

“The Truth Came Through Jesus Christ”

John 1:17

**34th Convention of the
Montana District of the
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

**June 11-14, 2018
Billings, Montana**

Proceedings

Table of Contents

Convention Schedule.....	3
Voting Delegates	6
Advisory Delegates.....	9
Floor Committee Assignments	10
Minutes of the Convention.....	12
Election Results	25
Presidential Address.....	26
Resolutions of the Convention.....	31
Triennial Statistics	64
Congregational Anniversaries	70
Circuit Visitor Reports.....	73
Convention Study Summary.....	79
Amicus Christi Awards.....	80
Called to Glory	83

34th Montana District Convention Schedule

Billings, Montana

June 11-14, 2018

“The Truth Came through Jesus Christ”

(John 1:17)

Monday- June 11

- 7:30 am Committee Chairmen and Secretaries Orientation
- 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 Opening Devotions (In Committees)
- 9:15 Floor Committees meet (District President visits)
- 3:45 Welcome
- 3:50 Gospel of John (Session # 1)
- 4:45 Introduce Staff and Support crew
- 5:00 Closing prayer
- 7:00 pm Opening Worship-Trinity Lutheran Church-Rev. Nour, Preacher

Tuesday- June 12

- 8:00 Opening Devotions (Pastor Preus)
- 8:15 Registration and Credentials Committee
- 8:20 Gospel of John (Session # 2)
- 9:10 Orientation- Parliamentary procedures
- 9:20 Convention Schedule
- 9:30 Report of Synodical President
- 10:15 District President’s Report and Address
- 10:35 District Treasurer’s report

10:45	Introduction of all nominees to all offices
10:55	Election Committee
11:05	Welcome of new members (Ordained, Commissioned, Congregations)
11:15	Report of Synodical President
12:00	Closing Prayer
12:05	Noon Recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Jacobs)
1:30	Gospel of John (Session # 3)
2:20	Concordia Plan Services
2:35	Break
3:05	Committee # 1 - Mission
4:05	Committee # 2 - Specialized Ministries
5:00	Closing Prayer
6:30	Banquet - Amicus Christi Award

Wednesday June 13

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Thomas)
8:15	Gospel of John (Session # 4)
9:05	Committee # 3 - Human Care
10:00	Break
10:15	Committee # 4 - Education
11:00	Committee # 5 - Administration
11:45	Closing prayer

11:50 Committees meet
12:00 Noon recess
1:15 Opening Devotions (Pastor Larson)
1:30 Gospel of John (Session # 5)
2:20 Committee # 1 - Mission
2:50 Break
3:05 Committee # 2 - Specialized Ministries
3:30 Committee # 3 - Human Care
4:00 Committee # 4 - Education
4:30 Committee # 5 - Administration
5:00 Closing Prayer
5:05 Advisory delegates meet with Secretary to elect
 Synodical Convention Delegate (Con. XII. B, Bylaw 3.1.3.1)

Thursday June 14

8:00 Opening Devotions (Pastor Lehmann)
8:15 Gospel of John (Session # 6)
9:15 Committees as needed
10:00 Break
10:15 Committees as needed
10:55 Registration and Credentials Committee - final report
11:00 Closing Worship- Memorial, Installations (Pastor Schlund)

First Vice-President Tabbert Chaplain

Second Vice-President Schreiber Reader

VOTING DELEGATES

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
Redeemer	Anaconda	Jim Pierce Pastor Elect (07/2018)	
Holy Trinity/ Grace	Belgrade Three Forks	Charles Lehman	Heidi Donnelly
Emmaus Lutheran Mission	Big Timber/ Livingston	Chad Schopp	
Christ the King	Billings	Ryan Wendt	Kendall Hartman
Hope Our Redeemer	Billings Worden	Robert Lane	Larry Peabody
Mt. Olive/ St. Paul	Billings/ Roundup	Mark Grunst	John Suchen
Our Savior	Billings	Ken Zoeller	Keith Myhre
Trinity	Billings	Daniel Keinath	Steve Hildenburg
Faith	Boulder	Vacant – Non-Calling	Keith Fletcher
First	Bozeman	Samuel Grayl	Stephen Schultz
St. John St. Paul	Belfry Bridger	Paul Shupe	Dennis Wegner
St. Mark Zion	Butte Whitehall	James Mavis	Christine Mavis
Zion St. Paul	Chinook Havre	Marcus Williams	Lee Miller
Mt Calvary Concordia Trinity	Colstrip Forsyth Hysham	Blake Marshall	Benjamin Worm
Our Redeemer	Columbia Falls	Matthew Nelson	Joe Peters
Faith Holy Cross	Condon Seeley Lake	Erik Iverson	Jim Normark
Church at Creston Crow Lutheran Ministry	Creston Crow Agency	Kyle Winter Daniel Jacobs	Bobbie Schenderline

Congregation Name	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Our Savior St. Paul Trinity	Denton Lewistown Stanford	Served by Vicar Mark Wiegert	Ruth Torgerson
St. John	Deer Lodge	Robert Mitchell	Fred Lewis
Living Water Shepherd of the Hills	Dillon Ennis	Kenneth Stensrud	Frank Allen
Holy Cross	Eureka	Christopher Tabbert	Lance Pluid
St. John Trinity	Fairview Sidney	Rolf Preus	Tom Halvorson
Grace Our Savior	Fallon Glendive	Greg Lucido	Dean Johnson
First	Fort Benton	Wade Harr	Roger Casteel
Faith Trinity Trinity	Glasgow Plentywood Wolf Point	John Vallie	Brad Persinger
Peace/Christ	Great Falls	Steven Schlund (Excused)	Arnold Wirth
Trinity Zion St. John	Great Falls Fairfield Power	Gerald Paul	Roy Arves
Grace	Hamilton	Vern Sandersfeld	Steve Jarvis
Redeemer	Hardin	Willis McCall	Dave Chepulis
Trinity	Harlowton	Terry Forke	Earl Wegner
First	Helena	Larry Miller	Dick Ellwein
Trinity	Kalispell	Mark Cutler	Randy Avery
Circle of Life	Lame Deer	Dennis Bauer	Russel Lundgren
St. John	Laurel	Arlo Pullmann	Justin Jares
St. John	Libby	Steven Thomas	Neil Textor
Trinity	Miles City	Howard Schreibeis	Alicyn Chapman

Congregation Name	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
First	Missoula	David Johnson	John Mandler
Messiah	Missoula	Vacant – Calling	Chris Wallace
St. Paul	Park City	Russel Dewell	Terry Westerfield
Mt. Calvary Zion	Polson/ St. Ignatius	Kyle Whaley	Terry Druyvestein
St. Paul	Ronan	Richard Schneider	Amy Schneider
Shepherd of the Valley	Salmon, ID	Kevin Peterson	Dan Kern
Our Savior	Stevensville	Andrew Eckert	Lorraine Roach
Trinity	Superior	Vacant – Calling	Bill Melhorn
Shepherd of the Valley	Thompson Falls	Vacant – Calling	Bill Beck
St. Peter	Whitefish	Michael Flannery (Excused)	
Concordia	Williston	Vacant – Calling	Eric Corneliusen

ADVISORY DELEGATES

Pastoral Advisory Delegates

Buelmann, Rev. Kevin
Christensen, Rev. Matthew (Chaplain on Active Duty)
DiConti, Rev. Marc (Chaplain on Active Duty)
Klug, Rev. Timothy (Candidate)
Potter, Rev. Jeffery (Candidate)
Preus, Rev. David (Deployed Missionary)
Salinas, Rev. Adam
Rinderknecht, Rev. Daniel
Thompson, Rev. Doug (Deployed Missionary)
Timber, Rev. Park
Warner, Rev. David (Deployed Missionary)
Wiegert, Vicar Mark (Vicar)

Ordained Emeritus Advisory Delegates

Bliese, Rev. Bill
Christiansen, Rev. Eric
Donnan, Rev. John
Ebel, Rev. Al
Everson, Rev. Gale
Kaarre, Rev. Martin
Kaelberer, Rev. Erich
Koss, Rev. James
Larson, Rev. Raymond
Lehmann, Rev. Carl
Linderman, Rev. Bruce
Menagh, Rev. Jason
Nicolaus, Rev. M.M.
Reiner, Rev. Darold
Schiefelbein, Rev. Herbert
Stenzel, Rev. Kent
Wareham, Rev. Christopher
Weishoff, Rev. Robert
Wieger, Rev. Raymond

Board of Directors Members

Rev. Terry Forke, President
Rev. Christopher Tabbert, First Vice-President
Rev. Howard Schreibeis, Second Vice-President
Rev. Mark Schultz, Secretary (Pro Tempore)
Susan Loomans, Treasurer
Rev. Ryan Wendt
Pat Lewis
Keith Meier
Jerry Roseleip
Mark Scott
Richard Thomas

Commissioned Advisory Delegates

Boll, Caroline
Boll, Jennifer
Boll, John
Braaten, Becky
Cutler, Joann
Doucette, Rachel
Susan Eberhard
Edgar, Stephanie
Erger, Lynne
Faris, JeAnne
Hensel, Tanya
Heiliger, Andrea
Heiliger, Cameron
Holste, Ken
Hoy, Claire
Johnson, Ardith
Johnson, Melody
Kern, Becky
Kosche, Ken
Kosche, Thomas
Lee, Debbie
Loomans, Ted
McCoy, Laura
Rasmussen, Suzanne
Rehbein, Erika
Rehbein, Timothy
Renken, Alyssa
Salinas, BethAnn
Speed, Cindy
Schreck, Jerry
Thomas, Richard
Van Andel, Judith
Van Andel, Roger
Van Luchene, Darrell
Van Luchene, Sue Zann
Wegner, Willem

MT District Nominations Committee

Rev. Blake Marshall, Chairman
Rev. James Koss
Rev. Kyle Whaley
Roy Arves
Kale Bauer
Rebecca Braaten
Joel Olinghouse

2018 District Convention Committee Assignments

"The Truth Came through Jesus Christ"

(John 1:17)

Floor Committee # 1 Mission

Chair - Ken Zoeller *Secretary* - Russ Dewell

Pastor: Kevin Bueltmann, Wade Harr, Dan Jacobs, Mark Grunst, Chad Schopp, Park Timber

Commissioned: Andrea Heiliger, Joann Cutler

Lay: Heidi Donnelly, Steve Hildenburg, Bobbi Schenderline, Roger Casteel, Bruce Wegner, John Mandler, Dan Kern, Arnold Wirth, Jim Normark

Floor Committee # 2 Specialized Ministries

Chair - Gerald Paul *Secretary* - Vern Sandersfeld

Pastor: Mark Cutler, Erik Iverson, Rolf Preus, Rick Schneider, Marcus Williams, Kyle Winter, Adam Salinas

Commissioned: Cameron Heiliger, Roger Van Anandel

Lay: Kendall Hartman, Keith Fletcher, Fred Lewis, Brad Persinger, Randy Avery, Lorraine Roach, Chris Wallace, Dennis Wegner, Eric Corneliusen, Russ Lundgren

BOD: Mark Scott

Floor Committee # 3 Human Care

Chair - Samuel Grayl *Secretary* - Dan Keinath

Pastor: Dennis Bauer, Ray Larson, James Mavis, Arlo Pullmann, Paul Shupe, John Vallie, Bruce Linderman

Commissioned: Tanya Hensel, Judy Van Anandel

Lay: Larry Peabody, Lee Miller, Frank Allen, Dean Johnson, Justin Jares, Terry Westerfield, Bill Melhorn, Bill Beck, Stephen Schultz

BOD: Jerry Roseleip

Floor Committee # 4 Education

Chair - Matt Nelson *Secretary* - Willis McCall

Pastor: David Johnson, Bob Lane, Larry Miller, Dan Rinderknecht, Bob Weishoff, Steve Thomas

Commissioned: Ken Kosche, Sue Eberhard

Lay: John Suchen, Benjamin Worm, Lance Pluid, Neil Textor, Terry Druyvestein, Ruth Torgerson

BOD: Pat Lewis

Floor Committee # 5 Administration

Chair - Kevin Peterson *Secretary* - Andrew Eckert

Pastor: Charles Lehmann, Bob Mitchell, Ken Stensrud

Commissioned: Ted Loomans

Lay: Keith Myhre, Joe Peters, Thomas Halverson, Steve Jarvis, Alicyn Chapman, Amy Schneider, Christine Mavis, David Chepulis, Dick Ellwein

BOD: Keith Meier

Nominations and Elections Committee

Chair - Blake Marshall

Pastor: Kyle Whaley, James Koss

Commissioned: Rebecca Braaten

Lay: Roy Arves, Kale Bauer, Joel Olinghouse

Credentials/Registration Committee

Chair - Greg Lucido

Pastor: Mark Nicolaus

Technical

Chair - Pastor Wendt

Assistants - Tom Kosche

Trinity School and Church Support Crew

Rick Thomas, Jonathan Boll

Convention Musician - Dr. Kenneth Kosche

Office

Convention Manager - Ruth Kosche

Treasurer - Susan Loomans

Assistants - Andrea Heiliger, Laura McCoy

Convention Chaplain: Pastor Chris Tabbert

Convention Reader: Pastor Howard Schreibeis

Convention Minutes: Pastor Mark Schultz

34th Montana District Convention Minutes

Trinity Lutheran School

Billings, Montana

June 11-14, 2018

“The Truth Came through Jesus Christ”

(John 1:17)

Monday- June 11

The floor committees met during the morning and early afternoon. At 3:45 p.m. President Terry Forke opened the 34th Convention of the Montana District with the invocation and words of welcome.

