practices workshops held in this triennium where pastors and laity shared their insights into what had been working in this area of ministry. These were well received throughout the district.

- **Day School/Preschool**

Our Lutheran day schools have seen great growth since 2022 with the passage of the Educational Savings Account (ESA) bill. Rhonda has been a leader in helping schools navigate these changes that are happening. Each year in August, Lutheran Day School teachers gather before school for a workshop that the district helps lead. This also happens with Preschool leaders and staff as well. This past fall, November 2024, the Committee hosted a continuing education seminar with Dr. Al Freeman from the Synod’s Office dealing with trends in Lutheran Education. He spoke to pastors, teachers, DCEs and other education staff at the District Office and everyone attending found it beneficial.

- **Cultural vs. Christian Values**

There are no doubts cultural values are clashing with Christian values at this time in our society. As a Committee, we thought it would be good to focus on this area during this triennium. We had Rev. Dr. Keith Haney speak on Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Transgender Issues. This was open to pastors and laity alike in our District.

We thank Committee members Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Rev. Dr. Todd Jenks, Merrilee Sump, and DeAnn McCue for their faithful service.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Benjamin Dose, Chairman

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

The Student Financial Aid Committee is blessed to oversee the stewardship of IDW scholarship funds for the purpose of training the next generation of servants of Christ's church at our LCMS universities and seminaries. As we are able, we also assist students from our district attending CUS schools for secular vocations such as nursing, business, and criminal justice. On behalf of our Committee, but especially on behalf of the students we serve, we thank the district, our churches, and their members for supporting this work, as one generation commends the Lord's works to another.

Over the past triennium, we saw the Lord continue to answer our prayers to send more workers into His harvest field. Thanks be to God! In 2022, we had 24 students attending synodical colleges and seminaries. In 2023, that number jumped to 29, and increased again to 30 in 2024. In each of these years, a majority of students were studying for full-time church work vocations. 2023 saw the highest number of seminarians from our district with 8, and due to graduations and changes in personal circumstances for some students, 2024 saw the seminary student count drop to 3.

The members of the Committee are Rhonda Mohr - IDW staff; Andrea Johnson - Layperson; Robyn Kratz - Commissioned Minister; Rev. Jessten Heimer - Ordained; and Rev. Joe Pierson - Ordained, Chairman.

Applications for assistance were processed each year and compiled for Committee review. The application was revised in 2022 and made available as a fillable PDF, which made the application paperwork much easier to manage. The Committee met each June to review requests. Funds were provided through the budget of Iowa District West, donations from the LWML, and various grants and gifts from generous individual donors. Below are the student aid totals by year.

2022: \$253,298

2023: \$260,783

2024: \$259,000

In addition to the above figures, funds were budgeted for colloquy students, student recruitment, and SMP. Students who received IDW scholarships attended/are attending the following schools: Concordia University, Nebraska; Concordia University, Wisconsin; Concordia University, St. Paul; Concordia University Irvine; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

The District also supports church workers after graduation through the District Ministry Excellence Fund (MEF) program. The maximum amount of support is approved by the Committee each year, but it usually is \$4,000 with a maximum \$1,000 congregation match. Each year, the Soenksen Legacy fund distributes \$61,400 to \$81,000 for workers in the District. Since inception in 2014, over \$601,000 has been paid out to support workers in the District.

In closing, I want to reiterate what a blessing this work is. I cherish those phone calls with parents from our district, many of whom are apprehensive about sending their children off to school far away and are wondering how they are going to make the math work out, because I can tell them that Iowa District West is here to walk alongside them and support their children with abundantly generous student aid assistance. On behalf of our students, their families, and the congregations and schools they will go on to serve, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joe Pierson, Chairman

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Our theme for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West, “One Generation commends Your works to another,” from Psalm 145, is truly fitting for our work and areas of focus this triennium. All of the congregations of our District care deeply about how we might pass on the faith to our youth through programs and events throughout our District.

The most popular youth events that occur in our District are the Junior and Senior Youth Gatherings. Each of these gatherings has succeeded in creating wonderful themes and finding new ways to improve those gatherings each year. In particular, 2024 was the first time a Senior Youth Gathering has ever been hosted at Camp Okoboji.

The Youth Services Committee not only provides oversight into the gatherings but seeks to find areas of focus throughout the triennium where we can serve to assist our congregations. This last triennium we had three primary areas of focus.

- 1) Resources
- 2) Leadership
- 3) Recruitment

Many of our congregations need information and resources to help their youth programs be successful. The major need we see is in the area of policies and practices which help to protect our youth from abuse. One of the biggest problems involving litigation against ministries is sexual abuse. We have spent time encouraging congregations to create policies and train their leaders to spot abuse as well as conducting background checks to protect our youth.

We also have spent each year developing and offering a Youth Representative training for our Circuits. Mark Kiessler (Director of LCMS Youth Ministry) presented to our District about current issues facing our youth from the Synod’s research. We also invited Rev. Jonathan Connor from our own District to present on the effect of technology on youth.

We wanted to also find ways of encouraging our youth to become leaders in their Church. If we wish to pass on the faith, we want to help our youth to lead in our congregations and district. The last few years we have been able to sponsor high schoolers to attend the Synod’s YouthLead Conference in St. Louis. These high schoolers learn not only about their faith but how to share and lead others with that faith. This particular conference helps youth to become leaders in faith.

As we look to pass on the faith to the next generation, we encourage our youth toward the vocation of Church work. We look to the future of our Church by finding and nurturing our youth toward this noble vocation. Through the years, we have found every opportunity in our District to help remind and encourage our youth toward considering a career in Church work.

As our District looks to share the faith with the next generation we cannot ignore how our District has and will serve our youth in the future. It is with great excitement that we look at our youth. They represent the next generation. As the Psalmist invites us to do, we will “celebrate the abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Ryan Roehrig, Chairman

REPORT OF THE IOWAY DIRECTOR & DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

It has been a great experience to work in the areas of Human Care, Missions, and Disaster Response for the past two years. We have wonderfully welcoming congregations, small groups, and church workers in the district.

Human Care/Outreach

Swaddling Clothes – This is a diaper/baby wipe, and beyond if the congregation chooses, outreach with its foundation in the LCMS. Swaddling Clothes supplies many supports and templates to get a congregation going, as well as the willingness to mentor new programs from the leaders we currently have in IDW. We currently have six congregations doing outreach through SC ministry. Two of them are new as of 2024, and awareness of the need of this type of outreach is being seen in many communities. Keeping communication with the volunteers who head up these projects is an ongoing process.

Moulton – Nine visits to school, building relationship with Leah (contact), recipient of 200 birthday bags created at the 2023 Sr High Youth gathering, donations from congregations, LWML, private donors of school supplies, clothing, shoes, winter coats and hats.

Lotus (Vincent), Genesis House (Orange City), Kindness Closet (Clarinda) – Women’s programs, donations of female hygiene products (LWML ingathering) were shared with these organizations as well as gathering information on their mission.

LWML connect – The women of the LWML have been a great partner for several ingatherings which have then been shared throughout the district.

Global Health Ministries – Seven visits to take donations: thousands of rolled bandages, dozens of quilts, and hundreds of baby knit hats, and many hospice kits.

Hope Ministries – Connected Hope Ministries (Des Moines) and the TLC quilters (Algona) on a project with the new women and children center. TLC quilters made 100 quilts for the center.

Disaster Response/LERT

Trainings/Deployments – Six Basic LERT trainings in 2024, several more on the calendar for the first half of 2025. Multiple deployments due to the tornadoes (April 2024 Minden area and May 2024 Greenfield) and flooding (June 2024 NW Iowa – Spencer and Hawarden areas main foci). Due to so many natural disasters happening around the country, we did not have the hands-on volunteers we were hoping for, due to working in their own districts. The volunteers who could be in the area worked very hard and are tremendously appreciated. Kris Schuldt (Missouri District) and Daniel Sanchez (Iowa District East) were very helpful in my learning as mentors.

Donation Funding – Financial donations and expenditures are detailed through IDW business office reporting.

Applied for and received an LCMS grant totaling \$175,000 following the flooding of June 2024. This was used to help Trinity-Cherokee, Trinity-Hawarden, St. John-May City, and Christ the King-Spencer recover and be able to utilize their buildings for worship, education, and outreach. All photographs and written reporting were finalized and submitted December 4, 2024 to the Synod Office of Disaster Response.

Goods – Donated goods for LERT came from: drying/moisture and building goods Orphan Grain Train, several quilting groups, but most of the needed supplies for clean up and rebuild were paid for with financial donations to Iowa District West.

Mission Trips

In December of 2023 and 2024, group mission trips were taken to Southern California. Two main mission focuses happened both years. One was several days of working on sharing the Gospel by working through Petal Pushers – a group of Lutheran Hour Ministries. The other is an ongoing and growing connection with the mission of LOT318 in Placentia, California. This mission reaches out to families of the neighborhood, many who have immigrated, with the love of Christ spoken in truth.

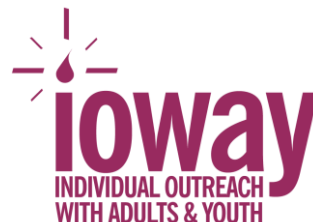
Continuing to look into shorter trips, availability for child friendly options for families with younger children, and visiting circuits outside of a congregation's own to do mission or mercy work together.

