



CHOSEN WITH
PURPOSE
ABIDING IN
JESUS

floridageorgia

District Convention • June 22–24, 2018

*Convention Headquarters
Wyndham Orlando Resort International
8001 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819*

Workbook

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Dear Fellow Servants of Jesus,

Greetings in the name of our Master, Jesus, who calls us and sends us into the vineyard of this world to gather a harvest with His love and grace. I want to thank you for your willingness to serve as a delegate to the 33rd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District, especially as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary. While a convention is certainly a time to conduct the business of the church, it is also a wonderful time for us to celebrate all the blessings that God has poured out on the Florida-Georgia District over the past seventy years



Enclosed is the workbook for the 33rd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, to be held in Orlando, Florida June 22-24, 2018. We wanted to get the enclosed materials to you in plenty of time and invite you to study them so that you will be well equipped to participate meaningfully in our triennial convention.

Our convention theme, “Chosen with Purpose—Abiding in Jesus,” is based on the beautiful picture Jesus gives us of a vineyard from John 15. Jesus reminds us, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last!”* We have been chosen with purpose—to abide in Jesus, bearing fruit by doing those things that SHOW the love of Jesus in the world.

When we gather for convention it is with great purpose. Those who are gathered are God’s chosen leaders in the places where He has called you to serve, whether as a pastor, commissioned minister or layperson. This convention will focus on reaching out to those who don’t yet know Jesus or His grace, pushing us beyond the boundaries of a church campus into the communities where God has placed us. It begins with leaders showing the way of love, even as Jesus did for each of us. Each day we have a specific focus. Day one is about abiding in His presence, as we gather from all across the District in His presence. Day two is all about abiding in His fruit by doing the work that He has called us to do. Day three, as we gather for a special worship service and are sent back out into the world our focus is on abiding in His love. We are sent out into the world in that love to connect people to Jesus. As we look to the next three years we will consider our calling as disciples chosen to bear fruit. Fruit is a visible sign of health. If we are to bear fruit it means reaching into the world around us, learning the needs, and meeting them for the sake of Jesus. This is exactly what our Lord Jesus did. My hope is that our convention will inspire us to action.

During the District convention we will have time to worship, pray, and study the Word of God, as well as laugh and celebrate our partnership in the Gospel. Our essayist is the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, former Lutheran Hour Speaker, who works with students preparing to serve in ministry. The seminary is in exciting days as they discover new ways to shape people for ministry. Our convention chaplain will be the Rev. Doug Kallesen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL, and our Bible Study Leader will be Dr. David Maier, President of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Synodical President Matthew Harrison will be with us Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to share information about our Synod and take time for questions and answers. All in all, it will be a great time to engage in fellowship, study, business and worship!

This Workbook includes reports from the circuit visitors, the various commissions and advisory councils in our District, the staff, both present and former, and key ministry partners, together with the overtures which have been submitted for consideration. Additionally, the Floor Committees have developed Resolutions based on these overtures received.

The Florida-Georgia District began weekend conventions many years ago to encourage participation by our laity. In order to accommodate for pastor's being present, worship resources, including a sermon provided by Rev. Douglas Kallesen, will be available to all congregations in mid-May.

I am looking forward to this 33rd Regular Convention and pray that it will open our eyes to the opportunities all around us to abide in Jesus as we bear fruit for Him in the world. As we gather to be built up, may we engage others with the love and grace of Jesus! Many blessings on your preparations and travel plans! If you have any questions don't hesitate to visit our web page or contact the District Office See you in Orlando!

Peace in Jesus,
Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President
Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

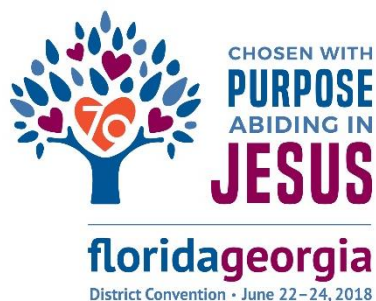


A Word about our Logo

The Logo for the 33rd Regular District Convention points us to the desire Jesus has for us to bear fruit for Him in the world. The Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is to Equip, Empower, and Engage, Connecting People to Jesus. The idea of being “Chosen with Purpose—Abiding in Jesus” comes from John 15. This is a familiar section of Scripture, where Jesus talks about the Vine and Branches. He is the Vine, we are the branches. Jesus reminds us that apart from Him we can do nothing! However, at the same time He reminds us that we have been chosen by Him with great purpose—to abide in Jesus.

Visiting a vineyard a few years ago gave me a whole new appreciation and insight into the work that Jesus calls each of us to in John 15:5 and 8. He says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing...By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.” A branch grafted into the Vine, as it is nurtured and taken care of, will naturally produce fruit. We, who are so richly cared for with Word and Sacrament, should be overflowing in carrying out the Father’s desire to see all people saved. Jesus reminds us, in John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”

In the logo you see a fruit tree with abundant fruit. The fruit is in the shape of hearts, reminding us that as Jesus gave to each of us in love, we too, are to love others. Notice that the trunk of the tree looks like outstretched arms, offering praise to the Creator, but also reminding us of the call on our lives to reach out with open hearts and hands to bear fruit for Jesus. In the center is a large heart with the number 70, as a reminder of God’s love to the Florida-Georgia District for the past 70 years. The history of the Florida-Georgia District is one of mission and outreach, including many ethnic ministries. The tree continues to grow, healthy and strong, especially as the leaves, which represent the people of this district, remain connected to Jesus. As we abide in Him, and He with us, God blesses the fruit of our labors. May this logo serve as a reminder that each of us are called to bear fruit for Jesus—fruit that will last.



**Florida-Georgia District Delegates
To the 33rd Regular Convention
Who have submitted their credentials
As of May 14, 2018**

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	Douglas	Hudson	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Albany	GA
Mr.	Mike	Grebel Sr.	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Albany	GA
Rev.	Donald	Moore	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Apopka	FL
Mr.	Timothy	Horvath	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Apopka	FL
Mr.	Kenneth	Boucher	Alternate Lay Delegate	St Paul	Apopka	FL
Rev.	Anthony	Arias	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	Arcadia	FL
Deacon	James	Olckers	Lay Delegate	Grace	Arcadia	FL
Rev.	Gregory	Michael	Pastoral Delegate	Christus Victor	Athens	GA
Mr.	Dan	Aamoth	Lay Delegate	Christus Victor	Athens	GA
Mr.	Adam	Ozgo	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	Atlanta	GA
Mr.	Michael	Missey	Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Augusta	GA
Rev.	Roger	Schwartz	Pastoral Delegate	Our Redeemer	Augusta,	GA
Rev.	Scott	McLean	Pastoral Delegate	Christ	Avon Park	FL
Mrs.	Linda	McLean	Lay Delegate	Christ	Avon Park	FL
Rev.	Dave	Wesche	Pastoral Delegate	All Saints	Blairsville	GA
Mrs.	Sally	Wesche	Lay Delegate	All Saints	Blairsville	GA
Rev.	Stephen	Carretto	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Boca Raton	FL
Mr.	John	List	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Boca Raton	FL
Mr.	James	Franskousky	Alternate Lay Delegate	St Paul	Boca Raton	FL
Rev.	Richard	Browning	Pastoral Delegate	Hope	Bonita Springs	FL
Rev.	Craig	Mathews	Pastoral Delegate	Hope	Bradenton	FL
Mrs.	D'Lisa	Richards	Lay Delegate	Hope	Bradenton	FL
Rev.	Paul	Meseke	Pastoral Delegate	Christ	Brooksville	FL
Rev.	Gregory	Le Sieur	Pastoral Delegate	Christ	Cape Canaveral	FL
Mr.	Jon	Braze	Lay Delegate	Christ	Cape Canaveral	FL
Rev.	Charles	Kanefke	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Cape Coral	FL
Mrs.	Linda	Wabrek	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Cape Coral	FL
Mr.	Dennis	Melde	Lay Delegate	Savior of All	Cartersville	GA
Rev.	Tom	Eggebrecht	Pastoral Delegate	Ascension	Casselberry	FL
Mr.	Matt	Miessler	Lay Delegate	Ascension	Casselberry	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Mrs.	Martha	Reaves	Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Chiefland	FL
Mr.	Rick	Wurdeman	Alternate Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Chiefland	FL
Mrs.	Debbie	Swilley	Alternate Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Chiefland	FL
Rev.	Eric	Eichinger	Pastoral Delegate	Bethel	Clearwater	FL
Mr.	Fredrick	Howard	Lay Delegate	First	Clearwater	FL
Rev. Dr.	Angel	Ramos	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Clewiston	FL
Mr.	Verle	Hennings	Lay Delegate	Faith	Clewiston	FL
Rev.	Bert	Matlock	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Crawfordville	FL
Ms.	Janice	Salgado	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Crawfordville	FL
Mrs.	Ingrid	Matlock	Alternate Lay Delegate	Trinity	Crawfordville	FL
Rev. Dr.	Wilfredo	Rivera	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Cutler Bay	FL
Mrs.	Maria	Rivera	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Cutler Bay	FL
Rev. Dr.	Gerhard	Michael, Jr.	Pastoral Delegate	St Peter	Dahlonoga	GA
Rev.	George	Poulos	Pastoral Delegate	Gloria Dei	Davie	FL
Mr.	Michael	Schweiger	Lay Delegate	Gloria Dei	Davie	FL
Mr.	Jeri	James	Alternate Lay Delegate	Gloria Dei	Davie	FL
Ms.	Karen	Richey	Lay Delegate	Peace	Decatur	GA
Mrs.	Alexis	Fairey	Alternate Lay Delegate	Peace	Decatur	GA
Rev.	Vincent	Putnam	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Delray Beach	FL
Mrs.	Jacqueline	Slye	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Delray Beach	FL
Mr.	Kurt	Godfrey	Alternate Lay Delegate	Trinity	Delray Beach	FL
Rev.	George	Murdaugh	Pastoral Delegate	Prince of Peace	Douglasville	GA
Mr.	Leon	Wilkins	Lay Delegate	Prince of Peace	Douglasville	GA
Mr.	Thomas	Clark	Alternate Lay Delegate	Prince of Peace	Douglasville	GA
Rev.	Andrew	Sorenson	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Dunedin	FL
Mr.	Paul	Martin	Lay Delegate	Faith	Dunedin	FL
Rev.	Terry	McKee	Pastoral Delegate	Peace	Dunnellon	FL
Mrs.	Cynthia L	McKee	Lay Delegate	Peace	Dunnellon	FL
Rev.	Jim	Kress	Pastoral Delegate	Redeemer	Englewood	FL
Mr.	Bill	Bowers	Lay Delegate	Redeemer	Englewood	FL
Mr.	Wade	Duncan	Alternate Lay Delegate	Redeemer	Englewood	FL
Rev.	Marc	Kappel	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Eustis	FL
Mr.	Jeff	Albright	Lay Delegate	Faith	Eustis	FL
Rev.	Darrell	Stuehrenberg	Pastoral Delegate	Bethlehem	Fort Myers	FL
Mr.	Roger	Lewandowski	Lay Delegate	Bethlehem	Fort Myers	FL
Rev.	Jon	Zehnder	Pastoral Delegate	St Michael	Fort Myers	FL
Mr.	Kelly	Zinn	Lay Delegate	St Michael	Fort Myers	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	Stephen	Reynolds	Pastoral Delegate	Shepherd of the Coast	Ft Lauderdale	FL
Mr.	William	Kemp	Lay Delegate	Shepherd of the Coast	Ft Lauderdale	FL
Rev. Dr.	Curtis	Deterding	Pastoral Delegate	Zion	Ft Myers	FL
Mrs.	Trudy	Helgeson	Lay Delegate	Zion	Ft Myers	FL
Mr.	Dale	Kraemer	Alternate Lay Delegate	Zion	Ft Myers	FL
Rev.	Craig	Bode	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Ft Pierce	FL
Mr.	Jim	Davis	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Ft Pierce	FL
Mr.	Robert	Garst	Alternate Lay Delegate	Trinity	Ft Pierce	FL
Rev.	Alan	Struckmeyer	Pastoral Delegate	Abiding Savior	Gainesville	FL
Mr.	John	Underwood	Lay Delegate	Abiding Savior	Gainesville	FL
Rev.	John	Glover	Pastoral Delegate	First	Gainesville	FL
Ms.	Julie	Kahlfeldt	Lay Delegate	First	Gainesville	FL
Mrs.	Roberta	Partridge	Alternate Lay Delegate	First	Gainesville	FL
Rev.	Zach	Hoffman	Pastoral Delegate	Good Shepherd	Gainesville	GA
Mrs.	Tracie	Hoffman	Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Gainesville	GA
Rev.	Joseph	Warnke	Pastoral Delegate	Christ Our Savior	Griffin	GA
Mr.	Carl	Brul	Lay Delegate	Christ Our Savior	Griffin	GA
Rev.	Edward	Scott	Pastoral Delegate	Bethel	Hobe Sound	FL
Mrs.	Claudette	Scott	Lay Delegate	Bethel	Hobe Sound	FL
Mr.	Robert	Klee	Lay Delegate	Hope	Hudson	FL
Rev.	Thomas	Beaverson	Pastoral Delegate	First	Inverness	FL
Mr.	Gus	Navarro	Lay Delegate	First	Inverness	FL
Mr.	Jack	Cook	Alternate Lay Delegate	First	Inverness	FL
Rev. Dr.	Jeffrey	Skopak	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	Jacksonville	FL
Mr.	Markus	Murdy	Lay Delegate	Grace	Jacksonville	FL
Mrs.	Amy	Skopak	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	Jacksonville	FL
Rev.	Patrick	McKenzie	Pastoral Delegate	Hope	Jacksonville	FL
Dr.	Ronald K.	Charlton	Lay Delegate	Hope	Jacksonville	FL
Rev.	William	Reister	Pastoral Delegate	Our Redeemer	Jacksonville	FL
Mr.	Peter	Kerner	Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Jacksonville	FL
Ms.	Claudia	Witcher	Alternate Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Jacksonville	FL
Mrs.	Karen	Kerner	Alternate Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Jacksonville	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	James	Wiggins Jr.	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Jacksonville	FL
Mrs.	Naomi	Mungin	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Jacksonville	FL
Mr.	Larenza	Mungin	Alternate Lay Delegate	St Paul	Jacksonville	FL
Rev.	Dana	Brones	Pastoral Delegate	Bethlehem	Jacksonville Beach	FL
Mr.	Gordon	Gruhn	Lay Delegate	Bethlehem	Jacksonville Beach	FL
Mr.	Bruce	Dellinger	Alternate Lay Delegate	Bethlehem	Jacksonville Beach	FL
Rev.	John	Schubert	Pastoral Delegate	Living Hope	Kennesaw	GA
Mr.	Gerald	Turner	Lay Delegate	Living Hope	Kennesaw	GA
Rev.	Gary	Faith	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	Key West	FL
Mr.	Don	Bly	Lay Delegate	Grace	Key West	FL
Mr.	Mitch	Cook	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	Key West	FL
Rev. Dr.	Joel	Meyer	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Trinity	Kingsland	GA
Mr.	Jerry	Haack	Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Kingsland	GA
Rev.	Stephen	Fair	Pastoral Delegate	Our Redeemer	Lake City	FL
Mr.	Charles	Wilder	Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Lake City	FL
Mr.	Jim	Keener	Alternate Lay Delegate	Our Redeemer	Lake City	FL
Rev.	Richard	Norris	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Lake Placid	FL
Mr.	Stephen	Bradshaw	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Lake Placid	FL
Ms.	Jean	Harrison	Alternate Lay Delegate	Trinity	Lake Placid	FL
Mr.	Sean	Cannon	Lay Delegate	Epiphany	Lake Worth	FL
Rev.	Stephen	Wipperman	Pastoral Delegate	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL
Mr.	Lee	Disbury	Lay Delegate	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL
Ms.	Barbara	McCrorie	Alternate Lay Delegate	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL
Rev.	Thomas	Block	Pastoral Delegate	Christ	Lakeland	FL
Mr.	Jon	Pearson	Lay Delegate	Christ	Lakeland	FL
Ms.	JoEllen	Stranger-Thorsen	Alternate Lay Delegate	Christ	Lakeland	FL
Rev.	Andrew	Ritchie	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Lakeland	FL
Mrs.	Jennifer	Judge	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Lakeland	FL
Rev.	Joe	Adams	Pastoral Delegate	Christ the King	Largo	FL
Mr.	Thomas	Rabe	Lay Delegate	Christ the King	Largo	FL
Mr.	Kerry	Rose	Alternate Lay Delegate	Christ the King	Largo	FL
Rev.	Juan	Gonzalez	Pastoral Delegate	Beautiful Savior	Lehigh Acres	FL
Ms.	Eva	Gonzalez	Lay Delegate	Beautiful Savior	Lehigh Acres	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Mr.	Carl	Lieberman	Lay Delegate	Oak Road	Lilburn	GA
Rev.	Steven	Naylor	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Trinity	Lutz	FL
Mrs.	Teresa	Cato	Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Macon	GA
Rev.	Anthony	Mandile	Pastoral Delegate	Martin Luther	Marathon	FL
Mr.	Jason	Dixon	Lay Delegate	Martin Luther	Marathon	FL
Mr.	Duane	Shelton	Alternate Lay Delegate	Martin Luther	Marathon	FL
Rev.	Thomas	Boeck	Pastoral Delegate	Marco	Marco Island	FL
Ms.	Dawn	Snyder	Lay Delegate	Marco	Marco Island	FL
Ms.	Shirley	Rhodes	Alternate Lay Delegate	Marco	Marco Island	FL
Rev. Dr.	David	Brockhoff	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Trinity	Masaryktown	FL
Mr.	Mark	Judd	Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Masaryktown	FL
Mrs.	Bonnie	Brockhoff	Alternate Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Masaryktown	FL
Rev. Dr.	Russell	Frahm	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Merritt Island	FL
Mr.	Dale	Robinson	Lay Delegate	Iglesia Luterana San Pablo	MIAMI	FL
Rev.	James	Leggett	Pastoral Delegate	Our Saviour	Miami	FL
Mrs.	Anna	Leggett	Lay Delegate	Our Saviour	Miami	FL
Rev.	Alan	Sielk	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Miami	FL
Mr.	Mike	Parages	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Miami	FL
Mr.	Ruben	Vinardell	Alternate Lay Delegate	St Paul	Miami	FL
Mr.	Jeff	Lowman	Alternate Lay Delegate	St. Paul	Miami	FL
Rev.	Ross	Engel	Pastoral Delegate	St Peter	Middleburg	FL
Mr.	Scott	Kukelhan	Lay Delegate	St Peter	Middleburg	FL
Rev. Dr.	Brian	Kneser	Pastoral Delegate	Woodlands	Montverde	FL
Mr.	Clinton	Lowe	Lay Delegate	Woodlands	Montverde	FL
Mrs.	Emma	Pinter	Alternate Lay Delegate	Woodlands	Montverde	FL
Mr.	Patrick	Perri	Lay Delegate	Grace	Naples	FL
Ms.	Gwyn	Powers	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	Naples	FL
Rev. Dr.	Karl	Galik	Pastoral Delegate	Peace	Naples	FL
Mrs.	Marilouise	Galik	Lay Delegate	Peace	Naples	FL
Rev.	Thomas	Wenndt	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	New Port Richey	FL
Mrs.	Freda	Steinke	Lay Delegate	Faith	New Port Richey	FL
Mrs.	Colene	Brock	Alternate Lay Delegate	Faith	New Port Richey	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	Dennis	Bartels	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Cross	North Miami	FL
Mr.	Samuel	Ludington	Lay Delegate	Holy Cross	North Miami	FL
Mr.	David	McLeod	Alternate Lay Delegate	Holy Cross	North Miami	FL
Rev.	Jeffrey	Shanks	Pastoral Delegate	St John	Ocala	FL
Mr.	Donald	Kaufman	Lay Delegate	St John	Ocala	FL
Rev.	John	Hirst	Pastoral Delegate	Peace	Okeechobee	FL
Mrs.	Karen	Smith	Lay Delegate	Peace	Okeechobee	FL
Mrs.	Dorcas	Hirst	Alternate Lay Delegate	Peace	Okeechobee	FL
Mrs.	Corinne	Fennessy	Lay Delegate	Christ the King	Orlando	FL
Rev.	Paul	vonWerder	Pastoral Delegate	Hope	Orlando	FL
Ms.	Michele	Branham	Lay Delegate	Hope	Orlando	FL
Rev.	Adolfo	Borges	Pastoral Delegate	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL
Mrs.	Katie	Abercrombie	Lay Delegate	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL
Rev.	James	Rockey	Pastoral Delegate	Amazing Grace	Oxford	FL
Mr.	Jeff	Robinson	Lay Delegate	Amazing Grace	Oxford	FL
Mr.	John	Wolfe	Alternate Lay Delegate	Amazing Grace	Oxford	FL
Rev.	Gary	Held	Pastoral Delegate	Risen Savior	Palm Bay	FL
Mr.	Fred	Anderson	Lay Delegate	Risen Savior	Palm Bay	FL
Ms.	Linda	Stark	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Peachtree City	GA
Rev.	John	Lehenbauer	Pastoral Delegate	Christ	Perry	GA
Mr.	Robert	Pinckney	Lay Delegate	Christ	Perry	GA
Rev.	Dean	Pfeffer	Pastoral Delegate	Hope	Plant City	FL
Mr.	Todd	Warner	Lay Delegate	Hope	Plant City	FL
Mrs.	Elizabeth (Liz)	Pfeffer	Alternate Lay Delegate	Hope	Plant City	FL
Rev.	Raymond	Stolarczyk	Pastoral Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Cross	Port Charlotte	FL
Mr.	David	Gruntman	Lay Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Cross	Port Charlotte	FL
Mr.	Kenneth	Werring	Alternate Lay Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Cross	Port Charlotte	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	Cris	Escher	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	Port St Lucie	FL
Mr.	Kevin	Garbers	Lay Delegate	Grace	Port St Luice	FL
Rev.	Dana	Narring	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Punta Gorda	FL
Mrs.	Susan	Narring	Lay Delegate	Faith	Punta Gorda	FL
Ms.	Marilyn	Bredvik	Alternate Lay Delegate	Faith	Punta Gorda	FL.
Rev.	Alan	Koch	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Rockledge	FL
Mr.	Richard	Dey	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Rockledge	FL
Rev.	John	Karch	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Trinity	Rome	GA
Mr.	Bryan	Shealy	Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Rome	GA
Mr.	Justin	Karch	Alternate Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Rome	GA
Rev.	Jeffrey	Jordan	Pastoral Delegate	Rivercliff	Sandy Springs	GA
Mr.	Steven	Frerking	Lay Delegate	Rivercliff	Sandy Springs	GA
Rev.	Edward	DeWitt	Pastoral Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Sanford	FL
Mr.	Douglas	Komm	Lay Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Sanford	FL
Rev.	Rossetter	Leavitt	Pastoral Delegate	Beautiful Savior	Sarasota	FL
Mr.	Don	Wild	Lay Delegate	Beautiful Savior	Sarasota	FL
Rev.	Stephen	Gaulke	Pastoral Delegate	Concordia	Sarasota	FL
Ms.	Margo	Arehart	Lay Delegate	Concordia	Sarasota	FL
Rev.	Steven	Anderson	Pastoral Delegate	Good Shepherd	Sarasota	FL
Mr.	Ronald	DeKarske	Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Sarasota	FL
Mr.	James	Aberson	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Savannah	GA
Rev.	Robert	Maulella	Pastoral Delegate	Faith	Sebring	FL
Mrs.	Carol Lynn	Scheer	Lay Delegate	Forest	Silver Springs	FL
Rev.	Ronald	Scheer	Advisory Delegate	Forest	Silver Springs	FL
Rev.	Albert	Oren	Pastoral Delegate	Christ Our Savior	St Augustine	FL
Mr.	Larry	Mull	Lay Delegate	Christ Our Savior	St Augustine	FL
Mrs.	Sherryl	Mull	Alternate Lay Delegate	Christ Our Savior	St Augustine	FL
Rev.	Joshua	Obermann	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	St Cloud	FL
Mrs.	Nelda	Bauer	Lay Delegate	Grace	St Cloud	FL
Mr.	Dave	Brueggemann	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	St Cloud	FL
Rev.	Kevin	Loughran	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	St Petersburg	FL
Mr.	John	Kyle	Lay Delegate	Grace	St Petersburg	FL
Mr.	Gary	Tocklin	Alternate Lay Delegate	Grace	St Petersburg	FL

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev. Dr.	Paul	Burtzloff	Pastoral Delegate	Our Savior	St Petersburg	FL
Rev. Dr.	Wilton	Heyliger	Pastoral Delegate	Incarnate Word	Stone Mountain	GA
Mrs.	Johnetta	Gillies	Lay Delegate	Incarnate Word	Stone Mountain	GA
Mrs.	Janice	Craig	Alternate Lay Delegate	Incarnate Word	Stone Mountain	GA
Rev.	David	Albers	Pastoral Delegate	Redeemer	Stuart	FL
Mr.	Russ	Reaver	Lay Delegate	Redeemer	Stuart	FL
Rev.	Daniel	Kelm	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Summerfield	FL
Ms.	Donna	Battard	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Summerfield	FL
Mrs.	Jill	Esposito	Alternate Lay Delegate	Trinity	Summerfield	FL
Rev.	Richard	Boyd	Pastoral Delegate	Epiphany	Tallahassee	FL
Mr.	Robert	Palmer	Lay Delegate	Epiphany	Tallahassee	FL
Mr.	Gary	Schafer	Alternate Lay Delegate	Epiphany	Tallahassee	FL
Rev.	Andrew	Schermbeck	Pastoral Delegate	Holy Trinity	Tampa	FL
Mrs.	Ginger	Torgrimson	Lay Delegate	Holy Trinity	Tampa	FL
Rev.	Mark	Adrian	Pastoral Delegate	Messiah	Tampa	FL
Mr.	Michael	Parnow	Lay Delegate	Messiah	Tampa	FL
Mr.	Wayne	Jackson	Alternate Lay Delegate	Messiah	Tampa	FL
Ms.	Pauline	Lewis	Lay Delegate	Zion	Tampa	FL
Rev.	Bruce	Alberts	Pastoral Delegate	Good Shepherd	Titusville	FL
Mr.	Tom	Lau	Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Titusville	FL
Ms.	Jackie	Elmore	Alternate Lay Delegate	Good Shepherd	Titusville	FL
Rev.	Roland	Vega	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Toccoa	GA
Mr.	William	Gaik	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Toccoa	GA
Rev.	Marc	Nauman	Pastoral Delegate	Trinity	Trinity	FL
Mr.	John	Dupps	Lay Delegate	Trinity	Trinity	FL
Rev.	Hiruy	Gebremichael	Pastoral Delegate	St Mark	Tucker	GA
Mr.	Howard	Swanson	Lay Delegate	St Mark	Tucker	GA
Rev.	Frank	Kinast	Pastoral Delegate	Messiah	Valdosta	GA
Dr.	Ben	Wescoatt	Lay Delegate	Messiah	Valdosta	GA
Dr.	Robert	Hubbard	Alternate Lay Delegate	Messiah	Valdosta	GA

Title	First Name	Last Name	Delegate	Congregation	City	State
Rev.	Christopher	Kollmann	Pastoral Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Vero Beach	FL
Mr.	Ernest	Sheppard	Lay Delegate	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Vero Beach	FL
Rev.	David	Brighton	Pastoral Delegate	Mt Calvary	Warner Robins	GA
Mr.	Bill	Bohm	Lay Delegate	Mt Calvary	Warner Robins	GA
Mr.	Mark	Burnette	Lay Delegate	Mt Calvary	Warner Robins	GA
Rev.	Daniel	McPherson	Pastoral Delegate	Redeemer	West Palm Beach	FL
Dr.	Wes	Borucki	Lay Delegate	Redeemer	West Palm Beach	FL
Rev.	Timothy	Hartner	Pastoral Delegate	St Paul	Weston	FL
Mr.	Chris	Seruga	Lay Delegate	St Paul	Weston	FL
Rev.	Roberto	Rojas, Jr.	Pastoral Delegate	Zion	Winter Garden	FL
Rev.	Charles	Reich	Pastoral Delegate	Grace	Winter Haven	FL
Mr.	Ron	Kirin	Lay Delegate	Grace	Winter Haven	FL
Mr.	Timothy	Furnish	Alternate Lay Delegate	Timothy	Woodstock	GA
Rev.	Tod	Shouse	Pastoral Delegate	Our Savior	Zephyrhills	FL
Mrs.	Bonnie	LaLone	Lay Delegate	Our Savior	Zephyrhills	FL
Dr.	Eugenia	Kolasinski	Alternate Lay Delegate	Our Savior	Zephyrhills	FL



***Convention Headquarters
Wyndham Orlando Resort International
8001 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819***

District President

The Reverend Gregory S. Walton
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
Orlando, Florida

Convention Manager

The Reverend David C. Brighton, Pastor
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Warner Robins, Georgia

Special Guest

The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Saint Louis, Missouri

Convention Chaplain/Host Congregation

The Reverend Douglas Kallesen, Sr. Pastor
Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
Orlando, Florida

Convention Bible Study Leader

The Reverend Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Michigan District, LCMS
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Parliamentarian

The Reverend Pat F. A. O'Brien, Emeritus
First Lutheran Church
Clearwater, Florida

Convention Essayist

The Reverend Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President
Concordia Seminary
Saint Louis, Missouri

Judge of Elections

The Reverend Kenneth D. Green, II, Pastor
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Principe de Paz
Orlando, Florida

Synod Representative

The Reverend Christopher S. Esget,
6th vice-president, LCMS
Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Nominations Chair

The Reverend James R. Guelzow, Emeritus
Tampa, Florida

Exhibit Coordinator

Mrs. Debra Arrington
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
Orlando, Florida

District Staff: The Rev. Gregory S. Walton, Mr. Mark Brink, Mr. Daniel J. Reichard, Mr. John M. Elliott,
Mrs. Cindy Hammerstrom, Mrs. Kathy Keene, Mrs. Debra Arrington, Mrs. Lynda Voss, Mrs. Laura Zirbel.

The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS Board of Directors

The Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President	Mr. Robert Chambers, Region One
The Rev. David C. Brighton, 1 st Vice-President, Chairman	Mr. Jay Wendland, Region One
The Rev. Jon Zehnder, 2 nd Vice-President	Mr. Donald Kaufman, Region Two
The Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser, 3 rd Vice-President	Ms. Lois Schaefer, Region Two
The Rev. Stephen Wipperman, 4 th Vice-President	Mrs. Katie Abercrombie, Region Three
The Rev. Dr. Frank Marshall, 5 th Vice-President	Mr. Tom Reagin, Region Three
The Rev. Jay Winters, Secretary	Ms. Evita Gonzalez, Region Four
Mrs. Renee Varga, Treasurer	Mr. Jeff Richards, Region Four
Mr. Jesse Crosmer, Commissioned Minister of Religion	Mr. Sam Luddington, Region Five
Ms. Lois Ford, Commissioned Minister of Religion	Mrs. Karen Smith, Region Five
Mrs. Tamie Worthington, Commissioned Minister of Religion	

Convention Nomination Committee

Ordained:	The Rev. James R. Guelzow (Chairman); Rev. Dana Narring
Commissioned:	Mr. Jim Richards; Mrs. Heidi Wuggazer
Lay:	Ms. Deb Baldwin; Ms. Joyce Brown; Mr. David Eichinger; Mr. Ruben Vinardell
Advisory:	The Rev. Jay A. Winters

2018 District Convention Floor Committees

Floor Committee 1 – **Ministry and Outreach**

Chairman:	Rev. Stephen Wipperman
Members:	Mr. Don Kaufman
	Mr. John List
	Rev. Frank Marshall
	Mr. Jeff Richards
	Ms. Lois Schaefer

Floor Committee 2 – **Ministry and Leadership**

Chairman:	Rev. David Brighton
Members:	Ms. Eileen Bishop List
	Mr. Mark Brink
	Mr. Tom Reagin
	Ms. Karen Smith
	Ms. Tamie Worthington

Floor Committee 3 – **Administration and Theology**

Chairman:	Rev. Jon Zehnder
Members:	Mr. Jesse Crosmer
	Ms. Lois Ford
	Mr. William “Rusty” Huseman
	Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser
	Rev. Jay Winters

Appointed District Reconcilers

2015 - 2022

Mr. Terry Donovan
Rev. Dr. Kent Fuqua
Rev. George Murdaugh
Mrs. Katie Abercrombie

Ministerial Interview Committee

2015 – 2018

Region 1

Rev. Ray Borchelt
Rev. John Lehenbauer
Ms. Kelly Goldsmith

Region 2

Rev. James Wiggins
Rev. John Glover
Mrs. Rebecca Schaffer (CMR)

Region 3

Rev. Tom Block
Rev. Ed DeWitt
Dcn Liz Borth, (CMR)
Dr. Eugenia Kolasinski

Region 4

Rev. Marc Nauman
Mr. Roy Heflin (CMR)
Mrs. Lori Schwan (CMR)
Mrs. Tuni Miller
Mrs. Jean Roehrs

Region 5

Rev. David Albers
Rev. Kevin Ogle

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE 2018

*Chosen With Purpose—To Abide in
Jesus John 15:12-17*

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018 Abiding In His Presence

12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens Exhibits Open
1:00 p.m.	Floor Committee Meetings
2:30 p.m.	Open Hearings – Floor Committees
5:00 p.m.	Registration and Exhibits Close Dinner on your own
6:00 p.m.	Opening Worship Rev. Christopher Esget, Preacher
6:40 p.m.	Session I Standing Rules
7:00 p.m.	Regional Caucuses
7:30 p.m.	Break
7:45 p.m.	President’s Report Elections
8:15 p.m.	Bible Study I – The Rev. Dr. David Maier, President Michigan District <i>doulos tou Christou</i> – Commissioned Minister of Religion
8:55 p.m.	Essay Presentation I – The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer
9:30 p.m.	President’s Reception – hosted by Grace Place; LCEF; The Foundation

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018 Abiding in His Fruit

8:00 a.m.	Opening Devotion Exhibits Open
8:15 a.m.	Session II Elections Bible Study II - The Rev. Dr. David Maier, President Michigan District Missions & Outreach Resolutions Presentations <i>doulos tou Christou</i> Award – Commissioned Minister of Religion
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:20 a.m.	School & Youth Ministry Report Ministry & Leadership Resolutions <i>doulos tou Christou</i> Award – Lay Person
11:45 a.m.	Lunch

Saturday, June 23, 2018, cont.

- 12:45 p.m. **Session III**
 Special Presentation
 Guests
 Circuit Visitor Ratification
 Ministry Moments
 2:30 p.m. Break
 3:00 p.m. Administration & Theology Resolutions
 Bylaw Presentation
 Elections
 Report from Synod Representative– The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President
 5:30 p.m. Closing Prayer
 Exhibits Close
 6:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 **Abiding in His Love**

- 8:00 a.m. Convention Worship with Holy Communion, President Gregory Walton preaching

 9:00 a.m. **Session IV**
 Question and Answer with President Matthew Harrison
 Treasurer’s Report
 Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 9:50 a.m. Break
 10:05 a.m. *doulos tou Christou* Award -- Ordained
 Essay Presentation II
 10:50 a.m. Unfinished Convention Business
 Elections
 11:30 p.m. Installation of newly elected officers
 12:15 p.m. Adjournment

***Adjustments may be made in the schedule to accommodate convention business.**

Our Ingathering Recipients:

Equipped, Empowered, Engaged....Connecting People to Jesus

We want to invite you to join us in a special in-gathering at the Florida-Georgia District Convention, June 22-24 in Orlando. We are collecting Gift Cards that will be distributed to support our partners in Ministry, including ministries like Stepping Stones Ministries, a ministry that supports and cares for the homeless population in Atlanta, Georgia; Amigos en Cristo, a ministry to Hispanic and Haitian population in Southwest Florida; Redeeming Life Maternity Home, which works with young women who are pregnant and have nowhere to go; Mission Haiti, a ministry that provides medical and educational care for those living in Haiti; Disaster Response in the District.

Here's how you can participate as an expression of love for the Lord and the ministry he has entrusted to us as members of the Florida-Georgia District:

Purchase gift cards in any amount (Visa, AmEx, Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.) Please purchase only gift cards that can be used on a wide scale)

- Clearly label each card or card holder with its dollar value
- Bring the gift cards to the Convention
- Collection points will be available throughout the convention. Check with volunteers or staff. Gift cards may be deposited at the In-Gathering boxes at the District table in the exhibit hall or you may include them in the offering on Sunday morning.

The total amount of the In-Gathering will be announced at the closing of the Convention.

Speaker Biographies

Reverend Dr. David P. E. Maier, President of the Michigan District, LCMS



Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, the youngest of two sons, was born May 8, 1956 to Dr. Walter A. Maier, Jr. & Leah M. Maier. His grandfather was the sainted Walter A. Maier, the Lutheran Hour founder. He was married to Patricia (Kemmerling) on July 19, 1980. Their marriage has been blessed with four children, Leah, Joel, James and Hannah. Leah is married to Kyle DeWees and their marriage has been blessed with Beckett and Avery, Pastor and Pat Maier's two grandchildren. Hannah was married to Garrett Wenzelburger in 2016.

President Maier received his B.A. from Concordia University Ann Arbor with a double major in Biblical Languages and Christian Doctrine. Attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, he served his vicarage year at West Portal Lutheran Church in San Francisco, CA in 1980. After his Ordination on August 15, 1982, he served as Mission Pastor of Our Savior in Marlette, MI and then as Youth Pastor and interim Head Pastor at St. Peter in Arlington Heights, IL. In 1989, he was called to Our Savior in Lansing, MI as Administrative/Senior Pastor. During his tenure, the congregation and school moved to a brand new facility on a 30 acre campus. He served there until he was elected President of the Michigan District, LCMS in June of 2009. During the 2012 and 2015 District Conventions, he was re-elected to another term.

President Maier has been a frequent speaker at youth retreats and men's gatherings. He has served numerous times as Dean at Camp Arcadia, Michigan. He has also served the Michigan District as a Circuit Visitor and as Vice-President.

President Maier's service to Synod includes the Worship Floor Committee for the 2001 LCMS Convention and as a Council of Presidents representative on Floor Committee 18 – Worker Wellness. He has served on the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program Committee and the Resolution #4-04A Task Force for the Synod. He is currently serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Presidents.

In 2007, Maier was awarded his first honorary doctorate by St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa. He was presented with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in May 2010 at Concordia University Ann Arbor during the Commencement exercises where he was also the Commencement Speaker. In the spring of 2012, Concordia University Ann Arbor awarded him the Doctorate of Laws Degree in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding leadership and diligent labor in the Lord's Kingdom. In December 2012, Concordia University Wisconsin conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity to Maier.

A humbled sinner and cancer survivor, forgiven and healed at the foot of the cross, continually awed by the love of a gracious Savior, President Maier looks forward to the leading and direction of our Lord Jesus as he continues in His service. It is his firm conviction to share his joy in knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God unto salvation for all people.

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.



Dr. Meyer rejoined the faculty at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2001. He also serves as a professor of practical theology.

He was the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Chair in Homiletics and Literature at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2001-2005. He served as the interim president, 2004-2005, and became the tenth president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2005.

He earned a master's degree (1974) and a doctorate (1986) in classical languages from Washington University in St. Louis. He earned a Master of Divinity degree (1973) from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He completed his bachelor's degree (1969) at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. He is also the recipient of honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity (1993) from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Meyer began his pastoral career serving as pastor of St. Salvator Lutheran Church in Venedy, Ill. and St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Memphis, Ill., 1974-1981. He served on the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as a guest instructor, 1979-1981, and as an assistant professor teaching classes in New Testament and homiletics and as the director of Resident Field Education, 1981-1984.

He served as senior pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Ill., 1984-1988. Meyer was a speaker on *The Lutheran Hour* radio program, 1989-2001. Through 2003, he was the host of the television show *On Main Street*.

Meyer has served The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the church at-large over the years in several capacities. He served as third vice-president of the LCMS, 1995-1998. He was a charter board member of the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA), has served as an honorary director of God's Word to the Nations Bible Society and as a member of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry for the LCMS. He was pastoral adviser for the Southern Illinois District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League and has served as first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary and circuit counselor of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS. He served on the Board of Trustees of American Bible Society, 2001-2013.

Meyer has written numerous sermons and columns for Lutheran Hour Ministries, including the booklets "Coping with Cancer" and "Real Men." He co-authored *The Crosses of Lent*, in-depth Bible studies of Matthew and Prophecy in the *LifeLight* series and authored "The Place of the Sermon in the Order of Service" in Concordia's book *Liturgical Preaching* for Concordia Publishing House. He has contributed to *Issues in Christian Education* and is a regular contributor to the *Concordia Journal*. His articles include "A Church Caught in the Middle," "An Urban Seminary," and "Why Go to Church?"

In 2014 Meyer wrote *Timely Reflections: A Minute a Day with Dale Meyer*, a compilation of 365 daily devotions from his long-running online series, *The Meyer Minute*. This book was published by Tri-Pillar Publishing in conjunction with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Meyer has been speaking and preaching on the road for over 25 years and continues to do so. His areas of interest and study includes: 1 Peter, the Church in a changing culture, and the Sabbath applied to life today. He resides in St. Louis with his wife Diane. They have two grown daughters: Elizabeth (Darren) Pittman and Catharine (Charles) Bailey, and five grandsons: Christian, Connor, and Nicholas Pittman and Andrew and Jacob Bailey.

A Primer Of Parliamentary Procedure

A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Parliamentary procedure assists a deliberative and decision-making assembly in carrying out its purpose and aims in an orderly, fair, and expeditious manner.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

Parliamentary law protects six basic rights:

- 1) The right of the majority to make a decision;
- 2) The right of the minority to be heard in hopes that it may become the majority;
- 3) The right of absentees to be protected;
- 4) The right of the assembly to be comfortable and to hear;
- 5) The right of the individual member to be honored;
- 6) And the orderly consideration of one subject at a time.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chairman and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner. They are:

Members:

- 1) Address the chair. "Mr. Chairman" (or Mr. President)
- 2) Await recognition by the Chair.
- 3) Make the motion. "I move that..."
- 4) Second the motion. (Unless not required)

Chair:

- 5) State the motion. (Or rules it out of order)
- 6) Calls for discussion. (Unless motion is undebatable) "Is there any discussion?" or "Are there any remarks?" Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and for discussion.
- 7) Takes the vote. (Or "Puts the question")
- 8) State the results.

"The 'ayes' have it and the motion is carried." Or, "The 'noes' have it and the motion is lost."
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

Basic Parliamentary Principles For The Florida-Georgia District Convention

- 1) The district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the District President and the Board of Directors. In addition, the convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
- 2) All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
- 3) The vote of the majority decides. The will of a district convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
- 4) Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. To accomplish the closure of debate, a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, this motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is finished and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
- 5) Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
- 6) The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
- 7) Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body should be taken knowledgeably.
- 8) Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home or neighboring congregations.
- 9) Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state their name, the name of their congregation or of the administrative unit represented.
- 10) Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
- 11) Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
- 12) Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised (1981 edition).

- 13) The “*Behnken Rule*” which governs the introduction of substitute motions will be employed. The “*Behnken Rule*” is this: When a substitute motion is offered in place of a motion that is being discussed, the chair may ask the assembly by a vote if it wants to consider the substitute motion. If the assembly votes by majority to support discussion of that substitute motion, then the original motion is set aside, the substitute motion taking its place. If after any discussion the substitute motion is approved by the assembly, the original motion is dead. If the substitute motion is not approved by the assembly, then the original motion comes back to the assembly for any discussion and decision.

- 14) The two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate. (During debate, the two-minute rule for speaking to the motion shall apply to the floor committee and to all speakers from the floor.)

The President's Report 2018 Florida-Georgia District Convention

Congratulations! You have been chosen! Perhaps you have been chosen as a delegate to the 33rd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. All of us have been chosen with purpose, and that purpose is to abide in Jesus! That's the theme as we gather for our District Convention. "Chosen with Purpose—to Abide in Jesus!" It comes from John 15:12-17. There Jesus bookends this conversation with a commandment for believers to love each other. It's one of the only places in the whole New Testament where Jesus gives a direct command, and that command is simply to love one another. We will focus on His love as we gather at the Wyndham Orlando on International Drive in Orlando, Florida.

Each day of our convention will have a specific focus. As we gather on Friday, June 22, we will abide in His presence. That evening we will gather for worship and celebrate our 70th Anniversary. It is His presence that draws us together. It is His presence that brings us peace and joy. It is His presence that enables us to celebrate our faith. It is in His presence that we come together to proclaim with bold voices our faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Day two will focus on abiding in His fruit. We will focus on bearing fruit for Jesus as we carry out the business portion of our gathering. We will deal with elections and resolutions, we will hear from special guests who will bring us greetings and remind us of our partnerships. We will listen to our Synod President and focus on the mission our Lord Jesus has given His Church on earth. Jesus reminds us, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..." The work we do together will have a lasting impact on our shared ministry in the Florida-Georgia District.

On the final day of the convention we will focus on abiding in His love. As we abide in Jesus, as we live as chosen people, we are called to live in His love. Not only does Jesus encourage this, but He literally commands that we do it. As we leave the convention we depart in His love, fed by the Sacrament of His body and blood, having been washed clean and chosen with purpose in the waters of baptism, ready to meet the challenges of proclaiming our Lord and Savior Jesus to the world.

Chosen with Purpose! It's really a key to why we do any of what we do. In His marvelous grace and favor we have been chosen by God. We have neither earned nor deserved this by our thoughts or actions. In fact, our God has shown us His unmerited love by sending us Jesus, who would suffer and die in our place, and then rise to wipe away our sins and give us new life. Only as we recognize the depth of His love and grace can we begin to comprehend the blessing of being chosen. You have been chosen! It's a fact. God has declared you to be His very own. Rejoice in this! Abide in this. Just don't stay there. God has called us to be conduits of His love and grace, reaching more and more people with His love. We are to be a river, allowing God to flow through our lives, rather than a reservoir that keeps water in. The church certainly should celebrate the fact that we are chosen, but we must not rest there indefinitely. We are chosen with purpose, and that purpose is to connect people to Jesus!

The next triennium will prove to be filled with more transitions, especially in regard to staffing. This has been an ongoing task since I began serving, with retirements and the like. We will be seeking to fill several roles on the District Staff, including the vacancy left when Rev. Doug Kallesen, former Mission Executive, returned to the parish. Pastor Kallesen will be serving as our convention chaplain, and we are proud of the job he is doing at Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando.

We also learned in April that Mr. Daniel J. Reichard was promoted from serving as our District Vice President of LCEF, to Regional Vice President of the Eastern Region of LCEF. While his new duties include the Florida-Georgia District, we are one of thirteen districts for which he will have responsibility. A search for a new District Vice President for LCEF will begin shortly and will be coordinated with the National Office of LCEF and my office. In addition to that, Vicar John Elliott, who began the SMP program a couple of years ago, will be ordained in June, and will be leaving at the end of July to begin serving in full-time ministry work at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL, with a focus on Lutheran Haven. Some of the support staff will also possibly moving with Dan Reichard, which leaves some gaping holes in the current staff. This is a wonderful opportunity to reassess and realign staffing, and I am actively working on that as we prepare for the District Convention.

Reflecting on the past three years, God has abundantly blessed our work together. We continue to focus on two specific areas of ministry. These critical targets are **leadership** and **outreach**. I have come to the conclusion that if we continually strengthen leaders, both professional and among our laity, we will strengthen our ministries. John Maxwell has said, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." Where leaders are strengthened and supported exciting ministry takes place. To that end, several years ago we developed, along with Kurt Bickel, a program called Emergent Leaders. This is a ten day program that helps leaders identify their strengths and build on them. Currently we have had seven sessions with close to 100 participants that have included pastors, administrators, teachers, DCEs, musicians, and lay people. The mix of people has been very conducive for a growing understanding of ministry demands and many participants have expressed great appreciation for this opportunity. In addition, we have made a number of opportunities available to assist our workers in their personal growth, from bringing Pastoral Leadership Institute to the District, to DOXOLOGY, to Grace Place Wellness. We have provided scholarships to conferences and brought speakers to our conferences to make them practical and applicable to local ministries. It is my conviction that the District staff exists to lift up the ministries on the front line. Our mission has been and still is to serve, assist and encourage ministries in their proclamation of the Gospel. It is all about Jesus!

In the area of outreach we have spent considerable time reassessing our mission program. You will read in the Mission Report more about the specifics, but suffice it to say, one of the most critically important things any of us can do is to proclaim the name of Jesus to a world lost in the darkness of sin. There is evidence of a growing secular humanism all around us, and we hear all the time that church attendance is diminishing in many places. It seems that Church has become a place for the church. It is becoming a rarity for an unchurched person to walk through the doors of a church, especially unaccompanied by someone from the church. The days of painting the doors red as a welcoming gesture, or leaving the doors open as an invitation to the community are long gone. Many churches keep their doors locked for safety. If a congregation really desires to make an impact for Jesus it will mean reaching out into their community in new ways; in ways that require thinking outside the church box.

This is one of the reasons we began working with Five Two, an organization focused on planting new ministry. While this group does not shy away from planting new churches, it also doesn't limit itself to only planting new churches. They are also focused on starting new ministries that are sustainable, marketable, and have a long range plan. Leadership teams are assembled by the local ministry, and then assessed with a comprehensive battery of questions that help determine viability and potential of starting new ministry.

We currently have several congregations actively involved in this process, and several more waiting to get started. The goal is to plant two new ministries in each region each year for the next five years, so that when the District celebrates the 75th Anniversary we will have a minimum of 50 new ministries begun. The goal isn't as much about numbers as it is about impact for the sake of the Gospel. In my parish life I remember that the one child who came to be baptized as a result of VBS made the whole crazy week well worth it. How many souls can we reach for Jesus? That question should always loom before us.

One area of outreach that has continued to elude us is Hispanic Ministry in the Atlanta area. A call was extended, but was returned, and it has been difficult to build momentum. However, there is a growing need for Hispanic workers throughout our district as many of our communities see a growing population among the Latino community. We are blessed to have some very strong ethnic ministries among our Hispanic, Haitian, and Korean congregations. However, there is much more to do. Currently we are exploring ministry among several Ethiopian population centers. Our campus ministries continue reaching out to students, and we are seeking to strengthen these ministries as well as reach several colleges and universities near some of our congregations. The mission fields remain wide open with many opportunities. May God raise up workers and resources among us to connect them to Jesus!

School Ministries and Youth Ministries, both served by Mr. Mark Brink, continue to shine. While our schools continue to face struggles, we are seeing some amazing things happen in several of our larger schools who have had record attendance. You can read more in the Schools report. We are once again adding DCE's to the district roster, and seeing some tremendous and creative youth ministry being done. The teams that have engineered the High School and Middle School gatherings have done a fantastic job. We need to continually find ways to encourage our youth and help to strengthen them in their faith walk. One of the resolutions before the convention I hope you will support is on recruitment of church workers. This kind of encouragement really needs to begin when they are young!

The Florida-Georgia District sponsors an annual Veterans of the Cross Retreat for retired professional church workers and spouses. This is one of the most joyful events that we are privileged to host. This event gathers folks from all across the District and even from across the United States. It is a time of fellowship and friendship of those who have had a career and served in ministry. They gather around God's Word, sing, and enjoy reflecting on their privilege of having served Jesus. The retreat is a wonderful way for us to honor those who have given so much for the cause of the Gospel. This is one way we try to continue to honor and serve those who have served.

Since the last Convention we have established an Operation Barnabas Task Force that began with Chaplain Mark Schreiber as chair, and now Mr. Chris Hopkins serves as the chair. Several congregations throughout the District have begun active chapters. This is a way for congregations to reach into their communities and honor and serve those who have so graciously and valiantly served us in the Armed Forces and their families. Also at the last convention we commissioned a task force to put together a program to certify non-Lutheran teachers teaching in our Lutheran schools so that they would have a deeper understanding of our doctrine and practice. This is still in process, but getting closer to completion.

As a result of the Pulse shootings in Orlando in 2016 we have several congregations that have received comfort dogs and are actively serving their communities and responding to crisis. It is an amazing thing to see the impact these dogs make wherever they go. What we can learn from the dogs is that they don't discriminate based on color, sexuality or age. They just sense that people are in need and care for them. That's not a bad model for us either!

This past triennium we have remained debt-free. Much of this has been through controlling our spending. We are in the process of eliminating mission grants. You can read more about that in the mission report. We are seeking to be good stewards of all the resources provided to the district, and we are grateful to our mission partners who regularly support the district with their contributions. You make it possible for us to provide things like leadership training, pastors and educator conferences, scholarships for church workers, support of ministries, and consultations. While we have an ever shrinking staff, these are among the most dedicated and hard-working individuals with which I have ever had the pleasure to work. I can't thank Kathy Keene enough for her determination and dedication to my office. The rest of the support staff includes Debbie Arrington, Cindy Hammerstrom, Lynda Voss and Laura Zirbel. Along with the dedicated executive staff, the focus in our office is clear. We are about connecting people to Jesus.

In addition to the district staff, I have greatly appreciated the services provided by those pastors assisting the District in a part-time capacity: Pat O'Brien, who helps me, especially in the area of congregational constitutions and bylaws; Dennis Bartels, who chairs the stewardship advisory committee; Roger Walker, who has chaired the Mission Advisory Council, and Tom Eggebrecht, who has chaired the District Wellness Network. The President's Circle is ongoing and has been a real source of assistance for many during the past triennium. We are blessed with a rich and full partnership with Lutheran Counseling Services, and specifically Rick Armstrong, Megan Miessler and Scott Gress, who have worked with us on any number of levels, serving many of our workers. We continue to explore new opportunities to serve our District through this ministry, including the Leadership at the Halftime Retreat for workers.

As thankful as I am for the staff and ministry partners, I could do none of this without the support of my wife, Edith. She is a dedicated school teacher and spends many hours, like most teachers, preparing and working with her students. In addition to that she has sacrificed many weekends to travel with me to visit congregations. She has welcomed the Board of Directors into our home regularly for meals, has entertained any number of guests, often at a moment's notice, and has always done so with a servant's heart. God has truly blessed my life with her, and I am grateful for the life we share together. God has blessed our lives through our two sons, and their families. Our son, Alex, and his wife, Angie, have blessed us with Noelle and Zac; and our son Tim, and his wife, Megan, have blessed us with Fisher. Grandparenting has become our avocation. We love being with them all as often as we can, which never seems like enough.

As I reflect on the past three years, I am humbled at the support I have received from the many volunteers with whom I have been privileged to serve, and who have well served this District, including: the Board of Directors, the Vice Presidents, the Circuit Visitors, and the variety of folks who serve on the District's Advisory Councils, Task Forces, and Committees, whether through my office, in school ministry, missions and outreach, with youth or in any other number of ways.

We have a district filled with servant leaders, and I am certainly grateful for our shared vision and partnership, which has enabled us to accomplish many things for the sake of Jesus. Please accept my sincere thanks to all who have helped make this last triennium such an awesome time of ministry in the history of the Florida-Georgia District.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are making a difference. We are connecting people to Jesus and growing God's kingdom one soul at a time. We are reaching into ethnic communities, we are strengthening and building new inroads into places we have not had the privilege to serve, and we see the potential for whole new generations of people to be touch by God's Spirit of love and grace. We have so much for which to give thanks to God. He has blessed us so abundantly in so many ways. He has given us so much, beginning with the new life that we have in Jesus through Holy Baptism. As He died for sin, may we die to our sin, so that we can be equipped, empowered and engaged, as people chosen with purpose, abiding in Jesus.

Following this are the additional reports from the staff that will assist you in gaining some perspective of the scope of our work together. We are grateful for your partnership and pray that God will bless our time together working at the 33rd Regular District Convention, celebrating our 70th Anniversary, remembering that we are Chosen with Purpose—abiding in Jesus!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

Finance & Administration Report

1) Timeframe

- a. June 15, 2015 to June 24, 2018

2) People

- a. John Elliott, Business Manager and Disaster Response Coordinator
 - i. 8 years with the District
 - ii. Summer 2018 ordination will result in transition from the District
- b. Laura Zirbel – Bookkeeper and LCEF Loan Consultant
 - i. 5 years with the District
 - ii. Continues to grow in her duties and responsibilities
- c. Debbie Talbot – Administrative Assistant
 - i. 6 years with the District
 - ii. Continues to organize and execute LCEF functions with excellence

3) Financial Issues

- a. District remains Debt Free
- b. All restricted accounts are fully funded
- c. Fan Into Flame concluded during this period.
- d. The Soli Deo Gloria fund was put to use in 2016 by helping Bethesda fund new homes for the mentally impaired in Wisconsin since there were no other projects in the District that fit the donor's wishes.
- e. District continues to put \$60K+ per year into Congregational revitalization work by funding Stewardship Summits (2015 and 2016) and the President's Equip Conference in 2017.
- f. The District Received and Distributed over \$200K in gifts in support of Hurricane Irma relief.
- g. Congregations and individuals within the District received just shy of \$500K in Hurricane relief from other sources – LCEF (\$245K) and Synod (\$254K).
- h. Carr Riggs & Ingram continue to audit the District books. Clean audits during this period.

4) Facilities and Properties

- a. Sold Oxford property
- b. Estero Property – planning ongoing
- c. Pelican – Naples; District received this property back in 2016 and hopes to give it back to a mission restart in Naples

Submitted by Mr. Daniel J. Reichard, Executive Director of Finance & Administration

Missions and Outreach

This has been a very busy triennium with a strong focus on mission and ministry. Our last convention we stated that we wanted new work begun in each of the five regions. This has happened in some great ways. The following Churches were chartered during the last triennium:

Trinity Lutheran Southwest Florida, Port Charlotte, FL – 8/15 (chartered)
Thrive Community Church, Estero, FL – 4/16 (chartered)
King of Kings, Jasper, GA – 12/16 (chartered)
St. John the Apostle, Buford, GA – 12/17 (chartered)
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, FL – 3/18 (chartered)

In addition, mission work has begun in the following places:

Pelican Lutheran Church, Naples, FL – 12/16 (New Church Start)
Shekinah Lutheran Church – Kissimmee, FL (New church Start)
Live UCF, Orlando FL – (New church start)
Port St. Lucie Mission—(recently called a mission planter)
Trinity, Summerfield Satellite campus in The Villages (brand new-in process)

There are additional areas under consideration. If any one word describes this triennium it is change! Among the major changes are the elimination of mission grants, mission work with Five Two and a vacancy in the role of the Mission Executive.

The elimination of mission grants began in late 2010, when President Walton and then Mission Executive, Doug Kallesen, met with President Ken Hennings of the Texas District to learn of a program that district had implemented a few years before called Mission Loans or reusable dollars. The idea of doing away with Mission Grants, especially as we continue to face diminishing congregational giving, seemed like a prudent idea. Pastor Kallesen brought the idea to the Mission Advisory Council (MAC) in early 2011 and discussion began. In spring of 2011 the MAC met with President Hennings and learned more about how the Texas District has been using this program and seeing ministries grow. It was determined that this was the best way to proceed, and a plan was put into place to begin a strategy using Mission Loans rather than Mission Grants. Dollars would be loaned at 0% interest, but a minimal repayment would begin 6 months after receiving the loan. When the former District building was sold \$500,000 was set aside for mission loans in hopes that this program would serve the Florida-Georgia District well. It was determined by the MAC to “grandfather” those receiving mission grants and step them out of the process over a period of time. In 2016 the timeline was set so that by 2021 there would no longer be any Mission Grant and Mission Loan funds would serve ministries. Campus Ministries and Social Ministries are now separated and treated differently from Mission Congregations.

The benefit of the Mission Loan program is multidimensional. First, it requires a greater accountability in the past because the funds must be repaid. Secondly, it requires a sound business strategy and plan as well as a statement on how the ministry will become sustainable past the loan. Perhaps most importantly, as designed this should be a perpetual fund. In other words, any dollars contributed and loaned will come back to this fund and be loaned again and again. The goal is to raise a minimum of three million dollars for this fund to take it well into the future.

Our work with Five Two came as a direct result of interactions with the Michigan District, which had been working with Five Two to develop and plant new ministries. Despite any reports to the contrary, the goal of Five Two intersects well with the Critical Targets set by the Board of Directors of the Florida-Georgia District—leadership and outreach. The focus of Five Two is to raise up entrepreneurial leaders who lead the church in mission and outreach. It’s all about connecting people to Jesus! My vision is to have two new mission and ministry starts per region for each of the next five years, which will take the Florida-Georgia District to her 75th Anniversary. These are not necessarily church plants, although we are working on several at the time of this writing. It may be an Early Child Learning Center or even a coffee shop that somehow works within the greater community to reach people with the love of Jesus. We are working with Bill Woolsey and Oscar Benavides to revitalize ministries and start new work for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The possibilities in our two states are incredible, especially considering the population growth we continue to experience.

Recently Oscar Benavides has been conducting O2 Conferences in the regions. The O2 of course is the chemical designation for oxygen, and it’s a way to breathe new life into current ministries by helping them imagine the possibilities in their own community. We will be working with Five Two for the next two years to help us become more mission focused in planting new ministries through their training, assessments and incubator program. Early indications are exciting, and those who have attended the O2 events have some away invigorated.

You have likely heard that Pastor Doug Kallesen, who formerly served as the Mission Executive for the Florida-Georgia District, has returned to parish ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida, where he is relearning the challenges of parish ministry, and truly making a difference. God had a marvelous plan for the Kallesen’s and I witnessed Doug doing a baptism in the school chapel for one of the workers at the Early Learning Center. Doug, while missed by our office, is certainly in his element and enjoying being in the parish. Some preliminary exploration for replacing this position has been done since the vacancy occurred, but will be followed up in earnest after the District Convention.

In the meantime, President Walton has been working with Pastor Scott Gress and Pastor Michael Mast to fill the void in this office. Scott has served in the Florida-Georgia District for many years and has been a trusted consultant. He is a certified Coach, and has helped scores of pastors in our district and beyond, even teaching on coaching at the national level. Mike Mast has served on the Northern Illinois District staff as a Mission and Ministry Facilitator. He continued that service when he relocated to Bradenton, but is happy to assist the Florida-Georgia District in the area of missions. I appreciate the assistance that both of these men have provided to congregations and pastors as we go through this time of transition.

Members MAC include:

Chair – Roger Walker
Rev. Tom Beaverson
Dcs. Ligia Borges
Rev. Paul Burtzlaff
Rev. Tim Droegemueller
Rev. Kevin Koenig
Mr. David McLeod
Mr. Daniel Reichard
Ms. Barb Stoeppelwerth
President Greg Walton

Mr. Roger Walker has been serving as the Chair of the Mission Advisory Council (MAC) since 2016, and has done a tremendous job in guiding us to our current state. The MAC meets annually at the district office in January to evaluate and meet with those who desire a mission grant. This will change in the future as the mission grants are eliminated by 2021. Quarterly the MAC meets in a teleconference to update the MAC on mission opportunities throughout the District. This council has worked hard to reduce mission grants while encouraging greater ownership and responsibilities to individual ministries. Below find the chart of dollars spent through the Mission Grant program in the last triennium:

2016 - \$303,000 – 13 separate ministries

2017 - \$280,000 – 12 separate ministries

2018 - \$221,000 – 12 separate ministries

Additionally, we have added new workers to the new starts. They include:

Rev. Billy Brath – Installed 6/15 – Live UCF (has since taken another call)

Mrs. Laura Blank – Installed 7/15 DCE, Live UCF

Rev. Joseph Song – Installed 12/15 – Stepping Stones

Rev. Mark Eisold – Installed 2/16 – Pelican Naples

Rev. John Roth – Installed 2/17 - Thrive

Mr. Phil Klopke – Installed 2/17 – DCE, Thrive (has since taken another call)

Rev. Jim Wiest – Installed 4/18 – Missionary South St. Lucie

School Ministries

In his letter, “To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany, That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools,” Dr. Martin Luther pressured civic leaders and parents of young children to provide Christian schools and to see to it that they attended them. He was convinced that study of the Liberal Arts provided the best context for the study of Holy Scripture. It was Saxon Lutheran immigrants to the United States in the 1600’s and 1700’s who established Lutheran Christian schools along the east coast of America, including rural Georgia. Today, nearly eight-thousand children attend Lutheran schools in in congregations of the Florida-Georgia District, where they learn who God is and what he has done for them through the suffering, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus.

While there is much to celebrate, there is also challenge, and where there is challenge there is opportunity. From 2009 – 2018, the *number of school ministries* in the District *declined* by over twenty-five percent. However, the *enrollment of the average school ministry* has *increased* by twenty percent.

<u>District Schools</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2018</u>
Free-Standing Early Childhood Centers (*)	43	43	47	48	43	38
Elementary/Middle Schools (**)	43	39	38	31	27	25
High Schools	2	2	3	1	1	1
Total Florida-Georgia District	88	84	88	80	71	64
Other Lutheran Schools (***)						12
Grand Total Served					83	76

(*) Early Childhood Center without an Elementary School

(**) Most also include Early Childhood ages

(***) In addition to Florida-Georgia District schools, FG School Ministries provides limited services to 5 SELC District schools, 3 English District schools, 2 Southern District schools and 1 LCMC school, and 1 ELCA school, many of which are accredited by FG District and National Lutheran School Accreditation.

Schools that Closed 2015 - 2018

- Faith Lutheran School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Vero Beach, FL
- Grace Lutheran Preschool, Merritt Island, FL
- Ascension Lutheran Preschool, Casselberry, FL
- Peace Lutheran Preschool, Tifton, GA
- Trinity Lutheran School, Holly Hill, FL
- Lamb of God Open Arms ECC, Lithia, FL

Schools that Opened 2015-18

- Amazing Grace Early Learning Center, Oxford, FL
- Marathon Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Marathon, FL

<u>School Enrollment Statistics</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Free Standing Early Childhood	4,597	4,725	4,661	4,438	4,616	4,974	5191	4881	4772
Grades K-8	5,378	5,200	4,983	3,921	3,971	4,096	3966	4095	4022
High School	139	152	155	97	114	139	101	120	94

Synodically Certified (Rostered) Teachers

Teachers who have earned the Lutheran Teachers Diploma after graduating from a university in the Concordia University System and who have been commissioned and installed into their initial Calls, are “Rostered” in the Synod as Ministers of Religion - Commissioned. There are four classifications of CMR’s. They are:

- **Active** – currently serving in a ministry position
- **Candidate** – not currently serving but eligible and willing to consider a Call
- **(***)Non-Candidate** – this classification was eliminated at the 2016 LCMS Synodical Convention. The workers reverted to Candidate status.
- **Emeritus** - Retired or totally and permanently disabled

<u>Rostered Teachers</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2018</u>
Active	149	147	209	162	142	142
Candidate	*	*	19	35	22	96
Non-Candidate	*	*	33	46	85	***
Emeritus	*	*	47	76	74	103
Total	*	*	308	319	323	341

*Complete Data Not Available

National Lutheran School/Florida-Georgia District Accreditation

National Lutheran School/Florida-Georgia District Accreditation is a rigorous process that is designed to foster school improvement. The goal of our District Accreditation Commission is for every school in the Florida-Georgia District to become NLSA/FG District accredited.

The theme for the 2016 conference was, “All Things 2 All People,” and was held Orlando.

The plenary sessions and daily devotion/Bible study led the participants through the unpacking of Paul’s words to the Church in Corinth, “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the Gospel that I might share with them in its blessings.”

Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Educator Awards

Since 1986, the District Lutheran Administrators Association has presented the Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran School Educator Awards to honorees from Lutheran schools in Florida and Georgia, who were nominated by their colleagues. The awards are presented during the course of the Educators Conference. Honorees in the last triennium were:

- Kathy Knudtson, Faith, North Palm Beach, FL
- Sharlene Friedrichs, St. Paul, Boca Raton, FL
- Brenda Dobler, St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA
- Cathy Douglas, Holy Trinity, Tampa
- Sherry Lane, Holy Trinity, Tampa, FL
- John Glanzer, St. Luke’s, Oviedo, FL
- Marty Zabel, Trinity, Delray Beach, FL

Barnabas Son of Encouragement

The Book of Acts presents Barnabas as an evangelizing apostle and church leader who was a model of integrity and character. He is called a, “good man,” a “prophet and teacher,” an “apostle” and “one who through God, worked miracles.” Acts recounts the times he faced persecution and risked his life for the name of Jesus. Barnabas believed that Saul had truly been converted when others expressed doubt and disbelief. *He saw great potential in young John Mark and was a champion for him and for Saul at different times.* 1 Corinthians affirms his character by noting he worked while serving congregations in order not to burden them. The apostles nicknamed him, “Barnabas – Son of Encouragement.”

This “Barnabas, Son of Encouragement Award” was established in 2015 by the Educators Conference to honor pastors who serve in congregations with school ministries. The award recognizes them for, “exemplifying Barnabas in their ministry to the faculty, staff, children and families of the school.

- Pastor Dennis Bartels, Holy Cross, North Miami, FL
- Pastor Jon Zehnder, St. Michael, Ft. Myers, FL
- Pastor Paul Burtzlaff, Our Savior, St. Petersburg, FL
- Pastor Wally Arp, St. Luke’s, Oviedo
- Pastor Brian Roberts, St. Luke’s, Oviedo
- Pastor Gary Schuschke, St. Luke’s, Oviedo

Hearts for Jesus

Hearts for Jesus started in Florida-Georgia in 1979. Students in the schools of the District designate their chapel offerings to benefit a special mission project or human care effort. The children’s offerings have purchased Bibles for children in India, built an early childhood center for orphans in Cambodia, put shoes on the feet of children in Burundi and so much more.

In 2016: Rebecca’s Garden of Hope – Support for tutoring and mentoring underserved children

In 2017: The Garuna Foundation – Construction of a school addition in Cambodia

In 2018: The Flood Bucket Challenge – Purchase buckets and supplies to make flood buckets that are distributed to those affected by natural disasters.

Respectfully Submitted by Mr. Mark Brink, Executive Director School & Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries Report

District Youth Ministry Council

God has blessed the Florida-Georgia District with incredible opportunities to serve the Youth in our congregations and communities. He has also blessed us with gifted professional and lay leaders whose passion it is to impact their lives on this side of Heaven and for eternity. In the fall of 2015, the District Youth Ministry Council was established, "To provide leadership in the areas of Middle and High School Youth Ministry to the congregations, Youth Ministry leaders and the Youth of the Church." Their Purpose is, "To equip, empower and engage the Youth of the Church for lives of Christian Discipleship."

Those appointed to the Council are:

- Certified Lay Minister Joe Guagliardo Faith, Merritt Island Convener of the Initial Meeting
- DCE Jeremy Becker St. Paul, Weston Chairman
- Mr. Mike Miessler Trinity, Orlando
- DCE Megan Skelton St. Luke's, Oviedo SELC Representative
- DCE Nick Moss St. Paul, Lakeland
- Pastor Josh Pettit Woodlands, Montverde
- Mrs. Rachel Hillman* Trinity, Orlando
- DCE Intern Annalisa Fitzsimons* Living Hope, Kennesaw
- Mr. Josh Blankenship Christ the King, Largo

Additional Appointments:

- DCE Intern Caleb Haack** Hope, Bradenton
- Pastor Chris Escher Grace, Port St. Lucie

*Denotes 'Not Presently Serving'

**A DCE Intern is invited to serve on the Council during their year of internship to give them an opportunity to experience service beyond the parish and to connect them with others who serve in Youth Ministry.

Middle School Youth Gatherings

2015 – Over 450 youth and youth leaders gathered under the theme, "Fearless!" based on Romans 8:11, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who live in you." DCE Audrey Duensing-Werner was the featured presenter who, along with the band, "All Things New" unpacked those powerful words of St. Paul. The youth brought hygiene kits, school supplies and toys to benefit Forest Lutheran Church's ministry to those who live in poverty in the Ocala National Forest.

2016 – Over 500 youth and youth leaders were blessed by DCE Travis Hartjen and the band, "Bread of Stone," as they considered the theme, "Unshaken and Stirred," based on Hebrews 18:22-25, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." The youth provided toys to benefit the work of, "Children of Inmates," as well as Infant Kits to further the ministry of Amigos En Cristo.

2017 – "What's Next?" was the theme and Luke 24 was the foundational text as nearly 550 youth and youth leaders journeyed from the Resurrection down the Road to Emmaus to Jesus Appearance to the

Disciples and his Ascension into Heaven. DCE Shelli Haynes and “Bread of Stone” were the featured presenters. Carpenter’s House in Leesburg, FL, provides refuge for children who come from orphanages in third-world countries. The youth brought food supplies for the ministry and hosted a celebration party for them. It was a great outpouring of love.

High School Youth Gatherings

2017 – The Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort was the setting for, “Chosen,” based on 1Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” Pastor Matt Popovitz, college student Abi Tesfaye, the band, “The Great Romance,” and a talented planning team led the weekend attended by nearly 200 high school youth and leaders.

2018 – The Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach was the setting for, “What’s Next?” Pastor Bill Yonker and “Bread of Stone” brought the theme and the gathering of 200 together to explore the words of Joshua 1:9, “Have I not commanded you: Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

2016 National Youth Gathering

“In Christ Alone” was the theme for the gathering held in New Orleans. 529 Youth and 189 adults representing 57 Florida-Georgia District congregations were in attendance. A District event held during the gathering was attended by 565 youth and adult leaders and Florida-Georgia hosted a photo booth that was very popular with the 20,000+ youth who came from across the country and the World to celebrate the love that can be found in Christ alone.

High School Youth Servant Events

2017 - Ninety-three youth and adult leaders from 11 congregations travelled to Atlanta to participate in a city-wide servant event. Faith Lutheran Church in Marietta served as the host congregation for the group, providing a “home base” for the week-long event. Each day started with worship led by Pastor Keith Lingsch with a focus on Matthew 25:40, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” The verse translated to action each day as the youth used their unique gifts to serve people from various walks of life, painting faces and playing games with young children, washing the feet of the homeless, leading Bible study with homeless men and engaging in outdoor clean-up projects. Each evening they returned to Faith to enjoy a meal prepared by a local congregation. Servant event sites included:

- Stepping Stones Ministry
- Safe House Outreach
- The Place
- Gateway Center
- Must Ministries
- Atlanta Community Food Center

2018 – This Servant Event will take place in Southwest Florida during the week of this Convention. The 50+ youth and adult leaders will be involved in clean up and light construction efforts, as well as leading Vacation Bible School among migrant worker families who were devastated by Hurricane Irma. Please keep the group in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted by Mr. Mark Brink, Executive Director School & Youth Ministries

Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Report

1) Timeframe

- a. June 15, 2015 to June 24, 2018

2) People

- a. Debbie Talbot
 - i. 6 years with LCEF
 - ii. Solid job in organizing and supporting LCEF activities
- b. Laura Zirbel
 - i. 3 years with LCEF
 - ii. Progressing nicely as the Loan Consultant (60% allocation)
- c. John Elliott
 - i. 8 years with the District
 - ii. Behind-the-Scenes support (10% allocation)
- d. Kathy Keene
 - i. 12 years with the District
 - ii. Demographics expertise (5% allocation)
- e. Congregation Advocates:
 - i. Assist in LCEF awareness efforts at the local level
 - ii. Still looking for an Advocate in approximately 160 Congregations

3) Service Offerings

- a. Investments:
 - i. Options are available for ALL age levels; check them out!
 - ii. From June 2015 to March 2018:
 1. Investors have increased by 522
 2. The % of District Members as Investors has increased from 6.5% to 7.7%
 - iii. Over the past four years, over 1,000 Investors have been added!
- b. Loans
 - i. Over the past three LCEF fiscal years, loans have totaled:
 1. 2016 - \$3.4 million
 2. 2017 - \$1 million
 3. 2018 - \$2.5 million (estimate)
 - ii. Currently, twelve loans are in the “pipeline” totaling over \$4 million
 - iii. Delinquent loans, once over \$27 million, are now less than \$200K
 - iv. Shared Blessings Rebate:
 1. Meeting investor targets can reduce overall borrowing cost
 2. Florida-Georgia District Shared Blessings Rebate amounts:
 - a. 2015 - \$41,551.98
 - b. 2016 - \$95,818.38
 - c. 2017 - \$147,161.79

- c. Ministry Support
 - i. Define opportunities, design solutions, and align resources
 - ii. Transition:
 - 1. In 2017, East Region VP Ministry Support became vacant
 - 2. In 2018, Senior VP Ministry Support Max Biesenthal retires

4) LCEF Earnings Distribution

- a. National – Funds provided through-out the LCMS
 - i. 2015 - \$1.7 million
 - ii. 2016 - \$1.9 million
 - iii. 2017 - \$2.0 million
- b. District – Funds provided for ministry in Florida and Georgia
 - i. 2015 - \$73,533
 - ii. 2016 - \$60,137
 - iii. 2017 - \$74,655

5) Kaleidoscope Fund Grant Recipients

- a. 2016 – Florida-Georgia District - \$48,778
 - i. Increased potential for lay leadership to expand the kingdom of God and grow His church through an intensive training program
- b. 2017 – Christ the King Largo - \$75,000
 - i. Expand Loving Arms, their Christian preschool, to provide qualified and affordable services to families with children who have sensory needs.

6) LCEF Fall Leadership Conference

- a. Hosting cities included Atlanta (2015), Chicago (2016), and New Orleans (2017)
- b. 2015 Awards:
 - i. Fred E. Lietz Individual Ministry Award – Jim Ingersoll (Orlando)
 - ii. LCEF Partnership Award:
 - 1. Living Faith Cumming
 - 2. Trinity Orlando
 - 3. Christ Perry
- c. 2017 Awards:
 - i. Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award – Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Inc.
 - ii. Individual Ministry Award - Pastor Dennis Bartels (Holy Cross North Miami)

7) Congregation Visits

- a. Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) Road Trip
 - i. Multi-stop Congregational visits focused on campus, facility, and property issues
 - ii. FREE service offering provided by the Florida-Georgia District (Ministry Support)
- b. LCEF Sunday
 - i. Awareness event scheduled around Sunday worship
 - ii. Designed specifically for Congregation needs, wants, and preferences
 - iii. Future development of District-wide LCEF Sunday

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- c. Topic-specific
 - i. On-site meeting to address precise ministry need or opportunity
 - ii. Time and place determined by Congregation/Organization/School

Submitted by Mr. Daniel J. Reichard, LCEF District Vice President

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)

DANIEL J. REICHARD

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT – FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

Organization Overview

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of extension fund service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its individual and corporate members. Through the dollars invested by thousands of individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with custom loans and ministry support services. Together, these partnerships have grown total assets to \$1.8 billion.

There are many ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. Historically, church extension operations have centered on loans made possible through investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Today, LCEF has expanded its offerings to include resources that help put ministry in motion. VisionPath, Capital Funding Services (CFS) and Laborers For Christ (LFC) are examples of services offered to enhance and support ministries.

Bart Day serves as president/CEO and reports to a 12-member Board of Directors. LCEF employs some 110 people located in St. Louis and more than 50 employees in 30 member districts throughout the United States. The organization also counts on the service of hundreds of volunteers, such as Laborers For Christ and LCEF Advocates, to fulfill its mission.

In the national office, the investment processing area cares for nearly 60,000 LCEF investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. LCEF's loan department serves LCMS ministries and Rostered Church Workers (RCW), providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans and lines of credit. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their District Vice President (DVP), who works through the district office—they are a part of the Lutheran communities in which they serve. District Vice Presidents are supported by their district support staff as well as the national office staff in St. Louis.

Economic Overview

During fiscal 2017, the economy continued its moderate growth trend with unemployment improving throughout the year due to strong jobs reports. After the surprise presidential election of Donald Trump in November 2016, interest rates climbed quickly and equities reached new records in reaction to anticipated policy changes such as tax reform, stimulus packages, decreased regulations and the repeal of Obamacare. As of the end of June, the S&P index has risen nearly 14% since the November election in spite of the fact that Congress has not acted on the Trump agenda. Expectations for continued earnings growth—buoyed by strong employment, growing consumer and business confidence, housing demand and broad-based global growth—support the current valuations and prospects for additional growth into late 2017.

Improving economics have moved the U.S. out of the era of Quantitative Easing (QE). Rates have been increasing. At its December 2015 meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) increased short-term rates by .25%, the first change since December 2008. Since then, the Federal Reserve has voted to increase rates by an additional .25% during each of the December 2016, March 2017 and June 2017 meetings. The prospects for another .25% increase during the December or January FED meeting are 78%.

From a market perspective, the three-year treasury rate (which correlates with the average term of LCEF's intermediate fixed-income portfolio) rose dramatically during the fiscal year from the post Brexit vote low in July 2016 of .71% to a high of 1.69% closing at 1.6% at the end of the fiscal year in June, 2017. The Federal Reserve continues to assure the markets that the return to a more normalized rate environment will be data driven, and it is expected that, unless inflation begins to increase at a faster pace, these adjustments will be gradual.

LCEF's investment portfolio is heavily weighted to fixed-income investments, and the rising rate environment, while providing increased yields over time, resulted in unrealized losses in its intermediate bond portfolio. To hedge against these losses, LCEF maintained a short duration approximating two years, and a longer-term portfolio of other investments that historically over time have proven to be non-correlated to rising interest rates. The good news during fiscal year 2017 is that the long-term portfolio generated market gains of \$6.0 million which offset in part the market value losses of \$10.55 million on the fixed income portfolio.

LCEF's Performance – Fiscal 2017 Highlights

Against the backdrop of the economic overview provided above, during fiscal year 2017 (FY17), LCEF was blessed to serve the ministries of the LCMS and achieved or exceeded many of the financial targets and goals outlined in the prior year Ministry and Business Plan. LCEF ended the year with total assets reaching \$1.8 billion and achieved net income of \$8.8 million. Once again, LCEF was able to distribute operating results to the LCEF Districts and to the Synod and also made an allocation approximating \$1.2 million to the Kaleidoscope Fund – a granting initiative sponsored by LCEF.

Details of the financial performance for FY 2017 are listed below:

- The Ohio District CEF consolidated its operations with LCEF effective April 01, 2017.

- The South Dakota CEF decided to consolidate its operations with LCEF effective October 15, 2017, the third CEF district entry in the past two years.
- Total Assets increased \$31.1 million or 1.7% to \$1.839 billion since June 30, 2016, due to the entry of the Ohio District CEF.
- Management continued to maintain high levels of liquidity with cash and investments totaling \$317.2 million or 19.6% of notes and support dollars payables at June 30, 2017.
- Maintained a strong capital ratio of 11.7%, an increase of .4% when compared to the prior year.
- Cost of Funds (COF - the base from which loan rates are set) remained stable at 1.875% during the year, translating to very low-cost loans to organizations and Rostered Church Workers in FY 17.
- LCEF continued the multi-year increase in investors, achieving a net increase of 1,264 new investor relationships. This increase resulted from the entry of the Ohio CEF transferring 765 investors, the continued success of ConnectPlus and PartnerPlus term notes and the Young Investors (Y.I.) offering during the year.
- Loans receivable increased by \$70 million to a balance of \$1.5 billion.
- LCEF's loan disbursements were \$95.7 million higher than the prior year, totaling \$270.1 million which exceeded loan principal repayments by \$50 million, resulting in a reduction in short-term investments.
- During FY 2017, the delinquency rate increased to .7% from .4% the prior year, still a historically low level of delinquencies.
- Impaired loans decreased from \$129.8 million at June 30, 2016, to \$104.8 million at the end of FY 2017. Impaired loans include nonaccrual loans and loans for which LCEF has modified repayment terms from the terms included in the original loans agreements.
- Nonaccrual loans decreased to \$72.1 million compared with \$87.3 million at June 30, 2017. Associated interest reserves totaled \$900 thousand.
- The total allowance, as of June 30, 2017, totaled \$29.4 million or 1.96% of the loan portfolio, compared to \$37.3 million or 2.6% at June 30, 2016. The decrease in reserves represent write-offs associated with the resolution of certain specific impaired loans.

LCEF continues to be blessed by the strong support of its investors and the dedicated commitment of its borrowers. Because of this partnership, LCEF is well positioned to serve the ministries of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod today and in the future.

Core Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2018

As outlined in LCEF's Ministry and Business Plan for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 – 2020, LCEF is focused on the following core initiatives:

- Prepare for and adapt to internal and external change as we embrace the evolving needs of our customers and adjust to new leadership within the organization.
- Develop a greater partnership with LCMS entities and Synod, Inc., building upon synergies and strengths of the organizations in support of ministries we commonly serve.
- Ensure continued financial and operational health of the enterprise, having resources available in support of ministries and partner churches of the LCMS today and in the future.

Based on its financial forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and in line with the core initiatives outlined above, LCEF expects:

- Total assets to decrease \$14.1 million, or .01% to \$1.825 billion.

- Liquidity to remain strong, maintaining a ratio approximating 19% of notes & support dollars payables.
- Net assets to increase to \$223.1 million representing a capital-to-asset ratio of 12.2%.
- Loans receivable to increase to \$1.522 billion.
- Notes and support dollars payables to decrease to \$1.593 billion.
- Net income to total \$8.9 million.
- Loan delinquencies to remain at a level below 1.75% and non-income producing assets, non-accrual loans and real estate to decrease by \$12.1 million.

Other objectives include:

- Following three years of planning and preparation, two of three regional operations centers have opened their doors in Minneapolis/St. Paul, which is serving as the operational hub for Central Region and Mission Viejo, California, which is now serving as the operational hub for the West Region.
- One additional regional center is scheduled to open during the coming fiscal year with an office planned for Orlando, Florida. The East Region office will complete the first major phase of the larger de-centralization efforts designed to increase and improve LCEF's ability to first discern and then respond to the continually evolving needs of our customers across the country.
- National loan staff will actively engage and interact with district and regional support networks. They will seek increased opportunities with the non-congregational borrowing base, and in conjunction with the Lutheran Federal Credit Union, will expand the Rostered Church Worker (RCW) Loan Program to states beyond the current 16 where LCEF is licensed.
- Marketing will engage with and support the regional and district offices to better understand their unique needs so it can properly support their ministry efforts.
- Marketing will update the website to reflect a blog-centric content strategy and user-friendly 13 Annual Meeting 2017 experience. Marketing will implement a strategy to retire and/or redefine the investor products ensuring LCEF's product line remains strong and relevant offering investors a complementary mix of demand and term products.
- Laborers For Christ (LFC) will complete a comprehensive study and re-design of its business model to reflect current sociological and economic realities with a focus on long-term sustainability.
- Capital Funding Services will develop a capital campaign strategy utilizing a team approach of individual 'experts' within various components of a campaign for conducting campaigns in larger churches.
- District and National Operations (DNO) will continue dialogue with other synodical agencies to develop operational models for the future that seek to leverage the LCEF regional structure.
- Loans will seek opportunities to network with other synodical agencies in conjunction with product development, customer support and loan promotion efforts, and will actively participate in district and nationally hosted events, taking advantage of opportunities for key sponsorships.
- Loans will explore strategic partnerships with LCMS entities and partner churches and expand relationships with Recognized Service Organizations and associations of LCMS elementary and high schools.
- Information Technology will connect where appropriate with LCMS entities to increase communications in the areas of cybersecurity, customer relationship management and vendor management.

- Facilities Management will leverage existing relationships with partners such as Foundry Commercial, LCEF's real estate partner, to assist entities and customers with maintenance and management of physical infrastructure, analyzing building operations and suggesting improvements and opportunities for savings.
- Benefiting from networking opportunities with the Concordia University System through the National Student Marketing Competition, Marketing will host a high school entrepreneur competition in the St. Louis area with a desire to have a nationwide program in the future. They will also organize networking events and mutual learning sessions with various LCMS entities.
- Ministry Support will consider partnering with the Office of National Mission (ONM) to develop a ministry geared to older LCMS members. In concert with the synodical stewardship group, Ministry Support will determine new stewardship opportunities for LCMS congregations.
- DNO will continue to place a strong emphasis on growing the roles of investing partners with the LCEF. Cultivation, development and ongoing maintenance of these investor relationships will drive lending activities for the foreseeable future.
- Loans will continue to work with impaired borrowers to return a significant portion of these loans to the active loan portfolio.
- Finance projects LCEF will achieve sufficient net income that will provide for distribution of operating results and contributions to the Kaleidoscope Fund. Finance will also expand awareness and focus of LCEF's Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) process, ensuring accountability and engagement throughout the organization.

LCEF has truly been blessed with positive financial results, loyal support from its investors and faithful commitment from its borrowers. Through this support, LCEF has been able to meet the loan needs of ministries within the LCMS and maintain its strong financial position. LCEF once again distributed portions of its operating results to participating districts and the Synod along with ministry grants through the Kaleidoscope Fund. Management remains committed to supporting those ministries struggling financially, in a firm yet encouraging way, confident that God will provide a path for faithful ministries to continue to fulfill the mission of sharing the Gospel.

Circuit Reports

CIRCUIT 1

NORTH-EAST GEORGIA

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center (Athens, GA) – Rev. Greg Michael

Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center has been blessed with ongoing opportunities to engage the campus of the University of Georgia even as we reach out and serve the Athens community. We serve the community's homeless five or six times a year through Our Daily Bread and serve annually with the Lutheran Services of Georgia Hope Tree project. We also enjoy various one-time service projects in addition to mission trips and service weekends. In the last triennium, we have taken care of many facility matters such as replacing flooring, heating/cooling unit replacement, tree removal, and various minor projects. In addition to our regular Bible studies and worship opportunities, we have developed a board of lay ministry and have begun a monthly game night to foster our life together.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Athens, GA) – Rev. David Heller

Trinity Lutheran Church continued her work in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as she ministered to the congregation and the community in the following ways:

- In 2015: Our daughter congregation, Christ the King (Commerce) began weekly worship services; Began children's church during the sermon time of worship services; Began offering a summer day camp for elementary school aged children;
- In 2016: Developed a security/emergency plan for church and academy; Quilting and Yarn-works ministries donated several items to charities in need; Supported three missionaries (1 stateside & 2 international); Academy accredited by National Lutheran Schools, FL/GA District, and AdvancEd
- In 2017: Began a Wednesday Night service/family night; Began Support for member to attend online DCE & Theology classes; Held a Bluegrass service (music played by members & guest musicians); Replaced retiring 12-year music director; Members wrote & produced an in-house Advent devotional
- Ongoing support of local charities: The Ark, Interfaith Hospitality Network, & Food Bank

All Saints Lutheran Church (Blairsville, GA) – Rev. Dave Wesche

In 2015, All Saints Lutheran Church celebrated its 25th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of Pastor Dave Wesche's ordination. The celebration culminated on the congregation's birthdate of November 1 with two worship services. The 10:30 AM Worship was led by Pastor Steve Mazzaferro (son of ASLC) with our 3rd pastor, Chuck Houska preaching. President Greg Walton preached and Pastor Wesche assisted at the 4:00 PM Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration. Now with 27+ years of its ministry to NE GA, Western NC, and a tip of TN, All Saints continues to combine "Welcoming, Worshipping, & Walking Alongside" in our proclamation of the Good News, our study of the Word, and our service to the Kingdom. Our support extends from assistance to Members in crisis to the increasing needs of the Struggling among us in the surrounding area to various appeals from the District & Synod. Pastor Wesche continues to lead an ecumenical group of local pastors in mutual conversation and prayer.

St. John the Apostle Lutheran Church (Buford, GA) – Rev. Aaron Simms

From her first service in September, 2012, St. John the Apostle Lutheran Church has been a self-supporting congregation, meeting weekly for Bible study and worship. Since 2015, the congregation has celebrated the work of the Triune God in her midst, including:

- 2 adult baptisms & 2 children's baptisms
- 2 confirmands (7th and 8th grade) to be confirmed on May 20, 2018

- 1 wedding and 1 funeral
- Joint sponsorship of various community events
- Bi-weekly ministry to the Oaks Assisted Living Center in Braselton
- Joined AmazonSmile program and setup Givelify to receive donations.
- Chartered on December 10, 2017

Christ the King Lutheran Church (Mission Plant) (Commerce, GA) – Rev. Aaron Reinking

Over the past three years, we have seen God do a mighty work in establishing Christ the King Lutheran Church to serve Commerce, GA and the surrounding area. We have drafted and approved our constitution and bylaws on a congregational level. In the fall of 2015, weekly Sunday Services were begun, along with Sunday School. On Wednesday evenings, there is a fellowship meal and Bible Study. Christ the King has been involved in numerous outreaches to the community as we seek to reach out to those around us with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2017, various activities were held in conjunction with the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, including a successful Vacation Bible School with family celebration. Although our numbers are small, the Lord has blessed us with a Spirit-filled, dedicated group of Christians. We look forward to the great things God has in store for us as we serve Him going forward.

St. Peter Lutheran Church (Dahlonega, GA) – Rev. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr.

The newest congregation in the NE Georgia Circuit, St. Peter Lutheran Church was chartered March 18, 2018. Work in Dahlonega and Lumpkin County began ten years ago by Living Faith Lutheran Church (Cumming) and has been moving forward through the faithful witness and service of its members. In its current location since 2015, St. Peter's offers Sunday School for all at 9:15 A.M. and worship at 10:30 A.M. During the school year, there is Wednesday Bible study, with worship during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

The congregation reaches out to students at the University of North Georgia (Dahlonega) by hosting Sunday Suppers and leading a Bible study program on the campus through its Lutheran Student Fellowship group. Please refer your students to us!

Twice a month, St. Peter's leads worship at Chelsey Park, a new residential facility for people with neurological difficulties. In addition, members deliver Meals on Wheels; serve at Community Helping Place (a multi-faceted social service agency); support Jeremiah's Place (transitional housing for the homeless); participate in Side by Side (an ecumenical day of service to the community); as well as other service activities.

In 2016, the congregation hosted a regional Lutheran Hour Ministries' evangelism workshop for area LCMS churches, and in 2017, sponsored "A Day in Dahlonega Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation" with a lecture given by Dr. Albert Garcia at the church, and a lecture by Dr. Scott Hendrix at the University at noon.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Gainesville, GA) – Rev. Zach Hoffman

No report at time of publication

Oak Road Lutheran Church (Lilburn, GA) – Rev. Gary Dehnke (Interim)

“Community involvement” sums up what Oak Road Lutheran Church has been emphasizing in ministry over the past three years. We have continued with members serving with Lilburn Co-op, Southeast Gwinnett Co-op, and Nothing But the Truth Ministries. We have served breakfast for the faculty and staff at Five Forks Middle School at the beginning and end of the school year. A Girl Scout troop now utilizes the facilities at Oak Road. In addition, an AIAnon group meets weekly on our campus. Lastly, Oak Road is in the beginning stages of establishing and sponsoring a Korean Lutheran Mission which will be housed on our site.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Toccoa, GA) and Grace Lutheran Mission (Clarkesville, GA) – Rev. Roland Vega

Trinity Lutheran Church is located in Toccoa, GA and Grace Lutheran Church, a mission plant of Trinity, is located in Clarkesville, GA. For the past five years, both congregations have been served by Interim Pastor Dave Kehret. In the late summer of 2017 with the evacuation of Florida residents fleeing Hurricane Irma, the Lord’s hand was at work to provide both congregations with a newly called pastor. Pastor Roland Vega, who was in-between calls, and his wife, Ruth were among those evacuating and took refuge at their timeshare located in the mountains of NE Georgia. On the Sunday of their stay, they attended worship at nearby Trinity Lutheran Church. The greeters were extremely cordial as one conversation led to another. On January 14, 2018, Pastor Vega was installed as pastor to Trinity and Grace. Both congregations and Pastor Vega look forward to glorifying the Lord’s name and continuing to serve and carry on the building of God’s Kingdom in Toccoa and Clarkesville.

Submitted by Rev. Dave Wesche, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 2

ATLANTA NORTH

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Christ the King Lutheran Church Mission, Commerce, GA – Rev. Aaron Reinking

No Report at time of printing

Faith Lutheran Church and School, Marietta, GA – Rev. Carl Schneider

No report at time of publication

Korean Lutheran Church Mission, Marietta, GA –

No report at time of publication

Grace Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA – Rev. Adam Ellsworth

No report at time of publication

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rome, GA – Rev. John Karch, Jr.

No report at time of publication

King of Kings Lutheran Church Mission, Jasper, GA – Vacant

Chartered in December 2016

2018

- Ground breaking 24 March
- Actual dirt moved 17 April
- Live Easter scene for the community 24 March

- Held SonRise Service at Engelheim Vineyard 1 April (80+ attended)
- (1) Adult Confirmation 8 April
- (7) New Members received 8 April
- Agape (Women's group) held Baby Shower for the North Georgia Pregnancy Center 14 April, providing needed items for unwed mothers to care for their babies (diapers, blankets, clothes, food, etc).
- Delivered 'Valentines from God' (made by Agape group) to the Jasper businesses and folks meet on sidewalk in town.
- Delivered 'Easter Crosses' (made by the Agape group) to local care facilities
- (1) Adult baptism 27 January

Living Faith Lutheran Church – Rev. Tim Droegemueller; Living Faith Korean Lutheran Church Mission – Rev. Chang Soo Kim, Cumming, GA

By the grace of God in Christ alone, the Lord's mighty Word continues to prevail. Living Faith continues to "Stand on the changeless Word of God!" and "Proclaim Christ and Him crucified!" in Forsyth County and our surrounding neighborhoods. The saints of God here are truly extraordinary. Even though we know we are sinners (for sure!), they shine with the very Radiance of Christ, the Light of the world (John 8:12). There are great programs being done with our youth through Staci Welburn's efforts as our DCE and the homework club through Gail Deluca, but the core of the ministry is people living in their vocation in Christ! Rev. Chang Soo Kim continues to work right alongside of us to bring the word of the Gospel to the growing Korean population. Along with Rev. Min Soo Kim, they offer opportunities for Bible studies, prayer, and worship service in Cumming and Suwanee. Although small in numbers, mighty work is being done in the Korean community to establish faithful congregations who gladly gather around Jesus' Words and gifts. We have also entered the growing mission field of the retirement centers around us. We have been asked by several retirement centers to send in a pastor to provide a worship service and teaching of God's Word. Rev. Tim Faile was ordained in November 2017 and reaches many believers and even unbelievers with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. David Kang is now a pastoral candidate after his completion of the LCMS colloquy program through Concordia. Vicar Isaac Baroi also continues to serve well as he eagerly grows in the Scriptures, the Confessions, and the liturgical life of the church. He serves one month at Grace Lutheran in Midtown and one month at Living Faith. We thank the Lord for our partnership with Rev. Ellsworth and the dear saints at Grace Lutheran. With grateful hearts, we would love to thank President Walton and the staff of the Florida-Georgia District who were generous in their time, resources, and love to help the Baroi family through the destruction of their home by Hurricane Irma. Jay and Julie Dass, who were planning to possibly do work in the Atlanta area, are now headed to St. Louis for the residential route. Jay will be studying to be a pastor, and Lord willing, Julie will be studying to be a deaconess. As we keep saying around here, Glory to God and Salvation to Man (Ephesians 2:8-10)! Or . . . G2G! S2M! He has done all things for us in Christ and is doing all thing for us and through us!

Living Hope Lutheran Church, Kennesaw, GA – Rev. John Schubert

No report at time of publication

Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, GA – Rev. Jeffrey Jordan

God's people at RLC are celebrating our 50th anniversary! We give thanks and praise to God for the 50 years of His grace showered upon us and look forward to the next 50 years of God's grace to us and through us as we "Bring 'Em In ... Build 'Em Up ... Send 'Em Out". The anniversary was celebrated on April 29 with special services and a luncheon. Other celebration activities in 2018 include a tour of Reformation cities in September, special celebrations at Reformation, and a 50th Anniversary ornament

for Christmas. Adding to all our celebrations this year we welcome our new Associate Pastor, Jacob Berlinski, and his wife Lauren, to our congregation. He will be installed in early July and begin his work in the areas of Youth and Education. God is good!

Savior of All Lutheran Church, Cartersville, GA – Rev. Michael Zwemke

Savior of All has received concept drawings from our architect for a new chapel to be connected to the existing structure, which will be re-purposed. A capital campaign is underway. We continue to seek God's guidance in this endeavor, and pray that it will help increase and strengthen SOA's numerous ministries to the community and world.

St John the Apostle Lutheran Church Mission, Buford, GA – Vacant

No report at time of publication

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Tucker, GA – Rev. Hiruy Gebremichael

No report at time of publication

St. Peter Lutheran Church Mission, Dahlonega, GA – Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael, Jr.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, Georgia, was chartered and placed into Circuit 1 and Rev. Dr. Gerhard "Mike" Michael was installed as pastor in March of 2018.

Stepping Stone Lutheran Church Mission –

No report at time of publication

Timothy Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA – Vacant

Pastor Steve Constien as accepted a call to Missouri in April of 2018. Timothy Lutheran Church is beginning the process of looking to the future under the guidance of a new under-shepherd. We thank Pastor Constien for his many years of service.

Submitted by Rev. Jeffrey Jordan, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 3

ATLANTA SOUTH

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran (Columbus, GA) – Rev. Bradley Arnholt

No report at time of publication

Church of the Redeemer Lutheran (Columbus, GA) – Rev. Eric Estes

On September 20th, 2015 the saints of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer celebrated the 75th year of ministry since its founding. The Anniversary theme, "75 Years in His Service, Eternity in His Grace," celebrated God's grace bestowed through the ministry of Redeemer and the honor of being in the Lord's service as members of His holy Church. The 75th Anniversary celebration included a banquet held the evening of September 19th. Former pastor of Redeemer, Rev. Dr. David Bernthal, was honored guest and speaker for the celebration while current pastor Rev. Eric Estes served as Master of Ceremonies. The following day the Divine Service was celebrated with more than 200 attendees. Rev. Dr. David Bernthal guest preached while Rev. Eric Estes and Rev. Bradley Arnholt of Bethlehem Lutheran Church served as celebrants. During the Divine Service, Director of Music Dr. Kristen Hansen conducted musicians from faculty, students, and graduates of Columbus State University as well as Redeemer's

vocal and bell choirs. Following the Divine Service there was a celebratory meal and a ceremony opening a 25-year-old time capsule which contained various documents and items of Redeemer's history.

Redeemer continues to offer regular opportunities for worship, study, and fellowship. The Divine Service with Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10:15 AM and on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Bible Study opportunities are offered with adult and children's Sunday School at 9:00 AM and weekday Bible studies for men and women as well as a yearly new member's class and Vacation Bible School.

Redeemer also promotes the arts in its community by hosting the Saint Cecelia Concert Series directed by Director of Music Dr. Kristen Hansen. Performances and Sung Evensong services are held at least quarterly. One event featuring Handel's Messiah had 150+ attendees. During 2017 the series focused on the music of the Reformation and later hymn writers and composers influenced by the Reformation.

For the 2017 celebration of the Lutheran Reformation Redeemer and Bethlehem Churches hosted an afternoon Divine Service on Reformation Sunday. Pastor Joe Warnke and members of Christ Our Savior of Griffin, GA were also in attendance. Music was conducted by Dr. Hansen leading Redeemer's vocal choir and included musicians from Columbus State University. Following the service a banquet was celebrated in Redeemer's fellowship hall. Prior to Reformation Sunday our two congregations hosted a public showing of "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World" at a local theater. Prior to viewing the movie, Bethlehem Lutheran Church hosted a dinner for all attendees. A freewill offering was gathered at both the movie and the Sunday Service for LCMS Disaster Response. In the month of October a joint service project was held during the annual "Help the Hooch" event in Columbus, GA.

Since 2017 with Pastor Estes' involvement with the Muscogee Rotary Club, Redeemer has done a number of projects in partnership with the Rotary Club. The first project helped a local Christian pre-school and elementary school repair and maintain playground equipment. Redeemer has also sent over 40 volunteers on various occasions supporting projects for non-profit organizations such as Easter Seals and Warrior Outreach. We have also volunteered with the Rotary with the annual "Help the Hooch" event where we clean up garbage and debris at the Chattahoochee River, our city's sole water source.

Other community support is providing one meal a month to our local Ronald McDonald House, collecting socks for Valley Rescue Mission, and putting together shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse at Christmas. Our LWML organization fixes a yearly delicious German Meal available to the community and uses the profits for numerous other mission projects including our two LCMS seminaries.

Prince of Peace Lutheran (Douglasville, GA) - Rev. George Murdaugh, Interim Pastor

Congregation:

- We added 5 new members to the congregation; lost 3 due to move out of GA
- Worship attendance now averages 50-53; membership at 120; Easter 75 in attendance
- Baptized 3 infants
- Funerals 1
- Confirmed 2 youth
- Increased Sunday Adult Bible study from 12 to 15
- Children's Sunday School 5 regular/ 3 in Confirmation Instruction

- Wed. Night Supper and Bible study remained stable at 12-14, with occasional visitors
- 6 Elders
- Pastor is actively discipling 4 millennials – not members of the congregation presently

Prince of Peace Learning Center:

- 44 children enrolled (we need 52 to break even—the school is running a deficit)
- 10 staff and volunteers
- Added First Grade August '17 of the current school year
- School has professional director and under the supervision of the parish 5 mem. School Board

Outreach and Community;

Current Congregational Process: We have completed the Self-Study, which is being compiled. A full report will be sent to Dist. Office in May or June 2018; conducted “Financial Peace University” teaching and will repeat it this spring

Reformation Celebration for the 500th Anniversary.

Prince of Peace members participated with the Lutheran outreach at Hurt Park, Atlanta on Oct. 28. We had a special service the 29th that included the Confirmation of 2 youth. This was the first time Confirmation was done on Reformation Sunday, and will be the tradition in the future.

Peace Lutheran (Decatur, GA) - Vacant

Peace Lutheran Church (PLC) partnered with Wee Wisdom Nursery and Day Care to establish a day care facility in the undercroft of the church.

Continued the outreach ministries to Columbia Place, a facility for disabled persons.

Initiated efforts to acquire an additional property at 1772 Columbia Dr. Decatur, GA for use as a community redevelopment and cultural enrichment center.

Participated in the LCEF Investment Program

Replaced our old HVAC unit.

Hosted the Bronxville Choir from Concordia, NY in concert.

Participated in two (2) Gospel Seeds events where we canvassed the neighborhood to determine the needs resident’s needs and invite them to church.

Partnered with Transforming Lives Church to let them use our sanctuary for church services on Saturday.

Hosted a “Congregational Singing” workshop.

Treated the youth of the church and the neighborhood to a presentation of Peter and the Wolf by the Dekalb Symphony.

Partnered with Rev. Darrell Jones of Stirred Up Ministries to run a summer program for neighborhood children with sports, physical education, academic & spiritual study as well as behavioral modification.

Participated in the World Day of Prayer in Cabarrus County.

The Elders completed an elders Training Manual to train potential elders and “Junior Elders”.

Hosted a 3 day Community Prayer Revival where local pastors and congregations informed people in the community about what the church offers. Also prayed for the world, neighborhood, community, etc.

Supported Rev. Bafel Deng in his outreach efforts in Sudan and Ethiopia.

PLC served as the host congregation at Concordia St. Louis and Pastor Belton served as the Campus Pastor.

PLC Initiated quarterly and annual events where the youth are treated to various activities such as breakfast, bowling, games, sports, arcade games, fishing, field trips, pizza parties, and all day activities on days when school is out (includes meals, recreation, and bible teachings).
Pastor Belton taught Homiletics at Concordia, St. Louis for six (6) weeks in 2016 and 2017.
Convened a session with the young men in the neighborhood to discuss their futures and encourage them in relationship with the Lord Jesus and PLC.
Celebrated 60 & 61 years of ministry with 3 day celebrations with music, picnic fellowship, and a Friends and Family worship service.
Held a week-end retreat for PLC leaders to evaluate our current status and plan for the future.
Provided facilities and support for the International Youth Empowerment Program.
Pastor Belton's term on the Board of Directors expired in 2016.
Initiated an on-going Warfare Wednesday Prayer call-in from 10:00am to 10:15am every Wednesday morning.
Partnered with AAFEC to host a monthly Financial Literacy Seminar and assisted them in presenting a musical concert at the Clarkston Conference Center.
Started a Caregiver Support Group to provide a means for those that are caregivers to share concerns and support each other.
Updated and revised the PLC bylaws and Policy Manual.
Paved and remarked the parking lots.
Planned and held a Community Health Forum.
Conducted two spring Community EXPOs with our community partners; Towers Action Group (TAG), Partners in Action for Healthy Living (PAHL), Belvedere Civic Association, and several community churches.
Presented Bible study and served lunch to the Stepping Stones Mission, an outreach program for homeless men, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except July and August).
Instituted the Columbia Place Thursday Bible Boot Camp classes where the Gospel is explained to those that are seeking to grow in the faith, interested but not committed, or lost and looking for meaning.
Presented a 3 day Vacation Bible School session in partnership with the Centerville Presbyterian Church from Virginia.
Conducted worship services at the Pruitt Heath Care facility in Lilburn, GA every 3rd Sunday at 3:00pm.
Joined with Rock of Ages Lutheran Church and Lutheran Services of Georgia to provide service events during MLK, Jr. Day.
Pastor Belton resigned as pastor of PLC to accept a call to become Vice President of Leadership and Campus Ministries at Concordia College in Bronxville, New York.
A Call Committee (Transition Team) was convened to start the search for a full-time or interim pastor.
During this time the Elders are responsible for the Sunday services, hospital visitation, communion to the shut-ins, special services (i.e. mid-week Advent, Lent, Holy Week services), prayer and counseling.
Retired ordained clergy, Pastors Larry Townsend, Mark Stenbeck, and Paul Heins, have presided over the Sunday services on communion Sundays (1st and 3rd)
With the exception of the Wednesday night mid-week Bible study, all of the other ministries are still on-going.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran (Griffin, GA) – Rev. Joseph Warnke

Christ Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church (COS), in Griffin, Georgia.
Rev. Larry Townsend retired in May 2016. Before Pastor Townsend's retirement, COS regularly hosted ladies from the local Christian Women's Center for weekly dinner and Bible Study. COS has a long history of supporting this local ministry. In 2016, COS had its last Boy Scout from the congregation's BSA

Troop 11 achieve Eagle Scout. During the vacancy, Christ Our Savior was blessed by the service and pastoral care of four vacancy pastors. COS did not lose any members during the vacancy, but instead actually grew. In April 2017, Joseph Warnke was called from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis and was ordained and installed as pastor on July 16, 2017.