Session 1 of the Gospel of John – President Forke announced to the delegates and guests that we will be reading and discussing the Gospel of John for our study during the convention. Second Vice-President Howard Schreibeis- Miles City will read the book of John to the assembly in six separate sections. President Forke emphasized the importance of taking time to listen to the Word of God on a regular basis. Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 1-4. After the reading, President Forke directed the delegates and guests to a study guide he prepared and asked them to form small groups to discuss the reading.

After session 1 of the Bible study, President Forke introduced to the convention Susan Loomans-Billings, (District Treasurer) and Ruth Kosche- Billings, (his Administrative Assistant). He also introduced Principal Richard Thomas and the crew from Trinity Church/School and thanked them for hosting the convention. Principal Thomas welcomed the attendees and directed them to come to him or to Jonathan Boll with any questions or needs they have related to the convention.

First Vice-President and Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert-Eureka closed the opening session with prayer at 4:55 p.m.

The opening worship service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. with Third Vice-President of the LC-MS (Representing the Great Plains Region) Rev. Nabil Nour preaching and Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht (Trinity) as liturgist following the Order of Vespers.

Tuesday- June 12

At 8 a.m. opening devotions followed the Order of Responsive Prayer 2, led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Eastern Circuit Visitor Rev. Rolf Preus preaching on John 18:36-38 The assigned theme: “The Truth Will Set You Free”.

Committee #7 – Registration and Credentials Report Chairman Rev. Greg Lucido-Glendive reported the total attendance at 108 plus guests. Of that number, there are 81 voting delegates – 37 Pastors, 43 Lay, and 1 commissioned. In addition, there are 2 Advisory Active Pastors; 7 Advisory Emeriti Pastors, 11 Advisory Active Commissioned Workers, 2 Emeriti Commissioned Workers, 3 Advisory BOD members, and 2 Vicars.

Gospel of John (Session # 2) – Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 5-7 to the assembly. For about 20 minutes afterward, the people discussed the reading.

President Forke directed the delegates' attention to page 13 of the Convention Workbook and explained parliamentary procedure basics. He reminded the assembly that the purpose of parliamentary procedure is to protect the rights of the delegation and the rights of the individual to present and hear valid debate in order to facilitate the work of the convention.

It was **moved and seconded** to adopt the agenda in the convention workbook (pages 4-6). **Motion carried.**

Report of Synodical President (Part 1): LCMS Third Vice-President Rev. Nabil Nour spoke to the assembly representing Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. The delegates watched a video about the challenges of bringing the Word of God to a changing world, globally and domestically. After the video, Rev. Nour emphasized that our message is focused on Christ alone, that mercy is at the center of all we do, and that the joy we have in Christ cannot be taken away. He directed the assembly to the booklet “Joy:Fully Lutheran.” He will conclude his remarks and field questions in part 2 of his presentation.

President Forke gave his report and address focusing on absolute truth vs. “your” truth. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. He is the Truth and He and His Word are the antidote to the demonic lies of the world. A copy of his address will be included in the Convention Proceedings.

The Montana District Financial Report was given by District Treasurer Susan Loomans. She reminded the assembly that the overall purpose of the District is “to provide mutual assistance to the congregations of the District, their leaders and pastors, to train God's royal priesthood to worship God, to live a priestly life in service of the Gospel, and to bring the unbelieving as a gift to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” She presented an overview Budget Summary and where District funds are spent. See convention workbook pages 36-43 for the written report.

President Forke introduced those who have been nominated for District offices. (See pages 66-67 of convention workbook for a complete list.)

Committee 6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Rev. Blake Marshall-Forsyth asked for nominations from the floor for **District President**. There were no nominations from the floor. It was **moved and seconded** to elect Terry Forke by acclamation instead of ballot. Motion **carried**. **Terry Forke was affirmed as District President** by the 34th Convention of the Montana District of the LCMS.

The nominees for **First Vice-President** are Rev. Dan Rinderknecht, Rev. Chris Tabbert, and Rev. Ryan Wendt. Receiving no nominations from the floor, the ballots were distributed. Rev. Marshall led the delegates in prayer and the ballots were collected.

Members new to the District since the last convention were asked to stand and introduce themselves. President Forke officially welcomed them. For a complete list of the changes in members to the Montana District since the 2015 Convention, refer to pages 22-27 of the Convention Workbook.

Report of Synodical President – part 2 Rev. Nour announced that he just received an ultra-sound picture of his 12th grandchild. The assembly responded with applause. He then finished President Harrison's report and encouraged the pastors, teachers, and lay-people to regularly read the Bible and the Book of Concord. He touched on some of the challenges facing the LCMS regarding declining membership and then asked for questions from the assembly.

Committee 6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Rev. Marshall reported that the vote for First VP is as follows: Rev. Tabbert–52; Rev. Wendt–16; Rev. Rinderknecht–10 for a total of 78 votes. **Rev. Chris Tabbert has been re-elected as First Vice-President.**

At noon the delegates recessed for lunch following a closing prayer by Rev. Rolf Preus and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Opening Devotions for the afternoon Session were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert following the order of Responsive Prayer 1 with Southern Circuit Visitor Rev. Dan Jacobs-Crow Agency preaching on John 8:39-47.

Gospel of John (Session #3) – Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 8-10 to the assembly. The people discussed the reading for about 20 minutes.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Rev. Marshall explained the procedure for electing the 2nd VP according to the District Bylaws. The delegates were instructed to nominate by paper ballot one pastor to serve as 2nd Vice-President.

The three men receiving the highest number of nominations will comprise the ballot. He led the delegates in prayer and the committee collected the nominations.

Concordia Plan Services – Louis Johnson (who was here at the 2015 convention) is a Benefit Consultant representing Concordia Plan Services. He talked about CPS – who they are, what they do, and why they exist. He invited the delegates to talk with him during the convention about any questions or concerns they or their congregations have regarding the Concordia Plans for their church workers.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee The ballot for 2nd VP has been prepared – the three pastors receiving the highest number of votes were Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht, Rev. Richard Schneider, and Rev. Ryan Wendt. The ballots were distributed, Rev. Marshall prayed, and the delegates voted.

Committee # 1 – Missions. Committee Chairman Rev. Kenneth Zoeller-Billings introduced Rev. Russell Dewell-Park City to read Resolution 1-01 “To Acknowledge God's Gift of Pastors and to Memorialize the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to Increase Its Budgeted Support of Both Seminaries”. **Moved and seconded.** No discussion. **Adopted.**

Rev. Wade Haar-Fort Benton read Res. 1-02 “To Establish Mission and Ministry Emphases for the 2019-2021 Synodical Triennium”. **Moved and seconded.** No discussion. **Adopted.**

Rev. Daniel Jacobs read Res. 1-03 “To Increase the Academic Standards of the Synod's 'Specific Ministry Pastor' (SMP) Program”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. **Moved and seconded** to amend the overture by striking lines 40-48 (the fourth Whereas). Discussion. Amendment **defeated.** **Moved and seconded** to recommit Res. 1-03 to committee. **Carried.**

Rev. Kenneth Zoeller read Res. 1-04 “To Encourage Faithful Lutherans to Speak the Truth of God's Word”. **Moved and seconded.** It was **moved and seconded** to insert “be encouraged to” on line 32 between “District” and “make”. Discussion. Amendment **carried.** It was **moved and seconded** to strike the final resolved. Discussion. Amendment **carried.** Amended motion **adopted.**

Committee #2 – Specialized Ministries Committee Chairman Rev. Gerald Paul read Res. 2-01 “To Encourage the Teachings of Creation and the Fall as God Has Revealed them in Holy Scriptures, in All Congregations, Schools, and Synodical Institutions.” **Moved and seconded.** It was **moved and seconded** to change “encourage” to “demand” in the title and in the first resolved. It was **moved and seconded** to strike the word “demand” and replace with “instruct”. Discussion. The amendment to the amendment is **defeated.** It was **moved and seconded** to amend the amendment by

replacing “demand” with “require”. The amendment to the amendment **carried**. The amended amendment **carried**. There was further discussion on the motion as amended. It was **moved and seconded** to change “universe” to “heavens and earth” in lines 9, 61, 62. It was **moved and seconded** to amend the amendment by inserting “(the cosmos or heavens and earth in English)” after the word “universe” in the same three lines. The amendment to the amendment **carried**. The amended amendment **carried**. It was **moved and seconded** to amend the first resolved by adding the phrase “that we memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm that” in place of the word “require” and insert the word “are” after “Synod” in the same resolved. The amendment **carried**. It was **moved and seconded** to amend the second resolved and third resolved by adding “within the next triennium” after the word “report” (in lines 77 and 82). The amendment **carried**. A delegate **moved the previous question**. The motion **carried**. The amended Resolution 2-01 was **adopted as amended**.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Rev. Marshall announced the results of the first vote for 2nd VP of the District: Rev. Dan Rinderknecht-36; Rev. Ryan Wendt-31; and Rev. Richard Schneider-9. After a prayer, the ballots were distributed and delegates were instructed to vote for either Rev. Rinderknecht or Rev. Wendt.

The convention recessed at 5:00 p.m. following a closing prayer by Rev. Daniel Jacobs.

Beginning at 6:30 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church and School hosted the Banquet/BBQ. During the evening, President Forke presented the Amicus Christi Award to Principal/Teacher Richard Thomas and to the Rev. Al Ebel. Entertainment was provided by a barbershop quartet.

Wednesday, June 13

At 8 a.m. opening devotions followed the Order of Responsive Prayer 2, led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Flathead Circuit Visitor, Rev. Steven Thomas, preaching on John 14:1-7. The assigned theme: “I Am the Truth”.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Rev. Marshall reported the results of the vote for 2nd VP is as follows: Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht – 35; Rev. Ryan Wendt – 42. **Rev. Ryan Wendt was elected 2nd Vice-President of the Montana District.**

Rev. Marshall announced that Rev. Kevin Peterson-Salmon, ID has been nominated for the position of District Secretary. He asked for nominations from the floor. Rev. Mark Schultz-Bozeman was nominated. He quickly declined. No further nominations were received. It was **moved and seconded** that the election be by acclamation. The motion **carried**. It was **moved and seconded** to elect **Rev. Kevin Peterson as District Secretary**. The motion **carried**.

Gospel of John (Session #4) – Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 11-13 to the assembly. For about 20 minutes afterward, the people had the opportunity to discuss the reading.

President Forke thanked Rev. Ryan Wendt and Mr. Tom Kosche-Billings for their work at the tech table. He also thanked Dr. Ken Kosche-Billings for playing the piano for the hymns.

The delegates were asked to think of pastors to nominate to serve as pastor-member of the District Board of Directors since Rev. Wendt was elected 2nd VP.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Rev. Marshall brought before the delegates the slate of Circuit Visitors. He asked for any amendments to the slate as presented. Receiving none, the delegates **ratified the slate as presented** by voice vote.

Rev. Steven Schlund – Central Circuit
Rev. Charles Lehmann – Divide Circuit
Rev. Rolf Preus – Eastern Circuit
Rev. Steven Thomas – Flathead Circuit
Rev. Daniel Jacobs – Southern Circuit
Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr. – Western Circuit

Chairman Rev. Marshall asked for nominations for the pastor-member of the District Board of Directors. Those who were nominated are: Rev. Gerald Paul-Great Falls; Rev. Ken Zoeller-Billings; Rev. Matt Nelson-Columbia Falls; Rev. Kyle Whaley-Ronan. Committee #6 will prepare the ballot.