Conferences

Annual - Teachers, Senior High Youth Gathering, Junior High Youth Gathering - work with planning teams for servant events during conferences, strategic planning and facilitating for entire process.

Bi-annual – pastors conferences, updating on what IOWAY is doing, making connections to meet with congregations regarding outreach

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Mann
Julie@iowadistrictwest.org



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Who was it? Someone told you about Jesus and His work to save you from your sins. Perhaps it was a parent, a friend, a pastor, a teacher, or maybe even a missionary. Regardless of who it was, you heard it and the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, created a living faith in you. Paul writes that, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). It is the work of the Church, together and as individual Christians, to tell one generation after another of the salvation of God by means of the Word and Sacraments.

From Storm Lake to Hartley, from Ames to Ankeny, Des Moines to Le Mars, people are hearing and believing the Gospel. As the Missions Committee has traveled throughout the district, we witness firsthand how the Holy Spirit is at work calling people of all tribes and languages to the one Word of the Gospel, Jesus Christ. It has been a joy to see how this generation commends the Gospel to another in Iowa District West through the work of mission partnerships, campus ministries, IOWAY, LWML, and LCEF.

The work of this committee is primarily to assist Rev. Dr. Keith Haney in his work of serving district mission partners financially. We approve mission grants (grants to congregations for short-term mission projects), rural and small-town grants (grants for congregational outreach in rural areas and small towns), and mission partnerships (longer-term mission assistance within the district).

During this triennium, our district has supported the following mission partnerships:

Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines - Hispanic and Eritrean Ministry and Outreach
Siouxland Hispanic Mission Partnership - Pastor Paul Flo (now at Concordia Seminary)
Christ Lutheran, Ankeny
Amigos en Cristo, Denison and Storm Lake under the care of Rev. Pedro Lopez
Grace Lutheran, Le Mars- Sudanese outreach and congregation under the service of Pastor Daniel Mapur

Iowa District West also partnered with the Kairos Network to assist district pastors, congregations, and laypeople in reaching out with the Gospel and the possibility of planting congregations in the Des Moines metro.

There is more work to do. More “someones” to tell. So, the Church continues to commend the Gospel Word to another generation. God is faithful and He will surely do it in this generation until the day of His final coming.

As chairman of the committee, I wish to thank the Rev. Dr. Keith Haney for his work of serving the district by coordinating and overseeing our mission partnerships. I also wish to give thanks to God for my fellow committee members for their service, time, and commitment to commending the Gospel to another generation - Rev. Ben Johnson, Rev. Pedro Lopez, Tracy Stetzel, Ralph von Qualen, Julie Mann (IOWAY Director), Ellie Menz (former IOWAY Director), Brenda Dryer (LWML), and Carole White Mandernach (during her tenure with LCEF).

May God enable us to be the “someone” who tells another generation about the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joshua Lowe, Chairman

HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE

“One generation commends your works to another” is how all ministry in the Lord’s Church works. We have come to faith through the previous generations recounting God’s mighty and merciful works to us and we pass those same words on to the generations that follow. In the same way goes the ministry of the Human Care Ministries Committee.

With the retirement of Ellie Menz in 2022, the Human Care Committee worked with the Missions Committee to find our next IOWAY Director. We were blessed to find Mrs. Julie Mann and she has been filling this role in the district since 2023. We are thankful for the many years of service by Ellie Menz and the smooth transition of that ministry to Julie.

In her role with the Human Care Committee, Julie has personally led the district’s response to the numerous disasters that struck our district in 2024. She was the main liaison between the district and churches in Minden and Greenfield following tornadoes in the spring of 2024 as well as spending countless hours in Spencer and Hawarden following the floods in the summer of that same year. The need for disaster response has led our Committee to look for new ways to do mercy ministry in the wake of catastrophes like these.

Rev. Chadric Dietrich has been leading “Mutual Consolation of the Brethren” events each year, under the umbrella of church worker wellness. These events have provided a time of learning and fellowship for pastors in the district and are well-received. In addition, the Committee has sponsored other worker wellness events, such as the Healthy Together Conference in 2023.

These are the highlights of our Committee these past three years, the works of our generation, if you will. We commend them to you and to the service of our mighty and merciful God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Tom Vanderbilt, Chairman

REPORT OF THE LCEF VICE PRESIDENT



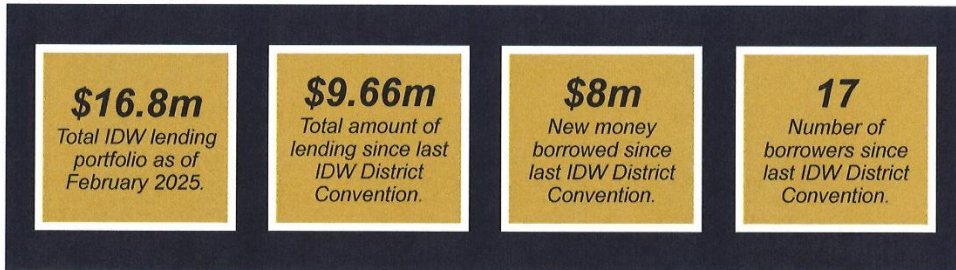
**Joe Willmann, District Vice President Northern Illinois District
Team Lead - Iowa District West**

Greetings in Christ! It is my pleasure to serve alongside you. Since the last district convention, LCEF has seen two of the highest years of lending in our history. This growth in lending wouldn't be possible without you, the many faithful investors of LCEF. Please continue to share the story of LCEF to the fellow members of your congregation so that we might continue to provide for the lending needs of our beloved synod now and into the future! May God continue to richly bless each of you.

By the Numbers



District Lending



District Investments



REPORT OF THE MISSION DEVELOPMENT COUNSELORS

Mission Central plays a major role in raising mission awareness in support of our LCMS missionaries around the world. As an integral part of LCMS Mission Advancement, Mission Central works closely with the Office of International Missions and has been blessed by God to be the conduit to raise millions of dollars every year to send and keep our LCMS missionaries in the field. Since 1994, Mission Central has had thousands of people and hundreds of missionaries and their families visit our campus in Mapleton. God continues to bless this mission center as we boldly tell other people about Jesus!

In September 2023, Pastor Steve Schulz from Fargo, North Dakota accepted the Divine Call from LCMS Mission Advancement to serve alongside Gary Thies in the important mission work that God has given us to do at Mission Central. Steve and his wife, Sue, live on an acreage just west of Mission Central, and he and Gary continue to provide mission presentations throughout Iowa West and Nebraska. We bring mission updates to our district congregations and tell the exciting stories of what our Lord Jesus is doing in His mission fields around the world.

It is with great joy that we share with you the following blessings that God has bestowed upon Mission Central during our past fiscal year: **July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.**

Sunday Morning Mission Updates and Bible Class Presentations	55 Events
Evening Events at Congregations	7 Events
Presentations at our Lutheran Schools	14 Events
Pastors and Visitors Who Came to Mission Central	2,005 people
Visiting Missionary Presentations	49 Events
Mission Bible Studies and Tours at Mission Central	65 Groups
Youth Events at Mission Central	5 Events
Groups Fed at Mission Central by our Volunteer Cooking Teams	32 Groups
Calls on Pastors and their Congregations	19 Calls
Individual Calls on Families and Members	29 Calls
LWML Circuit and District Presentations	16 Events
Circuit and District Pastors Conferences Attended	14 Events

Gifts of Love Received in Support of our LCMS Missionaries: \$13,165,831.51

We continue to thank and praise God as we celebrate all the wonderful blessings that He has showered upon us. We want you to know how much the people of Iowa District West are loved and appreciated by our missionaries and by all of us here at Mission Central. Indeed, God is working many miracles on His mission field, and He is using YOU to help spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus. After all, it's all about Jesus! If you are ever in the area, we would love to have you stop and visit us, and the peace of the Lord be with you always.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Thies and Rev. Steve Schulz
Iowa West and Nebraska Districts

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Generosity is a central theme in the Bible, reflecting God's abundant grace and love for His people. Proverbs 11:25 states, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." This verse, along with many others, underscores the importance of giving and serving others as an outpouring of our faith. By embracing generosity, we fulfill God's commandments and experience the joys and blessings that come from selfless acts of kindness.

Iowa District West is excited to announce the availability of two new stewardship programs for 2025: "Living Wisely in an Unwise World" and "Faithful Stewards of God's Grace." These programs are designed to guide congregations in understanding and practicing biblical stewardship through a series of weekly themes, Bible studies, sermon materials, and various other resources.

Living Wisely in an Unwise World - 2025

Based on James 1:5, this program focuses on imparting wisdom for living in today's complex world. The three weekly themes are:

Week 1: "Following God's Wisdom"

This theme emphasizes seeking and following God's wisdom in all aspects of life. It includes Bible studies that delve into the importance of divine wisdom, sermon materials that inspire congregants to trust in God's guidance, and newsletter articles that provide practical tips for applying biblical wisdom daily.