COS started a regular children's Sunday School in Fall 2017. In addition to maintaining a Sunday Morning Bible Class, a Wednesday Evening Bible Class, and a monthly women's Bible study, COS has added a monthly men's Bible study and a bi-monthly Elders' Bible study. In March 2018, we completed a 6-month-long Adult Instruction course which resulted in an adult confirmation and a profession of faith. We are in the process of starting a Bible study group within the nearby Sun City Peachtree Active Adult Community by Del Webb, which will include 3400 residences when completed. We hope to soon start an outreach into the nearby Heron Bay Country Club and Golf Course, which will include 2000 family residences when completed. We currently pull from eight surrounding counties, and we are exploring ways to better reach the locals. We have been working hard to become a known presence in the community, especially through visitation.

At Thanksgiving 2017, COS participated with many area churches to donate, prepare, and deliver 1600 meals to the less-fortunate in three counties. For this community Thanksgiving meal program, we donated over 82 dozen homemade cookies, cooked 4 turkeys, helped assemble meals, and delivered at least 81 meals to people's homes. With the meals, we included Christ Our Savior informational brochures, Small Catechisms, and children's booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

COS was given an Allen organ, which was dedicated on March 11, 2018. We are now in the process of finding a regular musician. The congregation's website has been revamped. The Facebook page and the Google Plus page have been claimed and are maintained. Every few months, we have submissions published in the two local newspapers.

COS hopes to have our parking lot paved within the next few years. COS has started the call process to call Deaconess Katherine Warnke (pastor's wife) part-time to lead Women's and Children's Ministry at Christ Our Savior, especially to facilitate outreach to families with children.

St Paul Lutheran Church and School (Peachtree City, GA) - Rev. Paul Martin, Interim Pastor

St. Paul, in Peachtree City, GA, has seen many changes in the past three years.

Updated classrooms grace our church/school building, now over 20 years old. A new exterior sign announces our presence more clearly. A church security plan is being implemented. Our building no longer leaks water or energy thanks to a new white roof.

Our church and school family continue to mature in the faith, despite the unexpected resignation of our pastor two years ago. Pastor Jim Martin came to our aid as an intentional interim for 16 months and one of our current workers, Joel Dietrich, is enrolled in the SMP program. A very welcome addition to the staff is a DCE for Youth, Nathan DeYoung. We are experiencing significant growth in the school, especially in the Early Childhood program.

St. Paul has an updated vision and mission as we continue to pray for direction in our walk with Jesus. We recently extended a call for a new senior pastor, and optimistically await the candidate's decision.

Christ Lutheran (East Point, GA) – Rev. Stephen Wiggins, Sr.

No report at time of publication

Holy Cross (Lao Ministry) Lutheran (Stockbridge, GA) -

Lao Ministry and Pastor Munnicha: Having two different ministries under the same roof provides unique challenges for the Lao ministry. While rejoicing that we have a place to worship there are difficulties in terms of outreach to the Lao community in the Atlanta area. Worship attendance is stable, and people from the Lao Community continue to check them out. On another note Pastor Munnicha's son will be going to Concordia Seminary – St Louis this year in pursuit of serving the Lord. Respectfully submitted, Pastor Townsend (CV).

Lord of Life Lutheran (Stockbridge, GA) - Vacant

No report at time of publication. Pastor George Earhart retired in January 2018.

Incarnate Word Lutheran (Stone Mountain, GA) – Rev. Dr. Wilton Heyliger

Incarnate Lutheran Church continues its outreach to people in East Atlanta. For many years we were blessed to operate as a side by side ministry with St. Mark Lutheran Church and shared their facilities. Three years ago, that partnership dissolved and our congregation moved towards Stone Mountain Georgia, sharing a building with The First Moravian Church. Our congregation meets regularly each Sunday Morning to worship at 8:45 am. This has not been a great arrangement as it has negatively affected our regular attendance. As a result our congregation continues to grow slowly in numbers, but more important in the love of God and each other. Incarnate Word has reached out to partnership with our neighborhood elementary schools and have provided backpacks and school supplies to needed students each fall. We are also providing tutoring to the neighborhood school children through our Early Intervention Program which was funded by Wheat Ridge Ministries. We are also in the process of filing an application for a charter school and expect to complete the process by April 2019.

Our congregation has established a partnership with Dago Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oyugis, Kenya and have exchange visits with their pastor. In addition, our congregation did a clothing drive and sent clothing to Dago to distribute to the needy in the parish. We also provide funds for various health projects in the parish. God has blessed our congregation in that our attendance has not decreased due to our change in place and time for worship, however it remains our principal challenge. Our need is for an affordable place in the community where we can be more flexible in worship time and outreach activities.

Submitted by Rev. Larry Townsend, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 4

EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

East Central Georgia Circuit #4 – Report to District Convention

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church (Eatonton, GA) – vacant

Pastor Andrew Schroeder resigned his call here in February 2016. Since that time, the congregation has been vacant utilizing retired pastors in the circuit area. The former pastor, Pastor Ron Schornhorst continues to support the congregation by making communion calls and by assisting with funerals. A call committee is now on its third list to fill the office of pastor of this vibrant congregation.

Christ Lutheran Church (Perry, GA) – Rev. John Lehenbauer

Christ Lutheran was chartered as a congregation in 2007. Since our last convention, the congregation along with Pastor John Lehenbauer, completed an addition to its building creating larger classroom and fellowship space with the assistance of Laborers for Christ. One of our more exciting endeavors in the past two years, is the long-term planning of what we hope, by God's grace, is the first Lutheran Senior Living Community in Georgia, incorporated under the name Lutheran Village.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Augusta, GA) – Rev. Roger Schwartz

The last 3 years have had celebrations of 80 years for the congregation, 500 for the Reformation, as well as a farewell to DCE Lamar Stewart and a welcome to DCE Joshua Eckstein. Along the way, we have purchased a new 3 manual Allen organ to assist our worship life and are assisting with Christian Release Time program with the local schools to bring Christ into the lives of over 200 3rd-7th graders at area public schools.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Savannah, GA) – Rev. Jeff Webb

Trinity saw changes including Pastor John Hopkins taking a call to New York and starting some visioning and planning for the future. They have completed their call process and look forward to installing Pastor Jeff Webb in the days prior to the June convention. Their comfort dog “Lizzie” continues to take them into places for ministry and service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church,(Statesboro, GA) – Rev. Samuel Clay

St. Paul along with Pastor Sam Clay are working on being more accessible via social media. With Georgia Southern University nearby, there is potential for more student ministry.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity (Macon, GA) – vacant

The Trinity Woods Camp continues to be a local favorite and brings many people and youth to the campus. The congregation is home to SMP Vicar Laid van Gorder. He has been assisting the congregation to bear a strong witness to the community and utilize its amazing camp outreach more effectively.

Hope Lutheran Church (Milledgeville, GA) – vacant

Currently being served twice monthly by Rev. Dr. David Bernthal, the Church continues to seek out ways to connect to its community.

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Warner-Robins, GA) – Rev. David Brighton

As a strong partner in the vicarage program, the congregation continues to support and encourage future pastors through this hands on learning. In addition, they have two men on the way to becoming pastors (SMP, DCE Pete LeBorious and at Seminary, his son Joshua LeBorious). Mount Calvary has celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by having a wonderful community event for the whole family. The congregation continues to promote Rebecca’s Garden tutoring program for area students which provides an avenue for witness and ministry. Led by Pastor David Brighton, the Church continues to shine the light of Christ to its neighbors.

Submitted by Rev. Roger Schwartz, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 5

TALLAHASSEE

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Epiphany Lutheran (Tallahassee, FL) – Rev. Richard Boyd

After the retirement of Pastor Mark Schulz Epiphany/Tallahassee embarked on a call process in mid 2017; that process is moving along well. In February 2018 Licensed Lay Deacon Richard Boyd was ordained at Epiphany as an SMP pastor (Associate for Administration), and will serve with the senior pastor once he is called and installed. This is our circuit's flagship, with a hearty membership and a thriving preschool in northern Tallahassee. We celebrate Pastor Boyd's ordination and look forward to the eventual call and, God willing, subsequent installation of Epiphany's new senior pastor.

Messiah Lutheran (Valdosta, GA) – Rev. Frank Kinast

With about 100 in Sunday worship each week (sometimes less, often more), Messiah/Valdosta has been served by Pastor Frank Kinast since late May 2016. The list of new members joining from mid 2017 to early 2018 filled an 8.5 x 11 page and included persons from multiple age groups. The congregation is ready to start a new chapter: the paper mill that spawned it (by drawing many to GA from the Midwest) no longer feeds people in; yet folks see the Children's Message, choir offerings, and sermons on social media and some of them come to check us out.

Our Redeemer Lutheran (Lake City, FL) – Rev. Stephen Fair

Another Reformation 500 ordination took place at Our Redeemer/Lake City as Pastor Stephen Fair ended the congregation's vacancy and began serving as pastor there. Pastor Fair is busy and so is his congregation, offering multiple Bible Study opportunities; holding Catechism classes, and reaching out to the Lake City community by hosting a Christian Singles group every other Saturday. Folks continue to show interest in the congregation, and some of them are becoming new members. The congregation continues to grow stronger financially as well.

Peace Lutheran (Tifton, GA) - vacant

While struggling to reach two dozen souls in Sunday worship, Peace/Tifton will not say "uncle." Surviving the departure of a substantial group that wanted a different affiliation (than LCMS), this tiny but mighty congregation went from frequent "red ink" before the "split" to unbroken "black ink" after. Now served part-time by Trinity Albany's new pastor, Rev. Douglas Hudson (a convertible vicarage at Albany preceded his ordination), Peace/Tifton is determined to go forward into the future.

Trinity Lutheran (Albany, GA) – Rev. Douglas Hudson

After a substantial vacancy, Trinity/Albany celebrated the ordination of Pastor Douglas Hudson in the Summer of 2017. Pastor Hudson has labored well beyond due diligence and, after a number of years with no confirmands, this year Trinity/Albany will confirm two young men into the Christian faith on Palm Sunday (2018). The congregation is blessed by Pastor Hudson's shepherding energy.

Trinity Lutheran (Crawfordville, FL) – Rev. Bert Matlock

This year Trinity/Wakulla will celebrate 35 years in the community. Wakulla County continues to grow as new residents move in. Since the last convention Trinity has added an organist to enhance worship and has been undergoing a facelift of the campus. A "lending library" has been placed next to bicycle path in front of the church with a variety of literature to spread the Gospel. Trinity has been working

with the local optimist club supporting the less fortunate children and engages in other outreach. Pastor Bert Matlock has served Trinity since November 2008 as a vicar and it's called Pastor.

University Lutheran (Tallahassee, FL) – Rev. Jay Winters

University Lutheran continues to serve both the student and non-student communities of Tallahassee. Since the last convention, University has grown by almost 25% including a large number of children. Pastor Jay Winters celebrated 10 years of ministry at University in 2017, and the congregation looks forward to celebrating 70 years of ministering to students at Florida State in 2018. The congregation, a thriving town-gown ministry, is situated in the heart of Tallahassee.

Submitted by Rev. Frank Kinast, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 6

FIRST COAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Eleven congregations form the first coast circuit 6. Nine are in Florida and two are in Georgia. Additionally, our circuit includes one chaplain, called by the National Board of Mission, to serve in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Waycross, GA. This pastor is also serving Messiah Lutheran in Brunswick as a mission/preaching station.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Jacksonville Beach, FL) – Rev. Dana Brones

Bethlehem is a thriving, mission minded faith community. Bethlehem supports two missionaries through LCMS World Mission, provides direct support for widows and orphans at Nsonweni Lutheran church in South Africa, and supports one called traveling missionary/evangelist who travels throughout the U.S. and Canada. For the eighth time, Bethlehem has travelled to Guatemala, sending fourteen missionaries from Bethlehem in May, 2018. Local missions are also a priority as we provide Christian care and education in our preschool (currently with 55 students) and as members serve our local homeless shelter, food bank and refugee services. In 2017 BLC celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by inviting Dr. Paul Robinson to speak at the University of North Florida. The event was attended by 75 students, Jacksonville citizens and members of local churches. A Reformation festival was hosted at Bethlehem with Dr. Robinson preaching. The event and worship was attended and supported by the first coast churches of the district. Bethlehem continues to participate in the Synod's vicarage program and supports an additional seminarian. Bethlehem is in the process of calling an associate pastor and has been served by Senior Pastor Dana Allen Brones for the past 18 years. Empowered by Word and Sacrament, Bethlehem continues to move forward in Witness, Mercy and Life Together.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (St. Augustine, FL) – Rev. Albert Oren

Christ Our Savior, St. Augustine, FL, during the past triennium has seen very little change in membership numbers, but, by God's grace, remains strong in its faith and commitment to its mission. The congregation continues to reach out into the St. Augustine community by allowing use of its facility to various community programs, including an AA group, ESL classes, the Tri-county Deaf Association, the neighborhood association, and a support group for families with incarcerated members. The congregation continues to be an active participant in the community's "Meals on Wheels" program. We thank God for all His blessings and pray His grace to be good stewards of all the gifts and talents He has given to the members of this congregation for His honor and glory.

Grace Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL) – Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak

Grace Lutheran Church and School has been very busy during this triennium. Senior Pastor Skopak and Grace have recently trained (SMP) and called pastor Michael Popp as Associate Pastor. The Grace Community is now working on a “simple” focus of mission and ministry that will guide the congregation moving into the future. This process includes: Town Hall Meetings, the creation of a simplified mission/vision, and addressing its governance and its organizational structure. Grace continues to partner with Stephen ministry and strives to serve the emotional and spiritual needs of the community. Pastor emeritus, Rev. Rick Engel, continues to lead mission trips to Ethiopia and is planning another trip in 2018. Grace has “adopted” an orphanage in Ethiopia as means to demonstrate God’s love and care for those most in need. Grace Lutheran Church and School continues to experience the wonderful blessings of God’s love and harmony among the member families and is seeking new and exciting ways to nurture, inspire, and share the gifts of God with the East Arlington neighborhood of Jacksonville and beyond! The Grace community is energized for what the next three years of ministry may bring.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL) – vacant

Holy Cross is currently without a full time Pastor. However, Holy Cross is being served by Pastor James Balke.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Kingsland, GA) – Rev. Dr. Joel Meyer

By the grace and mercy of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Trinity has entered its thirty-fifth year of ministry to the Kingsland and Saint Mary’s region. Holy Trinity continues to be a place where God gathers a people for Himself through the proclamation of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments. Our membership includes military families from the Kings Bay Naval Base community, retirees who have moved into the area, as well as an increasing group of local residents who are new to the Lutheran tradition. Our life together centers around weekly worship and biweekly Bible studies, and branches out to include a middle school/high school youth group, a choir, an OWLS group, and the Lutheran Food Bank of Camden County. Holy Trinity continues with two major social gatherings centered on our life together in Christ—a Pentecost Pig Picnic and an All Saints Day Festival.

Hope Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL) – Rev. Patrick McKenzie

Hope Lutheran Church in Jacksonville is privileged to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and the south side community! Through Word and Sacrament ministry, the people of Hope are equipped and empowered to reach out specifically to the residents within the Baymeadows community! Hope’s God-given mission is to empower people to experience lasting hope through an ever-growing connection with Jesus, the Christ. In addition to Worship Services and Adult Bible Classes, Hope seeks to fulfill this vital mission through three specific ministries: 1. Family Promise; 2. Lifetree Café; and 3. Garden of Hope. Family Promise is a ministry to families who are experiencing homeless, unemployment, and hunger. Through God-center counseling and job skill development, these families are able to become more self-sufficient and more productive citizens in society. Lifetree Café is a conversation café where people gather in a safe environment to discuss important topics within our society. Lifetree always brings in God’s perspective through the teachings of the Bible and prayer. It also creates a “God space” where Christians are able to share their faith with the de-churched. Garden of Hope is a Christian-based tutoring and mentoring ministry that focuses on the mental, physical, and spiritual growth of a child. Through this ministry, Hope is able to minister to children ages 4-12. Hope’s mission may not have changed, but its status as a Christian congregation certainly has. Due to the grace of God and the generosity of District President Gregory Walton and the District Board of Directors, Hope ceased to be an unchartered

congregation. On January 25, 2015, Hope had the joy and privilege of becoming a chartered congregation within the Florida-Georgia District and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod! Hope is truly grateful for all the wonderful blessings our Savior has bestowed upon it! It is our congregation's prayer that it will always be a blessing to our awesome God and the people within its communities!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Starke, FL) – Rev. Enwood Nevis

Good Shepherd purchased property in 2011 and has built and dedicated to God's glory three prefabricated buildings: a worship center, an educational center and a fellowship hall. Good Shepherd is being served by Pastor Enwood Nevis.

Messiah Lutheran Church (Brunswick, GA) - vacant

Messiah Lutheran is a mission church of Holy Trinity, Kingsland, GA that offers God's means of Grace to those Luther Church-Missouri Synod people that do not have this opportunity without traveling 45 minutes to an hour either direction on I-95 and to those in the community who are searching for the truth that is only found in Gospel. Currently Messiah Lutheran Church has a communicant membership of 15-20 people, with the average of 17-20 attending Sunday worship. There have been a number of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) students that have attended Messiah that would not have had an opportunity if this LCMS Church were not present in Brunswick. Messiah is being served by Pastor Scott Kirchoff, a Federal Bureau of Prisons chaplain, who dedicates Sundays to Word and Sacrament ministry at Messiah. Pastor Kirchoff is also leading the congregation through mission and strategic planning.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL) – Rev. William Reister

The members and friends of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Florida celebrate 58 years as a congregation in the Florida/Georgia District. Pastor Bill Reister has served the church since 1991. The congregation continues to be blessed with families from the Greater Jacksonville and Nassau County areas as well as others from as far away as Lake City, FL and communities in Southeast Georgia. Our Redeemer welcomes the community through many of its ministries including a Scouting program, a community garden, and a revitalized Sunday school.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL) – Rev. James Wiggins, Jr.

St. Paul continues as the only predominately African American LCMS congregation in metropolitan Jacksonville, FL, under the servant leadership of Rev. James Wiggins, Jr. Evangelism and community outreach continue to be the primary aim of the congregation. A very successful LCEF "Consecrated Stewards," program has increased our tithes and offerings. The leaders and members of St. Paul are positioned to press forward as instruments of grace to fully ignite the vision to make disciples of all nations. In 2016 the congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary of word and sacrament mission and ministry.

St. Peter Lutheran Church (Middleburg, FL) – Rev. Ross Engel

St. Peter's continues to pursue her mission statement, "Gathering Friends, Growing Disciples." The congregation continues to experience the ebb and flow of ministry in a military community and our vibrant worship life and focus on education is a draw for people of all ages. The youth group has determined to better care for the homeless in our community by creating and distributing "Blessing Bags," which include a variety of medical necessities, food stuffs, a Bible and other assorted items. As the congregation continues to grow in the faith that has been handed down to us, we pray that we

would continue gathering new friends to be a part of our family as we boldly confess Christ crucified, until He comes again.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, Waycross, GA: Chaplain Scott Kirchoff is Called through the National Board For Missions to serve as a called and ordained chaplain in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Waycross, GA. Pastor Scott currently preaches twice a month for the general Protestant Services. Three worship services are held every Sunday. Federal Prison Camp (20-30 Attendance). Federal Satellite Low (60-80 Attendance). Federal Correctional Institution (80-100 Attendance). Inmate population is racial mixed. 65% African-American. 20% Hispanic. 15% Caucasian. All male. Chaplain Kirchoff does not serve Holy Communion. Pastor Kirchoff is also serving at our mission/preaching station, Messiah, in Brunswick, GA.

Submitted by Rev. Dana Brones, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 7

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Abiding Savior (Gainesville, FL) – Rev. Alan Struckmeyer

Abiding Savior pursues its mission, “Connecting Jesus to people’s hearts,” throughout west Gainesville and the communities of Newberry, Archer, Alachua, High Springs, and Williston. The congregation conducts a large preschool ministry which touches the hearts of 165 children and their families with the Good News about Jesus. It highly values touching people’s hearts through the gift of music with its chancel choir, praise team, and hand chime choir. Abiding Savior has compassion for those in need of basic necessities as it hosts an annual food packaging event called “Meals of Hope” in which the congregation coordinates and packages 100,000 meals for a local food bank with the help of more than 200 church and community volunteers. The congregation strives to be a caring neighbor to people in our community by providing a meal once a month at St. Francis House, a shelter for homeless families. To God be the glory and the praise!

Amazing Grace (Oxford/The Villages, FL) – Rev. James Rockey

Amazing Grace was launched in November of 2007 as a Mission Plant of the District in partnership with a core-group of 13 from Trinity – Summerfield. In 2014 they constructed and moved to their own 9400 sf. Facility. Pastor Rockey has served this congregation from its inception. Membership is now 274 with an average worship of approx. 140 per week. After 2 years of study, Amazing Grace in 2016 unanimously voted to build and open an Early Learning Center (ages six weeks – 5 years). Construction will be completed in the Spring and upon licensure is scheduled to open August 1. The congregation is excited and fully behind this ministry to the community having raised 95% of the funds needed in less than two years to open debt free. Julie Bedard was Called and installed as the Director in February. The congregation continues to seek ways in which it can be Christ’s witness through working in the local schools, international mission trips, women’s, men’s & youth ministries, new children’s ministries, a strong small group ministry and service in the community. Amazing Grace continues to be committed to “transforming lives through Christ for today & eternity”, locally and globally.

Faith (Lecanto, FL) – Rev. Steve Lane

Faith Lutheran Church has enjoyed another wonderful Easter season full of celebrating our Lord's Resurrection. We did something different this year by holding a Passover Meal. It was well attended

including a number of visitors. The local paper (Citrus County Chronicle interviewed me about this event and had a nice article in their religion section that gave us some advertisement. We have a number of snow birds that are part of our fellowship. They are now in the process of leaving for a while. We look forward to their return in the fall. We are already looking toward Vacation Bible School which has been a way our church reaches some of the youth in the community who are not members. God continues to the faithful.

First (Gainesville, FL) – Rev. John Glover

First Lutheran Church in Gainesville is committed to ministry in our community. Pastor John Glover has been serving for over three years as the senior pastor. In our particular area, we believe we have three foci: ministry to our University of Florida and Santa Fe students, ministry to our Open Arms community, and ministry to our college neighborhood in general.

Aiding us in our efforts are the additions of our vicar and DCE. First Lutheran Church has been blessed with a long history of vicars, stretching back decades. After a gap of several years, we are happy to have the vicarage program restarted. Vicar James Ebersole has been ministering faithfully to our campus ministry community at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

We welcomed DCE Stephanie Karolus to our staff to help our preschool director Angie Burr build bridges between the church, the school, and our wider community.

Together with leadership we are planning strategically for the next phase of our ministry here. Exciting times to reach people with the Gospel!

First (Inverness, FL) – Rev. Tom Beaverson

First Lutheran has been...*Worshiping God, loving one another and sharing the love of Christ* since 1966.

Forest Lutheran (Silver Springs, FL) – Rev. Bob Besalski, Vacancy Pastor; Larry Dexheimer, LLD

The congregation at Forest Lutheran Church is working to declare God's Love and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to each other and to the area residents and visitors. Hard working congregation members prepare and serve monthly community meals, create many (40+) quilts for the use of the needy around the world, participate in and host LWML activities, host a Christmas sing-along, provide holiday food baskets and gifts for local families, support the congregation and its mission efforts through fund-raisers and host a ladies, yearly Advent by Candlelight Tea that has great support in the community and sister LC-MS congregations. This last year has seen FLC accept into membership eight individuals who are active participants in services and activities. Two children have recently been baptized. The numbers may seem small, but the percentage growth is significant. There are two weekly Bible classes, a freshly revitalized Sunday School program and a worship service. Although FLC is vacant it is well served by monthly visiting Pastors Bob Besalski and Bob Jacobs. Larry Dexheimer (L.L.D.) leads the weekly services. Pastor Ron Scheer continues to make visits to the sick and homebound.

Good Shepherd (Chiefland, FL) –Rev. Ron Mueller - Vacancy Pastor

In April of this year, Good Shepherd celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a special service and founding Pastor Bob Besalski as the guest Preacher followed by dinner. Each month throughout the year they are recognizing all different aspects of their ministries and how the Lord has both blessed their ministry in the past and how He is continuing to enable them to be a blessing in the years to come. One such example is the reactivation of a Sunday School for children which began in January. In August of 2016 our beloved Pastor Lou Abel passed away from cancer. We kept on keeping on. We have had several substitute pastors, who we greatly appreciate. We now have Rev. Ron Mueller as our vacancy Pastor.

We have several ladies who go to the nursing home on Monday's and visit the residents and play bingo. They have been doing this for about 15 yrs. Our ladies also have Yard Sales twice a year. The money we raise we choose at least 3 charities to donate to. Our adult Bible class on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays also have 40% of our congregation in attendance. It is a great time for learning and being inspired to serve. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we move forward. We pray for his guidance and strength.

Our Redeemer (Ocala, FL) – Rev. Ron Biel – Vacancy Pastor

During the past two years, Our Redeemer's previous two pastors (Rev. Joe Adams and Rev. Josh Pettit) were led to accept calls to serve as pastors at other Lutheran congregations in the state of Florida. To insure continued pastoral assistance during this vacancy period, three retired pastors (all named "Ron") have assumed the various aspects of pastoral office. They have now been ministering in their respective roles now since July, 2018. Pastor Ron Scheer serves as the Visitation Pastor, visiting the hospitalized and homebound. Pastor Ron Mueller is the Administration Pastor, working with the church council, board of elders, and various committees. He also takes care of adult instruction classes and funerals. Pastor Ron Biel is the lead preaching pastor and now works closely with the recently establish Pastoral Call Committee. For several months, he also led a study committee referred to as the Transition Team, which diligently sought out congregational input in developing its final Report which was forwarded to the District President and which also now serves as a basic reference guide for the Call Committee. These past several months have served as a time for healing and reconciliation as Our Redeemer seeks to move forward into its future with the Gospel of Jesus Christ into its community of West Ocala. Much fervent prayer is being offered to the Lord in taking these next important steps.

Peace Lutheran (Dunnellon, FL) – Rev. Terry McKee

Our congregation of just over 70 members continues to connect to the greater Dunnellon community by providing a warm welcome to guests at our worship services. We have 12-15 guests each Sunday, many of whom worship with us regularly. We look forward to the arrival of several snowbirding couples each winter. We provide backpacks and school supplies to a local elementary school at which one of our members teaches. We promote Toys for Tots and purchase over \$3000 in gift cards to be distributed throughout the year, but especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas, to many families in need. We make our facilities available to outside groups such as AA, Al-Anon, Weight Watchers, and a yoga group and share our utilities with a community church which is building next door in order for them to have events on their site. We co-hosted Financial Peace University with the community church earlier in 2018. Most months which have a fifth Sunday in them, we have a church family potluck following worship. We have an annual rummage sale and host dinners of potato pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and spaghetti in May and have an Oktoberfest in late September each year. These events are eagerly anticipated by the local communities we serve.

St John (Ocala, FL) – Rev. Jeff Shanks

St John has gone through a time of transition since the last convention. In August of 2016 Pastor Jeff Shanks was installed as Senior Pastor and Anette Shanks as Director of Family Life. During these years church attendance and the number of adults confirmed and baptized has grown. Mission trips to South Africa and Scammon Bay, Alaska have taken place, and many new opportunities to connect with the community have begun, including Servant Sundays, Breakfast with Santa, a Youth Stay Mission, Princess and Young Knight parties. In March of 2017 St John increased our Worship Service offering with the

addition of The Table service which is held at 10:45 on Sunday mornings in our Grace Place multipurpose building. It is a highly relational contemporary service with an inter-generational praise band while the other two weekend services include an outstanding adult and handbell choirs. In terms of the school ministry, student enrollment has stabilized and we are currently partnering with Lutheran School Consulting Services to help with the strategic planning to carry St John into the years ahead. Our dedicated staff of teachers continue to use their many gifts on every level as we carry our ambitious goal of operating a K-3 through 12th grade school.

Trinity Lutheran (Summerfield, FL) – Rev. Dan Kelm & Rev. Blair Clark

No report at time of publication

Submitted by Rev. James Rockey, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 8

SPACE COAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Circuit 8 held a joint Celebration of Reformation on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017, at Faith on Merritt Island.

Since the last District Convention Circuit 8 reports the closure of two congregations. At the end of November, 2016, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Melbourne, held its last service and is dissolved. In May of 2017, Grace, Merritt Island, which had been worshiping with the congregation of Trinity, Rockledge, voted to dissolve, and is in the process of relinquishing assets and working through the details of dissolving orderly.

Pastor Jason Boetcher, formerly of Grace, Merritt Island, has accepted a call out of the district.

Pastor Craig Boehlke, formerly of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Melbourne, has accepted a call out of the district.

Pastor Michael Hageman, formerly of Trinity, Rockledge, has accepted a call out of the district.

Pastor Brett Snider, formerly of Trinity, Holly Hill, resigned from his call.

Lay Minister Joseph Guagliardo, formerly of Faith, Merritt Island, has retired after many years of faithful and fruitful service.

Risen Savior, Palm Bay, has for some time now been operating a very successful food pantry that is literally providing hundreds of meals to poor residents of Brevard County on a weekly basis. An optional weekly chapel service offered to those who come to avail themselves of the pantry is being attended regularly by 40 to 60 worshipers.

Submitted by Rev. Gary Held, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 9

ORLANDO EAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Ascension Lutheran Church (Casselberry, FL) – Rev. Thomas Eggebrecht

Ascension Lutheran Church has spent the last three years focusing on Roots and Fruit: Being rooted in Christ as faith-filled individuals, and bearing fruit as the Lord uses Ascension to reach out to the community with the Gospel of Jesus. While various factors made it necessary for the church's Preschool to be closed, the Lord redirected resources for His kingdom. A Christian Preschool recently contracted

with Ascension to be housed in the vacated rooms of the building. This has provided numerous opportunities for ministry and outreach. New musicians for both traditional and contemporary worship have added skill and meaning to weekly worship. The congregation has banded together with eight other Casselberry churches to create two community events each year revolving around an Easter Egg Hunt and a Funtoberfest. These events have served several thousand people from the community each time and have connected many in the community to Jesus. In addition, Ascension has contracted with Five Two to "start something new for Jesus." Visioning and planning are in preliminary stages. A small group Bible study called "The Rooted Experience" was recently kicked off. It is an interactive 10-week journey in which groups gather weekly to talk about what God has been revealing to each member through weekly readings, journal entries, and prayer. Participants also learn from one another as the Holy Spirit works to comfort, encourage, and guide each group member. Ascension is a faithful community of believers excited about opportunities to grow roots and bear fruit over the next three years, and beyond.

Lutheran Church of Providence (Deltona, FL) – vacant

The Lutheran Church of Providence is going forward with renewed interest in the community. A food bank is held every other week and a food drop, where over 20,000 pounds of food are distributed in two hours, is held three times a year. Weekly worship is attracting new members and new programs are being offered on a regular basis. The congregation has set some goals for calling a full time Pastor as the congregation continues to grow both spiritually as well as numerically.

Hope Lutheran Church (Orlando, FL) – Rev. Paul vonWerder

Hope Lutheran continues to celebrate a community-oriented preschool that feeds well-prepared children into the surrounding schools. Those children are receiving a wonderful dose of God's love and are being well-received at those schools. A stellar reputation has formed in both parents and teachers beyond the church family. A wonderful partnership has also evolved with Arbor Ridge (K-8) with multiple benefits arising. Hope as a church continues to refine its "discipleship-oriented" approach to church through disciple-oriented daily devotions, worship and small group and micro-group efforts.

Journey of Life Lutheran Church (Orlando, FL) – Rev. John Rallison

Journey of Life Lutheran Church in Orlando, Florida celebrates 13 years of ministry in the Lake Nona area. Over the years many people were loved, supported, and educated in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Journey of Life has had a great ministry. But in 2018, Journey of Life closed its doors. Journey of Life held its final worship service on May 20, 2018. Journey of Life chooses to celebrate the work of God among them and through them. Our faith is strong and we look forward to new ministry.

LiveUCF (Campus Ministry, University of Central Florida) - vacant

LiveUCF has been an official campus ministry and student organization on the Campus of the University of Central Florida since the 2014-2015 school year. It began under the leadership of Pastor Billy Brath, Megan Miessler and Laura Blank. LiveUCF operates as a mission of the Florida-Georgia District with the goal of becoming a chartered congregation in the near future.

Live continuously works towards the goal of being a "student led" church. The students work with the leaders to help form the events and happenings for the church. Each year a new group of students is elected into official school and church positions. The goal is to motivate these young adults to stay active and involved in the church after they graduate. During its duration, LiveUCF has help formed lifelong relationships among its members, has given people an outlet to make friends and a few marriages have

happened because of Live. It is the students of Live that really make this congregation.

LiveUCF is funded by a grant from the district, partnerships with several different Lutheran churches, and individual donors. Live is grateful for all the support it has received from such a wide array of donors who all help in making Live continue. LiveUCF also has a Board of Directors made up of members from our Central Florida Partner churches. The Board of Directors helps the employees and students in fundraising and guiding LiveUCF and the members serve as liaisons to their home congregations.

At the end of the 2017 school year, Pastor Brath stepped away from LiveUCF. Since then, Live has been going through the Call Process to find a new pastor. In the meantime, Live is being led by Laura Blank (Called Outreach Minister), the BOD and student leaders. Local pastors have assisted on Wednesday evenings with preaching and communion. Live is excited to see what the future holds and how we can grow and reach more students on the second largest university in the country.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Príncipe de Paz) (Orlando, FL) – Rev. Kenneth Green II

Prince of Peace/Príncipe de Paz Lutheran Church and Preschool continues to reach out to our community as “The heart, hands, and feet of Jesus—in the heart of Orlando.” In 2017 the congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary in the diverse, densely-populated urban setting where God has planted them, remembering its humble beginnings at this location which was once thought of as being on the outskirts of the then-small-city of Orlando.

In 2015 the congregation affirmed God’s vision for us as “a Christ-centered, multicultural church inspired by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament to engage the community with God’s grace and love.” As a part of that vision, the congregation and its ministries have become more intentional in embracing and advancing its identity as one Prince of Peace/Príncipe de Paz, celebrating all the ways the Lord of the Church has uniquely positioned us to reach our diverse, multicultural community.

Prince of Peace/Príncipe de Paz is widely recognized in our community for mercy ministries that build bridges for sharing the Gospel. Chief among these are our community Food Pantry, distributing nearly 200,000 lbs. of groceries that provide meals for more than 14,000 people each year. Our growing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) ministry now connects with more than 200 students each year and has led to ongoing ministry in worship, some students becoming new members through affirmations of faith and baptisms. The PoP/PdeP Preschool and CDC continues to serve those in our neighborhood in ever more effective ways.

A key way the Lord has positioned PoP/PdeP for outreach is through blessing us with highly qualified, passionate ministry staff who equip and empower the dozens of congregation and community members in mission and ministry. Associate Pastor Adolfo Borges continues to be engaged in all facets of ministry, leading worship in English and Spanish, overseeing the ESOL outreach, and serving as lead staff supporting the outreach through the community Food Pantry; Deaconess Ligia Borges (previously Called but not a part of “paid staff”) began a paid, half-time position as our Director of Community Outreach; currently she serves as lead for our StartNew team coached through the District’s partnership with the FiveTwo, leading us to develop a community facing organization Centro de Paz para la Vida (Peace Center for Life); Julianne Wiegand as Preschool Director has overseen revitalization of our preschool and CDC ministry, leading us through NLSA accreditation with Florida Gold Seal status; Austin Wessel leads our worship planning and our digital outreach into the community as our Director of Worship and Media. Pastor Emeritus David Ludwig, Sr., is serving in a limited capacity teaching, visiting shut-ins, and some preaching.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Orlando, FL) – Rev. Douglas Kallesen

Highlights of ongoing mission and ministry at Trinity, Downtown.

- October and November - installation service for Senior Pastor Doug Kallesen with 430 in attendance and 34 pastors attending. David Ludwig, Jr., became our Saturday evening organist and in the next few weeks Tim Conyers became our Sunday organist leading us in our traditional and our contemporary services. Our School CDC has 305 students enrolled and our K-8 has 97.
- K-8 Reformation Walk and Oktoberfest to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- December 2017 our sanctuary was painted and new carpet was installed. New LED lighting brightened our sanctuary. Our Christmas worship weekend celebrated our Lord's birth with 1015 people in attendance. Lake Eola Christmas Tree lighting featured children from Trinity's School choir. We also initiated Cottage Meetings to explore Trinity's values and vision for beginning our 2nd century of ministry in 2019.
- January and February 2018 – Town Hall meetings were launched to address what we should do with several of our buildings and nearly 5 acres of property. We revisited the Century Two plan and reinitiated the Campus Ministry Task Force. The Finance Committee positioned Trinity for future endowments and greater return on invested dollars with Lutheran Church Mo Synod Foundation.
- March 2018 – Campus Ministry Task Force presents a plan to address relocating our Pastoral Staff to the main campus, renovating the Magnolia building and three homes on Ruth lane. Campus security is also being addressed. All of this is being explored with Lutheran Church Extension Fund for a "cost neutral," loan that will be paid for through tenant rentals at no cost to the congregation.
- March / April Easter 2018 - over 700 worshiped our risen Lord at Trinity! Our choirs sang His praises. Cottage Meetings phase 1 Congregational surveys are completed. Next we will survey the School and then our community. A complete report will be brought back to the congregation in the coming months.
- May 2018 and Beyond – Staff office renovations will occur. The K-8 School office will return to the library, the Pastoral Office will be in the former location (current School office) and the Finance team will be in Loggia 1. Our target date for completing this move is August 1. We will also see Loggia 3 become a legacy / fellowship area for our congregation to celebrate our 100th anniversary. We hope to see the renovation projects completed by the end of 2018.
- June 2018 – Trinity Comfort Dog ministry will be complete with the arrival of our very own trained comfort dog!

Grace Lutheran Church, (St. Cloud, FL) – Rev. Joshua Obermann

Grace Lutheran Church has been incredibly busy the last three years. In June of 2016, Pastor Josh Obermann was installed as sole pastor. Through his leadership, Grace has adopted a new mission focus that is committed to connecting people to Jesus, teaching people about His love, and empowering people to live as Christians. As this statement guides the church's understanding of fulfilling the Great Commission in our context, Grace has an increasingly greater community presence. Grace serves the community party, a community homeless ministry, and a backpack ministry for hungry children. Grace also continues to host the Boy Scouts, AA, and Weight Watchers. This little church is incredibly active in connecting people to Jesus.

Grace's membership has remained steady, although we have seen significant growth in our preschool and Sunday school programs. The Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Center as recently become accredited by the NLSA and serves the mission of the church by connecting sixty families to Jesus. Through the success of our school and Sunday School programs, young family ministry is slowly becoming an important part of our ministry. God is filling Grace with ministry wins.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (Sanford, FL) – Rev. Edward DeWitt

God continues to bless the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer that we might bless those around us. We continue in our support of Redeeming Life Maternity Home and the women and babies who reside there. In the past three years, Redeemer has had the privilege of ministering to the maternity home through member interaction and spiritual care. Moms are renewing and, in some instances, discovering for the first time, their relationship with Jesus. In the past three years Redeemer has Confirmed and/or baptized four moms and ten babies.

Redeemer has begun two new ministries during the past triennium. Kate's Hope, named after deceased Officer Kate Walsh of the Sanford Police Department, is a comfort care backpack ministry for children and teens caught up in domestic violence. The ladies of Redeemer's LWML fill the packs with items such as blankets, toys, snacks, etc. The packs are given to the Sanford Police Officers to use as a comfort and bridge building tool with the kids. To date we have supplied the department with over three hundred comfort care backpacks.

The second new ministry begun this triennium is a Food Pantry started in January of 2017. The first distribution served 58 families representing 285 people. In April of 2018, Redeemer distributed food to 202 families representing 753 people. The Garden at Redeemer continues to supply fresh vegetables for distribution through the pantry. In April, in addition to the carrots, collard greens, and Swiss chard, we gave away 105 gallons of green beans. God continues to bless our little garden, the saints who tend it, and the members of our community who receive fresh vegetables from it.

Submitted by Rev. Ken Green, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 10

ORLANDO WEST

2018 CONVENTION REPORT

Bethany Lutheran (Leesburg, FL) – Rev. Marc Spaeth

Bethany Lutheran Church is a unique church located in the downtown area of Leesburg. Our congregation is comprised of retired people, but with a heart of love for the church and the surrounding area in which we are located. We have many "snowbirds" from the North that visit us and we endeavor to meet their spiritual needs while they are visiting our area. In addition to this, we have begun an "after school program" called Rebecca's Garden of Hope to meet the educational as well as spiritual needs of the children in this area and beyond. It is our hope to expand this program to meet the needs of children who need assistance with their classwork from their respective schools. We are situated in a very growing area with the encroachment of "The Villages" that have purchased land near our church and are in the process of building many new homes. It is our desire and prayer that we may reach some of the people who will buying these homes. The Villages has now reached the population of 100,000 and with this new property located on 466A, "our fields are white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few."

**Christ the King Lutheran (Orlando, FL) – Rev. Timothy Brown
2016–2018 “A New Chapter of God’s Blessing”**

- Leadership:** Strong leadership on Board of Elders, Church Council and Committees.
- Outreach:** Anxious to plan and execute activities to “connect people to Jesus”
- Education:** **Foresee future growth in our** Bible Class Programs and Sunday School.
- Pre–School:** Great staff, curriculum and school continue to be filled to capacity.
- Worship:** Look for a substantial increase in numbers of worshipers each year.
- Fellowship:** Many encouraging activities each year that lead to a spirit of togetherness including our new successful dinner social program.
- Youth:** Strengthened confirmation and service (volunteers, acolytes, crucifers) from our teens.
- Financial:** The Lord continues to bless our members with a spirit of generosity for His work at and beyond Christ the King.
- Grounds & Buildings:** Beautiful landscaping and buildings. We continue to maintain our campus and are blessed with its opportunities.
- Overall:** The special harmony and spirit of togetherness on the work and life of the Church

Faith Lutheran Church & School (Eustis, FL) – Rev. Marc Kappel

Faith has continued to be blessed over the last few years! We called a new principal, Steven Hoffschneider, whose leadership has helped our school enrollment to grow, quality of education to continue to improve and has spearheaded major improvements for our students’ safety and security. While several of our beloved faculty has moved on to new experiences, we are grateful for our new staff, Heidi Blank, Kip Sandersfeld, Joshua Wareham and Kim Newman. Their experience and talents add much to our school.

While Faith’s future is most certainly bright, we have not been without a few challenges. We have had a few financial struggles and have seen a membership decline; but even though we have gone to one service on Saturday and one on Sunday, our average weekly church attendance has increased.

We are currently facing the challenge of repairing our sanctuary wall and stained glass windows.

Weather and time have taken a toll on them, but we are currently working with Foundry Commercial to bring them back to their original stability and beauty. Along with those repairs, we are also excited to be working on renovating our school buildings - bringing improved function and a fresh look to them, inside and outside.

The opportunities for mission in the community remain strong. We are working on outreach oriented activities with excellent training offered by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Through the use of Godconnects, we are on track to reach and bring in as many as 30 to 40 new communicate members a year. Great things are happening at Faith Lutheran Church & School through God’s love!

Our Savior Lutheran, (Orlando, FL) – Rev. Paul Foust, vacancy pastor

Our Savior Lutheran Church celebrated our 60th Year Anniversary in August, with a prayer breakfast honoring communicant members from the first 20 years. It was well attended. We dedicated an enhancement to the chancel wall to Mrs. Betty Smith. The wall, envisioned by the late Pastor Harold Storm, highlights the cross as the focal point of our church. Our Savior Lutheran has a regular attendance of a varied congregation consisting of Seniors, Adults, young Adults and children. We often have visitors from out of town, due to our close proximity to the resort areas, and we welcome return visitors each year who choose to worship with us again! We have an active Women’s Bible study, Sunday school for adults and children, Weekly evening Bible study, Martha Circle Women’s group, and a Seniors Midweek Bible Study. We have an active Choir, children’s choir and Youth involvement in our Worship

Services. Our Men's Club is beginning this year to have activities which interact with our youth. We have an active tutoring and mentoring Ministry.

St. Paul Lutheran (Apopka, FL) – Rev. Donald Moore, Jr.

These last three years have been more positive, overall, than recent years at St. Paul. The congregation continues to be quite small; and our pastor's wife (Jocelyn Moore) passed away in 2017 from infection, leaving the family with two pre-teen boys. That has been a traumatic chapter here. The small size of the congregation is inhibitive, but has grown some lately - mostly unchurched people. Attendance at worship is on the rise, if slowly. God's work among us is evident, and we can only hope that such improvements will continue. Thanks, also, to the churches of the circuit for their continued support in all kinds of ways. Those blessings have helped us renew our strength and confidence in the generosity and faithfulness of the people of God, by his gracious hand, in every place.

Woodlands Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center (Montverde, FL) – Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser

Overall, God continues to bless the Woodlands people and ministry. By God's grace we have passed the 850 mark in baptized membership. The congregation adopted the Policy Governance Model to provide a more efficient structure to accomplish ministry. An *Operation Barnabas* "chapter" was introduced and is ministering to veterans and their families. Our small Early Learning Center (ELC) was accredited and is at full capacity. The decision was made to add a Y2PK class in Spring, 2018, which now has a waiting list. Two children and their father were baptized during an ELC chapel service and another family is considering a baptism during a chapel service as well. The congregation purchased the pastor's house next to the church for possible expansion of office space or to meet another ministry need. Biblical financial stewardship has kept us debt-free with a reserve fund for the future.

In the area of staffing, a special committee was formed to determine future staffing needs. The primary need identified was an Associate Pastor to focus on ministry to youth & families. The Rev. Joshua Pettit accepted the Call to serve in this capacity. ELC Teacher Michelle Hoffman (formerly Shuten) obtained the necessary credentials to assume the position of full time Director of the Early Learning Center.

In the area of special events, the congregation observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation throughout 2016-2017 by offering two Martin Luther movies for the community, having a "Martin Luther Hymn Sunday," offering the three-part Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible study on Martin Luther and the Reformation, and with special worship services and following banquet on Reformation Sunday, 2017. Our Minister of Music, Charles Crownover, composed a new song for the anniversary which he titled, "It's Still All About Jesus" (which is available at charlescrownover.com). The Outdoor Living Nativity that we provide for the community each Christmas continues to expand. Thousands from the community come to walk through, not only the events of the Christmas story, but also the OT prophecies of Christ, His baptism, crucifixion and resurrection. We are known in the community as the "Church of the Living Nativity!"

Zion Lutheran Church and School (Winter Garden, FL) – Rev. Roberto Rojas, Jr.

Zion Lutheran Church & School has grown tremendously in the past three years. Zion went from having 20 on a Sunday to around 100. The school has grown to about 170 students! We have a new preschool director and the church and school are being unified better than ever before in doctrine and practice. More importantly, however, through all of this growth, Zion has remained faithful to Holy Scripture and has remained constant to the Lutheran Confessions. Although we are surrounded by many contemporary churches who have abandoned the Liturgy, Zion has learned and kept the historic Liturgy, Divine Service setting 3. Little children of the congregation are memorizing God's Word in the Divine Service! We've learned over 40 Lutheran hymns through our "hymn of the month." Zion joyfully and

steadfastly confesses and practices Closed Communion. Zion continues to grow numerically and, more importantly, spiritually. Zion has rejoiced in being restored to hearing God's Word faithful preached and taught and delights in the Liturgy and Hymnody of our Church! Moreover, Zion is supporting two faithful missionaries abroad (Rev. David Preus and Rev. Adam Lehman), and is in the process of supporting Lutherans in Africa (Rev. James May). Zion also hosted a Steadfast Lutherans Conference on January 27-28. Zion will continue to host these conferences and continue to teach the laity so that their churches might become faithful to God's Word!

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Milan Weerts, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 11

WINTER HAVEN

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Grace (Winter Haven, FL) – Rev. Charles Reich

Since 2015, significant staff changes have taken place. Joining Sr. Pastor Charles Reich is DCE Leah Welter, installed Jan. 2016, Associate Pastor Mark Harris, installed June 2016 and Principal Michael Rottmann, installed Aug. 2016. Also, 7 new teachers have joined our school ministry, and enrollment is up 75 students since the last convention.

Our new vision for the future is: **“Grace For All Generations; Grounded, Gathering, Going.”** We desire to be an enduring ministry, thoroughly grounded in Scripture and the Sacraments, but also current and relevant, effectively ministering to multiple generations simultaneously long into the future. We are in year 2 of our 3-year “Giving for all Generations” capital campaign to update our facilities. Renovations to our Fellowship area and 5 classrooms have already been completed. Next, we will make our Narthex entrance and restrooms more welcoming, ADA compliant and accommodating for both strollers and wheelchairs and our sanctuary will become technologically current with new lighting, sound and live-streaming capabilities. (Replacement costs for Hurricane Irma damages totaled approximately \$125,000.)

Our “Gathering Team” has been developing inter- and intra-generational fellowship events. Our small groups continue to meet in three periods of the year for a session of studies; a purely fellowship event and a service project for each period. We have started themed “Generations Nights” on select Wednesdays leading family groups through five home devotional and relationship building skills. Surprisingly, a Facebook broadcast of an 8 week “Meaning of Marriage” Bible class reached several hundred additional people each week, and we continue to broadcast more studies and sessions on our Facebook page.

Our “Going Team” leads the missions efforts of our congregation in in three areas: Going to the Nations (international mission trips and national servant events); Going to the Community (local partnerships and social ministry); and Going to the Neighbor (sharing the Gospel with individuals). A team of lay members led the congregation through I-Neighborhood [B.L.E.S.S.] model of evangelism and we continue to work to put this model into practice.

Our Savior (Zephyrhills, FL) – Rev. Tod Shouse

Our Savior in Zephyrhills has had a few changes over the past couple of years. We are striving to be better Disciples of Christ to our brothers and sister within the church and also out in the community. We have

added a bell choir to our music ministry. Last year on Maundy Thursday we had a Living Last Supper. We have participated in the last 2 Founder’s Day parades taking first place in 2017 for Best Religious Organization. We have started an annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner for both members and the community. We are supporting Everyday Blessing, an organization that cares for newborns to 17 year olds that have been removed from their families due to neglect, abuse or abandonment. We also sponsor a student each year from both seminaries and contribute monthly to both food co-ops. We also have been active with Food for the Poor. We are also sponsoring U.S. Missionary Pastor Adam DeGroot in his mission plant in New Mexico. To God be all Glory and Praise!

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Lakeland, FL) – Rev. Ronald Pennekamp

- Feb. 2015 Pastor Ron Pennekamp was installed as Senior Pastor
- Mar. 2015 Launched “Moving the Mountain” debt reduction campaign, 152 families pledged
1.6 million
- Nov, 2015 Chaplain Peter Herbert hired as Director of Visitation
- Mar. 2016 New School Bus purchased through PTO fundraising
- Oct. 2016 Installed Pastor Andy Ritchie as Associate Pastor
- Nov. 2016 Food Pantry Ministry “Give-A-Ton” outreach to 300 families
- Feb. 2017 Watoto children’s ministry from Uganda presentation
- May 2017 Outdoor Deck renovated
- Sept. 2017 Music Suite Renovated
- Oct. 2017 500th Reformation Celebration
- Feb. 2018 “Touch a Truck” community event reached 500 people with 80 follow ups for ministry

Hope Lutheran Church (Plant City, FL) – Rev. Dean Pfeffer

Hope, Plant City continues to be a community focused congregation. Our Elders, staff and Board of Directors have read “*Joining Jesus on His Mission*”, “*Autopsy of a Deceased Church*”, “*Joining Jesus- Show Me How*”, “*I Am a Church Member*”, and “*I Will.*” Every study is designed to help us better see ourselves and how we can best impact our community for the Gospel.

Hope is working closely with our LCEF District Team as we move toward a building program. We have also, working with Dan Reichard, engaged Foundry Commercial as we continue in this process for their expertise and outstanding leadership.

At the November 2016 Voter Meeting, the members of Hope decided not to request another vicar and instead voted to call an Associate Pastor from Concordia, St. Louis. Specifically, the congregation voted to Call Shea Pennington who served his vicarage at Hope in the 2014-15 academic year. Shea was then Installed as Hope’s Associate Pastor on July 31, 2016.

A number of years ago, Hope prayerfully voted to tithe 10% of monthly offerings to our Florida Georgia District and to say our congregation has been blessed is an understatement. We truly took God at His word to test him and see... and He truly opened the storehouses of blessing on our congregation. While our numerical growth has been slow, it has been steady. But to see how God has blessed us financially is truly amazing. Hope has 2 major fund raisers each year... or as we call them mission funding events. These are our Turkey Supper and Hot Boiled Peanut Booth at the Florida Strawberry Festival. All proceeds after expenses are given towards missions and ministry both locally and globally. As a part of these funds we have also assisted seminarians as a daughter of Hope who is completing her DCE Internship and will be placed in her internship congregation. Hope has directed funds to the Plant City Family YMCA, Boys & Girls

Club of Plant City, United Food Bank of Plant City, Feeding in the Park (homeless ministry), Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico, Meals on Wheels, and other missions over the last three years. Sharing our blessings as we have like this has been our practice for approximately the last 6 years.

This summer Hope will serve as host for "lots of hugs" an outreach of the Plant City Black Heritage organization that will sponsor a reading camp at Hope for the disadvantaged in our community. The program begins with breakfast and runs until 5:00 each day until school resumes in August. Hope has arranged for these participants and their families to join in the congregation's Vacation Bible School in August. Hope looks forward to all that God has in store for this congregation in the next three years.

Lake Wales Lutheran Church (Lake Wales, FL) Rev. John Glamann

Congregation is growing Spiritually. The congregation is seeing more ACTIONS from the lives of their people. They sponsor 12 major fellowship functions during the year. The congregation reports that they have more volunteers since they only ask volunteers to be involved in one event at a time and not a committee. Many members have been trained in the use of CPR and AED equipment.

Christ Lutheran Church (Lakeland, FL) - Rev. Tom Block

Christ Lutheran - Lakeland, FL. Some of the highlights the past three years: We are still parking cars during the Spring baseball season. In addition to our parking of cars we also sell hot dogs. Each year the money received from the hot dog sales goes to a local charity. A portion of what we make for the parking also goes to one of our local charities here in Lakeland. This year our charity was the Salvation Army Family Shelter.

We also have been doing a Bible study titled "The Story." We are offering it right now twice a week one on Sunday morning and the other time Wednesday noon. Both sessions are well attended. In addition, we continue to offer the "Lifelight" Bible studies twice a year.

Submitted by Rev. Dean Pfeffer, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 12

HEARTLAND

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Christ Lutheran Church (Avon Park, FL) - Rev. Scott J. McLean, Pastor

During the last three years we have increased the number of opportunities for Bible study, prayer and praise. In addition to Sunday morning Bible study we are meeting on Wednesday evenings throughout the year. The studies are well attended with between one half and three quarters of our worshipers involved in one or both studies. The studies cover Biblical subjects, church history, pastoral care and adult confirmation. We have needed to obtain more chairs in order to seat the growing numbers of worshipers. We have a growing number of shut in members and I have trained and equipped the elders to make visits. The elders also have organized "shepherding groups" and regularly make contact with them. The elders have also taken on the task of developing contingency plans for various emergencies. The elders have helped shoulder many of the burdens of the pastoral office so that the pastor can work full-time as a hospice chaplain providing his own living. We rejoice that we are able to tithe all our receipts to the FL-GA District. We look to the Lord of the Church to provide for us and lead us through the challenges ahead giving us his vision for the ministry to which he has called us.

Faith Lutheran Church (Clewiston, FL) – Rev. Angel Ramos

VBS in August where approximately 40 participants participated. Octoberfest fundraiser. Weekly choir practices and worship during Sunday worship services. Choir participation in circuit Reformation service. Community drive collections for nonperishable goods and first necessity items for victims of hurricane Maria in Puerto and the Caribbean for several Saturdays. Marriage encounter strategic planning meeting on 2/24/18. Council meetings throughout the year. Phone calls to members and visitors. Hosted LWML Spring rally on 3/3/18. LWML involvement in funeral services of a community resident, nonchurch member, as an outreach. Hospital visitations. Ongoing catechism classes. Provided bereavement support for grieving families. Local LWML participation in several community activities such as Compassion Avenue, an interdenominational food bank; goody bags for elementary school students with basic necessities; collection of Christmas presents for local nursing home; and several others. Reception of new members. Lent services, both local and in circuit churches. The art of marriage event proposed for January or February, 2019. Ongoing planning. Orientation and reception of new members. Organization of teams to aid in disaster relief in Puerto Rico: Ongoing.

Faith Lutheran Church (Sebring, FL) – Rev. Robert J. Maulella

Faith has experienced steady growth since Pastor Rob & Linda arrived in October 2014. Since then Faith has increased its membership by about 100 new members, including Associates. Our Goal is to serve our Community. We do this primarily three ways. Since 2004 Faith Child Development Center preschool has been training 2-4 year-olds to know Jesus as Savior. Weekly chapel services are led by Pastor Rob.

Secondly, Faith's Food Pantry began in 2011 with 3 staff and served 40 families per month with a small bag of food and a devotion. Today we feed 40+ families per week and have a staff of over 20, many from other churches. In 2017 we fed over 5000. Each recipient is offered prayer and other community resources such as dental and hearing services. We offer fresh fruits/vegetables, frozen meats, breads and pastries. One of our CSRs is a trained counselor. We give out Bibles and tracts in both Spanish and English. The Deaf Community is also welcome. An extension of our Food Ministry, Annual Thanksgiving Dinners serve over 300 in the community with live musical entertainment in our Fellowship Hall.

Last, but not least is our Thrift Store, Faith's Closet. Situated in our former sanctuary building, the Closet receives donations from the community and offers new or gently used items at a decent price to residents. We tithe our Thrift Store income to support missionaries in India. About 400 people come through The Closet each month. A monthly Dinner Group and Men's ministry are also well-attended, as is our Mid-week and Sunday Morning Bible Studies/Small Groups.

Speaking of Missions we support Missionaries in South Florida to Jewish people and a family in South Africa. A monthly "Noisy Change" offering is divided among our missionaries including the LWML. In 2017 we sent over \$20,000 to missions including our FL-GA District. We participated in a Medical Mission trip to Honduras in early 2018.

Two years ago we combined into one worship service on Sundays and never looked back. This has strengthened our unity. People from the north remark of our friendliness. We have about 200 Winter Residents who visit from Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Linda Maulella is the Music Director. She directs the Praise Team and coordinates all the music including preschool music and a volunteer organist (a member) once a month and plays for Special Services. Technology is welcomed in the form of videos, power-point slides and some prerecorded music. All services are recorded and uploaded to www.youtube.com through our website.

A non-denominational church worships in our Fellowship Hall each Sunday and holds prayer meetings during the week. We have become very fond of each other. They join us for a Prayer Walks around our property. In September 2017 we sustained 100+ mph winds from Hurricane Irma and damages in excess of \$50,000. Work teams from Two other “Faith Lutheran Churches” assisted us, one from Pennsylvania. Thanks to the District and LCEF we are recovering. We still have a ways to go, but with God’s assistance and a very supportive Circuit of Pastors and District we press on toward the goal of being Christ in Highlands County, FL.

Grace Lutheran Church (Arcadia, Florida) – Rev. Anthony A. Arias

There have been exciting developments at Grace during the past three years. Vicar Arias was ordained and installed here at Grace in July of 2017 by President Walton of the FL-GA district and is now the Reverend Anthony A. Arias. Our head elder, James Olckers is a licensed lay deacon, well into the colloquy process of SMP qualification. We have some new members and, sadly, have also lost some elderly members who have gone off to sit at the feet of Christ. Another (exciting?) event was the passing of the eye of hurricane Irma right over the church building here in Arcadia FL, with some miraculous results – not a single broken window or roof tile gone! A single oak tree was blown over, but no damage to the building. We are very thankful to Rev Ross of the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund who arrived within days and helped cover the expenses for a new sign, paint damage and removal of the tree. Rev Arias lost his dwelling in the storm, but that has also by now been taken care of. Now that all is settled we are looking forward to reaching into our community and bringing more people to Christ.

Peace Lutheran Church (Okeechobee, FL) – Rev. John Hirst

We give thanks to our wonderful God for the many blessings He has poured out through The Gospel and Sacraments during 46 years of ministry in Okeechobee County. We are the only Lutheran Congregation for 30-40 miles in any direction!

Our school continues to flourish and is our signature ministry in the community. This triennium we have resurfaced our playground and updated our classrooms to enable us to better serve the children and families in Okeechobee. The school Christmas program is our largest attendance in the year. Over 400 attend this Christmas outreach event.

Our Youth and family ministry team continue to develop both Junior and Senior Youth ministries and have attended the district youth gatherings.

Our men’s ministry called “Frontline Warriors” continues to flourish. The multi-generational fellowship meets at 6:30 AM on Tuesdays for breakfast and in-depth Bible discussion. They meet 52 weeks a year proving that if you feed them they will come. This feeding is both physical and spiritual.

We continue to feed the hungry in our town by our “Feed My Sheep” program which contributes food to the local co-operative ministry. We also serve meals to the homeless in Our “Peace Meal Ministry on a monthly basis.

We have reached out to our community with various approaches in the last triennium. We hosted an educational seminar led by Dr. Paul L. Maier with over 300 attending. We sponsored several outreach concerts including: Paul Todd at Christmas, Gilbert Macias(twice), and The Garms Family, a family of 8 who travel the country sharing The Gospel with blue grass music. We invited our neighbors to a monthly outdoor movie presentation on our campus for a year.

We participated in The District flood bucket challenge with 50 buckets one year and 75 buckets another. We also participated in the district Stewardship Summit in 2015.

We are especially grateful to The Florida Georgia District for their support during the last hurricane when sustained over \$20,000 in hurricane damage that insurance did not cover.

We appreciate our partnership in The Gospel with all of you. May Our Lord bless each of the congregations of the Florida -Georgia District.

Peace Valley Lutheran Church, (Wauchula, FL) – Rev. Anthony Arias

The last few years have seen a lot of change at Peace Valley! Pastor Bruce Summerfield went to be with Our Lord in August of 2016, leaving Peace without a full-time pastor. Rev Bill Caughey and Vicar Anthony Arias filled in

during the first few months after this sad event. After the ordination of the vicar, the Rev Anthony Arias took over the spiritual leadership at Peace Valley. As is usual for congregations in Florida consisting mostly of retired folk and winter visitors, we have lost a few members who went on to a better place but have also gained a few retirees who came down from the North to live in our community. Attendance figures are slightly up, and our famous spaghetti dinners were great successes as usual. Bible Study attendance is also up by at least 25% and it is a certainty that the Holy Spirit is hard at work in our congregation.

Trinity Lutheran Church, (Lake Placid, FL) – Rev. Richard A. Norris

Trinity Lutheran Church has faced some major challenges over the past three years. We had to say farewell to about 20 key leaders and influential members of our congregation do to death and moving back to family. This has cause some real challenges, but the Lord is providing the needed people to step up to new challenges. This loss has also affected our weekly attendance and offerings considerably.

Our Mission Team composed of all women and primarily led by Susan Norris has been on two different mission trips over the past three years. They are looking forward to going to California this summer to help families who lives were totally disrupted by the devastating fires. It is a great outreach that the congregation fully supports with prayer and financial support.

Early in 2017 we embarked on a major project. The town of Lake Placid is known as the Town of Murals. Hand painted murals of significant historical town and surrounding areas murals are painted on sides of buildings throughout our town. Mr. Keith Goodson has painted eighteen of the over forty murals. I asked him if he would be interested in marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a special mural. He was thrilled about the idea of doing such a mural and immersed himself into the project. He has been to Germany several times, each time visiting the Castle Church in Wittenberg, German and the famous door where the 95 Theses were posted. He started on the project which would encompassing 28 feet high and 50 feet wide in early February and completed the project in early May. The project was entirely funded through private benefactors and was finally dedicated this past January. This mural has attracted hundreds of people to view the beautiful testament to the work and life and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther. If you are in the Lake Placid area stop by and see this masterwork of Mr. Keith Goodson.

The congregation has been blessed with some unexpected financial gifts and bequests from the death of members. One of the major opportunities is that Coral Towers have approached us with a proposal to erect a 199' foot tall cellular tower which will be in the shape of a large white cross. They have requested to lease an 80' by 80' parcel to erect this tower. They are finalizing their plans and getting ready to present them to Highlands County for approval. They have already given the church a signing bonus and we have agreed to a monthly lease fee for the property.

Trinity Tots Preschool has seen some changes of teachers in the past three years with two moving on to nursing careers. Susan Norris our Director and 4 years old teacher welcomed three new staff members over the past two years. The school is flourishing and is full each year with 40 to 44 active and eager 3 and 4 years old students. Trinity Tots staff and Board of Education are earnestly working on our reaccreditation process. Our Vacation Bible School continues to attract in excess of 120 students each summer.

Trinity continues to reach out to our community by supporting the efforts of Pastor Norris in his Chaplaincy to the Sheriff's Office of Highlands County. Additionally, thanks to a grant from a bequest administered by the FL/GA District Trinity will have a new Webpage and assist Pastor Norris establish a Critical Incident Management Team for the First Responders of Highlands and surround counties. Trinity is also in an initiative/pilot program call "Care Portal" were we are given the opportunity to provide needed items to families going through rough times. It is a faith-based initiative coordinating with state agencies to determine families who are truly in need. It gives our congregation the opportunity to contact and to minister to these families no strings attached.

Trinity Lutheran Church looks to the future with eager joy as God continues to open doors and provide opportunities to minister to our ever-changing community. We will be creative in our approach to our community. God is providing in powerful ways leading us forward into endeavors we never dreamed of before.

Submitted by Rev. Richard Norris, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 13

SUNCOAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church, (Spring Hill, FL) – Rev. Glenn Fischer

New and exciting things continue to happen at Forest Oaks Lutheran. Our Food Pantry ministry continues to grow and expand. In addition to helping families in need, (to date, we have fed over 65,000 people in the Spring Hill area), we are developing a new program aimed at specifically at our areas senior population and their special dietary needs. Currently, we have 80 seniors signed up for our new program, which we expect will grow over time.

Our Sunday School continues to grow, which is a direct result of our Food Pantry ministry. We are able to come in contact with many "non-churched" families via our Food Pantry and all are invited and encouraged to attend and learn more about Jesus and His love for us.

In addition to the many spiritual activities happening here at FOLC, we are also currently in the middle of a seven year renovation program which includes, new paint both inside and outside, new carpet, new roof, new gutters, new AC units and improving our parking lot area. The congregation has been very supportive of this program and we currently find ourselves ahead of our projected budget needs.

The mission and ministry of FOLC in the Spring Hill area has seen many blessings brought by God via His people gathered in this place and it very exciting and rewarding to be part of what is happening here.

Trinity, (Trinity, FL) – Rev. Marc E Nauman

We're continuing to press forward in ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church! We've added quite a few new members as well as a few new ministries, including a Bell Choir, (thank you Faith Lutheran Church for loaning us the bells!) several support groups, Bible studies, etc. We are still holding three worship services each weekend because of our limited sanctuary space, but that is a good challenge to be facing! We're also considering the possibility of adding a fourth service or purchasing a larger facility. Regardless of where God leads us, we're looking forward to what He has planned for Trinity in the coming months and years. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Holy Trinity, (Lutz, FL) – Rev. Steve Naylor

This past year Holy Trinity called and installed Rev. Steve Naylor. We look forward to the Holy Spirit equipping us through the leadership of Pastor Naylor in Word and Sacrament. We thank God for the opportunities and challenges before us and look for good things to happen as God is good – all the time.

Faith Lutheran Church, (New Port Richey, FL) – Rev. Thomas Wenndt

God continues to multiply blessings many-fold amongst His FAITH-ful flock in New Port Richey, even as the last triennium has been mostly a time of ministry transformation. Building on our congregation's mission and vision statements, "LOVING CHRIST AND MAKING HIS LOVE KNOWN;" and: "WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LEADING BY EXAMPLE, SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING THE LORD WITH

GLADNESS WHILE BUILDING BRIDGES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH CHRIST!" we have moved forward in a number of ways.

In 2017, the congregation celebrated 60 years of God's grace. There were three unique celebrations serving a dual purpose of reaching out and also reminding ourselves of what has brought us to this time. In January, we held a "Fam-Fest" targeted at neighborhood families featuring a "family-style" meal and even gathering outside families in a "Family Feud" tournament hosted by a local D.J. President Walton was our preacher. April featured our "Heritage Festival" in which former Pastor Charles Lentner preached and the wife of our former long-time pastor, Jo Lidbom was keynote speaker for our afternoon banquet.

But it was the other two celebrations which bring special note to our ministries. On New Year's Eve, 2017, our synod's 3rd Vice-President, the Rev. Nabil Nour, preached at our official anniversary celebration, which also featured an appearance and proclamation by the city's mayor and other dignitaries honoring the congregation for its large contributions to the city. The two even became guest celebrities in an afternoon where we played "Match Game."

Then on Sunday, October 29th, Faith hosted **REFORMATION 500**, bringing together the five churches of the Suncoast Circuit for a large mass worship celebration at Sims Park in New Port Richey. In light of the recent hurricane, an in-gathering of materials for Flood Buckets (co-sponsored by Thrivent) was made a part of that day. Despite unseasonably cool and blustery conditions that morning, over 300 people joined us for a day of music, preaching, Reformation History and a meal. Kegs of root beer even made it as a part of the celebration in the community.

Faith continues to find more new ways to reach out into the community. "Prayer request" boxes have been placed in several prominent spots around our area so people can make requests in prayer for whatever burdens them (or blessings they wish to have recognized). Our annual Vacation Bible School has transformed into single-day events held in the public park to try to attract people from our community. Even when the weather has been "typically Florida", these events have been successful.

Faith has held a series of meetings in early 2018 to discuss the future of both their ministries and their facilities. While no conclusions have been reached yet, the goal is to continue to find the most effective ways, using the gifts and blessings God has abundantly showered us with, to meet the challenges and opportunities for ministry in the years to come.

Two other items are of note. First, Faith has assembled an all-new outreach team, called MOCA (Monthly Outreach Community Action [team]) which meets every month looking for more and better ways to reach out to the community. They remain one of THE most active organizations at Faith, engaging people in a number of ways both inside and outside the congregation.

Then, right after Easter, 2018, Faith has begun an all-new type of worship service called, "CROSS WALKS." It is unique type of worship that is designed for those who have not been to church, maybe even for decades, and also for those who have never been to a church before. While the members of the church may not be the exact target for such a service, the belief is that EVERYONE knows someone who could benefit from this type of service. The service is held on Wednesday nights, in an all-new re-designed worship and conference room.

As FAITH enters the next triennium, it will continue to move forward in addressing opportunities brought about through local challenges involving changing community, cultural, and even congregational demographics. But, as the people rise to meet these challenges, as part of the Body of

Christ, this will also continue to be a church focused on, "devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (*Acts 2:42*)

Holy Trinity, (Masaryktown, FL) – Pastor David Brockhoff

The Holy Spirit continues to use the ministry of Word and Sacrament to convert self-centered people into Christ-centered disciples equipping them for every work of service. A vibrant outreach witnessed in our food pantry, prison ministry, midweek Outreach Christian Arts Ministry, bike give-away, ESL, and troop support, to name a few, as well as generous support for Missionary Rabe in Ethiopia and our district partnership, give testimony to the life and love of Christ being realized among us. Pastor Brockhoff returned a call to Lake Oconee in October as the Holy Spirit prompted him to stay put in order to assist Holy Trinity in becoming the church God has called us to be so that Jesus' influence might grow and increase among the 400,000 people expected to move to the North Pasco/Hernando county area over the next 10 years.

Christ Lutheran Church, (Brooksville, FL) – Rev. Paul Meseke

God's clothes opens Wednesday a.m. and p.m. times for shopping. We give our clothing of all kinds: men's women's, and children's and all sizes. What began in one small room, now takes up about 400 square feet of our education/office area, with over 12 volunteers heading up the effort. The community has really rallied behind this effort as well. We estimate that we have over 1200 lbs. of clothing hanging on racks and regularly have 15 or more containers of new/used clothing every week. We have helped 1,000's of the homeless in our area, Thanks be to God.

"Walk Around Food," continues to give out portable food to the homeless at specified points in and around the Brooksville area. The homeless can get food assistance Monday's Through Thursday's, but Friday through Sunday, far less is available and the walk around food fills the gap a little bit. Three Men head up this ministry and we are truly gaining eye opening experiences and numerous opportunities to share the love of Jesus to people unaccustomed to someone caring.

We continue to develop a mentoring ministry for high school students from broken homes and homes without two parents. We, with the help of some in the education community, are putting willing members of the congregation and high school students together for a Christian kind of Big Brother's, Big Sister's sort of arrangement. We want to help these young people and look to the Holy Spirit to connect them to Jesus as their Savior through this mentoring relationship.

We continue to receive new members and are thankful to God for all the experience and new ideas that have come to Christ Lutheran Church as a result. We rejoice in God's goodness and mercy as our ministries prosper and grow. We look forward to all the Lord has in store in this new triennium.

Hope, (Hudson, FL) – Rev. Kent Fuqua

Hope, Hudson, continues to serve the Pasco County area and has now for nearly 45 years. The Rev. Dr. Kent Fuqua is the current pastor and has served for 15 years.

Hope is a Stephen Ministry Congregation with a very active corp of ministers. We also have a Messenger of Hope group that meets weekly with those members who are shut-in or temporarily homebound. Part of this group makes daily phone calls since they do not drive or cannot meet face-to-face.

A very active music ministry is at Hope with the Anchors of Hope Praise Band for Saturday services, the Chancel Choir and Joyous Ringers Handbell choir for traditional services. Hope is active in Relay For Life, State Road 1 clean-up quarterly, Hudson Ministerial Association, a yearly Festival of Choirs, and

sponsoring health fairs as well as a cold-night shelter for the homeless. We continue to look for new ways to serve our neighbors.

Hope recently renovated its sanctuary and brought it into the 21st Century with technology. We record services for the homebound and are exploring the use of other forms of media such as YouTube, etc.

Recent months has seen a revitalization of our Sunday School, of capitalizing on the area for growth, and deliberately praying for our neighborhood streets and people and have for two years.

We look forward to the future under God's guidance.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 14

ST PETERSBURG

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

First Lutheran Church and School, (Clearwater, FL) – Rev. Philip Rigdon

In October, 2015 Philip Rigdon accepted the call to serve as Senior Pastor. Andrew Apple, previously serving First in the areas of youth and technical support, began his studies in the Specific Ministry Program. He has been serving with great success in this capacity ever since. Since the last convention, First has worked to define and implement its vision for the future. The Outreach Team has set to work improving our online presence and activity in the community. Other outreach initiatives include outdoor services, neighborhood prayer walks, and Trunk or Treat. Through First the Lord has baptized 18 individuals. We have received 56 new members, including 22 confirmations. First Lutheran School continues to prepare students for life in this world and the one to come. Renovations in the church, day and preschool continue.

Bethel Lutheran Church, (Clearwater, FL) – Rev. Eric Eichinger

- Transition of Sr. Pastor Timothy Parsch, to Sr. Pastor Eric Eichinger.
- Major building renovation and roof repair, roughly 1 million dollar project.
- Addressing a mission statement, branding, and community awareness.

Faith Lutheran Church, (Dunedin, FL) – Rev. Andrew Sorenson

Faith Lutheran Church Dunedin has gone into and emerged from a pastoral vacancy since the last district convention. Pastor Peter Kolb retired from the ministry after 35 years, marking the beginning of a vacancy in the spring of 2015. Rev. Robert Steinke filled in as the Interim Minister throughout the two year vacancy, until the arrival of Rev. Andrew Sorenson in July of 2017. Over the course of the past three years the congregation, in addition to seeking a new pastor, has focused on serving its neighbors. A partnership with Dunedin Cares, a local food bank, has grown. The congregation recently voted to allow Dunedin Cares use of an acre of land to expand its facilities and ability to serve its growing customer base. Additionally, Faith has sent volunteers, donations of food/clothing, and money to support the Homeless Empowerment Project in Clearwater, FL.

Christ the King Lutheran Ministries, (Largo, FL) – Rev. Joseph Adams, II

No report at time of publication

Grace Lutheran Church and School, (St. Petersburg, FL) – Rev. Kevin Loughran

Grace Lutheran Church and School continued to be an active people of God throughout the past triennium. We have recently completed a 2.5 million dollar building project that included updates to our Sanctuary and the construction of a New Gymnasium/Multi- Purpose space. That new space has allowed us to expand our Family Night Ministry, a monthly meal and service geared towards merging our Church and Day school communities. Those nights generally draw 250 people and end with an evening prayer service complete with a seasonal devotion. We have also begun a variety of other community events and even were able to open our gym for people without power post Irma to use as a cool off spot and charging station for their phones. We called a Deaconess to teach Spanish and Religion in our Day School. She has been a welcome addition to our staff. We have baptized 59 people over the course of the three years. Our boys’ basketball and soccer teams were state champions, our music groups have won numerous awards and we hosted the Florida Georgia music festival for the first time in over 20 years because of our new facility. Finally we continue to preach the Gospel and Administer the Sacraments both in season and out.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, (St. Petersburg, FL) – Rev. Dr. Paul Burtzloff

No report at time of publication

Submitted by Rev. Philip Rigdon, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 15

TAMPA

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Christ The King Lutheran Church (Riverview, FL) – Rev. Kevin Yoakum

Under the pastoral care and shepherding of Rev. Kevin Yoakum, Christ The King continues to be a faithful, although smaller, Lutheran congregation. Our mission is to connect people to Jesus Christ in our homes, church, community, and world with truth, with grace, and with passion.

Immanuel Lutheran Church (Brandon, FL) – Rev. Kenneth Farnsworth

Over the past triennium, the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School have served the community and shared the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ.

Lamb Of God Lutheran Church (Lithia, FL) - closed

After many great efforts to maintain a viable ministry in Lithia, FL, Lamb of God Lutheran had to close its ministry in 2017 due to unbeatable financial struggles.

Lutheran Church of The Holy Trinity (Tampa, FL) – Rev. Andrew Schermbeck

Under the pastoral care of Rev. Andrew Schermbeck since 2012, the church and its school ministry have been serving the South Tampa area with great faithfulness. Their school continues to grow, adding a new grade to their school each year. The congregation anticipates new opportunities in ministry will continue to present themselves.

Messiah Lutheran Church (Carrollwood, FL) – Rev. Mark Adrian

In the spring of 2016, the Rev. Mark Adrian received and accepted the call to be the senior pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church. Since 1982, the congregation and school continue to be a Gospel-centered presence in the Carrollwood and North Tampa communities.

Zion Lutheran Church (Tampa, FL) - vacant

Zion Lutheran in Tampa is the mother church of the Lutheran churches in the Tampa area. They are served faithfully by retired pastors, Rev. Pat O'Brien and Rev. Charles Trower.

Submitted by Rev. Kevin Yoakum, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 16

SARASOTA

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Circuit 16, Sarasota, FL. – The sister congregations of the Sarasota Circuit are working together in sharing God's Word and His love in Christ to those living in the southwestern area of Florida. During these past 3 years they enjoyed being together in Worship as a Circuit celebrating Reformation 498 at Lakeside Lutheran Church in Venice and Reformation 500 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Sarasota. Church ministries continue to reach out to their communities with the Good News and assist those in their church families grow in their faith through God's Word. Pastors in the Circuit meet on a regular basis for fellowship and worship. We are truly blessed to have gifted preachers in our circuit who joyfully share God's Word with those in their churches and with their fellow Pastors. Their messages are fitting and Spirit-filled. The Sarasota Circuit thanks God for His many blessings and providing opportunities to share His Son and salvation with others.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (Sarasota, FL) – Rev. Rossetter Leavitt

The highlight of these past 3 years was having the opportunity to host the Reformation 500 Circuit Worship and Fellowship Sunday on the last Sunday in October, 2017. It was a joy working with so many in the congregation and in our Circuit to make this such a special event. We truly thank God for all the support we received from members and Pastors in the Sarasota Circuit. We stay busy with helping our church family grow in their faith by offering Bible Studies throughout the week. Also we provide a weekend full of Worship opportunities with 2 Traditional Services, 2 Contemporary Services, and an off-sight Worship as well. Being in a tourist area of Florida we receive many out of town visitors from all over the country and world every weekend. Our building is open to 2 AA groups (50 in attendance), Home Association Groups, Holistic Heal Ministries (Food, oils), summer camp from children attending our local Elementary School. Each week we also have Book Clubs that meet at two different restaurants. We also get to the world famous Siesta Beach in the Spring and Fall for fun Beach Walks and listening to our MP3 players to a Christian book or Devotion hosted by members of our congregation. We also added a Director of Family Ministry to our staff to help with our Families, children, and youth ministries. Amanda Bell joined us in July 2017 coming here from Nebraska. It is a privilege and joy serving the Lord together in this part of Florida. As we do we are also very mindful of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted in other parts of the world. Please pray with us that the Lord will protect them and keep them faithful until He calls them home.

Concordia Lutheran Church (Sarasota, FL) – Rev. Stephen Gaulke

In the past triennium, Concordia Sarasota's average worship attendance decreased almost 9% to 176 saints, while giving has increased 15% to \$308,000 (2017). An additional \$148,000 was joyfully donated towards roof and organ repairs, and \$17,000 towards LCMS Missionary Ed Naumann in Sri Lanka. Six 12-step groups and neighborhood organizations are blessed by Concordia's fellowship hall. The education

building hosts a partner preschool. The former parsonage welcomes Family Promise, a network of local congregations with Concordia serving homeless families. With the 20 congregations in Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, Concordia pursues social justice and opportunity with community leaders. Pastor Stephen Gaulke was granted a three-month sabbatical in 2015. He has now served 14 years. Pastor Gary Hill, retired from Ohio, preaches almost monthly and plans to lead a mission trip to Haiti. In early 2018 Concordia contracted a 10-week Winter Pastor, Alan Hellwege, to assist with guest welcome and follow up. We seek a retired pastor to so serve for 6 months in future years. Concordia's focus to "Share Jesus' Harmony with the Heart of Sarasota" sees that "Jesus comes to us in worship, giving us His Good News (education) for sharing (evangelism) and His love (fellowship) for caring (service)." Because Jesus serves us through His Word and Sacrament, we pray Him to help us welcome new friends at our worship Saturday evening (chapel), Sunday (9 a.m. contemporary and traditional 10:45 a.m.), and more.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Southwest Florida (Port Charlotte, FL) – Vacant

The roots of TLC started in Oct. 2014 as a group of about 15 people felt in their heart to gather for special Bible study. It was led by a lay member. After a couple meetings, they decided to ask Rev. Earl Schmidt to lead their Bible studies and consider the possibility of future worship services. Rev. Schmidt was a retired Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) pastor living in Port Charlotte. He called Pres. Walton, president of the FL GA District of the LCMS and received permission to serve them. Because of the proximity to Redeemer, Englewood and the close relationships of the people, Rev. Schmidt also called the pastor at Redeemer to keep him abreast of the developments. With the Lord's guidance and blessing, TLC developed into a congregation of the LCMS in the FL GA District and was chartered as a mission congregation on Oct. 19, 2015.

Presently, they have purchased several acres of land along 776 (McCall Road) and remodeled a bank building as their church. They hope, with the Lord's continual blessing, to build a new church in the years ahead. Present membership is about 140. TLC's address is 1379 McCall, Port Charlotte, FL 33981. Rev. Earl Schmidt, retired LCMS pastor, still serves TLC but they are in the process of calling a new pastor.

Good Shepherd, Lutheran Church (Sarasota, FL) – Rev. Steven Anderson

No report at time of publication

Lakeside Lutheran Church (Venice, FL) – Vacant

No report at time of publication

Lutheran Church of the Cross (Port Charlotte, FL) – Rev. Brian Stolarczyk

No report at time of publication

Hope Lutheran Church (Bradenton, FL) – Rev. Craig Mathews

No report at time of publication

Redeemer Lutheran Church (Englewood, FL) – Rev. James Kress, Sr.

No report at time of publication

Faith Lutheran Church (Parrish, FL) – Vacant

Rev. Patrick Pooch has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at Faith in Parrish and is to be installed on July 8th of this year.

Faith Lutheran Church (Punta Gorda, FL) – Rev. Dana Narring

No report at time of publication

Submitted by Rev. Rossetter Leavitt, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 17

SOUTHWEST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

The congregations of Southwest Florida Circuit touch hearts and lives in three counties. Our ministries reach from the northern most parts of Lee County, to Marco Island in the south, from Cape Coral to the west to Immokalee and LaBelle to the East.

Our Circuit is blessed with three Lutheran Elementary Schools (Good Shepherd – North Fort Myers; St. Michael – Fort Myers; Trinity – Cape Coral), plus five free-standing Pre-School ministries (Zion – South Fort Myers; Bethlehem – East Fort Myers; Hope – Bonita Springs; Grace – Naples; Peace - Naples).

Somewhat unique to the Southwest Circuit is the number of Winter Associate members and winter guests that call our congregations their “home church” anywhere from two weeks to up to six months. Ministry opportunities present themselves in a different way when some of our congregations double or more in size during the “season.”

Our congregations assist in the support of: (1) Thrive Community Church (the mission start in Estero and the FGCU campus) led by Rev. John Roth; (2) the ongoing ethnic ministries in our area - Amigos en Cristo (Hispanic Outreach) led by Rev. Bob Selle, Rev. Karl Glander, and Rev. Seth DeBartolo, and Bethlehem Haitian Church led by Rev. Andre Mezilus; (3) Voice of Faith (Muslim Outreach); and (4) Pelican Community Center & Lutheran Church led by Rev. Mark Eisold

In this past triennium, our Circuit celebrated the installation of Rev. Mark Eisold at Grace-Naples (serving at Pelican Community Center & Lutheran Church-Golden Gate), Rev. Karl Galik at Peace-Naples, and Rev. Tom Boeck at Marco Lutheran-Marco Island. We also celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. Saint Luc Charelus (EIIT) with Amigos En Cristo, Rev. Karl Glander (SMP) with Amigos En Cristo. Rev. Seth DeBartolo with Amigos En Cristo will be ordained and installed on May 27th.

Our Circuit experienced a number of challenges and celebrations, including: (1) Hurricane Irma aftermath and recovery; (2) ministry restarts in Golden Gate and Lehigh; (3) property/ministry decisions at Thrive; (4) FiveTwo involvement and potential mission starts; (5) Saint Michael Church 75th and Saint Michael School 60th Anniversary; and (6) a circuit wide Reformation Service.

The Southwest Circuit is made up of: Trinity – Cape Coral (Rev. CJ Kanefke); Good Shepherd – North Ft. Myers (vacant); Bethlehem – East Ft. Myers (Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg); St. Michael – Midtown Ft. Myers (Rev. Jon Zehnder; Rev. Steve Hess); Zion – South Ft. Myers (Rev. Curtis Deterding; Rev. Don Hinchey); Bethlehem Haitian Church - Immokalee (Rev. Andre Mezilus); Christ the King – LaBelle (Rev.

Nick Moskovites); Beautiful Savior – Lehigh Acres (Rev. Juan Gonzalez); Thrive Community - Estero/FGCU Mission (Rev. John Roth); Amigos En Cristo – Hispanic Outreach (Rev. Bob Selle; Rev Karl Glander; Rev. Seth DeBartolo); Hope – Bonita Springs (Rev. Richard Browning, Rev. Tom Ramsey); Grace – Naples (Rev. Keith Lingsch); Peace – Naples (Rev. Karl Galick); Marco – Marco Island (Rev. Kevin Koenig; Rev. Tom Boeck); and Pelican Community Center and Lutheran Church – Golden Gate (Rev. Mark Eisold).

Submitted by Rev. Richard Browning, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 18

TREASURE COAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, (Vero Beach, FL) – Rev. Christopher Kollman

Redeemer went through the Call process in 2017, and extended a Call to Pastor Chris Kollmann (from Messiah Lutheran Church in Mounds View MN) in November of 2017. Pastor Chris Kollmann accepted the call shortly after Christmas, was installed at Redeemer on Sunday February 4th, and he and his family have been excited to get settled and get to know the members of the Redeemer, as well the community.

A lot has happened at Redeemer in a few short months. We hosted two meet and greets to help the congregational members to get to know Pastor Chris, his family, and each other better. A group of 10 volunteers got together to provide some much needed updates to our cry room/nursery in order to help our facilities be more family friendly to guests and visitors. We started a new Women's Bible study right after Easter. We also just restarted our youth group, and we were excited to have most of our youth in attendance for our first youth event. In the coming months we are hoping to do some much needed updates to our church website. We are also trying to reach out to some members who are still living in town but started attending other churches during our vacancy.

After many years of serving children in the community, Redeemer was sadly forced to close its preschool in December of 2017. We are starting to explore some options for how to best utilize the former preschool space. Redeemer is excited to see what the Lord has in store for its ministry here in Indian River County.

Trinity Lutheran Church, (Fort Pierce, FL) – Rev. Craig Bode

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Pierce, Florida, was blessed by God over the past triennial as the gospel of Jesus Christ has been faithfully proclaimed in word and deed and God's Word continues to accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sends it. (Isaiah 55:11)

Of special note is the abundant blessing of God upon our Open Arms Early Childhood Learning Center, under our Director, Loretta Gibbons and her gifted and committed staff. Our Open Arms School has grown from 12 students when it opened in August 2011 to an current enrollment of 150 young lives in our early childhood, VPK, after-school and summer programs. It continues to win awards and recognition for its effectiveness in Early Childhood Learning and our Director Loretta, has served effectively as a value resource and consultant to other ECL programs of our District.

In the past year Trinity has launched and developed as outreach to families with young children, Joyful Noise a weekly Christ-centered Music and Movement Class for preschool children and parents and a bi-

monthly MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group, bringing Christ to these valued additions to our fellowship. Trinity also hosts a weekly community-based playgroup for young children and their families. In addition Trinity serves as host to numerous community groups including, Girl Scouts, Narcotics Anonymous, Pilot Club.

In addition to hosting Family Meals Inc., now serving over 1,800 families three times a year with a community outreach, Trinity continues to maintain and build a strong long-term partnership with other community-based programs and organizations that include Sarah's Kitchen, Mustard Seed, Care Net and Hope's Closet.

Trinity maintains a vibrant commitment to the ministry of prayer that is centered on our faithful Prayer Team that meets weekly to carry out this *"powerful and effective"* ministry. (James 5:17)

A challenge that compels the focused attention and commitment of Trinity as we move into the future God has for us is continuing to discover effective ways to seek, reach, connect with and draw into our fellowship the lost and unchurched from a community that has become much more diverse and distant from the established church. Plans continue to unfold which have included operating a weekly Lifetree Café, which we hope will offer an alternative point of entry to our church for the unchurched and dechurched. We are also intentionally examining our process for incorporating new members and prevent the unfortunate back door loss of inactive members.

As one of many outposts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our Florida-Georgia District, Trinity remains committed to serving Christ and fulfilling the Great Commission at this time and in this place where God has planted us.

Grace Lutheran Church, (Port St Lucie, FL) – Rev. Cris Escher

No report at time of publication

Redeemer Lutheran Church, (Stuart, FL) – Rev. David Albers

Redeemer is blessed. We continue striving to reach out into our community to do what is best for the community. This means sharing the love of Christ through word and deed. Here are a few highlights:

- Serving ages infant through 8th grade our school ministry has seen its highest enrollment in its history. We also have been blessed to share with our community a Fall Festival, Live Nativity, and Palm Sunday in the Park.
- In January of 2016 Pastor Brian Gauthier was sent to be a theological educator for the Lutheran Church of Panama. In August of 2018 we welcomed Kevin Ray as Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach.
- In March 2015 we launched efforts to plant a new mission in south St. Lucie County. In March 2018 Pastor Jim Weist accepted our call to be the mission planter for Cornerstone Fellowship.

The Lord is good all the time!

Bethel Lutheran Church, (Hobe Sound, FL) – Rev. Ed Scott

No report at time of publication

Faith Lutheran Church, (North Palm Beach, FL) – Rev. Mark Stillman

Faith Lutheran in North Palm Beach continues to be blessed by our gracious God. We finished up a lengthy vacancy in good shape, due to excellent pastoral help from Interim Pastor Ken Fuehler. In 2016 the congregation called and installed Pastor Mark Stillman. In September 2017 we added 14 new members by profession of faith.

- Our ministries continue to glorify God, especially Faith Lutheran School and New Day Adult Daycare Center. We also re-established a Children's Ministry during both Sunday worship services called FaithKidz.
- We offer to the community musical presentations throughout the year, ranging from soloists, organ recitals, vocal ensembles and choirs to our presentation of Handel's Messiah each December, utilizing top soloists and community choir.
- We continue our various outreach and community ministries such as a massive Rummage Sale three times a year and the Angel Tree project with Peppi Head Start school in Belle Glade each Christmas.
- We have begun a new Small Group Ministry based on the Free Market model, with about ten groups kicking off the inaugural season.
- We look forward with excitement and anticipation to all that the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us to as we seek to serve the Lord and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Redeemer Lutheran Church, (West Palm Beach, FL) – Rev. Dan McPherson

The congregation continues its Christ-centered presence in downtown West Palm Beach. Membership has plateaued, however the desire to serve God and community is alive and growing. Redeemer continues to provide worship and ministry space to New Alliance Haitian Evangelical Lutheran Church. We provide financial support for a variety of local and international ministries, including First Care Family Resources (a local pro-life clinic) and Voice of the Martyrs. Our congregation is also in the initial stage of implementing a Swaddling Clothes Center on its campus. This ministry will serve as a center which collects and distributes maternity and baby clothing, diapers, food, etc. to people in need. We continue to seek ways in which Christ's love can be shared by members and through use of our resources.

New Alliance Haitian Lutheran Church, (West Palm Beach, FL) – Rev. Michel Ovil

No report at time of publication

Submitted by Rev. Craig Bode, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 19

SOUTH PALM BEACH

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

St Paul Lutheran Church and School (Boca Raton, FL) – Rev. Stephen Carretto

St Paul during the Summer of 2018 will experience what senior Pastor Steve Carretto called a "refreshment." The congregation has called a new associate pastor from the seminary and will install a new vicar, as well as a new school principal and a new teacher.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Delray Beach, FL) – Rev. Vincent Putnam

Trinity is also going through several changes in personnel. Associate Pastor Tony Durante accepted the call to be the Pastor at Our Savior Plantation. He will be greatly missed. Meanwhile, Principal Jamie

Wagner will begin serving as Executive Director of the parish in July 2018 and Assistant Principal A.J. Cluck will become Principal.

Son Life Lutheran Church (Boynton Beach, FL) – Rev. John Johnson

No Report at time of publication.

Epiphany Lutheran Church (Lake Worth, FL) - Vacant

Because Pastor Jim Weist has taken a call to begin a new mission in St. Lucie County, Pastor Raymond Hubble has begun serving as vacancy pastor. The congregation has completed a self-study and will be calling from the field.

Our Savior Lutheran Church (Lake Worth, FL) – Rev. Stephen Wipperman

Pastor Steve Wipperman is retiring in June. The congregation has called a new candidate from the seminary, with installation scheduled for June 17, 2018.

Emmanuel Haitian Lutheran Church (Delray Beach, FL) – Rev. Daniel Bartley

No Report at time of publication.

Salem Haitian/Lake Worth – Rev. Elie Louissaint

No Report at time of publication.

Some of the congregations have begun working with 5-2, including St. Paul, Boca Raton.

District President Greg Walton has appointed Pastor Dennis Glick as Circuit Visitor since Pastor Weist has transferred to the Treasure Coast Circuit. Former Circuit Visitor Jim Weist states: “My goal was to be a brother and friend to all the pastors in my circuit. I believe we are very close and work together for God’s kingdom. They know I care deeply for everyone of them.”

Submitted by Rev. James Weist, Circuit Visitor

CIRCUIT 20

GOLD COAST

CONVENTION REPORT 2018

Since our convention concludes one day before June 25, Presentation of the Augsburg Confession commemoration, Circuit 20 (Fort Lauderdale area) has sought to faithfully give witness to our Gospel centered life. “By grace... for Christ’s sake... through faith” still guides our Lutheran light in a part of God’s world where few folks even know what a Lutheran is. What an opportunity!

Faith, - Vacant; Grace Tabernacle - Rev. Bernard Julmiste; Mt Gerizim, (Ft Lauderdale, FL) – Rev. Oslet Maccenat

What an opportunity for Faith Lutheran Church, Grace Tabernacle Haitian Lutheran Church and Mt. Gerizim Haitian Lutheran Church who all share the same facility. Each congregation has its own niche and arena of mission and witness. They continue to find a way to make it work to the Glory of God!

Gloria Dei, (Davie, FL) – Rev. George Poulos, Jr.

What an opportunity for Gloria Dei Church and Academy to continue its long history of ministry in central Broward County. Despite some on-going health challenges, Pastor George Poulos guides their school's distinctively Christian curriculum and the congregation's distinctively Missouri Synod witness.

Good Shepherd, (Ft Lauderdale, FL) – Vicar Sequincy Pratt

What an opportunity Good Shepherd congregation has under the leadership of Sequincy Pratt and his entrance into the SMP program. With its history of strong lay leadership, Sequincy looks forward to opening the congregation up to new connections with its central Fort Lauderdale community.

Miramar, (Miramar, FL) - Vacant

What an opportunity for Miramar Lutheran Church in the South Broward area that has become something of a "Lutheran desert." Over half of a million people live in the southern part of our county. Miramar maintains a faithful Word and Sacrament ministry even as it seeks new, creative ways to connect the Gospel and their community. Ditto for Prince of Peace in West Hollywood. Opportunities abound for this small, yet dedicated church family.

Our Savior, (Plantation, FL) – Rev. K. Tony Durante

What an opportunity for Our Savior Church and School under the leadership of new pastor Tony Durante. Tony is a son of South Florida Lutheranism. He brings new vision and energy to one of Broward's historically strong, missional congregations.

Shepherd of the Coast, (Ft Lauderdale, FL) – Rev. Stephen Reynolds

What an opportunity for Shepherd of the Coast, situated on one of the busiest thoroughfares in Broward County. Pastor Stephen Reynolds faithfully leads, serves and pushes this congregation ever forward. While that always presents its share of challenges, Rev. Reynolds' four years of pastoral leadership are bearing fruit. So too with the church and school ministry of Trinity Downtown. They are praying for a seminary candidate to lead this 90 year old congregation into a dynamic, God pleasing future and a stronger shared ministry with the 3rd of Broward's Haitian congregations, meeting at Trinity under the pastoral care of Rev. Joshua Vilsaint.

St Paul, (Weston, FL) – Rev. Tim Hartner

What an opportunity as St. Paul, Weston bids farewell to the retiring ministry team of Tim and Laurie Hartner (Director of St. Paul Child Enrichment Center) Prs. Scott Gress and Mark Abram will lead an interim process toward the calling of a new leader of Word and Sacrament. New challenges and opportunities abound in Weston, one of the most culturally diverse areas of South Florida.

Submitted by Rev. Tim Hartner, Circuit Visitor

Concordia Lutheran Church (Miami, FL) – Rev. Christopher Patterson

Highlights 2017-2018

- 127 children at school with waiting list; children & families do service projects
- Teacher appreciation week, 4/23-27, a great success
- Outstanding, interactive weekly Sunday Bible studies (about 20 souls a week)
- Five Senior Confirmands confirmed in April 2018
- Five + baptisms this past year
- Guests & visitors – encouraging 😊 !
- Advent & Lenten Midweek Worship Series
- School Thanksgiving baskets (Care Elementary) & feasts / Christmas assembly
- Wedding in New York
- Hosted Circuit Reformation service
- Four new adult members
- Vacation Bible School each summer
- Youth group has started up again; meet bi-weekly
- Concordia is very blessed!

Trinity Lutheran Church (Cutler Bay, FL) – Rev. Wilfredo Rivera, Sr.

Trinity has moved out of the warehouse district. Pastor Rivera is interested in starting Spanish speaking work at Trinity to meet the needs of the local area. He is also the chaplain of Pine Wood Villa, Inc. The Congregation sees the needs of the growing elderly in Cutler Bay have to be addressed by their church. We give thanks this year to the recuperation of Maria Rivera and Pastor Rivera's receiving his Doctorate degree. Trinity has a mission to fulfill in Spanish and God willing an outreach opportunity beyond the walls of Trinity into Homestead in English.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Hialeah, FL) – Rev. Enrique Orozco

Thanks to the dedication of the Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran, Dennis Bartels, in English and Pastor Enrique Orozco in Spanish the ministry is continuing in Hialeah. The English congregation has worked with the Spanish congregation to allow its facilities to be used for community activities. They held the 500 Hispanic Anniversary of the Reformation with a service and informative lectures. The District Hispanic connection to FiveTwo met at St Andrew's. St. Andrew's currently runs a food bank for the community out of the family life center. God watch over the diverse groups that call St Andrew's home.

Faith Lutheran Church (Hialeah, FL) – vacant

Since the last Convention Faith has been tested. Their Pastor, James Edge, passed away after a short time. It was a trauma and not anticipated. They have been in a holding pattern until recently. At the recent call service they extend a call to a candidate from the seminary, Pastor-Elect Miguel Sanabria, Jr.. Please pray as the congregation through the process God has for them. God has lead them to this new era in their congregational journey. Ruth Wessling has continued the great job of working as principal at the school at this time. Thanks to the laity that have risen to the occasion to keep the Gospel light shining at Faith Lutheran.

Hospital del Alma Lutheran Church (Homestead, FL) – Rev. Benito Perez-Lopez

Before the keys the furthest circuit's church has been blessed since the last Convention. Their Pastor and Deaconess Jessie (Pastor's wife) have worked so hard. Professionally they have achieved great

recognition as they are presenting and marriage workshop before the National Hispanic Convention. Also Jessie is working with the training of Deaconess and workshops on women in the in the church for the seminary. Although the south Miami area has issues Hospital del Alma is standing proud to keep working with the diverse groups in the area.

Grace Lutheran Church (Key West, FL) – Rev. Gary Faith

The Elementary school is struggling but we have hired our former principal for next year and are hopeful it will turn around. The Preschool is doing quite well. We have entered an arrangement with Dwelling 1:14 and are trying to live as missionaries in our neighborhood. We continue to increase the number of ways and/ or events that have the potential to touch the neighborhood with grace.

Martin Luther Chapel (Marathon, FL) – Rev. Anthony Mandile, III

Martin Luther Chapel is a small congregation in the city of Marathon right in the middle of the Florida Keys. Our numbers wax and wane with the rhythm of the tourist/snowbird industry. Yet we consistently provide the Word and Sacramental ministry in the context of the historical liturgy for contemporary Conchs.

In August of 2015 our newly formed school board and Lori Mandile (Director) opened Marathon Lutheran School Early Childhood Center. The center currently serves children from infancy up through VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten). Our program is licensed by the DCF (Department of Children and Families) and we work in cooperation with the ELC (Early Learning Coalition Monroe/Dade). And of course, we are part of the larger national Lutheran School system too. We are currently transitioning in a new Director from the community. We are becoming an established daycare provider in Marathon.

Our church has several Bible studies going on throughout the year including a youth bible study. We have had eight infant baptisms and eight adult baptisms along with seven juniors confirmed and five adults confirmed. So, the preaching, teaching, and confessing of our faith continues. We are thankful for life in the Father's grace and mercy, won for us through the victory of Jesus Christ.

The folks here at MLC and MLS and our community are thankful for the many gifts of products, funds, and service we received through the Florida Georgia District, the Synod, and from congregations across the nation. The gifts have been so generous that we are still distributing funds to various families in our community, helping them recover from hurricane Irma. Here we are, blessed to be a blessing and all to the glory of His name!

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Miami, FL) – Rev. James Leggett

A watershed was reached when Pastor Leggett was ordained and installed as Pastor at Our Savior. He has been at Our Savior for decades and attended conferences and conventions as a lay delegate. Now he is able to represent our North Miami congregation in the clergy capacity. His wife Anna is also serving the circuit as secretary on the Board of Directors or Pine Woods Villa, Inc. Our Savior is set to meet the diverse and changing needs of its community. Our Savior mid-week bible study and prayer continue to grow and we have added a Sunday morning Bible Study. The youth department participated in the NAACP Black History program at Miami Shores Country Club. The youth department conducted the VBS summer program. Our Savior took classes to get certified to partner with Baptist Hospital System to offer aid to the neighborhood elderly. We had a weekend event where the participants were given instructions on the trouble signs and how to recognize them. Our Savior will be starting catechism with

new members. The joy for the congregation, our circuit and, Pastor Leggett's family is a beautiful event. Thank God for all the blessing showered on this congregation.

St Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Miami, FL) – Rev. Luis Santana

Beginning its first recorded service in 1918, St Matthew's is the oldest Missouri Synod congregation in South Florida/Miami area. It has faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Christ and served the community for almost a century. In 1967 it organized the first Spanish Lutheran Church in the Miami area and since offers English and Spanish services and bible instruction to this day. After experiencing serious demographic and economic changes, the congregation continues to be blessed with a slow but steady growth and looks forward to its 100th anniversary celebration and continue serving our Lord for many more years to come.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Miami, FL) – Rev. William "Alan" Sielk

God has blessed our church with more after school student from the charter school at our facilities. They will be expanding next school year and bring even more students to our ministry. The church is home to many diverse community groups that meet on our campus. We are setting up community youth activities to meet on our campus or meet and go out to like cleaning up the bay, butterfly world, and mission trips. A nurse is hoping to go on a LCMS medical mission trio to Africa this fall.

San Pablo Apostol (Miami, FL) – vacant

We are so pleased to have our first vicar, Daniel Jordan. It was a true blessing for him to become available to us. We also ask you to keep in mind our families in Venezuela and Puerto Rico that have been affected by natural and political disasters. We are sending humanitarian aid to the churches in both areas. It has been so appreciated. Our first united service between the English and Spanish churches in Miami was held on 19th for Armed Forces Day. We wanted to use a day of celebrating the dedication of our Armed Forces as a uniting force on our community.

Bay Shore Lutheran Church (Miami, FL) – Rev. Erwin Perez-Arche

Bay Shore is praising the Lord for His continued blessings of leadership, treasures, and ministry opportunities. Bay Shore is located in the inner city Midtown district where the City of Miami MIMO project declared the beautiful gothic sanctuary a historical building. We are active in our community and frequently host meetings for the Bay Point Home Owners Association and the Morningside Civic Association. Because we are located in the Art District, we are regularly utilized by the film industry for movies and music videos. The partnership with the Montessori school is an opportunity to minister the Gospel to children of the community. Pastor Erwin Perez-Arche also serves as a hospice chaplain and is the host for yearly memorial services. He daily visits the terminally ill patients and comforts the bereaved families in his work for hospice. Bay Shore is a faith community of "all nations" that is multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic working and worshipping together. Our average worship attendance is 55. Baptized members are 85. Even in these hard economic times, Bay Shore ended the year with a surplus and managed to send support to the District, thanks be to God. This year we were blessed with a brand new Viscount organ console model Chorum 60 in Dark Oak with the new ARTEM technology which sounds amazing in our worship. May God continue to bless all our endeavors.

Lutheran Church of Nassau (Nassau, Bahamas) – Rev. Samuel Boodle

They survived the hurricane season with minimal damage and are praising the good Lord for his blessings, small and great. Pastor Boodle has retired but is still serving as the pastor of the church. The women of Nassau have hosted the LWML zone rally and worked hard. All are invited to visit Paradise.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School (North Miami, FL) – Rev. Dennis Bartels

Ministry is a joy and a challenge at the same time but we see the hand of God each and every day. A diverse congregation that reflects the community that we are serving – a school of over 400 a congregation worshipping 175-200 a Sunday. We have added a DCE intern to the staff which has been a blessing. Challenges this past year have included \$90,000 worth of hurricane damage – sewer lines collapsing, the adding of two portable buildings giving us four additional classrooms. Moving forward emphasis will focus on new outreach ideas to stay relevant and training lay leaders.

Submitted by Rev. William Alan Sielk, Circuit Visitor

Reports from Councils, Commissions and Partner Ministries



Tri-Annual Report for the 33rd Regular Florida – Georgia District Convention Amigos en Cristo, Inc. d/b/a Amigos Center

Amigos en Cristo, Inc. (Friends in Christ) is a RSO ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches of Southwest Florida. Since 1997 we have provided spiritual, social and legal services to immigrants of our region.

Our ultimate desire is to see all people recognize Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to be able to connect to a community of believers in their own heart language were they can grow in faith and service to God.

Since our last district convention we called and ordained two pastoral candidates. In December 2015 Rev. Saint Luc Charelus was ordained to work together with Pastor Andre Mezilus with our Bethlehem Haitian Church – LCMS in Immokalee, Florida. Rev. Karl Glander was ordained in October 2016 to help Rev. Robert Selle with our Immokalee Hispanic mission congregation.

We have two other people that, by God’s grace, will soon form part of our pastoral body: Immokalee resident and seminarian **Sergio Campos** and Pastoral candidate **Seth DeBartolo**. Sergio will work with Pastors Glander and Selle in Immokalee to build up our Spanish speaking congregation. In March 2018 we submitted a pastoral call document to the Synod requesting that Seth help us start two new ethnic churches within the next three years.

Hurricane Irma gave us an opportunity to work with a number of organizations to help our community recover: LCMS Disaster Relief, Lutheran Church Charities from Chicago, IL, Orlando based Mercy in Action and numerous churches and schools from across the country sent money, supplies and volunteers. This allowed us to make new friends in Christ throughout Southwest Florida.

Last fall our immigration legal services were seriously impacted by Hurricane Irma. Irma destroyed our main immigration office on the campus of Hope Lutheran Church in Bonita Springs, FL. We were blessed when LCMS mission congregation Thrive Community Church opened its doors to us and welcomed us into their facility in nearby Estero, FL. We lost several weeks of work due to the move and the temporary loss of telephone and internet service. However, in spite of the down time, last year our immigration staff served 1,442 families, that is more than the previous year.

Mainly due to our hurricane recovery efforts, our team of Immokalee workers distributed over 114,000 pounds of food and provided over 17,300 client services to the Immokalee community. This represents over 5,000 Friends in Need who came to us and were not disappointed.

Last year we celebrated our 20 year anniversary. As the immigrant community continues to grow among us, we have every reason to believe that God will allow us to continue to expand our Gospel centered ministries to and together with them.

Submitted by Rev. Bob Selle, CEO and Founder

Campus Ministry in the Florida-Georgia District – 2018 Convention Report

The Many Students We Have Served for 70 Years

There are **almost one million college students who attend colleges and universities throughout the boundaries of the Florida Georgia District**. Historically, the Florida-Georgia District has seen ministering to people in vocations of higher education as a priority since the inception of the District 70 years ago. When the District was founded, there were already campus ministry outposts at the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, and Florida State University. **This 70 year heritage of campus ministry lives on in the many campus ministries of the District that stretch out to reach colleges and universities, both public and private, connecting them to Jesus.**

Connections are Important

The campus ministries of the District draw many students from the local churches of the District. These students are not only the “ministered-to”, but they also often form the backbone of those who will reach out to the Gospel on our college campuses. Due to this reality, **it is important that local congregations connect with campus ministries in order to pass along the names of their students who will have the opportunity to be ministered to and become missionaries themselves in the context of their campus.**

Campus Ministry Update from Individual Campuses

The following campus ministry locations (presented North to South) have provided information concerning their activities over the past triennium.

University of North Georgia

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Dahlonega, Georgia has been conducting campus ministry with students from the University of North Georgia (UNG) in Dahlonega, since the fall of 2014. With a properly registered Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) group there, it holds weekly Bible study sessions Thursday nights. In conjunction with the UNG's Department of Philosophy, History, and Anthropology, for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it sponsored a lecture by the widely renowned Luther scholar, the Rev. Dr. Scott Hendrix, and hosted a luncheon with him to discuss issues relating to the Reformation. Additionally a week later, for students and the wider community, it hosted a free showing of the new movie, "Martin Luther--Idea that Changed the World." The congregation hosts "Sunday Suppers" for the students during the school year. Early in the midst of the spring semester, students from the UNG LSF group enjoyed participating in a Winter Retreat at Vogel State Park, hosted by the LSF chapter at the University of Georgia in Athens through participation in the Orientation program at the beginning of each semester and the "Nighthawk Fest" and by reaching out to Lutheran pastors in North Georgia, the congregation's campus ministry has been successful in serving a group of about half dozen students on a regular basis.

The University of Georgia

Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center continues to serve the University of Georgia and its community. We encourage students live out their baptisms, growing in Christ's victory and sharing that victory as they serve and reach out on campus. We also seek to train students to be leaders as they transition to their new locations serving the church and world. In the last triennium we have had spring break mission trips to Panama and North Carolina and annual fall service retreats with fellow students from other parts of the district. Locally we serve regularly with Our Daily Bread and periodically with other organizations such as Habitat, Project Safe, the Cottage, Northeast Georgia Foodbank, et al. Pastor

Michael spoke on campus for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as part of a panel put together by the German and Slavic Languages and the History Department. We transitioned our Life 173 time into a full service of the Word and continue to provide opportunities for students to spend time together through intramurals, fellowship nights, and small group and larger group Bible studies. God continues to provide students to facilitate the efforts and grow through them.

Florida State University

University Lutheran, the campus ministry at Florida State University continues to be a "Jesus-Centered Community of Scripture, Faith, and Grace" which seeks to cultivate Christian leadership for the next generations of the Church. Over the past three years, University Lutheran reached out to the campus community of Florida State University and its 41,000 students. During these years University Lutheran has also launched "The Luther Nole Network" to stay in touch with the alumni and those who have been served at University Lutheran for the purpose of connecting them with new alumni and connecting those new alumni with churches after graduation. We also began to invite local food trucks on our campus in order to connect better with our neighborhood. We are proud to have served and sent out many student leaders, including sending one student to Concordia Seminary for training as a pastor and sending another student to Concordia University-Irvine as a philosophy professor.

The University of Central Florida

During the 2017-2018 school year, LiveUCF began it's fourth official year on the campus of the University of Central Florida, the second largest campus in the country and the largest mission field in Central Florida. LiveUCF continues to raise up future leaders of our church by involving college students on our Board of Directors and putting decision making responsibility on them. Each year we add around several new attendees and keep in touch with our alumni.

Submitted by Rev. Jay Winters

Communications for the Florida – Georgia District – 2018 Convention Report

A major focus of the communications effort for the Florida-Georgia District is the bi-monthly newsmagazine *Lutheran LIFE*. During the past triennium circulation for *Lutheran LIFE* has increased its in-home distribution to almost 15,000. This includes many members of our Florida-Georgia District as well as leaders in the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod across the country. All District congregations are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the every-member mailing program, which brings *Lutheran LIFE* into the homes of members at no cost to the church.

A major reason for the success of *Lutheran LIFE* is the participation of District congregations and schools in providing information and photos. The regional news section of the newsmagazine more frequently accounts for almost if not more than 50 percent of the content.

Communications efforts during the past triennium have also been directed at helping publicize District events such as the recent President's Equip Conference and the forthcoming June, 2018 Convention. Working with District staff, the communications team help prepare emails, bulletin inserts, social media posts and other materials for these events.

The communications team also acts as the contact for the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod official publications on key events such as the District Convention. Press releases are written and submitted about key issues and elections, facts and answers are provided as needed and we stand by to provide assistance however requested.

Submitted by Eileen Bishop List and John List, Communication Directors

Constitution Review Committee – 2018 Convention Report

During the last triennium, June 2015-June 2018, the constitution review committee has worked with 18 congregations of the district to modify their existing constitution and bylaws or draft new ones. At the conclusion of the review process, all 18 were recommended to the board of directors for approval. Fifteen congregations submitted amended constitutions and or bylaws for review; three congregations were drafting new documents.

The task of the constitution review committee is three-fold. The primary task is to confirm that the documents are consistent with the constitution of Synod and meet the requirements for membership in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

A second task is to look for inconsistencies, contradictions, and ambiguities in the documents which may cause difficulty for a congregation in the future. We also look for serious omissions that need to be addressed by the congregation.

A third task is to identify typos and formatting inconsistencies that may cause confusion. When this is done, it is a courtesy to the congregation and is not really part of the committee’s charge.

The committee wishes to thank the congregations of the district for their cooperation in the review process. Amending a constitution or writing a new one is a process that is always long and often tedious. We appreciate our partnership with the congregations. They recognize the need to work with the committee, and we recognize the congregation’s right of self-governance. The result is an organizational structure designed to help us “Connect People to Jesus.”

Submitted by Rev. Pat F. A. O’Brien, Chair

Rev. Jay A. Winters, District Secretary

Mr. William Huseman, Esq., District Counsel

District Stewardship Advisory Council (DSAC) – 2018 Convention Report

The purpose of the DSAC is to assist, encourage and promote God-pleasing stewardship in congregations of this District, consisted of the following members for all or part of this triennium: The Rev. Dennis Bartels, chairman, Mr. Dennis Cerny, Mr. Tom Cioper, Mrs. Joan Cioper, Mr. Bruce Hahn, The Rev. John Hirst, The Rev. Jeff Jordon, Ms. Magda McKay, Ms. Chrystal Presley, Mr. Tony Ramiz, The Rev. Larry Schaefer, Mrs. Anette Shanks, The Rev. Mark Stillman, The Rev. Ed Trinklein, The Rev. Milan Weerts, and The Rev. Tom Zehnder. Advisory members were President Greg Walton, Mr. John Elliott, Mr. Daniel Reichard, Mrs. Debbie Arrington, and Mrs. Kathy Keene. Throughout the triennium the DSAC met either at the District Office in Orlando or by teleconference to monitor the support of District/Synod by congregations.

Emphasis over the triennium continues to be one of encouraging congregations to educate and share the opportunities that are before us in living our daily lives to serve the Lord. A survey was conducted and showed that only 40% of the congregations in the Florida- Georgia District have an annual stewardship program. This means one Sunday or an actual series.

As a District we continue to lead the way with the program for LCEF - Consecrated Stewards. This program is very affordable at this time and works for all size congregations. We have many trained leaders in the District at this time. This program can be used at any time of the year. There are also many other options available, the biggest obstacle is ourselves but people need to know the need and also have a need to be a part of the Body of Christ. With “Consecrated Stewards” we have seen those congregations who have participated to be greatly blessed with the majority showing an increase in giving of 19% or more. We celebrate the results but it’s not about the dollars it is about the awareness in an individual’s life of the “Giver to Give”. Also during this triennium a series of Stewardship Summits were held throughout the District - a great opportunity to train laypeople in the area of Stewardship. For Stewardship is what our living for Jesus is all about and it effects every aspect of our lives. Because Jesus is either Lord of all – or not Lord at all.

1. Congregational and Missions pledging to District/Synod: *Using baseline of 207 congregation and /missions, in 2015 there were seventy (80) pledges (39%), in 2016 there were eighty-eight (64) pledges (31%), and in 2017, at time of publishing, we have received eighty (66) pledges (32%).*
2. *In 2015 there were seven (7) pledges of 10% or greater; 2016 nine (9) pledges of 10% or greater; 2017 nine (9) pledges of 10% or greater.*
3. *Encourage every congregation to increase its proportion of offering receipts given to the work of the church-at-large at least by 1% toward a goal of 10% or more each year.*
4. *Encourage every congregation to appoint and train for service a standing stewardship Committee.*
5. *Encourage every congregation to conduct an annual campaign which includes stewardship education and a time for member commitments.*
6. *Encourage every Stewardship Committee to designate times in the year for training in stewardship of time and talent; and enlisting talents and services of members for ministry.*

Submitted by Rev. Dennis Bartels, Chair

District Wellness Network – 2018 Convention Report

The members of the District Wellness Network are Rev. Tom Eggebrecht (chair), Dr. Rick Armstrong, Mr. Kurt Bickel, Ms. Edna Bush, Mr. Adam Kless, Mr. Daryl Kruse, Ms. Megan Miessler, Mr. Gerry Noss, Ms. Greta Schulz, Ms. Joyce Van Matre, Rev. Greg Walton, and Ms. Kathy Keene. Over the past three years the District Wellness Network planned or sponsored several events and interactions, including: Grace Place Retreats, Synod's Ministerial Care Coalition, District New Worker's Retreat, Marriage Enrichment opportunities, President's Circle, Soldiers of the Cross, Veterans of the Cross, Doxology, and Shepherd's Canyon. In addition, a (sometimes) weekly blog entitled "Wellness Wednesday" was sent to all church workers on the district. The Network, with the help of President Greg Walton also promoted Clergy Appreciation Month, Teacher Appreciation Days, DCE Appreciation Day, and Administrative Assistant Day. Please remember: A healthy worker is an effective worker and servant of Christ. Here's to good health!

Submitted by Rev. Tom Eggebrecht, Chair

Emergent Leaders – 2018 Convention Report

The FL-GA District Board of Directors has defined leadership as one of our two critical targets: Healthy leaders build healthy ministries. Strong leadership equips congregational leaders with a greater ability to serve, and also with the skills necessary to reproduce leaders for the future sustainability of ministry in the place they currently serve, and throughout the FL-GA District.

The Emergent Leadership project is part of the Board and President Walton's commitment to grow healthy leaders, utilizing the best training available to us from both spiritual and behavioral science disciplines. We believe that leadership should equip the whole person as they develop skills that address issues of organizational dynamics and personal growth to better sustain ministry in a post-church culture.

Since 2014, ninety-nine (99) people, Pastors, Teachers, Administrators, DCEs, Lay Persons have attended the ten day Emergent Leadership Training. This also includes people from five other Districts who participate at a higher rate than the FL-GA leaders.

Emergent Leaders possess significant insight into organizational challenges and opportunities
These are the Outcomes of Emergent Leadership:

- Emergent Leaders have an increasing capacity for personal responsibility. They respond appropriately and effectively to conflict and interpersonal encounters.
- Emergent Leaders engender the development of others.

Cornerstone Consulting is administering the experience with four trainers, each with extensive expertise.

- Sue Easton, a professor at Rollins College in Organizational Communication, has worked with Fortune 500 clients, governments, nonprofits, colleges and universities.
- Les Stroh, one of the founders of Cornerstone, is a human resource specialist with 40 years of experience as an educator, trainer, executive, manager, consultant and entrepreneur.

- Daryl Pichan brings the emotional edge to the discussion with 20 years of experience coaching business owners and senior leaders.
- Bickel, a certified executive level coach with the Gestalt Institute, is all about human resource development.

Here are a few of the 300+ positive comments:

- *“As a whole, these four days have been wonderful experience I came to realize as a leader I am not there yet but on the way. I am expecting to learn more through group interactions the experience has been great”* -Florida Educator
- *“With a nearly 30 year career in corporate America, I have been through a number of leadership sessions. This was good review and provided some fresh points and most importantly it was framed with the proper focus on Jesus.”* - Georgia Lay Leader
- *“The assembled group comes from my unique part of the church I am grateful for their feedback and insights. I also enjoyed being at the retreat center that was helpful for me to disconnect from my normal routine.”* -Florida Pastor
- *“This is knowledge that can be implemented now.”* – Florida Lay Leader

While low compared to similar programs, President Walton understood that the cost—\$1,900—was probably beyond the reach of most church workers and lay leaders. He applied for a Thrivent grant in 2014 and received \$30,000. In early November of 2016, Walton applied for and received an LCEF Kaleidoscope Grant in the amount of \$48,778.00 to conduct two more training events.

We pray that God would continue to send labor-leaders for the harvest connecting people to Jesus.

Submitted by Mr. Kurt Bickel, Coach & Lead Facilitator

Lutheran Counseling Services– 2018 Convention Report

Vision Statement: *Sharing God's Healing and Abundant Grace in Our Community!*

Mission Statement: *Motivated by the grace of God, LCS provides professional counseling, mental health education and consultation for all individuals, families and communities seeking growth and renewal.*

Twenty-seven years has brought change, growth and Sharing God’s Abundant Grace through Lutheran Counseling Services in Winter Park, FL. LCS began with our founder Rev. Dr. Mel Jacob serving as an outreach arm of the Lutheran community in the Orlando area. We now are a staff of 9 licensed therapists, 5 registered mental health interns, and 3 administrative staff, serving more than 700 clients and providing more than 3,500 clinical sessions per year. Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong, LMFT has been LCS’ Executive Director for the past 6 years. Motivated by the grace of God, our mission is to support the emotional and spiritual health needs of our Central Florida community while reducing barriers to mental health resources. We believe the more accessible we can make mental health support, the healthier our entire community will be.

LCS in 2018:

• **We now have 9 locations in Central Florida and 1 in Southwest Florida** - St. Luke Lutheran, Oviedo; Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Waterford; Prince of Peace Lutheran, Curry Ford; Woodlands Lutheran, Montverde; Holy Cross Lutheran, Lake Mary; Peace Lutheran, Fort Myers, St. Philip Lutheran, Mt. Dora, Hope Lutheran, Villages, People of Faith, Winter Garden as well as our main office in Winter Park.

* **Supporting Successful Aging in Winter Park** - LCS counselors continue to provide services and be accessible 24 hours per week to seniors at the Plymouth in Winter Park, an older adult outreach program that promotes healthy aging in place. In addition, LCS has introduced a new program for low income seniors living in Calvary Towers who are also part of Seniors First congregant meal program. The **Healthy Living for Seniors** program delivers group therapy directly to environments where low-income seniors are already present. The objective of **Healthy Living for Seniors**: to improve the mental health and well-being of seniors by reducing all barriers (financial, access, convenience, lack of transportation) to mental health resources

* **Crisis/Disaster Response** – Over the years we have provided and coordinated Spiritual and Emotional Care for survivors and care-givers following natural disasters in the state of Florida and throughout the country. We have provided one-on-one response as well as training, consultations and respite retreats following these catastrophic events. LCS currently provides therapy to victims (including first responders and law enforcement) of the recent Orlando tragedies at no cost (work that is 100% supported by private donors). We have also responded to critical incidents, disasters and crisis situations in Houston, TX, Newtown, CT; NYC; Minot, ND; Virginia, Oklahoma, Boston and others recovering from incidents and tragedies in schools, congregations and communities.

* **Candidate for Ministry Evaluation**- We are regularly involved in Candidate for Ministry Evaluation processes for the United Methodist Church, ELCA, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Moravian Church and others. We have completed approximately 50 candidate assessments during the past year. LCS also provides missionary consultations for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

* **School Social Work Ministry** – Partnering with Wheatridge Ministries since 2013 to develop and offer school counseling in private schools, LCS has launched seven school counseling programs. These programs currently provide access to mental health professionals and counseling for 2,000+ students and their families as well as school staff members. In 2017, LCS introduced IAMSTRONGER, an educational program and conversation about bullying and the impact it has, to 2,00 students. In the program's initial student survey, 55% of students said they worry about bullying, 8% worry about bullying daily, 45% stated they been bullied and 37% said they had bullied others.

* **Ministerial Assistance Program** – We have contracts with the FL/GA District, Southern District, FL-Bahamas Synod and the LCMS OIM to provide Church Worker MAP service through an 800 number or Skype, as well as congregational/organizational consultations and coaching, classes, retreats, workshops, and more.

Since its inception in 1987, LCS has provided a wide range of confidential professional counseling and consulting services to thousands of Florida residents regardless of race, religion, gender or national origin. Originally founded by the Lutheran Church and local community leaders, Lutheran Counseling Services has grown into an independent nonprofit providing mental health counseling, training and consulting services to our local community, Florida and the nation.

In 2017 Lutheran Counseling Services served more than 700 clients (245 of these were children) and provided 3,500+ clinical sessions. Our qualified professional staff offers a variety of mental health services to those who reach out for assistance. While services are open to everyone, regardless of financial status, fees are determined by a person's income, family size, health resources and special circumstances. With more than 75% receiving subsidized care, the counseling service truly seeks to fulfill its mission of outreach to the entire community. In 2017, 15 congregations supported LCS with contributions. 20% of our clients self-identify as Lutheran; approximately 67% of our clients indicate they are not affiliated with a church.

LCS is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and an Affiliated Social Ministry Organization of the ELCA. LCS is a Florida not-for-profit corporation, tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It operates under its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. A board of volunteer directors oversees the operation of LCS.

Additional information is available upon request from Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong (407) 644-4692 or on our web site at: www.LcsFL.com.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong, Executive Director

Lutheran Haven – 2018 Convention Report

Greetings from His Ministry to Older Adults!

Lutheran Haven is thriving during its 70th year of mission and ministry to retired Lutherans—thanks be to God! The Haven continues to provide independent housing for older adult Lutherans, and serves all denominations in our memory care, assisted living and nursing home facilities, as well as in our home health care agency. Of the nearly four hundred individuals served on a daily basis, one-hundred and four are retired Lutheran Church workers.

The Lutheran Haven Trustees have planned and approved the development of additional services and amenities for the community which have come, or will soon come to fruition. Trustees for the past triennium include:

Susan Hanas, Chair & Duda Family Representative

David Vorpapel, Vice President & Member-at-Large

Rev. George Hansell, Secretary & SELC Central Circuit Representative

F.S. Duda, Treasurer & St. Luke's Lutheran Church Representative

Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik, SELC District President

Rev. Luke Jacob, SELC Western Circuit Representative

Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis, SELC Eastern Circuit Representative

Mr. James Ingersoll, FL-GA District Representative

Ms. Ardyne Kim, SELC District Member-at-Large

Rev. Wally Arp, Senior Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church & SELC Southern Circuit Representative

The community has seen some exciting changes since the last District Convention. We have opened a memory care facility on site, and serve individuals with all spectrums of dementia in a home like setting that has both an assisted living and an extended congregate care license. This dual license provides the opportunity to maintain residents at this level of service, even when additional care is required, through their departure to their heavenly home.

Through the certificate of need application process within the State of Florida, we were able to add fourteen beds to our existing forty-two-bed skilled nursing home. The rehabilitation therapy space within that building was also expanded to serve both in and outpatients who require physical, occupational or speech therapy. Our nursing home is currently 5-star rated by both the Federal and

State governmental agencies, and is among the top 20% of homes for quality within Florida and the US. It recently received a commendation from the Centers for Medicare Services for exceeding quality measure expectations.

Current construction includes the renovation of Fellowship Hall (circa 1974), and the new Landings building (replacing the original 400 square foot cottage homes). Through several working committees, residents advised and provided valuable feedback for how services and amenities would be most usefully arrayed between the two buildings. The Hall will be transformed to add a game room, fitness center, additional meeting space, and two new craft rooms. Technology will be updated to provide additional options for education and entertainment, as well as resident-led musical and dramatic productions.

The Landings, our newest, amenity-rich residential living building, is approximately thirty-five percent built out, with resident occupancy anticipated in early November of 2018. Eighty percent of the homes have been reserved, and it is anticipated that all will be reserved by opening. The Landings will provide two new dining venues—a full-service restaurant, and a more casual café. Enhanced personal services, such as massage and full nail care will be available in the new salon, and our home healthcare agency will have a wellness clinic located centrally in the building for resident convenience. This project was made possible through a loan from a terrific partner--the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

The greatest asset of the Haven isn't an edifice nor reflected on the balance sheet—it is the residents of the Haven. Though 'retired', they continue to serve in so many ways, both within the campus and in the greater community. Almost everyone who lives here contributes many hours to the bi-annual Auxiliary flea market that raises funds to augment the capital budget of the health care facilities. More than forty volunteers visit our nursing home, assisted living and memory care residents on a weekly or more frequent basis to read, pray and nurture. Volunteers arrange and deliver beautiful floral bouquets to those who need cheer; design, fabricate, and deliver beautiful handmade cards, earrings and jewelry, and notes of encouragement; serve as helpers, crossing guards, and readers at St. Luke's Lutheran School next door; the list is practically endless!

These same resident 'assets' make working at Lutheran Haven a real blessing for the two hundred plus staff members employed at the Haven. Together we've survived two hurricanes during the last two years without injury and little property damage. Together we celebrate the seasons of the church, especially during Advent and Lent. Together we celebrate births, mourn the departure of loved ones to their heavenly home, and hold up one another in prayer. We are indeed blessed to work at the Haven!

We invite you to visit whenever you are nearby, and ask you to keep the Haven ministry on your prayer list, so that we may continue to live and grow in Christ.

Submitted by Linda Kirk, CEO

Luther Institute – Southeast Asia (LISA) – 2018 Convention Report

Since the last convention in 2015, the Lord has been faithful to walk the LISA Institute through many challenges and opportunities to strengthen and build his Kingdom in the beautiful countries of Southeast Asia. I am thankful for the support of the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS and many of you who have supported us in prayer, service, and finances over the last three years.

I. **Cambodia**

The Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC) has undergone a leadership change since 2015. A team of godly, confessional, and evangelism-minded individuals leads it. This young leadership team wants to continue using the LISA curriculum to prepare church workers.

A new cohort of thirty-two individuals were carefully recruited and started on the LISA curriculum last year. To date, four LISA courses have been offered to this new group of students. Three more courses will be offered in 2018; five more will be offered each year through 2020. The students in this cohort consist of pastors, teachers that teach in Christian elementary schools, deacons, and evangelists from all parts of the country.

II. **Thailand**

A cohort of fifteen students in Bangkok completed the entire LISA curriculum in 2016. Another cohort was started by the LISA Coordinator, who subsequently needed to resign due to health concerns. The LISA program in Thailand is now under the direction of Pastor Niran Temsakun. This talented young leader in the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC) is preparing to recruit another cohort of students for the LISA classes. Meanwhile, the TCLC in partnership with LISA has recently offered a seminar on the Small Catechism to a new people group—the Lahu people—in NW Thailand. It is anticipated that Christians in this ethnic group will eventually enroll in a church worker training program using the LISA curriculum.

In addition, Pastor Niran enrolled two students in a full-time residential training program using the LISA curriculum in Chiang Mai, Thailand. These two students will be completing their time of study in May 2018 and will be ordained by the TCLC to serve as pastors. These are the first two pastors in the TCLC who have been trained for ministry using the LISA curriculum.

III. **Other SE Asian Countries**

There are multiple cohorts in other countries who are being trained using the LISA courses. Two of the cohorts in one country will complete their training this Summer. The other cohorts are at various stages in the curriculum.

IV. **LISA Leadership**

Dr. Jacob Preus III has filled the position of Executive Director of LISA since 2015. He has been a blessing to LISA and the students in SE Asia. Recently, he left the position but will continue to serve as a consultant and instructor. We are thankful for his service to LISA over the past three years.

Rev. Dr. Mark Schroeder, Boone, NC began working with LISA in September 2017 as Director of Operations. He is an ordained Lutheran pastor in the LCMS who has served in international cross-cultural ministry for most of his ministry. He brings cross-cultural teaching experience, curriculum design skills and a heart for missions with him to LISA. To settle into the position, he has traveled to Asia three times since last September to build relationships with our partners, assess the state of the LISA program, and teach.

V. **Future Planning**

In the next three years, LISA will focus on the following areas of development:

- 1.) A revision of all the courses to take advantage of mobile phone technology allowing students to receive course content on their smart phones. This will reduce the amount of time needed in a classroom setting and allow for content review at later dates. This revision will be completed by 2020.
- 2.) Work with our partners in each country to turn several LISA courses over to local pastors who will teach them more often under the auspices of congregational ministry.
- 3.) Expand the ministry of LISA into Myanmar.

Thank you for your support of LISA! We believe it is a strategic ministry in a part of the world where the percentage of Christians is approximately three percent of the population. If you are interested in continued partnership or have questions, contact Rev. Dr. Jeff Ehlers (jeff@garuna.org), Cheryl Ehlers (cheryl@garuna.org) or Rev. Dr. Mark Schroeder (mark@garuna.org).

Submitted by Mark Schroeder, Director of Operations—LISA

Lutheran Services Florida – 2018 Convention Report

Lutheran Services Florida rests on a foundation of Christian faith & the Lutheran tradition of love and serving our neighbors. These principles are shaped by our continued relationship with our moral owners, the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Florida-Bahamas Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as with our stakeholders – our clients, our partners and the communities we serve.

LSF Mission

Bringing **God’s healing, hope and help** to people in need the name of Jesus Christ.

LSF History

Ours is an interesting story, one that has impacted and influenced the history of modern Florida itself. LSF’s work started in response to the Cuban refugee crisis in 1980 during the Mariel Boatlift, where Lutheran churches mobilized to help the thousands of Cuban refugees who arrived needing help with food, clothing, shelter, employment and overall resettlement. In 1982, Lutheran Ministries of Florida was formed to take over the responsibility for running these programs. Thus, these early hidden heroes officially launched our services.

In 2016, LSF completed an organization-wide survey. Employee comments highlighted a passion for our clients, evidenced by statements such as “Our primary strengths are passion and compassion,” “Our strength is in our mission statement,” and “We really do well at educating and offering hope, love, and healing to our clients.”

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In 2017, we entered into our 35th year of service. Over these past decades, we’ve built upon our foundation of faithful caring, compassion and generosity to help more people in need. We’ve expanded services to respond to the growing needs of Florida, including opening runaway youth shelters, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, child welfare, guardianship, homeless services, disaster response, and substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Today, our 1,200+ employees serve nearly 450,000 people a year, covering the state of Florida. We’ve spent the past few years since the 2015 conference focusing on our securing the infrastructure and, more importantly, ensuring we are providing high quality services to all those we help. In the last eight years or so:

- We added over 750 employees and over \$77M in Head Start and Early Head Start funding – allowing us to serve over 7,000 more children per school day through these programs across the state

- We became the managing entity to ensure the provision of substance abuse and mental health services in 23 counties in Northeast Florida – the \$110M in funding allows us to help over 74,000 people in the region receive the critical support they need
- We added child welfare case management services in Pinellas county – allowing us to help over 6,700 children and families per year who are in unsafe environments
- We added Comprehensive Refugee Services to our refugee services work – our foundational program – which provides employment, adult and vocational education, employability status assistance, case management, and child care services. We operate those programs in five geographical areas, helping refugees and immigrants find solace and comfort in their new communities

But, while we're proud of our growth, we are most proud of the human impact: Our work touches the lives of 1 in every 50 people across Florida.

As in the early days of Lutheran Ministries of Florida, we are motivated by faith. We are proud of the passion of our employees and motivated by the recognition they receive as experts. Our people are invited to present at conferences, to speak with elected officials, to serve as expert witnesses, and to provide advisory services to other organizations.

Yet, we remain most humbled by our clients' successes. There are thousands of people throughout our communities who are separated from those they love, struggling to find hope and healing.

Consider our former client, Jasmine Randles, whose mother couldn't care for her and her 7 siblings because of addiction. Jasmine was separated from her family at 13 years of age and permanently placed in foster care. Three years later Jasmine found herself pregnant, worried the baby would be taken from her and—like her—be placed in foster care. It was during this time that LSF became involved. Now she and her daughter live in an apartment together and Jasmine is raising her in a loving and stable environment, an environment very different from Jasmine's childhood.

Or consider the Adio family, part of the Bantu tribe whose ancestors were brought to Somalia as slaves. This led to them being discriminated against during civil war in Somalia. Rebel forces raided their village, raping and killing many women and children. The father was an English teacher in Somalia, and many of the rebel forces that raided his village frowned upon Western traditions such as learning English. He was forced to end his English language program and flee with his family to a refugee camp. When the Adio family finally arrived in the United States, LSF helped them with clothing and furniture, helped them with job placements, and provided school supplies for the younger children. The children now attend local elementary, middle, and high schools in the Tampa Bay area. And, the father now works with LSF to help resettle more families from Somalia and the surrounding region.

Our long term vision is clear: **Safe Children, Strong Families, Vibrant Communities**. This requires that we are the best in all we do. The best place for our clients to find answers to their prayers and get the support they need. The best environment for our employees to be part of something bigger. The best place for people to invest their time, talent and treasure for the biggest return.

Our growth is something to note and be proud of – but only because it means that we have a much broader impact. By faithfully serving so many more people than we could have ever imagined when we were founded over 35 years ago, we do more than change individual lives. We impact entire communities – making life safer, healthier, and happier for so many people.

Submitted by Mr. Sam Sipes, CEO

Lutheran Service of Georgia – 2018 Convention Report

Lutheran Services of Georgia’s Mission Statement: Lutheran Services of Georgia guides individuals and families on a path from surviving to thriving. We empower those whose lives have been disrupted to discover their strengths and resilience, accompanying them as they grow into vibrant contributors to their community.

Since its beginnings in 1981, Lutheran Services of Georgia has been providing guidance and assistance to families and individuals in need, while empowering them to become self-sufficient, active members of their communities. LSG was formed by members of the Lutheran faith and has continued to invite and encourage the community to join with us as we surround those in need with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

With offices in Atlanta, Athens, Albany, Columbus, Rome and Savannah, LSG serves around 3,500-4,000 individuals each year in Adoptions, Foster Care, Family Intervention Services, Refugee & Immigration Services, Home and Community Based Services and Disaster Response. The operating budget in 2016 was \$15.9 million.

Leadership

In early 2017, Lutheran Services of Georgia welcomed a new CEO, John Moeller, who before coming to LSG was the CEO of Action Ministries and previously was the CEO of Must Ministries. John replaced Gary Johnstone who retired after serving as the Interim CEO since 2014.

2017-2020 Strategic Plan

In November 2017, LSG’s Board of Directors approved a 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, which included new Mission, Vision and Values statements that better reflect how LSG serves its various populations and its efforts towards increasing community engagement.

Children and Family Services

LSG brings hope to many of Georgia’s abused and neglected children – most of whom are medically fragile, have physical and intellectual disabilities, and/or behavioral issues. Over the past three years, LSG has placed around 550 children in loving foster homes while guiding caregivers on how to meet the needs of children who have endured trauma and instability. Currently, our Foster Care and Adoptions program serves children in 42 counties and is working on expanding to additional counties where the need for foster parents is greatest.

LSG’s Family Intervention Services program works with parents to prevent child abuse and neglect and keep families healthy and together. In 2015, Savannah added Great Start Georgia/Healthy Families, a home-based Family Intervention Services program, providing child abuse/neglect prevention services to at-risk parents in nearby counties. In 2017, LSG served 769 families in the metro Atlanta and Savannah areas. When children are unable to return to their biological parents, we work on finding permanent homes

for them. In the past three years, our Heritage Adoption and Wendy's Wonderful Kids programs has placed 120 children in forever homes.

Disability Services

LSG's Disability Services Program allows individuals with intellectual disabilities to live in family-based home environments while growing in their independence and becoming active members of their communities. LSG currently has Disability Services Host Homes in 32 counties. Since 2015, LSG has placed approximately 300 individuals in host homes.

Refugee Services

LSG resettles people who are displaced from their home country, assisting them in their transition to life in the U.S. In Savannah and metro Atlanta, we offer after school programs for children and youth, cultural orientation, job training and job placement services to help refugees become economically self-sufficient and socially integrated into their communities. In 2017, Atlanta began its Intensive Case Management Program. LSG recently received funding to open a Financial Opportunity Center in Dekalb County to provide financial coaching, workforce development and income support services to low-income individuals, particularly focusing on the recently resettled population but eventually expanding to others served by LSG. Since 2015, LSG has resettled around 1,700 individuals, and more than 4,000 refugees and immigrants have received other services. The drop in the federal government's refugee admittance ceiling has greatly diminished the number of refugees we've resettled in the last year, however LSG continues to expand programs and services to refugees living in Georgia.

Disaster Response

LSG's Disaster Response team assisted with long-term recovery efforts of victims of Hurricane Matthew, which hit coastal Georgia in 2016 and the tornadoes that caused extensive damage in the southwest region of Georgia in early 2017. With a recent grant from Lutheran Disaster Response, LSG will have a chance to expand its disaster work beyond construction management and use its expertise in case management and volunteer management to help victims of the 2017 Hurricane Irma in coastal Georgia.

Nursing and Behavioral Analyst

In 2017, LSG began developing a plan to enhance its clinical support provided to its caregivers and participants in its various programs by employing a Nurse and Behavioral Analyst. LSG is currently in the process of hiring for these positions, and in the interim, it is contracting nursing services.

Community Engagement

Prior to 2017, most of LSG's opportunities for volunteer, church and community partner engagement were in Refugee and Immigration Services, where up to 1000 volunteers each year served in various capacities. In 2017, LSG began a planning process to expand opportunities for community engagement in every program throughout all regions. This new Community Engagement plan will roll out in the fall of 2018.

LSG is grateful for its partnership with nearly 140 congregations in Georgia, both LC-MS and ELCA. We are grateful for the thousands of volunteer hours, in-kind donations, and generous financial support given to LSG's programs by these congregations and their members and look forward to continued engagement. LSG will continue to grow and evolve as we identify and assess the changing needs of communities and respond as they intersect with our mission and vision. For more information, please visit lsga.org.

Submitted by Mr. John Moeller, Jr. President & CEO

Lutheran Social Service of North Florida – 2018 Convention Report

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida (LSSNF) is located at 606 West Fourth Ave, Suite 11, Tallahassee Florida 32303. LSSNF was created in 1987 with the mission to address and offer assistance with unduplicated unmet human social service needs in Leon and the surrounding counties of N. Florida. Currently LSSNF operate the following three programs to assist local low income individuals and families:

Computer Refurbishing & Technical Assistance

Distributing refurbished computers to low-income individuals, families, veterans, and the disabled helping them overcome the digital divide.

The CRTA program utilizes donated computers and student interns. The very innovative CRTA program is addressing what has become a disparity in access to in home computer ownership and the proficiency divide that results. This lack of technology falls heavily on already disadvantaged populations—low income individuals, people of color, the elderly etc.

KidSafe

Providing new, high-quality child safety seats to low-income families. These seats allow the family to safely and legally transport their child from birth to age 5. KidSafe is LSSNF's newest program, begun just last year, and came about because other charities asked LSSNF to fill this critical safety need for young extremely low income families hoping to transport their children safely. Car accidents are the number one killer of children one to five.

Better Angels

Providing high-quality, affordable, service enriched housing for the ever increasing number of limited income senior citizens in Leon County. Better Angels is still a work in progress in that only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the apartments that needed to be reworked were refurbished to meet the specific day to day needs of this elderly population are completed.

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida is proud of these programs as they are a reflection of our commitment to bring hope to, and show empathy with our brothers and sisters who need a helping hand.

Submitted by William Stone, Executive Director

Lutheran Women's Missionary League – 2018 Convention Report

The women of the LWML FL-GA District have continued to “Serve the Lord with Gladness” during these past three years. Our work is multi-faceted in that we serve in congregations; gather regularly in our nineteen zones for service, study, worship and fellowship; in even years district conventions are held to hold elections, select mission grant recipients and conduct district business; in odd years we send voting delegates to the LWML conventions, then gather in retreat in the fall.

The mites we collect not only fund our district mission grants, scholarships and operating expenses, but 25% goes to fund LWML grants and operating expenses. Currently we are on target to fully fund the 2016-2018 district mission grants.

Ingatherings are held at almost all LWML functions, from zone rallies to district events and LWML conventions, and even Board of Directors meetings, to collect items and funds for charities local to the event location.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHAT WE'VE DONE:

2015 Retreat: *Here I am, Lord.* Isaiah 6:8. September 25-27; Sirata Beach Resort, St. Petersburg, FL. Keynote speaker: Donna Pyle, author. Ingathering recipient: Lutheran Services of Florida Headstart/Preschool Program. Attendance: 216.

2016 35th Biennial District Convention: *Standing Firm in our Faith.* Philippians 1:27-28. September 30-October 2, PGA National Resort, Palm Beach Gardens. Keynote speaker: Jan Wendorf, past LWML President. Ingathering recipient: First Care Women's Clinic. Attendance: 282. Officers elected to serve for 2016 - 2020: President- Trish Aamoth, Christus Victor, Athens, GA; Vice President for Spiritual Growth – Louise Cox, Faith, Marietta, GA; Vice President for Mission Grants – Gayle Caruso, Gloria Dei, Davie, FL; Financial Secretary – Linda Peters, Our Savior, St. Petersburg, FL; Pastoral Counselor – Alan Koch, Palm Bay, FL. 2016-2018 Mission Grants: \$104,192.00. 2016-2018 Scholarships: \$30,000.00

2016 – 2018 Mission Grant Recipients:

Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op - \$10,000.00
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank - \$10,000.00
Samaritan Ministries: Emergency Housing Assistance - \$5,000.00
Brevard Rescue Mission: Casa Carol & Julia's House - \$10,000.00
Lutheran Library for the Blind - \$10,000.00
Rebecca's Garden of Hope: 2017 Connecting Congregations - \$10,000.00
Support for Completion of Medical Degree - \$9,900.00
Faith Lutheran Church and School: LCS Ministry Enhancements - \$7,000.00
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, Sarasota: Classroom - \$4,170.00
Bigger Wheels for Good Shepherd, Titusville - \$10,000.00
Bible Storybooks for Spanish-Speaker Families - \$8,500.00
Salem Haitian Evangelical Lutheran Church's Community Resource Center - \$9,622

2017 37th Biennial LWML Convention and 75th Anniversary Celebration: *Jesus Christ Above All,* Philippians 2:9. June 22-25, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Florida-Georgia sent 18 voting delegates, 2 Young Woman Representatives and 2 pastoral counselors. The voting body of 563 delegates passed a

Mission Goal of \$2,075,00.00 for the 2017-2019 biennium. Information on the mission grant recipients is available at: www.lwml.org. Total attendance: 3,472.

2017 Retreat: *For the Lord is a great God*, Psalm 95:3. September 29-October 1, Villas by the Sea, Jekyll Island, GA. Keynote speaker: Eden Keefe, past LWML Vice President of Christian Life. Ingathering recipients: Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs: Lizzie, Trinity-Savannah, GA and Luke, Christ the Shepherd-Alpharetta, GA. Attendance: 210.

LOOKING AHEAD:

36th Biennial Convention: *Strengthened. Helped. Upheld.* Isaiah 41:10. September 28-30, 2018, Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel-Lakeside, Orlando, FL. Keynote Speaker: Rev. William Weeden, Director, LCMS Worship Ministry and Chaplain, International Center, St. Louis. Registration will open the end of May; information is available at: flgalwml.com.

LWML Assembly of Leaders: *Follow the Leader.* November 7-10, 2018, St. Louis. Four representatives from the FL-GA District will be sent for leadership training, along with representatives from the other thirty-nine districts. The four will then share their training in workshops around the district for zone and congregational leaders. The four include: FL-GA District President Trish Aamoth; Junior Pastoral Counselor and Vice President of Communications (both elected at convention in September) and a young woman.

38th Biennial LWML Convention: *In Praise to the Lord!* June 20-23, 2019. Mobile, Alabama. THE WOMEN OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT WILL CO-HOST THIS CONVENTION! Please, plan to attend and help us host the women, and men, of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Watch *The Evangel* and our website, flgalwml.com, as more information will be coming this summer and fall.

It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve as the district president for LWML FL-GA District. The women who traveled to the LCMS Convention in June of 1942 to be recognized as an official auxiliary of the LCMS, just months after our nation went to war, have left us a great heritage to follow. I am always telling those who have not been to an LWML convention, either district or national, that they will never fully understand the scope of what LWML is, and does, until they do. This report simply covers what work has been done at the district level. So much more is done within our congregations. The Lord has greatly blessed the LWML for over seventy-five years! And we rest assured that He will continue to do so.

Submitted by Trish Aamoth, President LWML FL-GA District

Lutheran World Relief – 2018 Convention Report

LWR was founded in 1945, in the wake of World War II. Lutherans in the United States, many of whom had many family connections in Europe, came together to send food, quilts, blankets and clothes to families who were recovering from the war. LWR was originally supposed to close their doors within a few years. But Lutherans couldn't stop with simply helping one group of people. Soon, LWR was expanding their work to India, Korea, Brazil and Chile, and their work slowly shifted from emergency relief to long-term, sustainable development.

Today, LWR reaches more than 3.1 million people in 32 countries through 131 projects with 101 partners just in one year. A hallmark ministry of LWR's is the Quilt & Kit Ministry. These items are tangible ways women, children, youth groups, and men put their faith into action and reach across oceans to touch those in need around the world. And the impact is enormous! Last year, LWR shipped \$14 million worth of Quilts and Kits to 576,669 recipients in 21 countries around the world – all done by dedicated volunteers like you who serve with passion, compassion and joy.

Most people know Lutheran World Relief for their emergency operations. When a natural disaster hits a community LWR is certainly there to provide relief and recovery, thanks to the response, generosity and prayers of our faithful donors. LWR's assistance doesn't end after the immediate relief phase, but continues well into the rebuilding and rehabilitation phase. For example, LWR continues to accompany the people of Puerto Rico and Dominica after both islands were decimated by Hurricane Maria. Expanded programming includes "building back better" techniques that ensure greater resilience during future potential storms.

Lasting impact is a high priority for LWR, transforming communities to enable them to support themselves and their families well into the future. Being aware of the deep complexities that many people around the world face, LWR implements innovative and holistic approaches required for lasting impact. In places like the Indian state of Bihar, farmers either have too much or too little water for their fields, and only 2.5% of households have tap water in their homes. Your gifts allow us to provide life-saving water solutions such as wells, water collections ponds, diesel and solar powered pump machines, piping, water valves in fields, and household taps. Ekadashi, the president of the community's water committee, credits their new access to water for the community's unprecedented crop boom and rising standard of living. No longer does she spend hours trying to fill one jug of water or tending her fields during long, scorching days. Rather, she has more time and energy for leading other community development endeavors.

An exciting new endeavor for LWR is LWR Farmers Market Coffee, which is sourced directly from farmers participating in Lutheran World Relief projects. Farmers get a strong up-front price for their coffee beans and a portion of the profit as well. For every pound of coffee purchased, 80 cents comes back to LWR to continue supporting farming communities worldwide. Through Farmers Market Coffee, farmers aren't just suppliers of coffee beans, they are partners in the coffee business. Gustavo, a founding member of a coffee cooperative in Nicaragua, now says, "Thanks to coffee, I have bread for my children and grandchildren." To learn more about LWR Farmers Market Coffee, visit our website at: <https://lwr.org/get-involved/lwr-farmers-market-coffee>.

Lutheran World Relief is deeply grateful for the faithful support of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and its Florida-Georgia District. Your vital partnership enables LWR to be God's hands and feet in a hurting world. I Thessalonians 1:2-3 says it beautifully, "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, Church-Relations Advisor

Mission:HAITI - 2018 Convention Report

Mission: HAITI continues to support the work of the indigenous Lutheran churches in Haiti through support of outreach, evangelism, education and humanitarian aid with short-term service teams, funds and planning assistance.

Over the past 3 years mission: HAITI has sponsored 9 Community Health Outreach Teams that have served hundreds of people in 30 small villages and city slums from Jacmel on the southern coast of Haiti to Port de Paix on the northern coast, from the river plains in the northwest arm of Haiti to the mountains of the Central Plateau northeast of Port-au-Prince. We seek out the most underserved of Haiti and bring medical teams to alleviate suffering from a multitude of ailments, obtain local treatment for the seriously ill and teach mother's and families about health, hygiene and nutrition. We provide parasite medication for children 1-8 years old, and a medical exam for infants, children and pregnant women. Because of the high mother/newborn mortality rate, we provide instruction by a medical professional or midwife for expectant mothers on clean, healthy childbirth, providing a kit containing a ground or bed covering, washcloth, soap, rubber gloves, alcohol wipes, razor blade, twine, and an instruction sheet in Creole with pictures. The Haitian nurses and midwives tell us that this is invaluable to the expectant mothers of Haiti. All Community Health Outreach events begin with a presentation of the Gospel. Through these events there have been 8 baptisms and 20+ people acknowledging new faith in Jesus Christ in the last 3 years.

Mission: Haiti partnered with Lutheran Church Charities to provide food and humanitarian supplies to hundreds of families after Hurricane Matthew, which devastated much of the southern area of Haiti. Then partnering with the LCC and The LC-MS, 3 schools, 1 church and 2 homes were repaired or rebuilt and communities are being assisted in starting chicken flocks. All food, shoes, and building supplies and animals have been purchased in Haiti, thus avoiding governmental red tape and fees and supports the local economy.

In building the local economy MH has undertaken projects to provide training to build chicken coops and raise chickens in 3 villages in Haiti and has provided goat herds and pigs to 34 families and one orphanage, as well as several dozen micro grants to needy families to assist their journey to self-sufficiency. All these are locally supervised and connected to local Lutheran churches, pastors or schools.

In 2017 partnering with the FL-GA District and Lutheran Church Charities, mission: Haiti planned and sponsored a Haitian Teachers Conference in Port-au-Prince. Ten educators from the FL-GA District traveled to Haiti to present 3 days of workshops, training and studies for 50+ Haitian Lutheran School teachers from various locations in Haiti. The Haitian teachers were transported, housed, fed and celebrated. Feedback from both the Haitian and U. S. teachers was so positive, plans are in the works for another conference during Haiti schools' spring vacation 2019. It is hoped to open the team positions up to teachers outside the FL-GA District and to host 100 Haitian teachers.

Other projects Completed or in Process:

A new church building completed in the village of Colminy

Girls dormitory for an orphanage completed

A well drilled and clean water filter installed in Jacmel

A tank truck purchased to deliver clean water to those unable to obtain it

Partnership with Haiti Lutheran Mission Society of Canada to distribute Humanitarian aid

School building in Colminy for 200 children in process
Repair of water reservoir in Colminy in process
Sponsoring 20 children in Lutheran primary schools and secondary schools
Sponsoring 3 University students in Haiti
Assisting with irrigation so that a village can feed its self
Provided financial support for trade or advance education for 3 adults
On-going expert training in building disaster-resistant building
Literacy training for 30 adults in Colminy
Providing clothing, shoes, food, seeds and medical help as we are able
Coordinated multiple teams to dispense reading glasses, provide pastoral training, assist in evangelism, teach carpentry, and present VBS to school children.

Finally, because mission: HAITI has a great concern for the families of Haiti we are beginning a new initiative. Up to 70% of the children in orphanages in Haiti have a living parent or close relative, but due to poverty the children are surrendered to orphanages, given away or sometimes sold. This practice is destructive not only to the child and the family, but also to the community, the church and the very fabric of the nation. Called GROWW (Grace Regional Orphanage Without Walls), this initiative seeks to support at risk Haitian families by assisting through a three year program that includes a micro grant for business purposes or animal grant, school sponsorship for children, supplemental food and mentoring. Families are identified through the Community Health Outreach and vetted in conjunction with the local pastor, elder or church representative. An at-risk family is defined as one with child/children who have marked malnutrition or health issues and do not attend school, broken family, inadequate income or work and it is deemed that the children are at-risk of greater health issues, educational disadvantage, and/or being placed in an orphanage, given up or sold. The family is not required to be church members but are required to meet with the pastor or church representative on a regular basis. No monies are given to the family. The local supervisor goes with the parent to purchase goods or necessary items for a business, up to \$100. The family receives a month of food so that they are not tempted to use all their profits for their immediate needs, thereby having nothing to reinvest in their business. School tuitions will be paid directly to schools and any supplemental food will be distributed by the local representative. Each family will be taught how to budget and keep minimal business records. The program will be broken down into several geographic regions so that they may be supervised by someone in the same location as the families. There are presently 12 families identified to enter the GROWW initiative and we are enrolling sponsors so that 25 children from the ages of 5-14 can enter school for the first time or continue an interrupted education due to family hardship.

Mission: HAITI is committed to doing everything in the NAME of JESUS CHRIST and to the GLORY OF GOD. The Gospel is always foremost and central to every undertaking and we work under the spiritual authority of the President of the Florida-Georgia District of the LC-MS, partnering with other Lutheran churches and organizations to share the LOVE of our TRIUNE GOD. We are indebted to the generosity of individuals and congregations who support us with their prayers, support and resources.

Because of Christ, for the Cause of Christ,
Submitted by Helen M. Roenfeldt, Mission Director, mission: HAITI

Operation Barnabas – 2018 Convention Report



Operation Barnabas

Operation Barnabas (OB) continues to grow both nationally and within the FL-GA district. Under the leadership of CH (CAPT-USN Ret.) Mark Schreiber and Mr. Chris Hopkins the FL-GA task Force met twice each year since the last district convention. Matters considered include: Ceremonies / Services remembering / honoring Veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; *Operation Barnabas* resources at the district level; Promoting attendance at the OB National Conference in March 2018; Security of our churches and the utilization of combat veterans as a resource for local parish security); “Comfort Dog” ministries (Lutheran Church Charities [LCC] -Kare-9 dogs that are specially trained to relate to service members; concerns regarding women serving in combat and the draft; advancing OB in the local parish (and/or schools) level; the inclusion of an *Operation Barnabas* workshop at the President’s Equip Conference. Many other topics related to congregational outreach to military connected persons in their community were presented and continue to be considered.

The Operation Barnabas statistics as of April 2018 and August 2016 (when the Task Force started) are shown below:

	April 2018			August 2016	
	National	FL-GA Dist.		National	FL-GA Dist.
Chapters	76	10		32	6
Congregations	264	33		59	10

Submitted by Chaplain Gary Danielsen, Operation Barnabas Project Manager

Rebecca’s Garden of Hope – 2018 Convention Report

The goal of the tutoring and mentoring Ministry's is to respond to God's command in Matthew 28:19-20 English Standard Version (ESV) to “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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Our mission is simple...we want all people, including children and families to know Jesus loves them. They will know we are Christians by our love. We accomplish this by working tirelessly to:

- Bridge the gap between our church and families in the community
- Share the love of Christ with our neighbors
- Involve the congregation with reaching into the community to invite more youth and families into the body of Christ
- Help youth develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Invite youth and families to receive the free gift of baptism
- Teach youth how to be servant leaders in our churches and communities
- Provide a safe place where children can practice their faith and receive support from Christ centered mentors
- Help youth set positive goals and work to achieve them
- Help students complete homework and improve in the following areas: reading, math, spelling and writing

-
- Help more children stay in school to achieve higher graduation rates and better outcomes in every aspect of their lives
 - Teach children to eat healthier by providing healthy meals and information so they can live healthier lifestyles
 - Provide support to help youth develop character both on and offsite
 - Improve and enhance interpersonal communication skills
 - Teach youth basic money management skills
 - Teach youth the value of developing relationships with community partners
 - Teach youth the value they bring to our churches
 - Teach youth the importance of all God's people following God's lead to reach more people daily, with His love

*The key to keeping our churches relevant in our communities is providing outreach ministry opportunities that bring value to people in the community. This ministry helps us connect with our neighbors in a unique way, while showing them we care.

- Tutoring sessions take place 2 times a week: Monday & Saturday
- 92% of youth involved in our tutoring program worship at Our Savior Lutheran, Orlando, each Sunday
- Attendance averages 25-50 children/week
- Our target audience is youth between the ages of 4yrs-18years old
- Ongoing spiritual training is critical for our youth
- 7 youth were confirmed in 2017 and we are planning to confirm 6-8 this year
- Majority of youth in Sunday School are made up of youth from the tutoring program
- Last year and this year to date we baptized over 20 children
- Children are transported by OSL, to and from home weekly to ensure they have a safe place to learn and grow spiritually.
- There are many food deserts in our target neighborhoods so we provide a free hot meal for youth 3 times a week.
- Most of our tutors come from neighboring congregations which help us develop relationships with those ministries as well.
- Community partners have helped to provide access to resources and support that sustain and help our ministry grow.
- Youth participate in the choir, dance ministry, youth bible study, Youth Sunday which helps them learn to work with others and participate in the fellowship of believers.

Youth and families are growing in their knowledge of who Christ is through this ministry and who they are in Christ. This ministry is a blessing at Our Savior and the community and I cannot imagine the church without the youth.

Submitted by Ms. Sanya Parson, Director

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries – 2018 Convention Report

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries (RLOM) was founded in Sanford, Florida in 2012 to provide a positive, pro-life option for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. RLOM reaches out with the love of Christ to support single expectant and post-partum mothers who, because of the circumstances in their lives, lack the support and opportunities offered by a loving, faith-centered home and family. The women we serve are either homeless, suffering in domestic violence or facing extreme poverty.

The first phase of Redeeming Life's vision was to open a maternity home for women at risk of abortion or homelessness. In July 2013 this dream was realized when the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Sanford, Florida, purchased a duplex in partnership with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). In turn, the church leased the property to Redeeming Life and the four-month project of a total remodel began. The duplex was converted into a single-family home with 6 bedrooms and 4 and ½ baths plus an office with a half bath. In December 2013 RLOM welcomed its first resident. Since then over 37 women have resided in the maternity home, 10 newborns have been baptized, 6 mothers were baptized and 3 mothers were confirmed in the faith.

Our residential maternity home program offers a safe, nurturing home for single expectant mothers. Additional services include support for physical and emotional health, life skills instruction (household management, personal finance, interpersonal skills, cooking, etc.), parenting classes, educational planning, employment path planning and faith building.

In January 2018, RLOM purchased a second location to begin Phase 2 of the Ministry Vision, that being Transitional Housing. Transitional housing expands the capacity of Redeeming Life to minister to women who graduate the maternity home program but still need support and services critical to their stability and ability to become independent. Prior to celebrating our grand opening and the welcoming of our first residents, the 1700 square foot home will undergo renovations necessary for it to function as a home for up to three women and their babies. Improvements will include expanding restroom facilities, kitchen renovations, flooring, and paint, as well as exterior upgrades and fencing.

Our greatest joy is seeing Christ at work in the lives of our residents. So many of them are injured emotionally and physically from a very early age and they don't trust people or God. To watch the women grow in the knowledge of who Christ is and His amazing love for them is a tremendous blessing.

RLOM is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. For more information please contact Sheryl DeWitt at 407.790.9745 or visit us at www.rlom.org

Submitted by Mrs. Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director

Stepping Stone Mission – 2018 Convention Report

Stepping Stone Mission started in July of 2009 in response to God's call to serve the homeless. We are servants of our Lord Jesus Christ operating through a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization. Stepping Stone is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). Our ministry is led by Rev. Joseph Song and his wife Sharon and supported by a 15-member board of directors consisting of pastors and lay ministers from area churches and several homeless leaders.

Our Mission: Our mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness. We provide our brothers and sisters with food and basic necessities, and help along the way toward rehabilitation, the healing of one's life, and stability.

How We Serve: With volunteers from Christian churches in the Atlanta area, we are ambassadors for Jesus in connecting the homeless with Him. This outreach provides our brothers and sisters with a community set apart from the streets, centered in Christ, and designed for spiritual transformation, so that God's love will unite us, His children, across social barriers as we grow together into the fullness of Christ. We reach out to homeless men, women, and children in downtown

Atlanta with straight-forward Gospel preaching and teaching from the Word of God, worship, food and Christian care – on a weekly basis. Following are our key ministry vehicles.

- Sharing and Caring Ministries:** Our ministries always begin with serving spiritual food, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each Saturday, we serve Christ's Gospel as well as physical food and daily necessities in downtown Atlanta, beginning at 8:00 AM. While in the past we served on the streets and in public parks, in early 2018, we began serving regularly at a church parking lot in downtown Atlanta. Approximately 20 to 30 brothers and sisters join us each week. Volunteers from area churches join us regularly each week to share the love of Jesus, a meal, and other necessities. These events are a great opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters and engage in some meaningful fellowship in Christ. Our time of service begins with a time of praise with opening prayer, the singing of Christian hymns, a special Gospel message delivered by Pastor Song or another servant of the Lord, and a closing prayer. We also pray with our brothers and sisters and provide counsel. Also, twice a month, on Sundays, our volunteers serve inside an area shelter, reaching approximately 150 brothers for Christ each time. In partnership with area churches, we serve nearly 500 men, women, and children through our annual Sharing and Caring Festival in Celebration of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ held

Deuteronomy 15:11: For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Leviticus 19:10: And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

Luke 3:10: And the crowds asked Him, "What then shall we do?" And He answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

Matthew 28:19-20: 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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

near Eastertime. In October 2017, we partnered with area churches to serve during a special festival held in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

- **Leadership Training and Education:** Our brothers stay in shelters, abandoned buildings, and public parks, under bridges, or on the streets, and we believe our Lord will use them as His disciples for bringing others into His Kingdom through these important mission fields. Therefore, every Wednesday and Friday, we hold Bible study sessions and disciple our 11 to 14 homeless brothers. Training participants are brothers with a willing heart for active rehabilitation and growing in the faith. Trainings are held at churches in the Atlanta region. The purpose of our weekly trainings is to prepare our brothers for their discipleship and service to the Lord, equipping them for evangelism, outreach, and small group leadership among the homeless population of Atlanta. In addition, we host a multi-day Rehabilitation and Spiritual Leadership Training Retreat three-to-four times each year for our 20 to 24 of our brothers. Trainees are selected from our brothers who come regularly and are known through our weekly programs. They engage in active learning through sessions taught by pastors and other ministers serving in churches throughout the Atlanta region. The retreats provide our brothers with time away from the streets to undergo an in-depth study of the Word of God and to explore how God's Word applies to their lives. We are sometimes blessed to have a youth group serve with us during retreat times. For example, in the summer of 2017, high school youth from the FLGA District joined us. Over the course of our ministry, we have held 18 retreats.
- **Friday Worship Service:** In late 2017, we began to partner with an area food ministry to hold a weekly worship service in their place. We serve approximately 50 brothers and sisters each week through this partnership.
- **Saturday Church Service:** By God's grace, our Lord Jesus has grown Stepping Stone into a strong and connected family in Christ. We give thanks to God for our sister churches who have joined us in the Lord's work, enabling us the use of their places for our weekly Bible studies and other programs. In late 2017, we began holding Saturday Church Services and this has provided our homeless brothers and sisters with a weekly opportunity to partake in confession and absolution, receive His Word, give thanks to the Lord, and engage in fellowship in Christ and with each other. In early 2018, one of our partnering churches made their sanctuary available to us. Our Saturday church congregation includes 20 regular members.
- **Stepping Stone Choir Team:** Our choir team members, usually comprised of 8 to 10 brothers, love to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and their victory in Him through their gift of voice! They visit churches and enjoy worshipping and fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the year.

Thanks be to God our Father, we are His instruments for bringing His children into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism and for nurturing their faith in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. More than 30 brothers have been baptized into Christ since the inception of this ministry. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

For More Information: Please visit our website at www.stepsingstonemission.net.

Submitted by Rev. Joseph Song, President and Founder

THE CHARTER AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Article I

The name of this corporation shall be “The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, incorporated.”

The principal business office of this corporation shall be located in Metropolitan Orlando, State of Florida.

Article II

The general nature of the object of this corporation is:

- a. To unite in a corporate body the congregations holding membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the Florida-Georgia District.
- b. Receive, acquire, hold, manage, and control real and personal property of whatever description and such other property as may hereafter be acquired.
- c. To promulgate the Gospel throughout the world, and specifically to establish and maintain missions, educational, and charitable institutions.
- d. This corporation shall have power and authority in its corporate name to contract, sue, and be sued; to use a corporate seal; to have, receive, hold, purchase, convey, mortgage, and lease property, both real and personal; and to make and establish laws, rules, and regulations for its management and support as shall be necessary and proper.

Article III

Membership in this corporation is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who have been received into the district at the time of joining the Synod, who have been transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the district by the Synod.

Article IV

The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual.

Article V

Section 1

The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the following officers, to wit:

- A president
- A first vice-president
- A second vice-president
- A third vice-president
- A fourth vice-president
- A fifth vice-president
- A secretary
- A treasurer

and such other officers as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2

The board of directors shall consist of the following:

- a. Elected at large: the president, the secretary, and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the district.
- b. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: five (5) vice-presidents who are ministers of religion, ordained, and members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- c. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: ten lay persons who are resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- d. Elected by the board of directors: the treasurer, who is a resident member of a congregation within the district.

Section 3

The officers and the board of directors shall be elected at a regular meeting of the corporation by the delegates constituting the same as provided for in the bylaws, with the exception that the treasurer shall be elected by the board of directors at its next regular meeting following the election meeting of the corporation. All officers shall hold their respective offices for a term of three (3) years, and shall assume office at the time specified in the bylaws.

Section 4

Whenever an officer or director shall cease to be a resident member of a congregation within the corporation, or within the region he or she represents, he or she shall cease forthwith to be an officer or a director of this corporation.

Article VI

The Bylaws of this corporation are to be made, altered, or rescinded by the members of the corporation at any special or regular meeting of this corporation, provided the same are not inconsistent with this Charter, or with the laws of the land, or with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article VII

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which this corporation may at any time subject itself shall be two-thirds of the market value of all corporate assets.

Article VIII

The highest amount in value of the real estate which this corporation may hold shall be \$100,000,000.00.

Article IX

The voting power of this corporation shall be exercised by the accredited clergy and lay delegates of the congregations constituting its membership, each congregation being entitled to one (1) clergy and one (1) lay vote. Parishes in which two (2) or more congregations are served by the same pastor shall be restricted to one (1) lay vote and one (1) clergy vote.

Article X

Section 1

The board of directors shall have power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, hypothecate property, whether movable or immovable, borrow, issue bonds, notes, and pledges of all kinds, and generally to manage and control the property and the secular and business affairs of this corporation, and shall do all things necessary to promote the objects and purposes of this corporation as set forth in Article II.

Section 2

Vacancies in the board shall be filled by it at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting held for that purpose.

Section 3

A majority of the members of the board, each of whom must be personally present at the meeting, shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 4

All citations or any other legal process shall be served on the president of this corporation, or, in his absence, upon the respective vice-president, or, in their absence, upon the secretary.

Article XI

This corporation shall meet triennially in the year prior to the regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In cases of urgent necessity, the district president is empowered to convene special sessions of the district; he must, however, previously have obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district, after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

Article XII

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this corporation, provided such amendment, or amendments, are not inconsistent with Article II or Article III of this charter, or with the laws of the state of Florida, or with the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod, and provided such amendment, or amendments, are approved by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting, and provided further that a copy of the proposed amendment, or amendments, shall have been forwarded previously to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for their review and approval, and to all congregations constituting the membership of the corporation at least sixty (60) days prior to such meeting. Such amendments become effective within sixty (60) days unless more than one-third of the congregations of the district send written dissent to the secretary of the district. Should this occur, the matter is referred to the board of directors. If the board of directors determines that the provisions of this article (Article XII) have been met, the amendment will become effective no later than 120 days from its passage at the convention.

BYLAWS TO THE CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Florida-Georgia District, though an independent corporation under the laws of Florida, adopts and holds as its own the Constitution of its parent body, viz: The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. It shall do all in its power to promote the Synod's aims and purposes, and shall be subject to all general rules and regulations of the Synod. For the more efficient execution of its own local affairs, the district adopts the following rules and regulations as Bylaws to its legal Charter:

VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod grows out of God's merciful mission to a sinful and hurting world. This mission centers on Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, whose ministry continues among us to bring life and healing to the world today. The Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of Christ, seeks to guide all that this church does in His name to the glory of God the Father.

Within this fellowship, Christians are called to love each other with the love of Christ and to work together in a trust that is established by His Grace. Called by His Spirit into this fellowship, all of God's people are sent back into the world to share the Good News of God's redeeming love and grace for all people.

As individual congregations, the Body of Christ in our various locales, we recognize that by working together we can assist one another in love and trust to accomplish more effectively this mission and ministry of the whole church. Therefore, we joyfully and freely commit ourselves to the following Bylaws and we hold ourselves accountable to the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, a corporate servant structure, whose purpose is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations, church workers, and leaders, expanding God's mission and ministry.

Since God's mission and ministry occur through local congregations, and it is our desire that every congregation be a church in mission; and every man and woman a missionary, all working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel, to share his Love. Therefore the Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is: Every member. . .Equipped, Empowered, Engaged. . .Connecting People to Jesus.

D1.04 VOTING DELEGATES

Pastors and lay delegates of congregations holding voting membership, as specified in Article IX of the Charter, shall be voting delegates. The lay delegates shall be district representatives to their respective congregations between conventions.

D1.06 ADVISORY MEMBERS

The following ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, who hold membership in the Synod through the district shall be regarded as advisory members with full freedom of speech in district conventions:

- a. Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod;
- b. Assistant pastors;
- c. Ministers of religion, ordained, not in charge of congregations;
- d. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in our Lutheran schools;
- e. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in full-time church work;
- f. Deaconesses;
- g. Parish assistants;
- h. Certified lay ministers;
- i. Candidates for the ministry of religion, either ordained or commissioned.

D1.07 DUTIES OF ADVISORY MEMBERS

Advisory members, though not entitled to vote or hold office except as hereafter specified, shall be eligible to serve on advisory councils and task forces or in other capacities, as directed by the district. Ministers of religion, commissioned, holding membership in voting congregations who are on the roster of the Synod shall be eligible for membership on the board of directors.

D1.08 NON-VOTING CONGREGATIONS

Non-voting congregations are encouraged to send representatives to the district convention and to become members of the Synod. Such representatives may be given the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the presiding officers, but may not vote or serve on any committee.

D1.53 DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS

- a. Each electoral circuit of member congregations shall elect one (1) pastoral and one (1) lay delegate.
- b. One (1) advisory delegate shall be elected for every sixty (60) advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors, and one (1) advisory delegate for every sixty (60) commissioned ministers on the roster of the Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one (1) advisory delegate in each category.

D2.01 ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of the district shall be:

- a. The president - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- b. Five (5) vice-presidents – ministers of religion, ordained, and members of voting congregations;
- c. One (1) counselor for each visitation circuit - pastor of a voting congregation, or a retired minister of religion ordained, who is a member of a voting congregation;
- d. A secretary - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation;
- e. A treasurer - lay member of a voting congregation (elected by the board of directors).

D2.03 ELECTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT

- a. The elective board of the district shall be the board of directors composed of:
 1. The president;
 2. The five (5) vice-presidents;
 3. The secretary;
 4. The treasurer, a resident member of a congregation within the district;
 5. Three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod;
 6. Ten (10) lay persons, resident members of congregations within the district, elected on a regional basis.
- b. The elective committee of the district shall be a committee for nominations, composed of two (2) ministers of religion, ordained, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) ministers of religion, commissioned.
 1. Each region of the district shall be represented on the committee.
 2. The term of office shall be three (3) years.
 3. Committee members shall not succeed themselves.
 4. In the event that a member of the committee for nominations is unable to serve, the district board of directors shall appoint a replacement from the same region and the same classification.

D2.05 APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES

The president may appoint the following officials and committees:

- a. A committee on registration, credentials, and attendance, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- b. A committee on housing, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation.
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- c. A judge of elections, who is to be the pastor of a voting congregation, for whom the district shall furnish adequate clerical assistance.
- d. A committee on conference essays and minutes, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- e. Convention reviewing committees and floor committees for the processing of reports and overtures, as determined to be necessary by the president.
- f. A district archivist.

D2.06 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for all officers and the board of directors shall be three (3) years. All officers and the board of directors shall begin their term of office at the time specified in these Bylaws. No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) elective office, except that the president and the district treasurer shall be eligible for four (4) consecutive terms of office. Any person elected hereunder shall serve until his replacement has been elected.

D2.07 TRANSITION OF ADMINISTRATIONS

- a. The president, vice-president, secretary, and all members of the board of directors (except the treasurer) shall assume office on the last Sunday of the month following their election. The treasurer shall be elected at the first meeting of the board of directors following its assuming office and shall take office immediately following the election.
- b. Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing president shall use the intervening time to transfer the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.
- c. The existing board of directors shall continue to function until the newly elected and re-elected members take office. They shall continue to carry out programs initiated prior to the electing convention of the district.
- d. No appointments shall be made and no new programs shall be initiated by the outgoing president or the board of directors during the interim between the convention and the time the newly elected president and the board of directors takes office. Emergency action that demands immediate attention shall be taken in consultation with the newly elected president. In advising congregations in the calling of a pastor, the outgoing president shall seek the concurrence of the newly elected president.
- e. In the interim, the newly elected president shall meet with the members of the district staff and the new board, to assess the state of the district, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions of the district convention, and to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments.
- f. The newly elected members of the board of directors shall attend whatever meetings are held in the interim, without vote, to become acquainted with their new responsibilities and board functions
- g. If the president does not stand for re-election for any reason or because he either fails of nomination or election, before reaching retirement age, he shall continue to receive a full salary to the end of the calendar year, unless he accepts another position. In the event he tenders his resignation prior to the completion of the term of office to which he has been elected, he shall be continued at full salary for a minimum of three (3) months, unless he declines such remuneration or has accepted another position. Any extension of support beyond three (3) months' time shall be determined by the board of directors.

D2.08 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers, the board, committees, or commissions, elected or appointed, as well as duties of all employees of the district, shall be those outlined in the District Handbook, or established by regulations adopted by the district or expressed in the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod.

D2.13 ACCOUNTABILITY

The board of directors, all officers, and the elected committee for nominations shall be accountable to the district for all their transactions.

D2.16 VACANCIES

All vacancies shall be filled according to regulations of the Synod. In case of a vacancy in the offices of secretary or treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors with the approval of the district president, as set forth in regulations pertaining to the respective office.

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

D2.29 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The district president, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (Constitution Article XII and Bylaws section 4.4), shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration of the ordained and commissioned ministers and the congregations of the district. He may call on the vice-presidents and circuit counselors to assist him.
- b. The district president may arrange for an official visit, or an investigation, even without formal request when any controversy arises in a congregation or between two (2) or more congregations in the district. He shall ask for a report on the case by the contesting parties in order that, by such a report, he may be enabled to have a clearer conception of the real situation. If he authorizes someone to represent him in such matters, his representative shall be accorded the same right.
- c. The district president may suspend from membership ordained or commissioned ministers for persistently adhering to false doctrine or for having given offense by an ungodly life.
- d. The district president shall be a full-time executive. He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution. He shall be the chief executive officer of the district and have supervision of all officers and employees of the district. He shall make regular reports to the district board of directors regarding the critical ministry targets and desired outcomes of the board of directors. He shall be responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the district.
- e. He shall cause the resolutions of the Synod to be implemented in the district, and he shall report regularly to the President of the Synod.
- f. He shall represent the Synod in connection with all ordinations, commissioning, and installations.
- g. He shall be responsible for maintaining the official roster of the district.
- h. He shall arrange an official visit to each congregation of the district at least once every three (3) years. He may call upon circuit counselors and vice-presidents to assist him.
- i. As often as possible, the district president shall attend conferences of pastors and teachers, advise congregations as to the calling of professional church workers, give counsel and respond to requests and inquiries.
- j. At the sessions of the district, the president shall conduct the meetings according to the accepted parliamentary rules and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and of the district.
- k. He shall be an ex officio voting member of all committees, and task forces of the district.
- l. He shall be responsible for drawing up and distributing the convention manual prior to a district convention.
- m. He shall sign all legal documents and instruments and shall perform all additional duties which the district places on him through its Bylaws, regulations, and by special resolution.

D2.33 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the president and is officially declared so by the board of directors, the first vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- b. If the first vice-president declines, the second vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.

- c. If the second vice-president also declines, the third vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- d. If the third vice-president also declines, the fourth vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- e. If the fourth vice-president also declines, the fifth vice president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- f. If the fifth vice-president also declines, the secretary shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- g. If the secretary also declines, the board of directors shall appoint an acting president. If less than one (1) year remains in the term of the president, the acting president shall remain in office until the next regular convention of the district. If more than a year remains, the board of directors shall call for nominations by the congregations of the district for candidates to fill the office of president and shall be empowered to elect a president from those five (5) candidates who have received the largest number of nominations and who have indicated a willingness to serve.

D2.34 PERTAINING TO THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

- a. The vice-presidents shall be voting members of the board of directors.
- b. Vacancy in the Vice-Presidency
 1. A vacancy in the first vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the second vice-president.
 2. A vacancy in the second vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the third vice-president.
 3. A vacancy in the third vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fourth vice-president.
 4. A vacancy in the fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fifth vice-president.
 5. A vacancy in the fifth vice-presidency shall be filled by the board of directors which shall give consideration to the ballots cast in the preceding election.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

D2.40 THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The secretary shall be a minister of religion, ordained, and a member of a voting congregation.

D2.42 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- a. The district secretary shall perform the duties appertaining to that office.
- b. He shall keep a full and complete record of the business transacted by the corporation at all regular and special conventions and the meetings of the board of directors.
- c. He shall be the official correspondent of the corporation and the board of directors.
- d. He shall submit to the members of the board of directors copies of the minutes of the board.
- e. He shall send a report to all officers of the district and to all committees, and task forces of the district of the resolutions pertinent to them, or their work, enacted by the district at its convention or by its board of directors.
- f. He shall function, if appropriate, as an administrator in the dispute resolution process (Handbook of Synod [2010 edition] Bylaws 1.10.4a and 1.10.6.)
- g. He shall be responsible for carrying out the nomination procedures outlined in D2.127, D2.133, and D2.136 b., and according to the appropriate Synodical Bylaws (Handbook of Synod [2010

edition] Bylaw 4.7.) In addition he shall solicit nominations for the offices indicated in D2.01, and shall then communicate these nominations to the committee for nominations.

- h. He shall publish the proceedings of the conventions of the district. He shall prepare the manuscripts, recording all resolutions in the wording in which they have been adopted, and publish the proceedings after the president of the district has approved.
- i. He shall, prior to the district convention, submit to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their review, a copy of all anticipated corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws.
- j. He shall, upon the close of the district convention, present a copy of all corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws to the board of directors, and when prepared, provide an updated copy of the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws to the Office of the Secretary of Synod.

D2.44 DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a. An assistant secretary shall be a member of the board of directors, and appointed by the board with the approval of the district president.
- b. The responsibility of the assistant secretary shall be limited to the signing of official documents as authorized by the board of directors.
- c. Copies of such documents will be provided to the district secretary.

D2.47 THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The district treasurer, elected by the board of directors (four (4) term limit), shall be responsible, either directly or through staff assistance, to the board of directors for the following:

- a. To prepare the district budget, realistically estimating income and expenditures;
- b. To report monthly to the board on the financial status of the district and provide an annual report to the district at the close of each fiscal year;
- c. To receive, record, and deposit all district moneys properly, in banks approved by the board of directors;
- d. To make his books available for audits authorized by the board;
- e. To disburse funds as authorized and in accordance with the district budget;
- f. To provide for the safe-keeping of all notes, deeds, and other official documents of the district;
- g. To ensure that all district officers and district staff (professional and clerical) handling district moneys are properly and adequately bonded;
- h. To arrange for the borrowing of moneys in the name of the district as authorized by the board of directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D2.71 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The board of directors shall consist of twenty-one (21) persons as follows: the district president; the five (5) vice-presidents; the district secretary; the district treasurer; ten (10) lay persons who are resident members of congregations within their respective regions of the district; and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. The Executive Directors shall be advisory members of the board.
- b. Every member of the board shall be a member of a voting congregation of the district. When a member of the board ceases to be a member of a voting congregation of the district, he/she shall automatically lose membership on the board. Those members of the board of directors who are

elected representatives for regions of the district shall cease to be members of the board if they are no longer a member of a congregation located in the region which they represent.

D2.72 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Members of the board shall discharge their duties in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal pursuant to Synod Bylaw 1.5.7:

- a. Incapacity
- b. Breach of fiduciary responsibility
- c. Neglect or refusal to perform the duties of office
- d. No longer satisfying the qualifications for a director
- e. Conviction of a felony
- f. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest
- g. Conduct evidencing a scandalous life
- h. Advocacy of false doctrine, as per the confessional standard of the Synod (Constitution, Article II)
- i. Failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod
- j. Accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences within any term of office

D2.73 VACANCIES

The board shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership. The member thus appointed shall serve out the unexpired term of the person he/she succeeds.

D2.74 OFFICERS

At the first meeting of the triennium, the board of directors shall elect one (1) of its members to serve as Chairman. The secretary of the district shall function as the secretary of the board.

D2.75 AUTHORITY

The board of directors, charged with the general management of the district's affairs, shall assume office at the time specified in Bylaw D2.07.

D2.76 ORGANIZATION

- a. Between conventions, the board of directors shall formulate policy and evaluate the programs designed to carry out the district's work in accordance with the rules and regulations of the district.
- b. The Executive Directors of the Divisions for Congregational Services, School Ministries, Mission Outreach, and Administration, Finance, and Stewardship shall be advisory to the board and shall implement the programs and policies determined by the district in convention and by the board.

D2.77 MEETINGS

- a. The board shall meet four (4) times a year, and whenever the president or at least one-third of the members deems it necessary.
- b. The majority of the voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been duly notified by mail or telephone as to time and place of meeting at least one week in advance.

D2.78 AUTHORITY BETWEEN MEETINGS

Executive Committee

- a. At its first meeting the newly elected board shall elect from among its members an executive committee consisting of the district president, the treasurer, and three (3) additional members, at least one (1) of whom must be a minister of religion ordained and one (1) a member of the laity.
- b. Also, the chairman of the board shall be one (1) of the five (5) members of the executive committee.
- c. The committee shall have the authority to act for the board between meetings.

D2.79 DUTIES

The duties of the board of directors shall be:

- a. To elect the treasurer;
- b. To call or appoint the executive directors of the district, and determine their length of service;
- c. To annually review the system for determining the compensation of all personnel salaried by the district;
- d. To hold in trust the properties of the district, with power to buy, sell, or hold properties of all types, in accord with the rules and regulations of the district;
- e. To report to the district, through its president, at each convention of the district;
- f. To adopt the annual budget, with powers of review and change as necessary, upon the advice of the district treasurer
- g. To determine the validity of any appeal for funds within the district by organizations or groups inside or outside the district, but without restraining the Synod in any way;
- h. To authorize the treasurer to borrow money necessary for the orderly operation of the district;
- i. To indemnify members of the board of directors in accordance with the policies set forth in the board policy manual.
- j. To conform its actions to all rules and regulations of the Synod and the district. Appeals may be made from the actions of the board to the district convention, and the action of the convention on such appeals shall be final.
- k. To approve legal aspects of the corporation in compliance with all applicable laws.
- l. To approve congregational constitutions and bylaws upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation of the district president. .
- m. To appoint legal counsel.
- n. To conduct an annual evaluation of the district president regarding his administrative performance.

D2.80 EXPENSES

All expenses incurred by the board in carrying out its duties shall be paid by the district.

D2.93 AUDITOR

All books and financial records of the district shall be audited at least annually by a certified public accountant or by CPA's of the Synod's Internal Audit Department as determined by the board of directors. A full report of such audit shall be submitted to the board, with a summary report made available to the district convention.

D2.112 THE DISTRICT ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVIST

The district shall:

- a. Gather and preserve all historical matter of the district;
- b. Maintain a depository for these archives in a convenient place;
- c. Appropriate money in the annual budget for the expenses of such an archive and archivist;
- d. Keep pictures and biographies of all pastors and teachers who have served or are serving in the district;
- e. File the minutes of district conventions, pastors' and teachers' conferences, auxiliary organizations or conventions, and records of the district officers, boards and committees, when they are no longer needed.
- f. Index and file all material, and at the end of each calendar year, send a list of all material in or added to the archives to the Concordia Historical Institute;
- g. Appoint one (1) person in each circuit of the district to assist him/her in gathering material;
- h. Report annually to the board of directors and briefly to the district convention.
- i. The district archivist shall be appointed by the district president and serve at his pleasure.

SELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD

D2.121 JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

- a. The president of the district shall appoint a judge of elections prior to the first session of the convention in which elections are to be held. The district shall supply adequate clerical assistance and the necessary equipment to prepare and tabulate ballots.
- b. Each ballot shall be headed "Official Ballot" plus the year in which the election is held.
- c. The ballots shall designate the office to be filled and the number of candidates to be voted for. The first ballot shall list in alphabetical order the names of the candidates to be voted for in each office or board, with the exception of the circuit counselors. On the second and subsequent ballots, the candidate having the largest number of votes shall be placed in first position, and so on.
- d. The ballot shall be prepared in such manner as to show clearly how the delegates are to indicate their votes.
- e. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates properly identified and present on the convention floor or properly present in convention committee rooms.
- f. After the ballots have been distributed, no recess or adjournment shall be taken until the respective ballots have been collected.
- g. For the tabulation of votes: mechanical, electronic, or other equipment may be employed, but if manual counting of ballots becomes necessary the tabulation shall take place in the customary manner by at least one (1) reader and one (1) tabulator.
- h. Before announcing the names of the candidates elected, the judge of elections shall give copies of the tabulated votes to the chairman and the secretary of the convention. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.
- i. In reporting the number of votes cast and the number of votes required for election, all ballots cast, except blanks, should be counted. A vote shall be credited to the name of the respective candidate if the meaning is clear and the intention of the voter can be established.
- j. All ballots, void or valid, shall be preserved by the judge of elections separately, according to the order of balloting, until the convention has been adjourned.

- k. At least two (2) hours prior to the distribution of each ballot, when necessary, the judge of elections shall distribute the information concerning the candidates which has been furnished him by the committee on nominations.
- l. Since it is not feasible for all candidates to be present at the convention, it shall be the policy not to introduce to the convention, in person, any candidate.

D2.125 MAJORITY OF VOTES

A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and other elective positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes eliminated from consideration until one (1) candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

D2.127 ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominations

Nominations for district president shall be made by member congregations through the district secretary and shall close ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention. Each congregation shall have the right to nominate two (2) candidates for the office of the presidency.

The five (5) ministers of religion, ordained, receiving the highest number of nominations shall be considered candidates.

Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary.

Elections

- a. Each voting delegate shall have one (1) vote and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- b. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125.

D2.133 PRIMARY ELECTION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for regional vice-president shall be made from the clergy roster of Synod by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. Nominees must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention.
- b. The member congregations of each region have the right to nominate two (2) ministers of religion ordained.
- c. In each region, the three (3) ministers of religion, ordained who receive the highest number of votes shall be nominated.
- d. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary. The consent to serve includes the agreement to relocate, if necessary, to fulfill the requirements of the office.

Selection

- a. At a regional caucus held at the district convention, each voting delegate of the region shall be entitled to cast a ballot for two (2) of the candidates nominated.
- b. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;

- c. The first candidate to receive a majority of the votes cast shall be declared selected; if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125;
- d. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention;

D2.134 ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

After the election of the vice-presidents by ratification by the entire convention, they shall be ranked (1st, . . . 5th) by a separate ballot on which each delegate shall vote for two (2) candidates for first vice-president. The candidates shall be ranked in the order of the number of votes each receives. A tie vote shall be decided by a succeeding ballot.

D2.135 REGIONS OF THE DISTRICT

- a. For the purpose of electing representatives to the board of directors, the district shall be divided into five (5) regions. These regions shall consist of:
 - Region I - North Atlanta, South Atlanta, East Central Georgia, and NE Georgia Circuits
- b. Region II - Tallahassee, First Coast, and North Central Florida Circuits
- c. Region III - Orlando East, Orlando West, Space Coast, , and Winter Haven Circuits
- d. Region IV - Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, and Southwest Circuits
- e. Region V - Treasure Coast, South Palm Beach, Gold Coast, Heartland, and Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuits
- f. Additional Circuits which may be formed shall be assigned to a Region by the convention.

D2.136 SELECTION OF REGIONAL LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. Nominations for regional lay representatives on the board of directors shall be made by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the start of the convention.
- b. Any congregation within a region may nominate two (2) individuals to be regional lay representative to the district board of directors. Congregations may nominate candidates from any congregation in the region.
- c. Nominations shall be sent to the district secretary, and shall contain biographical information and church work experiences, as well as an indication of the individual's willingness to serve if elected
- d. At the regional caucus to select lay representatives
 - 1. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;
 - 2. Two (2) lay persons from the region shall be selected;
 - 3. Only one (1) lay representative may be selected from a congregation.
 - 4. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention.

D2.143 DUTIES OF COMMITTEE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. At least 180 days before an election convention, the committee for nominations shall, through the district secretary, request the voting congregations of the district to submit suggestions for nominees for the following offices: district secretary; members of the board of directors who are ministers of religion, commissioned; the district committee for nominations; and/or others not covered by specific rules and regulations.
- b. A special form for information concerning the nominees shall be included. (See Suggested Information Sheet, D2.144.)

- c. The nominations shall be sent to the secretary of the district, who shall forward them to the committee for nominations. As nominations are received, the chairman of the committee shall notify all nominees with the request that they state their willingness to serve in the event of their election. The committee for nominations shall do the actual selecting of the nominees from those who have indicated their willingness to serve. A declaration of a willingness to serve does not guarantee nominating.
- d. Forms on which nominations are to be made shall be available also at the convention, to be signed by persons making such nominations. Nominations shall be called for at the beginning of the morning session of the first day of the convention, and the completed forms must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. of the same day. Elections may take place in the afternoon session of that day or at the direction of the chair.
- e. When nominations are made from the floor, the Committee for Nominations shall require that consent and biographical data be provided for anyone being nominated by the delegate offering the nominations.
- f. The committee for nominations shall furnish information concerning nominees and candidates for which they are responsible. This information shall be distributed according to the provisions of D2.121 k.

D2.144 SUGGESTED INFORMATION SHEET

In the nominating of ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, and lay persons for a district office, information concerning them shall be made available at the elections of the district convention. The following information should be included in the information furnished:

- a. General information (ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned; lay persons)
 1. Name and address
 2. Age
 3. Present congregation
 4. Number of years in the district
 5. Present incumbent
 6. District offices previously held
 7. Office to which nominated
- b. Additional information (minister of religion, ordained)
 1. Former pastorates
 2. Year of ordination
- c. Additional information (lay person)
 1. Congregational offices held
 2. Formal education
 3. Business Occupation (past, present)
 4. Employed/Retired
 5. Former congregations and offices held there
- d. Additional information (minister of religion, commissioned)
 1. Years in office
 2. Former services rendered

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

D3.04 TIME OF ELECTION

The election of district officers, board members, and committee and commission members shall take place at a regular convention of the district.

D3.09 RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE

The pastor and accredited lay delegate of each voting congregation in the district shall be entitled to vote. If a pastor serves two (2) or more congregations, these shall be regarded as one (1) parish and shall be entitled to only one (1) lay vote.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

D3.31 ELIGIBILITY

All officers, board members, commission members and members of committees shall be members of voting congregations and shall have been active in the district for at least one (1) year. The one (1) year limitation shall not apply to the office of district president, district vice president, district secretary, and circuit counselor (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1).

D3.61 THE RATIFICATION OF CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

The ratification of the circuit counselors shall take place after the election of the president, vice-presidents, and secretary, according to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DISTRICT MISSIONS

D8.26 ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSIONS

It is the purpose of the district to assist and encourage the congregations of the district in carrying out a sustained and aggressive program of mission outreach. To that end, the board of directors shall see that such resources are provided to the congregations of the district as they are available and deemed appropriate.

D9.15 CHURCH EXTENSION FUND PROGRAM

- a. All Church Extension Fund activity shall be handled through the district's membership in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- b. Church Extension Fund activity shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- c. The board of directors shall elect a person holding membership in a congregation of the district to serve as a vice-president—LCEF with responsibility for promotion and administration of Church Extension Fund activities in the district.
- d. The board of directors or its assigns shall review and allocate district LCEF loan funds for all requests for Church Extension Fund loans from eligible borrowers in the district.
- e. The board of directors or its assigns in consultation with the division for outreach or its assigns shall review and endorse all purchases of advance sites for future ministries.

D16.01 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Changes in the Bylaws and additions thereto may be made, provided they are:

- a. Not contrary to the Charter of the district, or the Constitution of the Synod;
- b. Presented in writing to the board of directors; the district secretary shall forward proposed bylaw amendments the Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval prior to their being considered by the district convention (Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.23 [a]);
- c. Separately considered and acted upon;
- d. Passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention assembled.

Bylaws revised on the basis of the actions of the 2012 Convention of The Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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LCEF & Administration

John Elliott
Finance & Administration

April 19, 2018

To: FLGA District Churches and Pastors

From: Secretary Jay A. Winters

Re: ELECTRONIC – Charter and Bylaw Revision

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Christ.

In short: We will be voting to amend our District Charter and Bylaws at this upcoming District Convention.

The relationship between the District and the Synod is one that has connection and reciprocity. One way in which that connection is evident is in the governing documents of our District. As Synod makes changes and amendments to its governing documents, changes are necessitated at the District level.

There was an attempt to make these changes at our 2015 Convention, but due to the requirements surrounding such changes, we were not able to take a vote on those changes. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to say that we are able to take a vote on these amendments at this 2018 Convention, and to submit those proposed changes for approval.

While these amendments are broad and found throughout much of our governing documents, they all come down to two basic categories: 1.) to further solidify the relationship with Synod's governing documents and fix areas in which our governing documents had gone out of compliance with Synod's changes, 2.) to clarify and simplify areas of our governing documents.

Questions regarding these documents and changes may be sent to the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors via Secretary Jay Winters (pastor@universitylutheranchurch.org). Thank you for your time and effort in reviewing them.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

**THE CHARTER AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA
DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**

Article I

The name of this corporation shall be The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as "District")

The principal business office of this corporation shall be located in Orlando, State of Florida.

Article II

The mission of this District is:

- a. To proclaim the Gospel throughout the District, and specifically to establish and maintain missions, educational, and charitable work within the District.
- b. To unite in a corporate body the congregations holding membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (also referred to herein as "Synod"), by and through The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and to support the Synod's work of Gospel proclamation throughout the world.
- c. Receive, acquire, hold, manage, and control real and personal property of whatever description and such other property as may hereafter be acquired.
- d. This corporation shall have power and authority in its corporate name to contract, sue; to use a corporate seal; to have, receive, hold, purchase, convey, mortgage, and lease property, both real and personal; and to make and establish laws, rules, and regulations for its management and support as shall be necessary and proper.

Article III

Membership in this District is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who have been received into the District at the time of joining the Synod, who have been transferred from another District, or who have been assigned to the District by the Synod.

Article IV

The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual.

Article V

Section 1

The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the following officers, to wit:

- A President
- A First Vice-President
- A Second Vice-President
- A Third Vice-President
- A Fourth vice-President
- A Fifth Vice-President
- A Secretary
- A Treasurer

And such other officers as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2

All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be members of a member congregation of the District and when appropriate residents of appropriate regions during the course of their tenure. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- a. Elected at large from the roster of the District:
 - (i) the President;
 - (ii) the Secretary; and
 - (iii) (III) three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. District
- b. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the District Convention:
 - (i) five (5) Vice-Presidents who are ministers of religion-ordained .
 - (ii) Ten (10) lay persons who shall serve as representatives of the region they represent within the District.
- c. Appointed by the Board of Directors, a Treasurer who shall be a layperson with knowledge and experience in matters relating to corporate finance.

Section 3

The officers and the Board of Directors shall be elected at a regular meeting of the District by the delegates constituting the same as provided for in the bylaws, with the exception that the Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting following the election meeting of the District. All officers shall hold their respective offices for a term of three (3) years, and shall assume office at the time specified in the bylaws.

Section 4

Whenever an officer or director shall cease to be a member of a member congregation of the District, or shall cease to reside within the region he or she represents, he or she shall forthwith cease to be an officer or a director of this corporation.

Article VI

The Bylaws of this Corporation are to be made, altered, or rescinded by the members of the District in its District Convention, provided the same have been reviewed and approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, have been found to be consistent with the then existing Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and are not inconsistent with this Charter, or with the laws of the land.

Article VII

The voting power of this corporation shall be exercised by the accredited pastoral and lay delegates of the congregations constituting its membership, each congregation being entitled to one (1) pastoral and one (1) lay vote. Parishes in which two (2) or more congregations are served by the same pastor shall be restricted to one (1) lay vote and one (1) pastoral vote.

Article VIII

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall have power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, hypothecate property, whether movable or immovable, borrow, issue bonds, notes, and pledges of all kinds, and generally to manage and control the property and the secular and business affairs of this District, and shall do all things necessary to promote the objects and purposes of this Corporation as set forth in Article II.

Section 2

Replacements for vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by Board appointment at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting held for that purpose.

Section 3

A majority of the members of the board, each of whom must be in attendance at the meeting, shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 4

All citations or any other legal process shall be served on the Registered Agent of this corporation, or, in his/her/its absence, upon the President of the District.

Article IX

This Corporation shall meet triennially in the year prior to the regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In cases of urgent necessity, the District President is empowered to convene special sessions of the District. In that event; he must previously have obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the District, after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

Article X

All provisions of these Articles and Bylaws adopted thereto are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in convention and to the laws of Florida and Georgia when applicable.

Article XI

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this Corporation, provided such amendment, or amendments, are not inconsistent with Article II or Article III of this charter, or with the laws of the state of Florida, or with the then existing Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod, and provided such amendment, or amendments, are approved by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting, and provided further that a copy of the proposed amendment, or amendments, shall have been forwarded previously to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for their review and approval, and to all congregations constituting the membership of the District at least sixty (60) days prior to such meeting. Such amendments become effective within sixty (60) days unless more than one-third of the congregations of the District send written dissent to the Secretary of the District. Should this occur, the matter is referred to the Board of Directors to determine that the provisions of this article (Article X) have been met and if so, the amendment will become effective no later than 120 days from its passage at the convention.

Article XII

In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, and this corporation covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the foregoing.

If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the Corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as designated by the Board of Directors.

BYLAWS TO THE CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, though an independent corporation under the laws of Florida, adopts and holds as its own the Constitution of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. It shall do all in its power to promote the Synod's aims and purposes, and shall be subject to all applicable general rules and regulations of the Synod. For the more efficient execution of its own local affairs, the District adopts the following rules and regulations as Bylaws to its legal Charter:

VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of The Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod grows out of God's merciful mission to a sinful and hurting world. This mission centers on Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, whose ministry continues among us to bring life and healing to the world today. The Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ, seeks to guide all that this Church does in His name to the glory of God the Father.

Within this fellowship, Christians are called to love each other with the love of Christ and to work together in a trust that is established by His Grace. Called by His Spirit into this fellowship, all of God's people are sent back into the world to share the Good News of God's redeeming love and grace for all people.

As individual congregations, the Body of Christ in our various locales, we recognize that by working together we can assist one another in love and trust to accomplish more effectively this mission and ministry of the whole Church. Therefore, we joyfully and freely commit ourselves to the following Bylaws and we hold ourselves accountable to the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, a corporate servant structure, whose purpose is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations, church workers, and leaders, expanding God's mission and ministry.

Since God's mission and ministry occur through local congregations, and it is our desire that every congregation be a church in mission; and every man and woman a missionary, all working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel, to share his Love. Therefore the Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is: Every member. . . Equipped, Empowered, Engaged. . . Connecting People to Jesus!

D1.01 VOTING DELEGATES

Pastors and lay delegates of congregations holding voting membership, as specified in Article IX of the Charter, shall be voting delegates. The lay delegates shall be District representatives to their respective congregations between conventions.

D1.02 ADVISORY DELEGATES

The following ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, who hold membership in the Synod through the District shall be regarded as advisory members with full freedom of speech in District Conventions and may be called up to serve in an elected or appointed capacity by the District:

- a. Ministers of religion - ordained whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod (i.e mission congregations);
- b. Ministers of religion-ordained, not in charge of congregations (i.e. retired pastors, Specific Ministry Pastors);
- c. Ministers of religion-commissioned Ministers of religion – ordained who are on the roster of the District but are not voting delegates of congregations.
- d. Candidates for the ministry of religion, either ordained or commissioned.

D1.04 NON-VOTING CONGREGATIONS

Non-voting congregations are encouraged to send representatives to the District convention and to become members of the Synod. Such representatives may serve as advisory delegates if applicable or may be given the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the presiding officers. Lay representatives of non-voting congregations may not vote or serve on any committee.

D1.05 DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS

- a. Each electoral circuit of member congregations shall elect one (1) pastoral and one (1) lay delegate.
- b. One advisory delegate shall be elected for every 60 advisory ordained and specific ministry pastors, and one (1) advisory delegate shall be elected for every 60 commissioned ministers. (Synod Bylaw 3.1.3.1) Those individuals who are eligible to serve as advisory representatives under Synod Bylaw 3.1.4, are not to be included in these calculations for elections. (Synod Bylaw 3.1.3.1.c)

D2.01 OFFICERS

The officers of the District shall be:

- a. The President ;
- b. Five (5) Regional Vice-Presidents ;
- c. A Secretary;
- d. A Treasurer;
- e. One Circuit Visitor per visitation Circuit of the District.

D2.02 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The Board of Directors of the District shall be composed of:
 1. The Officers of the District with the exception of the Circuit Visitors
 2. Three (3) ministers of religion-commissioned ;
 3. Ten (10) laypersons, two (2) laypersons per region of the District.

D2.03 APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES

The president may appoint the following officials and committees:

- a. LCEF Committee. The members of the LCEF Committee shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the District upon the recommendation of the President in consultation with the Vice President of LCEF. The duties of the Committee shall be to further the ministries partnership of LCEF through its investments, loans and ministry support. and the Committee may consist of the President of the District, the chairman of the Board of Directors, and other such members as recommended by President and/or Vice President-LCEF for the District. Such member recommendations are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the triennium.

-
- b. Committee on Convention Registration, Credentials, Housing, and Attendance, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion-ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion-commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
 - c. Judge of Elections, who is to be the pastor of a voting congregation, for whom the District shall furnish adequate clerical assistance.
 - d. Committee on Conference Essays and Minutes, composed of:
 - a. One (1) minister of religion-ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 - b. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 - c. One (1) minister of religion-commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
 - e. Convention Reviewing Committee and Floor Committees for the processing of reports and overtures, as determined to be necessary by the President.
 - f. Committee for District Archives shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

D2.04 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for all officers and the Board of Directors shall be three (3) years. All officers and the Board of Directors shall begin their term of office at the time specified in these Bylaws. No elected individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) elective office, except that the President and the district treasurer shall be eligible for four (4) consecutive terms of office.

D2.05 TRANSITION OF ADMINISTRATIONS

- a. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, the members of the Board of Directors (except the Treasurer), and all members of elected committees shall assume their respective duties within thirty (30) days following the adjournment of the District Convention following their election.
- b. At all times material during the Transition of Administrations the Board of Directors shall work in good faith with the incoming administration to assist the newly elected President with matters relating to his transition which may include, without any limitation, his relocation to the District Office.
- c. The newly elected President shall meet with the members of the District staff and the new Board of Directors as soon as reasonably possible after his election, to assess the state of the District, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions of the District convention, and to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments. Following the election of a new President, the outgoing President shall continue to receive a full salary to the end of the calendar year, unless he accepts another position.

D2.06 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers and the Board of Directors, elected or appointed, shall be consistent with its Charter and the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod.

D2.07 ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board of Directors, all officers, and the elected committee for nominations shall be accountable to the District for all their transactions. All other committees shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.

D2.08 VACANCIES

All vacancies shall be filled according to Charter provided the method of filling vacancies is not contrary or inconsistent with the then existing Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod.

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

D2.09 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The District President, shall assure all of his responsibilities as outlined in the Bylaw 4.4 of Synod are fulfilled. These responsibilities are:
 1. to be the chief executive of the District;
 2. to represent the Synod in his District;
 3. to represent the Synod in connection with all ordinations, commissioning, and installations;
 4. in his ministry of ecclesiastical supervision, visit the congregations of the District;
 5. to supervise the teaching, the life, and the official administration of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision; and shall inquire into the spiritual conditions of the congregations of his District and take such action as may be necessary, which may include suspending from membership ordained or commissioned ministers for persistently adhering to false doctrine or for having given offense by an ungodly life;
 6. to arrange for official visitations or investigations when a controversy arises in a congregation or between two or more congregations or when there is evidence of a continuing unresolved problem in doctrine or practice;
 7. to maintain the official rosters of his District;
- b. In addition to those responsibilities outlined in Bylaw 4.4, the District President, shall assure that the following responsibilities are fulfilled:
 1. At the sessions of the District, the President shall conduct the meetings according to the accepted parliamentary rules and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and of the District.
 2. He shall be an ex officio voting member of all committees, and task forces of the District.
 3. He shall oversee the creation and distribution of the convention manual prior to the District convention.
 4. He shall sign legal documents and instruments requiring his signature and shall perform all additional duties which the District places on him through its Bylaws, regulations, and by special resolution.
 5. He shall be a full-time executive. He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution.
 6. He shall be the chief executive officer of the District and have supervision of all officers and employees of the District.
 7. He shall make regular reports to the District Board of Directors regarding critical ministry targets and desired outcomes of the Board of Directors.
 8. He shall be responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the District Convention.

D2.10 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the President and is officially declared so by the Board of Directors, the First Vice-President shall be requested by the Board of Directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared President by the Board of Directors.
- b. If the First Vice-President declines, the Second Vice-President shall be requested by the Board of Directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared President by the Board of Directors.
- c. If the Second Vice-President also declines, the Third Vice-President shall be requested by the Board of Directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared President by the Board of Directors.
- d. If the Third Vice-President also declines, the Fourth vice-President shall be requested by the Board of Directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared President by the Board of Directors.
- e. If the Fourth vice-President also declines, the Fifth Vice President shall be requested by the Board of Directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared President by the Board of Directors.
- f. If the Fifth Vice President also declines, the Board of Directors shall appoint an acting President. If less than one (1) year remains in the term of the President, the acting President shall remain in office until the next regular convention of the District. If more than one year remains, the Board of Directors shall call for nominations by the congregations of the District for candidates to fill the office of President and shall be empowered to elect a President from those five (5) candidates who have received the largest number of nominations and who have indicated a willingness to serve.

D2.11 PERTAINING TO THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

- a. The Vice-Presidents shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.
- b. A Vacancy in the Vice-Presidency shall be filled as follows and those filling the vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term:
 1. A vacancy in the First Vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the Second Vice-President.
 2. A vacancy in the Second Vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the Third Vice-President.
 3. A vacancy in the Third Vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the Fourth vice-President.
 4. A vacancy in the Fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the Fifth Vice-President.
 5. A vacancy in the Fifth Vice-presidency shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

D2.12 THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be a minister of religion, ordained, and a rostered member of the District.

D2.13 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- a. He shall cause a full and complete record of the business transacted by the corporation at all regular and special conventions and the meetings of the Board of Directors to be kept.

- b. He shall be the official correspondent of the corporation and the Board of Directors.
- c. He shall submit to the members of the Board of Directors copies of the minutes of the board.
- d. He shall cause a report to be sent to all officers of the District and to all committees, and task forces of the District of the resolutions pertinent to them, or their work, enacted by the District at its convention or by its Board of Directors.
- e. He shall function, if appropriate, as an administrator in the dispute resolution process (Handbook of Synod [2016 edition, or its progeny] Bylaws 1.10.4a and 1.10.6.)
- f. He shall be responsible for carrying out the nomination procedures outlined in these bylaws according to the appropriate Synodical Bylaws (Handbook of Synod [2016 edition, or its progeny] Bylaw 4.7.). He shall cause the proceedings of the conventions of the District to be published. He shall oversee the preparation of the manuscripts, recording all resolutions in the wording in which they have been adopted, and cause the proceedings to be published after the President of the District has approved.
- g. He shall, prior to the District convention, submit to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their review, a copy of all anticipated corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the District bylaws.
- h. He shall, upon the close of the District convention, present a copy of all corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the District bylaws to the Board of Directors, and when prepared, provide an updated copy of the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws to the Office of the Secretary of Synod.

D2.14 DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a. An assistant Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Directors, and appointed by the board in consultation with the District President.
- b. The responsibility of the assistant Secretary shall be limited to the signing of official documents as authorized by the Board of Directors in the absence of the Secretary.
- c. Copies of documents signed by the Assistant Secretary will be provided to the District Secretary.

D2.15 THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The District Treasurer, appointed by the Board of Directors, shall be responsible, either directly or through staff assistance, to the Board of Directors for the following:

- a. To assist in the preparation of the District budget;
- b. To report quarterly to the board on the financial status of the District and provide an annual report to the District at the close of each fiscal year;
- c. To assure that all District monies are appropriately received, recorded, and deposited District, in financial institution(s) approved by the Board of Directors;
- d. To make District financial records available for audits authorized by the board;
- e. To assure that all District funds are disbursed as authorized and in accordance with the District budget;
- f. To provide for the safe-keeping of all notes, deeds, and other official documents of the District;
- g. To ensure that all District officers and staff (professional and clerical) handle District moneys properly and successfully completed a background check by the District;
- h. To arrange for the borrowing of moneys in the name of the District as authorized by the Board of Directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D2.16 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of twenty-one (21) persons as follows: the District President; the five (5) vice-Presidents; the District Secretary; the District Treasurer; ten (10) lay persons who are resident members of congregations, two (2) from each respective regions of the District; and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod.
- b. Every member of the board shall be a member of a member congregation of the District and, if an individual member of the Synod, on the district roster. When a member of the board ceases to be a member of a member congregation of the District or, if an individual member of the Synod, ceases to be on the district roster., he/she shall automatically lose membership on the board. Those members of the Board of Directors who are elected representatives for regions of the District shall cease to be members of the board if they are no longer residing in the region which they represent.

D2.17 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Members of the board shall discharge their duties in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal pursuant to Synod Bylaw 1.5.7:

- a. Incapacity
- b. Breach of fiduciary responsibility
- c. Neglect or refusal to perform the duties of office
- d. No longer satisfying the qualifications for a Board member
- e. Conviction of a felony
- f. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest
- g. Conduct evidencing a scandalous life
- h. Advocacy of false doctrine, as per the confessional standard of the Synod (Constitution, Article II)
- i. Failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod
- j. Accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences within any term of office

D2.18 VACANCIES

The board shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership. The member thus appointed shall serve out the unexpired term of the person he/she succeeds.

D2.19 OFFICERS

At the first meeting of the triennium, the Board of Directors shall elect one (1) of its members to serve as Chairman. The Secretary of the District shall function as the Secretary of the board.

D2.20 AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors, charged with the general management of the District's affairs, shall assume office at the time specified in Bylaw D2.05.

D2.21 ORGANIZATION

- a. Between conventions, the Board of Directors shall formulate policy and evaluate the programs designed to carry out the District's work in accordance with the rules and regulations of the District.
- b. The Executive staff of District (as more particularly defined by the President of the District) shall be advisory to the board and shall implement the programs and policies determined by the District President.

D2.22 MEETINGS

- a. The board shall meet four (4) times a year.
- b. The President or at the direction of at least one-third of the members of the Board of Directors, may call other meetings, special or regular, as may be deemed necessary.
- c. Meetings may be held in person or by electronic means including, without any limitation, Skype, or its progeny, video conferencing, or by teleconference call according to LCMS Board of Directors policy for electronic meetings. Such meetings shall take into consideration fostering the open exchange of ideas, availability of technology to all members, stewardship of resources, perception of fairness, controversial nature of agenda items, and whether secret ballots should be used
- d. The majority of the voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been duly notified by mail or telephone as to time and place of meeting at least one week in advance.

D2.23 AUTHORITY BETWEEN MEETINGS

Executive Committee

- a. At its first meeting the newly elected board shall elect from among its members an executive committee consisting of the District President, the Treasurer, and three (3) additional members, at least one (1) of whom must be a minister of religion ordained and one (1) a member of the laity.
- b. Also, the chairman of the board shall be one (1) of the five (5) members of the executive committee.
- c. The committee shall have the authority to act for the board between meetings.
 - a. This committee may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.
 - b. This committee may not overturn actions of the Board of Directors.
 - c. The actions of this committee shall be reported to the plenary sessions of the Board of Directors.

D2.24 DUTIES

The duties of the Board of Directors shall be:

- a. To conduct an annual evaluation of the District President regarding his administrative performance.
- b. To appoint the Treasurer;
- c. To ratify the hiring/terminating of any executive staff of the District, and determine their length of service;
- d. To annually review the system for determining the compensation of all personnel salaried by the District;
- e. To hold in trust the properties of the District, with power to buy, sell, or hold properties of all types, in accord with the rules and regulations of the District;
- f. To adopt the annual budget, with powers of review and change as necessary, upon the advice of the District Treasurer
- g. To determine the validity of any appeal for funds within the District by organizations or groups inside or outside the District;
- h. To authorize the Treasurer to borrow money necessary for the orderly operation of the District;
- i. To indemnify members of the Board of Directors in accordance with the policies set forth in the board policy manual.

- j. To conform its actions to applicable rules and regulations of the Synod and the District. Appeals concerning actions of the board shall be brought to the District convention. The action of the convention on such appeals shall be final.
- k. To approve legal aspects of the corporation in compliance with all applicable laws.
- l. To approve congregational constitutions and bylaws upon recommendation of the District President.
- m. To appoint legal counsel.

D2.25 EXPENSES

All expenses incurred by the board in carrying out its duties shall be paid by the District.