Committee #3 – Stewardship and Human Care Chairman Rev. Samuel Grayl-Bozeman read Res. 3-01 “To Appoint a Coordinator to Begin the Process of Establishing Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERTS) in the Montana District”. **Moved and Seconded.** Discussion. Res. 3-01 was **adopted.**

He read Res. 3-02 “To Encourage Congregations to Speak about Life Issues”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. Res. 3-02 was **adopted.**

Chairman Rev. Grayl read Res. 3-03 “To Streamline the Concordia University System and Provide for the Education of Professional Church Workers”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. Resolution 3-03 was **adopted** by a show of hands. (48 in favor, 26 opposed)

He read Res. 3-04 “To Proclaim the Gospel in Montana through the Use of Live-Streaming Video”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. A delegate **moved the previous question.** The motion **carried.** Res. 3-04 is **adopted.**

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Marshall presented the ballot for Pastor-member of the District Board of Directors: Rev. Gerald Paul; Rev. Ken Zoeller; Rev. Matt Nelson; Rev. Kyle Whaley. After prayer the delegates were instructed to vote for one and the ballots were collected.

Committee #4 – Education/Communication/Schools Chairman Rev. Matt Nelson-Columbia Falls read Res. 4-01 “To Support Lutheran Schools in the Montana District”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. It was **moved and seconded** to amend line 9 by adding “pre-schools or” after the word “Lutheran” and in line 8 to replace “six” with “a number of” and to add “pre-” to “K-12” in line 46. Discussion. Amendment **carried.** After further discussion on the Resolution, it was **moved and seconded** to amend line 9 by removing the phrase “pre-schools or elementary”. Amendment **carried.** Further discussion. Res. 4-01 was **adopted** as amended.

Rev. Nelson read Res. 4-02 “To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125th Anniversary of Concordia University, Nebraska”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. It was **moved and seconded** to amend the Resolution by striking the final resolved. Discussion. The amendment **carried.** Further discussion of the resolution as amended. Res. 4-02 was **adopted** as amended.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Marshall reported that the results of the voting for pastor-member of the District BOD: Rev. Paul-17; Rev. Zoeller-18; Rev. Whaley-9; Rev. Nelson-20. The next ballot is Rev. Paul, Rev. Zoeller, and Rev. Nelson. After prayer, the ballots were distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for one of the three.

As per the Resolved in Resolution 4-02, that the Montana District in convention “pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its students, faculty, staff, and administration to His continued providential care”, President Forke asked Convention Chaplain Tabbert to lead the assembly in prayer.

Committee #5 – Administration/Special Chairman Rev. Kevin Peterson introduced committee member Mr. Keith Myhre-Billings to read Res. 5-01 “To Support Religious Freedom”. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. Moved to Amend line 34 by inserting “God for” following the word “thank” and line 35 by striking “for his” and adding ‘s to the name Forke. Amendment carried. Res. 5-01 was **adopted as amended.**

Committee member Mr. Steve Jarvis-Hamilton read Res 5-02 “To Strengthen the Pastoral Relationship Between District Presidents and Those Under Their Ecclesiastical Supervision. **Moved and seconded.** Discussion. A delegate **moved the previous question.** The motion **carried.** Res. 5-02 was **adopted.**

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Marshall reported the results of the voting for pastor-member of the BOD: Rev. Gerald Paul-21, Rev. Kenneth Zoeller-9, and Rev. Matthew Nelson-33. After prayer, the ballots were distributed, and the delegates were instructed to vote for either Rev. Nelson or Rev. Paul.

At 11:45 am the delegates recessed for lunch following a closing prayer by Rev. Steven Thomas and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Opening Devotions for the afternoon Session were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert following the order of Responsive Prayer 1 with Western Circuit Visitor Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr. preaching on John 15:18-16:1. The assigned theme: “The Spirit of the Truth”.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Marshall reported that the results of the election for the pastor-member of the District BOD: Rev. Gerald Paul-30; Rev. Matthew Nelson-48. **Rev. Matt Nelson was elected as the pastor member of the District BOD.**

Rev. Marshall presented the slate for the commissioned member of the District BOD: Mr. Richard Thomas-Billings. Hearing no nominations from the floor. He entertained a motion to elect Mr. Thomas. It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to elect Mr. Richard Thomas as commissioned member of the District BOD.

The current nominees for lay-members of the District BOD consists of Mr. Kendall Hartman-Billings; Mr. Keith Meier-Billings; Mr. Jim Rigby-Billings; Mr. Jerry Roseleip-Deer Lodge. Chairman Rev. Marshall asked for nominations from the floor. Mr. Roy Arves-Great Falls was nominated. The Committee will prepare the ballot.

Gospel of John (Session #5) – Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 14-17 to the assembly. The delegates and guests were given approximately 20 minutes to discuss the reading.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Rev. Marshall announced that the ballot is prepared for the lay-members of the District BOD. After prayer, the ballots were distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for four: Mr. Kendall Hartman; Mr. Keith Meier; Mr. Jim Rigby; Mr. Jerry Roseleip; Mr. Roy Arves.

President Forke announced that the offering from the opening service was \$1000. It was **moved and seconded** to apply the \$1000 to the Lutheran Schools fund created by Res. 4-01 “To Support Lutheran Schools in the Montana District”. The motion **carried**.

Committee # 1 – Missions Chairman Daniel Jacobs read Res. 1-03a “To Increase the Academic Standards of the Synod's “Specific Ministry Pastor” (SMP) Program”. **Moved and seconded.** Preceding the discussion, the original resolution had been recommitted. Rev. Jacobs and President Forke outlined the major changes between this and the original resolution – 1) in the last whereas and first resolved, “the M.Div Program” has been replaced with “the residential alternate route program”, 2) in the second resolved, the ordination of the candidate comes at the completion of the program. It was moved and seconded to amend lines 42-43 to remove “basic understanding of the original Biblical languages”. Discussion. Amendment is **defeated.** It was **moved and seconded** to replace the word “graduation” with “completion of the program” (line 114 and 121). Amendment **carried.** Discussion. It was **moved and seconded** to replace the word “world” with “global confessional” in line 76. Amendment is **defeated.** A delegate **moved the previous question.** The motion **carried.** Res. 1-03a was **adopted.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #1 was dismissed with thanks.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Marshall reported the results of the vote for the lay-members of the District BOD: Mr. Kendall Hartman-53; Mr. Keith Meier-62; Mr. Jim Rigby-49; Mr. Jerry Roseleip-65. Mr. Roy Arves-49. **Mr. Hartman, Mr. Meier, and Mr. Roseleip were elected as lay-members of the District BOD.** Since Mr. Rigby and Mr. Arves received the same number of votes, the delegates were instructed to vote for one of the two. After a prayer, the ballots were distributed and the delegates voted.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee After a brief recess, Rev. Marshall reported the results of the vote for the final lay-member of the District BOD: Mr. Rigby-24 and Mr. Arves-52. **Mr. Roy Arves was elected as a lay-member of the District BOD.**

The Slate for Pastor Member of Convention Nominating Committee was presented. Having no nominations from the floor, the slate is as follows: Rev. Blake Marshall-Forsyth; Rev. Richard Schneider-Ronan; Willis McCall-Hardin; Mark Nicolaus-Williston; Kyle Whaley-Polson. After a prayer, the ballots distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for three.

Committee # 2 – Specialized Ministries Rev. Gerald Paul read Res. 2-02 “To Memorialize the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Convention to Direct the Council of Presidents (COP) to Include Questions Concerning Genesis Chapters 1-2, the Six Day Creation, and the SET “Self-Evaluation Tool” (used for pastors and pastoral candidates), and in the CMIF-Commissioned Minister Information Form” (used for commissioned ministers).” **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Rev. Gerald Paul read Res. 2-04 "To Decline Overture 2-03". **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee 2 was dismissed with thanks.

Committee # 3 - Human Care Rev. Samuel Grayl read Res. 3-05 "To Establish a Community Outreach and Service Activity as a Component of Future LCMS Montana District Conventions". **Moved and seconded. Discussion. Defeated.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #3 was dismissed with thanks.

Committee # 4 - Education

Rev. Matthew Nelson read Res. 4-03 "To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing Calls to Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Sacraments". **Moved and seconded. Discussion. Adopted.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #4 was dismissed with thanks.

Committee #6 - Nominations and Elections Committee Rev. Marshal reported the results of the first ballot for pastor members of the District Convention Nominating Committee: Rev. Blake Marshall-58; Rev. Richard Schneider-46; Rev. Willis McCall-48; Rev. Mark Nicolaus-28; Rev. Kyle Whaley-43. After prayer, the next ballot was distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for three of the four remaining on the ballot - Rev. Marshall; Rev. Schneider; Rev. McCall; Rev. Whaley.

Committee #5 - Administration/Special Chairman Kevin Peterson read Res. 5-03 "Amendment to Bylaw 3.1.b". **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Chairman Kevin Peterson read Res. 5-04 "To Amend Montana District Bylaw 2.2.6.7.c". **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Chairman Kevin Peterson read Res. 5-05 "To Amend Bylaw 2.2.1.1". **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Chairman Kevin Peterson read Res. 5-06 "To Amend Montana District Bylaw 1.3.2.a". **Moved and seconded. Adopted.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #5 is dismissed with thanks.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Rev. Marshall reported the results of the ballot for pastor members of the District Convention Nominating Committee: Rev. Marshall-66; Rev. McCall-61; Rev. Schneider-50; Rev. Whaley-57. **Rev. Marshall, Rev. McCall, and Rev. Whaley were elected as pastor-members of the District Convention Nominating Committee.**

The next election is for three lay-members of the Convention Nominating Committee: the nominees are Mr. Kale Bauer-Billings; Mr. Joel Olinghouse-Hamilton; Mr. Dan Kern-Salmon, ID; Mrs. Amy Schneider-Ronan; Mrs. Christine Wallace-Missoula. After prayer, the ballots were distributed, and the delegates were instructed to vote for three.

Election for the commissioned member of the Convention Nominating Committee. Mrs. Becky Braaten has been nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. Rev. Marshall asked for a motion to elect Mrs. Braaten. **It was moved and seconded to elect Mrs. Becky Braaten as the teacher member of the Convention Nominating Committee. Motion carried.**

Rev. Marshall announced the results of the first ballot for lay-members of the Convention Nominating Committee: Mr. Kale Bauer-47; Mr. Joel Olinghouse-52; Mr. Dan Kern-42; Mrs. Amy Schneider-35; Mrs. Christine Wallace-46.

After prayer, ballots distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for three of the following four: Mr. Kale Bauer; Mr. Joel Olinghouse; Mr. Dan Kern; Mrs. Christine Wallace.

It was **moved and seconded** to amend the orders of the day to begin ½ hour later Thursday morning. Discussion. The motion was **defeated**.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Rev. Marshall announced the results of the election for lay-members of the Convention Nominating Committee: Mr. Kale Bauer-55; Mr. Joel Olinghouse-50; Mr. Dan Kern-49; Mrs. Christine Wallace-54. **Mr. Kale Bauer, Mr. Joel Olinghouse, Mrs. Christine Wallace were elected as lay-members of the Convention Nominating Committee.**

Rev. Marshall announced the Slate for the Delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations is as follows: Mr. Frank Delgado-Ronan; Mr. Greg Hein-Billings; Mr. Steven Hildenburg-Billings; Mr. Jerry Roseleip-Deer Lodge; Mrs. Shelly Schultz-Williston, ND.

Results of the first ballot for Delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations:
Mr. Frank Delgado-17; Mr. Greg Hein-19; Mr. Steven Hildenburg-17; Mr. Jerry Roseleip-8; Mrs. Shelly Schultz-13. After prayer, the delegates were instructed to vote

for one: Mr. Frank Delgado; Mr. Greg Hein; Mr. Steven Hildenburg; Mrs. Shelly Schultz.

The results of the second ballot are as follows: Mr. Frank Delgado-18; Mr. Greg Hein-26; Mr. Steven Hildenburg-14; Mrs. Shelly Schultz-17. After prayer, the delegates were instructed to vote for one:

Mr. Frank Delgado; Mr. Greg Hein; Mrs. Shelly Schultz.