Week 2: "Using Time Wisely"

This week focuses on the stewardship of time, encouraging participants to prioritize their time according to God's will. Resources include bulletin messages that highlight the value of time, PowerPoint presentations for group discussions, and promotional materials to engage the congregation in thoughtful reflection on time management.

Week 3: "Becoming Money Wise"

The final week addresses financial stewardship, teaching congregants how to manage their finances in a way that honors God. This theme provides comprehensive Bible studies on financial principles, sermon outlines that challenge and encourage wise financial decisions, and practical tools for budgeting and financial planning.

The "Living Wisely in an Unwise World" program is a holistic approach to stewardship, offering a variety of materials to support churches in fostering a culture of wisdom and discernment.

Faithful Stewards of God's Grace - 2024

Drawing from 1 Peter 4:10, this program centers on the concept of stewardship as a response to God's grace. The three weekly themes are:

Week 1: "Receiving and Using God's Gifts"

This theme explores the gifts that God has bestowed upon His people and how they can be used for His glory. It includes Bible studies that examine the nature of spiritual gifts, sermon materials that encourage the use of these gifts in service to others, and newsletter articles that inspire gratitude and generosity.

Week 2: "Serve One Another"

Focused on the call to serve, this week provides resources that encourage congregants to engage in acts of service within their community. Bulletin messages highlight the importance of serving others, PowerPoint presentations facilitate discussions on service opportunities, and promotional materials motivate participation in service projects.

Week 3: “Good Stewards of God’s Grace”

The final week emphasizes the responsibility of being good stewards of God’s grace. It offers Bible studies that delve into the theological foundations of stewardship, sermon outlines that challenge congregants to live out their faith through stewardship, and practical resources for implementing stewardship practices in daily life.

The “Faithful Stewards of God’s Grace” program aims to deepen the understanding of stewardship as a grateful response to God’s abundant grace, equipping churches with the tools needed to cultivate a culture of service and generosity.

Additional Resources Developed by Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney

A Stewardship Handbook: This comprehensive guide is designed to help organizations and individuals develop effective stewardship practices. It includes foundational principles, assessment tools, action plan development, implementation strategies, and methods for evaluation and adjustment. The handbook emphasizes ethical considerations, best practices, and sustainable stewardship.

12-Month Stewardship Calendar: This resource provides a structured approach to planning and executing stewardship activities throughout the year, ensuring continuous engagement and effective resource management.

Narrative Budget Resource: This tool helps congregations present their budgets in a narrative format, making it easier for members to understand how resources are being used to support the church’s mission and ministry.

Download and Implementation

Both stewardship programs and the additional resources by Rev. Haney are available for download. They include a comprehensive suite of materials such as Bible studies, sermon outlines, newsletter articles, bulletin messages, PowerPoint presentations, and promotional materials. These resources are designed to be easily integrated into church activities and provide a structured approach to teaching and practicing stewardship.

By participating in these programs and utilizing the additional resources, congregations will be equipped to live wisely and steward God’s gifts faithfully, fostering a community that reflects God’s wisdom and grace in every aspect of life. Download “Living Wisely in an Unwise World,” “Faithful Stewards of God’s Grace,” and Rev. Haney’s resources today to begin this transformative journey.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Russ Senstad, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT & ENDOWMENT & LEGACY COMMITTEE REPORT

The District continues to be blessed with strong support from congregations and endowment and legacy gifts which help support the mission and ministry of the District. Thank you for being a partner in the Gospel!

Fund Accounting

The District maintains three funds. The General fund accounts budget activities. The Endowment and Legacy fund accounts for activities that are a result of contributions with special contractual and legal restrictions. The Fund is not part of the budgeting process. The Restricted Fund accounts for activities that are funded through specific ministries and programs fees and are also not part of the budgeting process.

General Fund

The last three years, the income received from the General Mission and Ministry Fund has consistently covered expenses.

It should be noted on average 24% of all budgeted expenditures was forwarded to Synod (45% of congregational support) and 30% approved for District mission activities.

Endowment and Legacy

Endowment funds are limited to distributing income only. Preservation of principal is a requirement. Legacy funds intend that principal be spent and typically the life of each fund is between 3 to 10 years. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to support three main areas of gifts:

- Joy in Service (undesignated – preferred option)
- Joy in Salvation (mission donations)
- Joy in Ministry (financial aid/scholarship donations)

Each year, the entire District financials have been audited by an independent CPA and each year we have received an unqualified opinion which means the financials/statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott D. Ernst, Treasurer

IOWA DISTRICT WEST LCMS
Statement of Activities

	2022	2023	2024
	Feb '22- Jan 23	Feb '23- Jan 24	Feb '24- Jan 25
General Fund			
General Fund Income			
Support From Congregations	1,445,753	1,472,421	1,389,844
Mission Support - Direct	44,834	52,776	48,240
Endowment and Legacy Income	365,373	445,331	553,008
Financial Aid	279,721	295,869	319,263
LCEF, Investment, misc income.	196,867	189,167	74,338
Total General Fund Income	2,332,548	2,455,565	2,384,691
General Fund Expense			
Synod Missions	650,588	661,464	631,800
District Missions	653,831	681,928	582,280
Human Care	40,006	40,894	43,233
Preparing Church Workers	280,459	296,461	319,972
Education	92,003	105,454	114,813
Youth Services	34,675	32,702	33,730
Stewardship	54,285	55,557	53,812
Support Services	43,019	53,028	52,222
Admin/Mission & Ministry Support	483,848	524,298	545,528
Total General Fund Expense	2,332,713	2,451,786	2,377,389
Net General Fund Income\ (Expense)	-165	3,779	7,302
Endowment and Legacy			
Endowment and Legacy Contributions	59,999	0	0
Endowment and Legacy Income	224,243	979,392	1,251,973
Endowment and Legacy Distributions/Exp	969,676	1,230,503	1,136,269
Net Endowment and Legacy Income/(Exp)	-685,434	-251,111	115,704
Restricted Fund			
Restricted Income	603,427	587,752	925,037
Restricted Expense	529,082	615,116	923,805
Net Restricted Fund Income\ (Expense)	74,345	-27,364	1,233
Net Change in Assets	-611,254	-274,696	124,239

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING COUNSELOR

In 1988, the delegates to the Iowa District West district convention passed a resolution to enter a partnership with the LCMS Foundation and Iowa District East LCMS. I was issued a solemn appointment to serve as the first Gift Planning Counselor for the LCMS Foundation in these two districts. In 1994, the delegates to the Iowa District West district convention passed a resolution to change the partnership and have me serve exclusively in Iowa District West.

This Iowa District West district convention in 2025 marks the 37th anniversary of this partnership. The following is a summary of the services provided through my work to the individuals and congregations of Iowa District West:

1. Individual help in developing a Christian Gift Plan that provides for family and favorite LCMS ministries. This includes an up to date will or trust and plans for a gift to ministries.
2. Helping congregations in establishing an endowment fund.
3. Offering congregations the investment services of the LCMS Foundation.
4. Gift planning for direct gifts of real estate, securities, IRA distributions, cash, etc.
5. Legal assistance from the LCMS Foundation attorneys in preparing the following documents: charitable trusts, personal endowment funds, charitable gift annuities, and donor advised funds.

The Lord has blessed the partnership between Iowa District West and the LCMS Foundation mightily in the last 37 years.

1. Hundreds of individuals and couples have received my help in developing their Christian Gift Plan to bless their families and their favorite ministries.
2. I have helped many Iowa District West congregations in developing endowment funds to receive gifts from members estates.
3. LCMS congregations, Iowa District West, Camp Okoboji, Lutheran Family Service, Mission Central, and other LCMS ministries have received gifts from the estates of members of Iowa District West congregations.

I am retiring from my work with the LCMS Foundation in Iowa District West on June 30, 2025. I thank the Lord for allowing me to serve Him in this special way. Thank you to the district board and pastors of Iowa District West for the special partnership that we have shared together. May the Lord bring a new Gift Planning Counselor to you soon to carry on this most important work in the Kingdom.

I look forward to eternity with you forever in Heaven with the Lord.
In the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Schroeder
LCMS Foundation

COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

In May 2024, the Communications/Technology Committee hosted a Social Media Workshop attended by approximately 35 in-person and virtual participants—the seminar aimed to enhance church communication and engagement.

