

# Section VI

# REPORTS

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  - Rev. Kris Whitby, Assistant to the President - Mission and Ministry
  - Ann Ciaccio, Director, Communications
  - Rev. John Prohl, Assistant to the President
  - LeeAnn Acosta, Treasurer
  - Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)



## 2025 Convention Report: District Archivist

The LCMS Northern Illinois District Archive has been relocated to the former St. John Lutheran School in Melrose Park. This occurred when the NID office vacated the office building in Hillside. Please contact the NID office to do any work in the archive.

The archives of the Northern Illinois District contain a history file for each congregation in the District. Congregations and organizations are encouraged to send two copies of historical material, such as anniversary booklets, pastoral installation programs, etc., to the District Office in River Forest. One copy will be forwarded to the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) in St. Louis for permanent preservation. Congregations can also check the resources on the CHI website (<https://concordiahistoricalinstitute.org>) for publications covering anniversary celebrations, record retention/preservation, and other topics.

All congregations are encouraged to consider the preservation of their record books. Physical (i.e., paper) records such as baptismal, confirmation, marriage, and death record books, as well as meeting minutes, should be kept in a fire resistant and waterproof safe. Congregations are also encouraged to consider digitizing. This will provide easy access to the information without the wear and tear on the original paper documents. Electronic records and documents (such as WORD, EXCEL, Shepherd's Staff files, etc.) should be saved in the Portable Document Format (PDF) and backed up \regularly with one copy kept at an offsite or cloud-based location. Any congregation with questions concerning digitization is encouraged to contact the archivist. If a congregation has disbanded, all records should be sent to the Concordia Historical Institute or the District Office (for forwarding) to ensure preservation.

Historical information on the LCMS Northern Illinois District can be found in several sources. The NID office has scanned all issues of The Northern Light newspaper (1986-2017) and it can be accessed through the District Office or through the archivist. The predecessor publication, the Northern Illinois District Messenger (1925-1986) will be scanned as funds become available. A translation of the book "Geschichte der Gründung und Ausbreitung der zur Synode von Missouri, Ohio und Andern Staaten" (History of the Founding and Growth of The Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, 1896) is available on the internet ( <https://hueninkwrites.medium.com/> ) And the book "The Lutheran Trail" by Rev. Louis J. Schwartzkopf (1950) is on the internet ( <https://babel.hathitrust.org> ).



**2025 Convention Report:  
Summary of Actions Taken by the Board of Directors of the  
Northern Illinois District during the Past Triennium**

**April 2, 2022**

- John Prohl was re-appointed to a four-year term as an assistant to the District President.
- LeeAnn Acosta was re-appointed as treasurer of the Northern Illinois District.
- Set the amounts to be distributed from the endowments later for 2021 - from the Education Endowment: \$28,859.27 (interest in 2021, plus 10% of the principal); NID Endowment: \$64,689.89 (\$51,902.89 in net earnings in 2021, plus \$12,787 in expired grants).
- Designated the \$67,301 proceeds from the sale of the Poplar Grove property as part of the NID Endowment.
- Adopted the updated endowment policies.
- Redesignated funds earmarked for Martin Luther Square (\$29,816.98) distribution to LINC Chicago for the next three fiscal years (2023, 2024, 2025).
- Approved a strategy whereby \$75,000 would be invested in two-year treasury bills each quarter over the next two years, for a maximum of \$600,000 total. As the bills mature, they would be reinvested in similar instruments.
- Reviewed the Mission Target Grant request guidelines.
- Discussed relocation of the District Office -- Criteria were set taking into consideration financial, location, ministry considerations, facility, amenities, availability of multi-year lease and renewal options.

**May 16, 2022**

- Made petition the Synod to grant circuits 11 and 13-A/B to be an exception so they can participate in the 2023 LCMS Convention.
- Appointed David Totsky as secretary pro tempore to serve for the remainder of 2022.
- Voted to move the District Office to Concordia University Chicago, 1107 N. Monroe.
- Administrative Services Committee requested the Board to authorize the spending of \$30,000 for decorating the new office. This money had been previously earmarked for that purpose.

**October 1, 2022**

- Approved the Constitutions and Bylaws for Faith, Geneva and Immanuel, Glenview.
- Appointed Paul Pasche to serve on the NID CCM.
- Approved Mission Target Grants to Tabor Lutheran Church – Intercultural Ministry Launch; Peace Lutheran/Salam Christian Fellowship, Lombard – spiritual retreat; and Little Saints of St. Peter Preschool, North Plato.
- Upon recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, re-allocated the following previously dedicated funds: \$40,000 previously for Rockford Hispanic Ministry be redesignated as \$10,000 to aid Hispanic workers and \$30,000 for general Hispanic ministry; \$41,000 designated worker wellness and witness be re-designated for Word, Wellness, & Witness; \$13,000 designated for COVID relief grants redesignated as \$6,500 to worker wellness and \$6,500 for church worker emergency assistance.
- Re-appointed the Administrative Services Committee.
- Appointed the Rev. David Totsky as NID BoD representative to the LCMS Convention and Lori Solyom as the NID BoD alternate representative.



**2025 Convention Report:  
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Northern Illinois District during the Past Triennium**

**December 3, 2022**

- Approved the housing allowance for eligible employees for 2023.
- Approved the engagement of PKF Mueller for FYE 1/31/2023.
- Approved the FY 2023-2024 budget.
- Adopted an overture to the LCMS 2023 Convention To Move to a Four-Year Convention Cycle.
- Voted to participate in the LCEF Church Worker Fund for rostered church worker program by transferring \$500,000 from the NID LCEF Steward Account into this pool.
- Granted a peaceful release to Lori Trinche.

**March 13, 2023**

- Approved Constitutions and Bylaws for St. Paul, Mt. Prospect and Peace, Beecher.
- Extended a 4-year renewable call to Lois Stewart as Mission Facilitator for Schools.
- Upon recommendation of the Mission Target Grant Review Committee, granted funding to St. Paul, Mt Prospect; Voice of Care (RSO); Phil's Friends (RSO).
- Upon recommendation of Administrative Services, established a Mission Grant Matching opportunity to be held in the spring. These funds would come from \$17,509.97 from an unrestricted fund and \$22,500 originally designated for New Starts Initiative.

**June 23, 2023**

- Ratified email balloting approving the constitution and bylaws of St. John, Forest Park.
- Ratified email balloting of the reception of Peace, Beecher into membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Nominated the Rev David Totsky for consideration for continuance on the LCMS Commission on Handbook.
- Approved the Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2023 Audit and expressed thanks to LeeAnn Acosta.
- Approved Endowment grants for St. Peter, North Plato Little Saints Preschool; St. Peter, North Plato; and Trinity, Galewood ReLaunch.
- Upon recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, released funding for Cross-Cultural Ministry Seminary Training at Concordia Irvine in partnership with Concordia St. Louis from the Board Designated Partnership Scholarship Fund. This will be a three-year request for a total of approximately \$20,985.
- Re-designated two dormant Board designated funds to be used as matching funds for the Mission Target spring appeal.
- Approved a modification of the Rev. John Prohl's housing allowance.
- Designated allocation of FYE 01/31/23 surplus.

**October 28, 2023**

- Approved the amended constitution and bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church, Northbrook.
- Appointed David Laabs, Jay Mather, the Rev. John Prohl, the Rev. Matthew Troester, and Steve Zielke as reconcilers.
- Ratified email balloting of Michael Butterfield to fill the vacancy on the District Board of Directors.
- Appointed the Rev Karl Koeppen and Jeff Heller to the Administrative Services Committee.
- Transferred NID funds from Thrivent to the LCMS Foundation.
- Adopted the Concordia Health Care Plans package for worker coverage.



**2025 Convention Report:  
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**December 9, 2023**

- The amended constitution and bylaws of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rockford.
- Approved housing allowances for 2024.
- Engaged the services of PKF Mueller & Co. (now Cherry Bekaert) for three years as auditor for the NID.
- Upon recommendation of the ASC, approve the FYE 2024-25 budget with projected revenues of \$2,254,500 and expenditures of \$2,370,000.
- Incorporated the requirements of the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act into the employee handbook.
  - Approved Mission Target Grant to Trinity, Galewood Relaunch.
- Extended a four-year renewal of the call to Rev Kris Whitby.

**April 8, 2024**

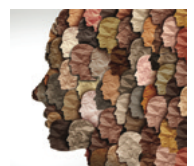
- Approved a Mission Target Grant for Salam Christian Fellowship.
- Allocated amounts Education Endowment and NID Endowment.
- Approved the move to a 16-month liquidity target.

**June 17, 2024**

- Approved the amended constitution and bylaws of Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, and St. Luke Lutheran Church, Montgomery.
- Upon recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, accepted the audit report for FYE January 31, 2024.
- Upon recommendation of the ASC Endowment Committee, awarded a grant to Faith, Lake Forest.
- Upon recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, designated the proposed surplus for FYE January 31, 2024.
- Submitted overtures to the 2025 NID Convention -- “To Encourage Congregations to Complete and Submit Annual Statistical Reports to the Office of Rosters & Statistics;” “Reaffirmation of “Word, Wellness, Witness” as the Northern Illinois District’s Ministry Focus;” “To Encourage Congregations to Regularly Review Congregational Governing Documents;” “To Encourage Congregations to Seek Wellness for Their Church Workers;” “To Encourage Congregations and Schools of the Northern Illinois District to Work Together in Mission and Ministry Partnerships;” “To Offer Thanks to God for Our Life Together.”

**October 19, 2024**

- Approved the amended constitution and bylaws of St. John Lutheran Church, Darien and St. John Lutheran Church, Forest Park.
- Ratified email balloting designating the convention offering for Workers of the Word: Today and Tomorrow.
- Approved a grant of Mission Target Grant funds to Christ Our Savior Spanish Ministry.
- Selected the Healthy Me HSA-B (BCBS) Concordia Health Plan for 2025.
- Authorized and established housing allowances for the year 2025.
- Accepted the proposal for the 16-month liquidity realignment.



According to the NID District Bylaws, the CCM is charged with the responsibility to:

- a. Shall review all proposals affecting the Bylaws of the District and make pertinent recommendations regarding such proposed changes to the duly constituted floor committees of the district convention. The Constitution Committee shall refer all such proposals to the Synod's Commission for Constitutional Matters for approval prior to presentation to the convention in order to determine that they are not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- b. Embody in the District Bylaws such changes as are necessitated by convention actions of the district or the Synod. Changes to a district's bylaws require either adoption by the convention or an action of the board of directors consonant with LCMS Bylaw 7.1.2.
- c. Print and distribute the Bylaws to all district congregations in their corrected, current form.
- d. Act in an advisory capacity to the District President in interpreting the Bylaws.
- e. Function either directly or through a committee under its immediate supervision as the committee appointed to review new and revised constitutions and bylaws of member and applicant congregations, as provided for in the *Handbook* of the Synod, 2.2.1; 2.3.1; 2.4.1; 2.4.2.
- f. Review and either provide written feedback to a congregation's submission or resubmission for a constitution and bylaws revision or forward the constitution and bylaws revision for approval to the District Board of Directors within four months of receipt of the document.
- g. Notify such member and applicant congregations of the status of their constitutions and bylaws through the District Secretary.
- h. File a copy of all new and revised constitutions of district member congregations with the archivist.
- i. Maintain a file on each district member congregation with the official constitution and bylaws of said congregations with all pertinent committee, district, and member congregation's correspondence.

The past triennium the CCM has worked with a number of congregations who were in the process of revising and/or amending their constitutions and bylaws. Some of them have submitted changes to their organizational documents within the past triennium some have been forwarded on to the Northern Illinois District Board of Directors for final approval, while the remainder have been returned to the congregations with requests for changes or clarification.

### **Revising your Constitution and Bylaws**

Congregations intending to revise their constitution or bylaws should consult with the District Secretary for information and resources available. Of particular interest should be the LCMS *Guidelines for Constitutions and Bylaws for Lutheran Congregations* available online at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

The suggested process for revising your constitution and bylaws is:

1. Contact the District Secretary



2. Establish a committee within your congregation to begin the review
3. Present the new constitution and bylaws or any revisions to District CCM prior to presentation to the Voters' Assembly for its approval:  
All constitutions should have
  - a. The date of revisions/adoption clearly listed
  - b. A "date page" at the end, indicating the date(s) of any revisions, additions or deletions
  - c. A page for signatures of officers and/or voting members if so called for by the constitution
4. submit a "congregationally approved" copy to the District CCM for their files

Please be aware that though the CCM strives to handle these reviews in the most efficient manner, the review process can take a minimum of six months from receipt of the documents until final approval by the NID Board of Directors.

A key factor in expediting the process is the time frame within which the congregation responds and/or acts on recommended or required changes. A number of congregations, some even from previous trienniums, have received suggestions and have not, as yet, responded. It needs to be noted that it is the approval of constitutions and bylaws by the District Board of Directors that fulfills the "Approved Constitution and Bylaws" condition for acquiring and maintaining membership set in Article VI of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Please review the following list of the dates of the officially approved Constitutions and Bylaws for NID congregations. If your congregation is operating under another document, please submit that document for review and approval. If there has been an approval that is not noted below, please contact the District Secretary, so the listing may be updated/corrected.