The results of the third ballot are as follows: Mr. Frank Delgado -15; Mr. Greg Hein-46; Mrs. Shelly Schultz-5. **Mr. Greg Hein is elected as the delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations.**

The delegates need to elect an alternate delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations. It was **moved and seconded** to amend the slate for advisory delegates to Mr. Frank Delgado and Mrs. Shelly Schultz. Motion **carried**. After prayer, the delegates were instructed to vote for either Mr. Frank Delgado or Mrs. Shelly Schultz as advisory delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations.

Results: Mr. Frank Delgado-51; Mrs. Shelly Schultz-24. **Mr. Frank Delgado is elected as alternate delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations.**

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #6 was dismissed with thanks.

The convention recessed at 5:50 p.m. following a closing prayer by Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr.

In meetings convened by the District Secretary pro tempore after the convention recessed on Wednesday afternoon, the commissioned ministers selected Becky Braaten, Trinity-Kalispell as commissioned advisory delegate to the Synodical Convention in 2019 and Cindy Speed, Trinity-Billings as alternate. Rev. Michael Donnan-Billings was selected as the ordained advisory delegate to the Synodical Convention in 2019 and Rev. Raymond E. Larson, Sr. as alternate delegate.

Thursday June 14

At 8 a.m. opening devotions followed the Order of Responsive Prayer 2, led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Divide Circuit Visitor, Rev. Charles Lehman, preaching on John 17:12-19. The assigned theme: "Your Word is Truth".

Gospel of John (Session #5) – Pastor Schreibeis began with prayer and then read chapters 18-21 to the assembly. The assembly was given 15 minutes to study God's Word together. After the discussion, President Forke encouraged the delegates to simply speak the truth. God's Word does its work.

Committee #7 – Registration and Credentials Report

Chairman Rev. Greg Lucido reported that the total attendance is 115 plus guests. Of that number, there are 85 voting delegates – 41 Active ordained and 44 lay-delegates. In addition, there are 10 Active Ordained Excused; 0 Active Ordained unexcused; 10 emeritus ordained; 9 emeritus ordained excused; 2 emeritus ordained unexcused; 0 ordained candidates excused; 2 ordained candidates unexcused; 2 vicars; 13 Commissioned Ministers; 4 Commissioned Ministers excused; 2 Commissioned Ministers unexcused; 4 Commissioned Ministers emeritus; 2 Commissioned Ministers unexcused; 4 Commissioned Ministers emeritus; 2 Commissioned Ministers emeritus excused; 4 Commissioned Ministers emeritus unexcused; 2 Commissioned Minister Candidates excused; 2 Commissioned Minister Candidates unexcused; and 3 lay-members of the District BOD.

Having no further business to bring before the Convention, Committee #7 was excused with thanks.

The convention delegates expressed their thanks to God for Trinity Lutheran Church and School for their work in hosting the convention by standing and singing the Common Doxology.

At approximately 9:15 am, having no further business to conduct, **President Forke declared the 34th Convention of the Montana District closed.**

The convention concluded with the Closing Worship, following the order of Morning Prayer (LSB p. 235) with the Rev. Chris Tabbert as liturgist and preacher. The reading from Holy Scripture was John 1:14-17. The theme of the sermon: “The Truth Came Through Jesus Christ”. As part of the service, LCMS 3rd Vice-President Rev. Nabil Nour installed Rev. Terry Forke as District President and President Forke then installed the Vice-Presidents, the Circuit Visitors, the members of the Board of Directors, members of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and delegate and alternate delegate on the Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations.

Submitted by Rev. Mark A. Schultz,
Convention Secretary

Election Results

District President Rev. Terry Forke, Billings

First Vice-President Rev. Chris Tabbert, Eureka

Second Vice-President Rev. Ryan Wendt, Billings

Board of Directors

Secretary Rev. Kevin Peterson, Salmon

Pastor Member Rev. Matt Nelson, Columbia Falls

Commissioned Member Principal Rick Thomas, Billings

Lay Members

Mr. Roy Arves, Great Falls

Mr. Kendall Hartman, Billings

Mr. Keith Meier, Billings

Mr. Jerry Roseliep, Deer Lodge

Circuit Visitors

Central Rev. Steven Schlund, Great Falls

Divide Rev. Charles Lehmann, Belgrade

Eastern Rev. Rolf Preus, Sidney

Flathead Rev. Steven Thomas, Libby

Southern Rev. Daniel Jacobs, Crow Agency

Western Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr., Stevensville

Convention Nominating Committee

Pastors Rev. Willis McCall, Hardin

Rev. Blake Marshall, Forsyth

Rev. Kyle Whaley, Polson

Commissioned Teacher Becky Braaten, Kalispell

Lay Mr. Kale Bauer, Great Falls

Mr. Joel Olinghouse, Hamilton

Mrs. Chris Wallace, Missoula

Synodical Committee on Convention Nominations

Delegate- Mr. Gregg Hein, Billings

Alternate-Mr. Frank Delgado, Ronan

“The Truth Came Through Jesus”

Presidential Address 2018-2021

Introduction:

On January 8, 2018 Oprah Winfrey delivered what the world desperately wanted to hear from her, her version of the “Me Too” movement’s call to arms. I am not calling into question the condemnation of the mistreatment of women. Abhorrent behavior has been well documented. What I am calling into question is the world’s use of the concept of truth as expressed in Ms. Winfrey’s speech. Accepting the Cecil B. De Mille award for lifetime achievement she said,

I want to thank the Hollywood Foreign Press Association because we all know the press is under siege these days. We also know it's the insatiable dedication to uncovering the absolute truth that keeps us from turning a blind eye to corruption and to injustice, to tyrants and victims, and secrets and lies. I want to say that I value the press more than ever before as we try to navigate these complicated times, which brings me to this: what I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have.

At this point in her speech she was talking to women, so it appears that she meant that each individual woman has her own truth.

The world went crazy over this speech. It spawned, what may yet turn out to be a run for the presidency by Ms. Winfrey. But what was completely overlooked was the seeds of the destruction of the country that speech contained. If every individual has his or her own truth, then, in the words of another famous politician, “What is truth?”

Jesus said, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” John 18:37-38

I. The kingdom of God is the kingdom of truth.

A. Jesus tells Pilate His kingdom is not of this world.

1. The kingdom of God does not have the same goals as the kingdoms of this world.
2. The kingdom of God does not use the same tools as the kingdoms of this world.

B. Jesus says that He came to bear witness to the truth.

1. The primary tool the kingdom of God uses is His Word of Truth.
2. Jesus is a martyr, a witness, to the truth of God’s Word.

- C. Everyone who is of the truth listens to Jesus.
 - 1. The Word of His truth requires faith to understand it.
 - 2. At the same time the Word of His truth creates faith.
 - 3. It is The Truth that has made you a part of His kingdom

II. We listen to all sorts of lies regarding the kingdom of God.

- A. That the decline in numbers indicates the demise of the Church is a lie.
 - 1. We hear a lot about how the lack of numbers and prestige means the Church will cease to exist.
 - 2. Our fears about the decline in numbers may drive us to compromise the truth in favor of numbers, and betrays a lack of trust in the power of the truth.
- B. That the existence of the kingdom is dependent on our behavior is a lie.
 - 1. Some may say that truth is fine but the survival of the Church depends on the proper music, worship, programs that attract youth, outreach, or meeting community needs.
 - 2. Marginalizing the truth in favor of human actions is an idolatry will make it more difficult for future generations to find the truth.
- C. That we can create our own truths is a lie.
 - 1. As in the world so in the Church, many seem to believe that it is acceptable to adjust the Word of God in order to create our own truths.
 - 2. Our words are not powerful. They are not truth. They are not life. They end in death.
 - 3. I call you to repentance for listening to the lies of the kingdoms of this world.

III. The truth is the only answer to the problems of the Church and of your life.

- A. "The truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17
 - 1. Jesus is and always has been the Word of God. John 1:1
 - 2. He was the only one to bring that truth into the flesh for us. John 1:14
- B. Jesus came into the world to bear witness to the truth.

1. His witness truly was a martyrdom, giving His life for the Truth of the Word.
2. More than that, He lived, died and lived again the Truth for the sake of sinners.

C. The Gospel is the matter of the truth for you.

1. The Truth of Jesus is the core of the Gospel for you.
2. Through faith in Him you are forgiven for listening to the lies of the kingdoms of this world.

IV. God is using you to bear witness to this truth.

A. The world does not believe in the existence of truth.

1. The generation of Americans born in the eighties was trained to believe that no truth exists.
2. They look at truth claims, even that of the Gospel, as ploys to gain control over someone else.

B. The world believes in the existence of personal truths.

1. We live in the midst of a people, like Oprah, who believe that each person creates his own truth, his own reality.
2. This is a situation that can easily descend into chaos.
3. How are we to respond to these kingdoms of the world?

C. You also are a martyr of the truth.

1. Jesus says He came to bear witness to the truth.
2. God uses you to speak The Truth, not "your truth," in your vocation.
3. God uses you to live The Truth, not "your truth," in your vocation

VI. God is using the congregations of the Montana District to proclaim the truth.

A. Congregations are brought into the world to bear witness to the truth.

1. God creates congregations out of Pastor and people. That is where the work of proclaiming the truth is done.
2. Congregations must ever be vigilant that the confession of the synod is the confession of the Truth.

- B. The synod exists to assist congregations.
1. Faithful men invented the synod for the purpose of assisting the congregations in the work of proclaiming the truth.
 2. Faithful leaders in the Montana District have helped congregations proclaim the Truth this past triennium:
 - a. Vice Presidents- Pastors Chris Tabbert and Howard Schreibeis
 - b. Circuit visitors- Pastors Ray Larson, Steve Thomas, Steve Schlund, Charlie Lehmann, Dan Jacobs, Rolf Preus.
 - c. Board of Directors- Pastors Tabbert, Schreibeis, John Sias, Chad Schopp, Ryan Wendt, Principal Rick Thomas, Mr. Mark Scott, Jerry Roseleip, Keith Meier, Pat Lewis.
 - d. Committees- Members of the Missions/Evangelism, Human Care/Stewardship, Indian Ministry, Campus/Education, and Youth committees.
 - e. Office staff- Treasurer Susan Loomans, Administrative Assistant Ruth Kosche.
- C. Together God is using us to proclaim the truth across the district.
1. Faithful congregations, (members and leaders), faithful schools, faithful Pastors, faithful teachers and youth workers.
 2. We closed two congregations this past triennium: River of Life, Laurel Trinity, Rock Springs/ Angela
 3. We continue to support the Indian ministries on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservations and Emmaus Lutheran Mission in Big Timber and Livingston.
 4. We will be investing time, energy and money in revitalizing Redeemer, Anaconda. A new Pastor, largely supported by the district, Pastor James Pierce will be installed July 15. This is a strategic location, 7th largest community in Montana. If you or your congregation has money to invest in the mission of the truth, please call me about supporting Anaconda.
- D. Four major concerns for your prayers
1. 33% percent of active Montana district Pastors will be at or over retirement age in the next 5 years. Enrollment at the seminaries is the lowest in 50 years. Please pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to enter the harvest field.
 2. It is getting more and more difficult to speak the truth in the public school system. We definitely need Lutheran public school teachers. They are faithfully living their vocations and speaking the truth in a

hostile environment. But one strategic way to foster the proclamation of the truth would be our Lutheran schools. Please consider sending your children and grandchildren to a Lutheran school. If you and or your congregation cannot do that please consider supporting our existing Lutheran schools. I think they will be more important in to the next generation than ever before.

3. Conflict will increase in the life of every American Christian in the next three years. The world has abandoned its tolerance of the truth. On every social issue opposition to God's revealed truth has leapt past asking for a place at the table and is now demanding that Christians be silent. The next three years will reveal a whole new landscape of religious freedom. You can expect conflict when expressing the truths about the creation of the world, the value of human life, the nature of marriage, and the role of women. Please pray that God will raise up men and women who will stand for the truth.
4. The Church in America has spent decades scrambling to cobble together social and political power, as if the Church should use the tools of the kingdoms of this world. This was a mistake. Jesus has not directed this course. Instead, He says that the greatest of God's gifts is the gift of love. He tells us to love one another and to love our neighbor. Please pray that God will teach us the truth about love; how to love Him, love each other and love our neighbor.