Key Takeaways from the Social Media Workshop

1. **Enhanced Communication Skills:** Participants learned the best practices for using Meta Business Suite (Facebook and Instagram) to improve their church's social media presence.
2. **Effective Use of Hashtags:** The workshop covered strategies for using hashtags to reach a broader audience beyond the church community.
3. **Google Business Utilization:** Attendees were taught how to claim and use their church's Google Business profile as a social media platform.
4. **Resource Awareness:** Information on free and inexpensive resources for creating engaging content, including REELS, was provided.
5. **Community Feedback:** A comprehensive survey highlighted the need for ongoing support in website development and communication strategies.
6. **Future Planning:** The Committee also conducted a comprehensive communications survey to gather insights from church and school members about their communication preferences and needs. The feedback highlighted the necessity for a follow-up workshop focused on website development and improved communication methods. Therefore, a website design event is planned for June.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President
for Missions, Stewardship and Human Care

**CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Regarding the candidates for the offices of district president and vice presidents, the District *Handbook*, states the following:

Candidates for District President

- 9.1.1.5 Candidates for the office of district president shall be the three (or more in case of a tie for the third position) ordained ministers receiving the highest number of nominating ballots from the member congregations of the district, and who have consented to serve if elected.
- 9.1.1.6 The district secretary shall notify each potential candidate and shall secure in writing his decision either to include his name on the convention ballot, or his decision to decline the nomination.
- 9.1.1.7 Each candidate shall reply to the district secretary either in writing or by email within ten days as to his willingness to serve if elected, or his decision to decline the nomination.
- 9.1.1.8 In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of nominating ballots shall become the candidate, and the district secretary shall secure his approval in writing to include his name on the convention ballot, or his decision to decline the nomination. This procedure shall be followed also, if needed, for any additional candidates.
- 9.1.1.9 In the event of a tie for the third position among the candidates, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.
- 9.1.1.10 The district secretary shall publish in the district *Convention Workbook* brief biographies of the candidates for district president, giving adequate information on each candidate.
- 9.1.1.11 This report shall contain such pertinent information as residence; age; number of years in the Synod and in the district; present position; district offices previously held; year of ordination; former pastorates; significant involvement in community, government, or inter-church affairs that would relate to service as district president; advanced academic or honorary degrees; and any other specific administrative, executive, or church-related experience and qualifications pertaining to the office of district president.

Candidates for District Vice-Presidents {a similar procedure as President}

- 9.2.1.6 Candidates for the offices of first vice-president and second vice-president shall be in each instance the three ordained ministers receiving the highest number of nominations from the member congregations of the district and who have agreed to serve if elected.

The following are the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes for the office of President or First or Second Vice President:

President

Paul Egger	31	(accepted)
Jonathan Riggert	10	(accepted)
Chadric Dietrich	4	(accepted)
Paul Dare	2	(declined)
Timothy Geitz	1	
Keith Haney	1	
Bruce Lesemann	1	
Merle Mahnken	1	

First Vice-President

Jonathan Riggert	14	(accepted)
Chadric Dietrich	13	(accepted)
Paul Egger	6	(declined)

Ryan Roehrig	6	(accepted)
David Kuhfal	3	
Benjamin Dose	2	
Jeffrey Keuning	2	
Jonathan Conner	1	
Keith Haney	1	
Josh Lowe	1	
Russell Senstad	1	
James Stogdill	1	

Second Vice-President

Benjamin Dose	6	(accepted)
Ryan Roehrig	6	(accepted)
Jonathan Conner	5	(declined)
Paul Dare	4	(accepted)
Jonathan Riggert	4	(accepted)
David Kufahl	2	
Chris Nitzel	2	
James Travis	2	
Chadric Dietrich	1	
Paul Egger	1	
Bradley Ketcham	1	
Cory Kroonblawd	1	
Jason Letsche	1	
David Lyons	1	
Kyle McBee	1	
John David Mull	1	
John Schonkaes	1	
Nathan Sherrill	1	
Luke Timm	1	

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

Name: **Paul Egger** Age: 62 Year of Ordination: 1990

Other significant service or experience:

Address: 406 Monona Street, Galva 51020

Number of Years in District: 24

Present Congregation and Position: St. John Lutheran Church, Galva, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:

Faith Lutheran Church, Flora, IL, Pastor 1990-2000

Trinity Lutheran Church, Iuka, IL, Vacancy Pastor

Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, IA, Vacancy Pastor

District Offices Held:

Circuit Visitor 2009-2015

2nd Vice President, IDW 2015-2022

1st Vice President, IDW 2022-present

IDW Convention Floor Committee 2006

IDW Board of Directors 2015-present

IDW Youth Committee 2015-present

IDW Education Committee 2015-2022

IDW Stewardship Committee 2022-present

IDW Conference Planning Committee 2015-present

IDW Compensation Committee 2022

IDW Jr High Retreat Presenter 2019

IDW Specific Ministry Certification Committee 2018

IDW Confirmand Retreat Dean 2005-2010

IDW Clergy Health Cabinet
Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention 1995, 2007, 2016

Synod Convention Floor Committee 2016

Represented IDW in President Turner's absence at
Council of Presidents meeting (2024); Pastors Day
On the Hill (2023); preacher at District Church
Workers Conference (2023)

Clay County Ministerial Alliance President (CID)	1993-1998
Area Pan-Lutheran Pastors study group host	2004-2009; 2019-present
Preacher/Activity Leader at Middle School Retreat	2008-2012
Guest Lecturer at Nebraska Pastors Study	2012
Baseball/Softball Coach	1990-2013
Galva-Holstein High School "Success 4" Com	2006-2009
Circuit Bible Institute Presenter	2011-2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2025
AAU Volleyball coach	2014, 2024
LWML Zone Rally devotion leader	various years
Head of Galva Quasquicentennial Memorial Service Committee	2007
Arranged/Hosted Area Reformation Choir Festival	2018

Other experience or qualifications or degrees:

BA Political Science/Journalism from UNI 1985

Name: **Jonathan Riggert** Age: 47 Year of Ordination: 2005

Address: 725 North Roosevelt, Cherokee 51012

Number of Years in District: 15

Present Congregation and Position: Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:

Holy Cross, Saint Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor 2005-2010

District Offices Held:

IDW Board of Directors	2015-present
IDW 2 nd Vice President	2022-present
IDW Youth Services Committee Chairman	2015-2022
IDW Delegate to Synod Nominating Committee for 68 th National Convention	2023
IDW "Set Apart to Serve" Synod Church Worker Recruitment Initiative Pilot Program Participant	2023-2024
IDW Delegate to National LCEF Annual Meeting	2023
IDW 41 st Convention Floor Committee Chairman	2022
IDW Chairman of Search Committee for Executive to the President	2019
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate	2013, 2019
IDW 39 th Convention Floor Committee Secretary	2015
IDW Dean of Senior Youth Gathering	2011-2015
MN North District Youth Committee	2006-2010

Other significant service or experience:

Iowa State Patrol Post 5 Chaplain	2014-present
Camp Okoboji Summer Chaplain	5 years
Concordia Publishing House; Pulpit Resources/Worship Author	2014-present

Author 2014-present

President of Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc. 2012-2017

Pastoral Advisor-St Cloud Prince of Peace School,

Lutheran School Association 2006-2010

Cherokee Public Library Board of Directors

Cherokee County Suicide Prevention Committee

Cherokee Citizen of the Year Committee

Cherokee Junior High Track Coach

Cherokee Parks & Recreation Youth Coach

Cherokee Youth Softball and Baseball Assoc. Board

Member and Coach

Name: **Chadric Dietrich** Age: 51 Year of Ordination: 2003

Address: 3012 270th Street, Rockwell City 50579

Number of Years in District: 22

Present Congregation and Position:

Immanuel, Rockwell City & Trinity, Manson, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:

District Offices Held:

Delegate, Synod Convention	2007, 2010, 2016, 2023
Mutual Consolation of the Brethren Conference Coordinator	2020-Present
IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee, At-Large Member	2021-2024
IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee, President	2024-Present
IDW Ministerial Growth and Support Representative	2022-Present
Circuit Visitor, Humboldt Circuit	2007-2015
LWML – IWD Pastoral Advisor	2014-2018

Other significant service or experience:

CANDIDATES FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Name: **Jonathan Riggert** Age: 47 Year of Ordination: 2005

Address: 725 North Roosevelt, Cherokee 51012

Number of Years in District: 15

Present Congregation and Position: Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:

Holy Cross, Saint Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor 2005-2010

District Offices Held:

IDW Board of Directors	2015-present
IDW 2 nd Vice President	2022-present
IDW Youth Services Committee Chairman	2015-2022
IDW Delegate to Synod Nominating Committee for 68 th National Convention	2023
IDW "Set Apart to Serve" Synod Church Worker Recruitment Initiative Pilot Program Participant	2023-2024
IDW Delegate to National LCEF Annual Meeting	2023
IDW 41 st Convention Floor Committee Chairman	2022
IDW Chairman of Search Committee for Executive to the President	2019
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate	2013, 2019
IDW 39 th Convention Floor Committee Secretary	2015
IDW Dean of Senior Youth Gathering	2011-2015
MN North District Youth Committee	2006-2010

Other significant service or experience:

Iowa State Patrol Post 5 Chaplain	2014-present
Camp Okoboji Summer Chaplain	5 years
Concordia Publishing House; Pulpit Resources/Worship	

Author 2014-present

President of Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc. 2012-2017

Pastoral Advisor-St Cloud Prince of Peace School,

Lutheran School Association 2006-2010

Cherokee Public Library Board of Directors

Cherokee County Suicide Prevention Committee

Cherokee Citizen of the Year Committee

Cherokee Junior High Track Coach

Cherokee Parks & Recreation Youth Coach

Cherokee Youth Softball and Baseball Assoc. Board Member & Coach

Name: **Chadric Dietrich** Age: 51 Year of Ordination: 2003

Address: 3012 270th Street, Rockwell City 50579

Number of Years in District: 22

Present Congregation and Position:

Immanuel, Rockwell City & Trinity, Manson, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:

District Offices Held:

Delegate, Synod Convention	2007, 2010, 2016, 2023
Mutual Consolation of the Brethren Conference	
Coordinator	2020-Present
IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee,	
At-Large Member	2021-2024
IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee,	
President	2024-Present
IDW Ministerial Growth and Support	
Representative	2022-Present
Circuit Visitor, Humboldt Circuit	2007-2015
LWML – IWD Pastoral Advisor	2014-2018

Other significant service or experience:

:

Name: **Ryan Roehrig** Age: 34 Year of Ordination: 2016

Address: 1321 N Main Street, Carroll 51401

Number of Years in District: 8

Present Congregation and Position:
St. Paul, Carroll, Sole Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:
St. Paul, Alta, Sole Pastor

District Offices Held:
Chairman of IDW Youth Services Committee

Other significant service or experience:
Member of Jr Youth Gathering Committee
Secretary of the Pastors Conference Committee
Keynote Speaker for 2019 & 2024 Jr Youth Gathering
Member of Kapfer Symposium Committee
Vicarage Supervisor

Other experience or qualifications or degrees:

CANDIDATES FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Name: **Benjamin Dose** Age: 48 Year of Ordination: 2003

Address: 605 N Church Street, Algona 50511

Number of Years in District: 17

Present Congregation and Position:
Trinity, Algona & St. John, Burt, Senior Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:
South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church,
White Bear Lake, MN Associate Pastor 2003-2008
Zion Lutheran Church, Arcadia, IA, Pastor 2008-2024

District Offices Held:
IDW Youth Services Committee Chair 2012-2015
IDW Jr High youth Gathering Committee
Circuit Visitor Carroll Circuit
IDW Education & Family Life Committee Chair 2022-2025
District Convention Floor Committee 2009 & 2018

Other significant service or experience:
Camp Okoboji Board of Directors 2009-present
Minnesota South District Youth Advocacy Team 2004-2008
Minnesota South District Coordinator, National Youth
Gathering 2006-2007

Name: **Ryan Roehrig** Age: 34 Year of Ordination: 2016

Address: 1321 N Main Street, Carroll 51401

Number of Years in District: 8

Present Congregation and Position:
St. Paul, Carroll, Sole Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:
St. Paul, Alta, IA, Sole Pastor

District Offices Held:
Chairman of IDW Youth Services Committee

Other significant service or experience:
Member of Jr Youth Gathering Committee
Secretary of the Pastors Conference Committee
Keynote Speaker for 2019 & 2024 Jr Youth Gathering
Member of Kapfer Symposium Committee
Vicarage Supervisor

Other experience or qualifications or degrees:

Name: **Paul Dare** Age: 50 Year of Ordination: 2000

Address: 1300 30th Street, Spirit Lake 51360

Number of Years in District: 1.5

Present Congregation and Position:
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake, Senior Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor 2000-2003
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN, Senior Pastor 2003-2019
Zion Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN, Pastor 2019-2023

District Offices Held:

Other significant service or experience:
Minnesota North Board of Education and Mission 2017-2023
St. Cloud Circuit Visitor 2017-2019
Author of "Christians in a Woke World" and Conference Speaker 2020-present
Concordia Wisconsin Visitation Team 2021
LCMS Church Worker Recruitment Initiative 2021-2023
Pastor of the Week Program, Lutheran Island Camp 2007-2019
Iowa Lutheran Educator Conference Speaker 2024

Other experience or qualifications or degrees:

Name: **Jonathan Riggert** Age: 47 Year of Ordination: 2005

Address: 725 North Roosevelt, Cherokee 51012

Number of Years in District: 15

Present Congregation and Position: Trinity Lutheran Church, Cherokee, Pastor

Former Congregations and Positions:
Holy Cross, Saint Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor 2005-2010

District Offices Held:
IDW Board of Directors 2015-present
IDW 2nd Vice President 2022-present
IDW Youth Services Committee Chairman 2015-2022
IDW Delegate to Synod Nominating Committee for 68th National Convention 2023
IDW "Set Apart to Serve" Synod Church Worker Recruitment Initiative Pilot Program Participant 2023-2024
IDW Delegate to National LCEF Annual Meeting 2023
IDW 41st Convention Floor Committee Chairman 2022
IDW Chairman of Search Committee for Executive to the President 2019
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate 2013, 2019
IDW 39th Convention Floor Committee Secretary 2015
IDW Dean of Senior Youth Gathering 2011-2015
MN North District Youth Committee 2006-2010

Other significant service or experience:
Iowa State Patrol Post 5 Chaplain 2014-present
Camp Okoboji Summer Chaplain 5 years
Concordia Publishing House; Pulpit Resources/Worship Author 2014-present
President of Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc. 2012-2017
Pastoral Advisor-St Cloud Prince of Peace School, Lutheran School Association 2006-2010
Cherokee Public Library Board of Directors
Cherokee County Suicide Prevention Committee
Cherokee Citizen of the Year Committee
Cherokee Junior High Track Coach
Cherokee Parks & Recreation Youth Coach
Cherokee Youth Softball and Baseball Assoc. Board Member & Coach

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The District *Handbook*, section 9.15 d, states that prior to the convention the District Nominating Committee shall “submit its complete list [of nominees] to the President of the District for publication in the *Convention Workbook*. This list shall contain for each candidate the name, address, congregation, present and previous District offices held, and the position to which nominated.”

Below is a list of the nominees for each office. The information on each candidate is contained on the following pages. Information on each additional candidate nominated either by the Nominating Committee or by the convention itself, if nominations are forthcoming from the floor of the convention, will be distributed at the convention (see District *Handbook*, section 9.17 b). The nominees in each category are listed in alphabetical order. This information is provided for your use in your preparation as a delegate. The number in parentheses following the office listed is the number to be elected to that office. The page number following the candidate’s name is the page on which his/her biographical information may be found.

Incumbents are designated by an *(I)* behind their name in the biographical information section.

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SYNOD’S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Iowa District West will not have a member on the Synod’s 2026 nomination committee. (Synod Handbook 3.12.3) At the 43rd District Convention (2028) we will elect a lay delegate to this committee.

Office to which nominated: *District Secretary*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Richard Merrill (I)* Age: *64*

Address: *PO Box 73
Charter Oak, IA 51439*

Present Congregation: *Multi-Parish: St. John, St. Paul, and Immanuel, Charter Oak – sole pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Zion, Humboldt, IA, Assistant Pastor (1991-2005)

Year of Ordination: *1991*

Number of years in District: *34*

District and other offices held:
Pastoral Advisor – IDW Singles Committee (1993-2011)
Concordia Cub Week Staff, Camp Okoboji (1997-present)
Circuit Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention (2019, 2023)
Circuit Visitor – Mapleton Circuit (2010-2018)
IDW Secretary (2018-present)

Office to which nominated: *District Secretary*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Richard Milbrandt* Age: *61*

Address: *1079 Pine Street
Ocheyedan, IA 51354*

Present Congregation: *Multi-Parish: St. Peter & Zion, Ocheyedan, and St. John, May City – sole pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Various congregations in Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, and Iowa as sole pastor

Year of Ordination: *1989*

Number of years in District: *7*

District and other offices held:
Zone LWML Counselor for Northwest Zone (7 years)

Office to which nominated: *District Secretary*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Keith Schweitzer* Age: *67*

Address: *608 NE 5th Street
Greenfield, IA 50849*

Present Congregation: *Multi-Parish: Immanuel, Greenfield & Faith, Winterset – sole pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Grace, Burkburnett, TX (1989-2000)
Trinity, Seymour, TX – vacancy pastor (1990-2000)
St. Peter, Bowie, TX – vacancy pastor (1997-2000)
St. Peter, Apache, OK, sole pastor (2000-2002)

Year of Ordination: *1989*

Number of years in District: *23*

District and other offices held:
Substitute teaching in local public school districts (bi-vocational ministry 2000-2025)
Organized and incorporated the Nodaway Valley Ministerial Association (2003)
Planted Faith Lutheran Church, Winterset (2003)
Initiated single adults ministry (2023)
Active benevolence ministry (1989-2025)
Participated in oral and written polemical debates with the Campbellite Church of Christ

Office to which nominated: *District Treasurer*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Kerry Burmeister* Age: *58*

Address: *2015 Texas Avenue
Hardy, IA 50545*

Congregation where membership is held:
Zion, Humboldt

Offices held in congregation:
*Elder
Board of Education
Endowment Committee*

Formal Education:
*BA Accounting, ISU
MBA, Drake University*

Occupation (past and present):
Midwest Division Controller – Hog Slat, Inc.