**NID CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS**

**BOD Approved Copies**

<u>Church Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Constitution Approved</u>
Apostles Lutheran Church	Melrose Park	2019 06
Ascension Lutheran Church	Niles	2019 09
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Antioch	2000 03
Bethany Lutheran Church	Naperville	2021 01
Bethel Lutheran Church	Gurnee	1994 district convention
Bethel Lutheran Church	Westmont	2009 01
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Evanston	1976 district convention
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	River Grove	2019 11
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	West Dundee	2003 12
Calvary Lutheran Church	Elgin	2021 06
Calvary Lutheran Church	Wood Dale	2003 09
Christ Lutheran Church	Orland Park	



2025 Convention Report:  
Report of the Committee on Constitutional Matters

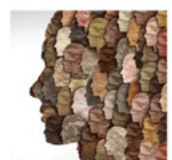
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Dixon	2003 12
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Roscoe	1991 district convention
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Winfield	1968 district convention
Christ the King Lutheran Church	Chicago	1988 district convention
Christ the Rock Lutheran Church	Rockford	2018 03
Community of Faith Lutheran Church	Spring Grove	1999 11
Concordia Lutheran Church	Chicago	1982 district convention
Concordia Lutheran Church	Machesney Park	2004 05
Cross Lutheran Church	Yorkville	2011 01
Crosspoint Lutheran Church	Lakewood	
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church	Bolingbrook	2014 06
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Aurora	2016 06
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Dwight	2012 12
Faith Lutheran Church	Carpentersville	1974 district convention
Faith Lutheran Church	Cicero	1988 district convention
Faith Lutheran Church	Geneva	2022 10
Faith Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	2014 12
Faith Lutheran Church	Westchester	1980 district convention
Family in Faith Lutheran Church	Glendale Heights	2017 11
Fellowship of Faith Lutheran Church	McHenry	2018 10
First Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Chicago	2017 03
First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Chicago	1980 district convention
Friends in Christ Lutheran Church	Morris	2020 01
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Chicago	2003 district convention
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Bourbonnais	2013 12
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Elgin	1985 district convention
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Frankfort	
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Lake Villa	1991 district convention
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Rock Falls	2009 11
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	South Holland	2003 05
Good Shepherd Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Berwyn	1974 district convention
Grace Lutheran Church	Chicago	1985 district convention
Grace Lutheran Church	Northbrook	1978 district convention
Grace Lutheran Church	Streamwood	2006 10
Grace Lutheran Church	Western Springs	2000 district convention
Grace Lutheran Church	Willow Springs	1991 district convention
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Cary	2010 09
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Chicago	1978 12
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Burbank	2010 09
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Walnut	1985 district convention
Hope Lutheran Church	Aurora	1997 district convention





2025 Convention Report:  
Report of the Committee on Constitutional Matters

Hope Lutheran Church	Countryside	2015 03
Hope Lutheran Church	Hillside	2007 03
Hope Lutheran Church	Shorewood	
Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo	Aurora	2005 05
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Bartlett	
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Batavia	2019 11
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Belvidere	2007 11
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Crystal Lake	2003 district convention
Immanuel Lutheran Church	DeKalb	2003 district convention
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Des Plaines	2013 01
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Downers Grove	2008 11
Immanuel Lutheran Church	East Dundee	2008 01
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Elmhurst	
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Freeport	2015 06
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Glenview	2022 10
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hillside	1982 district convention
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hinckley	2021 06
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hodgkins	1985 district convention
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lindenwood	2008 11
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Mokena	2014 06
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Palatine	2015 11
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Richton Park	2018 03
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Steger	1966 district convention
Jehovah El Buen Pastor	Chicago	2003 district convention
King of Glory Lutheran Church	Elgin	2011 11
Living Christ Lutheran Church	Arlington Heights	1982 district convention
Living Word Lutheran Church	Orland Park	
Lord of Glory Lutheran Church	Grayslake	2012 09
Lord of Life Lutheran Church	LaFox	2019 06
Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Millbrook)	Serena	2015 03
Messiah Lutheran Church	Chicago	1970 district convention
Messiah Lutheran Church	Sterling	2004 01
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church	Calumet Park	2000 01
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church	Franklin Park	1972 district convention
Mount Greenwood Lutheran Church	Chicago	2004 01
Mount Olive Lutheran Church	Rockford	2016 01
New Song Lutheran Church	Aurora	2004 11
North Shore/Faith Lutheran Church	Lake Forest	2019 03
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Freeport	2003 district convention
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Prospect Heights	2010 01



2025 Convention Report:  
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Our Savior Lutheran Church	Carol Stream	2024 10
Our Savior Lutheran Church	Joliet	2013 06
Our Savior Lutheran Church	Momence	1982 district convention
Our Savior Lutheran Church	Sterling	1978 10
Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Chicago	1982 district convention
Peace Lutheran Church	Beecher	
Peace Lutheran Church	Lombard	1982 district convention
Peace Lutheran Church	Plainfield	2012 04
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Crystal Lake	2014 06
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Palatine	2021 01
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Waukegan	1982 district convention
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Rockford	2024 04 08
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Waukegan	2019 03
Resurrection Lutheran Church	Chicago	1985 district convention
Resurrection Lutheran Church	Rockford	2020 06
Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Manteno	1978 district convention
River of Life Lutheran Church	Channahon	2006 08
Rockford Lutheran Church for the Deaf	Rockford	2003 district convention
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church	Rockton	
Saint Andrews Lutheran Church	Park Ridge	1972 district convention
Saint James Lutheran Church	Chicago	2018 06
Saint John Lutheran Church	Beecher	2018 10
Saint John Lutheran Church	Burlington	2005 10
Saint John Lutheran Church	Darien	2024 10
Saint John Lutheran Church	Forest Park	2024 10
Saint John Lutheran Church	Island Lake	1994 district convention
Saint John Lutheran Church	Mount Prospect	2012 04
Saint John Lutheran Church	Pecatonica	2018 10
Saint John Lutheran Church	Schaumburg	
Saint John Lutheran Church	Sycamore	1985 district convention
Saint John Lutheran Church	Wheaton	1997 11
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Algonquin	2009 11
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Chicago	2021 06
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Country Club Hills	
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Elgin	1954 district convention
Saint John's Lutheran Church	La Grange	2013 06
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lansing	1954 district convention
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lena	1954 district convention
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lombard	2012 04
Saint John's Lutheran Church	Union	2020 03



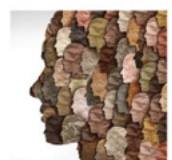
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Saint John's Lutheran Church	Woodstock	2016 03
Saint Luke Lutheran Church	Itasca	1963 district convention
Saint Luke's Lutheran Church	Montgomery	1963 district convention
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church	Saint Charles	2020 06
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Barrington	2018 03
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Chicago	
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Hawthorn Woods	2018 03
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Lemont	2013 06
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Addison	2009 01
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Aurora	2021 06
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Beecher	1961 district convention
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Brookfield	2017 06
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Elizabeth	2005 05
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Harvard	2001 05
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Matteson	
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Melrose Park	2018 01
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Mount Prospect	1948 district convention
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	1948 district convention
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Rochelle	1978 09
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Rockford	2001 05
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Skokie	2003 05
Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Thornton	2000 09
Saint Paul Lutheran Church (Austin)	Chicago	Either 2009 or 1940
Saint Paul Lutheran Church (Norwood Park)	Chicago	Either 2009 or 1940
Saint Paul Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	Either 2009 or 1940
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Bourbonnais	
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Chicago Heights	1940 district convention
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Lockport	2001 05
Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Arlington Heights	2016 03
Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Chicago	1952 district convention
Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Dundee	2004 05
Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Joliet	2003 12
Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Schaumburg	1980 03
Saint Peter's Lutheran Church (North Plato)	Hampshire	2022 6
Saint Peters Lutheran Church	Morrison	2020 03
Saint Philip Lutheran Church (N)	Chicago	1942 district convention (?)
Saint Philip Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	1942 district convention (?)
Saint Stephen Lutheran Church	Chicago	
Salem Lutheran Church	Blue Island	2005 05
Salem Lutheran Church	Homewood	1994 district convention



2025 Convention Report:  
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Tabor Lutheran Church	Chicago	2017 09
Trinity Lutheran Church	Burr Ridge	
Trinity Lutheran Church	Dwight	
Trinity Lutheran Church	Genoa	2010 01
Trinity Lutheran Church	Hampshire	1978 10
Trinity Lutheran Church	Herscher	2017 11
Trinity Lutheran Church	Huntley	2017 06
Trinity Lutheran Church	Lansing	2019 11
Trinity Lutheran Church	Lisle	2015 11
Trinity Lutheran Church	Lombard	2011 06
Trinity Lutheran Church	Marseilles	1997 district convention
Trinity Lutheran Church	Roselle	2012 04
Trinity Lutheran Church	Tinley Park	2019 06
Trinity Lutheran Church	West Chicago	2014 06
Trinity Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	
Vida y Fe/Life & Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	West Dundee	2020 01
Word of Life Lutheran Church	Naperville	2021 06
Zion Lutheran Church	Beecher	2004 09
Zion Lutheran Church	Bensenville	2019 11
Zion Lutheran Church	Bonfield	1951 district convention
Zion Lutheran Church	Chebanse	2001 11
Zion Lutheran Church	Chicago	2004 12
Zion Lutheran Church	Grant Park	
Zion Lutheran Church	Hinsdale	2012 06
Zion Lutheran Church	Lyons	1939 district convention
Zion Lutheran Church	Marengo	1997 district convention
Zion Lutheran Church	McHenry	2021 06
Zion Lutheran Church	Naperville	2019 03
Zion Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	2017 06
Zion Lutheran Church	Ottawa	2007 09
Zion Lutheran Church	Summit	1936 district convention



Multiethnic Mission,  
Ministry, and Education  
in  
the Northern Illinois  
District of  
The Lutheran Church—  
Missouri Synod



**Northern Illinois District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# INTRODUCTION

According to its mandate, the aim of this study is to focus on the Northern Illinois District's history of mission, ministry, and education within multiethnic communities. This statement of focus gives some direction but also leaves much open to a good-faith interpretation. On the one hand, we see three objects of focus: mission, ministry, and education. The first asks for an inquiry into which ethnic groups were targeted with evangelization in an effort to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. We take the second to mean those efforts sometimes categorized as "social ministry"—the care for physical and psychological needs that may be met regardless of whether a person receives the message of forgiveness in Jesus Christ with faith. The third object of focus—education—could draw our study toward three main entities: the entire set of congregational schools within the District, the super-congregational schools (mainly high schools) serving the District, and Concordia University Chicago (as this institution has been known since 2006); but the individual histories of these many institutions constrain our ability to even attempt addressing them comprehensively. Instead, an effort has simply been made to mark trends and point toward possible further study. We have endeavored to address, in some form, all three aspects of the NID's history in this study.

But the resolution leaves the task force to infer exactly what lens to apply as we engage in the study. We resist the temptation to scour the source material for hints of possible unfair treatment directed toward ethnic groups, although our eyes are open to see these where they may be present. We are likewise determinedly skeptical of a story that forgets the sinfulness of the men and women who appear in it. The District's history is one of successes and failures—of great faithfulness to the Gospel and times of sinful shortcoming. To be more specific, the District's history is one story of the church responding to the events transpiring in the world around it, magnified by Chicago's prominent status as one of the largest cities in the United States. In these responses, we observe the work of the Holy Spirit alongside and, remarkably, amid human sinfulness. And in this observation, which grew from months of study of the source materials before any words were put to page, we find a lens that we believe is faithful to both the intention of the resolution and a biblically Christian and confessionally Lutheran understanding of history.

The following is organized chronologically. The different aspects of the NID's ministry (meant here in the broad sense, including mission, ministry, and education) have rarely received balanced emphasis and attention. Rather, at times, one or the other rose to be the main priority. As often as not, the priority actually appeared as a combination of two or all three aspects, such as when a school in Chicago's Ida B. Wells projects served as a foothold for mission and ministry there, or when the District's costly support of congregational schools was weighed against its support of evangelizing mission projects—considered as a decision between mission among children and mission among adults. Because of this intermingling of mission, ministry, and education, a tripartite structure would be difficult to accomplish without much repetition. A chronological approach allows those things to be highlighted that stand out in the sources at hand for the particular times.

The 118 years of NID history have been divided into five periods. The first periods are bounded by the dramatic influence of the Second World War on the American economy. Its effect basically defines the second chapter (The Turbulent War Years), so that the first (The Early Years) can be the time preceding that, and the third (Mid-Century) can commence when it was overcome. A second major event that dramatically influenced the District, and indeed, the whole LCMS, is the controversy surrounding Concordia Seminary in the early 1970s. It is for this reason that the third period in this study concludes in 1974. After this, however, it is the nature of the records, rather than their content, that gives structure because it affords the most consistency to what can be reported. Less and less of the story is available in the basic source for all of this work: the District's published convention proceedings. As already noted with respect to the schools, so also here: the more the work of the District becomes decentralized, the harder it becomes to tell a comprehensive and overarching story.

In each period, a general overview is also provided. This is not unimportant; at times, the reader will notice the failure to provide needed ministry (using the word here in its broad sense to refer to all the church's work) to a particular ethnic group, but these observations are always to be contextualized by the reality of limited resources and the knowledge of how those resources were being applied. Besides the overarching retelling of the history of the NID, the reader will find vignettes interspersed throughout the text. The goal of these sections is to dive deeper and tell interesting or important stories in more detail. With them, we aim neither to indict nor to exonerate the NID's historical attitudes toward ethnic groups, but instead to tell as representative a story as possible. That more could be written goes without saying, even though we will say it very clearly in some places. Even so, no amount of research can uncover the motives in the hearts of the people involved. For this reason, we invite the reader to read with charity—not so much toward us serving on the task force as toward the people who have featured in the Northern Illinois District's story.

## Sources

Beyond any doubt, the most comprehensive primary source for this study is constituted by the published proceedings of the NID conventions, going back to the first convention in 1906. The proceedings contain a record of the actions of the District as a unified body of congregations. Besides this, these published proceedings record much of what was occurring in the congregations and ministries of the District, although the details are often lacking.<sup>1</sup> Besides this main source, two other types of primary sources are drawn from in the study: (1) those external to the District, such as the published proceedings and magazines and newsletters of the Synodical Conference or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and (2) those not only internal to the District but particular to its congregations or institutions. These are often unpublished documents, which lead

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<sup>1</sup> A second major source would have been the published newsletter of the District, called (following its translation into English) the *Northern Illinois Messenger* and then the *Northern Light*. It proved difficult, however, to gain adequate access to this resource. Pieces of it are scattered across libraries and archives geographically quite far apart from one another and the task force members.

to problems exacerbated by these kinds of sources: they are hard to come by, they tend to be incomplete, and they represent relatively little uniformity as one moves through the years from congregation to congregation or institution to institution. This not only inhibits the certainty with which assertions can be made but it also makes the study of the materials cumbersome. All this is to say we have put forth our best effort in preparing this study, but it ought not be confused with an academically rigorous collection and evaluation of all technically available source material.

## THE EARLY YEARS (1906–1929)

### Introduction and Main Emphases

The NID formed in 1906 as a result of the division of the Illinois District’s three geographic regions. By no means, therefore, did its first convention constitute any kind of “beginning.” It is rather the case that the District’s beginnings represent a collection of continuations. The District continued its support of a variety of non-German, ethnic Lutheran churches;

its work seeking out German Lutheran immigrant communities and planting congregations within its geographical boundaries;

its financial support of the Synodical Conference’s mission in the African American community; and

its support of the Addison Teachers Seminary.

All this and much more can be drawn from the treasurer’s report recorded in the first NID convention’s minutes.<sup>2</sup> The major line items potentially related to our three areas of interest are the following:

- Orphanages and Other Institutions of Well-Being (8 percent of the NID budget)
- Black Mission (4 percent)
- Brazilian Mission (4 percent)
- Chicago City Mission (4 percent)
- Deaf Mission and Ministry Support (2 percent)
- General Mission (1 percent)

These items accounted for about 25 percent of the District’s budget, and other smaller line items tipped the scale beyond that mark. Essential to note here is that the District has, from its very first year, a *history of multiethnic mission, ministry, and education*. The support of black missions will form an important part of this report. The Brazilian mis-

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<sup>2</sup> Northern Illinois District (NID) Proceedings, 1909, 96.



sion must be duly noted but also regarded primarily as the work of the synod. Other items will be addressed as sources have permitted.

## Support of Synodical Conference Black Ministry

The beginnings of the Northern Illinois District’s mission efforts in the African American community are found in its support of the black mission of the Synodical Conference. The Synodical Conference was an association of confessionally committed American Lutheran synods that existed from 1872 until 1967. Its main members were, besides the LCMS, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. A persistent prioritization of true doctrine, expressed in unqualified (*quia*) adherence to the Lutheran Confessions, both united the synods of the Synodical Conference and distinguished them from others who bore the name *Lutheran* but with a less robust anchoring in the Lutheran Confessions. Their unity established, they set mission work among African Americans as their main task. The Synodical Conference established a mission board in 1872 and quickly began the work both of searching for missionary candidates and exploring those regions where they might be sent.<sup>3</sup> Those regions were all initially in southern states, and it would be decades before the combination of necessity and available resources would bring this mission work to Chicago.<sup>4</sup>

We note the approximately thirty-five years between the establishment of the Synodical Conference Mission Board and the founding of the NID. At that point, it could not yet be clear to what degree Chicago would rise as a numerical center of the African American community, but the newly formed District did not take long to notice the rising need. Regular reports on the work of the Synodical Conference are present in the proceedings of early District conventions. In 1921, the proceedings note the absence of a black missions in Chicago. The work, however, is not seen as the responsibility of the District. Rather, its absence is explained by the amount of work the mission board of the Synodical Conference is doing among black people in other areas. By this time, in other words, Chicago was beginning to see a need, but the District hoped for that need to be met by the Synodical Conference.

This phenomenon gives pause—on the one hand, the District could be seen as shirking its responsibility to carry the Gospel into the black community in Chicago, and some will surely take this position. On the other hand, it could be praised for supporting the work of the Synodical Conference, while, at the same time, respecting the “division of labor” that had been adopted. It is certainly the case that the District, by 1921, directly

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3 Cf. Christopher F. Drewes, *Half a Century of Lutheranism among Our Colored People* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1927), 10ff.

4 A key event here is designated as the “Great Migration,” referring to the voluntary dispersal of African Americans living in southern states throughout, among other places, midwestern cities like Chicago. The phenomenon is sometimes divided into two phases, corresponding approximately to the two world wars. Numbers give a sense of the consequences for the NID, centered in Chicago: about 1 percent of the city’s population was African American in 1890; that number rises to 7 percent in 1930, 23 percent in 1960, and 40 percent in 1980. Today, it rests just below 30 percent. “Chicago,” Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago> (accessed November 12, 2023). Information originally drawn from the US Census Bureau.

carried out missions among other ethnic groups within its geographic boundary; Jewish missions and Assyrian missions are perhaps particularly of note, although one might also point to the support of work among Finnish, Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, and Slovakian groups.<sup>5</sup> It is indisputable that black missions held a distinct place. This is clear simply from the fact that it always has its own separate heading among the reports documented in the convention proceedings, but the meaning of this distinction might be questioned since the others are documented under the category “foreign language missions,” whereas the black mission would have taken place in English. Noteworthy is the explicit case made by the mission director of the black mission, Pastor Nils Jules Bakke, for the District’s congregations supporting the black mission. He gave the following reasons already in 1912:<sup>6</sup>

- This mission work is also the work of the District because the District is part of the Synodical Conference.
- God has richly blessed this work already.
- This mission field is ripe for harvest.
- The Lord has placed the black man, “like poor Lazarus,” at our door.
- God has so richly blessed us.

Some will see the need to argue for support of the black mission as evidence of the racism within the District. Others may note the continued support of the black mission before and after this report was given. Since Bakke gave his report to a group already strongly supporting the black mission, he may also be seen as bolstering and encouraging an already active effort. Where there was sin, though, we see the basic principle of the church’s history at work: amid sin—in and through the lives of sinners—the Holy Spirit worked and works. Without a far more detailed historical study than we accomplish here, it is hard to say when such conditions had arisen as ought to have compelled the District to direct some of its limited resources into the local black community. But one may, in any case, acknowledge that with the arrival of the community, a need for Christian ministry and Christian mission arrived as well. This need was observed but only began to be met in the District with the arrival of the first Synodical Conference missionary to Chicago, Marmaduke Carter, in 1924.

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5 Some of this work may have been at the synodical rather than the district level. The report leaves that distinction at certain points unclear.

6 NID Proceedings, 1912.

## Missionary Marmaduke Nathaniel Carter

Marmaduke Nathaniel Carter was born in Virginia in 1881 to Rev. Nathaniel and Susan Carter. Initially trained as a Lutheran school teacher, Carter was eventually called into pastoral work as a missionary of the Synodical Council Mission Board, sent not to evangelize but to share the urgency of the work of black missions among the German LCMS congregations of the Midwest. Carter's German language fluency and depth of learning lent him credibility, and he was an ideal candidate for this work. In 1924, he was called by the same mission board to be the first missionary and pastor at the new St. Philip Lutheran Church in Chicago.

The work, which began in a YMCA, progressed quickly under Carter's leadership and God's blessing. It was only a few years before St. Philip was self-sustaining, and the congregation would eventually swell to more than one thousand members. Remarkably, Carter's members tended to be converts to the Lutheran Church rather than Lutherans who had moved to Chicago.

Carter was an important figure in the work of black ministry in the LCMS in the first half of the twentieth century, well beyond Chicago. His book, *Lutheran Customs*,<sup>7</sup> made an affirmative case for the liturgical practices of the Lutheran Church. He is also known for his argument that the black Lutheran has good cause to join in the celebration of the Reformation, even if, to some, it seems like a private celebration of certain Lutherans from a certain region of Germany. With efforts like this, Carter helped to bridge the gap between black and white Lutherans in his day. Carter served thirty-five years at St. Philip in Chicago and was called to be with his Lord in 1961.

## From the Arrival of Missionary Carter to the Decline in Financial Support of the Synodical Conference Mission

Alongside Carter's arrival in Chicago in 1924, District proceedings indicate that support of his work centered first around providing a building for the black mission. An appeal to the congregations of the District to provide funding for this seems to have been successful, although it appears that a building was only finally completed in 1927. At this point, the District shows some hesitation to hand ownership of the building over to the mission. It is certainly important at this juncture to note the structure of the mission: Missionary Carter was not a pastor of the District but of the Synodical Conference Mission Board, and the direct responsibility for his work rested accordingly not in the District but with the Synodical Conference Mission Board. The same would have held for his congregation—its "district" was not the NID but the Synodical Conference Mission Board.<sup>8</sup> The intention to provide a church building for the black mission seems beyond

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7 Marmaduke Nathaniel Carter, *Lutheran Customs: A Popular Presentation of Some Practices of the Lutheran Church* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1946).

8 The story around the affiliation of the many black congregations of the Synodical Conference Mission Board with the LCMS is an important one, but it had barely begun in the 1920s. In any case, attention to that history is the necessary foundation for any judgment about things like property-ownership decisions in individual districts.

doubt. The willingness to hand over ownership of that asset to an entity not beholden to the District (it would be decades before St. Philip’s status would change from “mission” to “congregation” and be received by the District) appears to have been tempered.<sup>9</sup>

In the years that immediately follow 1927, the District proceedings show a marked decline in support for the Synodical Conference Mission Board. It is difficult to tell a story from a few notes and annual financial reports, but the effect of the Great Depression (1929–1939) on the District is indisputable. Amid its rapid expansion, along with the rapid growth of the city of Chicago and its near suburbs,<sup>10</sup> the financial ruin that beset the nation was entirely evident in the church’s finances as well. In the years before 1928, the number of line items in the District’s budget increased year over year as new missions and ministries within the District and beyond its boundaries were supported. The total real support for black missions rose even as it became a smaller percentage of the total budget. But when the Depression reached the District, everything declined, so that by 1934, black missions support was barely a tenth of what it had been in 1925. Before the District would finally begin to flourish again, it would have to weather not only the Depression but also the life of a German community in the Midwest during the Second World War.

## Persian and Mexican Missions

Although the intentionality of the Synodical Conference led to black ministry dominating the early multiethnic work of the District, it was far from the only ministry of this type taking place. In the minutes of the thirteenth NID convention in 1927, new mission work among Persians (Missionary L. Pera) and Mexicans (Missionary Jose P. Fernandez) is noted. There, it is recommended that the Persian mission be handed over to the Synodical Foreign Tongues Mission Board (not to be confused with the *Synodical Conference Mission Board*) as soon as arrangements could be made. No equivalent recommendation was made regarding the new mission among Mexicans in Chicago. The 1930 convention minutes report the following statistics from Chicago:

- Mexican Mission—average attendance 30
- Latvian Mission—average attendance 70 (Rev. W. von Kuhlberg)
- Persian Mission—average attendance 25
- Polish Mission—average attendance 68 (Rev. T. Engel)
- Lithuanian Mission—average attendance 98 (Rev. J. Rozak)<sup>11</sup>

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9 NID Proceedings 1927, 94; see also 101. There is intentional discussion about handing over the chapel, but the conclusion is to first resolve the \$1,100 owed the District from its construction.

10 District convention proceedings in these years are filled with reports of new congregations being founded in the north and west suburbs. The growth is remarkable but doesn’t rely on a line item in the District’s budget.

11 NID Proceedings 1930, 91.

## Education

Although education plays a major role in the work of the District in its early years, it is not evident that any schools were opened in addition to or alongside the ethnic ministry and mission work already noted. Congregational schools were abundant but would presumably have served mostly children of the congregations. Treasurers reports do show support for both “Negro Students” and “Chinese Students.” In 1928, these come in the amounts, respectively, of \$20 and \$60 (equivalent to approximately \$340 and \$1,000 in 2022), but it is difficult to know how these funds were actually used.

## DEPRESSION AND WAR (1930–1943)

Beginning around 1925, a decline in the District budget is evident, which seems to portend the coming Great Depression (1929–1939). On the heels of the Depression came the Second World War, which was not as precarious for American Germans as was the First World War but was nevertheless disruptive to the work of the District. Little that can be called “new” occurs in this time. The financial strain hits on all sides, so that the District is generally able to support much less work than had previously been the case. Congregations with loans were unable to make payments in this time. Since the previous time had been such a time of growth, this was the situation of many congregations. This created a situation in which concerns were more of the existential sort. It is difficult to mark where the declining attention to multiethnic ministry occurs but easy to see afterward where it is again on the rise, as will be evident in the next chapter.

Already in 1939, the District convention proceedings deal with a question that will accompany the District in the decades to come—how to allot resources between “child mission” and “adult mission.”<sup>12</sup> Context clarifies that, in 1939, this is a question of mission schools and mission preaching stations, perhaps (although it is unclear) of the cost of missionary teachers vs. missionary pastors. Later, the question will develop to more generally embrace the question of proportions of funds directed to Lutheran schools and to new mission fields, the latter tending to be oriented around ethnic groups.

## MID-CENTURY (APPROXIMATELY 1944–1974)

The NID’s recovery out of the Great Recession was strong. For some time, the problem of resources shifted from not having enough money to not having enough church workers. Already in 1945, the Home Mission Board reports significant financial recovery, even as it fears a return of recession conditions. In response to this, they provide bonuses to the mission board employees, rather than increasing their salaries. The report also indicates rapid growth and the emerging independence of many mission stations from

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<sup>12</sup> NID Proceedings 1939, 71.

the mission board. The feared recession never emerges, and instead, the Home Mission Board reports a shortage of workers in 1950. There is significant opportunity for missions, including especially among the black communities in Chicago, where the District enjoys a good name. Two important mission projects in this time, which occasionally overlapped with one another, were based in Chinatown and nearby in the Ida B. Wells projects.

## Chinatown and the Ida B. Wells Projects

The mission in Chinatown, begun by Pastor Paul Meyer in 1943, grew around the work of Verna Schulz, a member at St. Paul Lutheran Church in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago. Although the records leave it unclear when the mission began, it is evident that Schulz worked effectively because the District began assuming financial responsibility for what was described as her work in fall of 1936.<sup>13</sup> Her work was among children there, and it seems that around it grew a preaching station, faith instruction toward baptism and confirmation, and a school.<sup>14</sup> Beginning at least by 1939, her work was supervised by Pastor Semman, representing the District's mission board.<sup>15</sup>

At the same time that Schulz was working in Chinatown, the Chicago Housing Authority was constructing the Ida B. Wells homes (1939–1941).<sup>16</sup> This New Deal housing project was built to house over 1,600 black families in intentional racial segregation.<sup>17</sup> Although it was initially seen as a success, it would eventually be plagued with such problems as would lead to the decision to demolish the homes, a decision carried out between 2002 and 2011.<sup>18</sup> The District also stepped in to work here right away in 1943. Pastor Paul Meyer also oversaw this, but onsite was Frank Colba, a day-school teacher. Andrew Schulze, who would be called through the Synodical Conference Mission Board in 1947 to serve in Chicago, related that when he arrived, the mission work had already been going on there for about ten years.<sup>19</sup>

By 1943, the District convention proceedings acknowledge the existence of the day school, as well as its success: it was full and had about one hundred children in the community on a wait list. Colba worked with students from Concordia Teachers College to run a Sunday school, and Pastor J. Mueller of Addison was conducting services. In all of this, Verna Schulz was a figure whose influence has, perhaps, been underrecognized.

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13 NID Proceedings 1937, 43.

14 NID Proceedings 1940, 37, 40.

15 NID Proceedings 1939, 66; Andrew Schulze, *Race Against Time: A History of Race Relations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from the Perspective of the Author's Involvement, 1920–1970* (Valparaiso: The Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, 1972), 47.

16 “Ida B. Wells Homes,” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida\\_B.\\_Wells\\_Homes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida_B._Wells_Homes) (accessed March 18, 2023).

17 “Chicago Housing Authority,” Encyclopedia of Chicago (website), <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/253.html> (accessed 18 March 2023).

18 “Ida B. Wells Homes” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida\\_B.\\_Wells\\_Homes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida_B._Wells_Homes) (accessed March 18, 2023). See also the 1997 film documentary *Public Housing*, which gives a close look at the Ida B. Wells homes.

19 Schulze, *Race Against Time*, 46.

## Verna Schulz

Sometime before 1936, Verna Schulz, a laywoman from St. Paul's (Austin) Chicago, began mission work among children in Chinatown. This Sunday school served 35 children in 1937 and 130 by 1939.<sup>20</sup> Schulz originally carried the expenses personally but began to receive District support in 1937. This support was financial but also came as additional help. In 1939, the Sunday school on Sunday afternoon was followed by services, and instruction was also being held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Pastoral support for the mission varied through the years but was a constant focus for the NID. Also, in 1939, the Lutheran Women's Mission Endeavor pledged support for the construction of a chapel in Chinatown to support the work begun by Schulz.<sup>21</sup>

The 1940 convention again praises Schulz for her work and again shows the need for a more permanent pastor to serve the mission, but also demonstrates real fruit—one group is ready to be confirmed, and another is nearly ready to be baptized. Plans are being made to start a full Lutheran day school at the mission.

The year 1942 brought a significant modification to the Chinatown work, in that it became a base for work in the Ida B. Wells housing project erected in Chicago around that time, not too far to the north of Chinatown. The 1942 proceedings note 11 confirmations and 35 baptisms in the preceding year in the Chinatown ministry but also an attendance increase from 16 to 80 in the first six weeks of the project among the residents of Ida B. Wells.<sup>22</sup> Although it's not entirely clear what the initial relationship of the two projects was, it is evident that the work was conducted locally both in Chinatown and in the Ida B. Wells area—not together in a single location.

Verna Schulz was not, however, active only in Chinatown. The 1946 Home Mission Board reports her sharing “the message of life” with women and children and those in institutional settings, both in groups and in individual meetings.

The Home Mission Board report of 1948 tells of disappointment and tragedy in the work of the Chinatown and Ida B. Wells ministries. The building at Ida B. Wells was both expensive and inadequate, so the work was moved to the Chinatown building—but then the Chinatown building burned down. So both missions—the Chinatown Sunday school and the Ida B. Wells day school—were continued in a funeral parlor willing to rent the needed space. This 1948 report is the last one that mentions the mission in Chinatown.

Verna Schulz, however, reappears soon in connection with Missionary Rev. Andrew Schulz's work in the Ida B. Wells projects. Schulze arrived in Chicago in 1947, his salary shared equally by the District Home Mission Board and the Board of the Synodical Conference. In 1954, the Christ the King congregation at 37th and Lake Park Avenue (two blocks east of the Ida B. Wells projects) is described as having begun in a storefront school, which was likely the school mentioned above that had temporarily moved to Chi-

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20 NID Proceedings 1939, 63.

21 NID Proceedings 1939, 82.

22 NID Proceedings 1942, 58.

natown before the fire. Verna Schulz's assistance at Christ the King is cited as one of the reasons it overcame the conditions of that "difficult working area." The congregation of 301 baptized and 161 communicant members had "members of various colors and races," which may be an indication of continuation of the Chinatown ministry.<sup>23</sup>

Verna Schulz was called to be with her Lord in 1960. Her humble November 21 obituary reads as quoted here:

Verna M. Schulz, beloved wife of Herman; sister of Alwin and Mark Schultz. Employee of Northern Illinois District Mission board, Missouri Senate [*sic*]. Resting at funeral home, 3440 N. Central avenue, till 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Lying in state at Lutheran Church of St. Paul, Iowa and Menard avenues, from 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23, till time of service, 1:30 p.m. Interment Bethania. In lieu of flowers, memorials to your favorite Lutheran charity appreciated.<sup>24</sup>

## The District Assumes Responsibility for the Black Mission

An important aspect of the work of black ministry in the District is that, for about the first half of the twentieth century, the responsibility for this work formally rested with the Mission Board of the Synodical Conference. As noted already above, this explains both the large expense directed toward black missions even before such work was occurring in the District and the reticence on the part of the District to start its own black congregation. A clear change in this relationship is evident in 1948. In that year, the report of the NID Home Mission Board includes these lines:

At the request of the Mission Board of the Synodical Conference, your Board assumed responsibility for the supervision of Negro mission work within its geographic boundaries. Our Board is ready to cooperate with and seek the counsel of the General Board for Negro Missions in the calling of missionaries, the opening of new fields, and the problem of finances. The agreement we have reached with the General Board provides that the Synodical Conference agrees to pay half of the salary of our workers among the colored (two for the present) and aid us as much as possible in providing buildings for worship.<sup>25</sup>

Today, the NID in Chicago counts seven predominantly African American congregations in its ranks. Three of these were intentionally started as mission work in the black community: St. Philip, Christ the King, and Resurrection. The other four are originally German congregations that have "integrated" or transitioned with time: St. Paul (Dorchester), Zion, St. Stephen's, and St. Paul (Austin).

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23 NID Proceedings 1954, 75.

24 Obituary, *Chicago Tribune*, November 21, 1960.

25 NID Proceedings 1948, 50.



## Cultural Changes in the District

By way of transition, it is finally of note that a trend otherwise present in the culture and the church, including The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, could also be observed in the District. This trend was characterized by increased interest in “social” ministry in distinction from “Gospel” ministry, comparatively little hesitancy in questions of cooperation in ministry efforts, greater willingness to endure a battle internal to the church or District for the sake of addressing perceived societal and cultural demands, and a dramatically heightened attention to race.

None of this surprises. Chicago hosted the 1968 Democratic National Convention, a politically fraught event that occurred amid the highest of national tensions. The LCMS saw the election of J. A. O. Preus as synodical president in 1969. This election marked a shift in the current of the synod because Preus was able to address the Seminex-era liberal and historical-critical scholarship that had taken hold at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In connection with this came the formation of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), which formally broke with the LCMS and held some of its constituting meetings at the River Forest Concordia Teachers College campus and the adjacent Grace Lutheran Church.

# THE FOUNDING OF THE AELC TO THE PRESENT DAY

## Introduction and Main Emphasis

The 1974 convention of the District marks a turning point for the District and this study because of nationwide, synodical circumstances: Controversy at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, had come to a head and led to the “walkout” of a majority of students and faculty to form Concordia Seminary in Exile, commonly known as Seminex. The movement, which represented a theologically liberal wing of the LCMS, had close ties to the Northern Illinois District and can be seen represented in the culturally progressive nature of a number of District resolutions of the 1960s and early 1970s. In 1976, a representation of that movement called ELiM—Evangelical Lutherans in Mission— broke entirely with the LCMS to form the AELC—the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. Twelve years later, this church would join the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in founding the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The AELC celebrated its founding on the Concordia River Forest campus.

The 1974 District convention seems partly consumed with the Seminex issue. Its resolutions deal repeatedly with reconciliation, limits of authority, and the status of graduates of the Seminex. It seems the energy that might have gone to multiethnic ministry efforts, in a moment of heated urgency, went instead to this situation. Already in 1976, however,

a new emphasis on ethnic ministry, especially Hispanic and black ministry, emerges as a sustained focus in the District.

## Mission

In 1976, the growth of the Hispanic mission field in the United States, and especially within the geographic boundaries of the Northern Illinois District, is acknowledged in two adopted resolutions. The first, 2-07, acknowledges the financial difficulties that inhibit some from entering the ministry and resolves to establish scholarships “for the training of professional church workers for Hispanic and other minority groups.” The second, 2-08, supports participation in a training program intended to better equip existing personnel to serve in Hispanic ministries.<sup>26</sup>

This attention to Hispanic ministries is expanded in 1978’s resolutions. Resolutions 3-13 and 3-14 are petitions to the LCMS and Concordia Publishing House to produce educational materials. Resolution 3-13 acknowledges cultural differences and asks for materials that “include the Black and Hispanic experience,” whereas 3-14 simply requests “Lutheran educational material in the Spanish language.”<sup>27</sup> Even more specifically related to the resolutions on 1976 is 5-10, which represents another front on the effort to provide church workers for the Hispanic and black communities. It recognizes the great need—and also the apparent “special problems”—that attend efforts of some who had entered the synodical colloquy program. With the resolution, the District added its voice to those calling for quick resolution of these issues.<sup>28</sup>

The 1980 and 1982 conventions confirm the further emphasis on Hispanic missions and ministry. In 1980, 3-08 and 3-09 renew the parallel interests of 1976 to train both church workers who belong to ethnic minorities and existing church workers to work among ethnic minorities.<sup>29</sup> Resolution 4-04 of 1980 also encourages the use of advertising in Hispanic media to draw attention to Hispanic work in the District.<sup>30</sup> Resolution 2-24 of 1982 indirectly provides some information referring to an already existing Hispanic Colloquy Center at Concordia River Forest, which is to be renamed the Lutheran Institute for Hispanic Ministries.<sup>31</sup>

## District Reports

With the late 1980s comes a new source of consolidated information on the activities of the District—the District reports submitted by the District president to the synodical convention for publication in the LCMS Convention Workbook. The first of these

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26 NID Proceedings 1976, 20.

27 NID Proceedings 1978, 26.

28 NID Proceedings 1978, 30.

29 NID Proceedings 1980, 24.

30 NID Proceedings 1980, 28.

31 NID Proceedings 1982, 22.

occurred in 1989, and this reporting method is still in use today. This resource provides a consistent source for the most significant activities of the District, but it is noticeably lacking in depth of detail. This is not a function of poor reporting but rather of its purpose. But the atomization of mission, ministry, and education “projects”—usually tied to congregational rather than District ownership—makes a different approach to this historical overview, under the circumstances, untenable. Our document could highlight multiethnic ministry successes in the District, or it could highlight failures, or it could seek a balance. But any of these three options fails because the conclusion is predetermined: successful multiethnic ministry, failure at multiethnic ministry, or “balance.” To predetermine the picture of the Northern Illinois District’s work presented here would fall short of the spirit of our task force’s mandate. On this account, we elect to provide somewhat less detail here. We will attempt to compensate by flagging those items, the further study of which would help to fill out the picture of the Northern Illinois District’s history of multiethnic mission, ministry, and education.

## The Content of the NID Reports to the Synod Conventions

In 1988, 1997, and 2002 the NID adopted revised mission statements. These are reproduced below for context.

### 1988:<sup>32</sup>

*The Northern Illinois District is a fellowship of LCMS congregations called to proclaim the Gospel of redemption. The District focuses its resources and also disciples and deploys its membership for ministry in order to reach those who do not know the Savior.*

*It is the goal of those who serve on behalf of the District to be good stewards of God’s gifts to them by being committed to*

- (1) equipping and encouraging congregations for their task of making and nurturing disciples,*
- (2) assisting congregations in the calling, care, and support of professional church workers, and*
- (3) identifying and pursuing mission and ministry opportunities on behalf of congregations which can better be achieved corporately.*

### 1997:<sup>33</sup>

*The Mission of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to extend and serve the church of Jesus Christ by providing support, encouragement, leadership, and resources to its congregations, leaders, and the church at large.*

The report then lists seven “critical targets” that “guide the work of the District, its boards, committees, and staff.”<sup>1</sup> *Developing New Missions and Ministries*

#### *2. Encouraging Inter-Congregational Support and Cooperation*

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<sup>32</sup> NID Proceedings 1988, 30.

<sup>33</sup> 1998 LCMS Convention Workbook, 114.

3. *Developing Leaders*
4. *Supporting Professional Workers, Congregations, and Schools*
5. *Maintaining Strategic Ministries*
6. *Supporting the Work of Synod*
7. *Providing Special Ministries on Behalf of Congregations*

**2002:**<sup>34</sup>

*The mission of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: To work together as congregations and leaders to support, encourage, and assist each other in extending the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The report continues by listing four “critical targets and goals . . . adopted by the convention:”

1. **Congregational Ministries**—*That congregations have relevant ministries that seek, welcome, nurture, and incorporate all members of the congregation and community into their family of faith.*
2. **Leader Development**—*That congregations provide professional and lay leaders with training, support, and encouragement for the ministry of equipping God’s people.*
3. **Partnerships**—*That congregations foster partnerships at all levels (local, circuit, District, and synod) in order to expand the work of their congregation and the church at large.*
4. **Mission Multiplication**—*That congregations and circuits start and support new missions and ministries to reach unchurched people.*

Of note here is the trend away from ministries of the District toward District support of congregational ministries—not only financial—along with the encouragement of partnerships between congregations in such projects. This directly translates to fewer ministries that may be regarded as the output of the work of the District *as a whole*—in other words, the *District in convention*.

A few projects remain as genuine projects *of the District*. Following the reports published in the synodical workbooks, and looking for projects that are relevant to this task force’s mandate, we initially find the following:

- Reported in 1998, the restructuring of the District to create a Chicago circuit (NID East), thus uniting the vast majority of the multiethnic congregations with their neighboring congregations of more traditional LCMS membership makeup.
- Reported in 2001, the Ezra Housing Plan, in which the District joined.

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34 2004 LCMS Convention Workbook, 122.

- Also reported in 2001, a Wheatridge grant with the title “One Lord, One Faith, One God and Father of Us All,” aimed at “deal[ing] with the still-persistent evil of racism.” The report indicates the plan to train up to seven teams. The announcement about the project is repeated in the 2004 workbook.<sup>35</sup>

A new funding model is announced in 2007 called “Ablaze! Mission Outpost Grants.” The model changes from the subsidization of some congregations “year after year” to a grant application process, in which there must be “something new”: “What is crucial is that something new or additional be done to bring the Gospel to people and to bring people to hear the Gospel.”<sup>36</sup> This move underscores the trend already noted to shift ownership of projects from the district to the congregations, and noting it provides the necessary context for the task-force-relevant projects one reads in the NID synodical reports after 2007. In 2013, two mission plants are noted: “one Arabic, one Hispanic.”

- In 2019, mention is made of a school for missionaries at Iglesia Luterana San Pablo in Aurora. This project, which actually began in 2005, provides missionary training and has repeatedly sent men to study toward the pastoral ministry at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.<sup>37</sup>

## Convention Proceedings

In addition to this information that can be garnered from the NID reports in the LCMS Convention Workbooks, the resolutions adopted by the District in its convention proceedings provide a second source of information about the District’s work in recent decades. Since the availability of this resource, however, was inconsistent, the following cannot be understood as a comprehensive depiction, but only as a number of smaller stories that must be understood on their own terms.

- In 1988, Resolution 2-12<sup>38</sup> commended Hispanic missions to the District Mission Board. This should be seen positively as an endorsement of such work, rather than

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35 Additional information about the project is not contained in the resources that were available for this research but presumably could be obtained. They might provide additional insights into District-level efforts to be attentive to race-related sin in its midst.

36 2007 LCMS Convention Workbook, 122.

37 2019 LCMS Convention Workbook, 155; “Our History,” Iglesia San Pablo Aurora (website), <https://www.iglesiasanpabloaurora.org/nosotros?lang=en> (accessed June 20, 2023).

38 Resolution 2-12 is a prime example of the difficulty in interpreting the work of the District in convention. The resolution refers to an overture that was probably well intentioned but based in a misunderstanding of the District’s structures. The resolution brought by the floor committee was amended by the convention to include a *resolved* that emphasized the need for this work among “all people . . . including people of other cultures and races.” This seems to suggest concern about the focus of the overture on one culture and ethnicity in particular, but we are constantly aware of two issues that arise with this sort of speculation: (1) it is fundamentally uncertain, since there is no clear grounding for it in the sources, and (2) whatever may have been in the minds and hearts of the convention delegates, the resolution as printed is what the District adopted.

negatively as an effort to hand off the responsibility. Work in the Hispanic community most certainly continued in the years and decades following the 1988 convention.

- In 1991, Resolution 3-07 encourages “congregational support for immigrants and refugees.” This resolution commends this work to the congregations in three forms: through attention to the issue, through sponsorship via Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and through prayers and financial support for LCMS World Relief.
- Also in 1991, Resolution 3-02, “to encourage awareness and action in human care,” addresses a “lapse in public awareness of the pervasiveness of racism and its negative effects on society” and directs the Board for Ministry, the Board of Directors, and individual congregations to “address issues of racism.” In 1994, the Board for Ministry reported the following: “The issue of racism referred to us by the 1991 convention is in its infant stages of discussion prior to our setting a plan of action.” The action appears to culminate in the observance of October 1995 as “Human Care Month” along with a public policy symposium co-hosted with “Lutheran Child and Family Services, Lutheran Home and Service for the Aged, Concordia University and the Center for Urban Ministries, the Board for Ministry, and the congregations of the English District in northern Illinois.”
- In its 1994 convention report, the Board for Missions described its nascent effort to engage in Jewish missions, with the aim of “formulating a Messianic Lutheran congregation within the perimeter of the Northern Illinois District.”
- In 2006, two resolutions indicate attention to multiethnic ministry in the District. The first, 3-05, “that ministry in the NID overcome language barriers that hinder the communication of the Gospel of Jesus Christ” encouraged pastors to learn new languages for ministry and congregations to teach English as a second language classes.<sup>39</sup> The second, 3-07, “Fulfilling God’s Mission in a Multi-Cultural World,” has one particularly noteworthy *resolved*. In it, the congregations of the District are admonished to “recognize the sin of racism, both personal and institutional.”<sup>40</sup> But it also acknowledges and affirms the work of the “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism” task force, which, according to the preceding paragraph, provided “awareness, resources, training and support for developing multicultural and multiracial ministries

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39 NID Proceedings 2006, 74.

40 NID Proceedings 2006, 37. (An amendment that would have struck the words “both personal and institutional” was not accepted by the convention. Another, that would have exchanged the term “racism” for “race prejudice,” was likewise not adopted by the convention.)

in [NID] congregations.”<sup>41</sup> This is probably a reference to the Wheatridge grant reported on in 2001 and 2004. The work of this task force is not pursued further in this study document but may prove worthy of further study by those interested in the history of the District’s work in multiethnic communities.

- In 2009, Resolution 2-01A concluded the work of the “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism” task force, commending Dr. William Griffin and Dr. Donald Gourlay, who led it, and commending the resources it produced (besides synodical resources on ministry and mission amid challenges created by racial and ethnic diversity) to the District.<sup>42</sup> This resolution includes repentance for “any and all failures on our part as individuals or as congregations to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ because of racial or ethnic differences.” An amendment was proposed that would have stricken the forward-looking *resolved* paragraphs of this resolution and restricted it to an expression of gratitude for the task force’s work, but it was rejected by the convention by a vote of 89 (yes) to 185 (no).

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41 NID Proceedings 2006, 76.

42 NID Proceedings 2009, 42-43.

# MUCH REMAINS UNTOLD

A task of the sort set forth for this group is never completed. Difficult decisions had to be made in the drafting of this document. Many stories had to be left untold. For some, this was the case because they have already been told in other places. For others, the available materials tell only an incomplete story. For still others, it may have been possible to tell a fuller story, but time and financial resources were not available to draw the sources together that would have been necessary to accomplish that. Some will observe that we did not perform interviews as a part of this study. This is doubtless one of the greatest weaknesses of this report. But it would also have presented one of the greatest challenges to the integrity of the report because of the expertise required to carry out such an effort effectively. Even simply regarding the question of who to interview would have proved challenging to the success of the task.

In the following, we wish simply to draw attention to some stories that may be worth telling—to some of the history of the District that, after this report is written, remains in the dark. These stories deserve more light, either because they are a sign of the wonderful work of God and give us cause to rejoice or because they reveal the sin of the men and women who went before us, which, in turn, gives us pause to consider our own sin and repent. In either case, it is our hope that the material presented above provides some context to those who might consider investigating such things as might belong in the following list:

- The work of Grace Christian Academy in Little Village
- The school for missionaries at Iglesia Luterana San Pablo in Aurora
- The Wheatridge Foundation “One Lord, One Faith, One God and Father of Us All” grant
- Any of the early ethnic ministries in the District: Assyrian, Hispanic, or Jewish
- Each of the District’s Lutheran high schools:
  - Luther North (1909–2017)
  - Luther South (1951–2014)
  - Walther Lutheran (1954–)
  - Rockford Lutheran (1965–)
  - Valley Lutheran (1974–1991)
- Concordia University
  - Student involvement in the Ida B. Wells and Chinatown missions
  - The Hispanic Colloquy Center / Lutheran Institute for Hispanic MinistriesImmanuel Chicago and the decision to stay on site at the Medical Campus
- The District’s expansive institutional ministry in the twentieth century



## Members of the Task Force:

Jeff Chang

Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine

Erica Davies

Rev. Jeffrey Howell

Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall

Rev. Elstner Lewis

Karina Mazariegos

James McCoy

Rev. David Seabaugh

Rev. Andres Valencia

Rev. Kristopher Whitby

Joe Willman

## 2025 Convention Report: Wellness



Our Lord generously provides all we need to support our bodies and lives. Yet, in this fallen world, there are still constant concerns which arise around maintaining well-being. In the Northern Illinois District, we have made wellness a priority with the goal of caring wholistically for church workers, realizing that healthy church workers are a key component to healthy ministry.

We are grateful for partners who hold this value and work toward wellness for church workers. In the past triennium, the NID President's Office has conducted periodic "check-ins" with pastors via zoom to provide for their spiritual care and to keep them supported in their ministry. Through NID's Partnership Grant, we were blessed to partner with Circuit W-8 which conducted a wellness retreat at Walcamp in 2023. The retreat presenter, Brenda Jank from "Run Hard Rest Well," focused on the value and practices of relaxation and "de-stressing." In 2024, the NID again assisted in sponsoring this retreat which grew in number and scope, as Circuit W-8 invited Circuit N-5 to participate. 2024's retreat presenter was Grace Place's Dr. Bev Yahnke, who brought a focus on the biblical perspective of sabbath rest.

The NID has faithfully responded to church workers through Soldiers and Veterans of the Cross, which are grants available through Synod to help offset financial burdens. These applications usually bring a benefit of \$2500 (split 50/50 between Synod and District). We thank God for the ability to help the Lord's servants this way in their time of need!

The Church Worker Care Team has been active throughout the triennium. This team is comprised of three pastors, one DCE, and one CUC professor, the Care Team Director, Dr. Debbie Arfsten. The team comes alongside church workers for a short period of time to provide spiritual care and basic Christian coaching. The team is ready to address both the professional and personal concerns of church workers and have the resources to make psychological referrals for those. All five Church Worker Care Team members, on average, have received 2 to 6 contacts a month from church workers seeking their support. The pastors on this team also attend one of the regional pastoral conferences each year, providing care and support at those events. The Church Worker Care Team would like to expand by adding at least one teacher.

The NID Wellness Committee has met several times to explore what the pursuit of wellness looks like on a congregational level and how best to support our ministries as they pursue worker wellness. As the committee analyzed next steps in their work, they developed a working model for wellness that could be implemented by a part-time NID staff person who would head up wellness initiatives in the District. We have developed a job description for such a position with plans to bring on a part-time Wellness Officer in 2025.



# Introduction

The Education Office is blessed to support and provide services for all Commissioned Workers in the LCMS Northern Illinois District. The work done through this office focuses on our three mission pillars - Word, Wellness, Witness.

## Schools

We currently have **77** schools sharing the love of Jesus and Christian focused academic instruction each day.

32  
Freestanding Early  
Childhood Centers

42  
Elementary  
Schools

2  
Middle/  
High Schools

Concordia  
University  
Chicago

We shared approximately **55** chapel services for schools through each year of this triennium.

Lois Stewart has visited **100%** of the NID schools each year. Additional visits are scheduled as requested.

There have been approximately **325** Baptisms during this triennium.

The annual Back-to-School Worship Service and Keynote continues into its **7th** year.

Since the 2022 convention, there have been annual leadership, administrator, early childhood, and educator in-person conferences. In addition, the three Illinois District now hold an annual Lutheran Administrator Conference. Zoom meetings continue to be offered.

Accredited Schools: **29** elementary schools, **3** freestanding early childhood centers, **all** middle and high schools.



## Parish Professionals

This group includes: Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, Directors of Church Ministry, and Directors of Parish Music. The Parish Professionals meet in person monthly for Bible Study, prayer, a book read, networking, and fellowship.



### Conferences and Gatherings:

The 2022 National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas was a blessing. Approximately 550 youth and adults attended. Instead of hosting an individual District event at the Gathering, the three Illinois districts planned and held a joint event.

The LCMS Youth Gathering theme for 2025 is “Endure,” based on Hebrews 12:1-3. The NID has two dedicated Directors of Christian Education serving as coordinators for planning the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. This is a blessing as we build relationships between the three Districts and plan the 2025 state event.

The 2025 Higher Things Conference has a theme this Summer 2025 of “All Things New.” There will be three opportunities for youth in congregations to attend a Higher Things Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts, Seward, Nebraska, and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## Parish Nurses

The LCMS Northern Illinois District Parish Nurse Network is supported through the Education Office. The Parish Nurses gather in person for some events and Zoom with one another for others.

Congregations are encouraged to identify and encourage a nurse in their congregation to become a Parish Nurse, join this group, and support the members in their local congregation.



## 2025 Convention Report: Rev. Kris Whitby, Assistant to the President - Mission and Ministry

I am blessed by Jesus to serve you as a co-worker for the Kingdom. This last triennium has been a fruitful season! While other aspects of my service to our District will be reflected in subsequent reports, allow me to share a few highlights of the work our Lord has given me in service to you.

### Word

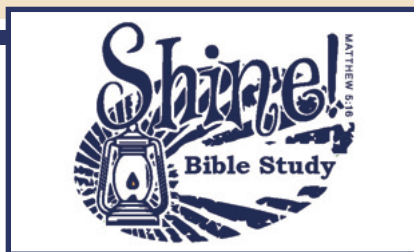
God's Word is foundational to our very lives and all that we do as followers of Christ. I've had the honor of writing the following Bible study resources for our District:

#### **In Christ and Into His Word – A Study on Colossians Shine! – A Preparation Study for 2023's Shine Event Fully Human: A Biblical Pursuit of Virtue**

I was blessed to be an advisor on the NID's Taskforce for Multiethnic Ministry and their study resource, *Crossing Thresholds: To Others*.

In 2024, it was my honor to be the guest presenter at the NID's LWML Lenten Inspiration and the keynote speaker at the Ohio District's LWML convention.

I guest preach two to three weekends each month, and often lead fellow saints in adult Bible class. In connection to our schools' ministry, I've been blessed to frequently lead midweek chapel services. It was also my honor to lead a workshop at the 2024 Northern Illinois Educators' Conference on how to transform midweek chapel services to deepen the lessons of faith taught in these times of worship.



### Wellness

I've been able to work with 20 congregations over the past three years, assisting them in building their vision for ministry. This is a detailed process which seeks to examine where a ministry currently is and to clarify where the Lord is leading them. I assist the congregation in crafting their vision, setting vision-based goals, and helping them celebrate the ways our Lord is working among them. It's been my joy to represent our District at Synod's annual Ministerial Care Conference which focuses on issues of wellness. At both the Best Practices Conferences and the NID Educator Conference I was able to present workshops on wellness care for church workers and church/school mindset for a healthy ministry with Dr. Debbie Arfsten and CLEF Consultant Jennifer Heinze, respectively.



**2025 Convention Report:  
Rev. Kris Whitby, Assistant to the President - Mission and Ministry**

## Witness

In 2024, we launched an online Spanish class for church workers in partnership with Concordia University Chicago. We hope to continue this effort to equip workers for witnessing opportunities!



What a joy to see the interest and support for our mission in Belize grow! Our first NID-sponsored trip had six participants in 2023. In June 2025, we're hoping for a team of 20, representing several NID congregations! I'm honored to represent us on the Belize FORO and advocate for our partnerships in Belize.

Through our three NID grants (Mission Target Grant, Endowment Grant, Partnership Grant) over this triennium, we've helped equip over 36 NID ministries with resources to carry out their witness of the Gospel with over \$516,000 in support! Thank you for your faithful support of these grants!

May Jesus continue to bless our partnerships as co-workers for His kingdom!



# Goal of Communications

The goal of Communications is to support the overall mission of the LCMS Northern Illinois District through communications to our stakeholders including:

- Congregations and schools
- Church workers
- Congregation members (people in the pew)
- Donors
- Partners (RSOs, educational, business)
- People outside the church walls

**Filled with living hope in Christ, Confessing – Praising – Advancing His Kingdom  
1 Corinthians 3:6-9**

## Identifying Mission and Vision

As the District office, we carry out our mission by upholding three pillars. These pillars direct our work together in the vision laid out for us.



**Northern Illinois District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**WORD:** Helping congregations be more centered on a rich life of Word and sacrament, with congregational support in transitions, as well as time of joys and sorrows.

**WELLNESS:** Promoting and encouraging health and vitality in congregations, schools, ministries, professional workers, and lay-leaders.

**WITNESS:** Encouraging personal witnessing, congregational engagement with their community, support of our NID partnerships and missions, and sharing in a world mission field together.



## Challenges

**Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing:** While we look back over our work since the last convention, it is imperative to look at challenges and opportunities which will present themselves for District communications in the future.

Effective communication has become increasingly important to our work together. It affects engagement, internal satisfaction, and overall public perception. The ability to see common communication challenges can be summed up as delivering the right message to the right people at the right time through the right media. Engagement, consistency, technology, relevance, collaboration, advocacy, and budgetary needs are all important aspects in the overall communications strategy.



## 2025 Convention Report: Ann Ciaccio, Director, Communications

### Event management

In order to better manage District events, an event management program is now being utilized for all events supported by the District.

#### The system's features:

Easy registration and payment processing for participants

More efficient processing for accounting

Deposits directed to correct accounts

Easy reporting of attendees/payments

Check-in application

### Systems security

Communications continues to support the cloud-based system which stores of our files.

#### The system's features:

Elimination of the threat of hard drive failure










Sharing of files securely from anywhere, at any time, on any device

Elimination of bandwidth limitations

Rapid ransomware detection

Time efficiencies, smarter workflow, ease of collaboration

### Staying connected

-  Facebook.com/LCMSnorthernillinoisdistrict
-  @LCMSNID
-  LinkedIn.com/groups  
LCMS Northern Illinois District
-  YouTube.com  
Channel NIDLCMS
-  Instagram.com  
lcms\_northernillinoisdistrict
-  Go to your favorite podcast channel  
Search "Northern Illinois District"
-  NIDLCMS.org  
NIDnews.org
-  Group emails
-  Network groups

### Communications media

Websites  
Group emails  
Social media  
Zoom meetings  
Database  
Print publications  
Branding

### Public relations

Press releases  
Disaster response





**2025 Convention Report:  
Rev. John Prohl, Assistant to the President**

It has been a genuine honor to serve God's church these past three years as an assistant to President Buss. My years of parish and hospital chaplaincy experience have helped prepare me for the wide variety of challenges and opportunities inherent in a district with almost 200 congregations and nearly 80 educational ministries.

My primary responsibility in the District has been to serve as a reconciler with churches and ministries where disagreement and conflict have damaged their mission. Conflict affects every aspect of our lives, and the church is no exception. In fact, churches are particularly vulnerable because Satan likes nothing better than to turn discussion into disagreement, disagreement into anger, and anger into distrust and division.

What might appear as Satan's triumph can also be God's opportunity. In John 17:23, Jesus prays that the disciples of every generation would be brought to complete unity so that the world would know that He, Jesus, was sent by the Father and that they, the world, were loved by the Father. In other words, the world is watching and when we resolve our church conflicts in a God-pleasing manner, then God himself is revealed and glorified.

The "tools" I use in reconciliation include some of societies "tools," but go far beyond those. Law and Gospel is integral and Confession and Absolution are foundational. Conflict resolution does not always result in everyone being happy or satisfied, but when the God-given blessings of confession and forgiveness are used, then hearts are healed, and God is honored.

Much of my work involves responding to a problem or conflict, but our congregations and schools can proactively prepare their ministries for potential disagreement and conflict by teaching about Christ-centered, biblical peacemaking and conflict resolution before conflict occurs. With that in mind, I was very pleased our recent General Pastoral Conference focused exclusively on that subject. Subsequently, I have observed several of our congregations studying conflict reconciliation in their Sunday morning studies, and I was heartened that at last August's Lay Leadership Summit, Pastor Matt Troester and I were able to team-teach two standing-room only sessions on the topic.

*May (they) be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*  
John 17:23 NIV

Thanks be to God that much goes on in our District's churches, schools, and ministries which does not involve conflict. President Buss has asked me to serve in a number of additional roles besides conflict resolution. Among them are:

- 1) Representing the District at anniversary celebrations, at church worker retirements, and at funerals.
- 2) Walking alongside some congregations during their vacancy/call process.
- 3) Working with congregations considering whether it is time to end their ministry, and consulting with congregations considering how they can best continue their ministries through partnership arrangements with neighboring churches and pastors.

In all of the above, my pastoral experience certainly helps, but it is God's daily grace and the strength of the Holy Spirit that equips me to serve. To Him be the glory.



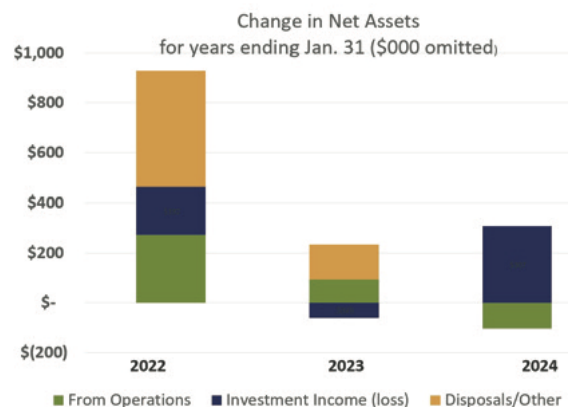
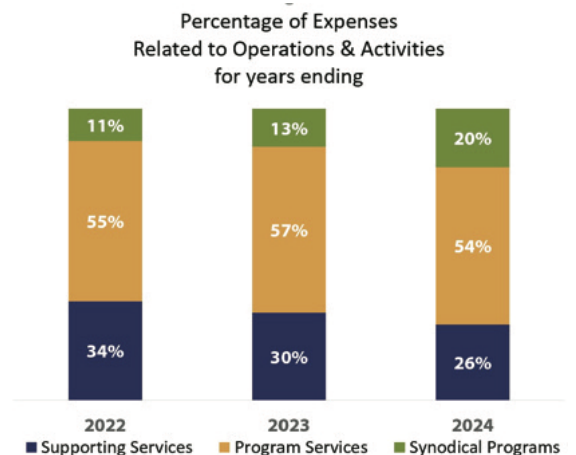
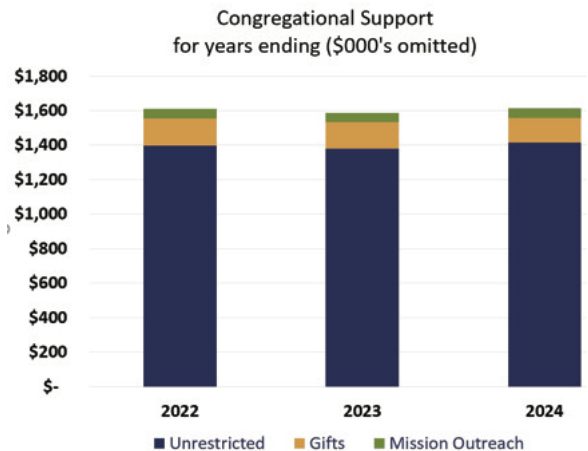
# Treasurer's Report

For the Years Ended January 31, 2022, 2023, and 2024

The LCMS Northern Illinois District congregations continue to support the work of the District, as well as the ministries of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through monetary support, volunteer contributions, and prayer. Support from congregations for the most recent fiscal year ending January 31, 2024 totaled \$1,611,628, and support from individuals, grants, and others contributed \$307,862. We continue to be grateful to those congregations, families, and individuals who have financially supported the District and our work together. We continually seek to be good and faithful stewards of these gifts and resources in order to be stronger together as we serve the congregations in the LCMS Northern Illinois District.

In each of the three prior fiscal years, the Northern Illinois District has received unqualified opinions from the independent audit firm, Cherry Bekaert (previously PKF Mueller) which, in part, stated, “the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of January 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022...” The full audited financial statements are available upon request.

In connection with the 2018 convention, a resolution was passed which established a task force to examine the best stewardship of District resources. In response to the committee’s report, the Northern Illinois District Board of Directors approved the sale of the District Office building in 2022. The office has been relocated to the campus of Concordia University Chicago. Our new location not only provides us with greater opportunities to connect with the university and students, but it better equips us to serve our congregations and schools.



# By God's Grace

**20%**

Unrestricted congregational support shared directly with Synod.

**Over \$162,000**

Scholarships granted for past three fiscal years to approximately 36 future church workers, Hispanic church workers, and for mentoring of new pastors through the PALS program

**Over \$516,000**

**43** Grants awarded during the past three fiscal years through Mission Target, Endowment, and Partnership grants to assist congregations, schools, and RSO's in connecting with their communities.

**5**

Wellness Care Team members available to serve the needs of over **500** called workers.

**\$25.46**

Average unrestricted congregational support per communicant member as of January 31, 2024

**\$ 71,500**

Support provided to various ministries serving Belize during the past three fiscal years\*

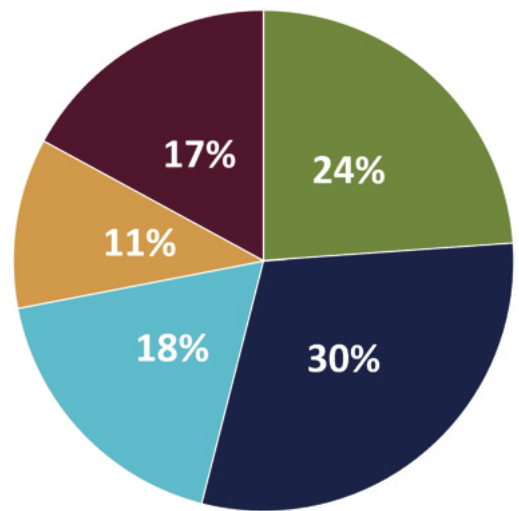
*Seek First the Kingdom of God - Matthew 6:33*

\*Fiscal years ending January 31, 2022 through January 31, 2024.

# Through God's Gifts

## Proposed Resource Usage For Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2025

- Congregational and Pastoral Guidance
- Outreach
- Mission & Ministry Support Team, General Office & Occupancy Expenses
- LCMS National Missions & Ministry
- Lutheran Education and Schools



# Summary of Financial Activities

For the Years Ended January 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022

<b>Support, Revenue, &amp; Other Additions</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Support from Congregations	\$ 1,611,528	\$ 1,585,991	\$1,610,703
Support from Individuals, Grants, and Other	307,862	442,316	390,471
Conventions, Conferences, & Workshops	277,411	174,777	6,708
Other Revenues & Additions	43,880	1,473	59,487
<b>Total Support, Revenues, &amp; Other Additions</b>	<b>2,240,681</b>	<b>2,204,557</b>	<b>2,067,369</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program Services	1,267,830	1,211,579	928,628
Synodical Programs	464,920	275,613	279,334
Supporting Services	612,270	624,709	587,055
<b>Expenses Related to Operations &amp; Activities</b>	<b>2,345,020</b>	<b>2,114,901</b>	<b>1,795,017</b>
Change in Net Assets Related to Operations & Activities	(104,339)	92,656	272,352
Closed congregation proceeds*			457,908
Investment Income (loss), Net	307,481	(60,463)	192,224
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Property & Equipment	0	140,257	8,283
<b>Net Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 203,142</b>	<b>\$ 172,440</b>	<b>\$ 930,767</b>

Derived from the audited financial statements of the LCMS Northern Illinois District. Copies of the audit report are available from the District's office upon request.

\*Proceeds from closed congregation received by LCMS Northern Illinois District as a donation. Amounts are being re-invested in grants and other initiatives.



LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

Other support consists of NSNB, District missions, gifts, & Synod

CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
1	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Antioch	121	\$9,212.00	\$0.00	\$9,212.00	\$76.13	121	\$10,444.00	\$0.00	\$10,444.00	\$86.31
1	Bethel Lutheran Church	Gurnee	300	\$12,999.96	\$0.00	\$12,999.96	\$43.33	341	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	\$38.12
1	Community of Faith Lutheran Church	Spring Grove	61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Lake Villa	33	\$400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$48.48	34	\$400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$47.06
1	Grace Lutheran Church	Northbrook	97	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$61.86	101	\$0.00	\$4,450.00	\$4,450.00	\$44.06
1	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Glenview	116	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$31.03	148	\$0.00	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00	\$89.19
1	Lord of Glory Lutheran Church	Grayslake	615	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$6,250.00	\$10.16	579	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$6,250.00	\$10.79
1	North Shore/Faith Lutheran Church	Lake Forest	380	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$31.58	357	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$33.61
1	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Waukegan	136	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1.47	136	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Waukegan	126	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$31.75	126	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$31.75
1	Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Hawthorn Woods	899	\$13,326.16	\$0.00	\$13,326.16	\$14.82	978	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10.22
<b>1 Total</b>			<b>2,884</b>	<b>\$57,138.12</b>	<b>\$12,050.00</b>	<b>\$69,188.12</b>	<b>\$23.99</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>\$54,844.00</b>	<b>\$20,100.00</b>	<b>\$74,944.00</b>	<b>\$25.13</b>
2	Calvary Lutheran Church	Wood Dale	48	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$41.67	57	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$35.09
2	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Des Plaines	155	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$64.52	175	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$51.43
2	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Palatine	1,294	\$2,375.00	\$0.00	\$2,375.00	\$1.84	1,282	\$4,100.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00	\$3.20
2	Living Christ Lutheran Church	Arlington Heights	106	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$47.17	114	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$52.63
2	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Prospect Heights	66	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$25.00	85	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$19.41
2	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Palatine	769	\$9,800.00	\$0.00	\$9,800.00	\$12.74	865	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	\$36,000.00	\$41.62
2	Saint Andrews Lutheran Church	Park Ridge	603	\$12,679.52	\$1,411.00	\$14,090.52	\$23.37	583	\$11,239.00	\$0.00	\$11,239.00	\$19.28
2	Saint John Lutheran Church	Mount Prospect	254	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	254	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$1.18
2	Saint Luke Lutheran Church	Itasca	367	\$6,875.00	\$0.00	\$6,875.00	\$18.73	367	\$5,625.00	\$0.00	\$5,625.00	\$15.33
2	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Mount Prospect	2,350	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$10.64	2,350	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00	\$13.62
<b>2 Total</b>			<b>6,012</b>	<b>\$73,379.52</b>	<b>\$3,411.00</b>	<b>\$76,790.52</b>	<b>\$12.77</b>	<b>6,132</b>	<b>\$107,914.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$107,914.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
3	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	West Dundee	205	\$4,553.29	\$0.00	\$4,553.29	\$22.21	238	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$33.61
3	Calvary Lutheran Church	Elgin	236	\$700.00	\$2,800.00	\$3,500.00	\$14.83	238	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$12.61
3	Faith Lutheran Church	Carpentersville	44	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$4.55	44	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$4.55
3	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Elgin	419	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$57.28	458	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$26.20
3	Immanuel Lutheran Church	East Dundee	1,721	\$77,343.48	\$0.00	\$77,343.48	\$44.94	1,717	\$62,119.74	\$0.00	\$62,119.74	\$36.18
3	King of Glory Lutheran Church	Elgin	228	\$16,348.18	\$0.00	\$16,348.18	\$71.70	155	\$14,041.72	\$0.00	\$14,041.72	\$90.59
3	Saint John's Lutheran Church	Elgin	432	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$11.11	457	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$10.50
3	Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Barrington	291	\$35,175.00	\$0.00	\$35,175.00	\$120.88	290	\$35,175.00	\$0.00	\$35,175.00	\$121.29
3	Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Dundee	471	\$7,613.32	\$0.00	\$7,613.32	\$16.16	462	\$6,212.50	\$0.00	\$6,212.50	\$13.45
3	Vida y Fe/Life & Faith Evangelical Luther: West Dundee	West Dundee	40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>3 Total</b>			<b>4,087</b>	<b>\$170,733.27</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>	<b>\$173,533.27</b>	<b>\$42.46</b>	<b>4,059</b>	<b>\$142,548.96</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$145,548.96</b>	<b>\$35.86</b>

LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

*Other support consists of NSNB, District missions, gifts, & Synod*

CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024					2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023				
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
	4 Crosspoint Lutheran Church	Village Of Lakewood	165	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	120	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	4 Fellowship of Faith Lutheran Church	McHenry	214	\$14,104.00	\$0.00	\$14,104.00	\$65.91	195	\$15,255.00	\$0.00	\$15,255.00	\$78.23
	4 Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Cary	326	\$100.00	\$415.00	\$515.00	\$1.58	367	\$265.00	\$365.00	\$630.00	\$1.72
	4 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Crystal Lake	1,245	\$22,547.74	\$0.00	\$22,547.74	\$18.11	1,246	\$21,350.25	\$0.00	\$21,350.25	\$17.14
	4 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Crystal Lake	244	\$500.04	\$0.00	\$500.04	\$2.05	257	\$458.37	\$0.00	\$458.37	\$1.78
	4 Saint John Lutheran Church	Island Lake	109	\$677.50	\$417.50	\$1,095.00	\$10.05	128	\$570.00	\$0.00	\$570.00	\$4.45
	4 Saint John's Lutheran Church	Algonquin	389	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$6.94	400	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$3,300.00	\$8.25
	4 Saint John's Lutheran Church	Woodstock	103	\$3,028.98	\$0.00	\$3,028.98	\$29.41	126	\$3,149.18	\$0.00	\$3,149.18	\$24.99
	4 Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Harvard	250	\$3,927.00	\$0.00	\$3,927.00	\$15.71	200	\$4,219.00	\$0.00	\$4,219.00	\$21.10
	4 Trinity Lutheran Church	Huntley	255	\$10,240.00	\$0.00	\$10,240.00	\$40.16	252	\$6,300.00	\$0.00	\$6,300.00	\$25.00
	4 Zion Lutheran Church	McHenry	314	\$6,933.67	\$0.00	\$6,933.67	\$22.08	299	\$5,769.03	\$0.00	\$5,769.03	\$19.29
<b>4 Total</b>			<b>3,614</b>	<b>\$64,758.93</b>	<b>\$832.50</b>	<b>\$65,591.43</b>	<b>\$18.15</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>\$60,635.83</b>	<b>\$365.00</b>	<b>\$61,000.83</b>	<b>\$16.99</b>
	5 Family in Faith Lutheran Church	Glendale Heights	116	\$3,360.00	\$0.00	\$3,360.00	\$28.97	100	\$2,576.00	\$0.00	\$2,576.00	\$25.76
	5 Grace Lutheran Church	Streamwood	237	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$2.32	237	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$12.66
	5 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Bartlett	57	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$35.09	55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	5 Our Savior Lutheran Church	Carol Stream	288	\$33,201.59	\$0.00	\$33,201.59	\$115.28	303	\$24,434.71	\$0.00	\$24,434.71	\$80.64
	5 Saint John Lutheran Church	Schaumburg	110	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	110	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	5 Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Addison	223	\$7,682.92	\$0.00	\$7,682.92	\$34.45	252	\$4,265.22	\$0.00	\$4,265.22	\$16.93
	5 Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Arlington Heights	1,929	\$58,908.00	\$0.00	\$58,908.00	\$30.54	1,915	\$53,999.00	\$0.00	\$53,999.00	\$28.20
	5 Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Schaumburg	1,204	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$19.93	1,208	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	\$18.21
	5 Trinity Lutheran Church	Roselle	2,173	\$0.00	\$36,431.06	\$36,431.06	\$16.77	2,286	\$0.00	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$17.06
<b>5 Total</b>			<b>6,337</b>	<b>\$129,702.51</b>	<b>\$36,431.06</b>	<b>\$166,133.57</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>\$110,274.93</b>	<b>\$39,000.00</b>	<b>\$149,274.93</b>	<b>\$23.09</b>
	6 Bethel Lutheran Church	Westmont	232	\$28,476.91	\$0.00	\$28,476.91	\$122.75	236	\$26,815.55	\$0.00	\$26,815.55	\$113.63
	6 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Winfield	70	\$0.00	\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00	\$15.64	70	\$218.32	\$260.00	\$478.32	\$6.83
	6 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Downers Grove	600	\$48,610.28	\$0.00	\$48,610.28	\$81.02	850	\$44,092.60	\$0.00	\$44,092.60	\$51.87
	6 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Elmhurst	778	\$22,908.42	\$0.00	\$22,908.42	\$29.45	698	\$24,064.59	\$0.00	\$24,064.59	\$34.48
	6 Peace Lutheran Church	Lombard	461	\$15,680.00	\$0.00	\$15,680.00	\$34.01	461	\$19,842.00	\$0.00	\$19,842.00	\$43.04
	6 Saint John Lutheran Church	Wheaton	651	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$7.68	788	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12.69
	6 Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lombard	902	\$19,999.92	\$0.00	\$19,999.92	\$22.17	1,133	\$19,999.66	\$0.00	\$19,999.66	\$17.65
	6 Trinity Lutheran Church	Lombard	258	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	258	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	6 Trinity Lutheran Church	West Chicago	118	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$25.42	118	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$25.42
	6 Zion Lutheran Church	Hinsdale	253	\$16,695.53	\$0.00	\$16,695.53	\$65.99	251	\$17,183.97	\$0.00	\$17,183.97	\$68.46
<b>6 Total</b>			<b>4,323</b>	<b>\$157,871.06</b>	<b>\$3,595.00</b>	<b>\$161,466.06</b>	<b>\$37.35</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>\$155,216.69</b>	<b>\$10,260.00</b>	<b>\$165,476.69</b>	<b>\$34.03</b>

LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

Other support consists of NSNB, District missions, gifts, & Synod

CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
	7 Cross Lutheran Church	Yorkville	781	\$0.00	\$101,761.78	\$101,761.78	\$130.30	781	\$0.00	\$102,615.56	\$102,615.56	\$131.39
	7 Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Aurora	106	\$5,765.91	\$0.00	\$5,765.91	\$54.40	108	\$9,930.80	\$0.00	\$9,930.80	\$91.95
	7 Faith Lutheran Church	Geneva	41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7 Friends in Christ Lutheran Church	Morris	80	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$50.00	129	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$31.01
	7 Hope Lutheran Church	Aurora	37	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$27.03	37	\$0.00	\$1,109.00	\$1,109.00	\$29.97
	7 Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo	Aurora	169	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	169	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Batavia	1,858	\$66,504.79	\$0.00	\$66,504.79	\$35.79	1,858	\$68,974.08	\$0.00	\$68,974.08	\$37.12
	7 Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Elburn	221	\$2,700.00	\$3,900.00	\$6,600.00	\$29.86	221	\$4,400.00	\$2,600.00	\$7,000.00	\$31.67
	7 New Song Lutheran Church	Aurora	90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7 Saint Luke's Lutheran Church	Montgomery	354	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$5.65	354	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7 Saint Mark's Lutheran Church	Saint Charles	715	\$19,066.67	\$0.00	\$19,066.67	\$26.67	715	\$22,533.33	\$0.00	\$22,533.33	\$31.52
	7 Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Aurora	750	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$6.67	750	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$13.33
	7 Zion Lutheran Church	Naperville	216	\$17,903.74	\$0.00	\$17,903.74	\$82.89	216	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$46.30
<b>7 Total</b>			<b>5,418</b>	<b>\$122,941.11</b>	<b>\$106,661.78</b>	<b>\$229,602.89</b>	<b>\$42.38</b>	<b>5,469</b>	<b>\$129,838.21</b>	<b>\$106,324.56</b>	<b>\$236,162.77</b>	<b>\$43.18</b>
	8 Immanuel Lutheran Church	DeKalb	349	\$3,078.76	\$0.00	\$3,078.76	\$8.82	369	\$3,146.62	\$0.00	\$3,146.62	\$8.53
	8 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hinckley	234	\$11,700.00	\$0.00	\$11,700.00	\$50.00	234	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$32.05
	8 Saint John Lutheran Church	Burlington	300	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	300	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	8 Saint John Lutheran Church	Sycamore	434	\$17,106.17	\$0.00	\$17,106.17	\$39.42	452	\$11,598.75	\$0.00	\$11,598.75	\$25.66
	8 Saint John's Lutheran Church	Union	594	\$32,235.00	\$0.00	\$32,235.00	\$54.27	527	\$31,010.00	\$0.00	\$31,010.00	\$58.84
	8 Saint Peter's Lutheran Church (North Pla	Hampshire	118	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$50.85	118	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$50.85
	8 Trinity Lutheran Church	Genoa	163	\$11,250.00	\$0.00	\$11,250.00	\$69.02	191	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$10,500.00	\$54.97
	8 Trinity Lutheran Church	Hampshire	48	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$10.42	49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	8 Zion Lutheran Church	Marengo	1,465	\$1,516.75	\$0.00	\$1,516.75	\$1.04	1,433	\$779.70	\$0.00	\$779.70	\$0.54
<b>8 Total</b>			<b>3,705</b>	<b>\$83,386.68</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$83,386.68</b>	<b>\$22.51</b>	<b>3,673</b>	<b>\$70,535.07</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$70,535.07</b>	<b>\$19.20</b>
	9 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Roscoe	65	\$13.22	\$0.00	\$13.22	\$0.20	65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	9 Christ the Rock Lutheran Church	Rockford	244	\$24,108.30	\$0.00	\$24,108.30	\$98.80	267	\$36,358.27	\$0.00	\$36,358.27	\$136.17
	9 Concordia Lutheran Church	Machesney Park	168	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$4.17	189	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$5.82
	9 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Belvidere	1,548	\$18,083.31	\$5,000.00	\$23,083.31	\$14.91	1,561	\$5,333.32	\$0.00	\$5,333.32	\$3.42
	9 Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lindenwood	48	\$7,400.00	\$0.00	\$7,400.00	\$154.17	55	\$7,400.00	\$0.00	\$7,400.00	\$134.55
	9 Mount Olive Lutheran Church	Rockford	308	\$27,083.32	\$0.00	\$27,083.32	\$87.93	283	\$22,916.67	\$0.00	\$22,916.67	\$80.98
	9 Redeemer Lutheran Church	Rockford	173	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	336	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$20.83
	9 Resurrection Lutheran Church	Rockford	32	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$46.88	32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	9 Rockford Lutheran Church for the Deaf	Rockford	12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	9 Saint Andrew Lutheran Church	Rockton	278	\$11,330.07	\$237.40	\$11,567.47	\$41.61	377	\$12,329.41	\$0.00	\$12,329.41	\$32.70
	9 Saint John Lutheran Church	Pecatonica	195	\$5,607.60	\$0.00	\$5,607.60	\$28.76	203	\$10,653.00	\$0.00	\$10,653.00	\$52.48
	9 Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Rockford	204	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	217	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>9 Total</b>			<b>3,275</b>	<b>\$94,325.82</b>	<b>\$6,737.40</b>	<b>\$101,063.22</b>	<b>\$30.86</b>	<b>3,597</b>	<b>\$103,090.67</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$103,090.67</b>	<b>\$28.66</b>

LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

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CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
10	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Dixon	85	\$9,115.36	\$0.00	\$9,115.36	\$107.24	85	\$8,361.62	\$0.00	\$8,361.62	\$98.37
10	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Rock Falls	188	\$3,600.00	\$3,899.12	\$7,499.12	\$39.89	304	\$3,325.00	\$3,774.09	\$7,099.09	\$23.35
10	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Walnut	44	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$27.27	46	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$26.09
10	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Freeport	332	\$1,534.40	\$0.00	\$1,534.40	\$4.62	561	\$2,090.40	\$0.00	\$2,090.40	\$3.73
10	Messiah Lutheran Church	Sterling	205	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$12.20	221	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$11.31
10	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Freeport	104	\$5,200.08	\$0.00	\$5,200.08	\$50.00	104	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$5,200.00	\$50.00
10	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Sterling	56	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$44.64	47	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$53.19
10	Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lena	534	\$24,600.00	\$0.00	\$24,600.00	\$46.07	540	\$24,600.00	\$0.00	\$24,600.00	\$45.56
10	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Elizabeth	149	\$6,000.00	\$50.00	\$6,050.00	\$40.60	148	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$40.54
10	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Rochelle	491	\$7,318.76	\$0.00	\$7,318.76	\$14.91	497	\$6,933.62	\$0.00	\$6,933.62	\$13.95
10	Saint Peters Lutheran Church	Morrison	291	\$1,833.26	\$0.00	\$1,833.26	\$6.30	318	\$3,595.81	\$0.00	\$3,595.81	\$11.31
<b>10 Total</b>			<b>2,479</b>	<b>\$64,201.86</b>	<b>\$5,149.12</b>	<b>\$69,350.98</b>	<b>\$27.98</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>\$65,106.45</b>	<b>\$4,974.09</b>	<b>\$70,080.54</b>	<b>\$24.41</b>
11	Ascension Lutheran Church	Niles	83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Evanston	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Concordia Lutheran Church	Chicago	20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Jehovah El Buen Pastor	Chicago	38	\$803.00	\$0.00	\$803.00	\$21.13	35	\$635.00	\$0.00	\$635.00	\$18.14
11	Messiah Lutheran Church	Chicago	87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	94	\$19,722.00	\$0.00	\$19,722.00	\$209.81
11	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Chicago	81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Saint John's Lutheran Church	Chicago	525	\$2,267.05	\$0.00	\$2,267.05	\$4.32	407	\$2,815.50	\$0.00	\$2,815.50	\$6.92
11	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Skokie	219	\$16,148.26	\$0.00	\$16,148.26	\$73.74	215	\$16,312.18	\$0.00	\$16,312.18	\$75.87
11	Saint Paul Lutheran Church (Norwood Pa	Chicago	203	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	199	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Saint Philip Lutheran Church (N)	Chicago	200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Tabor Lutheran Church	Chicago	60	\$2,047.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,047.00	\$67.45	27	\$0.00	\$4,562.00	\$4,562.00	\$168.96
<b>11 Total</b>			<b>1,616</b>	<b>\$21,265.31</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$23,265.31</b>	<b>\$14.40</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>\$39,484.68</b>	<b>\$4,562.00</b>	<b>\$44,046.68</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
12	Apostles Lutheran Church	Melrose Park	98	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$15.31	105	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$11.43
12	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	River Grove	171	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$1.46	171	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$1.32
12	Faith Lutheran Church	Riverside	46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Faith Lutheran Church	Westchester	37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Good Shepherd Our Redeemer Lutheran	Berwyn	69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	69	\$1,250.00	\$370.00	\$1,620.00	\$23.48
12	Hope Lutheran Church	Hillside	108	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$22.22	108	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.00	\$29.63
12	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hillside	190	\$1,550.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	\$8.16	200	\$1,860.00	\$0.00	\$1,860.00	\$9.30
12	Mount Calvary Lutheran Church	Franklin Park	28	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$14.29	28	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$14.29
12	Saint John Lutheran Church	Forest Park	234	\$19,227.79	\$0.00	\$19,227.79	\$82.17	269	\$19,866.42	\$0.00	\$19,866.42	\$73.85
12	Saint John's Lutheran Church	La Grange	636	\$16,246.50	\$0.00	\$16,246.50	\$25.54	731	\$15,770.00	\$0.00	\$15,770.00	\$21.57
12	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Brookfield	218	\$1,000.00	\$289.08	\$1,289.08	\$5.91	228	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Melrose Park	217	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$23.04	217	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$27.65
12	Saint Paul Lutheran Church (Austin)	Chicago	151	\$0.00	\$145.62	\$145.62	\$0.96	151	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Zion Lutheran Church	Bensenville	322	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	322	\$294.00	\$0.00	\$294.00	\$0.91
<b>12 Total</b>			<b>2,525</b>	<b>\$47,574.29</b>	<b>\$434.70</b>	<b>\$48,008.99</b>	<b>\$19.01</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>\$50,065.42</b>	<b>\$370.00</b>	<b>\$50,435.42</b>	<b>\$19.07</b>



LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

Other support consists of NSNB, District missions, gifts, & Synod

CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
13	Faith Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	125	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,250.00	\$18.00	125	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,250.00	\$18.00
13	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Chicago	166	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	166	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Grace Lutheran Church	Western Springs	152	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$26.32	152	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$26.32
13	Grace Lutheran Church	Willow Springs	95	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$15.79	96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Chicago	86	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$2.62	84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Burbank	69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Hope Lutheran Church	Countryside	31	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$16.13	36	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$13.89
13	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hodgkins	82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Mount Greenwood Lutheran Church	Chicago	45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	44	\$85.42	\$0.00	\$85.42	\$1.94
13	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	316	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$39.56	311	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$32.15
13	Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Chicago	29	\$491.00	\$399.00	\$890.00	\$30.69	36	\$403.00	\$0.00	\$403.00	\$11.19
13	Zion Lutheran Church	Lyons	46	\$0.00	\$405.00	\$405.00	\$8.80	49	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$7.35
13	Zion Lutheran Church	Oak Lawn	104	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	104	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Zion Lutheran Church	Summit	115	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	115	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>13 Total</b>			<b>1,461</b>	<b>\$21,466.00</b>	<b>\$804.00</b>	<b>\$22,270.00</b>	<b>\$15.24</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>\$17,238.42</b>	<b>\$360.00</b>	<b>\$17,598.42</b>	<b>\$11.98</b>
14	Christ the King Lutheran Church	Chicago	58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	65	\$263.36	\$0.00	\$263.36	\$4.05
14	First Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Chicago	52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Chicago	181	\$7,250.00	\$0.00	\$7,250.00	\$40.06	198	\$7,030.00	\$0.00	\$7,030.00	\$35.51
14	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	South Holland	184	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$13.59	231	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$10.82
14	Mount Calvary Lutheran Church	Calumet Park	47	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$85.11	47	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$42.55
14	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Chicago	170	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$1.76	170	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$7.06
14	Saint James Lutheran Church	Chicago	702	\$14,125.00	\$0.00	\$14,125.00	\$20.12	677	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$11.08
14	Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Chicago	59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Saint Paul Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Saint Philip Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Saint Stephen Lutheran Church	Chicago	30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Salem Lutheran Church	Blue Island	38	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$26.32	45	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$17.78
14	Trinity Lutheran Church (S)	Chicago	33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Zion Lutheran Church	Chicago	91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>14 Total</b>			<b>1,813</b>	<b>\$29,175.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$29,175.00</b>	<b>\$16.09</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>\$21,293.36</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$21,293.36</b>	<b>\$11.41</b>
15	Bethany Lutheran Church	Naperville	766	\$17,500.00	\$0.00	\$17,500.00	\$22.85	806	\$18,500.00	\$0.00	\$18,500.00	\$22.95
15	Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church	Bolingbrook	88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	88	\$52.06	\$0.00	\$52.06	\$0.59
15	Peace Lutheran Church	Plainfield	169	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$29.59	163	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$39.88
15	Saint John Lutheran Church	Darien	165	\$23,200.00	\$0.00	\$23,200.00	\$140.61	212	\$9,600.00	\$0.00	\$9,600.00	\$45.28
15	Saint Matthew Lutheran Church	Lemont	343	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$46.65	343	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	\$46.65
15	Trinity Lutheran Church	Burr Ridge	618	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$64.72	645	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$38.76
15	Trinity Lutheran Church	Lisle	896	\$0.00	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$25.11	933	\$0.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$28.94
15	Word of Life Lutheran Church	Naperville	85	\$476.54	\$0.00	\$476.54	\$5.61	85	\$1,352.64	\$0.00	\$1,352.64	\$15.91
<b>15 Total</b>			<b>3,130</b>	<b>\$102,176.54</b>	<b>\$22,500.00</b>	<b>\$124,676.54</b>	<b>\$39.83</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>\$77,004.70</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	<b>\$104,004.70</b>	<b>\$31.76</b>

LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

*Other support consists of NSNB, District missions, gifts, & Synod*

CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
16	Christ Lutheran Church	Orland Park	1,616	\$18,620.00	\$0.00	\$18,620.00	\$11.52	1,628	\$23,040.00	\$257.50	\$23,297.50	\$14.31
16	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Frankfort	340	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$14.71	340	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$14.71
16	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Mokena	426	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$28.17	427	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$28.10
16	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Richton Park	73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Living Word Lutheran Church	Orland Park	116	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	116	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Saint John's Lutheran Church	Country Club Hills	154	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	182	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$5.49
16	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Matteson	529	\$16,446.50	\$0.00	\$16,446.50	\$31.09	535	\$12,085.50	\$0.00	\$12,085.50	\$22.59
16	Salem Lutheran Church	Homewood	184	\$6,825.00	\$1,450.00	\$8,275.00	\$44.97	230	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$23.91
16	Trinity Lutheran Church	Tinley Park	1,031	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$16.49	1,115	\$16,250.00	\$0.00	\$16,250.00	\$14.57
<b>16 Total</b>			<b>4,469</b>	<b>\$75,891.50</b>	<b>\$1,450.00</b>	<b>\$77,341.50</b>	<b>\$17.31</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>\$74,875.50</b>	<b>\$257.50</b>	<b>\$75,133.00</b>	<b>\$16.16</b>
17	Hope Lutheran Church	Shorewood	391	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	390	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Millbrook)	Serena	30	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$46.67	41	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$34.15
17	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Joliet	458	\$0.00	\$8,461.74	\$8,461.74	\$18.48	773	\$6,693.36	\$0.00	\$6,693.36	\$8.66
17	River of Life Lutheran Church	Channahon	93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Lockport	156	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$6.41	156	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Saint Peter Lutheran Church	Joliet	324	\$8,368.01	\$0.00	\$8,368.01	\$25.83	318	\$5,081.91	\$0.00	\$5,081.91	\$15.98
17	Trinity Lutheran Church	Marseilles	61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Zion Lutheran Church	Ottawa	176	\$5,211.33	\$0.00	\$5,211.33	\$29.61	173	\$2,499.96	\$2,043.37	\$4,543.33	\$26.26
<b>17 Total</b>			<b>1,689</b>	<b>\$15,979.34</b>	<b>\$8,461.74</b>	<b>\$24,441.08</b>	<b>\$14.47</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>\$15,675.23</b>	<b>\$2,043.37</b>	<b>\$17,718.60</b>	<b>\$8.84</b>
18	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Dwight	178	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	182	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$8.24
18	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Momence	57	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$21.05	103	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$11.65
18	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Manteno	130	\$8,389.14	\$0.00	\$8,389.14	\$64.53	140	\$7,876.08	\$0.00	\$7,876.08	\$56.26
18	Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Bourbonnais	1,334	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$9.37	1,330	\$12,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$9.40
18	Trinity Lutheran Church	Dwight	55	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.09	74	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$6.76
18	Trinity Lutheran Church	Herscher	398	\$16,143.61	\$0.00	\$16,143.61	\$40.56	396	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$37.88
18	Zion Lutheran Church	Bonfield	98	\$12,850.00	\$0.00	\$12,850.00	\$131.12	98	\$9,840.00	\$0.00	\$9,840.00	\$100.41
18	Zion Lutheran Church	Chebanse	450	\$7,645.50	\$0.00	\$7,645.50	\$16.99	455	\$7,341.00	\$0.00	\$7,341.00	\$16.13
18	Zion Lutheran Church	Grant Park	337	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$35.61	339	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$35.40
<b>18 Total</b>			<b>3,037</b>	<b>\$71,228.25</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$71,228.25</b>	<b>\$23.45</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>\$66,257.08</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$67,757.08</b>	<b>\$21.74</b>

LCMS Northern Illinois District  
 Congregational Support  
 YTD January 31, 2024 & 2023

REVISED CIRCUIT GROUPINGS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2018

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CIRCUIT	Congregation Name	City	2024 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2024				2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date Through January 31, 2023					
			# Comm Members *	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member	# Comm Members	Unrestricted	Other	Total Support	Per Comm Member
19	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Steger	113	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$13.27	113	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$8.85
19	Peace Lutheran Church Beecher Campus	Beecher	1,018	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$2,625.00	\$2.58	1,018	\$6,657.00	\$2,400.00	\$9,057.00	\$8.90
19	Saint John's Lutheran Church	Lansing	210	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$340.00	\$1.62	209	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.96
19	Saint Paul Lutheran Church	Thornton	204	\$1,971.00	\$0.00	\$1,971.00	\$9.66	225	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$8.89
19	Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	Chicago Heights	300	\$472.05	\$0.00	\$472.05	\$1.57	336	\$554.15	\$0.00	\$554.15	\$1.65
19	Trinity Lutheran Church	Lansing	227	\$3,795.00	\$0.00	\$3,795.00	\$16.72	241	\$5,607.12	\$0.00	\$5,607.12	\$23.27
<b>19 Total</b>			<b>2,072</b>	<b>\$10,703.05</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,703.05</b>	<b>\$5.17</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>\$16,018.27</b>	<b>\$2,400.00</b>	<b>\$18,418.27</b>	<b>\$8.60</b>
<b>Total 199 Active Congregations</b>			<b>63,946</b>	<b>\$1,413,898.16</b>	<b>\$213,318.30</b>	<b>\$1,627,216.46</b>	<b>\$25.45</b>	<b>66,338</b>	<b>\$1,377,917.47</b>	<b>\$222,516.52</b>	<b>\$1,600,433.99</b>	<b>\$24.13</b>
<i>Closed congregations, inactives, and other adjustments</i>									\$150.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>63,946</b>	<b>\$1,413,898.16</b>	<b>\$213,318.30</b>	<b>\$1,627,216.46</b>	<b>\$25.46</b>	<b>66,338</b>	<b>\$1,378,067.47</b>	<b>\$222,716.52</b>	<b>\$1,600,783.99</b>	<b>\$24.13</b>

\*Last reported for Synod is for calendar year 2022



# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

**Joe Willmann, District Vice President  
Northern Illinois District**

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

## By the Numbers

**1978**

*The year LCEF  
was incorporated.*

**31**

*The number of  
districts where  
LCEF operates.*

**\$2.1**

*Billion in total  
assets.*

**60,000**

*Number of faithful  
investors.*

## District Lending

**\$57.6m**

*Total NID lending  
portfolio as of  
November 2024.*

**\$24.6m**

*Total amount of  
lending since last  
NID District  
Convention.*

**\$18.7m**

*New money  
borrowed since  
last NID District  
Convention.*

**34**

*Number of  
borrowers since  
last NID District  
Convention.*

## District Investments

**\$63m**

*Total dollars on  
deposit in the  
Northern Illinois  
District.*

**\$63.6m**

*Total dollars on  
deposit in March  
2022.*

**1952**

*Investors in the  
NID. Scan the  
code to join them.*



## Our Leadership

As the needs of our congregations and schools continues to evolve, so has the structure of our team at LCEF. We are fortunate to be led by faithful followers of Christ with servant hearts, leading out of deep care and compassion for Christ and His Church.



Rev. Bart Day  
 President and CEO



Jim O'Brien  
 Chief Operating Officer



Gerald Kirk  
 Chief Credit & Administration  
 Officer



Timothy Ramberger  
 Chief Legal Officer



Joe Russo  
 Chief Growth Officer



Kevin Bremer  
 Chief Financial Officer



Yvonne Schone  
 SVP, Human Capital &  
 Organizational Effectiveness



Vanda Toner  
 SVP Field Solutions



Rev. Tom Eggebrecht  
 SVP, Ministry Solutions



Tom Campbell  
 SVP, Real Estate Solutions



Joe Willmann  
 District Vice President and Team Lead  
 Northern Illinois District



Rev. Dr. Eric Kennaugh  
 VP, Ministry Solutions



Jonathan Ward  
 Senior Director - Real Estate