Conclusion

God is at work in the world and in your life through the power of His Word of truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His written Word. We praise and give thanks to Him for allowing us to watch Him work for the past three years and we look forward to the next, for we have heard Him say, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Resolutions of the Montana District Convention 2018

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
1-01	To Acknowledge God’s Gift of Pastors and to Memorialize the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod to Increase its Budget Support of Both Seminaries	Adopted
1-02	To Establish Mission and Ministry Emphases for the 2019-2021 Triennium	Adopted
1-03a	To Increase the Academic Standards of the Synod’s “Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program	Adopted as Amended
1-04	To Encourage Faithful Lutherans to Speak the Truth of God’s Word	Adopted as Amended
2-01	To Require the Teachings of Creation and the Fall, as God Has Revealed them in Holy Scripture, in All Congregations, Schools, and Synodical Institutions	Adopted as Amended
2-02	To Memorialize the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod in Convention to Direct the Council of Presidents (COP) to Include Questions Concerning Genesis Chapters 1-2, the Six Day Creation, and the Teaching of Evolutionary Theory as Fact in the “SET-Self Evaluation Tool” (Used for Pastors and Pastoral Candidates), and in the “CMIF-Commissioned Minister Information Form” (Used for Commissioned Ministers)	Adopted
2-04	To Decline Overture 2-03	Adopted

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
3-01	To Appoint a Coordinator to Begin the Process of Establishing Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERTS) in the Montana District	Adopted
3-02	To Encourage Congregations to Speak About Life Issues	Adopted
3-03	To Streamline the Concordia University System and Provide for the Education of Professional Church Workers	Adopted
3-04	To Proclaim the Gospel in Montana Through the use of Live-Streaming Video	Adopted
3-05	To Establish a Community Outreach and Service Activity as a Component of Future LCMS Montana District Conventions	NOT Adopted
4-01	To Support Lutheran Schools in the Montana District	Adopted as Amended
4-02	To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125 th Anniversary of Concordia University, Nebraska	Adopted as Amended
4-03	To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing Calls to Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Sacraments	Adopted
5-01	To Support Religious Freedom	Adopted of Amended

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
5-02	To Strengthen the Pastoral Relationship Between District Presidents and Those Under Their Ecclesiastical Supervision	Adopted
5-03	Amendment to Bylaw 3.1.b	Adopted
5-04	To Amend Montana District Bylaw 2.2.6.7.c	Adopted
5-05	To Amend Bylaw 2.2.1.1	Adopted
5-06	To Amend Montana District Bylaw 1.3.2.a	Adopted

RESOLUTION # 1-01

Title: To Acknowledge God's Gift of Pastors and To Memorialize The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to Increase its Budgeted Support of Both Seminaries

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, "So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those that hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received by grace for Christ's sake. This happens, not through our merits, but for Christ's sake." (Augsburg Confession V); and

WHEREAS, "The Synod is organized to work in support of and on behalf of congregations to assist them in carrying out their ministries as they seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His body, and the whole world which stands in need of the Word and the impact of His redeeming love." The Synod is "to assist [member congregations] in carrying out their functions of worship, witness, teaching and nurture, service, and support." (LCMS Bylaw 1.1.1); and

WHEREAS, the Synod's objectives include:

- "3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
- "5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;" (Constitution of the LCMS, Article III); and

WHEREAS, the number of pastoral candidates is down from "240 recent annual averages of candidates" to "90 pastoral candidates" in 2017, which is not sufficient to cover the Synod's needs (*Reporter*, November, 2017); and

WHEREAS, in May, 2017, the Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, approved a budget of \$23 million dollars "for the coming fiscal year" [2017-18] (Concordia Seminary News), and Concordia Theological Seminary has a budget of \$12.9 million for "this fiscal year" [2017-18] (email from Dr. Ron Garwood, CTS Board of Regents, December 1, 2017), and the two seminaries are also running the Global Seminary Initiative; and

WHEREAS, only 4.2% of the Synod's budget (\$3,097,000) goes toward "Pastoral Education" (*Lutheran Witness*, November, 2017) for both seminaries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana District meeting in convention in 2018 acknowledge 1) that the Lord of the Church has chosen, given, instituted, and established "the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments" (that is, the Office of the Word/Pastoral Office) to be the primary means through which He expands His kingdom and upholds His Body, the Church, 2) that it is through this Office that the Synod carries out the majority of its purposes and objectives, and 3) that we receive with thanksgiving both those men He has currently called to this office and those He calls to be trained for this office; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in 2019 to adopt the above "RESOLVED" as its own; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the LCMS in convention in 2019 to direct the Synod's Board of Directors to increase the Synod's budgeted support of both seminaries by 10% *per annum* until reaching 51% of the combined seminaries' budgets by the 2025 synodical budget.

RESOLUTION #1-02

Title: To Establish Mission and Ministry Emphases for The 2019-2021 Synodical Triennium

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the synod's bylaws call for the districts of the synod to assist in the establishment of mission and ministry emphases to be adopted by the synod in convention, (bylaw 4.2.1 b, d); and

WHEREAS, the synod is a union of congregations established by a common confession of faith; and

WHEREAS, that confession of faith is under constant attack from within and from without; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been experiencing a decline in membership that has created financial strain on the work that it has been doing; and

WHEREAS, the administration of the synod is not where mission and ministry happens, but rather the synod is developed to assist the congregations in the proclamation of the gospel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The Montana District submit the following three emphases to the 2019 LCMS Convention for adoption as its own:

1. Maintain the purity of our confession in doctrine and practice.
2. Every effort shall be made to limit the work of the synod to the following essential duties:
 - +educating pastors, teachers, and other called or commissioned church workers
 - +sending missionaries
 - +ecclesiastical supervision
 - +publishing orthodox material
 - +large scale works of mercy
3. The administration of the synod be focused on supporting congregations to do the work of proclamation of the gospel.

RESOLUTION # 1-03A

Title: To Increase the Academic Standards of the Synod's "Specific Ministry Pastor" (SMP) Program

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, Jesus sets an example of the importance of a robust theological education by teaching his disciples for nearly three uninterrupted years during which time he warns them to "beware the leaven of the Pharisees" (Matt 16:6) along with many other admonitions to watch, pray, guard and then to baptize and teach all nations "to observe all that I have commanded you" (matt 28:20); and

WHEREAS, after his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul goes away into Arabia to learn the Scriptures anew in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus and after three years goes up to Jerusalem to present himself to Peter and to the other Apostles to be recognized as one called by God to preach and teach (Acts 9, Galatians 1:17-18); and

WHEREAS, after he had preached and taught for many years, Paul says to pastor Timothy, "Command and teach these things... set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity ... devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching... keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching" (1 Timothy 4:11-13, 16). Paul also challenges Timothy to "do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15), and to "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching..." (2 Timothy 4:2-3a); and

WHEREAS, "handling the Word of Truth" rightly requires diligent study of God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions, basic understanding of the original Biblical languages, of the dogmatics and historical texts of the church, of the many heresies that the devil continues to promote, of hermeneutical principles and homiletical approaches as well as a good grasp of the entirety of God's Word coupled with an aptitude to teach; and

WHEREAS, "your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8), so too does he desire to destroy the teacher and the pure teaching of God's Word of Truth; and

WHEREAS, due to the importance of the work and the challenges of the vocation, the church is cautioned by Jesus' brother James, "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1); and

WHEREAS, a teacher who teaches falsely, even from ignorance, leads many astray from the Truth (Matt 5:19-20 and 18:6); and

WHEREAS, we desire to protect hearers of the Word from false teaching as well as those who preach the Word from being unprepared for their Divinely given task; and

WHEREAS, our congregations need well-trained pastors and the men who dedicate themselves to this high calling need to be well-prepared to succeed in the task for which they are sent; and

WHEREAS, world Lutheranism continues to look to our seminaries to send teachers and to receive students so that their church bodies may benefit from greater theological education; and

WHEREAS, both of our seminaries have recently undergone adjustments and improvements to their curricula to better serve the residential students; and

WHEREAS, the education of pastors remains one of the matters of primary importance, and is one of the reasons the Synod exists; and

WHEREAS, the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (CSL), requires only a total of 16 online courses that are taught over four years. Each class being only "an 11-week class," and each course is "counted as two-semester credit-hour courses."¹ for a total of 32 credit-hours. After the 9th course is completed the man in the SMP program is called by and ordained into the congregation that at the outset signed an agreement with him to be their vicar and enter this program, he is rostered as an SMP pastor and is permitted to administer the sacraments as any general pastor; and

¹CSL website on 1-11-2018, <https://www.csl.edu/academics/programs/specific-ministry-pastor-smp/>

WHEREAS, though the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), offers a slightly different curriculum, the number of online courses and credit-hours are the same as CSL's program;² and

WHEREAS, in dramatic contrast to the SMP program, the alternate route program of Concordia Seminary requires a total of 77 semester credit-hours, distributed over two years of on-campus education plus a year of vicarage, prior to Completion of the program, certification, and ordination with no guarantee of a calling congregation and placement. In addition, the Alternate Route program of Concordia Theological Seminary requires 95 quarter credit-hours during two years of on-campus education plus a year of vicarage and a theological interview prior to Completion of the program, certification, and ordination, also with no guarantee of a calling congregation and placement; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the Synod and her two seminaries, to immediately begin work to bring the academic standards of the SMP program up to the standards of the residential alternate route program by the start of the academic year 2021 so that even though the time spent on campus will be significantly less than in the residential program, still the academic competence of the two programs will be equivalent; and be it further

RESOLVED, that when the man in the SMP program completes all of his course work and has undergone a final theological competency interview (known also as a "Theological Interview") by the institution administering the SMP program in which he is participating, the SMP pastor would then be called, ordained, and rostered as an alternate route pastor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that additional costs incurred by the seminaries to make all of their residential classes suitable for distance education as well as all additional costs incurred by adding necessary staff to cover the teaching of these classes be included in the tuition of the program and be borne primarily by the district that requested the man to pursue ordination through this course of study; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Montana District memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt this resolution as its own.

²CTSFW website on 1-11-2018, <http://www.ctsfw.edu/future-students/pastoral/smp/program-structure/>

RESOLUTION #1-04

Title: **To Encourage Faithful Lutherans to Speak the Truth of God's Word**

Action: **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, the decline in participation in the life of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations and other church bodies across the united states may cause anxiety amongst the faithful; and

WHEREAS, this anxiety may lead pastors and members of the priesthood of all believers to dilute the purity of the truth of god's word and our lutheran confessions in order to appeal to more people in a false hope of increasing the number of faithful; and

WHEREAS, we are called out of the world to a faithful confession of the whole counsel of God and the Lutheran confessions as faithful explication thereof; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention encourage its pastors, congregations, and schools to remain steadfast in the uncompromising proclamation of God's word.

RESOLUTION # 2-01

Title: To Require the Teachings of Creation and the Fall, as God Has Revealed Them in Holy Scriptures, in All Congregations, Schools, and Synodical Institutions.

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the Holy Scriptures clearly teach in Genesis 1 and 2 that God created the universe (the cosmos or heavens and the earth in English) out of nothing by His Almighty Word of command; and

WHEREAS, God Himself defined the days of Genesis 1 and 2 as solar days when He wrote this interpretation into stone on Mount Sinai, saying, "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:9-11); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod confessed God's inspired and inerrant divine exegesis of Genesis 1 and 2 in its "A Brief Statement" when it said, "We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days"; and

WHEREAS, those who attack the plain sense of Genesis 1-3 usually do so in order to defend a macroevolutionary view of the origin of life; and

WHEREAS, every form of macroevolutionary theory requires millions of generations of death before the dawn of humanity while the Holy Scriptures teach that death came into the world through the sin of Adam (Romans 5:12ff); and

WHEREAS, if sin is not the cause of death, then The death of Jesus Christ in our place is also not the end of death; and

WHEREAS, any form of macroevolutionary theory is an attack not only on the nature of the Holy scriptures but upon the Redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross itself; and

WHEREAS, recent controversy has made it clear that some within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are confused about what the Word of God teaches regarding these issues; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm that all who teach in congregations, schools, colleges, universities and seminaries of Synod are to teach and use doctrinally sound materials that are available regarding the creation of the universe (the cosmos or heavens and the earth in English) and the fall of man, specifically that the universe (the cosmos or heavens and the earth in English) was created in six solar days by God’s command and that all death is a result of sin; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we memorialize the Synod in convention to direct the LCMS President’s office to conduct a review and report within the next triennium of how the theory of evolution is being addressed at each of our colleges, universities and seminaries; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we memorialize the synod to direct each district president to review and report within the next triennium how the theory of evolution is being addressed in the respective congregations and schools of his district.