District and other offices held:
*Treasurer, Lutheran Family Service
IDW Stewardship Committee (6 years)*

Office to which nominated: *District Treasurer*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Scott D. Ernst (I)* Age: *71*

Address: *6420 Golf View Place
Sioux City, IA 51106*

Congregation where membership is held:
Redeemer, Sioux City

Offices held in congregation:
*Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Elder*

Formal Education:
BS degree in Business, Morningside College

Occupation (past and present):
Certified Public Accountant

District and other offices held:
IDW Treasurer

Office to which nominated: *District Treasurer*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Mitch Hambleton* Age: *64*

Address: *PO Box 22
Dallas Center, IA 50063*

Congregation where membership is held:
Zion, Dexter

Offices held in congregation:
*Treasurer
Chairman
Board of Elders*

Formal Education:
BA in Accounting from UNI

Occupation (past and present):
*Dallas County Treasurer (9 years)
Accountant for Farm Bureau companies (30
years)*

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Board of Directors**

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Stanton (Stan) Ullerich** Age: **65**

Address: **106 Marinda Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503**

Congregation where membership is held:
Timothy, Council Bluffs

Offices held in congregation:
Head Elder and Financial Secretary (currently)

Formal Education:
PhD – Purdue; MS – Iowa State

Occupation (past and present):
Retired College Professor

District and other offices held:
**Lay Member-at-Large, IDW Board of Directors
(2003-2009)**
IDW Stewardship Committee (2012-2015)
Chairman, IDW Board of Directors (2015-2022)
**IDW Endowment & Legacy Committee (2022-
present)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Board of Directors**

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Ralph von Qualen** Age: **72**

Address: **17434 Noble Avenue
Carroll, IA 51401**

Congregation where membership is held:
St. Paul, Carroll

Offices held in congregation:
Chair, Board of Education
Chair, Board of Elders
Treasurer
Sunday School Teacher
Midweek Confirmation Teacher
Mission Project Advocate

Formal Education:
PhD

Occupation (past and present):
Independent Plant Pathologist

District and other offices held:
IDW Missions Committee Member (present)
Compensation Guidelines Committee Member
LCMS Missionary in Ghana (1987-1994)
**Short-term LCMS Mission Work in Malawi,
Sierra Leone, and Liberia**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Board of Directors**

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Kirk Warnke** Age: **67**

Address: **1703 Main Street, PO Box 643
Manson, IA 50563**

Congregation where membership is held:
Immanuel, Pomeroy

Offices held in congregation:
President
Board of Directors
Elder
Finance Committee
Education Committee
Trustee
Sunday School Teacher
Bible Study Leader
Usher
Camp Okoboji Delegate
IDW District Convention Delegate

Formal Education:
Bachelor's Degree +

Occupation (past and present):
Retired, Executive Director of Camp Okoboji

District and other offices held:
**IDW Endowment & Legacy Committee –
present**
District Nominating Committee – present
**Lutheran Family Service Board of Directors –
present**
**Camp Okoboji LCMS Foundation Board of
Directors & Treasurer – present**
Camp Okoboji BOD & Treasurer - past

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Christian Education**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Paul Dare** Age: **50**

Address: **1300 30th Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360**

Present Congregation: **Immanuel, Spirit Lake, Sole
Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
**Holy Cross, St. Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor
(2000-2003)**
**Holy Cross, St. Cloud, MN, Senior Pastor (2003-
2019**
**Zion, Alexandria, MN, Senior Pastor (2019-
2023)**

Year of Ordination: **2000**

Number of years in District: **1.5**

District and other offices held:
**MN North Board of Education and Mission
(2017-2023)**
St. Cloud Circuit Visitor (2017-2019)
**Author of "Christians in a Woke World" and
Conference Speaker (2020-present)**
Concordia Wisconsin Visitation Team (2021)
**LCMS Church Worker Recruitment Initiative
(2021-2023)**
**Pastor of the Week Program, Lutheran Island
Camp (2007-2019)**
**Iowa Lutheran Educator Conference Speaker
(2024)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Christian Education**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Matthew Krause** Age: **38**

Address: **1519 Greene Street
Adel, IA 50003**

Present Congregation: **Faith, Adel, Sole Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:

Year of Ordination: **2012**

Number of years in District: **12**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Christian Education**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Luke Timm** Age: **47**

Address: **2180 NW 142nd Street
Clive, IA 50325**

Present Congregation: **Living Faith, Clive, Senior
Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
**St. John, Rochester, MI, Youth and Family
Ministry, Executive Pastor**

Year of Ordination: **2004**

Number of years in District: **16**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Stewardship & Finance**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Mitchel Schuessler** Age: **63**

Address: **209 West Main Street
Clarinda, IA 51632**

Present Congregation: **St. John, Clarinda**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
**St. Paul, Troy, IL
Immanuel, Altamont, IL
Bethlehem, Ferrin, IL
Trinity, Harvel, IL**

Year of Ordination: **1987**

Number of years in District: **6**

District and other offices held:
**National LWML Pastoral Counselor
SID LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor (2 terms)
Community Life Builder
National Youth Gatherings (7 times)
Southern Illinois District
Chairman, Nominating Committee (2 times)
Circuit Counselor
Board of Stewardship
Ministerial Health Committee
LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Stewardship & Finance**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Russell Senstad (I)** Age: **59**

Address: **4211 Eldorado Ct
Sioux City, IA 51106**

Present Congregation: **Senior Pastor, Redeemer,
Sioux City**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Immanuel, Adair, IA

Year of Ordination: **1992**

Number of years in District: **33**

District and other offices held:
**Synod Reconciler
Dean of Jr. High Week
Camp Okoboji Board of Directors
Circuit Visitor
IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee
IWD LWML Zone Counselor
IDW Board of Directors (Evangelism Chair
2000-2003)
IDW Nominating Committee (2 times)
P.A.L.S. Leader (2007-2009)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Stewardship & Finance**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Nicholas Thackery** Age: **46**

Address: **1464 21st Avenue North
Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

Present Congregation: **Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
St. Paul/Peace, Emmetsburg/West Bend

Year of Ordination: **2009**

Number of years in District: **15**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Youth Services**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Chris Nitzel** Age: **45**

Address: **50 North Central Avenue
Hartley, IA 51346**

Present Congregation: **St. Paul, Hartley, Sole Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Trinity, Bloomington, IL, Associate Pastor

Year of Ordination: **2006**

Number of years in District: **10**

District and other offices held:
**Dean for Iowa District West Sr Youth Gathering
(former)
Pastoral Advisor & Chapel Coordinator for
Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School Board (current)
IDW P.A.L.S. Facilitator (current)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Youth Services**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Ryan Roehrig (I)** Age: **34**

Address: **1321 North Main Street
Carroll, IA 51401**

Present Congregation: **St. Paul, Carroll, Sole Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
St. Paul, Alta, IA, Sole Pastor

Year of Ordination: **2016**

Number of years in District: **8**

District and other offices held:
**Member of Jr Youth Gathering Committee
Secretary of Pastors Conference Committee
Keynote Speaker for 2019 & 2024 IDW Jr
Youth Gatherings
Member of Kapfer Symposium Committee
Vicarage Supervisor
Chairman, IDW Youth Services Committee**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Youth Services**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Alex Slotter** Age: **32**

Address: **910 South Carroll Street
Rock Rapids, IA 51246**

Present Congregation: **English/Peace, Larchwood/
Rock Rapids, Sole Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:

Year of Ordination: **2020**

Number of years in District: **5**

District and other offices held:
Dean of IDW Sr Youth Gathering

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Missions**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Benjamin Johnson** Age: **39**

Address: **8301 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322**

Present Congregation: **Gloria Dei, Urbandale, Senior
Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Associate Pastor, Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA

Year of Ordination: **2012**

Number of years in District: **9**

District and other offices held:
**Graduated the Missions Track from Concordia
Seminary, St. Louis with emphasis in church
planting
IDW Missions Committee (4 years)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Missions**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Kevin Johnson** Age: **61**

Address: **1040 Market Street
Carlisle, IA 50047**

Present Congregation: **Holy Cross, Carlisle, Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:

Year of Ordination: **2004**

Number of years in District: **22**

District and other offices held:
**Taught short course on the Augsburg
Confession, Matongo Seminary 2007
Organized Annual Winter Youth Retreat at
Holy Cross, 2012-present
Prepared and presented a paper on the need
for Lutheran families to consider home schooling
2022
Started annual Lutheran Homeschool
Conference 2022-present
Attended Synod Convention 2019 & 2023
Operation Barnabas Chairman 2015-2019; helped
develop RSP chaplaincy for Iowa Army Guard**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman,
Missions**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Joshua Lowe (I)** Age: **44**

Address: **605 11th Street
Hawarden, IA 51023**

Present Congregation: **Trinity, Hawarden, Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Trinity, Blue Hill, NE, Pastor

Year of Ordination: **2008**

Number of years in District: **8**

District and other offices held:
**Alumni Council, Concordia Seminary, St.
Louis, 2009-2015
Secretary/Treasurer Hawarden Ministerial
Alliance, 2019-present
Chairman, IDW Missions Committee, 2023-
2025**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman
Human Care**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Chadric Dietrich** Age: **51**

Address: **3012 270th Street
Rockwell City, IA 50579**

Present Congregation: **Immanuel, Rockwell City &
Trinity, Manson, Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered

Year of Ordination: **2003**

Number of years in District: **22**

District and other offices held:

**Delegate, Synod Convention (2007, 2010, 2016,
2023)**
**Mutual Consolation of the Brethren Conference
Coordinator (2020-Present)**
**IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee,
At-Large Member (2021-2024)**
**IDW Pastors Conference Planning Committee,
President (2024-Present)**
**IDW Ministerial Growth and Support
Representative (2022-Present)**
Circuit Visitor, Humboldt Circuit (2007-2015)
LWML – IWD Pastoral Advisor (2014-2018)