D2.26 AUDITOR

All books and financial records of the District shall be audited at least annually by an external certified public accountant or by CPA's of the Synod's Internal Audit Department as determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion. A full report of any such audit shall be submitted to the board, with a summary report made available to the District convention.

SELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD

D2.27 JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

- a. The President of the District shall appoint a judge of elections prior to the first session of the convention in which elections are to be held. The District shall supply adequate administrative assistance and the necessary equipment to prepare and tabulate ballots.
- b. The ballots shall designate the office to be filled and the number of candidates to be voted for. The ballot shall list in alphabetical order the names of the candidates to be voted for in each office or board. . In the necessity of a second and subsequent ballot for president or vice president, the candidate having the least number of votes shall be removed from the ballot. In ballots for all other positions, any candidate receiving less than 15% of the vote shall also be removed from the ballot unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. Balloting shall continue until a majority vote is received.
- c. The ballot shall be prepared in such manner as to show clearly how the delegates are to indicate their votes.
- d. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates properly identified and present on the convention floor or properly present in convention committee rooms.
- e. Once voting has begun, no recess or adjournment shall be taken until the respective ballots have been cast.
- f. For the tabulation of votes: mechanical, electronic, or other equipment may be employed, but if manual counting of ballots becomes necessary the tabulation shall take place in the customary manner by at least one (1) reader and one (1) tabulator:
 - a. In reporting the number of votes cast and the number of votes required for election, all ballots cast, except blanks, should be counted. A vote shall be credited to the name of the respective candidate if the meaning is clear and the intention of the voter can be established.
- g. Before announcing the names of the candidates elected, the judge of elections shall give copies of the tabulated votes to the Chairman and the Secretary of the convention. The tally of the

votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.

- h. All ballots shall be preserved by the judge of elections separately, according to the order of balloting, until the convention has been adjourned.
- i. The judge of elections shall distribute the information concerning the candidates which has been furnished him by the committee on nominations at least two (2) hours prior to the vote.
- j. Since it is not feasible for all candidates to be present at the convention, it shall be the policy not to introduce to the convention, in person, any candidate.

D2. 28 MAJORITY OF VOTES

A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and other elective positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes eliminated from consideration until one (1) candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

D2.29 ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for District President shall be made by member congregations from the ordained roster of Synod through the District Secretary and shall close ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. The District Secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention. Each congregation shall have the right to nominate two (2) candidates for the office of the presidency. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.
- b. The five (5) ministers of religion, ordained, receiving the highest number of nominations shall be considered candidates.
- c. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the District Secretary.

Elections

- a. Each voting delegate shall have one (1) vote and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- b. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125.

D2.30 PRIMARY ELECTION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for regional Vice-President shall be made from the ordained roster of the District by member congregations of each region within the District no later than ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. Nominees must be residents within the region they represent. The District Secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention.
- b. The member congregations of each region have the right to nominate two (2) ministers of religion ordained.
- c. In each region, the three (3) ministers of religion, ordained who receive the highest number of nominations shall be considered candidates.
- d. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the District Secretary.

Selection

- a. At a regional caucus held at the District convention, each voting delegate of the region shall be entitled to vote in the selection of a candidate for regional vice president to be ratified by the

entire convention. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor during the regional caucus;

- b. The first nominee to receive a majority of the votes cast shall be declared selected as candidate; if no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125;
- c. All regional selections of candidates shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention which retains the right to amend the slate.

D2.31 ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

After the election of the vice-Presidents by ratification by the entire convention, they shall be ranked (1st, . . . 5th) each by a separate ballot on which each delegate shall vote for one candidate for each Vice Presidential office. The candidate in each ranking receiving the majority vote shall be considered ranked in order of the ballot taking place

D2.32 REGIONS OF THE DISTRICT

- a. For the purpose of electing representatives to the Board of Directors, the District shall be divided into five (5) regions. These regions shall consist of:
 - a. Region I - North Atlanta, South Atlanta, East Central Georgia, and NE Georgia Circuits
 - b. Region II - Tallahassee, First Coast, and North Central Florida Circuits
 - c. Region III - Orlando East, Orlando West, Space Coast, , and Winter Haven Circuits
 - d. Region IV - Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, and Southwest Circuits
 - e. Region V - Treasure Coast, South Palm Beach, Gold Coast, Heartland, and Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuits
- b. Additional Circuits which may be formed shall be assigned to a Region by the convention.

D2.33 SELECTION OF REGIONAL LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. Nominations for regional lay representatives on the Board of Directors shall be made by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the convention. The District Secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the start of the convention.
- b. Any congregation within a region may nominate two (2) individuals to be regional lay representative to the District Board of Directors. Congregations may nominate candidates who reside within in the region of the congregation.
- c. Nominations shall be sent to the District Secretary, and shall contain biographical information as well as an indication of the individual's willingness to serve if elected
- d. At the regional caucus to select lay representatives
 1. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor during the regional caucus;
 2. Two (2) lay persons from the region shall be selected in a the same manner as in D2.125
 3. Only one (1) lay representative may be selected from a single congregation.
 4. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention which retains the right to amend the slate.

D2.34 COMMITTEE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. Nominating Committee. Members of the Nominating Committee are elected at the District Convention. The Nominating Committee shall be a committee for nominations, composed of two (2) ministers of religion-ordained, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) ministers of religion-commissioned.
 1. Each region of the District shall be represented on the committee.

2. The term of office shall be three (3) years.
 3. Committee members shall not succeed themselves.
 4. In the event that a member of the Committee for nominations is unable to serve, the District Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement from the same Region and the same classification.
- b. Duties of the Nominating Committee - At least 180 days before the District convention, the committee for nominations shall, through the District Secretary, request the voting congregations of the District to submit suggestions for nominees for the following offices: District Secretary; members of the Board of Directors who are ministers of religion, commissioned; the District committee for nominations; and/or others not covered by specific rules and regulations.
 - c. A special form for information concerning the nominees shall be included. (See Suggested Information Sheet, D2.144.)
 - d. The nominations shall be sent to the Secretary of the District, who shall forward them to the committee for nominations. As nominations are received, the chairman of the committee shall notify all nominees with the request that they state their willingness to serve in the event of their election. The committee for nominations shall do the actual selecting of the nominees from those who have indicated their willingness to serve. A declaration of a willingness to serve does not guarantee nominating.
 - e. Forms on which nominations are to be made shall be available also at the convention, to be signed by persons making such nominations. Nominations shall be called for at the beginning of the morning session of the first day of the convention, and the completed forms must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. of the same day, and not less than two hours prior to the vote. Elections may take place in the afternoon session of that day or at the direction of the chair.
 - f. The convention shall have the right to amend any slate of nominations by floor nomination. When a nomination is made from the floor, the Committee for Nominations shall require that consent and biographical data be provided for anyone being nominated by the delegate offering the nominations. This consent and biographical information shall be publicized by the judge of elections at least 2 hours prior to a vote.

D2.35 INFORMATION SHEET AND STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO SERVE

In the nominating of ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, and lay persons for a District office, information concerning them shall be made available at the District convention. The following information shall be included in the information furnished:

- e. Information required of all nominees
 1. Name and address
 2. Email
 3. Phone Number(s)
 4. Age
 5. Present congregation
 6. Number of years in the District
 7. Present incumbent
 8. District offices previously held
 9. Office to which nominated
 10. Statement of willingness to serve
- f. Additional information for ministers of religion, ordained)

1. Former churches or ministries served
2. Year of ordination
- g. Additional information for ministers of religion, commissioned)
 1. Years in office
 2. Former services rendered
- h. Additional information for lay persons
 1. Formal education
 2. Business Occupation (past, present)
 3. Employed/Retired
 4. Former congregations and offices held there

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

D3.01 TIME OF ELECTION

The election of District officers, board members, and committee and commission members shall take place at a regular convention of the District.

D3.02 RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE

The accredited pastor and lay delegate of each voting congregation in the District shall be entitled to vote. If a pastor serves two (2) or more congregations, these shall be regarded as one (1) parish and shall be entitled to only one (1) lay vote.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

D3.03 ELIGIBILITY

All officers, board members, commission members and members of committees shall be members of member congregations of the District or the District roster and shall have been active in the District for at least one (1) year. The one (1) year limitation shall not apply to the office of District President, District vice President, District Secretary, and circuit visitor (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1).

D3.04 THE RATIFICATION OF CIRCUIT VISITORS

The ratification of the circuit visitors shall take place after the election of the President, vice-Presidents, and Secretary, according to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DISTRICT MISSIONS

D4.01 ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSIONS

It is the purpose of the District assist and encourage every congregation of the District to be a church in mission; and every man and woman a missionary, all working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel, to share his Love. To that end, the Board of Directors shall see that resources are provided to the congregations and the ministries of the District, as they are available and deemed appropriate.

D5.01 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Changes in the Bylaws and additions thereto may be made, provided they are:

- a. Not contrary to the Charter of the District, or the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod;
- b. Presented in writing to the Board of Directors; the District Secretary shall forward proposed bylaw amendments the Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval prior to their being considered by the District convention (Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.23 [a-b]);
- c. Passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention assembled.

Bylaws revised on the basis of the actions of the 2018 Convention of The Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 1.1 - 2018
Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S WORK OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

5 WHEREAS, The State University System of Florida reported 341,000 students enrolled in state
6 institutions of higher learning and the State University System of Georgia reported 321,000
7 students enrolled in state institutions of higher learning for a combined total of 662,000
8 college students enrolled in state institutions within the geographical boundaries of the
9 Florida Georgia District, not including the many students enrolled in private institutions of
10 higher education; and

11 WHEREAS, Our Lord encourages His disciples to "look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the
12 fields are white for harvest," (John 4); and

13 WHEREAS, The Florida Georgia District has had a rich history of supporting missions to the colleges
14 and universities within the District beginning with work at the University of Florida in 1931
15 and continuing forward with campus ministry work at no fewer than 10 colleges and
16 universities throughout the District; and

17 WHEREAS, The colleges and universities within the District draw from the neighborhoods that are
18 served by District churches and many of the graduates of these colleges and universities are
19 sent into neighborhoods served by District churches for the beginnings of their careers; and

20 WHEREAS, The task of reaching new students with the Gospel has become challenging in new
21 ways as fewer students are arriving at college having self-identified with the Christian
22 faith or having been shaped by Christian communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Many campuses within the geographical boundaries are currently unserved or
24 underserved by Gospel-oriented ministries;

25 Therefore be it

26 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") affirm the importance
27 of a vital outreach to students endeavoring in the vocations of higher education; and be it
28 further

29 *Resolved*, That the District would allocate appropriate resources to the assessment of opportunities
30 to connect with students on university campuses in new ways; and be it finally

31 *Resolved*, That the District would provide leadership for this vital mission to encourage existing
32 campus ministry efforts and facilitate future outreach.

33 **Submitted by University Lutheran Church and Student Center, Tallahassee Florida for consideration**
34 **and adoption at the 2018 District convention.**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 1.2 - 2018
Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **COMMITMENT TO MISSION STARTS IN THE FL-GA DISTRICT**

5 WHEREAS, Jesus has called all of His chosen disciples to abide in Him and bear fruit that will last (John 15:5;
6 8:16); and
7 WHEREAS, Jesus tells us the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few so we are to pray to the Lord of the
8 harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:37-38), and
9 WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19) referring to all His baptized,
10 both clergy and laity alike; and
11 WHEREAS, We continue to see a decline in church attendance across our nation at alarming rates, and
12 WHEREAS, Statistics show that millennials are becoming less active and inclined not to attend worship
13 services regularly; and
14 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District Circuit Visitors and Board of Directors were told that an anticipated
15 loss of 500,000 souls is expected according to a demographic study conducted for the Lutheran
16 Church— Missouri Synod; and
17 WHEREAS, Jesus promised that the gates of Hell would not prevail against His Church (Matt. 16:18), and
18 WHEREAS, God has saved people to serve (Eph. 2:10), and gifted all of His baptized to they are able to serve
19 (1 Peter 4:10); and
20 WHEREAS, God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4), and
21 WHEREAS, the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors has set as critical targets leadership and outreach,
22 with a dedicated desire to raise up strong, healthy leaders and focus on outreach opportunities and
23 resources; and
24 WHEREAS, God has blessed the Florida-Georgia District with a mission heart and attitude for the past 70
25 years; and
26 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District, which covers one third of the Eastern Seaboard, has a diversity of
27 culture and ethnic opportunities that differ from one end to the other so that it requires unique
28 solutions to reach into specific communities and share the love of Jesus; and
29 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia hearing this call to connect people to Jesus has entered into a partnership
30 with Five Two to raise up among our clergy and laity entrepreneurial leaders with a focus on reaching
31 out to communities with the life-saving good news of forgiveness and salvation that comes alone
32 through the grace of Jesus; and
33 Therefore be it
34 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District renew its commitment to raising up healthy, visionary leaders who
35 are disciples grounded in the Word of God, and continue to encourage congregations to recognize
36 and act on the call of Jesus to reach their communities with the hope that we have with gentleness
37 and respect (1 Peter 3:15), and be it further
38 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District commit to raising up two new ministries in each of the five regions
39 each year for the next five years, resulting in fifty new ministry starts, as we celebrate God’s blessings
40 and head toward the 75th Anniversary of the Florida-Georgia District in 2023, and
41 be it finally
42 *Resolved*, That congregations, circuits and regions work together to engage in the Master’s business for the
43 sake of the Gospel so that many are connected to Jesus.
44 **Submitted by: The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors for consideration and adoption at the 2018**
45 **District Convention**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention** **Overture: 2.1 - 2018**
2 **Florida-Georgia District** **Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

4 **TO DECLARE APRIL 18TH, 2021 AS "HERE I STAND" DAY AND ENCOURAGE MULTI-**
5 **CONGREGATION CELEBRATIONS**

6 WHEREAS, We are now in the midst of several important half-millennium anniversary dates of
7 important events regarding the Protestant Reformation; and

8 WHEREAS, The first such event, the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 Theses was a
9 tremendous success, with many congregations of the District and Synod gathering
10 together for mass worship celebrations and more; and

11 WHEREAS, Scripture gives us encouragement with these words: " Let us hold fast the
12 confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us
13 consider how to stir up one another to love and good works not neglecting to meet
14 together as is the habit of some but encouraging one another and all the more as you
15 see the day drawing near."; and

16 WHEREAS, It is generally agreed that the most important event of the Reformation
17 was when Martin Luther made his "HERE I STAND" proclamation at the Diet of Worms
18 before both the emperor and leading Roman church officials on April 13th, 1521; and

19 WHEREAS, April 18th, 2021 is both a Sunday and falls two weeks after the celebration of
20 Easter that year;

21 Therefore be it

22 *Resolved*, That April 18th, 2021 be declared "HERE I STAND" Sunday throughout our District, its
23 circuits and congregations; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That these entities be encouraged to gather together for worship celebrations to
25 commemorate the event; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That a district-wide thank-offering be coordinated and collected for that day, to be
27 used toward the continued proclamation of the Gospel throughout Florida and
28 Georgia; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That this District gathered in convention, memorialize the Synod, on the same topic
30 encouraging them to do the same church-wide; and be it finally

31 *Resolved*, That in the midst of preparations being made for such an event that our churches
32 and people be encouraged to spend time in prayer, asking the Lord to continue to bless
33 the proclamation of the Gospel in our midst among a growingly hostile reception to the
34 Good News.

35 **Submitted by Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Port Richey, Florida for consideration**
36 **and adoption at the 2018 District Convention**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 2.2 - 2018
Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership

4 **TO ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR LAYPERSONS IN THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT**

5 WHEREAS, "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one
6 another," (Romans 12:5); and
7 WHEREAS, Lutheran theology has always viewed all vocations as important and has always affirmed
8 the importance of lay involvement and leadership, affirming the priesthood of all believers (1
9 Peter 2:9); and
10 WHEREAS, All believers, including laypersons serve the Church in the name of Christ, and connect
11 others to Jesus, and should therefore be encouraged, equipped, and engaged to do so; and
12 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District has specific resources and connections with people who
13 would be able to train its lay people in a meaningful way, which has already been
14 demonstrated through programs such as the President's Equip Conference, the Stewardship
15 Summit, and the Emergent Leaders training; and
16 WHEREAS, The Florida Georgia District has the opportunity to stand as witness to the rest of our
17 Synod and show the great opportunity found in developing robust training for laypersons
18 within the congregations of the District;

19 Therefore be it

20 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") affirm the importance
21 of leadership training opportunities for laypersons; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the District allocate necessary resources to train and network lay leaders throughout
23 the District; and be it finally

24 *Resolved*, That at least one leadership training opportunity for lay persons be offered to the District
25 in every year of the upcoming triennium.

26 **Submitted by University Lutheran Church and Student Center, Tallahassee, FL for consideration and**
27 **adoption at the 2018 District Convention**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 2.3 - 2018

Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership

4 **TO EXTEND TERM LIMITS**

5 WHEREAS, God grants, arranges and combines His gifts to the Church within the body of Christ in
6 the time and manner that He wills (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11, 18 & 24); and

7 WHEREAS, Such God-given gifts include among others, wisdom, knowledge, service, leadership and
8 administration, especially as one grows in the Word and learns from experience in the office;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In His Word God has set no limits on the use of these gifts, neither commanding nor
11 forbidding term limits; and

12 WHEREAS, There are no term limits for full time elected official at the national level of the Lutheran
13 Church - Missouri Synod; and

14 WHEREAS, Twenty- one of thirty-five Districts have no term limit for District President; and

15 WHEREAS; The Florida-Georgia District in recent conventions has been electing District Presidents
16 who after serving three terms have been very close to retirement age; and

17 WHEREAS; The office of District President is indeed a call by God through the assembly of
18 congregations, (CTR Theology and Practice of the Divine Call, p. 39); and

19 WHEREAS; The only called Minister of Religion-Ordained in the Florida-Georgia District with a term
20 limit is the District President;

21 Therefore, be it

22 *Resolved*; That the Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod meeting in
23 Convention hereby eliminate the (4) consecutive terms limit for the District President and
24 extend it to (5) consecutive terms limit; and be it finally

25 *Resolved* That Article D2.06 of the District Bylaws reads as follows: The term of office for all officers
26 and the board of directors shall be three (3) years. All officers and the board of directors
27 shall begin their term of office at the time specified in these Bylaws. No individual shall
28 serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) elective office except for the
29 district treasurer who is eligible for four (4) consecutive terms of office and the president to
30 (5) consecutive terms of office. Any, person elected hereunder shall serve until his
31 replacement has been elected.

32 **Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid, Florida for consideration and adoption at the 2018**
33 **District Convention**

1 To the 33rd Regular Convention
2 Florida-Georgia District
3 June 22 – 24, 2018
4

Overture: 3.1 - 2018
Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

5 **TO ENSURE TIMELY AND TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL REPORTING IN THE SYNOD**

6 WHEREAS, A principle of Biblical stewardship is to be accountable with the resources with which one has
7 been entrusted, as expressed in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14 ff.); and

8 WHEREAS, Much is required of those to whom God has entrusted his gifts. As Jesus said, “Everyone to
9 whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted
10 much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b, ESV); and

11 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach “it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Corinthians
12 4:2, ESV); and

13 **WHEREAS, The Synod has historically recognized its responsibility of accountability and faithfulness**
14 **in the handling of the finances entrusted to it by its members, as is witnessed in Bylaw 1.5.4,**
15 **“The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any**
16 **member congregation of the Synod;” and**

17 **WHEREAS, The Synod in previous conventions has expressed its opinion that such accountability**
18 **and faithfulness be found additionally in regular reporting of such financial disclosure by**
19 **adopting 2010 Convention Resolution 4-03, “To Broadly Communicate the Statement of**
20 **Financial Position of LCMS,” which reads in its totality:**

21 “Whereas, It is helpful to understand the Synod’s financial position and communicate it
22 to the members of the congregations of Synod; therefore be it

23 Resolved, That each November, the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod use
24 widely available means, (i.e., The Lutheran Witness, Reporter, the LCMS Website) to state
25 the financial position of the Synod in a format easily understood by persons unfamiliar
26 with financial terminology.” (2010 Convention Proceedings, p. 120); and

27 **WHEREAS, The members of the Synod expressed even further the need for full transparency in all**
28 **areas of financial disclosure by adopting 2016 convention RESOLUTION 9-04A, “To Improve**
29 **Disclosures Related to Financial Gifts from God’s Stewards for Special Appeals,” which stated in**
30 **part,**

31 “...Whereas, Monies for special appeals requested by corporate Synod (e.g., following
32 natural disasters) are reported only in part in Synod publications (e.g., Reporter and
33 The Lutheran Witness) and sometimes only annually; and ...

34 Whereas, Donors and members of the Synod are interested in the impact of funds
35 raised for special appeals and will appreciate improved disclosure of results; therefore
36 be it Resolved, That the financial offices of corporate Synod continue to recognize the
37 desire of donors and members of the Synod to improve processes of reporting and work
38 to provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and special appeals,
39 so that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-centered mission and
40 ministry beyond the local context or community.” (2016 Convention Proceedings, p.
41 189); and

42 WHEREAS, It was reported to the 2013 Convention of the Synod by the Board of Directors in its
43 **Report on the Disposition of Funding the Mission Recommendations (R6-03-01)** that “the
44 decline in the Synod’s annual unrestricted revenue continues...The board believes that
45 congregations will respond through better, open, and honest communication about the
46 great things God is able to accomplish for His kingdom when we work together. Numerous
47 conventions have passed resolutions calling on congregations to maintain and increase

48 unrestricted support for district and Synod ministries, yet the unrestricted support
49 passed through our districts to the Synod has continued to decline at the average rate of \$1
50 million each year.” **(2013 Convention Workbook 2013, p. 114-115);** and
51 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Chief Financial Officer of the Synod, in reporting to the Synod about offerings
52 received, stated, “This sharing from God’s bounty continues to decline. Although the amount
53 of decline in the past three years has not been as severe as the average decline of the
54 previous 20 years, it is still trending negatively. In the face of continued declining unrestricted
55 revenues, the ability of Synod, Inc. to respond quickly and nimbly to mission and ministry
56 opportunities and challenges laid before us by our Lord also declines, as does our ability to “fill
57 in the gap” when restricted revenues, needed to fund much of our mission and ministry
58 activities, fall short of their goals. The financial challenges facing our beloved Synod persist. I
59 believe that these challenges are of our own making, a product of how we distribute the
60 resources provided by our loving Father.” (2016 Convention Workbook, pp. 61-62) (Underlining
61 added for emphasis); and
62 WHEREAS, There have been few tangible reports about the financial struggles of the Synod, such as
63 the need to trim \$4 million dollars from the budget of the Synod (ref. July 7,
64 2017 Reporter, <https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission> and the May
65 19-20 2017 Synod Board of Directors Minutes
66 <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/board-of-directors>) and these
67 reports are less than sufficient to keep the members of the Synod regularly informed about
68 the financial condition of the Synod; and
69 WHEREAS, It has been reported that the Synod has only minimal days of operating capital in its cash
70 reserves, which would seemingly place the Synod in a precarious financial position (ref.
71 Paragraph 45, Financial Reports of the February 17-18, 2017 LCMS Board of Directors Minutes
72 <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/board-of-directors>), which stated that without funds
73 held on behalf of the two Seminaries, the Synod had only a 5 days of cash available); and
74 WHEREAS, In the face of such challenging financial times, transparency and regularity in reporting of
75 the financial situation of the Synod is of utmost importance to the members and
76 constituency of the Synod, who have a vested interest in the financial viability of the Synod
77 and who merit clear, concise, and timely reports; and
78 WHEREAS, The President of the Synod recommended in his report to the Synod in 2016 that the Synod
79 have “Uniform Financial Reporting.” **(2016 Today’s Business, p. 28);**
80 therefore be it
81 *Resolved,* That the Synod in convention direct the Chief Financial Officer to report quarterly in the
82 Synod’s official publications about the financial position of the Synod in a format easily
83 understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology, such reporting to include, but not
84 limited to income and expenses, budget versus spending, cash reserves and cash position, etc.;
85 and be it further
86 *Resolved,* That these quarterly reports include information about the regular Synod budget and the
87 reporting on special appeals as stipulated in 2016 Resolution 9-04A; and be it further
88 *Resolved,* That the Synod be shrewd managers with the resources God has given it; and be it further
89 *Resolved,* That the Synod give thanks to God for the resources He has entrusted to us, recognizing
90 “That the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1, ESV); and be it finally
91 *Resolved,* That the Florida-Georgia District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention with this
92 overture.
93 **Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church and School of the Florida-Georgia District for consideration and**
94 **adoption at the 2018 District convention.**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 3.2 - 2018
Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4
5 **TO OVERRULE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MAY 2017 RESOLUTION 12-14, RE BYLAW 7.1.2**

6 WHEREAS, The 2016 Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in its Resolution 12-
7 14 [*"Regarding the Right of an Accuser to Appeal When a District President or President of*
8 *the Synod Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend'*] and according to Bylaw 7.1.2, deferred its
9 rightful and legislative authority regarding the development of ecclesiastical supervision
10 bylaws with respect to and inclusion of the President of the Synod, the decision given to
11 Synod's Board of Directors; and

12 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14, in accordance with Bylaw 7.1.2, set forth a specific path and timeline
13 for consideration, negotiation and counsel to be conducted with the Council of Presidents,
14 with any proposed amendments to the bylaws to be reviewed by the Commission on
15 Constitutional Matters and the Commission on Handbook; and

16 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14 states that the Commission on Constitutional Matters in Op. 16-
17 2791 *"has indicated portions of the expulsion processes of Synod's Bylaws are presently in*
18 *an unconstitutional state with respect to Const. Art. XI B 1-3 and Const. Art. XIII 2";* and

19 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, acting under Bylaw 7.1.2 and at the express direction of the
20 2016 Resolution 12-14, in May of 2017 adopted changes to the bylaws of the Synod
21 regarding ecclesiastical supervision; and

22 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Synod defines clearly, precisely, and fully the supervisory role of
23 the President of Synod, wherein the President of Synod has *"the supervision regarding*
24 *the doctrine and the administration of a. All officers of the Synod; b. All such as are*
25 *employed by the Synod; c. The individual district of the Synod; d. All district presidents "*
26 *(XI.B.1);* and

27 WHEREAS, The President of Synod, as ecclesiastical supervisor, is limited in the exercise of said
28 power, assuming *"only such rights as have been expressly conferred" (XI A.1) ["The officers of*
29 *the Synod must assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred upon them by the*
30 *Synod, and in everything pertaining to their rights and the performance of their duties, they*
31 *are responsible to the Synod.'],* which are expressly conferred to be *"the power to advise,*
32 *admonish, and reprove....conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and*
33 *maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod" (XI.B.3);* and

34 WHEREAS, Synod's Constitution expressly confers upon the District Presidents the duty to
35 *"exercise supervision over" their district's ministers and to "visit and...hold investigations*
36 *in the congregations" (XII. 7),* including the District Presidents being empowered *"to*
37 *suspend from membership" their district's ministers (XII.8);* and

38 WHEREAS, Prior to the year 2016 and CCM Op. 16-2791, numerous CCM opinions [to wit Ag.
39 1970, Op.15-2750, 13-2669, 10-2581, 03-2354, and 03-2338, A and C] interpreted the
40 President of Synod's scope of ecclesiastical supervision do not include supervision over
41 individual workers and congregations expressed in Article XII.7,8;

42 Therefore, be it

43 *Resolved,* That Synod in convention, as the ultimate legislative body of Synod [*Bylaw 1.4.1: "The*
44 *delegate convention of the Synod is the legislative assembly that ultimately legislates*
45 *policy, program, and financial direction to carry on the Synod's work on behalf of and in*
46 *support of the member congregations. It reserves to itself the right to give direction to all*

47 *officers and agencies of the Synod. Consequently, all officers and agencies, unless*
48 *otherwise specified in the Bylaws, shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions, and*
49 *any concerns regarding the decisions of such officers or agencies may be brought to the*
50 *attention of the Synod in convention for appropriate action. This provision does not apply to*
51 *specific member appeals to the Concordia Plans, which has its own appeal process for such*
52 *cases.*7 considers the following to be steps to the resolution of this matter; and be it further
53 *Resolved, That changes, subsequent to 2016 Convention Resolution 12-14, made under Bylaw*
54 *2.14 "Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod," under*
55 *Bylaw 2.15 "Expulsion of a District President or Officer from Membership in the Synod",*
56 *under Bylaw 2.16 "Expulsion of a President of Synod from Membership in the Synod",*
57 *and under Bylaw 2.17 "Expulsion of Individuals from Membership in the Synod as a*
58 *Result of Sexual Misconduct or Criminal Behavior", as a result of 2016 Convention*
59 *Resolution 12-14, as adopted by the Board of Directors (May 2017) be overruled and of no*
60 *effect; and be it further*
61 *Resolved, That Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, 2.16 and 2.17 be returned to and replaced by the same*
62 *corresponding Bylaws as set forth in the 2013 Synod Handbook; and be it further*
63 *Resolved, That a Blue Ribbon Task Force of seven members, with four members appointed by the*
64 *35 District Presidents, three of whom shall be District Presidents, and three members*
65 *appointed by the President of Synod, be authorized and formed to conduct a thorough*
66 *study of the ecclesiastical supervision matter, including Articles III, VI, VII (studies of*
67 *Articles VI and VII were previously resolved by the 2010 Convention), XI, XII, and XIII, and*
68 *make recommendations to the 2022 Synod Convention, including any necessary revisions*
69 *of constitutional provisions, with the purpose of evangelically resolving the current*
70 *difficulty and division among us; and be it further*
71 *Resolved, That all relevant CCM opinions such as 16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-2797, 17-*
72 *2822, 17-2828 and 17-2836 be placed in abeyance until the 2022 Convention and*
73 *any necessary action at the 2022 convention; and be it further*
74 *Resolved That Synod in convention affirm the powers provided to the Synod President "to advise,*
75 *admonish and reprove...conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and*
76 *maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod" do not include direct*
77 *supervisory responsibilities of individual members of Synod, since such individuals are under*
78 *the ecclesiastical supervision of District Presidents; and be it finally*
79 *Resolved, That the convention pray for peace and harmony in the Synod as it moves forward in*
80 *mission and ministry.*
81 **Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church and School, Jacksonville, Florida for consideration and adoption**
82 **at the Florida-Georgia District 2018 Convention.**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 – 24, 2018**

Overture: 3.3 - 2018
Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4 **TO AMEND LCMS CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XI**

5 WHEREAS, The 2016 Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, in its Resolution 12-14
6 [“Regarding the Right of an Accuser to Appeal When a District President or President of the
7 Synod Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend”] and according to Bylaw 7.1.2, deferred its rightful
8 legislative authority and directed the Board of Directors of the Synod to draft bylaws to resolve a
9 situation where, it claimed, “portions of the expulsion processes of the Synod’s Bylaws are
10 presently in an unconstitutional state with respect to Constitution Art. XI B 1-3 and Constitution
11 Art. XIII 2”; and
12 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14, resolves “That a consultation process shall be designed by mutual
13 agreement of the Chairman of the Council of Presidents and the President of the Synod, by which
14 the Council of Presidents shall have the opportunity to offer to the Secretary of the Synod input
15 as to proposed mechanisms to implement expulsion processes consistent with and not
16 contradicting the Constitution of the Synod”; and
17 WHEREAS, Resolution 12-14 states that the Commission on Constitutional Matters in Op. 16-2791 “has
18 indicated portions of the expulsion processes of Synod’s Bylaws are presently in an
19 unconstitutional state with respect to Const. Art. XI B 1-3 and Const. Art. XIII 2”, such bylaws
20 having been adopted by the Synod in Convention in 2004, acting as the “principal legislative
21 assembly” (Bylaw 3.1.1) of the Synod; and
22 WHEREAS, In 2004, those Bylaws were regarded as constitutional by the Commission of Constitutional
23 Matters, as they fulfilled their function to “examine all reports, overtures, and resolutions of the
24 Synod asking for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod or which in any
25 manner affect the Constitution and Bylaws, to determine their agreement in content and
26 language with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.1) and to “be
27 represented at the meetings of national convention floor committees considering constitution
28 and bylaw matters to ensure that they are in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws, and
29 resolutions of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.2); and
30 Whereas, At no time since the adoption of the Bylaw provisions in 2004 until CCM 16-2791 had a
31 Commission opined that these expulsion process bylaws were in an unconstitutional state; and
32 WHEREAS, The opinions of the 2004 Commission on Constitutional Matters and the 2016 Commission on
33 Constitutional Matters clearly provide different interpretations of the Constitution of the Synod;
34 and
35 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors, acting under Bylaw 7.1.2 and at the express direction of the 2016
36 Resolution 12-14, in May of 2017 adopted changes to the bylaws of the Synod regarding
37 ecclesiastical supervision; and
38 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Synod, on November 3, 2017, published an article on the Synod’s
39 website, recognizing the need to “relieve any confusion regarding these changes”; and
40 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Synod defines clearly, precisely, and fully the supervisory role of the
41 President of Synod, wherein the President of Synod has the “the supervision regarding the
42 doctrine and the administration of a. All officers of the Synod; b. All such as are employed by the
43 Synod; c. The individual district of the Synod; d. All district presidents” (XI.B.1); and
44 WHEREAS, The President of Synod, as ecclesiastical supervisor, is limited in the exercise of said power,
45 assuming “only such rights as have been expressly conferred” (XI A.1 [“The officers of the Synod
46 must assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred upon them by the Synod, and in
47 everything pertaining to their rights and the performance of their duties, they are responsible to

48 the Synod.”], which are expressly conferred to be “the power to advise, admonish,
49 and reprove. . . conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of
50 doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod” (XI.B.3); and
51 WHEREAS, Synod’s Constitution expressly confers upon the District Presidents the duty “to exercise
52 supervision over” their district’s ministers and to “visit and . . . hold investigations in the
53 congregations” (XII.7), including the District Presidents being empowered “to suspend from
54 membership” their district’s ministers (XII.8); and
55 WHEREAS, Prior to the year 2016 and CCM Op. 16-2791, numerous CCM opinions [to wit Ag. 1970, Op.
56 15-2750, 13-2669, 10-2581, 03-2354, and 03-2338, A and C] interpreted the President of Synod’s
57 scope of ecclesiastical supervision do not include supervision over a district’s individual workers
58 and congregations as expressed in Article XII.7, 8; and
59 WHEREAS, C. F. W. Walther, the first President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod said that “We
60 have merely the power to advise one another, that we have only the power of the Word and of
61 convincing” (1848 Presidential address to the Synod) [See Article XI B 4 below in the first
62 resolve]; and
63 WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod define ecclesiastical supervision as including “...visitation,
64 evangelical encouragement and support, care, protection, counsel, advice, admonition, and
65 when necessary, appropriate disciplinary measures...” (LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1 (i)); and
66 WHEREAS,, It is this assembly’s conviction that such supervision should take place in relationship
67 between the supervisor and the supervised, as close to the supervised as possible, and not
68 carried out by a centralized authority; and
69 WHEREAS, It is this assembly’s conviction that this was and is the intent of the Constitution of the Synod;
70 Therefore be it
71 *Resolved* That, for the sake of clarification, Article XI of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—
72 Missouri Synod be amended as follows:

73 **Article XI Rights and Duties of Officers**

74 **A. In General**

- 75 1. The officers of the Synod must assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred upon
76 them by the Synod, and in everything pertaining to their rights and the performance of their duties
77 they are responsible to the Synod.
- 78 2. The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it,
79 to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedure.
- 80 3. The Synod reserves the right to abolish any office it has established.
- 81 4. Conventions of the Synod and of the districts have the right, in extraordinary cases, to elect a
82 chairman other than the regular presiding officer.

83 **B. Duties of the President**

- 84 1. The President has the ecclesiastical supervision regarding the doctrine and the administration of
 - 85 a. All officers of the national Synod;
 - 86 b. All such as are employed by the national Synod;
 - 87 c. The individual districts of the Synod (corporate, not individual and congregational members of
88 the districts);
 - 89 d. All district presidents.
- 90 2. The President shall have no ecclesiastical supervision over any other members (individual and
91 congregational) of the Synod and shall have the power to suspend only those mentioned in Article

92 XI B 1 a, b, d.

- 93 3. It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's
94 Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded,
95 to report such cases to the Synod.
- 96 4. The President has and always shall have and be limited to the power to advise, admonish, and
97 reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of
98 doctrine and practice in all the districts (corporate) of the Synod. Such means shall include only
99 those rights and duties specifically laid out in this article (XI A, B).
- 100 5. The President shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out.
- 101 6. When the Synod meets in convention the President shall give a report of his administration. He
102 shall conduct the sessions of the convention so that all things are done in a Christian manner and
103 in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- 104 7. It is the duty of the President, or an officer of the Synod appointed by the President, to be present
105 at the meetings of the districts, to advise them, and to report at the next session of the Synod.
- 106 8. The President shall perform all additional duties assigned to him by the Bylaws or by special
107 resolution of the Synod in convention, provided that such duties do not conflict with this article.
- 108 9. When matters arise between meetings of the Synod in convention which are of such a nature that
109 action thereon cannot be delayed until the next convention, the President is authorized to submit
110 them to a written vote of the member congregations of the Synod only after full and complete
111 information regarding the matter has been sent to member congregations by presidential letter
112 and has been published in an official periodical of the Synod. If such matters are related to the
113 business affairs of the Synod, such a vote shall be conducted only after the President has consulted
114 with the synodical Board of Directors. In all cases at least one-fourth of the member congregations
115 must register their vote. And be it further

116 *Resolved*, That when the amendment process is complete, the Bylaws of the Synod regarding
117 ecclesiastical supervision be returned to the wording of the 2013 *Handbook* of the Synod; and be
118 it finally

119 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention with this
120 resolution.

121 **Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church and School of Jacksonville, Florida of the Florida-Georgia District**
122 **for consideration and adoption at the 2018 District convention.**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Overture: 3.4 - 2018
Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4
5 **OVERTURN CCM OPINION 16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, & 17-2828**

6 WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) issued Opinion 16-2791 (June 2016) in
7 support of 2016 Convention Resolutions 12-01A, 12-01B, and Res 12-14 and supporting /
8 follow-up opinions 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-2797, & 17-2828 in support of 'if a district president
9 fails to act' clause, the President of the Synod can take action; and

10 WHEREAS, The Synodical Convention of 1852 approved the division of the Synod into Districts and in
11 doing so specifically mentioned the following principles:

12 Der Prases der allgemeinen Synode soll Untersuchung einer Sache in einer
13 Districtssynode nicht eher gesordert werden, als bis die iibrigen Instanzen durchgegangen
14 sind.

15 *The President of the General Synod is not to be ordered to investigate a thing in a*
16 *districtsynode until he has gone through the other authorities.*

17 and

18 Der allgemeinen Prases hat die Pflicht und das Recht, da, wo ein Districtsprases selbst,
19 oder ein Prediger eines Districts in falsche Lehre oder Prais gerat, einzuschreiten, so oft
20 seineallgemeine Stellung und Verantwortlichkeit gegang die Synode solch unmittelbares
21 Einschreiten nothig macht.

22 Doch soll der allgemeine Prases den Districtsprases jedesmal vorher davon in Kenntuiss
23 sessen und nie mit Uebergehung desselben einschreiten.

24 *The general president has the duty and the right, where a district president himself or a*
25 *preacher of a district /ell into false doctrine or practice, and intervene as often as its*
26 *general position and accountability to the Synod necessitates such immediate*
27 *intervention.*

28 *However, the General President should always inform the district president of this*
29 *beforehand, and never intervene with passing over it.*

30 (see: Convention Proceedings, **Theilung der Synode in Districtssynoden**, 1852); and

31 WHEREAS, In the Constitution of 1854 (which framework is mostly found in the present Articles of
32 the Constitution 2016) turned over the duties formerly assigned to the President of the
33 Synod, and then delegated that authority to the district presidents, especially with regard to
34 ecclesiastical supervision. The district presidents were to supervise the members in their
35 districts in a way very similar to that which the Synod president formerly had done. The
36 district presidents-not the Synod president-now had the authority to suspend members
37 between conventions. Districts now were authorized to remove members from the Synod,
38 however, those removed might appeal to the Synod in convention. In the revised structure of
39 1854, the Synod president was assigned general supervisory responsibilities over the Synod
40 and its members;

41 (Note: 1854 Constitution V.7:

42 The District requires of its President a report of the results of his visitations in the
43 previous year, according to instructions, in order to watch over the doctrine, life, and
44 work of pastors and teachers. If in consequence it should happen that the District
45 President reports a pastor to the Synod for persisting in false doctrine or offensive
46 conduct even after repeated admonition by the District President, by the congregation
47 concerned, and by the ministerium [of the District], the [District] Convention as a whole is

48 to make the final effort to turn the man in question from the error of his
49 way. If the one thus admonished does not hearken even to the Convention, he will be
50 excluded from the same, and his congregation, if it has not already done so, shall carry
51 out the command of Christ, Matt. 18:17: "But if he neglect to hear the church, let him be
52 unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Furthermore, the District President is to
53 report on the conditions prevailing in the congregations which he visited, and among
54 other things, whether he found conditions in them which would be contrary to the
55 conditions mentioned in Chapter II, without having been able to persuade the respective
56 congregation to desist from them.

57 Translation from *Moving Frontiers: Readings in the History of The Lutheran Church-*
58 *Missouri Synod*, edited by Carl S. Meyer. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1964,
59 153.); and

60 WHEREAS, In 1864, the Convention made further changes to the constitution regarding supervision by
61 the President of the Synod in that he no longer was obligated to visit all of the congregations of
62 the Synod; the district presidents now carried that responsibility. However, the Synod president
63 continued to supervise the Synod officers and the districts of the Synod, and he was to visit the
64 Synod's higher educational institutions each year. Thus, the present Article XI, Section B, Line 1
65 (2016); and

66 WHEREAS, The CCM opinions (16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-2797, & 17-2828) changes the historic
67 polity of the Synod as it alters the Office of the President from that of advise, admonish, and
68 reprove - and if necessary employ the highest power, 'tell it to the church' (to report it to the
69 Synod) to that of direct involvement exercising authority / supervision / suspension over an
70 individual member of the Synod in direct contradiction of the Articles. (see Article XI, Section B,
71 Line 1, and Article XI, Section A, Line 1, and especially note: only the power to suspend is found
72 in Article XII - Districts, and NOT in Article XI - Duties of Officers); and

73 WHEREAS, Op16-2793 which further supported Op 16-2791 stated that the CCM's research was based
74 upon the 1863 Convention adoption of a resolution (1864) which was submitted to appease the
75 objection of one congregation (a former Buffalo Synod congregation). That 1863 resolution
76 became a 1873 Handbook Instruction which stated:

77 "The Synod declares that, because the President of the Synod is appointed inspector of
78 the district presidents, the same right and power would be attached (to him) in
79 situations, where he is convinced that a district president erred in his handling of a
80 case, so that in the local congregation involved, at his own discretion, he could
81 convince himself of the facts" (1873 *Handbook Instruction*, p .89); and

82 WHEREAS, That Handbook Instruction was removed/deleted from the 1917/1924 Synodical Handbook
83 when numerous 'instructions' became actual bylaws in the final German and first English
84 Handbooks; and

85 WHEREAS, There appears to be contradicting resolutions (1852 vs 1863/1864) Dr Walther (founder &
86 First President of the Synod) himself gave the church an example of its historic polity as he
87 stated:

88 According to your valued letter of the 14th of this month you are turning to me as the
89 last court of appeal. ...However, I must inform you that as synodical president I can do
90 nothing in your matter because our synodical constitution lists only the following as the
91 duties of the synodical president: "The synodical president etc as such." (See
92 Constitution, C, VI, C. par 1). From that you can see that I do not have supervision over
93 individual congregations or their pastors. Therefore when difficulties arise in individual
94 congregations, I can intervene only when they voluntarily request my intervention and,

95 moreover, only when both of the quarreling parties request it. (From
96 Walther Speaks To The Church: Selected Letters, CPH, 1973, p.28 -Letter To Mr.
97 Quabuis, location not given, 20 September 1870.); and

98 WHEREAS, At the convention of 1887, the Synod reversed its policy on the exception to the appeals
99 process for extraordinary cases (it made these special exceptions in 1880/1881 during the
100 Election Controversy). The exceptions approved in 1880/1881 allowed for appeals to go
101 directly from the district president to the Synod president, and thus to the Synod itself,
102 bypassing the district convention. In repealing its resolution, Synod acknowledged that the
103 1881 exception was made in a time of difficult circumstances and under duress. It stated that
104 not only was the 1881 exception "a violation of the letter of the constitution, but also
105 contrary to the principles of the Synod."; and

106 WHEREAS, Numerous changes were made to the suspension process and appeal process with final
107 resolution having been completed in 1890 and was also the process in 1924 H C Schwan (The
108 Third President of the Synod) stated:

109 Besides, I have requests / inferences to intervene in this and that matter the brother
110 must be answered with it that I remembered them, according to our constitution, the
111 General President is not its appellate authority and also has no executive power except
112 in certain cases

113 But the general President has and have always (only) the power of consultation
114 (advise), admonition, reprove.

115 And even if he, as a supervisor of the districts Presidents, were asked to revisit a
116 judgment cast by them, thus, would settle only such cases by his right (justice) and
117 power; also to be convinced of the factual situation in the affecting local community
118 where he was convinced that the district president was wrong in this matter.

119 And I must say / admit, the longer I am serving in this office the more I am convinced by
120 experience how right / correct according to the Scriptures and the apostolic role model
121 / precedent and how wise also with determination our Constitution is.

122 (LCMS Presidential Address - 1893, proceedings, p. 25); and

123 WHEREAS, Op 16-2794 declared Referral Panels comprised of Circuit Visitors unconstitutional, even
124 though Article XII, Line 3, Line 6, and Bylaw 4.4.4 (a) considers District Vice-Presidents and
125 Circuit Visitors as Officers of the District, as ecclesiastical supervisors of the District, and have
126 the same rights and duties as those outlined in the Constitution for the officers of the Synod,
127 (see Article XII, Line 6); and

128 WHEREAS, These afore-mentioned Opinions/rulings 16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-2797, & 17- 2828
129 have declared and rendered unconstitutional formerly adopted Constitutional bylaws and
130 procedures, and in doing so have recommended, sanctioned, and encouraged adoption of a
131 newly approved bylaw (2.14) which is now contrary and contradict the present Articles of the
132 Constitution, and thereby has altered the historic polity of the Synod;

133 Therefore be it

134 *Resolved*, the 2018 Florida/Georgia District Convention (2018) memorialize the 2019 Synodical
135 Convention to overturn CCM OP. 16-2791, and supporting opinions 16-2793, 16-2794, 16-
136 2797, & 17-2828 as allowed for in Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c).

137 **This overture was approved and submitted on October 17, 2017 by the Circuit Forum of the Suncoast**
138 **Circuit #13 of the Florida-Georgia District for submission and adoption at the 2018 Florida-Georgia**
139 **District convention.**

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 1.1 - 2018

Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S WORK OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

5 WHEREAS, The State University System of Florida reported 341,000 students enrolled in state
6 institutions of higher learning and the State University System of Georgia reported 321,000
7 students enrolled in state institutions of higher learning for a combined total of 662,000
8 college students enrolled in state institutions within the geographical boundaries of the
9 Florida Georgia District, not including the many students enrolled in private institutions of
10 higher education; and

11 WHEREAS, Our Lord encourages His disciples to "look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the
12 fields are white for harvest," (John 4); and

13 WHEREAS, The Florida Georgia District has had a rich history of supporting missions to the colleges
14 and universities within the District beginning with work at the University of Florida in 1931
15 and continuing forward with campus ministry work at no fewer than 10 colleges and
16 universities throughout the District; and

17 WHEREAS, The colleges and universities within the District draw from the neighborhoods that are
18 served by District churches and many of the graduates of these colleges and universities are
19 sent into neighborhoods served by District churches for the beginnings of their careers; and

20 WHEREAS, The task of reaching new students with the Gospel has become challenging in new
21 ways as fewer students are arriving at college having self-identified with the Christian
22 faith or having been shaped by Christian communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Many campuses within the geographical boundaries are currently unserved or
24 underserved by Gospel-oriented ministries;

25 Therefore be it

26 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (hereafter
27 "District") affirm the importance of a vital outreach to students endeavoring in the vocations
28 of higher education; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the District would allocate appropriate resources to the assessment of opportunities
30 to connect with students on university campuses in new ways; and be it finally

31 *Resolved*, That the District would provide leadership for this vital mission to encourage existing
32 campus ministry efforts and facilitate future outreach.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 1.2- 2018

Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **COMMITMENT TO MISSION STARTS IN THE FL-GA DISTRICT**

5 WHEREAS, Jesus has called all of His chosen disciples to abide in Him and bear fruit that will last (John 15:5;
6 8:16); and
7 WHEREAS, Jesus tells us the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few so we are to pray to the Lord of the
8 harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:37-38); and
9 WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19) referring to all His baptized,
10 both clergy and laity alike; and
11 WHEREAS, We continue to see a decline in church attendance across our nation at alarming rates, and
12 WHEREAS, Statistics show that millennials are becoming less active and inclined not to attend worship
13 services regularly; and
14 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District Circuit Visitors and Board of Directors were told that within the next
15 ten years, the LCMS can expect a loss of 500,000 baptized members; and
16 WHEREAS, Jesus promised that the gates of Hell would not prevail against His Church (Matt. 16:18), and
17 WHEREAS, God has saved people to serve (Eph. 2:10), and gifted all of His baptized to they are able to serve
18 (1 Peter 4:10); and
19 WHEREAS, God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4), and
20 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors has set Leadership and Outreach as critical ministry
21 targets, with a dedicated desire to raise up strong, healthy leaders and focus on outreach
22 opportunities and resources; and
23 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District hearing the call to connect people to Jesus seeks to equip, empower,
24 and engage new leaders from among our clergy and laity with a focus on reaching out to
25 communities with the life-saving good news of forgiveness and salvation that comes alone through
26 the grace of Jesus; and
27 WHEREAS, God has blessed the Florida-Georgia District with a mission heart and attitude for the past 70
28 years; and
29 WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District, which covers one third of the Eastern Seaboard, has a diversity of
30 culture and ethnic opportunities that differ from one end to the other so that it requires unique
31 solutions to reach into specific communities and share the love of Jesus.
32 Therefore be it
33 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District renew its commitment to raising up healthy, visionary leaders who
34 are disciples grounded in the Word of God, and be it further
35 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District continue to encourage congregations to recognize and act on the
36 call of Jesus to reach their communities with the hope that we have with gentleness and respect (1
37 Peter 3:15), and be it further
38 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District commit to raising up two new ministries in each of the five regions
39 each year for the next five years, resulting in fifty new ministry starts, as we celebrate God's blessings
40 and head toward the 75th Anniversary of the Florida-Georgia District in 2023, and
41 be it finally
42 *Resolved*, That congregations, circuits and regions work together to engage in the Master's business for the
43 sake of the Gospel so that many are connected to Jesus.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 1.3- 2018

Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF MISSION: HAITI**

5 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture records the Great Commission: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All
6 authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all
7 nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching
8 them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of
9 the age: "(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV); and
10 WHEREAS, The people of Haiti are among "all nations"; and
11 WHEREAS, Mission: Haiti has, since its inception in 1999, upheld Scripture as the rule and norm for
12 faith and life and maintained an unqualified subscription to the Lutheran Confessions while
13 serving the spiritual, educational, vocational, material and other needs of the people of Haiti; and
14 WHEREAS, Mission: Haiti has been designated the official sponsoring and organizing body for mission
15 trips in cooperation with the ELCH; and
16 WHEREAS, Mission: Haiti is expanding its services in Haiti, including: sponsoring visiting LCMS pastors
17 who educate future Haitian Lutheran pastors, instructing teachers, planting churches, providing
18 VBS programs in outlying villages, drilling water wells, constructing schools and orphanages,
19 providing medical clinics, providing livestock to families, and more; and
20 WHEREAS, Mission-Haiti is firmly committed to only supporting self-sufficiency projects that protect
21 the dignity of Haitians and do not create dependency on "handouts"; and
22 WHEREAS, The proclamation of the Gospel by Mission-Haiti personnel has lead, directly or indirectly,
23 hundreds of Haitians out of the darkness of Voodoo into the marvelous light of Jesus;
24 Therefore be it
25 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") reaffirm its partnership with
26 Mission: Haiti to provide material, financial, logistical and other types of assistance; and be it
27 further
28 *Resolved*, That individual congregations of the District be encouraged to pray for Mission-Haiti and
29 provide material, financial and other types of assistance; and be it further
30 *Resolved*, That pastors and lay people be encouraged to consider participating in Mission-Haiti
31 mission trips, to spread the Gospel and render care in Haiti; and be it finally
32 *Resolved*, That individuals and groups throughout the District be encouraged to pray for the people
33 of Haiti.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 1.4- 2018

Floor Committee: Mission & Outreach

4 **TO SUPPORT CARING MINISTRIES**

5 WHEREAS, God has richly blessed thousands of children and families in Florida and Georgia through the
6 faithful ministries of the Lutheran Services Florida; Lutheran Services of Georgia; Lutheran
7 Services of North Florida; Redeeming Life Maternity Home; and Stepping Stones Ministries; and

8 WHEREAS, God has richly blessed congregations of the Florida-Georgia District as they have reached out
9 to their neighbors in need with food, clothes, shelter, care, counseling and compassion; and

10 WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus wants us to care for others;

11 Therefore be it

12 *Resolved*, That we give thanks to God for faithful workers who carry out these important ministries; and
13 be it further

14 *Resolved*, That congregations of the District encourage their members to volunteer in these caring
15 ministries; and be it finally

16 *Resolved*, That we continue to implore the leading of the Holy Spirit so that our neighbors in need might
17 know the compassion of Christ through the compassionate acts for individuals, congregations,
18 and schools of the Florida-Georgia District.

19

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 2.1- 2018
Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership

4 **TO DECLARE APRIL 18TH, 2021 AS "HERE I STAND" SUNDAY AND ENCOURAGE MULTI-**
5 **CONGREGATION CELEBRATIONS**

6 WHEREAS, We are now in the midst of several important half-millennium anniversary dates of
7 important events regarding the Protestant Reformation; and
8 WHEREAS, The first such event, the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 Theses was a
9 tremendous success, with many congregations of the District and Synod gathering together
10 for mass worship celebrations; and
11 WHEREAS, Scripture gives us encouragement with these words: "Let us hold fast the confession of
12 our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."; and
13 WHEREAS, Martin Luther made his "HERE I STAND" proclamation at the Diet of Worms before the
14 emperor and leading Roman church officials on April 18th, 1521; and
15 WHEREAS, April 18th, 2021 is a Sunday and falls two weeks after the celebration of Easter that year;
16 Therefore be it
17 *Resolved*, That April 18th, 2021 be declared "HERE I STAND" Sunday throughout our District, its
18 circuits and congregations; and be it further
19 *Resolved*, That these entities be encouraged to gather for worship celebrations to commemorate
20 the event; and be it further
21 *Resolved*, That a district-wide thank-offering be coordinated and collected for that day, to be used
22 toward the continued proclamation of the Gospel throughout Florida and Georgia; and be it
23 further
24 *Resolved*, That our churches and people be encouraged to spend time in prayer, asking the Lord to
25 continue to bless the proclamation of the Gospel; and be it finally
26 *Resolved*, That this District gathered in convention, memorialize the Synod, encouraging them to do
27 the same church-wide.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 2.2- 2018
Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership

4 **TO ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR LAYPERSONS IN THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT**

5 WHEREAS, "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one
6 another," (Romans 12:5); and

7 WHEREAS, Lutheran theology has always viewed all vocations as important and has always affirmed the
8 importance of lay involvement and leadership, affirming the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter
9 2:9); and

10 WHEREAS, All believers, including laypersons serve the Church in the name of Christ, and connect
11 others to Jesus, and should therefore be encouraged, equipped, and engaged to do so; and

12 WHEREAS, The Florida Georgia District has specific resources and connections with people who
13 would be able to train its lay people in a meaningful way, which has already been
14 demonstrated through programs such as the President's Equip Conference, the Stewardship
15 Summit, and the Emergent Leaders training; and

16 WHEREAS, The Florida Georgia District has the opportunity to stand as witness to the rest of our
17 Synod and show the great opportunity found in developing robust training for laypersons
18 within the congregations of the District;

19 Therefore be it

20 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") affirm the importance of
21 leadership training opportunities for laypersons; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the District allocate necessary resources to train and network lay leaders throughout
23 the District; and be it finally

24 *Resolved*, That at least one leadership training opportunity for lay persons be offered to the District
25 in every year of the upcoming triennium.

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**To the 33rd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 22 -24, 2018**

**Resolution: 2.4- 2018
Floor Committee: Ministry and Leadership**

TO ENCOURAGE RECRUITMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

WHEREAS, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38); and

WHEREAS, Such instruction encourages us not only to pray for more workers, but also to recruit and train those who are gifted for leadership positions in the Church, to carry out its part in God’s mission to the world; and

WHEREAS, The number of professional church workers in our Synod, Ordained and Commissioned, is in a precipitous decline, limiting the proclamation of the Gospel;

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter “District”) be directed to appoint a Task Force that will investigate best practices for recruitment and make recommendations for implementation of same to the District President; and be it finally

Resolved, That the District President report on the progress of implementation efforts to the 2021 District Convention.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

Resolution: 3.1- 2018

Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4 **TO ENSURE TIMELY AND TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL REPORTING IN THE SYNOD**

5 WHEREAS, Biblical stewardship requires us to be accountable for the gifts that God has
6 entrusted to His people, (Matthew 25:14ff, Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 4:2) (Matthew
7 25:14 ff.); and

8 WHEREAS, The Synod has historically recognized its responsibility of accountability and
9 faithfulness in the handling of the finances entrusted to it by its members, as is
10 evidenced by Synod Bylaws and Resolutions (LCMS Bylaw 1.5-4, 2010 Resolution 4-03,
11 2010 Convention Proceedings page 120); and

12 WHEREAS, The members of the Synod expressed even further the need for full transparency in
13 all areas of financial disclosure of all funding, including special appeals by adopting
14 2016 convention **RESOLUTION 9-04A, "To Improve Disclosures Related to Financial
15 Gifts from God's Stewards for Special Appeals," (2016 Convention Proceedings, p.
16 189)** which stated in part,

17 Resolved, That the financial offices of corporate Synod continue to recognize the desire
18 of donors and members of the Synod to improve processes of reporting and work to
19 provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and special appeals, so
20 that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-centered mission and
21 ministry beyond the local context or community."

22 WHEREAS, There is a desire among the members of the FLGA District for more transparency
23 and regularity in reporting of the financial position of the Synod especially in regard to
24 special appeals for disaster relief, which is of the utmost importance to the members
25 and constituencies of the FLGA District who have a vested interest in the care of those
26 impacted by disasters; and

27 WHEREAS, The people of God motivated by the Gospel will respond through better, open,
28 and honest communication about the great things God is able to accomplish for His
29 Kingdom when we work together.

30 Therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention direct the Chief Financial Officer to report quarterly in
32 the Synod's official publications the financial position of the Synod in a format easily
33 understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology according to generally
34 accepted accounting principles (GAAP); and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That these quarterly reports include information about the regular Synod budget as
36 well as reporting on special appeals and be it finally

37 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention
38 with this overture.
39

40 **To the 33rd Regular Convention** **Resolution: 3.5- 2018**
41 **Florida-Georgia District** **Floor Committee: Administration and Theology**
42 **June 22 -24, 2018**

43 **TO CREATE A PLAN FOR REGIONAL SEMINARIES**

44 WHEREAS, In light of the declining enrollment at both Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
45 seminaries; and

46 WHEREAS, These campuses present a major financial challenge in maintenance and upkeep

47 WHEREAS, Synod currently has accredited educational programs with facilities located
48 throughout the continental United States; and

49 WHEREAS, The sale of the two seminaries would provide financial stability via an endowment
50 fund for tuition for students and compensation for faculty and staff; and

51 WHEREAS, Regional campuses would attract and enable more students to enroll in a pursuit of
52 professional church work;

53 Therefore be it

54 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District memorialize to the Synod so that the Synod
55 designate a task force for the establishment of a long term plan which would convert
56 the current physical seminary structure to five regional seminary campuses which would
57 be housed on the campuses of current Concordia University System facilities, and be it
58 further

59 *Resolved*, That one of these regional campuses be created in the Southeast, and be it finally

60 *Resolved*, That these five regional seminary campuses would share resources via online classes
61 and a shared curriculum.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention** **Resolution: 3.6- 2018**
2 **Florida-Georgia District** **Floor Committee: Administration and Theology**
3 **June 22 -24, 2018**

4 **TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTORAL CIRCUIT**

5 WHEREAS, The current requirement for an electoral circuit is 1500 communicant members AND
6 7 congregations in the circuit; and

7 WHEREAS, In light of the declining number of congregations as well as communicant members
8 throughout the Synod. (District Visitation Report 2017-2019); and

9 WHEREAS, Current requirements for an electoral circuit are difficult to achieve as is evidenced
10 by the growing number of exceptional circuit requests; and

11 WHEREAS, These requirements give undo priority to large congregations and circuits while
12 disenfranchising smaller congregations and circuits,

13 Therefore be it

14 *Resolved*, That each of the District Presidents be given the authority to grant exceptional circuit
15 status to not more than 20% of the established circuits as he may see fit based on the
16 unique circumstances of the circuit and district, and be it finally

17 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District in convention memorialize the Synod in
18 convention with this overture.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**

Resolution: 3.7- 2018

(replaces O3.2; O3.3; O3.4)

2
3 **Florida-Georgia District**

Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4 **June 22 – 24, 2018**

5
6 **TO REESTABLISH THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT AS SUPERVISOR OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF**
7 **SYNOD**
8

9 WHEREAS, At the 2016 Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, in its Resolution 12-
10 14 [Regarding the Right of an Accuser to Appel when a District President or President of
11 the Synod Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend] according to Bylaw 7.1.2, deferred its
12 rightful legislative authority regarding the development of ecclesiastical supervision
13 bylaws with respect to and inclusion of the President of the Synod giving the decision to
14 the Synod's Board of Directors rather than to the legislative assembly; and

15 WHEREAS, The decision of the Board of Directors, as well as the most recent opinion of the
16 Commission of Constitutional Matters (CCM) in this matter (CCM Op. 16-2791) diverges
17 from historic opinions of CCM (Op 15.2750, 13-2669, 10-2581, 03-2354, 03-2338), and
18 of historical understandings of the role of the Synod President in the ecclesiastical
19 supervision of individual members of Synod (Creation of Districts - Synod Convention
20 1852, Giving the District President the Obligation to Visit Congregations of their Districts
21 - Synod Convention 1864, Appointing the President of Synod, Suspension and Appels
22 Process - Synod Convention 1890), and the correspondence of Synod Presidents such as
23 C.F.W. Walther and H.C. Schwann; and

24 WHEREAS, This decision has caused undue confusion around the procedures concerning the
25 serious matters of ecclesiastical supervision, leaving Districts, District Presidents, and
26 individual members of Synod unsure of how to proceed in matters that require swift,
27 contextual, and Biblical understanding; and

28 WHEREAS, This decision lengthens the duration of the reconciliation process and final action in
29 cases that require timely resolution.

30 Therefore be it

31 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") memorialize Synod
32 that CCM Opinion 16.2791 be nullified and sent for review with clear reference to the
33 historical precedent of Synod's practices and rules since its inception; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the District memorialize Synod that the decision of the Board of Directors
35 concerning 12-14, be nullified and sent for review; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the District memorialize Synod with proposed constitutional and bylaw changes
37 that would seek to clarify and return to Synod's historic position; and be it finally

38 *Resolved*, That the District pray for peace and harmony within the District and Synod, providing
39 a witness to God's powerful work of reconciliation in our lives.

1 **To the 33rd Regular Convention**
2 **Florida-Georgia District**
3 **June 22 – 24, 2018**

Resolution: 3.8- 2018

Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

4

5 **TO REVISE THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE DISTRICT**

6 WHEREAS, The Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Georgia District are to reflect the Constitution
7 of Synod and its Bylaws; and

8 WHEREAS, Several changes to the Constitution of Synod and its Bylaws have resulted in
9 inconsistencies between these documents; and

10 WHEREAS, Outside of these inconsistencies, other minor problems are found in the FLGA
11 Charter and Bylaws; and

12 WHEREAS, Due to the timely nature of how Districts are to change their charter and bylaws, the
13 District was unable to approve alterations at the 2015 Convention; and

14 Therefore be it

15 *Resolved*, That the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") amend its Charter
16 to be in agreement with that of Synod; and be it finally

17 *Resolved*, That the District amend its Bylaws to be in agreement with Synod.

To the 33rd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 22 – 24, 2018

Omnibus Resolution C
Floor Committee: Administration and Theology

WHEREAS, The Administration and Theology Floor Committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined;
Therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

<u>Overture</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
O2.3	To Extend Term Limits	Impractical, material error
O3.2	To Overrule Board of Directors' May 2017 Resolution 12-14, re Bylaw 7.1.2	See Resolution O3.7
O3.3	To Amend LCMS Constitution Article XI	See Resolution O3.7
O3.4	To Overturn CCM Opinion 16-2791, 16-2793, 16-2794, & 17-2828	See Resolution O3.7

Circuit Visitors **2018-2021**

Circuit 1	Northeast Georgia	The Rev. Zachary Hoffman
Circuit 2	Atlanta North	The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan
Circuit 3	Atlanta South	The Rev. George Murdaugh
Circuit 4	East Central Georgia	The Rev. John Lehenbauer
Circuit 5	Tallahassee	The Rev. Frank Kinast
Circuit 6	First Coast	The Rev. Dana A. Brones
Circuit 7	North Central Florida	The Rev. Alan Struckmeyer
Circuit 8	Space Coast	The Rev. Bruce Alberts
Circuit 9	Orlando East	The Rev. Ken Green
Circuit 10	Orlando West	The Rev. Marc Kappel
Circuit 11	Winter Haven	The Rev. Dean Pfeffer
Circuit 12	Heartland	The Rev. Richard Norris
Circuit 13	Suncoast	The Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff
Circuit 14	St. Petersburg	The Rev. Philip Rigdon
Circuit 15	Tampa	The Rev. Gilbert Kuehn
Circuit 16	Sarasota	The Rev. Rossetter Leavitt
Circuit 17	Southwest	The Rev. Richard Browning
Circuit 18	Treasure Coast	The Rev. Mark Stillman
Circuit 19	South Palm Beach	The Rev. Dr. Dennis Glick
Circuit 20	Gold Coast	The Rev. Timothy Hartner
Circuit 21	Monroe-Miami-Dade	The Rev. Tony Mandile

Nominations for Office
Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
2018-2021
 (*Incumbent)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	The Rev. Roberto Rojas, Jr. *The Rev. Gregory S. Walton
Vice President Region 1	*The Rev. David Brighton The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan
Vice President Region 2	*The Rev. Frank Marshall The Rev. James Rockey The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak
Vice President Region 3	The Rev. Charles Reich
Vice President Region 4	The Rev. Richard Browning *The Rev. Jon Zehnder
Vice President Region 5	The Rev. Stephen Carretto
Secretary	*The Rev. Jay Winters
Lay Region 1	*Mr. Jay Wendland
Lay Region 2	Mr. Tracy Cripe *Mr. Don Kaufmann *Mrs. Lois Schaefer
Lay Region 3	*Mrs. Katie Abercrombie
Lay Region 4	*Ms. Evita Gonzalez Mr. Daniel Najjar
Lay Region 5	Mr. Stephen Bradshaw *Mr. Samuel Ludington Mr. Roger Schlie
Commissioned Ministers	Mr. Jesse Crosmer Mrs. Lois Ford Mrs. Tamie Worthington

Nomination Committee

Pastor: The Rev. Dana Brones
The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan
The Rev. Dean Pfeffer

Commissioned Minister Religion
None received at time of publication

Lay
Mrs. Eileen Bishop-List
Dr. Joel Holcombe

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS
None received at time of publication

All names above are those who are eligible and willing to let their names stand.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Ordained

The Rev. David Brighton:

Nominated for: Region 1 Vice President

Age: 62

Present Congregation: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, Georgia

Years in District: 19+

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Circuit Counselor (2006 – 2009) Vice President (2009 – 2012) Region 1 Vice President (2012 – present)

Former Pastorates: Omaha, NE (July, 1982-June, 1990) and Parkersburg, WV (June, 1990-Jan, 1999)

Ordained: 1982

Additional Information: Stephen Ministry Leadership Training, Pastoral Leadership Institute graduate, DMin classes at Fuller Theological Seminary, part of Consultation Team with Transforming Churches Network.

The Rev. Dana Brones:

Nominated for: Nominations Committee

Age: 64

Present Congregation: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Years in District: 18

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: LCMS Mission Coordinator/Counselor, Venezuela 1987-1992; FL/GA Board for Parish Ed. 2005 – 2007; Circuit Visitor (First Coast region 2) 2011 – present.

Former Pastorates: Missionary, Venezuela 1983-1992; Concordia, Bethlehem, PA 1993-2000; Director of Pastoral Care, Muhlenberg Hospital, Bethlehem, PA 1994-2000

Ordained: 1983

Additional Information: Four units (2 yrs.) Clinical Pastoral Education; President Muhlenberg Hospital Credit Union 1987-2000; President American Heart Association (local chapter) 1996-2000. Honorary Chaplain Jacksonville Beach Police Dept. 2004 – present. Certified Interim Pastor through NALIP (National Association of Interim Lutheran Pastors)

The Rev. Richard Browning:

Nominated for: Region 4 Vice President

Age: 47

Present Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs, Florida

Years in District: 13.5

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor 2015 - present

Former Pastorates: Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, North Carolina

Ordained: 1998

Additional Information: Certified Intentional Interim Pastor

The Rev. Stephen Carretto:

Nominated for: Region 5 Vice President

Age: 35

Present Congregation: St Paul Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, Florida

Years in District: 9

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Former Pastorates: None

Ordained: 2010

Additional Information: Vicarage Supervisor; planning committee District President's Equip Conference; host Regional Stewardship Conference; Southeast Florida connection for Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine.

The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan:

Nominated for: Region 1 Vice President

Age: 56

Present Congregation: Rivercliff Lutheran Church

Years in District: 8

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor Circuit 2 2015-present

Former Pastorates: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rocklin, California

Ordained: 2002

Additional Information:

The Rev. Frank Marshall:

Nominated for: Rev. Frank Marshall, Sr.

Age: 72

Present Congregation: St Paul Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida (Emeritus)

Years in District: 31

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Circuit Counselor; Vice President Region 2 (2013-present)

Former Pastorates: Epiphany Lutheran Church, Arlington, Alabama; Messiah Lutheran Church, Thomasville, Alabama; St Paul Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Ordained: 1973

Additional Information:

The Rev. Dean Pfeffer:

Nominated for: Nominations Committee

Age: 59

Present Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Plant City, Florida

Years in District: 24

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor (2012 – present)

Former Pastorates: Faith Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida (Associate - 1994-1996)

Ordained: 1994

Additional Information: PLI Class of 2002; Emergent Leaders (2015), Continuing Ed- Concordia Seminary (3 classes); Circuit Visitor- Winter Haven 2009-Present; Synodical Convention Delegate- 2001 & 2016; Chair Plant City YMCA Board of Directors 2016-Present, Rotary, United Food Bank of P.C. Board Member 2010-Present.

The Rev. Charles Reich:

Nominated for: Region 3 Vice President

Age: 48

Present Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church and School, Winter Haven, Florida

Years in District: 21

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Chair of District Nominating Committee (2006-2009) & (2012 – 2015); Secretary of District Pastor's Conference (2000-2006); District Outreach Council and Circuit Outreach Counselor (2000 – 2006); District Board of Stewardship; District Continuing Education Committee

Former Pastorates: Abiding Savior, Gainesville, Florida (1996-2006);

Ordained: 1996

Additional Information: PLI class of 2004; Vicarage Supervisor; Emergent Leadership

The Rev. James Rocky:

Nominated for: Region 2 Vice President

Age: 55

Present Congregation: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford (The Villages), Florida

Years in District: 15

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor (2009 – present)

Former Pastorates: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, Tennessee; Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, Florida

Ordained: 1998

Additional Information: PLI, Circuit Counselor (9 yrs), Lutheran Services Florida Board of Directors 2011 - present, Biblical Counseling, FL-GA Hurricane Unmet Needs Committee 2004-05, Pastor Conference Committee (2005-2013), Ablaze Coordinator N-Central FL, Mediation Training - Ambassadors of Reconciliation 2016

The Rev. Roberto Rojas, Jr.:

Nominated for: District President

Age: 30

Present Congregation: Zion Lutheran Church, Winter Garden, Florida

Years in District: 4

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Former Pastorates: None

Ordained: 2014

Additional Information: STM (candidate) Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; Graduate Assist.- Pastoral Min. (CTS); Exchange Student at Westfield House, Cambridge, England; Exchange Student at the Seminario Concordia in Sao Leopoldo, Rfo Grande do Sul, Brazil; Serves on LC-MS Board of International Missions (elected)

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak:

Nominated for: Region 2 Vice President

Age: 51

Present Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church and School, Jacksonville, Florida

Years in District: 4

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor Atlantic District Lower Westchester; Circuit Visitor SELC District East Region (including Florida); Circuit Visitor PSW District – Southern Arizona; PSW District – Advisor on LCEF Loan and Land Issues.

Former Pastorates: St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manchester, New Jersey; St James Lutheran Church, St James, New York; Fountain of Life, Tucson, Arizona

Ordained: 1992

Additional Information: Doctorate of Ministry – Missional Leadership, Concordia Seminary, St Louis, 2010; Pastoral Leadership Institute – Completed 2006; Stephen Ministry Facilitator; natural Church Development Facilitator.

The Rev. Gregory S. Walton:

Nominated for: District President

Age: 56

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida

Years in District: 31

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Florida – Georgia District President (2009 – present); Board of Directors Pastoral Representative (1994-2003); Circuit Counselor Atlanta North (2003-2004); Georgia Vice President Board of Directors (2004 – 2009);

Former Pastorates: Trinity Lutheran Church, Toccoa, Georgia (1987-1999); Faith Lutheran Church and School, Marietta, Georgia (1999 – 2009)

Ordained: 1987

Additional Information: PLI; Emergent Leaders; Chairman of Task Force on Recruitment; Circuit Secretary/Treasurer; Member of Council of Presidents; Chairman of ECCE; Board Member on Lutheran Services of Georgia; Board Member of Lutheran Services Florida; Board Member of Lutheran Services of America; Coordinator Southeast Regional Gathering; CEO of Florida-Georgia District; President of Thrivent Chapter – Marietta, Georgia; Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Lutheran Brotherhood; Chairman of the North Georgia AAL Branch; Chair of Nominations Committee for National LCEF Board; District Finance Committee.

The Rev. Jay Winters:

Nominated for: District Secretary

Age: 40

Present Congregation: University Lutheran Church and Student Center, Tallahassee, Florida

Years in District: 11

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: District Secretary (2012- present)

Former Pastorates: None

Ordained: 2007

Rev. Winters: Additional Information: Pastoral Leadership Institute - Missional Leader (2016-2018); FL-GA District Emergent Leader Training (2014-2015); Lutheran Campus Mission Association Secretary (2009-2012); Pastoral Advisor - Lutheran Student Fellowship (2008-2012)

The Rev. Jon Zehnder:

Nominated for: Region 4 Vice President

Age: 62

Present Congregation: St Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, Florida

Years in District: 27

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Vice President Region 2 (2015 – present) Circuit Visitor (2006 – 2015)

Former Pastorates: Hope Lutheran Church, Munger, Minnesota

Ordained: 1982

Additional Information: Facilitator - Congregational Self-Study (Minnesota North District); Served on LCMS Board of Parish Services; BOD Concordia Publishing House; Chaplain Ft Myers Fire Department; Spiritual Care Team Lee County Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioned

Mr. Jesse Crosmer:

Nominated for: Board of Directors Commissioned

Age: 59

Present Congregation: Our Savior Lutheran Church, St Petersburg, Florida

Years in District: 34

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Commissioned Minister Board of Directors (2015 – present)

Years in Commissioned Office: 38

Former Services rendered: District Mission Advisory Council, Lutheran Administrators' Association, and Accreditation Committee

Relevant Experience or Continuing Education: MEd in Educational Leadership

Ms. Lois Ford:

Nominated for: Board of Directors Commissioned

Age: 65

Present Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church and School, Eustis, Florida

Years in District: 42

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Commissioned Minister Board of Directors (2012 – present); Chair of the District Scholarship Committee; LWML District President

Years in Commissioned Office:

Former Services rendered: 21 years at St John Lutheran Church and School, Ocala, Florida; currently 18 years at Faith Lutheran Church & School. Taught grades PK4 – 5th grade, mostly 3rd grade.

Relevant Experience or Continuing Education:

Ms. Tamara Worthington:

Nominated for: Board of Directors Commissioned

Age: 55

Present Congregation: St Paul Lutheran Church, Peachtree City, Georgia

Years in District: 26

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Commissioned Minister Board of Directors (2012 – 2013) (2017 – Present)

Years in Commissioned Office: 16

Former Services rendered: 11 years teaching in public education, 19 years teaching in Lutheran education

Relevant Experience or Continuing Education: Colloquy through Concordia Nebraska in 2002, 20 hours of continuing education towards Master's degree and certification

Lay Person

Ms. Katie Abercrombie:

Nominated for: Region 3 Lay Representative

Age: 59

Present Congregation: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida

Years in District: 10

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 3 (2015 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Small group leader, band member, DCE call committee

Formal Education: BS Florida Southern College, MA Rollins College

Business Occupation (past, present): Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Teacher, currently Tutoring

Employment Status: Self Employed

Ms. Eileen Bishop List:

Nominated for: Nomination Committee

Age: 65

Present Congregation: St Paul Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, Florida

Years in District: 39

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Women's Bible study leader; prayer chain coordinator

Formal Education: BA Valparaiso University

Business Occupation (past, present): Writer/Editor (Lutheran LIFE editor)

Employment Status: Self Employed

Mr. Stephen Bradshaw:

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 66

Present Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid, Florida

Years in District: 29

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Just transferred in; previous Senior Elder, Vice President, President, Director of Christian Education, call Committee School Board Member.

Formal Education: 2 years of college

Business Occupation (past, present):

Employment Status: Retired – Mosquito Control – Director of Aerial Operations/ Middle Keys Supervisor.

Mr Tracy Cripe:

Nominated for: Region 2 Lay Representative

Age:

Present Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church and School, Jacksonville, Florida

Years in District:

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Usher, Elder

Formal Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting

Business Occupation (past, present): CPA

Employment Status: Self Employed

Ms. Evita Gonzalez:

Nominated for: Region 4 Lay Representative

Present Congregation: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Lehigh Acres, Florida

Years in District:

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 4 (2016 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation:

Formal Education:

Business Occupation (past, present):

Employment Status:

Dr. Joel Holcombe:

Nominated for: Nomination Committee

Age: 57

Present Congregation: University Lutheran and Student Center, Tallahassee, Florida

Years in District: 19

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: No

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: None

Formal Education: BA. BS. MD. MBA

Business Occupation (past, present): Physician

Employment Status: Employed

Mr. Don Kaufman

Nominated for: Region 2 Lay Representative

Age: 72

Present Congregation: St John Lutheran Church and School, Ocala, Florida

Years in District: 17

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 2 (2012 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Elder; Chairman of the Spiritual Life and Worship Commission; Chairman of the Board of Elders; various committees and trained in Evangelism Ministry; Building Committee.

Formal Education: BA & MS in Secondary Education from Purdue University

Business Occupation (past, present): Taught 32 years full time and 7 years part time

Employment Status: Employed at St John Lutheran Church and School

Mr. Samuel Ludington:

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 30

Present Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, North Miami, Florida

Years in District: 24

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 5 (2015 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Vice President; Chair Vision Committee; Chair Board of Education

Formal Education: Masters of Biomedical Sciences, Barry University, Miami, Florida; BA Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Business Occupation (past, present): Deputy Director, Children of Inmates, Inc.,

Employment Status: Employed Full-Time

Mr. Daniel Najjar:

Nominated for: Region 4 Lay Representative

Age: 69

Present Congregation: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Sarasota, Florida

Years in District: 45

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Trustee, Congregational President

Formal Education: BSCE, Civil Engineering, Valpariso University

Business Occupation (past, present): Najjar Construction, Inc. (active) since 1975

Employment Status: Employed

Ms. Lois Schaefer:

Nominated for: Region 2 Lay Representative

Age:

Present Congregation: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford, Florida

Years in District: 14

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 2 (2012 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Board of Directors, Outreach Chairman, Mission Leader Nationally and Internationally (including India, Haiti and other countries, Building Committee, Early Learning Center Board

Formal Education: BS, Training toward LCMS Director of Christian Outreach

Business Occupation (past, present):

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. Roger Schlie:

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 66

Present Congregation: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Academy, Davie, Florida

Years in District: 62

Incumbent: No

District Offices held: None

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Vice President (1 term) Stewardship (1 term)

Formal Education: Valparaiso University / BS in Business Administration

Business Occupation (past, present): Telecom Project Manager / Southern Bell Telephone; Telecom Project Manager / AT&T Communications; Expedite / Silver Lining Inflight Catering; City Carrier / United States Post Office

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. Jay Wendland:

Nominated for: Region 1 Lay Representative

Age: 54

Present Congregation: Living Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, Georgia

Years in District: 12

Incumbent: Yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Region 1 (2012 – present)

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Treasurer

Formal Education: Bachelor's Degree

Business Occupation (past, present): Director of Sales (past) Consultant (present)

Employment Status: Entrepreneur

Official Acts and Notices

The official acts of the Florida-Georgia District listed in the Convention Workbook are those that were processed prior to May 8, 2018. A complete list of all Official Acts of this Triennium will be listed in the Proceedings when they are published. If you notice an error in the listing, please contact Lynda Voss, lvoss@flgadistrict.org, and she will make the correction before the Proceedings are published.

Initial Placement of Rostered Workers as of 2018 District Convention

7/9/2017	Arias, Anthony Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Grace Arcadia, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/10/2018	Boyd, Richard Colloquy Committee, Pastoral Ministry	Epiphany Tallahassee, FL	Pastor Ordained
6/28/2015	Carlson, Jeffrey Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	Trinity Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/6/2015	Charelus, Saint-Luc Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Bethlehem Haitian Immokalee, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/6/2017	DeYoung, Nathan Concordia University Texas	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	DCE Commissioned
8/14/2016	Dippel, Alexis Concordia, Chicago	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
3/10/2016	Dobbins, Anne Concordia Texas	Good Shepherd Titusville, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/6/2017	Eckstein, Joshua Concordia University St. Paul	Our Redeemer Augusta, GA	DCE Commissioned
8/30/2015	Ellsworth, Adam Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Grace Atlanta, GA	Pastor Ordained
11/12/2017	Faile, Timothy Colloquy - Pastoral Ministry	Living Faith Cumming, GA	Pastor Ordained
6/17/2017	Fair, Stephen Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Our Redeemer Lake City, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/7/2016	Fitsimons, Annalisa Concordia Nebraska	Living Hope Kennesaw, GA	DCE Commissioned
8/2/2015	Ford, Rebecca Concordia Mequon	Faith Marietta, GA	Teacher Commissioned
10/2/2016	Germain, Sarah Concordia Ann Arbor	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/16/2016	Glander, Karl Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	Amigos en Cristo Immokalee, FL	Pastor Ordained
6/25/2016	Harris, Mark Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/10/2016	Hemann, Nicole Concordia Nebraska	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/25/2017	Hudson, Doug Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Bethlehem Jacksonville, FL	Pastor Ordained

7/14/2016	Jones, Crystal Concordia, Chicago	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
5/15/2016	Kard, Jennifer Concordia Nebraska	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/15/2015	Kim, Min Concordia Irvine	Living Faith Korean Cumming, GA	Pastor Ordained
8/14/2016	Kollbaum, Clarissa Concordia, Nebraska	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/14/2016	Kollbaum, Zachary Concordia, Nebraska	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/17/2018	Leggett, James Colloquy Committee, Pastoral Ministry	Our Saviour Miami Shores, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/5/2015	Longman, Eric Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO		Pastor Ordained only
6/21/2015	Martin, Kristen Concordia Austin, TX	St. Michael Ft. Myers	DCE Commissioned
1/14/2018	McCain, Mary Concordia Irvine	Faith Merritt Island, FL	DCE Commissioned
1/8/2016	Moskovites, Nicholas Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Christ the King LaBelle, FL	Pastor Ordained
6/12/2016	Obermann, Joshua Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Grace St. Cloud, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/31/2016	Pennington, Shea Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Hope Plant City, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/16/2017	Popp, Michael Concordia Seminary	Grace Jacksonville, FL	SMP Pastor Ordained
6/4/2017	Proctor, Jack Concordia, Austin, TX	St. Michael Ft. Myers, FL	DCE Commissioned
11/6/2016	Ramos Ruiz, Angel Colloquy, St. Louis, MO	Faith Clewiston, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/30/2017	Ray, Kevin Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Pastor Ordained
1/24/2016	Reikowski, Ellen Concordia Austin	Immanuel Brandon, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/2/2015	Strehlow, Kari Concordia Chicago	Faith Marietta, GA	Teacher Commissioned
4/3/2016	Tayon, Justin Concordia Seward	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
5/10/2017	Vogel, Katherine Concordia, Nebraska	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/23/2015	Wareham, Joshua Concordia Chicago	Faith Eustis, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/16/2017	Warnke, Joseph Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Christ Our Savior Griffin, GA	Pastor Ordained

Rostered Workers Installed in the FLGA District as of 2018 District Convention

4/3/2016	Abram, Mark	Our Savior Plantation, FL	Pastor Ordained
11/6/2016	Adams, Joseph	Christ the King Largo, FL	Pastor Ordained
5/7/2016	Adrian, Mark	Messiah Tampa, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/2/2015	Arndt, Karen	Faith Marietta, GA	Teacher Commissioned
2/4/2018	Bedard, Julie	Amazing Grace Oxford, FL	EC Director Commissioned
7/30/2017	Bell, Amanda	Beautiful Savior Sarasota, FL	DCE Commissioned
8/7/2016	Blank, Heidi	Faith Eustis, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/1/2015	Blank, Laura	FLGA District on behalf of LIVE UCF Orlando, FL	Outreach Minister Commissioned
2/18/2018	Boeck, Thomas	Marco Marco Island, FL	Associate Pastor Ordained
5/15/2017	Borth, Elizabeth	Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Sanford, FL	Deaconess Commissioned
8/13/2017	Butt, Cynthia	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/28/2016	Clark, John	Trinity Summerfield, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/13/2017	Cluck, Andrew	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/13/2017	Cluck, Kimberly	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
10/9/2016	Davis, Jeremy	LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces St. Louis, MO	Chaplain Ordained
1/18/2018	DeLeon, Dehlia	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Deaconess Commissioned
4/15/2018	Durante, Kenneth	Our Savior Plantation, GA	Pastor Ordained
1/10/2016	Edge, James	Faith Hialeah, FL	Pastor Commissioned
2/28/2016	Eisold, Mark	Grace Naples, FL	Pastor Ordained
10/16/2016	Escher, Christopher	Grace Port St. Lucie, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/6/2017	Frusco, Diane	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Teacher Commissioned
1/17/2016	Fuehler, Kenneth	Peace Naples, FL	Pastor Ordained

4/2/2017	Galik, Karl	Peace Naples, FL	Pastor Ordained
1/3/2016	Gauthier, Brian	Office of International Mission St. Louis, MO	Missionary Ordained
9/9/2017	Gebremichael, Hiruy	St. Mark Tucker, GA	Sole Pastor Ordained
10/25/2015	Gonzalez, Juan	Beautiful Savior Lehigh Acres, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/17/2016	Gress, Scott	Lutheran Counseling Services Orlando, FL	Prof. Staff Ordained
8/23/2015	Hoffschneider, Steve	Faith Eustis, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/6/2017	Jaeger, Lisa	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Teacher Commissioned
10/1/2017	Kallesen, Doug	Trinity Orlando, FL	Senior Pastor Ordained
8/27/2017	Karolus, Stephanie	First Gainesville, FL	DCE Commissioned
5/29/2016	Kinast, Frank	Messiah Valdosta, GA	Pastor Ordained
2/5/2017	Klopke, Phillip	Thrive Esterro, FL	DCE Commissioned
2/4/2018	Kollmann, Christopher	Our Redeemer Vero Beach, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/13/2017	Lane, Katie	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Teacher Commissioned
8/6/2017	Larson, Katherine	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/13/2017	Lowing, Heather	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/1/2015	Mackowiak, John	Christ the King Largo, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/29/2015	Martin, James	Trinity Orlando, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/4/2016	Martin, James	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Pastor Ordained
1/31/2016	McPherson, Daniel	Redeemer West Palm Beach, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/6/2017	Menke, Thomas	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Teacher Commissioned
4/15/2018	Michael, Gerhard	St. Peter Dehlonga, GA	Pastor Ordained
6/19/2016	Moore, Cassandra	Our Savior St. Petersburg, FL	DCE Commissioned
11/27/2016	Moore, Jeffery	Our Savior Plantation, FL	Pastor Ordained

1/10/2016	Moskovites, Nicholas	Christ the King LaBelle, FL	Pastor Ordained
10/15/2017	Naylor, Steven	Holy Trinity Lutz, FL	Pastor Ordained
1/15/2017	Nesman, Sharon	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/28/2015	Nevis, Enwood	Good Shepherd Starke, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/18/2018	Newman, Kimberly	Faith Eustis, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/30/2017	Pettit, Joshua	Woodlands Montverde, FL	Pastor Ordained
6/15/2016	Ramos, Angel	Faith Clewiston, FL	Pastor Ordained
5/14/2014	Richter, Timothy	Zion Ft. Myers, FL	DCE Commissioned
10/25/2015	Rigdon, Philip	First Clearwater, FL	Pastor Ordained
10/9/2016	Ritchie, Andrew	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/5/2017	Roth, John	Thrive Estero, FL	Pastor Ordained
4/3/2016	Rottmann, Michael	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/14/2016	Rottmann, Michael	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/23/2015	Sandersfeld, Kip	Faith Eustis, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/6/2017	Schaffer, Rebecca	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/21/2016	Shanks, Anette	St. John Ocala, FL	Dir. Of Family Life Commissioned
8/21/2016	Shanks, Jeff	St. John Ocala, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/17/2015	Song, Joseph	Stepping Stone Mission Duluth, GA	Pastor Ordained
7/8/2017	Sorenson, Andrew	Faith Dunedin, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/23/2015	Stapleton, Anna	First Clearwater, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/21/2015	Steinke, Robert	Faith Dunedin, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/14/2016	Stillman, Mark	Faith North Palm Beach, FL	Pastor Ordained
11/13/2016	Stolarczyk, Brian	Lutheran Church of the Cross Port Charlotte, FL	Pastor Ordained

8/9/2015	Swartz, Diane	St. John Ocala, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/23/2015	Tillman, Cynthia	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/13/2017	Tillman, Cynthia	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned
1/14/2018	Vega, Roland	Trinity Toccoa, GA	Pastor Ordained
7/23/2017	Vogel, Katherine	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/8/2015	Wachter, Jenny	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Teacher Commissioned
8/7/2016	Welburn, Staci	Living Faith Cumming, GA	DCE Commissioned
1/24/2016	Welter, Leah	Grace Winter Haven, FL	DCE Commissioned
8/14/2016	Wittcop, Patricia	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned

Rostered Workers Reinstated to the LCMS Roster as of 2018 District Convention

9/24/2015	Lukas , Ms. Jessica	Reinstated to the Roster	Commissioned
2/7/2018	Pitts , Ms. Michelle V	Reinstated to the Roster	Commissioned

Rostered Workers Transferred In to the FLGA District as of 2018 District Convention

9/7/2017	Adams , Rev. Curtis	Michigan District	Ordained
9/27/2017	Adams , Ms. Joyce	Michigan District	Commissioned
4/14/2016	Adrian , Rev. Mark	Northwest District	Ordained
4/14/2016	Adrian , Rev. Mark	Northwest District	Ordained
12/1/2017	Albrecht , Rev. Brian	Northwest District	Ordained
1/11/2017	Armbrust , Mr. Steven	English District	Commissioned
4/4/2018	Arthur , Mr. Dallas	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
11/9/2017	Barnette , Rev. Norman	Rocky Mountain District	Ordained
11/30/2017	Bedard , Mrs. Julie	Southern Illinois District	Commissioned
6/27/2016	Bicknase , Rev. Keith	South Dakota District	Ordained
6/23/2016	Blank , Ms. Heidi	Nebraska District	Commissioned
2/1/2018	Brindle , Rev. Murray	Eastern District	Ordained
6/19/2017	Butt , Ms. Cynthia	South Wisconsin District	Commissioned
6/15/2015	Caughey , Rev. William	Kansas District	Ordained
7/12/2017	Cluck , Mr. Andrew	Missouri District	Commissioned
7/12/2017	Cluck , Mrs. Kimberly	Missouri District	Commissioned
2/7/2018	Collins , Rev. Jerrold	Northwest District	Ordained
2/12/2016	Cooper , Rev. Robert	Mid-South District	Ordained
5/4/2017	Cunningham , Mrs. Judith	CID District	Commissioned
7/1/2015	Duchene , Rev. Michael	Pacific Southwest District	Ordained

5/25/2017	Frusco , Ms. Diane	New Jersey District	Commissioned
11/9/2015	Gabbert , Mr. Timothy	Southeastern District	Commissioned
10/15/2015	Geheb , Rev. Theodore	English District	Ordained
2/17/2017	Greer , Ms. Theresa	Michigan District	Commissioned
1/10/2017	Grewe , Mr. Ralph	Indiana District	Commissioned
12/17/2015	Hanke , Mr. John	Pacific Southwest District	Commissioned
3/12/2018	Heilman , Ms. Deborah	Southeastern District	Commissioned
6/29/2015	Hermann , Rev. Rory	Southern District	Ordained
9/29/2016	Jacobson , Ms. Kay	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
8/6/2017	Jaeger , Ms. Lisa	Kansas District	Commissioned
8/15/2017	Karolus , Ms. Stephanie	Minnesota North District	Commissioned
12/9/2015	Koenig , Mr. Herman	English District	Commissioned
1/10/2017	Lindeman , Ms. Lois	English District	Commissioned
9/21/2017	Lobien , Rev. George	Southeastern District	Ordained
6/3/2016	Lovitsch , Ms. Lisa	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
4/12/2017	Lowing , Ms. Heather	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
8/13/2015	Martin , Rev. James	Ohio District	Ordained
4/4/2018	Martinek , Rev. Robert	Northwest District	Ordained
8/6/2017	Menke , Mr. Thomas	Texas District	Commissioned
6/29/2015	Middleton , Ms. Mary	New Jersey District	Commissioned
11/11/2016	Moore , Rev. Jeffery	Missouri District	Ordained
12/14/2016	Moore , Mrs. Lisa	Missouri District	Commissioned
11/15/2015	Mueller , Rev. Dr. Randall	South Wisconsin District	Ordained

1/30/2017	Muller , Rev. Lyle	Mid-South District	Ordained
10/15/2017	Naylor , Rev. Steven	Eastern District	Ordained
8/30/2016	Newman , Ms. Kimberly	Michigan District	Commissioned
12/22/2016	Patterson , Ms. Judy	Indiana District	Commissioned
2/3/2016	Ramsey , Rev. Thomas	Oklahoma District	Ordained
8/1/2015	Rottmann , Mr. Michael	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
6/15/2015	Sandersfeld , Mr. Kip	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
9/10/2015	Schmidt , Rev. Earl	Minnesota North District	FL
11/29/2016	Shaw , Rev. James	Texas District	Ordained
5/17/2017	Sorenson , Rev. Andrew	New England District	Ordained
7/18/2016	Stillman , Rev. Mark	New Jersey District	Ordained
7/17/2017	Strohschein , Ms. Brittany	Minnesota North District	Commissioned
4/4/2018	Tinder , Ms. Jane	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
6/15/2015	Tubbs , Ms. JoAnna	Texas District	Commissioned
8/1/2017	Turner , Rev. John	Rocky Mountain District	Ordained
7/24/2017	Vega , Rev. Roland	Kansas District	Ordained
2/18/2017	Waynick , Rev. Thomas	Missouri District	Ordained
1/2/2016	Welter , Ms. Leah	Iowa East District	Commissioned
6/12/2017	Worthington , Ms. Katie	Minnesota South District	Commissioned
1/10/2017	Worthington , Ms. Tamara	Pacific Southwest District	Commissioned
5/23/2016	Zimmermann , Rev. Lawrence	Southeaster District	Ordained
6/8/2017	Zwonitzer , Rev. Rodney	Missouri District	Ordained

Workers Transferred to Other Districts as of 2018 District Convention

7/1/2017	Abraham , Mr. Caleb	Michigan District	Commissioned
7/1/2017	Abraham , Ms. Emily	Michigan District	Commissioned
6/1/2016	Alkire , Rev. Bruce	Southeastern District	Ordained
5/8/2017	Belton , Rev. Victor	Atlantic District	Ordained
10/6/2017	Blanken , Ms. Ann	Indiana District	Commissioned
11/7/2016	Bleier , Ms. Heather	Texas District	Commissioned
7/10/2016	Boehlke , Rev. Craig	Southern District	Ordained
5/9/2017	Brath , Rev. Billy	Missouri District	Ordained
12/21/2017	Carlson , Rev. Jeffrey	North Wisconsin District	Ordained
5/17/2017	Caughey , Rev. William	Iowa West District	Ordained
10/28/2015	Crabtree , Rev. Bruce	Southeastern District	Ordained
4/5/2017	DeBoer , Ms. Kristine	Michigan District	Commissioned
8/1/2015	DeHoyos , Mr. Daniel	California-Nevada-Hawaii District	Commissioned
10/18/2016	Derong , Mr. Wynn	Texas District	Commissioned
4/29/2016	Duchene , Rev. Michael	Michigan District	Ordained
12/15/2015	Felderman , Ms. Carol	Ohio District	Commissioned
6/1/2016	Fountain , Rev. Douglas	SELC District	Ordained
4/17/2018	Gabbert , Mr. Tim	Central Illinois District	Commissioned
7/1/2015	Geidel , Mr. David	Nebraska District	Commissioned
3/1/2018	Goff , Rev. Dennis	Indiana District	Ordained
7/1/2017	Greinke , Ms. Ann	English District	Commissioned
12/27/2017	Hackett , Rev. Thomas	Michigan District	Ordained
11/30/2017	Hageman , Rev. Michael	Kansas District	Ordained

10/21/2016	Harkey , Rev. Edwin	New England District	Ordained
4/16/2018	Hartman , Rev. Jared	Nebraska District	Ordained
6/1/2018	Henny , Ms. Ann	South Wisconsin District	Commissioned
5/31/2017	Holder , Rev. Scott	Missouri District	Ordained
5/8/2017	Hopkins , Rev. John	Atlantic District	Ordained
8/24/2015	Johnson , Rev. Gene	Texas District	Ordained
7/6/2016	Jones , Rev. Daniel	Northwest District	Ordained
4/3/2016	Kirk , Rev. Alston	Texas District	Ordained
1/17/2018	Klopke , Mr. Philip	Texas District	Commissioned
8/18/2015	Krentz , Rev. Eugene	Texas District	Ordained
4/26/2018	Lawson , Rev. Jerrald	Missouri District	Ordained
7/1/2015	Leinberger , Mrs. Elizabeth	Michigan District	Commissioned
7/1/2015	Leinberger , Mr. Timothy	Michigan District	Commissioned
10/30/2016	Mackowiak , Rev. John	Michigan District	Ordained
5/1/2017	Millard , Ms. Molly	Pacific Southwest District	Commissioned
2/4/2018	Moore , Rev. Jeffery	Michigan District	Ordained
9/23/2015	Moore , Rev. Jeffrey	Missouri District	Ordained
9/26/2015	Moore , Mrs. Lisa	Missouri District	Commissioned
11/25/2015	Mulder , Ms. Audra	Southeastern District	Commissioned
4/28/2017	Nelson , Mrs. Becky	Nebraska District	Commissioned
8/1/2016	Nelson , Mr. Scott	Nebraska District	Commissioned
6/13/2016	Pahl , Rev. Justin	Southeastern District	Ordained
8/31/2015	Piller , Ms. Vicky	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned

6/15/2016	Roberts, Ms Lisa	South Wisconsin District	Commissioned
10/28/2015	Springer, Rev. Martin	Northern Illinois District	Ordained
7/31/2017	Stackhouse, Ms. Melynda	Southeastern District	Commissioned
11/20/2016	Stewart, Mr. Lamar	Southeastern District	Commissioned
1/15/2018	Sullivan, Mrs. Leslie	Texas District	Commissioned
8/9/2017	Thomas, Mrs. Daisha	Nebraska District	Commissioned
2/3/2015	Thorsen, Mr. Mark	Southern District	Commissioned
7/6/2016	Vogel, Mr. Timothy	Pacific Southwest District	Commissioned
8/11/2015	Weingart, Ms. Jenna	Indiana District	Commissioned
2/10/2017	Wolbert, Ms. Janet	Northern Illinois District	Commissioned
6/30/2015	Ziegler, Mrs. Constance	Nebraska District	Commissioned
6/30/2015	Ziegler, Mr. Robert	Nebraska District	Commissioned

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

Workers Called to Glory as of 2018 District Convention

8/18/2016	Abel, Rev. Louis	Called to Glory	Ordained
6/15/2015	Armour, Rev. Thomas	Called to Glory	Ordained
1/23/2018	Brusius, Rev. Ronald	Called to Glory	Ordained
6/5/2017	Busby, Rev. Walter	Called to Glory	Ordained
6/27/2015	Cruise, Mr. James	Called to Glory	Commissioned
8/24/2016	Edge, Rev. James	Called to Glory	Ordained
8/3/2015	Frerking, Rev. Robert	Called to Glory	Ordained
9/2/2015	Froebe, Rev. Roger	Called to Glory	Ordained
8/7/2015	Gabbert, Rev. Lambert	Called to Glory	Ordained
10/16/2015	Hassold, Rev. Dr. William	Called to Glory	Ordained
9/2/2016	Havekotte, Rev. Alan	Called to Glory	Ordained
1/12/2016	Heintz, Rev. Norman	Called to Glory	Ordained

3/26/2016	Jackson , Rev. John	Called to Glory	Ordained
6/21/2017	Kelly , Mrs. Betty	Called to Glory	Commissioned
9/9/2017	Kurzweg , Rev. Bernhard	Called to Glory	Ordained
10/4/2015	Lomba-George , Rev. Amado	Called to Glory	Ordained
1/9/2016	Mennicke , Rev. Victor	Called to Glory	Ordained
7/18/2016	Miller , Rev. Richard	Called to Glory	Ordained
1/9/2018	Rupprecht , Ms. Martha	Called to Glory	Commissioned
11/4/2015	Schmidt , Rev. Dr. Martin	Called to Glory	Ordained
5/15/2016	Schultz , Ms. Margarete	Called to Glory	Commissioned
8/21/2016	Sommerfield , Rev. Bruce	Called to Glory	Ordained
7/26/2017	Storm , Rev. Harold	Called to Glory	Ordained
7/9/2015	Thomason , Rev. Warren	Called to Glory	Ordained
3/31/2016	Vazquez , Rev. Andrew	Called to Glory	Ordained
7/7/2016	Wendt-Foust , Mrs. Gladys	Called to Glory	Commissioned
2/17/2016	Wertz , Rev. Richard	Called to Glory	Ordained

Rostered Workers Removed from the LCMS Roster as of 2018 District Convention

9/29/2015	Becker , Mrs. Kristin	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Commissioned
1/16/2018	Bonga , Rev. Ebengo	Removed From the Roster Removed by Action of the DP	Ordained
8/16/2016	Bundy , Ms. Amanda	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Commissioned
10/28/2015	Chitwood , Mrs. Elizabeth	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Commissioned
1/16/2018	Cho , Rev. Sung	Removed From the Roster Removed by Action of the DP	Ordained
1/16/2018	Cho , Rev. Sung	Removed From the Roster Removed by Action of the DP	Ordained
8/9/2017	DeHoyos , Mr. Daniel	Removed From the Roster Removed by Action of the DP	Commissioned
8/24/2015	Fischer , Rev. John S	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Ordained
9/25/2017	Haney , Ms. Elizabeth F	Removed From the Roster Removed by Action of the DP	Commissioned
11/2/2015	Hansen , Rev. David D	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Ordained

10/27/2015	Montgomery, Ms. Sarah Anne	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Commissioned
8/21/2017	Ogle, Rev. Kevin S	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Ordained
2/6/2018	Preston, Ms. Sharon	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Commissioned
10/16/2016	Stark, Rev. Paul	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Ordained
4/15/2016	Zehnder, Rev. Stephen	Removed From the Roster Resigned Voluntarily	Ordained

Status Change of Rostered Workers as of 2018 District Convention

7/31/2015	Abraham, Mrs. Emily	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/14/2016	Albrecht, Ms. Beth	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
12/15/20115	Anderson, Ms. Jessica	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2015	Bickel, Mr. Kurt	From: Non-Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
11/13/2015	Bird, Ms. Debra	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/31/2015	Blackwood, Ms. Debra	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/31/2015	Bortz, Mrs. Kim	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/31/2015	Bortz, Mr. Todd	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
8/3/2015	Boye, Ms. Janet	From: Non-Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
4/16/2018	Charelus, Rev. Saint-Luc	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
2/26/2016	Cislo, Ms. Jennifer	From: Non-Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
1/9/2016	Cobb, Rev. Kenyatta	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
7/1/2015	Concepcion, Ms. Tara	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/1/2016	Davis, Rev. Robert	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Ordained
7/31/2015	DeHoyos, Mr. Daniel	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
10/13/2016	Derong, Mr. Wynn	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2016	Diaz, Rev. Luis	From: Active	Ordained

4/24/2017	Durheim, Mr. Steven	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
10/1/2015	Fischer, Mr. Robert	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
12/15/2017	Fitzsimons, Ms. Annalisa	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
6/23/2016	Floetke, Mr. Karl	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
4/19/2017	Flor, Rev. Eugenio	To: Emeritus From: Candidate	Ordained
4/2/2017	Fuehler, Rev. Ken	To: Emeritus From: Active	Ordained
4/29/2016	Garland, Ms. Julie	To: Emeritus From: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/12/2015	Haneline, Ms. Sarah	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
6/1/2016	Hill-Bell, Ms. Juanita	To: Candidate From: Candidate	Commissioned
1/14/2018	Kehret, Rev. David	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Ordained
7/14/2016	Knutson, Mrs. Francesca	To: Emeritus From: Active	Commissioned
7/1/2015	Leinberger, Mrs. Elizabeth	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
7/31/2017	McKnight, Ms. Jennifer	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
2/1/2016	Miller, Ms. Kimberly	To: Candidate From: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
11/9/2016	Mook, Ms. Lynn	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
4/30/2016	Moss, Mrs. Emily	To: Emeritus From: Active	Commissioned
11/25/2015	Mulder, Ms. Audra	To: Candidate From: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/1/2016	Nelson, Mr. Scott	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
11/13/2015	Nesman, Ms. Sharon	To: Candidate From: Candidate	Commissioned
3/31/2016	Perez-Arche, Dcs. Sara	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
6/1/2016	Peterson, Mrs. Janice	To: Candidate From: Candidate	Commissioned
7/14/2016	Phillips, Ms. Barbara	To: Non-Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
10/1/2015	Sandfort, Ms. Mary	To: Candidate From: Active	Commissioned
		To: Candidate	

7/1/2015	Schmidt, Ms. Alexandra	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
2/28/2017	Schroeder, Rev. Andrew	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
10/31/2016	Schroeder, Rev. Benjamin	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
10/31/2015	Schulz, DCS Angela	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
4/24/2017	Snider, Rev. Brett	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
2/7/2018	Sollenberger, Ms. Reta	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
7/16/2016	Stanski, Ms. Kristi	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
5/23/2016	Stark, Rev. Paul	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
4/7/2017	Swett, Mr. Arthur	From: Active To: Emeritus	Commissioned
8/1/2016	Tayon, Mr. Justin	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
10/28/2015	Thurau, Rev. Michael	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Ordained
5/1/2017	Tillmann, Ms. Cynthia	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
7/14/2016	von Ebers, Ms. Erica	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
5/23/2017	Wiencke, Ms. Dorothy	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
7/14/2016	Workers, All Candidate	From: Candidate To: Candidate	Reset clock on 10 year limit
7/14/2016	Workers, All Inactive	From: Non-Candidate To: Candidate	Start of 10 year limit
6/30/2015	Ziegler, Mrs. Constance	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned

Changes in Status of FLGA Churches as of 2018 District Convention

10/25/2013	Bethlehem Haitian Lutheran	Immokalee, FL	Initial Membership
8/31/2015	Trinity Lutheran of Southwest Florida	Port Charlotte, FL	Initial Membership
7/12/2015	Hope of Life Lutheran Church	Naples, FL	Closed
3/2/2016	Zion Lutheran Church	Newnan, GA	Closed
4/29/2016	Thrive Community Church	Estero, FL	Initial Membership
1/1/2016	Iglesia Lutherana Sublime Gracia	St. Cloud, FL	New Church Start
1/6/2016	Shekinah Lutheran Church	Orlando, FL	New Church Start
12/4/2016	King of Kings Lutheran Church	Jasper, GA	Member
12/11/2016	Pelican Lutheran Church	Naples, FL	New Church Start
3/7/2017	Hispanic Lutheran Mission at Grace	St. Petersburg, FL	Closed
5/9/2017	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Melbourne, FL	Disbanded
7/30/2017	Lamb of God Lutheran Church	Lithia, FL	Closed
12/10/2017	St. John the Apostle Lutheran Church	Buford, GA	Initial Membership
6/30/2017	Faith Lutheran Church	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Closed

Changes in the Status of FLGA District Schools as of 2018 District Convention

8/25/2015	Open Arms	Sandy Springs, GA	School Closed
8/25/2015	Marathon Lutheran Early Childhood	Marathon, FL	New School Start
11/25/2015	Lake Wales	Lake Wales, FL	School Closed
6/15/2017	Faith Lutheran School	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	School Closed
2/1/2018	Amazing Grace Early Learning Center	Oxford, FL	New School Start

**END OF FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT
33RD REGULAR CONVENTION WORKBOOK**