RESOLUTION #2-02

Title: To Memorialize The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Convention to Direct The Council Of Presidents (COP) to Include Questions Concerning Genesis Chapters 1-2, the Six Day Creation, and the Teaching of Evolutionary Theory as Fact in the “SET-Self Evaluation Tool” (Used for Pastors and Pastoral Candidates), and in the “CMIF – Commissioned Minister Information Form” (Used for Commissioned Ministers).

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Synod in convention in 1932 found it necessary to adopt “a BRIEF STATEMENT of the Doctrinal Position of the MISSOURI SYNOD,” to deal with some errors that had arisen that were not specifically addressed by our Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, “A Brief Statement” contains concise articles concerning the Holy Scriptures and the Biblical Creation account, among other things, yet this statement is not part of the confessional subscription of our Pastors; and

WHEREAS, the teaching of evolution, theistic evolution, day-age theory, and death before sin, and other such errors as factual and true, continues to pose a significant threat to the integrity of our confession and the spiritual welfare of our people; and

WHEREAS, the current “SETs” include questions about the charismatic movement, worship practices, and other similar issues that remain contentious in our synod; and

WHEREAS, the current “CMIF” includes other doctrinal questions of concern in our Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to direct the COP to include clarifying questions in the “SET” of Pastors and Pastoral Candidates of the Synod so that the congregations, schools, and other calling institutions of the Synod can clearly hear what they confess regarding creation and the teaching of different evolutionary theories; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to direct the COP to include clarifying questions in the “CMIF” so that

the congregations, schools, and other calling institutions of the Synod can clearly hear what commissioned ministers confess regarding creation and the teaching of different evolutionary theories.

RESOLUTION #2-04

Title: To Decline Overture 2-03

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the original overture implies that our Synodical Officers are paid according to a corporate model, but such is not necessarily the case. For example, the average CEO salary is \$13.8 million, plus stock options, use of corporate jet, entertainment. This is a ratio of 204 times average median worker according to a national survey of 25 industries. (glassdoor.com/research/CEO-pay-ratio/) however, the current salary of our Synodical President is:

\$252,573 salary (reporter, 11/17)

\$10,000 entertainment allowance

(this expense is used for things like hosting partner church officials from Central and South America, Africa, etc.)

Full Concordia plans

(most full-time pastors receive Concordia plans)

Paid travel (most pastors receive reimbursement for travel expenses); and

WHEREAS, the original overture states our Synodical President is paid more than any U.S. representative, senator, the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders, and the Vice-President of the United States, (latest available information), but it fails to mention the additional benefits of such offices which include

\$174,000 salary

\$250,000 travel and office expenses

\$1,200,000 (house) to \$3,300,000 (senate) staff expenses

Free airport parking (\$22/day at Reagan Int'l)

Free air travel

Free on-site gym

Up to 239 days off

Health care subsidies

\$60,000 annual pension on retirement; and

WHEREAS, the FY19 Synod budget is \$69.4 million, meaning our Synodical President's salary is less than 0.5% of the Synod budget which is comparable to other non-profit organizations of similar size. According to charity navigator, for charitable organizations of similar size (a \$60,000,000-\$70,000,000 budget) the average salary for CEOs is \$260,000-\$270,000, or 0.7-0.8% of expenses. The LCMS president's salary is in fact lower than average. While his salary is much higher than congregational

pastors, so is budget, staffing, challenges, and responsibilities. Most pastors are paid more than 0.5% of their congregational budgets; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS is a nonprofit corporation under IRS code section 501(c)(3) it is appropriate to compare the Synodical president's salary to the actual average salaries of the CEOs of the LCEF, LCMS Foundation, CHI, and CPH which are also LCMS nonprofit corporations; and

WHEREAS, the November 2017 reporter reports that our six leading officials at the Synodical level make a combined salary of \$1,140,345. This is less than 2% of annual budget. The national average spent on administration and overhead by nonprofits is 17% to 35%. The private sector average is 25%; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that overture 2-03 be declined

RESOLUTION #3-01

Title: To Appoint a Coordinator to Begin the Process of Establishing Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERTs) in the Montana District

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, Montana and surrounding areas experience forest fires, drought, flooding, hailstorms, blizzards, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters which threaten or actually destroy property; and

WHEREAS, residents of Montana, North Dakota, and Idaho continue to build their new residences and recreational properties in more isolated locations in what is known as the rural/urban interface; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, at the Synod level, has implemented a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) program and a coordinated Disaster Response organization that responds to disasters all across the nation and even internationally; and

WHEREAS, LCMS Districts and congregations have established LERT programs and secured Disaster Response Trailers (DRT) to better respond to such disasters in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, LERTs of pastors and lay persons not only provide resources and manpower to clean up and restore damaged properties and provide clothing, food and water, but also minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of victims of disasters; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of local or regional congregation-based LERTs with or without Disaster Response Trailers could be very beneficial to victims of disasters; and

WHEREAS, some Montana District members are already trained as firemen, EMTs, law enforcement, Search and Rescue, Red Cross, Severe Weather Spotters and other emergency service providers and could cross-train and partner with the potential LERT members; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The LCMS Montana District stewardship and Human Care Committee APPOINT a coordinator to begin the process of establishing LERTs in the Montana District.

RESOLUTION # 3-02

Title: To Encourage Congregations to Speak About Life Issues

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that God is the author and creator of life; and

WHEREAS, the loss of this truth impacts not only Christians but the entire culture; and

WHEREAS, the issues of the teaching of evolution, abortion, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, in-vitro fertilization, and euthanasia are complicated topics that touch members of the Montana District every day; and

WHEREAS, according to the summer 2018 *Life date* the Pew Research Center surveyed American denominations on abortion and found that of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod members polled, 46% said abortion should be legal in all or most cases; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans for Life is a valuable resource to guide Christians in their thinking about such issues; and

WHEREAS, members of the Montana District congregations can have an impact on their communities by speaking the truth about life; let it therefore be

RESOLVED, that the Montana District convention encourage its congregations to educate about life issues in their congregations through sermons, Bible studies, catechetical instruction etc.; and be it finally

Resolved, that the congregations and members of the Montana District be encouraged to speak about life issues by supporting Lutherans for Life with their prayers, energy, and contributions.

RESOLUTION # 3-03

Title: To Streamline the Concordia University System and Provide for the Education of Professional Church Workers

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Concordia University System (CUS) is comprised of nine colleges and universities in the United States which are affiliated with The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, the initial purpose of these colleges and universities was to prepare men and women for full-time service in the church; and

WHEREAS, there are students at CUS institutions that are not preparing for full time church work; and

WHEREAS, a number of the faculty at CUS institutions are not rostered members of Synod nor members of LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, the chartering of a gay pride student organization at Concordia Portland indicates an inconsistency of the confession of our faith; and

WHEREAS, it requires considerable resources to maintain the physical plant and bureaucratic infrastructure for nine universities; and

WHEREAS, streamlining CUS would enhance the ability of the Synod to attend to the integrity of its confession; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod at its 2019 convention to direct the President of the Synod to appoint a blue ribbon task force to perform the following tasks.

- a. Determine which campuses will serve as the sites for a streamlined CUS.
- b. Constitute the streamlined CUS with a primary focus on training such students as desire to become rostered members of Synod.

- c. Assess the needs of the streamlined CUS in terms of the number and composition of the faculty to be comprised of rostered members of Synod.
- d. Develop a plan for caring for those currently employed within the CUS who would not have a position in the streamlined CUS.
- e. Develop a plan for the gradual closing and sale of the unused campuses over a period of ten years using the proceeds from such sales to fund the streamlined CUS joint endowment, retire all debts, and assist in funding professional church worker education.

RESOLUTION # 3-04

Title: To Proclaim the Gospel in Montana Through the Use of Live-Streaming Video

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, Jesus says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” (Matt. 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, the Montana District is one of the smaller districts in population and membership in the LCMS, yet larger in relation to geography with a lot of territory to cover; and

WHEREAS, many of the LCMS churches in the Montana District average fewer than 20 people in attendance, not always enough to support a full-time pastor individually; and

WHEREAS, the declining population of rural Montana cannot and must not be used as an excuse to refrain from boldly proclaiming the Gospel and delivering Christ’s gifts into the world; and

WHEREAS, other congregations of the Montana District are already utilizing a live-streaming ministry where the service is broadcast from and to each congregation on a rotating basis allowing the other congregations of the parish to participate via live video feed; let it therefore be

RESOLVED, that Montana District in convention encourage where appropriate rural Montana LCMS churches, to establish live-streaming video so that pastoral ministry may be maintained.

RESOLUTION # 3-05

Title: **To Establish a Community Outreach and Service Activity as a Component of Future LCMS Montana District Conventions**

Action: **NOT ADOPTED**

WHEREAS, The Montana LCMS District holds a convention that brings many delegates and servant-leaders together to meet and conduct the district business; and

WHEREAS, God's word calls us to be faithful in word and deed, "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18); and

WHEREAS, one way to be faithful not only in tending to the business of the church but also in service to the communities of Montana that have unmet needs both physically and spiritually; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the LCMS Montana District provide an opportunity during free time at its District Convention for attendees to serve in a community service and/or outreach activity in the host community.

RESOLUTION #4-01

Title: To Support Lutheran Schools in the Montana District

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a number of congregations of the Montana District support Lutheran schools; and

WHEREAS, in the Lutheran schools, students not only get excellent academic educations, but also get to hear, learn and talk about Jesus every day; and

WHEREAS, for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel to these students the congregations that support these schools take on considerable financial burden; and

WHEREAS, for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel to these students the staff at these schools dedicate their lives, often at low salaries, to these schools; and

WHEREAS, the parents of these students often make financial sacrifices so that their children can receive a good Lutheran education; and

WHEREAS, every year some parents send their children to school elsewhere simply because they cannot afford the tuition; and

WHEREAS, while many congregations of the Montana District cannot sustain a Lutheran school, those congregations and individual members thereof, may be interested in helping parents in other congregations with tuition expenses for their children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Montana District be instructed to begin a fund for scholarships to PK-12 Montana District Lutheran Schools, and to develop policies for the distribution of donations in an equitable manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Montana District, and individual members thereof, be encouraged to contribute to this fund; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that all congregations of the Montana District be encouraged to regularly pray for our Lutheran Schools, to the end that they flourish in the proclamation of the Gospel.

RESOLUTION #4-02

Title: To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125th Anniversary of Concordia University, Nebraska

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, since its founding on November 18, 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and world; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; and

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that, historically, each year between 40 and 50 men are involved in academic and spiritual preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their home and the communities where they reside; and

WHEREAS, The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school partners and online; and

WHEREAS, the God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have

walked by faith and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these men and women during their educational studies; and

WHEREAS, the God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers, generous gifts and referral of students; and

WHEREAS, The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University, Nebraska, with record numbers of undergraduate and graduate students – 2,757 in 2016-17; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 2018 Convention of the Montana District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care.

RESOLUTION #4-03

Title: To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing Calls to Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Sacraments

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confession (AC) Article V “The Ministry” states, “So that we may obtain this faith [that our sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, in Article IV], the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted;”³; and

WHEREAS, AC Article XIV “Order in the Church” states, “Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call;” and

WHEREAS, “The Power and Primacy of the Pope” (The Treatise), states, “The Gospel assigns those who preside over Churches the command to teach the Gospel [Matthew 28:19], to forgive sins [John 20:23], to administer the Sacraments, and also to exercise jurisdiction;” and

WHEREAS, the Smalcald Articles Part III Article X teach that “...[the bishops] do not even want to be true bishops, but worldly lords and princes, who will neither preach, nor teach, nor baptize, nor administer the Lord’s Supper, nor perform any work or office of the Church”; and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Synod accepts these Confessions as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God; and

WHEREAS, a number of called positions WITHIN Synod and ITS auxiliaries do not require teaching the Word or administering the Sacraments; and

WHEREAS, the practice of issuing calls to positions that are not in the direct service of the proclamation of The Gospel and administration of the sacraments conflicts with the referenced portions of The Confessions, and creates confusion regarding the nature of the call; therefore be it

³ All references from *Concordia The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord* Second Edition, as cited (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006), 33

RESOLVED, that the Montana District convention memorialize the LCMS convention in 2019 to direct the President of the LCMS to appoint a committee consisting of at least one (1) theological professor from each seminary and one (1) district president to study how the practice of issuing calls, (bylaw 3.11.1) to positions without direct involvement in the proclamation of The Gospel and administration of The Sacraments may be amended to comply with The Confessions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that by July 30, 2020 this committee make its recommendations to the LCMS Board of Directors (BOD) regarding LCMS practice on the calls it issues; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that these recommendations, together with the BOD response to the recommendations be reported to the LCMS convention in 2022.

RESOLUTION # 5-01

Title: To Support Religious Freedom

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances”; and

WHEREAS, all elected officials are required to preserve, protect, and defend the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing erosion of historically held religious freedoms; and

WHEREAS, people’s consciences are being burdened by laws that force them to act against their religious confession; and

WHEREAS, Holy scripture states that we ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention direct its President and Board of Directors to contact our state and federal political representatives, encouraging them to uphold the religious freedoms guaranteed us in the First Amendment of the United States’ Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Montana District encourage all its congregations to do likewise; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Montana District in convention thank God for President Terry Forke’s past efforts to this end by standing and singing the doxology.

RESOLUTION # 5-02

Title: To Strengthen the Pastoral Relationship Between District Presidents and Those Under Their Ecclesiastical Supervision

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, Synodical Bylaw 4.4.5 says, “Each District President, in accordance with the constitution of the Synod, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members through his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision, and shall inquire into the prevailing spiritual conditions of the congregations of his district”; and

WHEREAS, a District President faces obstacles (such as geography, time constraints, and other administrative duties) to supervising the doctrine and life of rostered workers, particularly when there is a large number of congregations in his district; and

WHEREAS, District Presidents would be better able to perform their supervisory duties and more effectively provide pastoral care to all of their rostered workers, if districts consisted of a more manageable number of congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Montana District memorialize the 2019 Synodical convention to direct the President of the Synod to appoint a task force to develop a plan to resize the districts of the synod, such that no district would consist of more than 100 congregations, and propose it to the next Synodical convention.

RESOLUTION #5-03

Title: Amendment to Bylaw 3.1.B

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Commission on Constitutional Matters notes that, as currently written, Montana District Bylaw 3.1 does not adequately reflect the procedure for amendment outlined in the Synodical bylaw; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.1 currently reads:

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

3.1 Amendments to the by-laws may be made, provided that they are:

4. Not contrary to the constitution and by-laws of the Synod
5. Submitted to and approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters in advance of the District convention at which they are to be considered.
6. Submitted to the by-laws committee for review and recommendation prior to the convention;

therefore be it

RESOLVED, to amend bylaw 3.1 by inserting the phrase, “, or proposed to the convention as contingent on the approval of said Commission.” at the end of the sentence in paragraph b, so that the proposed amendment would read:

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

3.1 Amendments to the by-laws may be made, provided that they are:

- a. Not contrary to the constitution and by-laws of the Synod
- b. Submitted to and approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters in advance of the District convention at which they are to be considered, or proposed to the convention as contingent on the approval of said Commission.
- c. Submitted to the by-laws committee for review and recommendation prior to the convention

RESOLUTION #5-04

Title: To Amend Montana District Bylaw 2.2.6.7.C

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, Montana District bylaw 2.2.6.7.c currently reads:

2.2.6.7 Fiscal Duties of the Board of Directors

7. The Finance Committee, as a sub-committee of the Board, may assist the Board with fiscal duties. The Finance Committee shall be the laymen of the Board. They shall call on the Treasurer of the District for assistance in their duties.
8. The Board of Directors shall annually prepare and publish a comprehensive budget for the work of the District.
9. The Board of Directors shall plan for spending budgets which shall not exceed the expected income of the District. The Board shall not borrow funds for operating expenditures.

and

WHEREAS, the Montana District Board of Directors has interpreted Bylaw 2.2.6.7.c to mean that the "expected income" included restricted and temporarily restricted income (cash reserves). This interpretation was arrived at by understanding the succeeding sentence to stand in apposition to the first sentence of paragraph c; and

WHEREAS, the Montana District Board of Directors, having studied this wording has concluded that the Bylaw is not at all clear, and that the Board's previous interpretation might be challenged; therefore be it

RESOLVED, to amend Montana District bylaw 2.2.6.7.c by inserting the phrase, "combined with cash reserves on hand at the end of the previous fiscal year" in the first sentence following the word "District", so that the proposed amendment would read:

- c. The Board of Directors shall plan for spending budgets which shall not exceed the expected income of the District combined with cash reserves on hand at the end of the previous fiscal year. The Board shall not borrow funds for operating expenditures.

RESOLUTION #5-05

TITLE: TO AMEND BYLAW 2.2.1.1

ACTION: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Commission on Constitutional Matters notes that, as currently written, Montana District Bylaw 2.2.1.1 does not adequately reflect the fact that the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod give District Presidents specific duties; and

WHEREAS, the bylaw currently reads:

2.2.1. The President of the District

2.2.1.1 General Rights and Duties of the District President

The District President, by virtue of his office, represents the Synod. His rights and duties will therefore be similar in nature and identical insofar as they apply, as outlined for the President of the Synod. (See Synodical Handbook) He shall carry out his duties in accordance with the Constitution, bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that bylaw 2.2.1.1 be amended by inserting the phrase, "in addition to those specified for District Presidents in Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod" in the second sentence following, "His rights and duties will..." so that the bylaw as amended would read.

2.2.1. The President of the District

2.2.1.1 General Rights and Duties of the District President

The District President, by virtue of his office, represents the Synod. His rights and duties will, in addition to those specified for District Presidents in THE Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, therefore be similar in nature and identical insofar as they apply, as outlined for the President of the Synod. (See Synodical Handbook) He shall carry out his duties in accordance with the Constitution, bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

RESOLUTION #5-06

Title: To Amend Montana District Bylaw 1.3.2.A

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, bylaw 1.3.2 currently reads:

- a. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of three Ministers of religion-ordained, one Minister of religion-commissioned, and three laymen.
- b. The committee shall be elected by the District Convention triennially and shall serve for the succeeding regular convention,"

and

WHEREAS, the current use of electronic means for nominations and elections within the district does not require the services of seven people; and

WHEREAS, Synodical bylaw 4.7.2 gives districts the right to establish the constitution of the nominating committee by stating in part, "A nominating committee of each district shall be elected by the district convention,"; therefore be it

RESOLVED that bylaw 1.3.2.a be amended TO READ:

1. "The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of one Minister of Religion-Ordained, one Minister of Religion-commissioned, and one layman, one of which shall be appointed chairman by the Board at the first Montana Board of Directors' meeting following the convention."

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT -June to December 2015

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

McCall, Willis	Installed as Sole Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hardin, on 06/14/15
Schlund, Andrew	Ordained & Installed as Deployed Missionary to Mexico on 07/19/15
Keinath, Daniel	Installed as Assistant Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, on 08/09/15

Changes Within the District

New Congregation	Living Water Lutheran Church June 2015
New Congregation	Emmaus Lutheran Mission June 2015
Gordish, Timothy	Active to Candidate status on 09/07/15
Lehmann, Carl	Non-Candidate to Emeritus status 12/2015
Sias, John	Installed as Sole Pastor of multi-point parish: Mt. Calvary, Colstrip/Concordia, Forsyth/Trinity, Hysham on 11/01/15
Iverson, Edwin	Emeritus Transfer from Pacific Northwest 09/15

Transferred to Other Districts

Schlund, Andrew	Missouri District 07/2015
Gordish, Timothy	New England District 09/07/15

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Renken, Alyssa	Commissioned & Installed as Teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Kalispell on 08/06/15
Edgar, Stephanie	Installed as Teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Billings 8/23/15
Reeves, Sonja	Commissioned & Installed as Deaconess at First Lutheran Church, Missoula on 08/30/15

Transferred to Other Districts

Duncan, Katherine	Southern Illinois on 06/25/15
Topp, David	Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Houston, TX on 07/10/15
Steinbrenner, Lisa	Zion Lutheran and School, Brighton, CO on 08/01/15

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT - 2016

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Johnson, David	Installed as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Missoula on 01/10/16
Bonine, Jonathan	Installed as Sole Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Thompson Falls on 01/30/16
Wiegert, Mark	Installed as Vicar of Trinity, Stanford, Our Savior Denton, St. Paul Lewistown on 02/14/16
Dewell, Russell	Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Park City on 02/21/16
Carlson, Steven	Emeritus transferred from Pacific Northwest on 03/24/16
Potter, Jeffery	Received with Candidate Status 07/01/16
Schneider, Richard	Ordained & Installed as Sole Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ronan on 07/31/16
Winter, Kyle	Ordained & Installed as Sole Pastor of The Church at Creston – Lutheran on 08/07/16

Changes Within the District

Nicolaus, Mark	Vacancy Pastor to Concordia Lutheran Church, Williston, ND, 07/2016
Reiner, Darold	Active to Emeritus status on 8/31/16

Transferred to Other Districts

Fremer, Noah	Bethel Lutheran Church Lander, WY on 06/01/16
Frahm, John	Trinity Lutheran Church, Boulder Junction, WI on 06/15/16
Sias, John	Sectary of Synod, Missouri District 07/2016
Toombs, Jason	Zion Lutheran Church, Downs, KS 11/20/16

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Roach, Lorraine	Deaconess Candidate from Pacific Northwest District, 09/2016
Heiliger, Cameron	Commissioned & Installed as Director of Youth and Parish Education at Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings on 04/03/16

Changes Within the District

Boll, Jennifer

Active to Candidate status on 06/01/16

Doucette (Schumacher), Rachel

Active to Candidate status on 08/15/16

Lastusky, Myrna

Removed on 10/21/16

Transferred to Other Districts

Endicott, Ruth

Pacific Southwest 01/11/16

Endicott, Steven

Pacific Southwest 01/11/16

Adams, Amanda

Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS on
05/16/16

Keeley, Julie

Peace Lutheran Church, Grand Island, NE on
08/01/16

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT – 2017

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Bueltmann, Kevin	Installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell on 07/09/17
Williams, Marcus	Installed as Sole Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Chinook and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Havre on 8/6/17
Salinas, Adam	Ordained & Installed as Sole Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Fairfield and Zion Lutheran Church, Power, and as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Falls, on 12/10/17

Changes Within the District

Marshall, Blake	Installed as Sole Pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Colstrip, Concordia Lutheran Church, Forsyth and Trinity Lutheran Church, Hysham on 06/04/17
Schultz, Mark	Active to Emeritus status on 07/31/17
Hasselbrook, David	Active to Candidate status on 09/06/17
Sandersfeld, Vernon	Vacancy Pastor to Messiah Lutheran Church, Missoula, 09/2017
Larson, Raymond	Vacancy Pastor to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Thompson Falls, 10/2017
Potter, Jeffery	Restrict Status Lifted on 12/20/17

Closed Congregation

River of Life Lutheran Fellowship, Laurel 05/21/2017

Transferred to Other Districts

Christensen, Mark	Transferred to Bismarck, ND on 10/01/17
Bonine, Jonathan	Shepherd's Hill Retreats, St. John, ND on 10/16/17

Called to Glory

Fischer, Arnold	Called to Glory on 01/31/17
-----------------	-----------------------------

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Hoy, Claire

Commissioned & Installed at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Kalispell on 08/27/17

Rehbein, Erika

Installed at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Kalispell on 08/27/17

Rehbein, Timothy

Candidate from Nebraska District on 08/27/17

Changes Within the District

Kern, Becky Sue

Active to Emeritus status on 07/01/17

Transferred to Other Districts

Lustila, Gerald

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bay City, MI on 06/25/17

McCauley, Kristin

St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI on 07/16/17

Eberhard, Susan

Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, SD on 07/31/17

MONTANA STATISTICAL REPORT - January to May 2018

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Changes Within the District Closed Congregation

Trinity Lutheran Church, Rock Springs on
01/28/18

Transferred to Other Districts

Zagel, Bruce

St. Johns Lutheran Church, Mayville, WI on
01/01/18

Hasselbrook, David

Candidate to the Iowa East District on
01/15/18

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Entered the District

Salinas, BethAnn

Candidate transfer from Nebraska District,
02/2018

Boll, Caroline

Emeritus transfer from the Minnesota South
District, 03/2018

Boll, John

Emeritus transfer from the Minnesota South
District, 03/2018

Eberhard, Susan

Transfer from the South Dakota District
05/28/2018

CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

2016		2017		2018	
120	Redeemer, Anaconda	15	Holy Trinity, Belgrade	5	Emmaus Lutheran Mission Big Timber/Livingston
100	St. John, Belfry	45	Hope, Billings	65	Faith, Boulder
50	Christ the King, Billings	35	Our Savior, Billings	130	St Mark, Butte
60	Our Redeemer, Columbia Falls	105	St. Paul, Bridger	105	Zion, Chinook
50	Faith, Condon	20	Crow Lutheran Ministry, Crow Agency	45	Mt Calvary, Colstrip
65	Our Savior, Denton	35	Shepherd of the Hills, Ennis	70	First, Ft Benton
85	Grace, Fallon	125	Trinity, Great Falls	60	Faith, Glasgow
55	Christ Lutheran for the Deaf, Great Falls	75	Redeemer, Hardin	80	Our Savior, Glendive
60	Peace, Great Falls	130	First, Helena	105	St. John, Laurel
110	Trinity, Miles City	75	Trinity, Hysham	105	St. John, Libby
50	Messiah, Missoula	100	St. Paul, Lewistown	105	St. Paul, Park City
35	Mt. Calvary, Polson	105	Trinity, Plentywood	105	Zion, Power
50	Holy Cross, Seeley Lake	105	St. Paul, Roundup	40	Shepherd of the Valley, Salmon, ID
90	Grace, Three Forks	70	Zion, St. Ignatius	90	Trinity, Sidney
		5	Shepherd of the Valley, Thompson Falls	60	Zion, Whitehall
				85	Concordia, Williston, ND
				25	Our Redeemer, Worden

2018 ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis Bauer	36	Larry Miller	35
William Bliese	63	Robert Mitchell	23
Kevin Bueltmann	7	Matt Nelson	14
Steven Carlson	36	Mark Nicolaus	48
Matt Christensen	11	Gerald Paul	18
Eric Christiansen	27	Kevin Peterson	19
Mark Cutler	30	David Preus	7
Russell Dewell	11	Rolf Preus	39
Mark DiConti	36	Arlo Pullmann	31
John Donnan	25	Darold Reiner	46
Al Ebel	26	Daniel Rinderknecht	35
Andrew Eckert	22	Adam Salinas	8
Gale Everson	40	Vern Sandersfeld	35
Michael Flannery	42	Herbert Schiefelbein	66
Terry Forke	35	Steven Schlund	35
Sam Grayl	14	Richard Schneider	2
Mark Grunst	37	Chad Schopp	5
Wade Harr	25	Howard Schreibeis	33
Edwin Iverson	43	Mark Schultz	35
Erik Iverson	12	Paul Shupe	7
Daniel Jacobs	32	Ken Stensrud	10
David Johnson	30	Kent Stenzel	45
Martin Kaarre	37	Christopher Tabbert	20
Erich Kaelberer	7	Steven Thomas	19
Daniel Keinath	9	Doug Thompson	21
Timothy Klug	28	Park Timber	7
James Koss	22	John Vallie	18
Robert Lane	20	Christopher Wareham	38
Raymond Larson	43	David Warner	14
Carl Lehmann	23	Robert Weishoff	57
Charles Lehmann	11	Ryan Wendt	14
Bruce Linderman	42	Kyle Whaley	8
Greg Lucido	18	Raymond Wiegert	59
Blake Marshall	17	Marcus Williams	1
James Mavis	25	Kyle Winter	2
Jason Menagh	31	Ken Zoeller	19

2018 COMMISSIONED - MINISTERS ANNIVERSARIES

Rebecca Braaten	36
Joann Cutler	33
Susan Eberhard	3
Stephanie Edgar	7
Lynne Erger	42
JeAnne Faris	8
Andrea Heiliger	10
Cameron Heiliger	2
Tanya Hensel	4
Claire Hoy	1
Thomas Kosche	15
Debbie Lee	9
Ted Loomans	23
Laura McCoy	17
Suzanne Rasmussen	42
Erika Rehbein	4
Timothy Rehbein	4
Cindy Speed	6
Richard Thomas	36

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2016-2018

Circuit Name: Southern Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Daniel Jacobs

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	12
Special Issues:	1
Phone counsel:	0
School visits:	2
Pastoral visits:	7

Conferences:

Winkel:	17
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	2
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	9
Forums:	2
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium	
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	2
Installation/Ordinations:	3

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2016-2018

Circuit Name: Western Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Raymond Everet Larson, Sr.

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	5
Special Issues:	1
Phone counsel:	6
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	9
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	3
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	8
Forums:	2
Convocations:	1
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	5
Current vacancies:	3
Meetings regarding calls:	9
Installation/Ordinations:	3

Notes:

Among the topics discussed at our Winkels these three years were several thesis of Walther's Church and Ministry, the Smalcald Articles, and various topics from the Synod's publication, "This We Believe," as well as discussions as to how each of our congregations uses the various parts of the liturgy in divine worship.

Our Circuit Convocation was put together in such a way that it became part of the District celebration of 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Inviting congregations from surrounding circuits this became a Regional event with members of four circuits attending. The event consisted of several presentations on Reformation topics by Circuit pastors and President Forke. After the presentations attendees sang hymns of the Reformation, and then all joined for dinner served by members of First Lutheran Church, Missoula.

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2016-2018

Circuit Name: Eastern Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Rolf Preus

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	0
Special Issues:	0
Phone counsel:	8
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	9
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	1
District Pastors:	1
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	3
Forums:	1
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	2
Current vacancies:	1
Meetings regarding calls:	1
Installation/Ordinations:	1

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2016-2018

Circuit Name: Central Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Steven Schlund

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	11
Special Issues:	4
Phone counsel:	27
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	21
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	3
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	8
Forums:	0
Convocations:	2
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	2
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	3
Installation/Ordinations:	2

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form

2016-2018

Circuit Name: Divide Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Charles Lehmann

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	0
Special Issues:	4
Phone counsel:	20
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	15
Circuit (Quad):	3
District Pastors:	3
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	9
Forums:	3
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	4
Current vacancies:	3
Meetings regarding calls:	1
Installation/Ordinations:	1

Circuit Visitor Triennial Report Form 2016-2018

Circuit Name: Flathead Circuit
Visitor: Rev. Steven Thomas

Congregational Visits:

Regular:	0
Special Issues:	0
Phone counsel:	4
School visits:	0

Conferences:

Winkel:	7
Circuit (Quad, South/East):	1
District Pastors:	1
Synodical:	0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors:	1
Forums:	1
Convocations:	0
Other:	0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium:	0
Current vacancies:	0
Meetings regarding calls:	0
Installation/Ordinations:	1

Convention Study Summary

During the Convention, in six sessions, over 5 hours were dedicated to the study of the Gospel of John. The delegates listened as Rev. Howard Schreibeis read selections each day. The readings averaged 3.5 chapters per session. Following each daily reading, the delegates formed small groups and discussed these truthful words by following a discussion guide prepared by President Forke. A special emphasis was placed on what it means that The Truth exists in the form of God's Holy Word as revealed in Christ, and the effect of The Truth on the proclamation of the Gospel made by our congregations and their members.

AMICUS CHRISTI - Rev. Al Ebel

I am the first son of Paul and Mabel Ebel, born on Father's Day the 21st of June, 1942 in Alamosa, Colorado. My schooling occurred at First Lutheran Church and School in Long Beach, California, Walter Memorial Lutheran High school in Los Angeles, California, at Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska and later Master Degrees from Azusa Pacific University, Concordia University Nebraska and a colloquy from Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Nancy, the second daughter, and third child of Don and Ruth Seim and I were married on June 17, 1966 in Covina, California. She graduated from C.T.C. Seward in 1966 two years after I did. We met during her freshman year as she and her house mates were in the process of moving from a campus house to the new dorm, "Ruth." I was partnered with her cousin, Dan Seim in a "new sheet for a dirty one," a campus perk once upon a time. We are proud parents of three children, Robert living in Nebraska with his wife Joni, Thomas living in Billings, Montana with his wife and four children (two of which are attending Concordia, Nebraska) and Susan living in Lake Forrest, California with Glenn and five children (two of which attend Concordia, Irvine).

I began teaching in Lutheran Schools at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Lake Worth, Florida in 1964 and Nancy began her teaching career at Trinity Lutheran School in Delray Beach, Florida in 1966. In the spring of 1968 we were asked to be missionary educators in Papua New Guinea. We arrived in October to begin Language School and in January 1969 I began teaching Standard Five and being Head Teacher at Papayuku Lutheran School. While at Papayuku both Richard and Thomas were born. In 1972 we moved to Amapyaka to teach at the School for Missionary's Children. Susan was born in 1973. All three were born at Immanuel Lutheran Hospital at Mambasanda. While on furlough, we spent the fall of 1973 and summer of 1974 at Concordia, Seward. We returned to Amapyaka to teach another four years before returning to the USA and Seward.

After finishing the Master's degree at Seward I began working at the Center for Indian Ministry and Studies at Seward which lasted until 1985 when we moved to CTS in Fort Wayne in the Fall of 1986. I did my vicarage at Messiah Lutheran Church on Oahu (Hawaii) in the summer of 1987 and was ordained at Messiah in the spring of 1988. In 1997 I accepted a call to be the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Havre, Montana and Zion Lutheran Church in Chinook, MT retiring in 2005.

Nancy and I bought a house in Red Lodge, Montana for retirement, but before moving there I served a vacancy at Grace in Hamilton. While in retirement and living in Red Lodge I was asked and accepted the position of pastor of Trinity in Harlowton from 2008-2011. In 2011 Nancy and I were asked to attend the confirmation ceremony of Glenn and Susan's oldest two children at the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. During the six months in South Africa I served as vacancy pastor for

Evangelical Lutheran Fellowship in Johannesburg (Randsburg), South Africa. Returning to Rd Lodge I served a vacancy in Rudoso, New Mexico after which I helped at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Powell, Wyoming while their pastor was recovering from an illness and later as vacancy pastor in Butte and the Tri-parish in Colstrip, Forsyth and Hysham.

Nancy and I are living in Billings. We have nine grandchildren, no pets, four sewing machines, a house, a car, a truck, a travel trailer and our walls fills with mementoes of the places God has sent us and His children we have met. The blank spots on the walls are covered with many of the quilts that Nancy has made. We are thankful that God has sent us to many places visiting with many of His elect and being given children and grandchildren who are members of His family and ours.

AMICUS CHRISTI - Richard Thomas

Rick was born in Bryan, Ohio in 1958-though he says he's a true Hoosier, not a Buckeye! He did grow up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His education was entirely through the Lutheran school system in Fort Wayne, graduating from Trinity Lutheran Grade School and Concordia High School. Rick went on to graduate from Concordia Teacher's College in Seward, Nebraska. (To pay his way through college, Rick and his dad ran a concession business during the summer months.) He earned his Master's Degree from Indiana University.

Rick's first teaching call was to Brownstown, Indiana-a small, rural town in the southern-most part of the state. After three years there, he received a teaching call to Fort Wayne. It happened to be to the same grade school he had attended! He enjoyed seven years of teaching there, three of those years also being the principal. In 1992, Rick received another call, this time to Trinity Lutheran School in Billings, Montana! Rick's wife Suzie, grew up in Billings and loved the idea of living close to family! Rick has been Trinity's principal along with part-time teacher for 26 years.

When asked who influenced Rick to become a Lutheran school teacher, he said it was his fifth grade teacher, Mr. Don Hendrickson. He was a wonderful example of dedication to his Savior and sharing his love for Jesus with his students. Mr. Hendrickson also happened to be Rick's Boy Scout leader!

Rick is married to Suzie, the Kindergarten teacher at Trinity. They met in college in Seward. They have four grown children, 2 daughters-in-law, 1 son-in-law, and 3 grandchildren.

Rick enjoys everything about living in Montana! He loves hunting, camping, and fly fishing. Rick's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10.

Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth!

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Arnold Fischer was born in 1931 to Ewald and Martha Fischer in Milbank, SD. He was called to glory on January 31, 2017. His funeral was held February 6, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT.

During Rev. Fischer's ministry, he served congregations in North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska, as well as serving as a Circuit Counselor and on various parish service committees.

Rev. Fischer was ordained on July 21, 1957, and installed to serve Zion in Fortuna, North Dakota, Redeemer in Crosby, North Dakota and Trinity in Plentywood, Montana.

His final call before retiring to Great Falls was to St. Paul in Rushville and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hay Springs, Nebraska.

Rev. Fischer is survived by his wife Marjory, his two daughters, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.