Office to which nominated: **Chairman
Human Care**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Paul Ferderer** Age: **43**

Address: **103 Circle Drive
Lake City, IA 51449**

Present Congregation: **Pilgrim, Lake City, Pastor
Immanuel, Lidderdale, Vacancy Pastor
September 2024-present**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered
First, Fonda, Vacancy Pastor (2016-2021)

Year of Ordination: **2015**

Number of years in District: **10**

District and other offices held:

**Sac City Circuit Education Representative
(2015-present)**
LWML Sac City Zone Counselor 2018-2024
**Founded an Annual Sanctity of Life Hymn
Festival and Convocation with open invitations to
all area LCMS congregations (2021-present)**
**Provision of Easter Vigil and Ascension Day
Services of local circuit and area congregations
(2015-present)**

Office to which nominated: **Chairman
Human Care**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Thomas Vanderbilt (I)** Age: **53**

Address: **1603 West Girard Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125**

Present Congregation: **Mt. Calvary, Indianola,
Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Services Rendered
Messiah, Holt, MI, Pastor
Ascension, Madison, TN, Pastor
**St. Paul, Sheboygan Falls, WI, Associate
Pastor**
St. Martin, Clintonville, WI, Assistant Pastor

Year of Ordination: **1997**

Number of years in District: **5**

District and other offices held:

Chaplain, United States Army
Dean of Youth Week, Camp Okoboji
**Member, Board for Youth Services, South
Wisconsin District**
Chairman, IDW Human Care Committee

Office to which nominated: **Ordained
Minister-at-Large**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Paul Dare** Age: **50**

Address: **1300 30th Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360**

Present Congregation: **Immanuel, Spirit Lake, Sole
Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
**Holy Cross, St. Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor
(2000-2003)**
**Holy Cross, St. Cloud, MN, Senior Pastor (2003-
2019**
**Zion, Alexandria, MN, Senior Pastor (2019-
2023)**

Year of Ordination: **2000**

Number of years in District: **1.5**

District and other offices held:
**MN North Board of Education and Mission
(2017-2023)**
St. Cloud Circuit Visitor (2017-2019)
**Author of "Christians in a Woke World" and
Conference Speaker (2020-present)**
Concordia Wisconsin Visitation Team (2021)
**LCMS Church Worker Recruitment Initiative
(2021-2023)**
**Pastor of the Week Program, Lutheran Island
Camp (2007-2019)**
**Iowa Lutheran Educator Conference Speaker
(2024)**

Office to which nominated: **Ordained
Minister-at-Large**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **David Kuhfal** Age: **59**

Address: **3908 SW Walnut Street
Ankeny, IA 50023**

Present Congregation: **Our Saviour, Des Moines,
Sole Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered
Trinity, Denver, CO, Pastor (1991-1995)
Grace, Neligh, NE, Pastor (1995-2019)
**Trinity, Elgin, NE, Vacancy Pastor (1997-
2019)**

Year of Ordination: **1991**

Number of years in District: **6**

District and other offices held:
LWML Plainview Zone Advisor (2002)
Circuit Visitor (2003-2015)
Vicarage Supervisor (2003-2019)
**Presenter District Lay Enrichment Conference
(2005, 2012)**
Presenter EVE Pastors Wives Retreat (2012)
Delegate LCMS Synod Convention (1998)
**NE District Participant CTRC Model
Conference (2002)**
**Co-Planner NE District Conference on
Unionism**
NE District Nominations Com (2003-2005)
**Delegate LCMS Synod Convention (2007,
2010, 2016)**
Participant NE District Pilot Koinonia Group
**NE District Vice President Region C (2015-
2019)**
NE District Properties Committee (2015-2019)

Office to which nominated: **Ordained
Minister-at-Large**

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: **Nathan Peitsch** Age: **42**

Address: **303 East 4th Street
Ute, IA 52060**

Present Congregation: **St. Paul's, Ute, Sole Pastor;
St. Matthew, Mapleton, Vacancy Pastor**

Former Congregations / Church Services Rendered
St. Paul's, Fort Dodge, Associate Pastor
Served on Cub Week 1 staff for several years
**Currently serving as SMP vicarage supervisor
and mentor**

Year of Ordination: **2010**

Number of years in District: **15**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Commissioned
Minister, Member-at-Large**

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER
CHARACTERIZATION**

Name: **Cory Emily** Age: **43**

Address: **620 SE 15th Street
Grimes, IA 50111**

Present Position:
Principal, Mt. Olive, Des Moines

Former Congregations and Positions:
**Principal, Bethany, Overland Park, KS
Teacher, Bethany, Parma, OH**

Other Church Service Rendered:

Year of Commissioning: **2003**

Number of years in District: **16**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Commissioned
Minister, Member-at-Large**

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER
CHARACTERIZATION**

Name: **Bethany Kuhlmann** Age: **32**

Address: **105 East Division Street
Anthon, IA 51004**

Present Position:
**Director of Christian Education on
Congregational Services Team, Lutheran Family
Service (RSO)**

Former Congregations and Positions:
**St. John's, Honey Creek, IA, Director of
Christian Education**

Other Church Service Rendered:

Year of Commissioning: **2015**

Number of years in District: **10**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: **Commissioned
Minister, Member-at-Large**

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER
CHARACTERIZATION**

Name: **Tia Pugh** Age: **43**

Address: **621 51st Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265**

Present Position:
**Director of Children & Family Ministry,
Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines**

Former Congregations and Positions:
**Director of Christian Education, Zion,
Fairbanks, Alaska**

Other Church Service Rendered:
**Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Des Moines, Art &
Religion Teacher (2018-2021)**

Year of Commissioning: **2006**

Number of years in District: **4**

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Kent Hollrah* Age: 76

Address: *1121 Settlers Lane
Denison, IA 51442*

Congregation where membership is held:
Zion, Denison

Offices held in congregation:
Elder

Formal Education:
BS Degree, Iowa State University

Occupation (past and present):
Insurance Agent

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Jacob Husman* Age: 27

Address: *6362 90th Avenue
Storm Lake, IA 50588*

Congregation where membership is held:
St. John, Alta

Offices held in congregation:
*Youth Group Leader
Sunday School Teacher*

Formal Education:
Associate's Degree – Diesel Tech

Occupation (past and present):
Diesel Technician

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Dr. Mark Schulz (I)* Age: 78

Address: *6568 A 320th Street
Hartley, IA 51346*

Congregation where membership is held:
St. Paul, Hartley

Offices held in congregation:
*Chairman
Elder
Finance
Stewardship
Evangelism
Endowment Fund*

Formal Education:
College – DVM Degree

Occupation (past and present):
Retired Veterinarian

District and other offices held:
*IDW Board of Directors Lay Member-at-Large
(1 term)*

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Penny Schuessler* Age: *60*

Address: *209 West Main Street
Clarinda, IA 51632*

Congregation where membership is held:
St. John, Clarinda

Offices held in congregation:
*LWML offices
Board of Education*

Formal Education:
BA

Occupation (past and present)
Education Support Coordinator – Head Start

District and other offices held:
*IDW Human Care Committee
President Iowa West LWML
Youth Advisory Committee, Southern Illinois
District*

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Kirk Warnke* Age: *67*

Address: *1703 Main Street, PO Box 643
Manson, IA 50563*

Congregation where membership is held:
Immanuel, Pomeroy

Offices held in congregation:
*President
Board of Directors
Elder
Finance Committee
Education Committee
Trustee
Sunday School Teacher
Bible Study Leader
Usher
Camp Okoboji Delegate
IDW District Convention Delegate*

Formal Education:
Bachelor's Degree +

Occupation (past and present):
Retired, Executive Director of Camp Okoboji

District and other offices held:
*IDW Endowment & Legacy Committee –
present
District Nominating Committee – present
Lutheran Family Service Board of Directors –
present
Camp Okoboji LCMS Foundation Board of
Directors & Treasurer – present
Camp Okoboji BOD & Treasurer – past*

Office to which nominated: *Lay Member-at-Large*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Carole White Mandernach* Age: *65*

Address: *2115 Williams Drive
Fort Dodge, IA 50501*

Congregation where membership is held:
Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge

Offices held in congregation:
Endowment Committee

Formal Education:
BA in Accounting, MBA

Occupation (past and present):
Retired, Lutheran Church Extension Fund

District and other offices held:
*LCEF District Vice President
IDW Nominating Committee*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Jonathan Riggert* Age: *47*

Address: *725 North Roosevelt
Cherokee 51012*

Present Congregation and Position: *Trinity Lutheran
Church, Cherokee, Sole Pastor*

Former Congregations and Positions:
*Holy Cross, Saint Cloud, MN, Associate Pastor
2005-2010*

Year of Ordination: *2005*

Number of Years in District: *15*

District Offices Held:

IDW Board of Directors, 2015-present
IDW 2nd Vice President, 2022-present
*IDW Youth Services Committee Chairman, 2015-
2022*
*IDW Delegate to Synod Nominating Committee
for 68th National Convention, 2023*
*IDW "Set Apart to Serve" Synod Church Worker
Recruitment Initiative Pilot Program Participant,
2023-2024*
*IDW Delegate to National LCEF Annual Meeting,
2023*
*IDW 41st Convention Floor Committee Chairman,
2022*
*IDW Chairman of Search Committee for
Executive
to the President, 2019*
LCMS Convention Pastoral Delegate, 2013, 2019
*IDW 39th Convention Floor Committee Secretary,
2015*
IDW Dean of Senior Youth Gathering, 2011-2015
MN North District Youth Committee, 2006-2010

Other significant service or experience:
Iowa State Patrol Post 5 Chaplain, 2014-present
Camp Okoboji Summer Chaplain, 5 years
*Concordia Publishing House; Pulpit
Resources/Worship Author, 2014-present*
*President of Cherokee County Ministerial Assoc.
2012-2017*
*Pastoral Advisor-St Cloud Prince of Peace
School, Lutheran School Association, 2006-2010*
Cherokee Public Library Board of Directors
Cherokee County Suicide Prevention Committee
Cherokee Citizen of the Year Committee
Cherokee Junior High Track Coach
Cherokee Parks & Recreation Youth Coach
*Cherokee Youth Softball and Baseball Assoc.
Board Member & Coach*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Ryan Roehrig* Age: *34*

Address: *1321 North Main Street
Carroll, IA 51401*

Present Congregation: *St. Paul, Carroll, Sole Pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
St. Paul, Alta, IA, Sole Pastor

Year of Ordination: *2016*

Number of years in District: *8*

District and other offices held:

Member of Jr Youth Gathering Committee
Secretary of Pastors Conference Committee
*Keynote Speaker for 2019 & 2024 IDW Jr
Youth Gatherings*
Member of Kapfer Symposium Committee
Vicarage Supervisor
Chairman of IDW Youth Services Committee

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Steve Schulz* Age: *61*

Address: *40052 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034*

Present Congregation: *Immanuel, Schleswig
(member)
LCMS Mission Advancement at Mission Central*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
*Pastor, St. John, Fenton
Pastor, Grace, Storm Lake
Associate/Campus Pastor, Immanuel, Fargo, ND
Circuit Counselor, ND District
1st Vice President, ND District
Chairman, ND District Board of Directors*

Year of Ordination: *1991*

Number of years in District: *20*

District and other offices held:
*Circuit Visitor, Storm Lake Circuit IDW
2nd Vice President, IDW
IDW Board of Directors*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Russell Senstad* Age: *56*

Address: *4211 Eldorado Ct
Sioux City, IA 51106*

Present Congregation: *Redeemer, Sioux City, Senior
Pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
*Immanuel, Adair, IA
Synod Reconciler*

Year of Ordination: *1992*

Number of years in District: *30*

District and other offices held:
*Circuit Visitor
Jr High Week, Camp Okoboji – Dean
Board of Directors
LWML Zone Counselor*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Nicholas Thackery* Age: *46*

Address: *1464 21st Avenue North
Fort Dodge, IA 50501*

Present Congregation: *Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge,
Sole Pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
St. Paul/Peace, Emmetsburg/West Bend

Year of Ordination: *2009*

Number of years in District: *15*

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Ordained*

PASTOR CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Robert Zellmer* Age: *46*

Address: *119 West Creek Drive
Lawton, IA 51030*

Present Congregation: *Bethel, Lawton, Pastor*

Former Congregations / Church Service Rendered:
Holy Trinity, Farnhamville, IA, Pastor

Year of Ordination: *2008*

Number of years in District: *17*

District and other offices held:

*Dean of IDW Jr Youth Gathering
Assisted National Youth Gathering Coordinator
Camp Okoboji Board of Directors
Assisted with Tech for District Youth Gatherings
and Teacher Conferences*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Commissioned*

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Adam Hengeveld* Age: *39*

Address: *2802 Delia Lane
Milford, IA 51351*

Present Position:
Executive Director, Camp Okoboji

Former Congregations and Positions:

Other Church Service Rendered:

Year of Commissioning: *2009*

Number of years in District: *1*

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Commissioned*

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Thomas Wilson (I)* Age: *45*

Address: *609 13th Avenue South
Humboldt, IA 50548*

Present Position:
*Director of Christian Education, Zion,
Humboldt*

Former Congregations and Positions:
*Director of Family Life Ministry, St. Paul,
Ames*

Other Church Service Rendered:

Year of Commissioning: *2018*

Number of years in District: *6*

District and other offices held:
*District Nominating Committee –
Commissioned Minister*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Ann Carrick* Age: *73*

Address: *324 Marshall Street
Dexter, IA 50070*

Congregation where membership is held:
Faith, Adel

Offices held in congregation:
*Chair of Missions, Stewardship
Secretary of Church Council*

Formal Education:
High School

Occupation (past and present):
Insurance Clerk at Farm Bureau Ins. Co. DM

District and other offices held:
*LWML President
Board rep as LWML Vice President*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Amy Hull* Age: *51*

Address: *312 10th Street
Manilla, IA 51454*

Congregation where membership is held:
Zion, Manning

Offices held in congregation:
*Youth Leader, Immanuel, Schleswig
Confirmation Leader for 7th grade, Immanuel,
Schleswig, 3 years*

Formal Education:
Master's in Social Work

Occupation (past and present):
*Mental Health Therapist and Clinical Director,
Lutheran Family Service*

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Mark Kramer* Age: *58*

Address: *5200 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312*

Congregation where membership is held:
Gloria Dei, Urbandale

Offices held in congregation:
*President
Vice President
Treasurer*

Formal Education:
MBA - Finance

Occupation (past and present):
*Vice President – Capital Markets Trading
Manager*

District and other offices held:
*IDW Board of Directors, Lay Member-at-
Large*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Sherrill Phillips* Age: *67*

Address: *29399 140th Street
Woodward, IA 50276*

Congregation where membership is held:
Christ, Bouton

Offices held in congregation:
*Sunday School Superintendent
LWML local society and District board officer*

Formal Education:
Pharmacy Degree, Drake University

Occupation (past and present):
Pharmacist

District and other offices held:

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Kirk Warnke* Age: *67*

Address: *1703 Main Street, PO Box 643
Manson, IA 50563*

Congregation where membership is held:
Immanuel, Pomeroy

Offices held in congregation:
*President
Board of Directors
Elder
Finance Committee
Education Committee
Trustee
Sunday School Teacher
Bible Study Leader
Usher
Camp Okoboji Delegate
IDW District Convention Delegate*

Formal Education:
Bachelor's Degree +

Occupation (past and present):
Retired, Executive Director of Camp Okoboji

District and other offices held:
*IDW Endowment & Legacy Committee –
present
District Nominating Committee – present
Lutheran Family Service Board of Directors –
present
Camp Okoboji LCMS Foundation Board of
Directors & Treasurer – present
Camp Okoboji BOD & Treasurer – past*

Office to which nominated: *Nominating
Committee, Layperson*

LAYPERSON CHARACTERIZATION

Name: *Carole White Mandernach* Age: *65*

Address: *2115 Williams Drive
Fort Dodge, IA 50501*

Congregation where membership is held:
Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge

Offices held in congregation:
Endowment Committee

Formal Education:
BA in Accounting, MBA

Occupation (past and present):
Retired, Lutheran Church Extension Fund

District and other offices held:
*LCEF District Vice President
IDW Nominating Committee*

CIRCUIT VISITOR NOMINATIONS

The regulations regarding the nomination and election of circuit visitors are found in Bylaw 5.2.2 of the *Handbook* of the Synod. This Bylaw reads as follows:

The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

- (a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors no later than the time established by the district. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.
- (b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.
- (c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).
- (d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.
 - (1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.
 - (2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.
 - (3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.
- (e) Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.
- (f) In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of 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.

Bylaw 9.7.2 of the District *Handbook* states that “[s]election to the office of circuit visitor shall not exclude the person from consideration for another office.” If also elected to another office, the person shall choose in which position he shall serve. *At past conventions, when a pastor who was nominated as circuit visitor from his circuit and was elected also to another office had chosen to serve in that other office, the delegates from his circuit have caucused and selected another pastor from their circuit to serve as circuit visitor. This selection process must be completed and the name of the pastor given to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee prior to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee’s presentation to the convention for ratification of the candidates for circuit visitor* (Bylaw 9.5.1.6).

The results of the selection by the circuit forums are as follows:

Adair Circuit	no selection	Le Mars Circuit	no selection
Algona Circuit	Benjamin Dose	Mapleton Circuit	Neil Wehmas
Boone Circuit	Lyle Hansen	Sac City Circuit	David Lyons
Carroll Circuit	Jonathan Conner	Sioux City Circuit	James Travis
Cherokee Circuit	Don Meyer	Southwest Circuit	no selection due to possible merging of circuits
Council Bluffs Circuit	no selection	Spencer Circuit	no selection
Denison Circuit	Chad Trunkhill	Storm Lake Circuit	Bradley Ketcham
Des Moines East Circuit	no selection		
Des Moines West Circuit	no selection		
Fort Dodge Circuit	Joe Pierson		

The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary