

# Today's Business

## January 18, 2025

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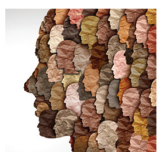
Additions or corrections for Workbook Sections V and VII (Please replace/add the pages enclosed.)

**Workbook Section V** – Overtures (Add)

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# Resolutions





## LCMS Northern Illinois District 2025 Convention Resolutions

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1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
4 March 7-8, 2025  
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-01** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR FRANZ PIEPER AND F.C.D.  
7 WYNEKEN

8 Referencing Overture 1-21  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, June 27, 2027 is the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of Franz Pieper; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, May 4, 2026 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Friedrich Conrad  
13 Dietrich Wyneken; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, both these men made a tremendous impact as pastors, theologians, and  
16 presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Wyneken in particular helped to organize the confessional Lutherans in  
19 the United States, aroused tremendous support for Lutheran mission work in America  
20 through his *The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America*, did tremendous  
21 mission work in all of the congregations he served, and did much to enshrine a  
22 commitment to missions in the LCMS; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Pieper in particular served on the Synodical Conference’s Board of Colored  
25 Missions from 1882 until 1899 when he became LCMS president, wrote *Christian*  
26 *Dogmatics*, served as the primary author of *A Brief Statement*, and wrote numerous  
27 other important theological works; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the author of Hebrews instructs us, “Remember your leaders, those who  
30 spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate  
31 their faith.” (13:7);  
32

33 Therefore be it  
34

35 **RESOLVED**, that the convention give thanks to God for the life and work of Franz  
36 Pieper and F.C.D. Wyneken; and be it finally  
37

38 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations and pastors of the Northern Illinois District of the  
39 LCMS be encouraged to study the life and work of these men in circuit meetings,  
40 pastoral conferences, lay gatherings, and their own private study.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 1-02 TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT**  
 7 **INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS’ DUTY**  
 8 Referencing Overtures 1-01, 1-02, 1-03, 1-04

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and gives to each  
 11 person “my body”; and

12  
 13 **WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to  
 14 government or its institutions (such as schools), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

15  
 16 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places  
 17 all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority  
 18 flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to  
 19 educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call  
 20 ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern  
 21 from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

22  
 23 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a  
 24 particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who  
 25 live under their roof; and

26  
 27 **WHEREAS**, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has  
 28 attempted or may attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the  
 29 parents’ duty to raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession) in  
 30 various ways, including but not limited to

- 31
- 32 • Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
  - 33 • Laws that give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for
  - 34 “transitioning” minors without parents’ approval
  - 35 • Laws that permit minors to get abortions without parents’ approval
  - 36 • Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children's vaccines, sex-change
  - 37 operations and procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
  - 38 • Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor
  - 39 children's vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions
  - 40 • School policies that teach children various godless social agendas without
  - 41 parents’ approval
  - 42 • School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’
  - 43 approval
  - 44 • School policies that encourage children to “transition” or use gender-confusing
  - 45 language without parents’ approval;
- 46



47 Therefore be it

48

49 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state  
50 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, local law, mandate,  
51 and any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents' duty to  
52 raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the  
53 parents; and be it further

54

55 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness to  
56 recommend resources for any parents within sister congregations of the Northern  
57 Illinois District who face the challenge of government laws or school policies interfering  
58 with parents' duties to raise their children in the fear of the Lord; and be it further

59

60 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
61 Synod in convention and each of her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly  
62 state their unconditional agreement with this religious objection to government  
63 interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the faith and life of  
64 the Christian confession; and be it further

65

66 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
67 Synod and each of her districts to boldly, unequivocally, and plainly denounce any  
68 teachings of any church bodies which seek to advocate for or tolerate the government  
69 interfering with parents' duties in raising their children in the Christian faith and life  
70 as unbiblical; and be it finally

71

72 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their  
73 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran  
74 homeschools, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
75 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas  
76 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
6 **RESOLUTION:1-03** ADDRESSING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM IN THE AMERICAN  
7 CONTEXT

8 Referencing Overtures 1-24, 1-26

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, Scripture does not endorse or prescribe one form of government over  
11 another since the fall of ancient Israel; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, there is much fear and misunderstanding of what is and is not Christian  
14 Nationalism due to public discourse and this causes much confusion within our  
15 synod; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, pastors, other church workers, and laity have many questions on this  
18 topic and seek to live out their faith in God pleasing ways especially in their vocations  
19 as citizens;

20  
21 Therefore be it

22  
23 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District requests that The Lutheran Church  
24 Missouri Synod in the 2026 national convention to instruct the Commission on  
25 Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) thoroughly study and publish a report on  
26 Christian Nationalism detailing various forms, working definitions, and its relation to  
27 our Lutheran understanding of the two kingdoms.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 1-04 TO CHAMPION GOD’S GOOD GIFTS OF SEXUALITY AND**  
 7 **MARRIAGE**

8 Referencing Overtures 1-05, 1-06

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, God created us “male and female” (Gen 1:27), and Jesus Himself extols  
 11 the Father’s creation of these two distinct and complementary sexes “from the  
 12 beginning of creation” (Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6), and

13  
 14 **WHEREAS**, marriage – the union of one biological man and one biological woman – is  
 15 an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise before humanity’s fall  
 16 into sin (Gen 2:18-24), and sexual intimacy is intended by God solely within the union  
 17 of husband and wife in marriage (1 Cor 7:2; Heb 13:4), and

18  
 19 **WHEREAS**, marriage is a reflection of the union between Jesus Christ and His bride,  
 20 the Church (Eph 5:22-33), and a husband is called daily to sacrifice himself for the  
 21 sake of his wife and family rather than domineering over them, and a wife is called to  
 22 support and respect her husband rather than undermining him, and

23  
 24 **WHEREAS**, sexual immorality is listed first among “the works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19),  
 25 something that “must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints” (Eph  
 26 5:3) and therefore is to be “put to death” (Col 3:5), and every type of sexual immorality  
 27 – including (but not limited to) premarital sex, cohabitation, adultery, marital strife,  
 28 unbiblical divorce, sexual abuse, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest,  
 29 pornography, prostitution, changing one’s biological sex, and the redefinition of  
 30 marriage – is sinful and offensive to God (Ex 20:14; Rom 1:26-28; 1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-10;  
 31 6:18; cf. Sixth Commandment) and “those who do such things will not inherit the  
 32 kingdom of God” (Gal 5:21), and

33  
 34 **WHEREAS**, with the Spirit’s help we “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor 6:18; cf. 1  
 35 Thess 4:3), confess our sins, and believe Christ’s all-atoning sacrifice for sinners on  
 36 the cross, and our gracious God “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to  
 37 cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn 1:9) for Christ’s sake; and

38  
 39 **WHEREAS**, with the purpose of encouraging such holy living, confessional resources  
 40 are available from ministries including but not limited to DOXOLOGY (*In HIS Image*  
 41 conferences), Lutherans for Life (*Friends for Life* podcast), and Concordia Publishing  
 42 House (*Male & Female: Embracing Your Role in God’s Design*);

43  
 44 Therefore be it

45  
 46 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District confess clearly and  
 47 boldly in convention and in congregational life that all sins against God’s good gifts of



48 sexuality and marriage are destructive to faith and deserving of God's wrath and  
49 eternal punishment; and be it further

50

51 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of Northern Illinois District in convention  
52 commend The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its Districts for providing  
53 resources and educational opportunities to aid the church in best stewarding God's  
54 gifts of sexuality and marriage and urge this to continue; and be it further

55

56 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District, their pastors, and  
57 other called workers who support the pastoral office clearly and boldly call all who are  
58 guilty of sexual immorality to repent of such sins, to desire amendment of life, and to  
59 look in faith to Jesus Christ as the One who died on the cross to save sinners; and be  
60 it further

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors  
63 clearly and boldly proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ forgives the penitent in  
64 their preaching, teaching, and regularly offering private confession and absolution, to  
65 fill their ears with consolation and comfort from God's holy Word, and be it finally

66

67 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District collaborate in  
68 ministries (such as marriage retreats, youth gatherings, counseling networks,  
69 conferences, sharing of resources, church worker training, etc.) intended for those who  
70 commit sexual sins and those hurt by sexual sin that all might live in conformity to  
71 God's will, find comfort in His healing Gospel promises, and that all of us live in our  
72 holy calling as His children.





1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025  
 5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-05** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES  
 7 OF PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC  
 8 Referencing Overtures 1-07, 1-08, 1-09, 1-10  
 9

10 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins,  
 11 refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15  
 12 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and  
 13

14 **WHEREAS**, our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His  
 15 Supper and personally administered the elements to them, and likewise He calls His  
 16 undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Public Ministry,  
 17 to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC  
 18 XXIV 30); and  
 19

20 **WHEREAS**, we must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful  
 21 from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that  
 22 grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and  
 23

24 **WHEREAS**, we are commanded by God to gather to receive God’s Word and  
 25 Sacrament (SC Third Commandment) and “not neglect meeting together” (Hebrews  
 26 10:25), and  
 27

28 **WHEREAS**, historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during  
 29 times of plague (notable examples including the plague of Alexandria in 250 AD, where  
 30 the Christians who remained to tend for the sick were considered martyrs, and the  
 31 1527 plague at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther recommends in his letter that some  
 32 in the pastoral office must remain to serve the sick and dying); and  
 33

34 **WHEREAS**, historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,  
 35 God’s Word, and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be  
 36 present at church and were near death; and  
 37

38 **WHEREAS**, during the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread  
 39 and lack of personal protection equipment, pastors and churches were forbidden to  
 40 visit those who were hospitalized and in long-term residential care facilities; and  
 41

42 **WHEREAS**, we are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where  
 43 the authorities contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts  
 44 5:29); and  
 45

46 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)  
 47 affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A) and encouraged in-person worship



48 (Resolution 4-06) and directed the Commission on Theology and Church Relations  
49 (CTCR) to “produce a study of the Third Commandment that addresses...its  
50 application to Christian worship today”;

51  
52 Therefore be it

53  
54 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge that where a man ordained to the  
55 Office of the Public Ministry is present and available, congregations should continue  
56 the in-person administration of the Lord’s Supper, even during times of plague; and be  
57 it further

58  
59 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge congregations, using God’s gifts of  
60 science and reason, to take steps to lessen fear and risk, while not interfering with the  
61 administration of the Lord’s Supper as He instituted it; and be it further

62  
63 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that the bringing of Word and  
64 Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-being, and the pastor,  
65 as a physician of souls, should have the same visiting rights and responsibilities as for  
66 the health care worker; and be it further

67  
68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that, in Christian freedom  
69 (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations may choose to  
70 temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of plague, but that the  
71 deliverance of Word and Sacrament must continue; and be it further

72  
73 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that, while respecting God’s  
74 vocational calls to local political leaders and public health authorities, she strongly  
75 opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of plague, as well as the banning  
76 of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care facilities, as a contradiction of  
77 God’s Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained bounds of their offices in His  
78 Kingdom of the Left; and be it finally

79  
80 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend the Lutheran Center for  
81 Religious Liberty for their advocacy on this and other such concerns, as well as the  
82 2023 LCMS Convention for Resolutions 5-08A and 4-06, and the CTCR for their  
83 continued work on their study of the Third Commandment.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025  
 5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-01 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO SEEK WELLNESS FOR**  
 7 **THEIR CHURCH WORKERS**

8 Referencing Overtures 2-07, 2-09, 2-14  
 9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has created humanity in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis  
 11 9:6) and has created us anew in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29); and  
 12

13 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord promises to supply us with all we need to support this body and  
 14 life (Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms, The Creed, Explanation to the First Article;  
 15 The Lord’s Prayer, Explanation to the Fourth Petition); and  
 16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District in convention has affirmed “Wellness” as one  
 18 of its three mission priorities and has actively pursued this emphasis through the  
 19 service of its Wellness Committee and Church Worker Care Team; and  
 20

21 **WHEREAS**, Surveys within our synod have revealed a significant percentage of church  
 22 professionals greatly suffer in identified areas of wellness as they serve in ministry  
 23 (*The Reporter*, January 2017 edition); and  
 24

25 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its 2016 convention resolved to  
 26 address church worker wellness matters through our district presidents, circuit  
 27 visitors, and congregations (Res. 18- 05); and  
 28

29 **WHEREAS**, Sabbaticals can be a vital tool for addressing burnout, allowing church  
 30 workers time for rest, renewal, and reconnection with their calling, which benefits  
 31 both the worker and their congregation in the long term; and  
 32

33 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has developed resources to  
 34 provide care for both ordained and commissioned church workers in nine identified  
 35 critical areas of wellness: Identity in Christ; Supportive and Encouraging Culture;  
 36 Healthy Church, Schools, and Ministries; Finances; Relationships; Caregivers;  
 37 Recognition and Connection; Awareness, Resources and Advocacy; and Care Provided  
 38 Locally;  
 39

40 Therefore be it  
 41

42 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend congregations  
 43 to actively seek the wellness of their church workers, reflecting the value they have for  
 44 them and to celebrate them as gifts from our Lord; and be it further  
 45

46 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District in convention encourages congregations to  
 47 annually review the salary and benefits they provide to their church workers with the



48 goal of making their workers aware of those benefits, especially those congregations  
49 and ministries who provide benefits through Concordia Plan Services; and be it further  
50

51 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to research and make  
52 use of ministries that support the care of church workers such as Grace Place,  
53 Doxology, Shepherd's Canyon, *etc.*; and be it further  
54

55 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to explore the use of  
56 sabbaticals for their professional church workers and resources that will support them  
57 in this endeavor and be it finally  
58

59 **RESOLVED**, That we ask our congregations, schools, and ministries to regularly pray  
60 for their church workers and that the Lord would provide more workers for the harvest  
61 (Matthew 9).



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
4 March 7-8, 2025  
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-02** TO ALIGN THE TERM LIMITS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND  
7 VICE PRESIDENTS

8 Referencing Overtures 2-01, 2-02, 2-03, 2-04  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the 2022 Convention of the Northern Illinois District increased the term  
11 limit for the District President to four (4) terms, and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the term limit for district Vice Presidents is currently set at three (3)  
14 terms, and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, District Vice Presidents are experienced and qualified men who may  
17 eventually replace an outgoing District President, and a term of service in this  
18 leadership role equal to that of the District President might prove beneficial;  
19

20 Therefore be it  
21

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limit for district Vice  
23 Presidents to four (4) terms.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 2-03** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO COMPLETE ANNUAL  
 7 REPORTS AND REVIEW GOVERNING DOCUMENTS  
 8 Referencing Overtures 2-05, 2-06

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, God in His Word encourages and admonishes Christians to maintain good  
 11 order among His people [1 Corinthians 14:40, Hebrews 13:17]; and

12  
 13 **WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Confessions encourage good order amongst our humanly  
 14 agreed upon roles [Ap. XIV]; and

15  
 16 **WHEREAS**, the Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)  
 17 “agree to provide annual membership and statistical information to the Synod” [LCMS  
 18 Bylaw 1.3.4.3]; and

19  
 20 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois District (NID) has one of the lowest rates of annual  
 21 statistical reporting; and

22  
 23 **WHEREAS**, a condition of membership in the LCMS is to have the congregation’s  
 24 constitution and bylaws approved by the district board of directors (BOD) [LCMS  
 25 Bylaw 2.2.1], and

26  
 27 **WHEREAS**, over the last triennium it has been found that some congregations do not  
 28 have an approved constitution and bylaws and others have made changes without  
 29 BOD approval;

30  
 31 Therefore be it

32  
 33 **RESOLVED**, that the pastors and congregations of the Northern Illinois District be  
 34 directed to annually submit accurate reports to the LCMS Office of Rosters and  
 35 Statistics through the LCMS Information Support Network for Congregations (LISN)  
 36 portal; and be it further

37  
 38 **RESOLVED**, that over the next triennium every congregation of the NID contact the  
 39 district secretary to verify the latest approved version of their constitution and bylaws  
 40 and if found in need of updating, follow LCMS Bylaw 2.4.1 in the amendment process;  
 41 and be it finally

42  
 43 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention commend those congregations who annually  
 44 submit their statistical report and those congregations who have intentionally and  
 45 regularly reviewed their governing documents.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
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4 March 7-8, 2025  
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6 **RESOLUTION: 2-04** TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CHURCH WORKERS AND THEIR  
7 SPOUSES

8 Referencing Overture 2-17  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The year 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther’s  
11 marriage to Katherine von Bora on June 13, 1525; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Luther’s marriage helped to reestablish within the Reformation movement  
14 the blessing of marriage among the Christian clergy in the West; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) resolved at its 2023  
17 Convention,  
18

19 “That the LCMS encourages its districts holding pastoral conferences and/or  
20 conventions in 2025 to help celebrate the anniversary milestone by recognizing the  
21 wedding anniversaries of their pastors and their wives in whatever manner or custom  
22 might be deemed best; and be it further  
23

24 “Resolved, That district presidents and the congregations under their care be urged to  
25 give careful attention and commitment to their congregation’s moral obligation not  
26 only to love their pastor, his wife, and family, but also to provide the salary, housing,  
27 and benefits needed by the pastor to care for his wife and household”;  
28

29 Therefore be it  
30

31 **RESOLVED**, That the president, vice-presidents, and circuit visitors of the Northern  
32 Illinois District make known to all congregations of the NID the 2023 synodical  
33 resolution quoted above; and be it finally  
34

35 **RESOLVED**, That the president, vice-presidents, and circuit visitors of the Northern  
36 Illinois District encourage all NID congregations to honor their church workers and  
37 spouses in a special way in the Year of Our Lord, 2025.





1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-05** TO CLARIFY THE PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS FOR  
7 THEOLOGICAL FACULTY AND PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS  
8 Referencing Overture 2-19  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Appointments to theological faculties at all Synodical universities and  
11 seminaries have been subject to the prior approval process since the 2013 Synodical  
12 Convention; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, All university and seminary presidential appointments have been subject  
15 to the same process since the same Convention; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility  
18 for prior approval to specific groups but did not stipulate how the prior approval  
19 process should be carried out; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, This lack of stipulation has led to questions about the prior approval  
22 process and the standards used to evaluate candidates; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Trust among brothers and sisters could increase through a more well  
25 understood process, relieving any undue criticism of the process and those who carry  
26 it out on our behalf;  
27

28 Therefore be it  
29

30 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District 2025 Convention memorialize the 2026  
31 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Convention to request the leadership of The  
32 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to publish articles in both *The Lutheran Witness*  
33 and *The Reporter* to clarify what the prior approval process is and how it is being  
34 carried out.





1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 2-06** TO MODERNIZE THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS  
 7 PROCEDURES OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
 8 Referencing Overture 2-13

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, The present election process of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 11 (LCMS) provides for the online election of the Synod President prior to the national  
 12 convention (LCMS Bylaw 3.12) and completion of this process two weeks prior to the  
 13 national convention, and

14  
 15 **WHEREAS**, Candidacy for First Vice President, Regional Vice-Presidents, and elections  
 16 of the Synod Board of Directors, Mission Boards, and other elected offices are  
 17 subsequential to the election of the Synod President and take place at the national  
 18 convention, and

19  
 20 **WHEREAS**, This process consumes considerable resources and takes precious time  
 21 from discussing the business of the Synod in Convention, despite God's command to  
 22 steward His gifts, and

23  
 24 **WHEREAS**, Technological advancement and modern communication networks make it  
 25 possible to complete this process prior to the national convention,

26  
 27 Therefore be it

28  
 29 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District (NID) memorialize the LCMS to amend  
 30 LCMS Bylaw 3.12 to facilitate the election of the First Vice President, Regional Vice  
 31 Presidents, Synod Board of Directors, Mission Boards, and other elected offices prior  
 32 to the national convention.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025  
 5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-07** TO ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE  
 7 CHURCH THROUGH THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS  
 8 Referencing Overtures 2-16, 2-18, 2-20  
 9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has given His Church to extend the Gospel witness into all the  
 11 world (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10) and  
 12

13 **WHEREAS**, The carrying forth of the Lord’s work in mission and ministry for the local  
 14 parish encompasses numerous areas of Christian life including Bible study,  
 15 discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, Christian education, care for human need,  
 16 etc.,  
 17

18 **WHEREAS**, The constitution of our synod addresses a number of these areas of  
 19 Christian life in Article III – Objectives in defining the purpose of the Synod, and  
 20

21 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod state that “The district president shall, in  
 22 accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical  
 23 supervision visit the congregations of this district,” (Bylaw 4.4.4) and  
 24

25 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that said ecclesiastical  
 26 supervisory visits (done by the district president or the circuit visitors or vice  
 27 presidents as he sees fit) are to be conducted in this manner, “He shall come to the  
 28 pastor and congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of serving in  
 29 the mission and ministry of the church,” (Bylaw 4.4.4d) and  
 30

31 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that at these visits the district  
 32 president or his official representative “shall include fraternal discussion in regard to  
 33 worship and communion attendance; participation by the congregation in missions  
 34 and work of the church at large; the congregation’s evangelism and education  
 35 endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of compensation  
 36 for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine, the  
 37 strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources,  
 38 opportunities, and assistance so God’s people can grow in their faith, hope, and love”  
 39 (Bylaw 4.4.4e),  
 40

41 Therefore be it  
 42

43 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the  
 44 carrying out of such ecclesial visits to all of our congregations and their pastors, and  
 45 be it further  
 46

47 **RESOLVED**, that in these visits, the district president, or his official representative,



48 fraternally discuss theological commitment to LCMS teachings with the goal of  
49 bringing about more harmony and unity between our churches, and be it further  
50

51 **RESOLVED**, that the health and wellness of the ministry and its workers is also  
52 discussed, and be it further

53  
54 **RESOLVED**, these visits also include a discussion regarding future ministry direction  
55 and possible partnerships with other congregations and Recognized Service  
56 Organizations and be it further

57  
58 **RESOLVED**, that we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully  
59 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's holy  
60 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally

61  
62 **RESOLVED**, that the district president, or his representative, shall include progress of  
63 these reports annually in official district communication and also in his report to the  
64 2028 district convention.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
2 The Northern Illinois District  
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
4 March 7-8, 2025  
5

6 **RESOLUTION; 3-01** TO REAFFIRM “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE  
7 NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS  
8 Referencing Overture 3-04  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for salvation  
11 through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II Timothy 3:14-17];  
12 and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives and richly  
15 and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life. [Luther’s Small  
16 Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the World,  
19 proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous  
20 light. [I Peter 2:9]; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District in its 60<sup>th</sup> Convention resolved that “Word,  
23 Wellness, Witness” would be our ministry focus for our work together; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, “Word, Wellness, Witness” has served us well, helping to clarify ministry  
26 priorities and setting direction for our common efforts as a district in service to our  
27 Lord and His people;  
28

29 Therefore be it,  
30

31 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District reaffirm the focus of “Word, Wellness,  
32 Witness,” for its work together; and be it further  
33

34 **RESOLVED**, That this focus be commended to the congregations, schools and  
35 ministries of the Northern Illinois District for its use, shaping their local ministry  
36 priorities; and be it finally  
37

38 **RESOLVED**, That we continue to lift up our prayers to our Savior, asking Him to bless  
39 our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” to the glory of God the honor of  
40 His name and salvation of all.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025  
 5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-02** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS OF THE  
 7 NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER IN MISSION AND MINISTRY  
 8 PARTNERSHIPS

9 Referencing Overture 3-02

10  
 11 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord compares His Church to a human body in which the various  
 12 parts of that body depend on one another and work together to fulfill His purposes for  
 13 it (I Corinthians 12:12-27); and  
 14

15 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has equipped His Church with various gifts by the work of the  
 16 Holy Spirit for the benefit of the entire body (Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11,  
 17 28-31; Ephesians 4:12-16); and  
 18

19 **WHEREAS**, Our confessions remind us that our Lord has called us to a church that,  
 20 while gathered around His Word and Sacraments locally, extends beyond the local  
 21 congregation (Augsburg Confession Article VII; Luther's Large and Small Catechisms  
 22 explanation to the Apostles' Creed Article III); and  
 23

24 **WHEREAS**, Today, the churches, schools, and ministries of the Northern Illinois  
 25 District face tremendous and numerous challenges, both internally and externally, as  
 26 we seek to carry out our Lord's mission in this place; and  
 27

28 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District, in response to these challenges, has been  
 29 conducting Partnership Gatherings in our circuits during the past two trienniums to  
 30 encourage congregations and ministries to build relationships with each other that we  
 31 might assist one another in the carrying out of the work our Lord has given us to do  
 32 together in Christian love, unity and strength; and  
 33

34 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has produced resources to  
 35 encourage and assist congregations to develop partnerships in ministry with one  
 36 another;  
 37

38 Therefore be it,  
 39

40 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend congregations,  
 41 schools, and ministries to the task of purposefully building healthy relationships with  
 42 each other in Christian love; and be it further  
 43

44 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District encourage congregations, schools and  
 45 ministries to explore various ways that they might partner together to build one  
 46 another up in love and service, to lighten present burdens and carry out the mission of  
 47 Jesus among us; and be it finally



48

49 **RESOLVED**, That we entreat our congregations to continually lift up neighboring  
50 LCMS ministries by name in our Prayers of the Church and to speak well of sister  
51 congregations, schools and ministries to the glory of God, the honor of His name and  
52 the salvation of all.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 3-03** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN  
 7 SCHOOLS AND CONGREGATIONS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP  
 8 Referencing Overture 3-03

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, The Triune God commands that children be taught His Word by their  
 11 parents and by the Church (Deut, 4:9-10; 6:5-9; Psalm 78; Matt. 19:13-15; 28:16-20;  
 12 Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 4:10-11); and

13  
 14 **WHEREAS**, Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have  
 15 established early childhood centers, day schools, and high schools to teach the Word  
 16 of God, and to assist fathers and mothers in their calling to instruct their children in  
 17 the same Word and all godly knowledge; and

18  
 19 **WHEREAS**, 2023 synodical resolution 12-04A commended and gave thanks for  
 20 Lutheran schools; and

21  
 22 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran schools provide a tremendous blessing to their students and  
 23 broader communities; and

24  
 25 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran parents who homeschool their children also provide a  
 26 tremendous blessing to their children and those influenced by them; and

27  
 28 **WHEREAS**, many faithful LCMS members teach children in public schools and  
 29 provide a tremendous blessings and faithful witness in an environment increasingly  
 30 hostile to Christianity and biblical teachings;

31  
 32 Therefore be it,

33  
 34 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all educators and leaders in our  
 35 NID schools and congregations, giving thanks to God for their faithful service; and be  
 36 it further

37  
 38 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all congregation members who  
 39 serve in public or non-Lutheran private schools, encourage them to continue being a  
 40 light shining in the darkness of an increasingly hostile world, and give thanks to God  
 41 for their faithful service; and be it further

42  
 43 **RESOLVED**, That all congregations of the district congregations be encouraged in  
 44 their continued operation and support of our Lutheran schools; and be it further

45  
 46 **RESOLVED**, That all parents who are members of district congregations be  
 47 encouraged, where available, to enroll their children in our Lutheran schools; and be it



48 further

49

50 **RESOLVED**, That the pastors and congregations of our district view their schools as  
51 the front line of the mission field; and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for the growth of  
54 Lutheran schools, including classical Lutheran schools, micro-schools, homeschools,  
55 and all other emerging school models that provide instruction in Lutheran doctrine  
56 and godly knowledge; and be it finally

57

58 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the district be encouraged regularly to pray for  
59 all schools, their teachers, administrators, staff, and boards, and the welfare of the  
60 youth entrusted to their care.





1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025  
 5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-04** TO OFFER THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR LIFE TOGETHER  
 7 Referencing Overture 3-01  
 8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to the Church in  
 10 Ephesus of God the Father, the reign of Christ and His great commitment and on  
 11 going concern for His Church, “He put all things under his feet and gave him as head  
 12 over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”  
 13 (Ephesians 1:22,23 ESV); and  
 14

15 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, encourages the challenged and sometimes divided  
 16 Church in Corinth to “strive to excel in the building up of the church, (I Corinthians  
 17 14:12 ESV); and  
 18

19 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s own Constitution in the Reason  
 20 for Forming of a Synodical Union, states, “Our Lord’s will that the diversity of gifts  
 21 should be for the common profit. I Cor. 12:4-31”; and  
 22

23 **WHEREAS**, Article III states the Objectives of the Synod, under Scriptures and the  
 24 Lutheran Confessions, include, to conserve and promote the unity of the true faith,  
 25 strengthen and aid congregations, schools and members in giving bold witness in word  
 26 and deed, recruit and train Pastors, teachers and other professional church workers  
 27 and assist in their continuing growth, promote harmony in our common confession  
 28 of faith, provide ecclesiastical supervision, counsel and care for workers and provide  
 29 for the welfare of workers; and  
 30

31 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations and individual offer regular prayers and financial  
 32 support for the Churchly work of the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran  
 33 Church—Missouri Synod;  
 34

35 Therefore be it,  
 36

37 **RESOLVED**, That the LCMS Northern Illinois District in Convention offer thanks and  
 38 praise to the Triune God for congregations and individuals who are able and  
 39 “compelled by the Gospel of Christ”,(II Corinthians 5:14) even in challenging times, to  
 40 support the work of Christ through the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran  
 41 Church—Missouri Synod with financial offerings rejoicing that God’s redeemed people  
 42 are, “Stronger Together: Co-Workers for the Kingdom of God;” and be it further  
 43

44 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention express thanks to  
 45 congregations and individuals for financial offerings given to support the “Common  
 46 Profit” among us in the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
 47 Synod to the Glory of God, the honor of His Name and that we are always striving



48 “vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,  
49 communities and the world” (LCMS Mission Statement).



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 3-05** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR 150 YEARS OF BLACK  
 7 MINISTRY  
 8 Referencing Overture 3-05

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, Christ our Lord commissioned His church to make disciples of all nations.  
 11 Matthew 28:19-20.

12  
 13 **WHEREAS**, Revelation 5:9, 13:7, and 14:6 speak of salvation freely offered and the  
 14 proclamation of the Gospel “to every nation and tribe and language and people”; and  
 15

16 **WHEREAS**, many other passages of Holy Scripture testify to God’s love for all people  
 17 and our obligation to likewise love our neighbors regardless of ethnic, geographic, or  
 18 social background; and

19  
 20 **WHEREAS**, 2027 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black Ministry within The Lutheran  
 21 Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with its establishment at Emmanuel Lutheran  
 22 Church, Ft. Wayne, IN at the 1877 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical  
 23 Conference of North America; and

24  
 25 **WHEREAS**, the history of Black Ministry within the LCMS as the Rev. Dr. Richard C.  
 26 Dickinson aptly put it is one of both “roses and thorns”; and

27  
 28 Therefore be it,

29  
 30 **RESOLVED**, that the NID celebrate the missionaries, teachers, churches, and schools  
 31 involved in this work; and be it further

32  
 33 **RESOLVED**, that the NID lament failure to meet the scriptural standards of love for  
 34 one another; and be it further

35  
 36 **RESOLVED**, that we commend the 2023 NID report on Crossing Thresholds: to Others  
 37 mandated by the 2022 NID convention (Resolution 3-03A) and be it further

38  
 39 **RESOLVED**, that the NID reaffirms the scriptural condemnation of racism in all its  
 40 forms; and be it further

41  
 42 **RESOLVED**, that the NID encourage the study of the history of Black Ministry in the  
 43 LCMS through books such as Roses and Thorns: The Centennial Edition of Black  
 44 Lutheran Missions and Ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Light in  
 45 the Dark Belt: The Story of Rosa Young as Told by Herself, films such as The First  
 46 Rosa, and other sources; and be it further

47



48 **RESOLVED**, that able scholars within the LCMS be encouraged to provide an updated  
49 history of Black Ministry within the LCMS; and be it further

50

51 **RESOLVED**, that pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay people involved in this  
52 work be encouraged to record their reflections and personal accounts for the sake of  
53 preserving our knowledge of this important work; and be it further

54

55 **RESOLVED**, that the district in convention memorialize the Synod to adopt this  
56 resolution generally as is, at its 2026 convention and that resources be provided to  
57 celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black Ministry in the LCMS in 2027.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 3-06** TO GIVE THANKS FOR 90 YEARS OF THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S  
 7 MISSIONARY LEAGUE IN THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
 8 Referencing Overture 3-07

9  
 10 **WHEREAS**, at the 1937 of the Northern Illinois District (NID) of The Lutheran Church  
 11 —Missouri Synod, the district in convention approved the establishment of the  
 12 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) in the district; and

13  
 14 **WHEREAS**, the NID LWML has been a tremendous blessing to the church through  
 15 their prayerful and material support of mission work; and

16  
 17 **WHEREAS**, individual LWML societies provide tremendous other service within their  
 18 congregations and communities; and

19  
 20 **WHEREAS**, the faithful service of women in the church according to their vocations is  
 21 a tremendous blessing from God and example to younger women (cf. Titus 2:3-5);

22  
 23 Therefore be it,

24  
 25 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention commend the district LWML for their faithful  
 26 service; and be it further

27  
 28 **RESOLVED**, that the district encourage all women to faithfully serve the church  
 29 according to their vocations and abilities; and be it finally

30  
 31 **RESOLVED**, that the convention rise and give thanks to God for the forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup>  
 32 anniversary of LWML in the district in 2027 by singing stanzas 1, 4, and 5 of *Praise to*  
 33 *the Lord , the Almighty* (LSB 790).



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **RESOLUTION: 3-07 TO REAFFIRM KIRCHE UND AMT AS OFFICIAL DOCTRINE OF**  
 7 **THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD AND REBUKE PASTORS WHO**  
 8 **INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A CONGREGATION WITHOUT A**  
 9 **PROPER CALL**  
 10 Referencing Overture 3-08

11  
 12 **Preamble**

13  
 14 **WHEREAS**, The first objective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is to  
 15 "Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) ... "  
 16 (Constitution Article III 1), and also to "Provide protection for congregations, pastors,  
 17 teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties  
 18 and the maintenance of their rights" (Constitution Article III 9); and

19  
 20 **WHEREAS**, As a condition of acquiring and holding membership in the Synod, as  
 21 stated in Const. Art. VI 3 of the Constitution of the Synod, every congregation and  
 22 minister must agree to observe and respect the individual congregation's right to call a  
 23 pastor and not interfere with that pastor's proper authority in matters pertaining to  
 24 his call, and

25  
 26 **WHEREAS**, C.F.W. Walther's *Kirche und Amt*, adopted by the LCMS in Convention as  
 27 official doctrine (2001 Synod Convention To Affirm Synod's Official Position on Church  
 28 and Ministry RESOLUTION 7-17A), further defends the aforementioned rights and is  
 29 explicitly clear that pastors are not to meddle in congregations to which they have no  
 30 call or responsibility for ecclesiastical oversight according to the good order of the  
 31 church;

32  
 33 Therefore be it,

34  
 35 **RESOLVED**, That the NID memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm these  
 36 beliefs, and be it finally

37  
 38 **RESOLVED**, That ecclesiastical supervisors fraternally, yet strongly, rebuke any  
 39 pastors interfering with the internal affairs of a congregation to which they are not  
 40 properly called (retired, called elsewhere, etc.) to preserve the unity of the church's  
 41 witness.



1 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
 2 The Northern Illinois District  
 3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 4 March 7-8, 2025

5  
 6 **OMNIBUS A:**

7 Overture 2-08 TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR CHURCH WORKERS (NID Board of  
 8 Directors and NID Staff are addressing this topic on an ongoing basis.)

9  
 10 Overture 2-10 TO SUPPORT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO GRADUATES  
 11 PURSUING SEMINARY STUDY (NID Board of Directors and NID Staff are addressing  
 12 this topic on an ongoing basis.)

13  
 14 Overture 3-09 TO ENCOURAGE MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP ACROSS CIRCUITS  
 15 (referred to the District President)

16  
 17 Overture 3-15 STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL AND MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FOR  
 18 URBAN MINISTRY THROUGH DISTRICT AND SUBURBAN PARTNERSHIPS (referred to  
 19 the Board of Directors)

20  
 21 **OMNIBUS B:**

22 Overture 1-11 TO AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS AS  
 23 A PROPER ELEMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (This has been addressed by Synod  
 24 Convention 2023 5- 15 *To Uphold Proper Elements and Reverential Administration of*  
 25 *the Lord’s Supper*, and the committee has been informed that the subsequent report  
 26 by the CTCR will not discourage the use of gluten-free hosts)

27  
 28 Overture 1-12 TO AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS AS  
 29 A PROPER ELEMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (This has been addressed by Synod  
 30 Convention 2023 5- 15 *To Uphold Proper Elements and Reverential Administration of*  
 31 *the Lord’s Supper*, and the committee has been informed that the subsequent report  
 32 by the CTCR will not discourage the use of gluten-free hosts)

33  
 34 Overture 1-13 ESTABLISHING A NEW VOTING STRUCTURE INCLUDING ROSTERED  
 35 WORKERS (This has been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 9-08A *To Strengthen*  
 36 *Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions* and 2019 *Res. 9-17 Report:*  
 37 *Study of Voting Privilege in the LCMS (CCM)* (pgs. 159-168 of 2023 *Convention*  
 38 *Workbook*)

39  
 40 Overture 1-14 TO GRANT COMMISSIONED CHURCH WORKERS THE RIGHT TO  
 41 VOTE UNDER BYLAW 3.2.1 c (This has been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 9-  
 42 08A *To Strengthen Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions* and 2019  
 43 *Res. 9-17 Report: Study of Voting Privilege in the LCMS (CCM)* (pgs. 159-168 of 2023  
 44 *Convention Workbook*)

45  
 46 Overture 1-15 RECOGNIZING ROSTERED WORKERS AS LAITY FOR VOTING  
 47 PURPOSES (This has been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 9-08A *To Strengthen*





- 48 *Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions and 2019*  
 49 *Res. 9-17 Report: Study of Voting Privilege in the LCMS (CCM)* (pgs. 159-168 of 2023  
 50 *Convention Workbook*)  
 51
- 52 Overture 1-17 ALLOWING WOMEN TO ASIST IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S  
 53 SUPPER (This has been addressed by Synod Convention 2016 5-14 *To Reaffirm*  
 54 *Biblical Teaching on Man and Woman In The Church* and CTCR Report: “The Order of  
 55 Creation: Theology, History, Definition” (October, 2022)  
 56
- 57 Overture 1-18 TO AFFIRM INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF MARK 16:9-20 (This  
 58 has been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 5-50 *To Affirm Inspiration and*  
 59 *Authority of Mark 16:9-20* which was referred to Omnibus A – Responsibility Assigned  
 60 to Others (Commission On Theology And Church Relations) and the CTCR response  
 61 “Textual Criticism” (2019)  
 62
- 63 Overture 1-19 TO USE ONLY SUSTAINABLE BIBLE TRANSLATIONS (2023 Synod  
 64 convention Ov. 4-10 *To Use Only Sustainable Bible Translations* was respectfully  
 65 declined by the floor committee because the “Overture does not accurately state  
 66 current agreements with Crossway”  
 67
- 68 Overture 1-20 TO REJOICE IN THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD BY HIS  
 69 CALLED AND ORDAINED SERVANTS (This has been addressed by Synod Convention  
 70 1989 35-14 *To Address Appropriate Roles for Women and men in Worship* and CTCR  
 71 *Report: “Women in the Church: Scriptural Principles and Ecclesial Practice”*  
 72 September, 1985)  
 73
- 74 Overture 1-22 TO AFFIRM CONGREGATIONS RIGHT TO ALLOW WOMEN TO ASSIST  
 75 IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (This has been addressed by Synod  
 76 Convention 2016 5-14 *To Reaffirm Biblical Teaching on Man and Woman In The Church*  
 77 and CTCR Report: “The Order of Creation: Theology, History, Definition” (October,  
 78 2022)  
 79
- 80 Overture 1-23 TO PROVIDE THE OPTION OF APPOINTING ONE ORDAINED PASTOR  
 81 OR ONE COMMISSIONED MINISTER AS THE ROSTERED VOTING DELEGATE TO  
 82 DISTRICT CONVENTION (This has been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 9-  
 83 08A *To Strengthen Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions and 2019*  
 84 *Res. 9-17 Report: Study of Voting Privilege in the LCMS (CCM)* (pgs. 159-168 of 2023  
 85 *Convention Workbook*)  
 86
- 87 Overture 1-25 TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL  
 88 CONVENTIONS AND INCLUDE MINISTERS OF RELIGION COMMISSIONED (This has  
 89 been addressed by Synod Convention 2023 9-08A *To Strengthen Nonvoting Advisory*  
 90 *Delegate Participation at Conventions and 2019 Res. 9-17 Report: Study of Voting*  
 91 *Privilege in the LCMS (CCM)* (pgs. 159-168 of 2023 *Convention Workbook*)  
 92
- 93 Overture 3-06 CREATING A THIRD PATHWAY FOR GENERAL PASTORAL COLLOQUY  
 94 FOR MEMBERS OF LCMS CONGREGATIONS WHO HAVE GRADUATED WITH AN





95 ACCREDITED MASTERS OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM A NON-LCMS SEMINARY (the  
 96 2023 LCMS Convention passed Resolution 6-03A, especially the 6<sup>th</sup> resolve, there is an  
 97 ongoing study)  
 98

99 Overture 3-13 TO GIVE A CLEAR CONFESSION OF THE RESURRECTION IN OUR  
 100 FUNERAL PRACTICES (see CTCR report “Cremation and Christian”)  
 101

102 **OMNIBUS C:**

103  
 104 Overture 1-16 TO GIVE GUIDANCE ON SEPARATION OF FIRST COMMUNION AND  
 105 CONFIRMATION (This is address by *Lutheran Service Book: Agenda* (pg. 25)  
 106

107 Overture 2-11 TO REVIEW SYNODICAL PROPERTY FOR THE SAKE OF GOOD  
 108 STEWARDSHIP (The Synodical channels already in place are best equipped to steward  
 109 the Synod’s facilities and structure.)  
 110

111 Overture 2-12 TO LOCALIZE AND CENTRALIZE DISTRICT WORK (The Synodical  
 112 channels already in place are best equipped to steward the Synod’s facilities and  
 113 structure.)  
 114

115 Overture 3-10 AFFIRM BAPTISMAL IDENTITY IN CHRIST AND REJECT IDOLATRY OF  
 116 HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS (CTCR Feb 1994 report, “Overcoming Racism and  
 117 Idolatry in the Church” already addresses this. It is also covered in “Racism: a  
 118 Christian Response” (October, 1996). The NID also approved resolution 11-04A, “To  
 119 Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities” in 1995 Convention.  
 120

121 Overture 3-11 PROTECT THE DIVINE CALL OF MISSIONARIES (Calling missionaries  
 122 is the work of LCMS BFIM, see bylaw 3.1.6.2 of Synodical Handbook, congregations  
 123 can send this overture directly to Synod convention.)  
 124

125 Overture 3-12 TO LET THE WORD, CONFESSIONS, AND LITURGY HAVE FREE  
 126 COURSE (This matter should be taken up with CPH.)  
 127

128 **OMNIBUS D:**

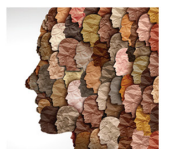
129  
 130 Overture 2-15 TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES BY  
 131 SLATE (*Robert’s Rules of Order* state that when bylaws require a vote to be taken by  
 132 ballot, this requirement cannot be suspended even by a unanimous vote.)  
 133

134 Overture 3-14 TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SOUTH  
 135 WISCONSIN DISTRICT PRESIDENT JOHN WILLE  
 136  
 137



# Section V

# OVERTURES



**LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
2025 Convention  
FLOOR COMMITTEE I**

## **I. WORD**

### **Ordained Ministers**

**Rev. Jonathan Petzold** (Chair) Beautiful Savior, 1501 Deep Lake Rd., Antioch, IL 60002-7274; Cell: (734) 657-0841; [pastor@bslcantioch.com](mailto:pastor@bslcantioch.com)

**Rev. Jonathan Ripke** (Vice-Chair) Zion, 412 Jackson St., Marengo, IL 60152-3204; Cell: (779) 901-9568; [pastor.ripke@zionmarengo.net](mailto:pastor.ripke@zionmarengo.net)

### **Commissioned Ministers**

**Deac. Sarah Rusche** Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois Maternity Home, East Dundee, IL; Cell: (501) 733-8094; [sarahtrusche@gmail.com](mailto:sarahtrusche@gmail.com) or [dcssarah@rlom.org](mailto:dcssarah@rlom.org)

**Mrs. Catie Urban** Walther Christian Academy, 900 Chicago Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160; Cell: (708) 602-7129; [catie\\_urban@waltheracademy.org](mailto:catie_urban@waltheracademy.org)

### **Lay Delegates**

**Mr. Mike Cacic** (member of First St. Paul's, Chicago) 605 W. Madison St., Apt. 270, Chicago, IL 60661-2441; Home: (312) 560-7155; [mike.cacic@rcn.com](mailto:mike.cacic@rcn.com)

**Mr. Jeff Heller** (member of St. Andrew's, Park Ridge) 1124 Tyrell Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068-1647; Cell: (847) 343-1661; [jsheller1966@yahoo.com](mailto:jsheller1966@yahoo.com)

### **Advisory**

**Rev. Cory Estby** (First Vice-President) Zion, 11456 N. 11000E Rd., Grant Park, IL 60940-5067; Cell: (815) 258-0537; [pastorestby@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorestby@yahoo.com)

### **Staff**

**Rev. Kris Whitby**, [kris.whitby@nidlcms.org](mailto:kris.whitby@nidlcms.org)



**LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
2025 Convention  
FLOOR COMMITTEE II**

## **II. WELLNESS**

### **Ordained Ministers**

**Rev. Michael Gudgel** (Chair) St. Matthew, 66 Timberline Dr., Lemont, IL 60439-3835; Cell: (708) 253-5761; [michael.gudgel@gmail.com](mailto:michael.gudgel@gmail.com)

**Rev. David Andermann** (Vice-Chair) Christ Our Savior, 2035 II Route 26, Dixon, IL 61021-9764; Cell: (815) 499-9801; [revdja@gmail.com](mailto:revdja@gmail.com)

### **Commissioned Ministers**

**Mr. Alex Brice** St. Mark's, 101 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174-2107; Cell: (636) 627-8643; [alex.brice@stmarkslife.org](mailto:alex.brice@stmarkslife.org)

**Mr. Jared Stiek** CUC, 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, IL 60305-1402; Cell: (608) 346-4984; [jared.stiek@cuchicago.edu](mailto:jared.stiek@cuchicago.edu)

### **Lay Delegates**

**Mrs. Rebecca Dominguez** (member of Apostles, Melrose Park) 2816 Landen Dr., Melrose Park, IL 60164-1544; Cell: (224) 655-8060; [rebeccadominguez53@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccadominguez53@gmail.com)

**Mr. Jay Mather** (member of Risen Savior, Manteno) 50 Crimson Ct., Manteno, IL 60950-1380; Cell: (815) 735-3533; [highlandsofroyalm@gmail.com](mailto:highlandsofroyalm@gmail.com)

### **Advisory**

**Rev. Caleb Schauer** (Second Vice-President) St. John's, 6821 Main St., Union, IL 60180-9522; Cell: (815) 353-4570; [pastorcaleb@stjohnsluth.org](mailto:pastorcaleb@stjohnsluth.org)

**Rev. Michael Brown** (Third Vice-President) St. Matthew, 720 Dundee Ave., Barrington, IL 60010-4255; Cell: (224) 707-2525; [pastorbrown@stmatthewbarrington.org](mailto:pastorbrown@stmatthewbarrington.org)

### **Staff**

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**Joe Willmann**, [joe.willmann@lcef.org](mailto:joe.willmann@lcef.org)



**LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
2025 Convention  
FLOOR COMMITTEE III**

### **III. WITNESS**

#### **Ordained Ministers**

**Rev. James Buckman** (Chair) North Shore/Faith, 680 W. Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045-1611; Cell: (417) 844-6989; [jbuckman007@cs.com](mailto:jbuckman007@cs.com)

**Rev. Phillip Allman** (Vice-Chair) St. John, 1301 Jackson St., Pecatonica, IL 61063-9518; Cell: (432) 288-2201; [pastorphilallman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorphilallman@gmail.com)

#### **Commissioned Ministers**

**Ms. Nicolette Hett** Lord of Glory, 607 W. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030-4134; Cell: (507) 259-3476; [dce@lordofglory.org](mailto:dce@lordofglory.org)

**Mr. Steve Stec** 16311 Cherry Hill Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60487-1136; Cell: (708) 257-3529; [luke104142@gmail.com](mailto:luke104142@gmail.com) or [stestec16311@comcast.net](mailto:stestec16311@comcast.net)

#### **Lay Delegates**

**Mr. James Jones** (member of Our Savior, Joliet) 323 W. Daisy Cir., Romeoville, IL 60446-4970; Home: (815) 439-8811; [faithnoelsdaddy@gmail.com](mailto:faithnoelsdaddy@gmail.com)

**Ms. Glenda Liner** (member of St. Paul [Dorchester], Chicago) 8310 S. Baker Ave., Chicago, IL 60617-2650; Home: (773) 731-8277; Cell: (310) 569-7146; [isbdlnr@aol.com](mailto:isbdlnr@aol.com) or [glenda.liner@stpauldorchester.com](mailto:glenda.liner@stpauldorchester.com)

#### **Advisory**

**Rev. Steve Anderson** (Fourth Vice-President) Gloria Dei, 5259 S. Major Ave., Chicago, IL 60638-1503; Cell: (773) 220-0056; [pastor@mygloriadei.com](mailto:pastor@mygloriadei.com) or [stevenanderson1530@gmail.com](mailto:stevenanderson1530@gmail.com)

**Rev. Don Stein** (Assistant Secretary) St. Andrew, 511 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton, IL 61072-1640; Cell: (608) 738-7469; [pastor@standrewrockton.com](mailto:pastor@standrewrockton.com)

#### **Staff**

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**Lois Stewart**, [lois.stewart@nidlcms.org](mailto:lois.stewart@nidlcms.org)



**LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
2025 Convention  
FLOOR COMMITTEE IV**

**IV. ELECTIONS**

**Ordained Ministers**

**Rev. Julian LaMie** (Chair) Peace, 540 Oak Park Ave., Beecher, IL 60401; Office: 708-946-2561; [PastorLaMie@ourpeacelutheran.org](mailto:PastorLaMie@ourpeacelutheran.org)

**Rev. Noah Kegley** (Vice-Chair) Immanuel, 950 Hart Rd., Batavia, IL 60510; Office: 630-879-7163; [nkegley@ilcsbatavia.org](mailto:nkegley@ilcsbatavia.org)



## LCMS Northern Illinois District 2025 Convention

### Floor Committee I – WORD

<b>Overture</b>	<b>Page</b>	
1-01	8	To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty
1-02	10	To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty
1-03	12	To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty
1-04	14	To State Religious Objection to Government Interference of Parents' Duty
1-05	16	To Champion God's Good Gifts of Sexuality and Marriage
1-06	18	To Support Biblical Chastity, Call to Repentance All Forms of Sexual immorality, and Share the Forgiveness of Sins with All Who Repent of Their Sexual Sins
1-07	20	To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During times of Plague, Pestilence, and Pandemic
1-08	23	To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During times of Plague, Pestilence, and Pandemic
1-09	26	To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During times of Plague, Pestilence, and Pandemic
1-10	29	To Affirm the Need for Open Churches During times of Plague, Pestilence, and Pandemic
1-11	32	To Affirm and Encourage the Use of Gluten-Free Hosts as a Proper Element of the Lord's Supper
1-12	34	To Affirm and Encourage the Use of Gluten-Free Hosts as a Proper Element of the Lord's Supper
1-13	36	Establishing a New Voting Structure Including Rostered Workers
1-14	38	To Grant Commissioned Church Workers the Right to Vote Under Bylaw 3.2.1 c
1-15	40	Recognizing Rostered Workers as Laity for Voting Purposes
1-16	42	To Give Guidance on Separation of First Communion and Confirmation
1-17	44	Allowing Women to Assist in the Distribution of the Lord's Supper
1-18	47	To Affirm Inspiration and Authority of Mark 16:9-20
1-19	50	To Use Only Sustainable Bible Translations
1-20	52	To Rejoice in the Proclamation of God's Word by His Called and Ordained Servants
1-21	54	To Give Thanks to God for Franz Pieper and F.C.D Wyneken
1-22	56	To Affirm Congregation's Right to Allow Women to Assist in the Distribution of the Lord's Supper
1-23	59	To Provide the Option of Appointing One Ordained Pastor or One Commissioned Minister as the Rostered Voting Delegate to District Convention



1-24	61	To Task the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to Write a Report and Accompanying Study Addressing Christian Nationalism in the American Context
1-25	63	To Expand the Number of Circuit Delegates to Synodical Conventions and Include Ministers of Religion - Commissioned
1-26	65	To Task the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to Write a Report and Accompanying Study Addressing Christian Nationalism in the American Context

## **Floor Committee II – WELLNESS**

<b>Overture</b>	<b>Page</b>	
2-01	67	To Unify the Service of District Presidents and Vice-Presidents
2-02	68	To Align the Term Limits of District President and Vice-Presidents
2-03	69	To Align the Term Limits of District President and Vice-Presidents
2-04	70	To Align the Term Limits of District President and Vice-Presidents
2-05	71	To Encourage Congregations to Regularly Review Congregational Governing Documents
2-06	73	
2-07	75	Wellness Overture
2-08	76	To Increase Support for Church Workers
2-09	77	To Encourage Congregations to Seek Wellness for Their Church Workers
2-10	79	To Support Concordia University Chicago Graduates Pursuing Seminary Study
2-11	81	To Review Synodical Property for the Sake of Good Stewardship
2-12	82	To Localize and Centralize District Work
2-13	84	To Modernize the Nominations and Election Procedures of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Through the Amendment of LCMS Bylaws 3.12
2-14	86	To Encourage Congregations of the Northern Illinois District to Enact a Sabbatical Policy for Professional Church Workers
2-15	88	To Provide for Election of Unopposed Candidates by Slate
2-16	90	To Encourage Proper Pastoral Oversight in Administration of Lord's Supper Through Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors
2-17	92	To Recognize and Honor the Pastor's Wife
2-18	94	Encourage the Mission and Ministry of the Church Through the Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors
2-19	96	To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process





- 2-20                    98     Encourage the Mission and Ministry of the Church Through  
the Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors

### **Floor Committee III – WITNESS**

<b>Overture</b>	<b>Page</b>	
3-01	100	To Offer Thanks to God for Our Life Together
3-02	102	To Encourage Congregations and Schools of the Northern Illinois District to Work Together in Mission and Ministry Partnerships
3-03	104	To Give Thanks to God and Encourage Lutheran Schools and Teachers
3-04	106	To Reaffirm “Word, Wellness, Witness” as the Northern Illinois District’s Ministry Focus
3-05	108	To Give Thanks to God for 150 Years of Black Ministry
3-06	110	Create a Third Pathway for General Pastoral Colloquy for Members of LCMS Congregations Who Have Graduated with an Accredited Masters of Divinity Degree from a Non- LCMS Seminary
3-07	113	To Give Thanks for 90 Years of LWML in NID
3-08	114	To Reaffirm <i>Kirche und Amt</i> as Official Doctrine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Rebuke Pastors Who Interfere with the Internal Affairs of a Congregation Without a Proper Call
3-09	116	To Encourage Meeting and Fellowship Across Circuits and Districts
3-10	118	To Affirm Baptismal Identity in Christ and Reject Idolatry of Human Characteristics
3-11	120	To Protect the Divine Calls of Missionaries
3-12	122	To Let the Word, Confessions, and Liturgy Have Free Course
3-13	124	To Give a Clear Confession of the Resurrection in Our Funeral Practices
3-14	126	To Give Thanks to God for the Life and Service of South Wisconsin District President John Wille
3-15	127	Strengthening Financial and Ministerial Support for Urban Ministry Through District and Suburban Partnerships



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-01

**Subject:** TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS' DUTY

**WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and give to each person “my body”; and

**WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its institutions (such as schools), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live under their roof; and

**WHEREAS**, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents’ duty to raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

- Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
- Laws that give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for “transitioning” minors without parents’ approval
- Laws that permit minors to get abortions without parents’ approval
- Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
- Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions



- 47 • School policies that teach children various godless social agendas without
- 48 parents' approval
- 49 • School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents'
- 50 approval
- 51 • School policies that encourage children to "transition" or use gender-confusing
- 52 language without parents' approval

53

54 Therefore, be it

55

56 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state  
 57 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or  
 58 mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents'  
 59 duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the  
 60 parents; and further be it

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness and  
 63 readiness to support, come to the aid of, and speak in defense of any parents within  
 64 sister congregations of the Northern Illinois District who face the challenge of  
 65 government laws or school policies interfering with parents' duties to raise their  
 66 children in the fear of the Lord; and further be it

67

68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 69 Synod in convention and each and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally,  
 70 and plainly state their unconditional agreement with this religious objection to  
 71 government interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the  
 72 faith and life of the Christian confession; and further be it

73

74 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 75 Synod and each and everyone on of her districts to boldly unequivocally, and plainly  
 76 denounce any teachings of any church bodies which seek to advocate for or tolerate  
 77 the government interfering with parents' duties in raising their children in the  
 78 Christian faith and life. Such teaching are unbiblical, unchristian, heretical, opposed  
 79 to God, and worthy of condemnation, the wrath of God, and the fires of hell; and  
 80 finally be it

81

82 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their  
 83 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran  
 84 homeschools, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
 85 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas  
 86 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89 Circuit Forum, Circuit S17

90 Rev. William C. Ryden, Circuit Visitor



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-02

**Subject:** TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS' DUTY

**WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and give to each person “my body”; and

**WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its institutions (such as schools), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live under their roof; and

**WHEREAS**, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents’ duty to raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

- Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
- Laws that give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for “transitioning” minors without parents’ approval
- Laws that permit minors to get abortions without parents’ approval
- Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
- Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions



- 47 • School policies that teach children various godless social agendas without
- 48 parents' approval
- 49 • School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents'
- 50 approval
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- 52 language without parents' approval

53

54 Therefore, be it

55

56 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state  
 57 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or  
 58 mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents'  
 59 duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the  
 60 parents; and further be it

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness and  
 63 readiness to support, come to the aid of, and speak in defense of any parents within  
 64 sister congregations of the Northern Illinois District who face the challenge of  
 65 government laws or school policies interfering with parents' duties to raise their  
 66 children in the fear of the Lord; and further be it

67

68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 69 Synod in convention and each and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally,  
 70 and plainly state their unconditional agreement with this religious objection to  
 71 government interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the  
 72 faith and life of the Christian confession; and further be it

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74 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 75 Synod and each and everyone on of her districts to boldly unequivocally, and plainly  
 76 denounce any teachings of any church bodies which seek to advocate for or tolerate  
 77 the government interfering with parents' duties in raising their children in the  
 78 Christian faith and life. Such teaching are unbiblical, unchristian, heretical, opposed  
 79 to God, and worthy of condemnation, the wrath of God, and the fires of hell; and  
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82 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their  
 83 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran  
 84 homeschools, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
 85 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas  
 86 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89

90 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lockport, IL

91 William Rohder, Jr., Acting President

92 Marlene Barmann, Recording Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-03

**Subject:** TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS' DUTY

**WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and give to each person “my body”; and

**WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its institutions (such as schools), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live under their roof; and

**WHEREAS**, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents’ duty to raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

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56 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state  
 57 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or  
 58 mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents'  
 59 duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the  
 60 parents; and further be it

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness and  
 63 readiness to support, come to the aid of, and speak in defense of any parents within  
 64 sister congregations of the Northern Illinois District who face the challenge of  
 65 government laws or school policies interfering with parents' duties to raise their  
 66 children in the fear of the Lord; and further be it

67

68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 69 Synod in convention and each and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally,  
 70 and plainly state their unconditional agreement with this religious objection to  
 71 government interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the  
 72 faith and life of the Christian confession; and further be it

73

74 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 75 Synod and each and everyone on of her districts to boldly unequivocally, and plainly  
 76 denounce any teachings of any church bodies which seek to advocate for or tolerate  
 77 the government interfering with parents' duties in raising their children in the  
 78 Christian faith and life. Such teaching are unbiblical, unchristian, heretical, opposed  
 79 to God, and worthy of condemnation, the wrath of God, and the fires of hell; and  
 80 finally be it

81

82 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their  
 83 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran  
 84 homeschools, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
 85 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas  
 86 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89

90 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, Illinois



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-04

**Subject:** TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS' DUTY

**WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and give to each person “my body”; and

**WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs not to government or its institutions (such as schools), but to God (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them” (para 141-142; emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who live under their roof; and

**WHEREAS**, government in our society – at federal, state, and local levels – has attempted or may attempt to step between children and their parents (impeding the parents’ duty to raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession) in various ways, including but not limited to

- Laws that mandate vaccines for children even without parents’ approval
- Laws that give children sex-change operations or medical procedures for “transitioning” minors without parents’ approval
- Laws that permit minors to get abortions without parents’ approval
- Laws that label parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions as engaging in child abuse
- Laws that remove children from the custody of parents who refuse their minor children vaccines, sex-change operations and procedures, or abortions





- 47 • School policies that teach children various godless social agendas without
- 48 parents' approval
- 49 • School policies that mandate vaccines for children even without parents'
- 50 approval
- 51 • School policies that encourage children to “transition” or use gender-confusing
- 52 language without parents' approval

53

54 Therefore, be it

55

56 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state  
 57 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, or local law or  
 58 mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents'  
 59 duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the  
 60 parents; and further be it

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness and  
 63 readiness to support, come to the aid of, and speak in defense of any parents within  
 64 sister congregations of the Northern Illinois District who face the challenge of  
 65 government laws or school policies interfering with parents' duties to raise their  
 66 children in the fear of the Lord; and further be it

67

68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 69 Synod in convention and each and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally,  
 70 and plainly state their agreement with this religious objection to government  
 71 interference in the Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the faith and life of  
 72 the Christian confession while denouncing those religious institutions who would  
 73 falsely burden consciences concerning these issues; and finally be it

74

75 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their  
 76 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran  
 77 homeschools, that the parents may safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that  
 78 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas  
 79 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.

80

81 Respectfully submitted,

82

83 NID Circuit S-18 Circuit Forum at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kankakee, IL

84 Rev. Cory Estby, Secretary Designee



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-05

**Subject:** TO CHAMPION GOD’S GOOD GIFTS OF SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

**WHEREAS**, God created us “male and female” (Gen 1:27), and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus Himself extols the Father’s creation of these two distinct and complementary sexes “from the beginning of creation” (Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6), and

**WHEREAS**, marriage is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise, before humanity’s fall into sin (Gen 2:18-24), and

**WHEREAS**, marriage – the union of one biological man and one biological woman – is a reflection of the union between Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church (Eph 5:22-33), and

**WHEREAS**, sexual intimacy is intended by God solely within the union of husband and wife in marriage (1Cor 7:2; Heb 13:4), and

**WHEREAS**, sexual immorality is listed first among “the works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19), something that “must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints” (Eph 5:3) and therefore is to be “put to death” (Col 3:5), and

**WHEREAS**, every type of sexual immorality – including (but not limited to) premarital sex, adultery, unbiblical divorce, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pornography, changing one’s biological sex, and the redefinition of marriage – is sinful and offensive to God (Ex 20:14; Rom 1:26-28; 1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-10; 6:18; cf. Sixth Commandment) and “those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:21), and

**WHEREAS**, with the Spirit’s help we “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor 6:18; cf. 1 Thess 4:3), confess our sins, and believe Christ’s all-atoning sacrifice for sinners on the cross, and



46 **WHEREAS**, our gracious God “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse  
47 us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn 1:9) for Christ’s sake;

48  
49 Therefore, be it

50  
51 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District confess clearly and  
52 boldly in convention and in congregational life that all sins against God’s good gifts of  
53 sexuality and marriage are destructive to faith and deserving of God’s wrath and  
54 eternal punishment; and be it further

55  
56 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors  
57 clearly and boldly call all who are guilty of sexual immorality to repent of such sins, to  
58 desire amendment of life, and to look in faith to Jesus Christ as the One who died on  
59 the cross to save sinners; and be it finally

60  
61 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors  
62 clearly and boldly proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ forgives the penitent of  
63 their sexual sins, fill their ears with consolation and comfort from God’s holy Word,  
64 and encourage and assist them in living chaste and decent lives in conformity to God’s  
65 will and our holy calling as His children.

66  
67 Respectfully submitted,

68  
69 St. John Lutheran Church  
70 26555 Brickville Road  
71 Sycamore, IL 60178

72  
73 Carl Heide, Congregational Chairman  
74 Jane McDougall, Congregational Recording Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-06

**Subject:** TO SUPPORT BIBLICAL CHASTITY, CALL TO REPENTANCE ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, AND SHARE THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS WITH ALL WHO REPENT OF THEIR SEXUAL SINS

**Rationale:** The society and world in which Christ’s Church Militant dwells is increasingly confused about human sexuality and widely celebrates so many various forms of sexual immorality. The Church must never tire of confessing God’s creation of man and woman as sexual beings, His design for the marriage estate, His holy law defending His designs, and His forgiveness in Christ Jesus for all who despair of themselves and repent of their sins.

**WHEREAS,** God has created man and woman as distinct, but complementary sexes; and

**WHEREAS,** these complementary sexes are given by God to join together as man and wife in the divinely-designed marriage estate; and

**WHEREAS,** the holy law defends marriage from all who would harm it (the Fourth Commandment, Sixth Commandment, Tenth Commandment); and

**WHEREAS,** marriage – the union of one biological man and one biological woman – is a reflection of the union between Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church (Eph 5:22-33), and

**WHEREAS,** the Sixth Commandment calls all people to live in chastity – both inside and outside the marriage estate – and, through their chaste life, uphold marriage... for “God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness” (1 Thess. 4:7); and

**WHEREAS,** sins against the marriage estate and the holy, chaste life to which all people are called include (but are not limited to) pre-marital sexual activity, extramarital affairs and adultery, unbiblical divorce, pornography, homosexual activity, redefinition of marriage, redefinition of or ‘blurring’ of the sexes of man and woman; and



47  
 48 **WHEREAS**, many in our society promote, celebrate, and even identify themselves by  
 49 such sins, and encourage others to do the same; and  
 50  
 51 **WHEREAS**, “the Lord is an avenger in all these things” (1 Thess. 4:6) and patiently but  
 52 seriously calls all to repent of such sins; and  
 53  
 54 **WHEREAS**, the penitent may flee to Christ’s meritorious substitution for the sinner,  
 55 God’s mercy toward the sinner, and receive free forgiveness, leading to a life that seeks  
 56 to amend its ways, as St Paul says, “Such were some of you. But you were washed,  
 57 you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the  
 58 Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11); therefore,  
 59  
 60 Therefore, be it  
 61  
 62 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District confess clearly and  
 63 boldly in convention and in congregational life that all sins against God’s creation of  
 64 human sexuality and the marriage estate lead to condemnation and eternal death  
 65 before “the Lord [who] is an avenger in these things”; and be it further  
 66  
 67 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors  
 68 clearly and boldly call all who are guilty of such sin to repent of such sin, desire to be  
 69 rid of it, and flee to Christ as the lone savior of and intercessor for us sinners before  
 70 the throne of God; and be it further  
 71  
 72 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors  
 73 clearly and boldly declare to all the penitent the true Gospel of Christ crucified, forgive  
 74 the penitent their sexual sins, rejoice with them in Christ’s forgiveness, and encourage  
 75 and help them to live in chastity and holy living to which God calls us all.  
 76  
 77 Respectfully submitted,  
 78  
 79 Calvary Lutheran Church  
 80 Elgin, Illinois



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-07

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES OF  
PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS**, God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word, and then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1; Colossians 10 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

**WHEREAS**, The Divine Service was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

**WHEREAS**, As our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His Supper and personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC XXIV 30); and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus. Through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene Creed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology and anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around His Word and Sacraments during such times; and

**WHEREAS**, We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and



46 **WHEREAS**, We are commanded by God to gather to receive God’s Word and  
 47 Sacrament (SC Third Commandment) and “not neglect meeting together” (Hebrews  
 48 10:25),  
 49

50 **WHEREAS**, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during  
 51 times of plague, notable examples including the plague of Alexandria in 250 AD, where  
 52 the Christians who remained to tend for the sick were considered martyrs, and the  
 53 1527 plague at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther recommends in his letter that some  
 54 in the pastoral office must remain to serve the sick and dying; and  
 55

56 **WHEREAS**, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,  
 57 God’s Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be  
 58 present at church and were near death; and  
 59

60 **WHEREAS**, During the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread  
 61 and lack of personal protection equipment, pastors and churches were threatened,  
 62 fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term  
 63 residential care facilities; and  
 64

65 **WHEREAS**, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where  
 66 the authorities contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts  
 67 5:29); and  
 68

69 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the LCMS encouraged in-person worship  
 70 (Resolution 4-06) and affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A), but did not  
 71 speak with clarity to the essential nature of the Church’s corporate life and care of the  
 72 sick and infirm during times of plague and pandemic;  
 73

74 Therefore, be it  
 75

76 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly  
 77 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God’s people, and to  
 78 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further  
 79

80 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a  
 81 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,  
 82 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord’s Supper, even  
 83 during times of plague; and be it further  
 84

85 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that  
 86 congregations, using God’s gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear  
 87 and risk, while not interfering with the administration of the Lord’s Supper as He  
 88 instituted it; and be it further  
 89

90 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District fall on the LCMS to affirm that the  
 91 bringing of Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-





92 being, and the pastor, as a physician of souls, should have the same visiting rights  
93 and responsibilities as it is for the health care worker; and be it further

94  
95 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that in  
96 Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations  
97 may choose to temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of  
98 plague, but that the deliverance of Word and Sacrament must continue; and be if  
99 further

100  
101 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while  
102 respecting God’s vocational calls to local political leaders and public health  
103 authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of  
104 plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care  
105 facilities, as a contradiction of God’s Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained  
106 bounds of their offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it further

107  
108 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to commend the  
109 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such  
110 concerns; and be it finally

111  
112 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synod  
113 convention to take up this matter for consideration.

114  
115 Respectfully submitted,

116  
117 Circuit Forum, Circuit S17  
118 Rev. William Ryden, Circuit Visitor





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-08

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES OF  
PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS,** God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word, and then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1; Colossians 10 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

**WHEREAS,** The Divine Service was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

**WHEREAS,** As our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His Supper and personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC XXIV 30); and

**WHEREAS,** Jesus. Through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene Creed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology and anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around His Word and Sacraments during such times; and

**WHEREAS,** We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and



46 **WHEREAS**, We are commanded by God to gather to receive God’s Word and  
 47 Sacrament (SC Third Commandment) and “not neglect meeting together” (Hebrews  
 48 10:25),  
 49

50 **WHEREAS**, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during  
 51 times of plague, notable examples including the plague of Alexandria in 250 AD, where  
 52 the Christians who remained to tend for the sick were considered martyrs, and the  
 53 1527 plague at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther recommends in his letter that some  
 54 in the pastoral office must remain to serve the sick and dying; and  
 55

56 **WHEREAS**, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,  
 57 God’s Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be  
 58 present at church and were near death; and  
 59

60 **WHEREAS**, During the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread  
 61 and lack of personal protection equipment, pastors and churches were threatened,  
 62 fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term  
 63 residential care facilities; and  
 64

65 **WHEREAS**, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where  
 66 the authorities contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts  
 67 5:29); and  
 68

69 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the LCMS encouraged in-person worship  
 70 (Resolution 4-06) and affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A), but did not  
 71 speak with clarity to the essential nature of the Church’s corporate life and care of the  
 72 sick and infirm during times of plague and pandemic;  
 73

74 Therefore, be it  
 75

76 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly  
 77 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God’s people, and to  
 78 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further  
 79

80 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a  
 81 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,  
 82 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord’s Supper, even  
 83 during times of plague; and be it further  
 84

85 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that  
 86 congregations, using God’s gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear  
 87 and risk, while not interfering with the administration of the Lord’s Supper as He  
 88 instituted it; and be it further  
 89

90 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District fall on the LCMS to affirm that the  
 91 bringing of Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-



92 being, and the pastor, as a physician of souls, should have the same visiting rights  
93 and responsibilities as it is for the health care worker; and be it further

94  
95 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that in  
96 Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations  
97 may choose to temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of  
98 plague, but that the deliverance of Word and Sacrament must continue; and be if  
99 further

100  
101 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while  
102 respecting God's vocational calls to local political leaders and public health  
103 authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of  
104 plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care  
105 facilities, as a contradiction of God's Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained  
106 bounds of their offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it further

107  
108 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to commend the  
109 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such  
110 concerns; and be it finally

111  
112 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synod  
113 convention to take up this matter for consideration.

114  
115 Respectfully submitted,

116  
117 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lockport, Illinois

118  
119 William Rohder, Jr., Acting President  
120 Marlene Barmann, Recording Secretary

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**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-09

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES OF  
PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS,** God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word, and then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1; Colossians 10 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

**WHEREAS,** The Divine Service (AC: Mass) was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

**WHEREAS,** As our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His Supper and personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC XXIV 30); and

**WHEREAS,** Jesus, through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene Creed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology and anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around His Word and Sacraments during such times; and

**WHEREAS,** We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and



46 WHEREAS, The evil one, having been cast from heaven, is continually at war with  
 47 God's people, and in times of plague, uses fear to pull them apart from each other and  
 48 from the receipt of Christ's gifts (Luke 10:18; 29 Revelation 12:10, 17; LC V 26); and  
 49

50 **WHEREAS**, When we gather together in person to receive God's gifts, we are able to  
 51 withstand the attacks of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-18; LC V 80-82); and  
 52

53 **WHEREAS**, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during  
 54 times of plague, notable examples including 1527 plague at Wittenberg, and the 1597-  
 55 98 plague at Unna; and  
 56

57 **WHEREAS**, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,  
 58 God's Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be  
 59 present at church and were near death; and  
 60

61 **WHEREAS**, During the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread  
 62 and lack of personal protective equipment, pastors and churches were threatened,  
 63 fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term  
 64 residential care facilities; and  
 65

66 **WHEREAS**, Where congregations were allowed to remain open, pastors tried to dictate  
 67 practices regarding the administration of the Lord's Supper that were at variance with  
 68 Christ's institution; and  
 69

70 **WHEREAS**, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where  
 71 the authorities contradict God's Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts  
 72 5:29); and  
 73

74 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the LCMS encouraged in-person worship  
 75 (Resolution 4-06) and affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A), but did not  
 76 speak with clarity to the essential nature of the Church's corporate life and care of the  
 77 sick and infirm during times of plague and pandemic;  
 78

79 Therefore, be it  
 80

81 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly  
 82 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God's people, and to  
 83 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further  
 84

85 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a  
 86 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,  
 87 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord's Supper, even  
 88 during times of plague; and be it further  
 89

90 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that  
 91 congregations, using God's gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear



92 and risk, while not interfering with the administration of the Lord's Supper as He  
93 instituted it; and be it further

94

95 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that the  
96 bringing of Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-  
97 being, and protective equipment should be available for the pastor as it is for the  
98 health care worker; and be it further

99

100 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that in  
101 Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations  
102 may choose to temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of  
103 plague, but that the deliverance of Absolution, Word and Sacrament must continue;  
104 and be if further

105

106 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while  
107 respecting God's vocational calls to local political leaders and public health  
108 authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of  
109 plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care  
110 facilities, as a contradiction of God's Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained  
111 bounds of their offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it further

112

113 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to commend the  
114 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such  
115 concerns; and be it finally

116

117 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synod  
118 convention to take up this matter for consideration.

119

120 Respectfully submitted,

121

122 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin Illinois





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-10

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES OF  
PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS,** God has commanded us to set aside a day to gather together to “hear and use [His] Word, and then to praise [Him], to sing and to pray” (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 149:1; Colossians 10 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-25; LC I Third Commandment 84); and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins, refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and

**WHEREAS,** The Divine Service (AC: Mass) was retained at the time of the Reformation, for the purpose of hearing God’s Word, receiving the Lord’s Supper, and returning to Him our sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving (Ap XXIV 1); and

**WHEREAS,** As our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His Supper and personally administered the elements to them, He calls His undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry, to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC XXIV 30); and

**WHEREAS,** Jesus, through Whom all was created and being one with the Father (John 1:3, 10:30; Nicene Creed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article), at the time He instituted His Supper, understood the complexities of microbiology and anticipated forthcoming plagues, yet did not call for the suspension of in-person gatherings around His Word and Sacraments during such times; and

**WHEREAS,** We must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and



46 **WHEREAS**, The evil one, having been cast from heaven, is continually at war with  
 47 God's people, and in times of plague, uses fear to pull them apart from each other and  
 48 from the receipt of Christ's gifts (Luke 10:18; 29 Revelation 12:10, 17; LC V 26); and  
 49

50 **WHEREAS**, When we gather together in person to receive God's gifts, we are able to  
 51 withstand the attacks of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-18; LC V 80-82); and  
 52

53 **WHEREAS**, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during  
 54 times of plague, notable examples including 1527 plague at Wittenberg, and the 1597-  
 55 98 plague at Unna; and  
 56

57 **WHEREAS**, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,  
 58 God's Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be  
 59 present at church and were near death; and  
 60

61 **WHEREAS**, During the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread  
 62 and lack of personal protective equipment, pastors and churches were threatened,  
 63 fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term  
 64 residential care facilities; and  
 65

66 **WHEREAS**, the CTCR issued a statement on March 20, 2020 titled "Communion and  
 67 Covid-19" (CC19) which unanimously endorsed an opinion on certain Holy  
 68 Communion practices during the coronavirus pandemic and further released an  
 69 Addendum to the CC19 opinion on June 25, 2020 titled "One Little Word Can Fell  
 70 Him" to address the encouragement of in-person worship and receiving Holy  
 71 Communion that would "create faith, not raise doubts"; and  
 72

73 **WHEREAS**, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where  
 74 the authorities contradict God's Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts  
 75 5:29); and  
 76

77 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the LCMS encouraged in-person worship  
 78 (Resolution 4-06) and affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A), but did not  
 79 speak with clarity to the essential nature of the Church's corporate life and care of the  
 80 sick and infirm during times of plague and pandemic;  
 81

82 Therefore, be it  
 83

84 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly  
 85 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God's people, and to  
 86 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further  
 87

88 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a  
 89 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,  
 90 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord's Supper, even  
 91 during times of plague; and be it further





92  
 93 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that  
 94 congregations, using God’s gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear  
 95 and risk, while not interfering with the administration of the Lord’s Supper as He  
 96 instituted it; and be it further

97  
 98 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that the  
 99 bringing of Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-  
 100 being, and be it further

101  
 102 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that in  
 103 Christian freedom (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations  
 104 may choose to temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of  
 105 plague, but that the deliverance of Absolution, Word and Sacrament must continue;  
 106 and be if further

107  
 108 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that, while  
 109 respecting God’s vocational calls to local political leaders and public health  
 110 authorities, she strongly opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of  
 111 plague, as well as the banning of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care  
 112 facilities, as a contradiction of God’s Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained  
 113 bounds of their offices in His Kingdom of the Left; and be it further

114  
 115 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to commend the  
 116 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such  
 117 concerns; and be it finally

118  
 119 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synod  
 120 convention to take up this matter for consideration.

121  
 122 Respectfully submitted,

123  
 124 Passed by NID S-18 Circuit Forum  
 125 Saturday, September 14, 2024  
 126 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church-Kankakee, IL  
 127 Rev. Cory Estby  
 128 Forum “Secretary” Designee



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-11

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS AS A  
PROPER ELEMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ gave “us Christians to eat and drink (Small Catechism)” of His true body and blood under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:23-26);

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 1% of the population has celiac disease ([beyondceliac.org](http://beyondceliac.org)), an autoimmune condition triggered by the consumption of gluten (contained in wheat, barley or rye), causing damage to the lining of the small intestine resulting in nutritional malabsorption and other significant adverse health effects ([mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org));

**WHEREAS**, “Even the slightest amount [of gluten] will trigger an immune system reaction that can damage [the] small intestine (Dietary Changes for Celiac Disease [hopkinsmedicine.org](http://hopkinsmedicine.org))”; and

**WHEREAS**, The scriptures are silent regarding the type of grain used in the bread at Jesus’ institution of the sacrament, and the scriptures and Lutheran Confessions are silent regarding which grain should be used for the continuing practice of the Lord’s Supper; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. C.F.W. Walther considered it “an adiaphoron whether the bread be leavened, whether it be rye, wheat, barley, or oats bread, and whether it have this or that form, so long only as it is baked of grain flour and water. (Pastoral Theology)”; and

**WHEREAS**, The CTCR has spoken on the issue of non-wheat hosts, “it may be baked from the flour of wheat, rye, barley, or other grains. (Theology and Practice of the Lord’s Supper 1983)”; and

**WHEREAS**, The legitimacy of “non-wheat hosts” has been called into question at the 2023 Synod Convention as one of the “concerns” that the Commission of Theology and Church Relations was “instructed to take up (2023 Res. 5-15)”; and



47  
48 Therefore, be it

49  
50 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District affirms and encourages the use of  
51 gluten-free hosts as a proper element of the Lord's Supper; and be it finally

52  
53 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as  
54 an overture for the adoption by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its 2026  
55 Convention.

56  
57 Respectfully submitted,

58  
59 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, Illinois  
60 Kathleen Wilharm, Congregation President  
61 Marcus Lindemulder, Congregation Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-12

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS AS A  
PROPER ELEMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ gave “us Christians to eat and drink (Small Catechism)” of His true body and blood under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:23-26);

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 1% of the population has celiac disease ([beyondceliac.org](http://beyondceliac.org)), an autoimmune condition triggered by the consumption of gluten (contained in wheat, barley or rye), causing damage to the lining of the small intestine resulting in nutritional malabsorption and other significant adverse health effects ([mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org));

**WHEREAS**, “Even the slightest amount [of gluten] will trigger an immune system reaction that can damage [the] small intestine (Dietary Changes for Celiac Disease [hopkinsmedicine.org](http://hopkinsmedicine.org))”; and

**WHEREAS**, The scriptures are silent regarding the type of grain used in the bread at Jesus’ institution of the sacrament, and the scriptures and Lutheran Confessions are silent regarding which grain should be used for the continuing practice of the Lord’s Supper; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. C.F.W. Walther considered it “an adiaphoron whether the bread be leavened, whether it be rye, wheat, barley, or oats bread, and whether it have this or that form, so long only as it is baked of grain flour and water. (Pastoral Theology)”; and

**WHEREAS**, The CTCR has spoken on the issue of non-wheat hosts, “it may be baked from the flour of wheat, rye, barley, or other grains. (Theology and Practice of the Lord’s Supper 1983)”; and

**WHEREAS**, The legitimacy of “non-wheat hosts” has been called into question at the 2023 Synod Convention as one of the “concerns” that the Commission of Theology and Church Relations was “instructed to take up (2023 Res. 5-15)”; and



47  
48 Therefore, be it

49  
50 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District affirms and encourages the use of  
51 gluten-free hosts as a proper element of the Lord's Supper; and be it finally

52  
53 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as  
54 an overture for the adoption by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its 2026  
55 Convention.

56  
57 Respectfully submitted,

58  
59 Circuits N2 & N5



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-13

**Subject:** ESTABLISHING A NEW VOTING STRUCTURE INCLUDING ROSTERED WORKERS

**RATIONALE:** This overture amends the allotted voting delegates to convention by expanding the number of delegates each circuit may appoint from two to four. The two new delegates include a 1) additional lay voting delegate and 2) a commissioned church worker voting delegate. This approach acknowledges that the service and experience of commissioned church workers is unique and vital to the schools, congregations, RSO's, communities that The LCMS serves while maintaining the current representation of ordained pastors and laity.

**WHEREAS,** Rostered workers, such as deaconesses, teachers, DCE's, and other commissioned ministers, provide essential spiritual, educational, and administrative leadership in the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS,** The current voting structure limits representation to ordained pastors and lay delegates, potentially excluding the unique experience and insights of commissioned church workers who are neither clergy nor laity, yet impacted by decisions made in convention; and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod values the unique contributions of all those called to service in the church and wishes to ensure their representation in a way that respects the unique capacities of the ordained pastoral office while preserving the balance of rostered church workers and laity;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That synod bylaw 3.1.2 (c) be amended to say, "Voting delegates shall consist of one ordained pastor, one commissioned rostered worker, and two lay delegates from each electoral circuit. These delegates and their alternates shall be elected according to the regulations of the Synod"; and be it further



46 **RESOVLED**, That the amendment apply to subsequent district conventions, per the  
47 Synod bylaws.

48  
49 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in  
50 convention to consider adoption.

51  
52 Respectfully submitted,

53  
54 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL  
55 President  
56 Secretary





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-14

**Subject:** TO GRANT COMMISSIONED CHURCH WORKERS THE RIGHT TO VOTE  
UNDER BYLAW 3.2.1 c

**RATIONALE:** To Provide the Option of Appointing One Ordained Pastor or One  
Commissioned Church Worker as the Rostered Voting Delegate to Synod Conventions  
and Subsequent District Conventions

**RATIONALE:** Commissioned church workers in The LCMS, such as deaconesses,  
teachers, directors of Christian education, and other ministers, fulfill critical  
leadership and ministerial roles within the church. While not ordained, their service  
and experience is unique and vital to the schools, congregations, RSO's, and  
communities that The LCMS serves. This overture proposes that all rostered workers  
be eligible to serve as the non-laity voting delegate to synod conventions – the  
subsequent district conventions – under bylaw 3.2.1 c. The proposed bylaw  
amendment does not cause an imbalance between rostered church worker delegates  
and lay delegates.

**WHEREAS,** Rostered workers, such as deaconesses, teachers, DCE's, and other  
commissioned ministers, provide essential spiritual, educational, and administrative  
leadership in the LCMS schools, congregations, Registered Service Organizations  
(RSO's), and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The current voting structure limits representation to ordained pastors and  
lay delegates, potentially excluding the unique experience and insights of  
commissioned church workers who are neither clergy nor laity, yet impacted by  
decisions made in convention; and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod values the unique contributions of all those called to service in  
the church and wishes to ensure their representation in a way that respects the  
unique capacities of the ordained pastoral office while preserving the balance of  
rostered church workers and laity;

Therefore be it,



47  
48 **RESOLVED**, That synod bylaw 3.1.2 (c) be amended to say, “Voting delegates shall  
49 consist of one pastor, one commissioned rostered worker, and one layperson from  
50 each electoral circuit. These delegates and their alternates shall be elected according  
51 to the regulations of the Synod”; and be it further

52  
53 **RESOVLED**, That the amendment apply to subsequent district conventions, per the  
54 Synod bylaws.

55  
56 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in  
57 convention to consider adoption.

58  
59 Respectfully submitted,

60  
61 St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, St. Charles, IL  
62 Daniel Vishnesky, President  
63 Sam Hinrichsen, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-15

**Subject:** RECOGNIZING ROSTERED WORKERS AS LAITY FOR VOTING PURPOSES

**RATIONALE:** Recognizing that rostered workers in The Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, such as deaconesses, teachers, D.C.E., and other commissioned ministers, serve vital roles within the church without being ordained clergy, this overture proposes that these workers be formally classified as part of the laity for purposes of voting delegation. This approach retains the established balance between clergy and laity while giving those in rostered service an official voice.

**WHEREAS,** The LCMS distinguishes between ordained clergy (pastors) and rostered workers who are commissioned and serve in various ministries of the church; and

**WHEREAS,** The distinction between clergy and laity is already made on theological grounds, but rostered workers, who provide significant spiritual and ministerial leadership within congregations, could be considered part of the laity when it comes to Synod representation; and

**WHEREAS,** Many LCMS rostered workers serve in ways that closely align with lay leadership, and their insights into the ministry are beneficial for the decision-making processes of the Synod;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** that rostered workers, such as deaconesses, teachers, DCE's, and others who are commissioned, but not ordained, be classified under the category of "laity" for the purpose of Synod voting delegation; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That each congregation be allowed to include either a rostered worker or a lay delegate, ensuring that the overall balance of clergy and lay representation remains intact; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** That the Northern Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to consider adoption.



47  
48 Respectfully submitted,  
49  
50 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Charles, IL  
51 Daniel Vishnesky, President  
52 Sam Hinrichsen, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-16

**Subject:** TO GIVE GUIDANCE ON SEPERATION OF FIRST COMMUNION AND  
CONFIRMATION

**RATIONALE:** Some sister congregations of the LCMS have decided to take up the practice of separating first communion from confirmation. Varying degrees of catechization are deemed sufficient for first communion, with the expectation that more instruction will lead to confirmation. However, questions arise as to whether all first communicants have received sufficient instruction to partake of the Lord's body and blood in the unity of the Faith. Guidance from the CTCR may be helpful in guiding a proper consideration of how to use first communion: is 'knowledge of the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins' sufficient for first communion? Or, is simple, but clear agreement in all parts of the Small Catechism the standard for first communion?

**WHEREAS**, sister congregations of the LCMS have varied opinions about the joining or separation of First Communion and the tradition of Confirmation, and

**WHEREAS**, no one is to be admitted to the Lord's Table without first being examined, and

**WHEREAS**, varied opinions may exist about how much of the Small Catechism is to be learned before first communion, when separated from confirmation, and

**WHEREAS**, we desire all sister congregations to recognize and welcome communicant members in good standing at sister congregations, and

**WHEREAS**, consciences can be burdened either (1) if it is believed one has been granted first communion (but has not yet been confirmed) has not been thoroughly instructed, or (2) if it is believed that one who has been granted first communion in one congregation is not welcome to the Table of a sister congregation;

Therefore be it,



47 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District request the CTCR  
48 of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to prepare a study<sup>1</sup> on First Communion and  
49 Confirmation that engages the following questions? –

- 50 • How should sister congregations of the LCMS understand the difference  
51 between first communion and confirmation?
- 52 • Does the ‘minimum’ for first communion include simply instruction regarding  
53 the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, or  
54 does it also include sufficient instruction in and agreement with the Small  
55 Catechism to agree in the unity of the faith?
- 56 • If a congregation chooses to separate confirmation from first communion, what  
57 would be useful instructional topics leading to confirmation, and what would be  
58 the proper use and understanding of confirmation in the life of the Christian  
59 and the life of the congregation?

60

61 Respectfully submitted,

62

63 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL

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<sup>1</sup> LCMS resources from the last fifty years include *Confirmation and First Communion* (Frank W. Klos), commended for use at the 1971 synod convention; and, from 1998, the survey results of “A Study of Youth Confirmation and First Communion in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.” We request the CTCR to consider both documents.



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-17

**Subject:** ALLOWING WOMEN TO ASSIST IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**RATIONALE:** We are called to recognize and affirm the diverse gifts of all members of our congregations, including women, both called workers and laity, who contribute to the life and ministry of the church. In that spirit, we would like Synod to reconcile the bylaws with The LCMS CTCR Review of 2005 Guidelines for Women in the Church report, which states that Synod allows congregations to vary their practice on this matter.

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Sacrament of the Alter for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of believers (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26); and

**WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has historically reserved the consecration of the elements (bread and wine) for ordained pastors as a function of the pastoral office (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9); and

**WHEREAS,** Our confession acknowledges the importance of the sacrament of the altar and the necessity of active participation by the laity in worship; and

**WHEREAS,** There is a growing recognition within our Northern Illinois District church body to recognize all of the gifts and callings of women, who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve in various capacities; and

**WHEREAS,** There are distinctive difference in roles of assisting with the distribution of elements (bread and wine) and the ordained role of consecrating the Lord’s Supper; and

**WHEREAS,** Scripture affirms the roles of men and women in the Body of Christ (Galatians 3:28), recognizing that women have faithfully served the Church in various capacities throughout its history, including as deaconesses, DCE’s, teachers, and lay leaders (Romans 16:1-2, Acts 18:26); and





47  
 48 **WHEREAS**, Congregations differ in policy and practice on roles of women, some  
 49 allowing women’s suffrage and others do not; and  
 50  
 51 **WHEREAS**, Many churches already allow women to serve in many supportive roles  
 52 during worship, such as lectors, musicians, ushers and assisting in the distribution of  
 53 the Lord’s Supper would be consistent with these roles; and  
 54  
 55 **WHEREAS**, Including women in distribution may be helpful to avoid confusion  
 56 regarding the status of women in the church and to avoid giving offense; and  
 57  
 58 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS CTCR Review of 2005 Guidelines for Women in the Church  
 59 states that congregations vary in their policy and practice regarding roles of women in  
 60 the church, and when it comes to women and the distribution of the Lord’s Supper,  
 61 “the parallel to the Synod’s position and practice on the issue of woman suffrage is  
 62 valid.”  
 63  
 64 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations in the LCMS experience a shortage of available elders  
 65 or laymen to assist in distributing the elements during communion services, especially  
 66 in the smaller or rural congregations, thus making this proposal both practical and  
 67 beneficial for the local congregation;  
 68  
 69 Therefore be it,  
 70  
 71 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 72 Synod affirms that the role of consecrating the elements of the Lord’s Supper remains  
 73 the responsibility of the ordained pastor; and be it further  
 74  
 75 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 76 Synod allow congregations to consider the role of women in assisting to serve  
 77 communion, recognizing their gifts and calling in accordance with the teachings of  
 78 Scripture and Lutheran confession; and be it further  
 79  
 80 **RESOLVED**, That this practice be implemented with care and respect for  
 81 congregational autonomy, allowing each congregation to determine whether to permit  
 82 women to serve in this capacity; and be it further  
 83  
 84 **RESOLVED**, That pastors, elders, and congregations be encouraged to engage in  
 85 theological reflection and study on the service of women in worship roles, rooted in a  
 86 commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and be further  
 87  
 88 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 89 Synod provide resources and guidance for congregations seeking to implement this  
 90 practice in a manner consistent with our Lutheran theology and practice; and be it  
 91 finally  
 92



93 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri  
94 Synod give thanks for the faithful service of women in the Church and recognize this  
95 overture as an opportunity to affirm and encourage women's participation in the life of  
96 the Church in a manner that is faithful to our theological convictions.

97

98 Respectfully submitted,

99

100 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

101 President

102 Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-18

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF MARK 16:9-20

**WHEREAS**, The Holy Scriptures of the prophets (Old Testament) and apostles (New Testament) are the foundation of Christ's Church on earth, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20); and

**WHEREAS**, The Scriptures along with the Lutheran Confessions, which are normed by the Holy Scriptures, are the unalterable rule and norm of all doctrine and practice for and in all her congregations and by which all rostered ministers are pledged before God to conduct their office; and

**WHEREAS**, Scripture is never a matter of private opinion or interpretation but is given by the Holy Ghost through holy men whom that same Spirit moved, inspired (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17), and gave their very words; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gospel according to St. Mark is a universally accepted Gospel in the New Testament canon of Scriptures and was never included among the so-called antilegomena, that is, those books, the inclusion of which some church leaders spoke against when the canon was accepted by the Christian church; and

**WHEREAS**, Two ancient Greek texts of the Holy Scriptures, rediscovered in the nineteenth century and originating from the fourth century (namely Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus), contain texts of the Gospel of Mark with unusual truncations (that is, visually abnormal endings when compared to the appearance of other endings of books in the same codex), excluding the last 12 verses, Mark 16:9-20, as they appear in our Bibles; and

**WHEREAS**, This truncation is unheard of before the writings of Eusebius of Caesarea (A.D. 339) in the fourth century (and later those of Jerome [A.D. 420], apparently quoting him) and his comment about texts that exclude this section does not preclude his own acknowledgment of that text as authoritative, nor Jerome's omitting it in his Latin translation of the Bible, and since nineteenth century scholarship that began to be critical of the inclusion of these twelve verse as well as Moses' authorship of the



47 Pentateuch has been well countered by the arguments of scholarship supporting the  
 48 Church's and Bible's claims of its own origins by such scholars as John Burgon (A.D.  
 49 1813-1888) and expressed carefully and exhaustively by modern scholars such as  
 50 Nicholas Lunn (see *The Original Ending of Mark: A New Case for the Authenticity of*  
 51 *Mark 16:9-20*; Pickwick Publications, Eugene, Ore., 2014); and

52  
 53 **WHEREAS**, Churchmen, such as Eusebius and Jerome, being aware of these texts  
 54 and their omission in some manuscripts, and living much closer to the historical  
 55 context of their appearance, yet neither speaking against their inclusion, nor  
 56 themselves excluding these texts as authoritative from their own use and quotation,  
 57 were in a much better position to evaluate their authenticity than the musings of  
 58 modern scholars of Scriptures, let alone unbelieving scholars who have a record of  
 59 attacking the veracity of the sacred text; and

60  
 61 **WHEREAS**, Exclusion of the last 12 verses of Mark by textual critics renders this  
 62 Gospel incomplete and prone to erroneous interpretation as compared to the other  
 63 Gospels, because the resurrection would be thus promised by the Lord (Mark 8:31;  
 64 9:31; 10:33-34) without witness of its fulfillment, because Christ's personal promise of  
 65 the Holy Spirit and commissioning His disciples to preach to the world would be  
 66 missing, and because lacking both a birth and resurrection narrative Mark's Gospel  
 67 would invite a Gnostic interpretation; and

68  
 69 **WHEREAS**, Mark 16:16 is the authoritative statement in Scripture on Baptism,  
 70 chosen by Luther to teach about the efficacy of Baptism in his Large and Small  
 71 Catechisms, and is a cornerstone of the doctrine of Baptism that is memorized and  
 72 used to affirm baptismal regeneration in all our congregations; and

73  
 74 **WHEREAS**, Footnotes flagging words and sections of modern Bibles as missing in  
 75 ancient versions serve no purpose for laymen, except to undermine their confidence in  
 76 God's preserving the text His Word, but only invite them to believe the Bible is flawed  
 77 and inaccurate; and

78  
 79 **WHEREAS**, Our Synod was warned in the tragic events of the Seminex walkout in  
 80 1974, that reason is not be used to silence or to replace the Word of God by its  
 81 judgments (magisterial use of reason), but is to be used to draw out from Scriptures  
 82 what God is saying in it (ministerial use of reason); and

83  
 84 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) affirmed that all Scriptures  
 85 are inspired by God and not subject to private interpretation (LCMS CTCR, *The*  
 86 *Inspiration of Scripture* [March 1975]), but to the interpretation the Holy Spirit gives in  
 87 Scriptural context, by which the Holy Spirit gives faith and salvation when and where  
 88 He will;

89  
 90 Therefore be it,

91



92 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District affirm in convention that all of the  
93 Gospel according to St. Mark (including Mark 16:9-20), as it appears in over 95  
94 percent of the Scriptures and Biblical versions witnessed in all the history of the  
95 Church, is not to be demoted to the status of antilegomenon but affirmed as inspired  
96 and authoritative; and be it further  
97

98 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District exhort Concordia Publishing House to  
99 include in this section of their published Bibles and commentaries: “Though a few  
100 ancient texts omit these verses, they are well attested in the vast majority of ancient  
101 New Testament texts and to the present day”; and be it finally  
102

103 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District exhort our seminaries thoroughly to  
104 train future pastors in the arguments employed to support inclusion or exclusion of  
105 Mark 16:9-20 in the sacred text and to further remind them both of Christ’s promise  
106 that Scripture would not be broken (John 10:35) and that His Word would never pass  
107 away (Matt. 5:35) as well as the Scriptural admonitions and curses against adding or  
108 subtracting from God’s Word (see Deut. 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19).  
109

110 Respectfully submitted,  
111

112 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

113 Mark Stern, Chairman

114 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-19

**Subject:** TO USE ONLY SUSTAINABLE BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

**WHEREAS**, we accept without reservation that the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament are “the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice” (Synod Constitution, Article II); and

**WHEREAS**, passages of Holy Scripture are used throughout the hymnals, catechisms, and other printed resources of the Synod: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16, KJV); and

**WHEREAS**, our printed resources must use accurate and consistent translations of Holy Scripture from the original Bible languages into the language of the people: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Revelation 22:18-19); and

**WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House and the Synod currently use the “English Standard Version” or “ESV” translation of the Bible for most purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the copyright for the ESV is not controlled by the Synod but its owned by Crossway, a pan-reformed entity that does not subscribe to a Lutheran understanding of the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper (see <https://www.crossway.org/statement-of-faith/>); and

**WHEREAS**, Crossway retains the right to change the text of the ESV and has done so on multiple occasions making hundreds of changes (see <http://bible-researcher.com/esv2011changes.pdf>), with the result that the prior versions are no longer licensed, similar to the situation that occurred when the New International Version (1984) of the Bible (at one time, a primary translation used by the Synod) was withdrawn by its copyright owners; and



47  
48 **WHEREAS**, this creates an untenable situation with respect to printed materials of the  
49 Synod, because it allows a third party (Crossway) to forcibly change the content of  
50 written resources of the Synod by withdrawing the copyright to the prior versions of  
51 ESV, unless Synod can persuade Crossway to allow Synod to use alternate wording at  
52 Crossway's sole discretion; and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, contemporary or political considerations should not impact the faithful  
55 translation of God's Word, yet, the ESV has chosen to replace the word "slave" in its  
56 original translation with the word "bondservant" in many verses because, according to  
57 the ESV editors, "the word "slave" currently carries associations with the often brutal  
58 and dehumanizing institution of slavery particularly in nineteenth-century America"  
59 as though we should be ashamed to be called "a slave of Christ" (1 Corinthians 7:22,  
60 ESV pre-2011); and

61  
62 **WHEREAS**, such continuing changes in translation create sort of "plastic text" which  
63 hinders the commonality of text necessary for memorization, and undermines  
64 confidence in the translation as a whole;

65  
66 Therefore be it,

67  
68 **RESOLVED**, That in order for the Synod to discern for itself the preferred translation  
69 of Holy Scripture, the Northern Illinois District in convention submit an overture  
70 directing the Synod and Concordia Publishing House and agencies of Synod to use, for  
71 Scripture quotations in their printed materials for public worship and teaching, only  
72 sustainable translations of Holy Scripture, meaning translations that either are in the  
73 public domain, or have a copyright license that allows Synod, in its sole discretion, to  
74 continue to use and republish such translation without being subject to the veto  
75 power or permissive rights of any outside body.

76  
77 Respectfully submitted,

78  
79 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL  
80 Mark Stern, Chairman  
81 Max Paisker, Secretary





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-20

Subject: TO REJOICE IN THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD BY HIS CALLED  
AND ORDAINED SERVANTS

**WHEREAS**, we come to the Divine Service not to serve, but to be served by God through His called and ordained servants, as we confess our sins, hear His words of Absolution spoken by the pastor in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, hear Law and Gospel rightly divided, and receive the sacrament of Christ's body and blood; and

**WHEREAS**, when we hear the words of forgiveness of our sins spoken by the pastor at Christ's command, we are to rejoice and to believe them as surely and certainly as if spoken by Christ Himself; and

**WHEREAS**, in the orientation of the service the words spoken from the altar, pulpit, and lectern are the words of God spoken for our benefit, whereas the congregation faces the altar and speaks back the words God has said to us; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a great blessing for all those in the congregation to hear the Word of God spoken by our pastors, who are our servants (Mark 9:35), and it is meet, right, and salutary that we should accept their service to us; and

**WHEREAS**, faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17), and the use of lay readers for Scripture lessons denies those persons the comfort and benefit of hearing the Word of God spoken directly to and for them by their pastors; and

**WHEREAS**, no one should publicly preach and teach in the church without a rightly ordered call (AC XIV); there can be no clearer public teaching of the Word of God than reading it in the Divine Service; and thus the use of lay readers can confuse the vocations of the called and ordained pastor as servant of the Word, and of the congregation as hearers of the Word; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of lay readers can be understood wrongly as an individual "participating" in the conduct of the service, as though greater meaning, benefit, or



47 stature is thereby obtained (and by implication, that those who do not read are taking  
48 a lesser role), and we ought not burden mis-trained consciences in such manner, in  
49 contrast to the right understanding that the whole congregation benefits on an equal  
50 basis as it is served by the pastor; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, as a practical matter the pastor is best suited to read the text without  
53 disruption or delay to the flow of the service, and with due emphasis on the  
54 pronunciation and salient points of the text, particularly if it forms a portion of the  
55 sermon text; therefore be it

56  
57 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention give thanks and rejoice  
58 in the proclamation of the Word by God's called and ordained servants; and be it  
59 further

60  
61 **RESOLVED**, That the District President disseminate appropriate resources throughout  
62 the District to assist pastors in catechizing their congregations to understand the  
63 great blessing of the role of the pastor in the Divine Service, so that rather than giving  
64 offense, laity who have been accustomed to read Scripture lessons may rather  
65 understand and appreciate the service of the pastor for their benefit, and hear with  
66 great joy God's Word as it is read for them; and be it further

67  
68 **RESOLVED**, That the District President and Circuit Visitors give emphasis in their  
69 visitations of all congregations in the next triennium to a right understanding of the  
70 role of the congregation in the Divine Service and other worship services, specifically  
71 toward following the practice of having Holy Scripture read by the pastor in all worship  
72 services, that all congregations may walk together in doctrine and practice; and be it  
73 further

74  
75 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit this overture to the Synod for  
76 appropriate action toward following the practice of having Holy Scripture read by the  
77 pastor in all worship services, that all Synod congregations may walk together in  
78 doctrine and practice.

79  
80 Respectfully submitted,

81  
82 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL  
83 Mark Stern, Chairman  
84 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-21

**Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR FRANZ PIEPER AND F.C.D. WYNEKEN

**WHEREAS**, June 27, 2027 is the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of Franz Pieper; and

**WHEREAS**, May 4, 2026 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken; and

**WHEREAS**, both these men made a tremendous impact as pastors, theologians, and presidents of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS); and

**WHEREAS**, Wyneken in particular helped to organize the confessional Lutherans in the United States, aroused tremendous support for Lutheran mission work in America through his *The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America*, did tremendous mission work in all of the congregations he served, and did much to enshrine a commitment to missions in the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS**, Pieper in particular served on the Synodical Conference's Board of Colored Missions from 1882 until 1899 when he became LCMS president, wrote *Christian Dogmatics*, served as the primary author of *A Brief Statement*, and wrote numerous other important theological works; and

**WHEREAS**, the author of Hebrews instructs us, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." (13:7);

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the convention rise and give thanks to God for the life and work of Franz Pieper and F.C.D. Wyneken by rising and singing stanza one of *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*; and be it further



45 **RESOLVED**, that the pastors of the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS be  
46 encouraged to study the life and work of these men both in circuit meetings and their  
47 own private study.

48  
49 Respectfully submitted,

50  
51 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL  
52 Carl von Holten, Chairman  
53 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-22

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM CONGREGATION’S RIGHT TO ALLOW WOMEN TO ASSIST IN  
DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**RATIONALE:** We are called to recognize and affirm the diverse gifts of all members of our congregations, including women, both called workers and laity, who contribute to the life and ministry of the church. In that spirit, we would like Synod to reaffirm the The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) Review of 2005 Guidelines for Women in the Church report, which states that Synod allows congregations to vary their practice on this matter.

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Sacrament of the Alter for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of believers (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26); and

**WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) has historically reserved the consecration of the elements (bread and wine) for ordained pastors as a function of the pastoral office (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9); and

**WHEREAS,** Our confession acknowledges the importance of the sacrament of the altar and the necessity of active participation by the laity in worship; and

**WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District of the LCMS (NID LCMS) recognizes all of the gifts and callings of women, who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve in various capacities; and

**WHEREAS,** There are distinctive difference in roles of assisting with the distribution of elements (bread and wine) and the ordained role of consecrating the Lord’s Supper; and

**WHEREAS,** Scripture affirms the roles of men and women in the Body of Christ (Galatians 3:28), recognizing that women have faithfully served the Church in various capacities throughout its history, including as deaconesses, Directors of Christian Education, teachers, and lay leaders (Romans 16:1-2, Acts 18:26); and



47  
 48 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS CTCR Review of 2005 Guidelines for Women in the Church  
 49 states that congregations vary in their policy and practice regarding roles of women in  
 50 the church, and when it comes to women and the distribution of the Lord’s Supper,  
 51 “the parallel to the Synod’s position and practice on the issue of woman suffrage is  
 52 valid”; and

53  
 54 **WHEREAS**, The NID already reflects the 2005 Report’s conclusion that congregations  
 55 differ in policy and practice on roles of women while remaining faithful to the  
 56 Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

57 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations in the LCMS experience a shortage of available elders  
 58 or laymen to assist in distributing the elements during communion services, especially  
 59 in the smaller or rural congregations, thus making the assistance of women in  
 60 distribution of the Supper both practical and beneficial for the local congregation;

61  
 62 Therefore be it,

63  
 64 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS affirms that the role of consecrating the elements of  
 65 the Lord’s Supper remains the responsibility of the ordained pastor; and be it further

66  
 67 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS affirm the good and right practice of allowing women  
 68 to assist in distribution of the Lord’s Supper, recognizing their gifts and calling in  
 69 accordance with the teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it  
 70 further

71  
 72 **RESOLVED**, That this practice be implemented with care and respect for  
 73 congregational autonomy, affirming the congregation’s right to determine whether to  
 74 permit women to serve in this capacity; and be it further

75  
 76 **RESOLVED**, That pastors, elders, and congregations be encouraged to engage in  
 77 theological reflection and study on the service of women in worship roles, rooted in a  
 78 commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and be further

79  
 80 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS provide resources and guidance for congregations  
 81 seeking to implement this practice in a manner consistent with our Lutheran theology  
 82 and practice; and be it finally

83  
 84 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS give thanks for the faithful service of women in the  
 85 Church and recognize this overture as an opportunity to affirm and encourage  
 86 women’s participation in the life of the Church in a manner that is faithful to our  
 87 theological convictions.

88  
 89 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS memorialize the Synod to also reaffirm the 2005  
 90 CTCR report in convention, that Synod allows congregations to vary their practice on  
 91 the role of women in the distribution of the Lord’s Supper.

92



93 Respectfully submitted,  
94  
95 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-23

**Subject:** TO PROVIDE THE OPTION OF APPOINTING ONE ORDAINED PASTOR OR ONE COMMISSIONED MINISTER AS THE ROSTERED VOTING DELEGATE TO DISTRICT CONVENTION

**RATIONALE:** Commissioned church workers in The LCMS, such as deaconesses, teachers, directors of Christian education, and other ministers, fulfill critical leadership and ministerial roles within the church. While not ordained, their service and experience in unique and vital to the schools, congregations, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), and communities that The LCMS serves. This overture proposes that all rostered workers be eligible to serve as the non-laity voting delegate to District Convention under LCMS Constitution Article XII 10.a. The proposed constitutional amendment does not cause an imbalance between rostered church worker delegates and lay delegates.

**WHEREAS,** Rostered workers, such as deaconesses, teachers, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs), and other ministers of religion – commissioned (Commissioned Ministers), provide essential spiritual, education, and administrative leadership in the LCMS schools, congregations, Registered Service Organizations (RSOs), and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The current voting structure excludes Commissioned Minister from ever serving as delegates, making them essentially voiceless members of the Synod, and yet their ministry and their life in the Church are impacted by decisions made in convention; and

**WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (NID LCMS) values the unique contributions of all those called to service in the church and wishes to ensure their representation in a way that respects the unique capacities of rostered workers while preserving the balance of rostered church workers and laity;

Therefore be it,



46 **RESOLVED**, That the LCMS Constitution Article XII 10.a. be amended as follows:  
47 “Every member congregation or multi-congregation parish is entitled to two votes, one  
48 of which is to be cast by its pastor or commissioned minister and the other by the lay  
49 delegate elected and deputed by the congregation or parish”; and be it further

50  
51 **RESOLVED**, That other Synod constitution articles or bylaws which pertain to this  
52 change also be updated to reflect this new voting delegate composition; and be it  
53 further

54  
55 **RESOLVED**, The NID LCMS request the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional  
56 Matters prepares this change to the LCMS Constitution to be amended at the 2026  
57 Synod Convention; and be it further

58  
59 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS in convention memorialize the Synod in convention  
60 to consider adoption of this Constitution amendment.

61  
62 Respectfully submitted,

63  
64 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-24

**Subject:** TO TASK THE COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS TO  
WRITE A REPORT AND ACCOMPANYING STUDY ADDRESSING CHRISTIAN  
NATIONALISM IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT

**WHEREAS**, Scripture does not endorse or prescribe one form of government over  
another since the fall of ancient Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years a form of government known as Christian Nationalism has  
been pushed forward by both good faith and bad faith actors; and

**WHEREAS**, There is no set or agreed upon form of what is Christian Nationalism, with  
some adherents advocating for basic theonomy while others argue for a version in  
which only Christians would hold office and have rights, etc; and

**WHEREAS**, There is much fear and misunderstanding of what is and is not Christian  
Nationalism due to public discourse and this causes much confusion within our  
synod; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther argues that since the role of government is to enforce laws  
and not preach the Gospel it cannot by definition be Christian (see What Luther Says,  
[CPH, 1959] 1780, 1781, and 1795 in which Luther says such things as, “It is out of  
the question that there can be a common Christian government over the entire world,  
or for that matter, over one country or a great number of people;”); and

**WHEREAS**, Pastors, other church workers, and laity have many questions on this  
topic and seek to live out their faith in God pleasing ways especially in their vocations  
as citizens, and

**WHEREAS**, In the United States of America a separation of Church and State is  
understood to be foundational to government so that the government cannot and does  
not endorse, promote, or favor a single religion or one religion over another, and



46 **WHEREAS**, In the politically charged times we live, members of The Lutheran Church-  
47 Missouri Synod on all sides of this topic have anathematized each other, declaring  
48 each other as traitors to God and the Gospel, and the church body as a whole apostate  
49 for promoting or not promoting what they view as Christian Nationalism,

50  
51 Therefore be it,

52  
53 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
54 Synod (NID LCMS) requests that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Commission on  
55 Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) thoroughly study Christian Nationalism  
56 detailing various forms, working definitions, and how each does or does not follow the  
57 faith handed down from the apostles by mixing up the role of the two  
58 realms/kingdoms; and be it also

59  
60 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS requests the CTCR write a report of their study; and  
61 be it also

62  
63 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS requests the CTCR create a study of their report that  
64 is easily accessible and understandable by not only clergy and church workers, but  
65 the LCMS laity and church body as a whole; and be it finally

66  
67 **RESOLVED**, That the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention be  
68 memorialized to instruct the CTCR to accomplish the above requests if the CTCR has  
69 not already begun to do so.

70  
71 Respectfully submitted,

72  
73 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-25

**Subject:** TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS AND INCLUDE MINISTERS OF RELIGION-COMMISSIONED

**RATIONALE:** This overture amends the District voting delegate structure for Synod conventions by expanding the number of delegates each circuit may appoint from two to four. The two new delegates include a 1) additional lay voting delegate and 2) a Commissioned Minister voting delegate. This approach acknowledges that the service and experience of commissioned church workers is unique and vital to the schools, congregations, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), and communities that The LCMS serves while maintaining the current representation of ordained pastors and laity.

**WHEREAS,** Rostered workers, such as deaconesses, teachers, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs), and other ministers of religion-commissioned (Commissioned Ministers), provide essential spiritual, educational, and administrative leadership in the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS,** Commissioned Ministers are trained and Synodically approved for calls, and have made vows to uphold Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, meaning they are uniquely positioned to have significant insights into matters of Synod; and

**WHEREAS,** The current voting structure excludes Commissioned Ministers from ever serving as delegates, making them essentially voiceless members of Synod, and yet their ministry and their life in the Church are impacted by decisions made in convention; and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod values the unique contributions of all those called to service in the church and wishes to ensure their representation in a way that respects the unique capacities of the ordained pastoral office while preserving the balance of rostered church workers and laity;

Therefore be it,



47 **RESOLVED**, That Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 (c) be amended as follows:

48 (c ) Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor, one commission minister, and one two  
49 laypersons from each electoral circuit. These pastoral and lay delegates and their  
50 alternates shall be elected according to the regulations of the Synod (Bylaw 3.1.2.1).

51 (d) The commission minister and lay delegates shall serve throughout the triennium  
52 following the convention as an advisory member of the circuit forum; and be it further

53

54 **RESOLVED**, That other Synod bylaws which pertain to this change also be updated to  
55 reflect this new voting structure of four circuit delegates; and be it further

56

57 **RESOVLED**, The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters assist Districts in  
58 preparing changes to their Bylaws to be amended at the next District Convention  
59 following the 2026 Synod Convention, and be it further

60

61 **RESOLVED**, That the NID LCMS in convention memorialize the Synod in convention  
62 to consider adoption of these bylaw changes.

63

64 Respectfully submitted,

65

66 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-26

**Subject:** TO TASK THE COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS TO  
WRITE A REPORT AND ACCOMPANYING STUDY ADDRESSING CHRISTIAN  
NATIONALISM IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT

**WHEREAS**, Scripture does not endorse or prescribe one form of government over  
another since the fall of ancient Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years a form of government known as Christian Nationalism has  
been pushed forward by both good faith and bad faith actors; and

**WHEREAS**, There is no set or agreed upon form of what is Christian Nationalism, with  
some adherents advocating for basic theonomy while others argue for a version in  
which only Christians would hold office and have rights, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, There is much fear and misunderstanding of what is and is not Christian  
Nationalism due to public discourse and this causes much confusion within our  
synod; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther argues that since the role of government is to enforce laws  
and not preach the Gospel it cannot by definition be Christian (see What Luther Says,  
[CPH, 1959] § 1780, 1781, and 1795 in which Luther says such things as, "It is out of  
the question that there can be a common Christian government over the entire world,  
or for that matter, over one country or a great number of people;"; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastors, other church workers, and laity have many questions on this  
topic and seek to live out their faith in God pleasing ways especially in their vocations  
as citizens, and

**WHEREAS**, In the United States of America a separation of Church and State is  
understood to be foundational to government so that the government cannot and does  
not endorse, promote, or favor a single religion or one religion over another, and



46 **WHEREAS**, In the politically charged times we live, members of The Lutheran Church  
47 - Missouri Synod on all sides of this topic have anathematized each other, declaring  
48 each other as traitors to God and the Gospel, and the church body as a whole apostate  
49 for promoting or not promoting what they view as Christian Nationalism,

50  
51 Therefore be it,

52  
53 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
54 Synod requests that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Commission on Theology  
55 and Church Relations (CTCR) thoroughly study Christian Nationalism detailing  
56 various forms, working definitions, and how each does or does not follow the faith  
57 handed down from the apostles by mixing up the role of the two realms/kingdoms;  
58 and be it also

59  
60 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS requests the CTCR write a  
61 report of their study; and be it also

62  
63 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS requests CTCR create a  
64 study of their report that is easily accessible and understandable by not only clergy  
65 and church workers, but the LCMS laity and church body as a whole; and be it finally

66  
67 **RESOLVED**, That the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in convention be  
68 memorialized to instruct the CTCR to accomplish the above requests if the CTCR has  
69 not already begun to do so.

70  
71 Respectfully submitted,

72  
73 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL  
74 Pastor  
75 Lay Representative





1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

5  
6  
7 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8 The Northern Illinois District  
9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10 March 7-8, 2025

11  
12 OVERTURE: 2-01

13  
14 **Subject:** TO UNIFY THE SERVICE OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND VICE-  
15 PRESIDENTS

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the NID's 2022 Convention increased district presidents' limits of  
18 continuous service to four (4) terms; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, district vice presidents' term limits are currently set at three (3) terms;  
21 and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, experienced district vice presidents are among the most experienced and  
24 qualified candidates to replace an outgoing district president; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, a district vice president - if limited to three terms - may miss an important  
27 three years of service in district leadership before being able to replace an outgoing  
28 president; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, there is no apparent reason that the term limits should be different for  
31 vice presidents versus the District President;

32  
33 Therefore be it,

34  
35 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limits of vice  
36 presidents' available continuous service to four (4) terms.

37  
38 Respectfully Submitted,

39  
40 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

5  
6  
7 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8 The Northern Illinois District  
9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10 March 7-8, 2025

11  
12 OVERTURE: 2-02

13  
14 **Subject:** TO ALIGN THE TERM LIMITS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND VICE-  
15 PRESIDENTS

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the NID's 2022 Convention increased district presidents' limits of  
18 continuous service to four (4) terms; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, district vice presidents' term limits are currently set at three (3) terms;  
21 and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, experienced district vice presidents are among the most experienced and  
24 qualified candidates to replace an outgoing district president; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, a district vice president - if limited to three terms - may miss an important  
27 three years of service in district leadership before being able to replace an outgoing  
28 president; and

29  
30 Therefore be it,

31  
32 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limits of vice  
33 presidents' available continuous service to four (4) terms.

34  
35 Respectfully Submitted,

36  
37 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL



1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

5  
6  
7 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8 The Northern Illinois District  
9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10 March 7-8, 2025

11  
12 OVERTURE: 2-03

13  
14 **Subject:** TO ALIGN THE TERM LIMITS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND VICE-  
15 PRESIDENTS

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the NID's 2022 Convention increased district presidents' limits of  
18 continuous service to four (4) terms; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, district vice presidents' term limits are currently set at three (3) terms;  
21 and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, district vice presidents are experienced and qualified men who may  
24 eventually replace an outgoing District President, and a term of service in this  
25 leadership role equal to that of the District President might prove beneficial;

26  
27 Therefore be it,

28  
29 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limits of vice  
30 presidents' to four (4) terms.

31  
32 Respectfully Submitted,

33  
34 Circuit W8



1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

5  
6  
7 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8 The Northern Illinois District  
9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10 March 7-8, 2025

11  
12 OVERTURE: 2-04

13  
14 **Subject:** TO ALIGN THE TERM LIMITS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND VICE-  
15 PRESIDENTS

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the NID's 2022 Convention increased district presidents' limits of  
18 continuous service to four (4) terms; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the term limit for district Vice Presidents is currently set at three (3)  
21 terms, and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, district vice presidents are experienced and qualified men who may  
24 eventually replace an outgoing District President, and a term of service in this  
25 leadership role equal to that of the District President might prove beneficial;

26  
27 Therefore be it,

28  
29 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limits of vice  
30 presidents' to four (4) terms.

31  
32 Respectfully Submitted,

33  
34 St. John Lutheran Church, Sycamore, IL  
35 Carl Heide, Chairman  
36 Jane McDougall, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-05

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO REGULARLY REVIEW  
CONGREGATIONAL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul reminds us that especially within the church, all things should be done decently and in order [1 Cor 14:40]; and

**WHEREAS**, A constitution and bylaws, approved by the district board of directors, is a condition for congregational membership within the synod [Bylaw 2.2.1, *Handbook*, p. 55], and

**WHEREAS**, Changes in the circumstances within our congregations and synod, as well as changes in terminology occur over time; and

**WHEREAS**, It is beneficial to regularly and intentionally review the governing documents of our congregations, *i.e.* the constitution and bylaws;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That all congregations refer to the report of the district Committee on Constitutional Matters listing the latest approved constitution and bylaws and make sure that is the document under which the congregation is operating, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District encourage our congregations to intentionally and regularly review their governing documents, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That when determining that amendments or revisions would be beneficial and/or necessary that they follow the process for amending their documents as outlined in bylaw 2.4.1, [Handbook, p. 56] and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend those congregations, who have intentionally regularly reviewed their governing documents, and submitted revisions for district approval.



47 Respectfully Submitted,  
48  
49 The Northern Illinois District Board of Directors  
50 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, Chair  
51 Rev David Totsky, secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-06

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT ANNUAL  
STATISTICAL REPORTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE ROSTERS AND STATISTICS

**WHEREAS**, God in His Word encourages and admonishes Christians to maintain good order among His people,

- Especially within the church, to whom St. Paul advises “all things should be done decently and in order,” and
- Most especially for pastors, who “are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account” (Hebrews 13:17); and

**WHEREAS**, Good order is likewise recognized in the Lutheran Confessions, as “instituted by the Fathers for a good and useful purpose” (Ap. XIV); and

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran tradition consistently counsels sound record-keeping in accord with the Scriptures and Confessions,

- C.F.W. Walther instructs pastors to “immediately set up a registry of souls (*Seelenregister*) and a so-called church register (*Kirchenbuch*).” Walther further advises “[Praxis] itself will organize everything better with time, (*Pastoral Theology*, C.F.W. Walther, (CPH, 2017), 92, 449); and
- Wilhelm Loehe explains that “written reports... are required of pastors, or have been found necessary to submit to the church government,” including but not limited to statistical reports; (*The Pastor*, Wilhelm Loehe, (CPH: 2015), 50-51); and

**WHEREAS**, LCMS Bylaw 1.3.4.3 states: “Congregations of the Synod, to enable the Synod to plan current and future ministry efforts and to lend accuracy and integrity to



45 the Synod’s delegate representation and voting processes, **agree to provide annual**  
46 **membership and statistical information to the Synod,**” and

47

48 **WHEREAS,** Christians are to submit to proper governing authorities, per the Fourth  
49 Commandment (Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16); and

50

51 **WHEREAS,** “[The congregation’s] relationship to the Synod is not merely that of  
52 membership in an organization but [part of] a fellowship of Christians united by faith  
53 in Jesus Christ” (*The Shepherd Under Christ*, Armin W. Schuetze & Irwin J. Habeck,  
54 (NPH: 1974), 359), and Christians are “called to be saints together with all those who  
55 in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:2);

56 Therefore be it,

57

58 **RESOLVED,** That pastors and congregations of the Northern Illinois District be  
59 encouraged to annually submit accurate reports to the LCMS Office of Rosters and  
60 Statistics through the LCMS Information Support Network for Congregations (LISN)  
61 portal.

62

63 Respectfully Submitted,

64

65 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

66 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair

67 Rev. David Totsky, secretary





1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**  
5  
6

7    To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8    The Northern Illinois District  
9    The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10   March 7-8, 2025

11  
12   OVERTURE: 2-07

13  
14   Subject: WELLNESS OVERTURE

15  
16   **WHEREAS**, God requires his people to take care of his called workers, per...

17  
18   **WHEREAS**, God has called his workers to “take care of the flock that he redeemed  
19   with his own blood,”

20  
21   **WHEREAS**, This includes all aspects of life, spiritual, physical and mental,

22  
23   **WHEREAS**, Many called workers feel burnt out and/or depressed,

24  
25   **WHEREAS**, Many congregations feel fear and uncertainty due to lower attendance and  
26   other factors,

27  
28   **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention encourage congregations to take care of the  
29   mental health of their called workers,

30  
31   **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention encourage pastors to take care of the  
32   emotional state of their congregations,

33  
34   **RESOLVED**, That the NID recommend resources to aid called workers and  
35   congregations in these endeavors,

36  
37   **RESOLVED**, That congregations be encouraged to provide opportunities for  
38   sabbaticals to their called workers.

39  
40   Respectfully Submitted,

41  
42   Circuit W8



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-08

Subject: TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR CHURCH WORKERS

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) faces growing shortages of pastors and other church workers; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial burdens of study for church work present a significant barrier to prospective students; and

**WHEREAS**, significant student debt presents a significant challenge to the wellness of workers and their families and limits the ministries at which some can serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture in many places admonishes the faithful to care for pastors and other ministers out of obedience to and love for the LORD; and

**WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District (NID) of the LCMS is a strong and financially sound district;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention direct the board of directors to support church work students at no less than the per student average of all of the districts of the LCMS utilizing whatever district funds they deem best suited for the purpose; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the NID and their members be encouraged to further support church work students according to their ability.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-09

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO SEEK WELLNESS FOR THEIR  
CHURCH WORKERS

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord has created humanity in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6) and has created us anew in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29); and

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord promises to supply us with all we need to support this body and life (Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, The Creed, Explanation to the First Article; The Lord's Prayer, Explanation to the Forth Petition); and

**WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District in convention has affirmed "Wellness" as one of its three mission priorities and has actively pursued this emphasis through the service of its Wellness Committee and Church Worker Care Team; and

**WHEREAS**, Surveys within our synod have revealed a significant percentage church professionals greatly suffer in identified areas of wellness as they serve in ministry (The Reporter, January 2017 edition); and

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in its 2016 convention resolved to address church worker wellness matters through our district presidents, circuit visitors and congregations (Res. 18- 05); and

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has developed resources to provide care for both ordained and commissioned church workers in nine identified critical areas of wellness being Identity in Christ; Supportive and Encouraging Culture; Healthy Church, Schools, and Ministries; Finances; Relationships; Caregivers; Recognition and Connection; Awareness, Resources and Advocacy; and Care Provided Locally;

Therefore be it,



45 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend congregations  
46 to actively seek the wellness of their church workers, reflecting the value they have for  
47 them and to celebrate them as gifts from our Lord; and be it further  
48

49 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District in convention encourage congregations to  
50 annually review the salary and benefits they provide to their church workers with the  
51 goal of making their workers aware of those benefits especially those congregations  
52 and ministries who provide through Concordia Plan Services; and be it further  
53

54 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to research and make  
55 use of ministries that support the care of church workers such as Grace Place,  
56 Doxology, Shepherd's Canyon, *etc.*; and be it further  
57

58 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to explore the use of  
59 sabbaticals for their professional church workers and resources that will support them  
60 in this endeavor, and be it finally  
61

62 **RESOLVED**, That we ask our congregations, schools, and ministries to regularly  
63 prayer for their church workers and that the Lord would provide more workers for the  
64 harvest (Matthew 9).  
65

66 Respectfully Submitted,  
67

68 The Northern Illinois District Board of Directors  
69 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair  
70 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-10

Subject: TO SUPPORT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO GRADUATES PURSUING  
SEMINARY STUDY

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) faces growing shortages of  
pastors and other church workers; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial burdens of study for church work present a significant  
barrier to prospective students; and

**WHEREAS**, significant student debt presents a significant challenge to worker  
wellness and limit the ministries at which some can serve; and

**WHEREAS**, students who attend both a Concordia University System (CUS) school  
and seminary face significantly higher debt than those who attended non-CUS  
schools, especially if their spouses also attended a CUS school; and

**WHEREAS**, the high financial cost is a significant deterrent to students who desire to  
attend seminary also attending Concordia University Chicago (CUC); and

**WHEREAS**, CUC provides students with an outstanding education making them well  
prepared to continue study in seminary to faithfully serve the church and share the  
Gospel with the world and makes them better pastors or deaconesses, and these  
graduates also provide a positive effect on their seminary classmates; and

**WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture in many places admonishes the faithful to care for pastors  
and other ministers out of obedience to and love for the LORD; and

**WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District (NID) of the LCMS is a strong and financially  
sound district;

Therefore be it,



46 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention direct the district board of directors to provide  
47 funding at ten percent (10%) of the per student amount given to church work students  
48 from the district to all CUC graduates who attend an LCMS seminary to become  
49 pastors or deaconesses utilizing whatever district funds they deem best suited to the  
50 purpose; and be it further

51  
52 **RESOLVED**, that seminary students from NID congregations who graduated from CUC  
53 receive this funding in addition to their regular district aid; and be it finally

54  
55 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the NID and their members be encouraged to  
56 further support seminary students according to their ability.

57  
58 Respectfully Submitted,

59  
60 Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-11

Subject: TO REVIEW SYNODICAL PROPERTY FOR THE SAKE OF GOOD  
STEWARDSHIP

**WHEREAS**, numerous districts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) including our own have during recent trienniums evaluated their property for the sake of ensuring good stewardship of the offerings given to them by the people of God; and

**WHEREAS**, the same financial and demographic issues affecting districts also affect the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS**, for the sake of good stewardship and responsible budgeting the LCMS operates with fewer staff than during previous points in its history, which alters its facility needs;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention memorialize the 2026 LCMS convention to direct the LCMS Board of Directors to appoint a taskforce to study the buildings owned by the LCMS and report back to the Board of Directors prior to the 2029 synodical convention its recommendations regarding the best use of these or different facilities for the work of synod.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-12

Subject: TO LOCALIZE AND CENTRALIZE DISTRICT WORK

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has chosen to establish districts - which are not independent church bodies of themselves, but simply administrative groupings, or "Synod in this place" - to be members of the same body in different places, existing for the best interest of the orderly administration of our church body and as parts of the unified whole; and

**WHEREAS**, in the history of the Synod, districts have been created, subdivided, and merged over time, so that there are now 35 districts; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the largest district has about 16 times as many members as the smallest district, resulting in great variation in terms of the resources available to smaller districts versus larger districts to help them support the work of the local congregations in the respective districts, not to mention the difficulty of finding qualified lay volunteers for boards and taking pastors out of the parish for district administrative tasks; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the shrinking of church affiliation and church bodies in America, to which our Synod is by no means immune, financial considerations have caused even larger districts such as the Northern Illinois District to have to reduce staff and make different stewardship decisions regarding their operations, such as in our case selling the District office building and co-locating District offices on campus at Concordia University Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, some have proposed to merge many districts into fewer districts to allow the new, larger districts to be able to fund operations and staff on a larger scale, yet such a proposal would merely perpetuate the current administrative structures (including substantial expenses and overhead at both Synod and District levels); and

**WHEREAS**, rather, it may make sense actually to reimagine the current district and Synod structure by creating more, but smaller and more manageable , geographically localized districts focused on local fellowship and ecclesiastical supervision





47 (essentially, groupings of several visitation circuits), with a part time circuit visitor-  
48 district president based at his own congregation (no office building to maintain) and  
49 one part time administrative assistant, freeing pastors from administrative work and  
50 meetings to serve local parishes; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, "back office", and "support" operations could be provided by Synod with  
53 greater efficiency, so, for example, Lutheran schools could be supported without  
54 having to have 35 separate district education executives and their related salaries and  
55 benefits; and

56 **WHEREAS**, instead of four costly annual Council of Presidents meetings with  
57 associated meeting expenses, time commitment, and nationwide travel, the existing  
58 Synod Regional Vice Presidents could fill the current COP role, at great cost savings to  
59 the church;

60  
61 Therefore be it,

62  
63 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention submit an overture  
64 requesting the 2026 Synod convention to approve a blue-ribbon process to study and,  
65 after appropriate advance discussion and consultation, recommend to the 2029 Synod  
66 Convention, for its consideration, a plan to localize district work through more  
67 numerous but smaller and localized districts, and to centralize back office services  
68 and support at the Synod level for greater efficiencies.

69  
70 Respectfully Submitted,

71  
72 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-13

Subject: TO MODERNIZE THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCEDURES OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD THROUGH THE AMENDMENT OF  
LCMS BYLAWS 3.12

**WHEREAS**, The present election process of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) provides for the online election of the Synod President prior to the national convention (LCMS Bylaw 3.12) and completion of this process two weeks prior to the national convention, and

**WHEREAS**, Candidacy for First Vice President, Regional Vice-Presidents, and elections of the Synod Board of Directors, Mission Boards, and other elected offices are subsequential to the election of the Synod President and take place at the national convention, and

**WHEREAS**, This process consumes considerable resources and takes precious time from discussing the business of the Synod in Convention, despite God's command to steward His gifts, and

**WHEREAS**, Technological advancement and modem communication networks make it possible to complete this process prior to the national convention,

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District (NID) memorialize the LCMS to amend LCMS Bylaw 3.12 to facilitate the election of the First Vice President, Regional Vice-Presidents, Synod Board of Directors, Mission Boards, and other elected offices prior to the national convention, and to this end be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the NID establish a committee to review the existing LCMS Bylaws and advise friendly amendments to the above memorialization to the LCMS, and be it finally



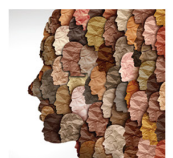
46 **RESOLVED**, That these proposed amendments be submitted to the LCMS for  
47 consideration at the next national convention.

48

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50

51 Circuit W9



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-14

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
TO ENACT A SABBATICAL POLICY FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

**PREAMBLE:** While serving Jesus has always been difficult, the toll taken on professional church workers, especially during and following COVID has reached epidemic proportions. The LCMS and NID have put considerable thought, planning and prayer into ways to help combat this assault on those who lead the Lord’s work in the congregations of His Church. One such preventive tool in care for professional church workers is implementing a policy that encourages and supports sabbaticals in the parishes of the NID.

**WHEREAS,** According to Barna Research in 2022, pastors across all Christian denominations saw low levels of vocational satisfaction, fulfillment and high levels of burnout. 35% of pastors felt more confident about their calling than when they entered the ministry. 52% felt very satisfied with their vocation as a pastor and only 38% felt very satisfied with their ministry at their current church. These numbers have begun to see some improvement but are still at very concerning levels. District leadership report similar findings among NID clergy and other professional church workers.

**WHEREAS,** While each professional Church worker’s situation is unique, many report burnout from overwhelming expectations, workload, conflict and loneliness.

**WHEREAS,** Within a comprehensive worker care plan many congregations find a sabbatical policy to be key tool in combating burnout and drain on Church workers. While sabbaticals can take on various forms, the most successful allow for a time of “sabbath” (which translates in “rest” or “cessation of work.>) The gift of time for the worker to reenergize so that they can more effectively serve the Lord and congregation typically has long lasting effects on the relationship between the worker and congregation resulting in healthier workers, congregations and tenure of service.

**WHEREAS,** A sabbatical allows a worker to rest from “the round the clock” duties and spend time recharging themselves in the way that uniquely suits their needs and



47 desires. They report returning stronger spiritually, physically and mentally, reigniting  
48 their desire to serve the Lord, His Church and the particular flock they are entrusted  
49 with. Not only is the worker empowered to serve more effectively, but the entire  
50 congregation benefits from a reenergized worker to be Christ's presence in their  
51 particular setting.

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, Policies that allow the worker to shape their own sabbatical without  
54 congregational expectations of continuing education, publication or "work produced"  
55 result in the best outcomes. The message that a congregational investment in their  
56 worker so that he/she may serve joyfully and fulfilled for years to come does much to  
57 offset the struggles faced in these difficult times.

58  
59 Therefore be it,

60  
61 **RESOLVED**, All the congregations of the Northern Illinois district prayerfully consider  
62 creating or continuing a policy that allows for professional church workers to take  
63 sabbaticals during their years of active service.

64  
65 **RESOLVED**, Be it further resolved that the district provide examples and guidance to  
66 congregations seeking to create such a policy.

67  
68 **RESOLVED**, And finally, be it resolved that this overture (resolution) and its  
69 recommendations be highlighted in district publications and other means of  
70 communication encouraging all NID congratulations to explore and where possible  
71 implement and well thought out sabbatical policy.

72  
73 Respectfully Submitted,

74  
75 Circuit W8



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-15

Subject: TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES BY SLATE

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul writes, "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. (1 Corinthians 10:23); and

**WHEREAS**, King David says in Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"; and

**WHEREAS**, we are called to keep the 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment in all matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the convention has the authority to emend slates of candidates if it deems adding or removing one is appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, the convention is required to elect candidates for all the positions it votes on; and

**WHEREAS**, voting against an unopposed candidate serves no purpose other than to make an anonymous and unexplained statement of opposition which is not in keeping with the love we should have for one another; and

**WHEREAS**, voting on each unopposed candidate uses time the convention could put to valuable use on other matters,

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the bylaws of The Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) be amended so that following the acceptance of the pertinent slate of nominations, all unopposed candidates be elected as a slate by acclamation; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that this change be voted upon prior to any elections at this convention and take effect immediately.



47 Respectfully Submitted,  
48  
49 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-16

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE PROPER PASTORAL OVERSIGHT IN ADMINISTRATION OF  
LORD'S SUPPER THROUGH VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

**WHEREAS**, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to exercise communion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1- 2; 2 Tim. 4:3-4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord's Supper with divisions among them (1 Cor. 2 11:17- 18); and

**WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord's Supper: Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1999); and

**WHEREAS**, Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence, while neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and





47  
 48 **WHEREAS**, In the Bylaws of the Synod it states that the district president is to "seek  
 49 to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's  
 50 objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution" (Bylaw 4.4.4[b]); and

51  
 52 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to "[s]ee  
 53 to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to  
 54 the districts and are carried out by them." (Constitution Article XII 9 A; along with  
 55 Bylaw 1.3.6); and

56  
 57 **WHEREAS**, 111e Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in  
 58 an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and t11e congregation  
 59 as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and

60  
 61 **WHEREAS**, T11e 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper  
 62 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical  
 63 Supervisors";

64  
 65 Therefore be it,

66  
 67 **RESOLVED**, That during this next triennium the district president (or his  
 68 representative) address each district congregation's administration of the Lord's  
 69 Supper in his official visitations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the  
 70 Synod's position on "closed communion"; and be it further

71  
 72 **RESOLVED** That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and  
 73 the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of  
 74 bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the Lord'  
 75 s Supper; and be it further

76  
 77 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his  
 78 visitation regarding proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days  
 79 before the 2028 district convention; and be it finally

80  
 81 **RESOLVED** That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district  
 82 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as  
 83 detailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in  
 84 accord with Const. Art. XII 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of  
 85 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the President of the Synod no  
 86 less than 90 days before the 2029 convention so that the President of the Synod can  
 87 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.

88  
 89 Respectfully Submitted,

90  
 91 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-17

Subject: TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE PASTOR'S WIFE

**WHEREAS**, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to exercise communion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1- 2; 2 Tim. 4:3-4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord's Supper with divisions among them (1 Cor. 2 11:17- 18); and

**WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord's Supper: Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1999); and

**WHEREAS**, Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence, while neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

**WHEREAS**, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and



47 **WHEREAS**, In the Bylaws of the Synod it states that the district president is to "seek  
48 to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's  
49 objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution" (Bylaw 4.4.4[b]); and  
50

51 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to "[s]ee  
52 to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to  
53 the districts and are carried out by them." (Constitution Article XII 9 A; along with  
54 Bylaw 1.3.6); and  
55

56 **WHEREAS**, 111e Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in  
57 an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and t11e congregation  
58 as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and  
59

60 **WHEREAS**, T11e 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper  
61 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical  
62 Supervisors";  
63

64 Therefore be it,  
65

66 **RESOLVED**, That during this next triennium the district president (or his  
67 representative) address each district congregation's administration of the Lord's  
68 Supper in his official visitations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the  
69 Synod's position on "closed communion"; and be it further  
70

71 **RESOLVED** That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and  
72 the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of  
73 bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the Lord'  
74 s Supper; and be it further  
75

76 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his  
77 visitation regarding proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days  
78 before the 2028 district convention; and be it finally  
79

80 **RESOLVED** That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district  
81 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as  
82 detailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in  
83 accord with Const. Art. XII 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of  
84 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the President of the Synod no  
85 less than 90 days before the 2029 convention so that the President of the Synod can  
86 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.  
87

88 Respectfully Submitted,  
89

90 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-18

Subject: ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH  
THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord has given His Church to extend the Gospel witness into all the world (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10) and

**WHEREAS**, The carrying forth of the Lord’s work in mission and ministry for the local parish encompasses numerous areas of Christian life including Bible study, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, Christian education, care for human need, etc.,

**WHEREAS**, The constitution of our synod addresses a number of these areas of Christian life in Article III – Objectives in defining the purpose of synod, and

**WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod state that “The district president shall, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical supervision visit the congregations of this district,” (Bylaw 4.4.4) and

**WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that said ecclesiastical supervisory visits (done by the district president or the circuit visitors or vice presidents as he sees fit) are to be conducted in this manner, “He shall come to the pastor and congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of serving in the mission and ministry of the church,” (Bylaw 4.4.4d) and

**WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that at these visits the district president or his official representative “shall include fraternal discussion in regard to worship and communion attendance; participation by the congregation in missions and work of the church at large; the congregation’s evangelism and educational endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of compensation for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine, the strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources, opportunities, and assistance so God’s people can grow in their faith, hope, and love” (Bylaw 4.4.4e),



47 Therefore be it

48

49 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the  
50 carrying out of such ecclesiastical supervisory visits to all of our congregations and  
51 their pastors, and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED** That we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully  
54 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's Holy  
55 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally,

56

57 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall include the progress of these visitations  
58 in his report to the 2028 district convention.

59

60 Respectfully Submitted,

61

62 St. John's Lutheran Church, Union, Illinois



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-19

Subject: TO SUPPORT AND CLARIFY THE PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS

**Rationale:** Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.

**WHEREAS**, one of the expressed purposes of Synod is to "recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth" (Art. 15III.3); and

**WHEREAS**, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

**WHEREAS**, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in 18 various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

**WHEREAS**, those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are responsible to the Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and



46 **WHEREAS**, those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been  
 47 examined and approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 48 Synod; and

49  
 50 **WHEREAS**, those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in  
 51 the Synod, agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize  
 52 and affirm the validity of Bylaws 1.6-1.8;

53  
 54 Therefore be it

55  
 56 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
 57 Synod (NID LCMS) in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the  
 58 Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it  
 59 further

60  
 61 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various  
 62 prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it  
 63 further

64  
 65 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do  
 66 the same; and be it further

67  
 68 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod to require that  
 69 process used by the various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the  
 70 Synod be made transparent and publicly available; and be it further

71  
 72 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that  
 73 unless those under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in  
 74 violation of their ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that  
 75 their approval be assumed; and be it further

76  
 77 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to  
 78 stipulate that if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the  
 79 candidate be given every opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it  
 80 finally

81  
 82 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to  
 83 stipulate that is such a violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate  
 84 District President as that individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the  
 85 appropriate processes to restore the erring brother or sister so that one deemed  
 86 unworthy to teach at one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain on the  
 87 roster or serve a congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of  
 88 step with Synod.

89  
 90 Respectfully Submitted,  
 91 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL





**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 2-20

**Subject:** ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH  
THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord has given His Church to extend the Gospel witness into all the  
world (Matthew 28:18-20; I Peter 2:9-10) and

**WHEREAS,** The carrying forth of the Lord’s work in mission and ministry for the local  
parish encompasses numerous areas of Christian life including Bible study,  
discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, Christian education, care for human need, etc.,

**WHEREAS,** The constitution of our synod addresses a number of these areas of  
Christian life in Article III – Objectives in defining the purpose of synod, and

**WHEREAS,** The Bylaws of the Synod state that “The district president shall, in  
accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical  
supervision visit the congregations of this district,” (Bylaw 4.4.4) and

**WHEREAS,** The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that said ecclesiastical  
supervisory visits (done by the district president or the circuit visitors or vice  
presidents as he sees fit) are to be conducted in this manor, “He shall come to the  
pastor and congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of serving in  
the mission and ministry of the church,” (Bylaw 4.4.4d) and

**WHEREAS,** The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that at these visits the district  
president or his official representative “shall include fraternal discussion in regard to  
worship and communion attendance; participation by the congregation in the  
missions and work of the church at large; the congregation’s evangelism and  
educations endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of  
compensation for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of  
doctrine, the strengthening of the bod of Christian fellowship; and the provision of  
resources, opportunities, and assistance so God’s people can grow in their faith, hope,  
and love” (Bylaw 4.4.4e),





47 Therefore be it

48

49 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the  
50 carrying out of such ecclesiastical supervisory visits to all of our congregations and  
51 their pastors, and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, That we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully  
54 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's Holy  
55 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally,

56

57 **RESOLVED**, That the district president shall include the progress of these visitations  
58 in his report to the 2028 district convention.

59

60 Respectfully Submitted,

61

62 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect, IL

63 Chair of the Board of Directors

64 Chair of the Board of Elders



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-01

**Subject:** TO OFFER THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to the Church in Ephesus of God the Father, the reign of Christ and His great commitment and on-going concern for His Church, “He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22,23 ESV); and

**WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, encourages the challenged and sometimes divided Church in Corinth to “strive to excel in the building up of the church, (I Corinthians 14:12 ESV); and

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod’s own Constitution in the Reason for Forming of a Synodical Union, states, “Our Lord’s will that the diversity of gifts should be for the common profit. I Cor. 12:4-31”; and

**WHEREAS**, Article III states the Objectives of the Synod, under Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, include, to conserve and promote the unity of the true faith, strengthen and aid congregations, schools and members in giving bold witness in word and deed, recruit and train Pastors, teachers and other professional church workers and assist in their continuing growth, promote harmony in our common confession of faith, provide ecclesiastical supervision, counsel and care for workers and provide for the welfare of workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Many congregations and individual offer regular prayers and financial support for the Churchly work of the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in Convention offer thanks and praise to the Triune God for congregations and individuals who are able and “compelled by the Gospel of Christ”,(II Corinthians 5:14)



47 even in challenging times, to support the work of Christ through the Northern Illinois  
48 District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod with financial offerings rejoicing  
49 that God's redeemed people are, "Stronger Together: Co-Workers for the Kingdom of  
50 God;" and be it further

51  
52 **RESOLVED**, That The Northern Illinois District in convention express thanks to  
53 congregations and individuals for financial offerings given to support the "Common  
54 Profit" among us in the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri  
55 Synod to the Glory of God, the honor of His Name and that we are always striving  
56 "vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,  
57 communities and the world" (LCMS Mission Statement); and be it finally  
58 Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution, the assemble gathered sing stanzas 1,  
59 2, 3, and 6 of "We Give Thee but Thine Own" [LSB 781]

60  
61 Respectfully Submitted,

62  
63 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors  
64 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair  
65 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-02

**Subject:** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER IN MISSION AND MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord compares His Church to a human body in which the various parts of that body depend on one another and work together to fulfill His purposes for it (I Corinthians 12:12-27); and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord has equipped His Church with various gifts by the work of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the entire body (Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31; Ephesians 4:12-16); and

**WHEREAS,** Our confessions remind us that our Lord has called us to a church that, while gathered around His Word and Sacraments locally, extends beyond the local congregation (Augsburg Confession Article VII; Luther's Large and Small Catechisms explanation to the Apostles' Creed Article III); and

**WHEREAS,** Today, the churches, schools, and ministries of the Northern Illinois District face tremendous and numerous challenges, both internally and externally, as we seek to carry out our Lord's mission in this place; and

**WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District, in response to these challenges, has been conducting Partnership Gatherings in our circuits during the past two trienniums to encourage congregations and ministries to build relationships with each other that we might assist one another in the carrying out of the work our Lord has given us to do together in Christian love, unity and strength; and

**WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has produced resources to encourage and assist congregations to develop partnerships in ministry with one another;

Therefore be it,



47 **RESOLVED**, That The Northern Illinois District in convention commend  
48 congregations, schools, and ministries to the task of purposefully building healthy  
49 relationships with each other in Christian love; and be it further

50  
51 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District encourage congregations, schools and  
52 ministries to explore various ways that they might partner together to build one  
53 another up in love and service, to lighten present burdens and carry out the mission of  
54 Jesus among us; and be it finally

55  
56 **RESOLVED**, That we entreat our congregations to continually lift up neighboring  
57 LCMS ministries by name in our Prayers of the Church and to speak well of sister  
58 congregations, schools and ministries to the glory of God, the honor of His name and  
59 the salvation of all.

60  
61 Respectfully Submitted,

62  
63 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors  
64 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair  
65 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-03

**Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

**WHEREAS**, The Triune God commands that children be taught His Word by their parents and by the Church (Deut, 4:9-10; 6:5-9; Psalm 78; Matt. 19:13-15; 28:16-20; Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 4:10-11); and

**WHEREAS**, Congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) have established early childhood centers, day schools, and high schools to teach the Word of God, and to assist fathers and mothers in their calling to instruct their children in the same Word and all godly knowledge; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 synodical resolution 12-04A commended and gave thanks for Lutheran schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran schools provide a tremendous blessing to their students and broader communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran parents who homeschool their children also provide a tremendous blessing to their children and those influenced by them; and

**WHEREAS**, many faithful LCMS members teach children in public schools and provide a tremendous blessings and faithful witness in an environment increasingly hostile to Christianity and biblical teachings;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all early childhood teachers, day school teachers, high school teachers, administrators, and all those who serve in our Lutheran schools and give thanks to God for their faithful service; and be it further



46 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all congregation members who  
47 serve in public or non-Lutheran private schools, encourage them to continue being a  
48 light shining in the darkness of an increasingly hostile world, and give thanks to God  
49 for their faithful service; and be it further

50  
51 **RESOLVED**, That all congregations of the district congregations be encouraged in  
52 their continued operation and support of our Lutheran schools; and be it further

53  
54 **RESOLVED**, That all parents who are members of district congregations be  
55 encouraged, where available, to enroll their children in our Lutheran schools; and be it  
56 further

57  
58 **RESOLVED**, That the pastors and congregations of our district view their schools as  
59 the front line of the mission field; and be it further

60  
61 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for the growth of  
62 Lutheran schools, including classical Lutheran schools, micro-schools, homeschools,  
63 and all other emerging school models that provide instruction in Lutheran doctrine  
64 and godly knowledge; and be it further

65  
66 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the district be encouraged regularly to pray for  
67 all schools, their teachers, administrators, staff, and boards, and the welfare of the  
68 youth entrusted to their care; and be it finally

69  
70 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for His blessing and  
71 work in the schools of our Synod by rising and singing “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”  
72 (Lutheran Service Book, 865).

73  
74 Respectfully Submitted,

75  
76 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL  
77 Carl von Holten, Chairman  
78 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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OVERTURE: 3-04

**Subject:** TO REAFFIRM “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II Timothy 3:14-17]; and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives and richly and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life. [Luther’s Small Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the World, proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. [I Peter 2:9]; and

**WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District in its 60<sup>th</sup> Convention resolved that “Word, Wellness, Witness” would be our ministry focus for our work together; and

**WHEREAS,** “Word, Wellness, Witness” has served us well, helping to Clarify ministry priorities and setting direction for our common efforts as a district in service to our Lord and His people;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The Northern Illinois District reaffirm the focus of “Word, Wellness, Witness,” for its work together; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this focus be commended to the congregations, schools And ministries of The Northern Illinois District for its use, shaping their local ministry priorities; and be it finally





45 **RESOLVED**, That we continue to lift up our prayers to our Savior, asking Him to bless  
46 our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” to the glory of God the honor of  
47 His name and salvation of all.

48  
49 Respectfully Submitted,

50  
51 The Northern Illinois District Board of Directors  
52 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair  
53 Rev David Totsky, secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
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OVERTURE: 3-05

**Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR 150 YEARS OF BLACK MINISTRY

**WHEREAS**, Christ our Lord says at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Revelation 5:9, 13:7, and 14:6 speak of salvation freely offered and the proclamation of the Gospel “to every nation and tribe and language and people”; and

**WHEREAS**, many other passages of Holy Scripture testify to God’s love for all people and our obligation to likewise love our neighbors regardless of ethnic, geographic, or social background; and

**WHEREAS**, 2027 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black Ministry within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) with its establishment at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, IN at the 1877 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of black ministry within the LCMS is, as the Rev. Dr. Richard C. Dickinson aptly put it in the title of its centennial history, one of both rose and thorns; and

**WHEREAS**, much more could be said about both there roses and thorns than can be included in a resolution;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District (NID) of the LCMS rise and give thanks to God by singing Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (LSB 940); and be it further



46 **RESOLVED**, that the NID celebrate the roses of this work both within and outside of  
 47 our district, especially the missionaries, teachers, churches, and schools involved in  
 48 this work; and be it further

49

50 **RESOLVED**, that the NID lament the thorns wherein the district and the LCMS have  
 51 failed to meet the biblical standards of love for one another; and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, that the NID repeats and reaffirms the biblical condemnation of racism in  
 54 all its forms; and be it further

55

56 **RESOLVED**, that the NID encourage the study of the history of Black Ministry in the  
 57 LCMS through books such as *Roses and Thorns: The Centennial Edition of Black  
 58 Lutheran Missions and Ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* and *Light in  
 59 the Dark Belt: The Story of Rosa Young as Told by Herself*, films such as *The First  
 60 Rosa*, and other sources; and be it further

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that able scholars within the LCMS be encouraged to provide an updated  
 63 history of Black Ministry within the LCMS and build upon the centennial work of  
 64 Richard C. Dickinson and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication of C. F. W. Drewes; and be  
 65 it further

66

67 **RESOLVED**, that pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay people involved in this  
 68 work be encouraged to record their reflections and personal accounts for the sake of  
 69 preserving our knowledge of this important work; and be it further

70

71 **RESOLVED**, that the district in convention memorialize the Synod to adopt this  
 72 resolution *mutatis mutandis* at its 2026 convention.

73

74 Respectfully Submitted,

75

76 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL

77 Carl von Holten, Chairman

78 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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OVERTURE: 3-06

**Subject:** CREATE A THIRD PATHWAY FOR GENERAL PASTORAL COLLOQUY FOR MEMBERS OF LCMS CONGREGATIONS WHO HAVE GRADUATED WITH AN ACCREDITED MASTERS OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM A NON-LCMS SEMINARY

**WHEREAS**, God’s Word calls us to pray for additional workers in the harvest, “When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest;” (Matthew 9:36-37, ESV); and

**WHEREAS**, the reformers write in *The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope* that the local church is granted the right of ordination, “(Christ) grants the power of the keys principally and without mediation to the church, and for the same reason the church has primary possession of the right to call ministers;” (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb/Wengert, 334) and

**WHEREAS**, the reformers write in *Smalcald Article X* in response to the Romanists refusal to ordain that: “the Church ought not on their account to remain without ministers [to be forsaken by or deprived of ministers]” and that “we ourselves will and ought to ordain suitable persons to this office; and, even according to their own laws, they have not the right to forbid or prevent us.” (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb/Wengert, 324) and

**WHEREAS**, pastors of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before and the number of men entering our seminaries is significantly less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

**WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Northern Illinois District—LCMS give thanks to God and celebrate the various alternate routes to ordination and pastoral ministry available in the LCMS, such as Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), there is a growing need for general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church



47 workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national  
 48 Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical  
 49 conventions of the church; and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, practical observations of the U.S. Military shows that the combination of  
 52 high quality residential, and high quality localized non-residential programs work  
 53 synergistically to produce large quantities of excellent commissioned military leaders.  
 54 And that graduates from both such programs are given commissions and  
 55 opportunities to advance without restrictions or hierarchy of preference based on their  
 56 program; and

57

58 **WHEREAS**, there are pathways by which pastors, from church bodies outside the  
 59 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, who meet specific criteria may secure admission to  
 60 the ministerium of the LCMS as general ordination pastors through Colloquy. This  
 61 admission may be provided through a “colloquy” (discussion, interview) with the  
 62 Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and

63

64 **WHEREAS**, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran  
 65 Church–Missouri Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states that applicants for  
 66 Colloquy must fit into one of two categories (the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral  
 67 Ministry is responsible for the final determination of the category in each individual  
 68 situation):

69 1. Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies: Men who, at the time of  
 70 application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another  
 71 Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy.

72

73 2. Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application,  
 74 are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a  
 75 program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution,  
 76 with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required  
 77 academic credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date  
 78 (month and year) and the reason (e.g. retirement, resignation, dismissal)  
 79 their active service ended. Such an applicant also must have been a  
 80 communicant member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran  
 81 Church–Missouri Synod for at least two years immediately prior to the time  
 82 of application. This category does not apply to LCMS members who while  
 83 members of LCMS congregations have obtained Master of Divinity degrees  
 84 outside the LCMS; and

85

86 **WHEREAS**, Men who have been long-time members in good standing in a  
 87 congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, but are graduates of  
 88 programs of study leading to ordination from an accredited institution outside The  
 89 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (meeting all the necessary academic accreditation  
 90 requirements), are not afforded the same opportunity to apply for Colloquy, but must  
 91 enroll in the Residential Alternative Route Program (requiring a two year residential



92 academic program at one of our two seminaries and a one year vicarage) before  
 93 becoming a general ordination pastor in the LCMS; and

94  
 95 **WHEREAS**, Churches in growing and diverse areas of our country, with vision to start  
 96 multiple churches to reach their growing area in a short period of time (ex. five  
 97 churches in five years) by developing leaders and eventually pastors from within their  
 98 own congregation are deeply concerned that certification and ordination routes do not  
 99 adequately meet their localized training needs; and

100  
 101 **WHEREAS**, the Residential Alternate Route program still requires future pastors  
 102 serving their church to leave their individual contexts and congregations for at least  
 103 two years to pursue a General Ordination certification, thus removing two years of  
 104 leadership influence in their local congregation; and

105  
 106 **WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. James Baneck, in his August 2021 article “Understanding the  
 107 Church Worker Recruitment Initiative” wrote, “Yet, we are not driven by fear but hope.  
 108 We raise up workers in the church not to sustain institutions but to serve the church;”  
 109 therefore be it

110  
 111 **RESOLVED**, to create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy that provides the  
 112 opportunity for members of LCMS congregations for 3 or more years who have  
 113 graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the seminaries of  
 114 the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic requirements) to become general  
 115 ordination pastors with an amendment to the Bylaws, Item 3.10.2.2. The current  
 116 bylaw states that candidates must “seek certification for call and placement in the  
 117 Synod by participating in the Residential Alternate Route program of one of the  
 118 seminaries of the Synod, if otherwise eligible for admission to the seminary.” The  
 119 proposed amendment would say, “LCMS laymen and commissioned ministers who  
 120 receive a Master of Divinity or equivalent degree from a non-LCMS seminary may  
 121 apply for colloquy provided they have received a recommendation from their respective  
 122 district president.”

123  
 124 Respectfully Submitted,

125  
 126 NID Circuit N2 and N5  
 127 Rev. Karl Fay, N2 Circuit Visitor  
 128 Rev. Jerry Hays, N5 Circuit Visitor



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
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THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
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OVERTURE: 3-07

**Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS FOR 90 YEARS OF LWML IN NID

**WHEREAS**, at the 1937 of the Northern Illinois District (NID) of The Lutheran Church  
-Missouri Synod, the district in convention approved the establishment of the  
Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) in the district; and

**WHEREAS**, the NID LWML has been a tremendous blessing to the church through  
their prayerful and material support of mission work; and

**WHEREAS**, individual LWML societies provide tremendous other service within their  
congregations and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the faithful service of women in the church according to their vocations is  
a tremendous blessing from God and example to younger women (cf. Titus 2:3-5);

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention commend the district LWML for their faithful  
service; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the district encourage all women to faithfully serve the church  
according to their vocations and abilities; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the convention rise and give thanks to God for the forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of LWML in the district in 2027 by singing stanzas 1, 4, and 5 of *Praise to  
the Lord , the Almighty* (LSB 790).

Respectfully Submitted,

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL  
Carl von Holten, Chairman  
Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor





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OVERTURE: 3-08

**Subject:** TO *REAFFIRM KIRCHE UND AMR* AS OFFICIAL DOCTRINE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD AND REBUKE PASTORS WHO INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A CONGREGATION WITHOUT A PROPER CALL

**Preamble**

**WHEREAS**, The first objective of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is to "Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) ... " (Constitution Article III 1), and also to "Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights" (Constitution Article III 9); and

**WHEREAS**, As a condition of acquiring and holding membership in the Synod, as stated in Const. Art. VI 3 of the Constitution of the Synod, every congregation and minister must agree to observe and respect the individual congregation's right to call a pastor and not interfere with that pastor's proper authority in matters pertaining to his call, and

**WHEREAS**, C.F.W. Walther's *Kirche und Amt*, adopted by the LCMS in Convention as official doctrine (2001 Synod Convention To Affirm Synod's Official Position on Church and Ministry RESOLUTION 7-17A), further defends the aforementioned rights and is explicitly clear that pastors are not to meddle in congregations to which they have no call or responsibility for ecclesial oversight according to the good order of the church;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the NID memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm these beliefs, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That ecclesial supervisors fraternally, yet strongly, rebuke any pastors interfering with the internal affairs of a congregation to which they are not properly called, and be it finally





47 **RESOLVED**, That if no repentance is made in a timely fashion, disciplinary action be  
48 taken by the appropriate ecclesial authority, in accordance with existing disciplinary  
49 procedures to preserve the unity of the church's witness and prevent schism.

50 Respectfully Submitted,

51

52 Circuit W-9 of the Northern Illinois District

53 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



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OVERTURE: 3-09

**Subject:** TO ENCOURAGE MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP ACROSS CIRCUITS AND DISTRICTS

**WHEREAS**, it was deemed expedient for the sake of good order to divide the LCMS into districts and circuits, but these divisions do not reflect a division of the fellowship we have together; and

**WHEREAS**, these divisions sometimes separate churches and pastors which are close to one another and have good reason to communicate and work with one another; and

**WHEREAS**, Psalm 133:1 says, " Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity," Proverbs 27:17 says, " Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another," Paul says in Romans 14:19, "So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding," and the Apostles and leaders of the early church regularly met together to settle disputes and strengthen one another as shown in Acts and the Epistles; and

**WHEREAS**, the church suffers a loss when congregations and pastors do not interact with one another because of circuit and district divisions, particularly when they do not support and encourage one another in their mutual work for the kingdom of God;

Therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the pastors of circuits be encouraged to meet with the pastors of one or more neighboring circuits within or outside of our district at least once a year; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that general pastors conference committee be requested to pursue holding a joint pastors conference with one or more neighboring districts during each triennium.

Respectfully Submitted,



- 47 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL
- 48 Carl von Holten, Chairman
- 49 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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OVERTURE: 3-10

**Subject:** TO AFFIRM BAPTISMAL IDENTITY IN CHRIST AND REJECT IDOLATRY OF HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS

**WHEREAS**, God' s Word calls us to unity in Christ: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Is Christ divided? " (I Cor. 1:10, 13), and

**WHEREAS**, The World and Satan seek not unity, but division: by urging some to fall into sinful pride (Prov. 11:2) based upon the human attributes with which God has created us (Matt. 3:9), and by burdening the consciences of others with "sins" they have not committed and for which there can be no absolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod has condemned (e.g., 2019 Res. 7-02) such harmful ideologies, which embrace the Marxist concepts of victim and oppressor by appealing to our sinful nature to lord it over one another (Mark 10:42); and

**WHEREAS**, The Church must reject false teachings that war against God's unchanging truth and His order of creation; that would make us our own gods and deny the fact of His creation of male and female (Gen. 1:27); that would assign merit or guilt based upon worldly demographic or socioeconomic characteristics; or that would define and measure the success or failure of our own churches and institutions based upon the superficial appearance of our brothers and sisters; and

**WHEREAS**, The Church must faithfully proclaim the Word of God, which is living and active (Heb. 4:12), to all nations and trust the Lord of the Harvest to provide the increase, rather than go beyond what God says and into the realm of worldly sociological discourses (See Report of Drs. Canon A. MacKenzie, Ken Schurb, James W. Voelz, and Norman Nagel, 1995 Convention Workbook Appendix R3-01A, commended by the Synod by 1995 Resolution 2-05A);

Therefore be it,



47  
48 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District rejects as idolatry, and directs its  
49 institutions not to teach or advocate, any radical paradigm for human relationships  
50 and institutions that pits brothers and sisters against one another by encouraging  
51 them, based on their racial, sexual, socioeconomic, or other characteristics, to claim  
52 or seek status (contrary to Matt. 3:9; Gal. 3:28) in preference to or in derogation of  
53 other members of the Body of Christ, or any philosophy that promotes utopian  
54 "equity" as a foundation of secular works righteousness for absolution of supposed sins;  
55 and be it further

56  
57 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District affirms that God has created all the  
58 nations and all of our varied attributes, of which no one should be ashamed; rejoices  
59 in His good gifts of creation given to each of us; and calls upon all people to glory only  
60 in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:2-11) and their baptismal identity in Christ as redeemed  
61 children of God (Rev.7:9-17); and be it finally

62  
63 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as  
64 an overture to the Synod.

65  
66 Respectfully Submitted,

67  
68 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL  
69 Mark Stern, Chairman  
70 Max Paisker, Secretary



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OVERTURE: 3-11

**Subject:** TO PROTECT THE DIVINE CALLS OF MISSIONARIES

**WHEREAS**, one of the objectives of Synod is to extend the Gospel witness into all the world (Constitution, Article III.2); our Lord states: "behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35); and

**WHEREAS**, the sending and support of missionaries is therefore a vital objective of our Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also an objective of Synod to provide protection for pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights (Constitution, Article III.9); and

**WHEREAS**, called pastors at local congregations are protected by the doctrine of the Divine Call, explained by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to mean that a pastor can be removed right fully from his call only for teaching false doctrine; offensive conduct (which may include, among other things, neglect of, or inability to perform, official duties) or scandalous life; (CTCR Report: "Theology and Practice of 'the Divine Call' ", February 2023, page 25); and

**WHEREAS**, the CTCR has also recognized in its Report that due process must be followed in removing a man from a call; additionally, pastors serving in certain capacities, for example as seminary professors, are granted express protection in the Synod bylaws against arbitrary removal from their calls without just cause (see Synod Bylaw 3.10.5.7.5 ); and

**WHEREAS**, missionaries serving the Synod, called by the Board for International Mission, are not granted express bylaw protection, nor do the current Board for International Mission Policies provide for due process for missionaries before the Board can terminate their calls and effectively end their mission service; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with I Peter 2, Matthew 18, and other Scripture passages, the mission boards of the Synod should set a good example in their conduct and



47 treatment of their called missionaries, and institute a formal requirement for good  
48 cause before terminating the call of any missionary, and ensuring due process,  
49 fairness, and an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is implemented,  
50 with appropriate right of appeal through the Synod's dispute resolution process;

51

52 Therefore be it:

53

54 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in  
55 convention to grant called missionaries serving the Board for International Mission  
56 protection in their Divine Calls by revising the Synod Bylaws to require good cause  
57 before terminating the call of any missionary, and ensuring due process, fairness, and  
58 an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is implemented, with appropriate  
59 right of appeal through the Synod's dispute resolution process; and be it finally

60

61 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in  
62 convention to overturn any part of the CTCR Report: "Theology and Practice of 'the  
63 Divine Call'", February 2023, that holds that the Divine Call of a missionary in service  
64 to the Synod is of lesser tenure or protection than the call of a local parish pastor.

65

66 Respectfully Submitted,

67

68 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

69 Mark Stern, Chairman

70 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-12

**Subject:** TO LET THE WORD, CONFESSIONS, AND LITURGY HAVE FREE COURSE

**WHEREAS**, in the Collect for the Church we pray that God's Word, *as becometh it*, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve God and in the confession of His name abide unto the end; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the objectives of Synod is to "Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;" (Constitution, Article III.6); and

**WHEREAS**, we subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions because they are a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and therefore are also useful and necessary for missions, evangelization, and teaching; and

**WHEREAS**, it is therefore appropriate to make Lutheran Confessional resources *as broadly available as possible* for the purpose of missions, evangelization, and teaching, and not for purposes of profit or financial gain; and

**WHEREAS**, it is frequently burdensome, for example, for mission organizations, small congregations, and others to purchase printed copies from CPH at U.S. market prices and then bear the additional costs of shipping these items around the country or the world to foreign mission fields, when it may be possible to provide such items abroad at much lower cost;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in convention to direct Concordia Publishing House to make available to any member of Synod a royalty-free license to duplicate, translate, excerpt, and distribute any edition





46 of the Lutheran confessional writings controlled by CPH, or of The Lutheran Hymnal  
47 and Lutheran Worship and their related liturgical resources, without charge,  
48

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50

51 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

52 Mark Stern, Chairman

53 Max Paisker, Secretary





47 with the body present, which may be held with a closed casket, or promptly after  
 48 death, without need for embalming, so that "embalming or cremation" is a false choice;  
 49 and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, a funeral service with the body present is a vivid reminder of the wages of  
 52 sin that we have all earned, yet simultaneously an opportunity for the proclamation of  
 53 the Gospel and Christ's triumph over death and the grave in which the deceased  
 54 shares through Holy Baptism; and

55

56 **WHEREAS**, in our modern culture that embraces youth and pleasure, and rejects the  
 57 concepts of sin and death, we should also take every opportunity to use funeral  
 58 services to proclaim Law and Gospel: our sin, and resulting death, that requires  
 59 Christ's vicarious atonement; and the victory we have in Christ: never to engage in  
 60 eulogies, sentimentality, and other practices that distract from the theology of the  
 61 Cross; and

62

63 **WHEREAS**, the process of cremation requires the burning of the flesh and the  
 64 physical crushing of bones to create "ashes" and although many treat the resulting  
 65 remains in a dignified manner and do inter them, it is also the case that some engage  
 66 in careless or even frivolous practices in the handling thereof, such as scattering to  
 67 the heedless winds to achieve "oneness with nature," or at a favorite location of the  
 68 deceased such as Disneyland, which is not the case with physical burials; and

69

70 **WHEREAS**, for all these reasons, the Synod ought to teach that the best practice  
 71 regarding last rites is a physical burial of the body, because that gives the clearest  
 72 confession of our faith regarding our body as a creation of God, our death as the  
 73 wages of sin, and our sure and certain hope of our bodily resurrection through  
 74 Christ's own death and resurrection;

75

76 Therefore be it,

77

78 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in  
 79 convention to direct the CTCR, by July 1, 2027, to issue a final report affirming the  
 80 burial of the body as the best practice for last rites, not as a burden of conscience but  
 81 as a joyful confession of the eternal life and bodily resurrection won for us by Christ,  
 82 while acknowledging God's mercy for those situations where such is not possible, e.g.,  
 83 a plane crash or loss at sea, or the like; and that our seminaries and official  
 84 publications teach likewise.

85

86 Respectfully Submitted,

87

88 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

89 Mark Stern, Chairman

90 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF  
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The Northern Illinois District  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-14

**Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT PRESIDENT JOHN WILLE

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. John C. Wille honorably served as president of the South Wisconsin District (SWD) of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) for 18 years including service on the Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis boards of regents and numerous other commissions, boards, and floor committees, and his district hosted the 2023 Synodical and LWML conventions; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul admonishes us in Romans 12 " Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (vv. 10 and 15); and

**WHEREAS**, since the early church neighboring districts/dioceses have shown particular love for one another and assisted one another in their time of need;

Therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS give thanks to God for the life and service of President Wille by rising and singing " Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB 895); and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the NID president convey the conventions gratitude for President Wille and his service to his family and the SWD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL  
Carl von Holten, Chairman  
Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



1                                   **OVERTURE TO THE 61<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION**  
2   **OF**  
3                                   **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
4   **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

5  
6  
7 To the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
8 The Northern Illinois District  
9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
10 March 7-8, 2025

11  
12 OVERTURE: 3-15

13  
14 **Subject:** STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL AND MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FOR URBAN  
15 MINISTRY THROUGH DISTRICT AND SUBURBAN PARTNERSHIPS

16  
17 **RATIONALE:** This overture calls for a concerted effort within the Northern Illinois  
18 District to create a framework of mutual support between suburban, rural, and urban  
19 congregations, recognizing that a shared mission can bolster ministry in all contexts  
20 and further the reach of the Gospel.

21  
22 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord commands us to proclaim the Gospel to all nations (Matthew  
23 28:19-20), and the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people. Urban  
24 areas are often diverse in culture, race, and socioeconomic status, providing both  
25 unique opportunities and challenges for the proclamation of the Gospel; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS,** Many urban congregations face financial constraints, including limited  
28 resources for outreach, pastoral support, and property maintenance, while suburban  
29 and rural congregations often have greater financial stability and untapped potential  
30 to partner in mission; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS,** Partnerships between suburban, rural, and urban congregations reflect  
33 the biblical model of mutual support within the Body of Christ (Acts 11:29-30, 2  
34 Corinthians 8:14-15), and can strengthen the collective mission and witness of the  
35 Church; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS,** The district plays a pivotal role in facilitating and coordinating mission  
38 work within its jurisdiction and is uniquely positioned to foster collaboration between  
39 suburban and urban congregations; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS,** There is biblical precedent for stronger congregations supporting those in  
42 need, as seen in 2 Corinthians 8:14, where Paul encouraged churches to give  
43 generously to help others;

44  
45 Therefore be it,  
46



47 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District encourage her congregations to identify  
48 urban ministry needs within their respective regions and work collaboratively with  
49 suburban congregations to create partnerships; and be it further

50

51 **RESOLVED**, That the district provide opportunities for suburban congregations to  
52 directly support urban ministry efforts financially, through regular offerings, special  
53 collections, or designated mission funds; and be it further

54

55 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District and suburban congregations commit to  
56 ongoing prayer, financial support, and personal involvement in urban mission  
57 initiatives, including supporting outreach programs, mercy work, and church planting  
58 efforts in urban settings; and be it further

59

60 **RESOLVED**, That urban congregations receiving support regularly report to their  
61 district and partnering congregations the impact of such support, fostering  
62 transparency, mutual accountability, and encouragement in the shared mission; and  
63 be it further

64

65 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District put together a diverse task force that  
66 includes Called Workers and urban laity to find the best ways of bridging the gap  
67 between urban, rural and suburban churches; and be it further

68

69 **RESOLVED**, That the LCMS in convention give thanks for the opportunities to  
70 proclaim Christ's love in urban areas and encourage all members of the LCMS to see  
71 urban ministry as an essential part of the church's mission field; and be it finally

72

73 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS share this Resolution to  
74 the 2026 Synod in Convention.

75

76 Respectfully Submitted,

77

78 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

79 Pastor

80 Lay Representative



# Section VIII Convention Delegates

(as of January 15, 2025)



## Pastoral Delegates

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Position</u>
Apostles	Melrose Park	Rev.	Ralph	Tausz		Sole
Ascension	Niles	Rev.	Matthew	Uttenreither		Sole
Beautiful Savior	Antioch	Rev.	Jonathan	Petzold		Senior/Admin
Bethany	Naperville	Rev.	Seth	Clemmer		Senior/Admin
Bethlehem	River Grove	Rev.	Roger	Gallup		Sole
Calvary	Elgin	Rev.	Mark	Bestul		Sole
Christ Our Savior	Dixon	Rev.	David	Andermann		Sole
Cross	Yorkville	Rev.	Erik	Gauss		Senior/Admin
Divine Shepherd	Bolingbrook	Rev.	David	Zimmer		Sole
Emmanuel	Aurora	Rev.	Jacob	Stoltzman		Sole
Emmanuel	Dwight	Rev. Dr.	John	Mueller		Sole
Faith	Carpentersville	Rev.	Mark	Frusti		Sole
Faith	Geneva	Rev. Dr.	Dennis	Aubey		Sole
Fellowship of Faith	McHenry	Rev.	David	Gaddini		Senior/Admin
Gloria Dei	Chicago	Rev.	Steven	Anderson		Sole
Good Shepherd	Elgin	Rev.	Steven	Maske		Senior/Admin
Good Shepherd	Frankfort	Rev.	Kevin	Hahn		Sole
Grace	Western Springs	Rev.	Matthew	Zickler		Sole
Holy Trinity	Walnut	Rev.	Phillip	Fischaber		Senior/Admin
Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo	Aurora	Rev.	Alex	Merlo		Sole
Immanuel	Bartlett	Rev.	James	Bauman		Sole
Immanuel	Batavia	Rev.	Noah	Kegley		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	Belvidere	Rev.	Braun	Campbell		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	DeKalb	Rev.	Martin	Marks		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	Des Plaines	Rev.	Christopher	LaBoube		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	Downers Grove	Rev. Dr.	Chris	James		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	East Dundee	Rev.	Adam	Tanney		Associate
Immanuel	Elmhurst	Rev.	David	Seabaugh		Senior/Admin
Immanuel	Hillside	Rev.	Steve	Deombeleg		Sole
Immanuel	Hinckley	Rev.	James	Barbey		Sole
Immanuel	Lindenwood	Rev. Dr.	Matthew	Rosebrock		Sole
Immanuel	Palatine	Rev.	Warren	Schilf		Senior/Admin
Lord of Life (Millbrook)	Serena	Rev.	Charles	Sampson		Sole
Our Savior	Carol Stream	Rev.	Kenneth	Estes		Sole
Our Savior	Joliet	Rev.	Matthew	Carlson		Sole
Our Savior	Momence	Rev.	Gregory	Brown		Sole
Peace	Beecher	Rev.	Julian	LaMie		Senior/Admin
Peace	Plainfield	Rev. Dr.	David	Balla		Sole
Prince of Peace	Crystal Lake	Rev.	Larry	Rubeck		Sole
Prince of Peace	Palatine	Rev.	Karl	Fay		Senior/Admin
Risen Savior	Manteno	Rev.	Kevin	Werner		Sole





Saint Andrew	Rockton	Rev.	Donald	Stein	Sole
Saint John	Burlington	Rev.	Patrick	Pinion	Sole
Saint John	Mount Prospect	Rev.	Jeff	Gavin	Sole
Saint John	Pecatonica	Rev.	Phillip	Allman	Sole
Saint John	Schaumburg	Rev.	Robert	Etheridge	Sole
Saint John	Sycamore	Rev.	Paul	Mumme	Sole
Saint John	Wheaton	Rev.	Eamonn	Ferguson	Associate
Saint John's	Chicago	Rev.	Jacob	Ehrhard	Sole
Saint John's	Elgin	Rev.	Aaron	Levenhagen	Sole
Saint John's	Lansing	Rev. Dr.	John	Richy	Sole
Saint John's	Lena	Rev.	Jason	Shaw	Senior/Admin
Saint John's	Lombard	Rev. Dr.	Dan	Wegrzyn	Senior/Admin
Saint John's	Union	Rev.	Caleb	Schauer	Senior/Admin
Saint Luke	Itasca	Rev.	Terry	McReynolds	Senior/Admin
Saint Luke's	Montgomery	Rev.	Aaron	Mol	Sole
Saint Mark's	Saint Charles	Rev.	James	Holt	Senior/Admin
Saint Matthew	Hawthorn Woods	Rev.	Ryan	Ferguson	Associate
Saint Paul	Addison	Rev.	Kevin	Peterson	Sole
Saint Paul	Bourbonnais	Rev.	Roger	Drinnon	Associate
Saint Paul	Brookfield	Rev. Dr.	Edward	Naumann	Sole
Saint Paul	Mount Prospect	Rev.	Bo	Graham	Senior/Admin
Saint Paul	Rockford	Rev.	Jonathan	Fisk	Sole
Saint Paul (Dorchester)	Chicago	Rev.	Jeffrey	Howell	Sole
Saint Paul's	Lockport	Rev.	Christopher	Antonetti	Sole
Saint Peter	Schaumburg	Rev.	Jerry	Hays	Senior/Admin
Saint Philip (S)	Chicago	Rev.	Elstner	Lewis	Jr. Sole
Tabor	Chicago	Rev.	Walter	Ramirez	Associate
Trinity	Genoa	Rev.	Derek	Paetow	Sole
Trinity	Lansing	Rev.	Ryan	Reese	Sole
Trinity	Lisle	Rev.	Nicholas	Price	Senior/Admin
Trinity	Lombard	Rev.	Steven	Wagner	Senior/Admin
Trinity	Roselle	Rev.	Keith	Speaks	Sole
Trinity	Tinley Park	Rev.	Richard	Schauer	Associate
Zion	Bensenville	Rev.	Stephen	Heuser	Sole
Zion	Chebanse	Rev.	Benjamin	Hayter	Sole
Zion	Grant Park	Rev.	Cory	Estby	Sole
Zion	Lyons	Rev.	Mark	Duer	Sole
Zion	Marengo	Rev.	Jonathan	Ripke	Senior/Admin
Zion	Naperville	Rev. Dr.	Mark	Birkholz	Sole
Zion	Oak Lawn	Rev. Dr.	Valdas	Ausra	Sole
Zion	Ottawa	Rev.	David	Daniel	Sole



## Lay Delegates

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Apostles	Melrose Park	Rebecca	Dominguez	
Ascension	Niles	Andrew	Witte	
Beautiful Savior	Antioch	Glenn	Lingle	
Bethany	Naperville	Erich	Keller	
Bethlehem	River Grove	Gerald	Erjavec	
Bethlehem	West Dundee	Lynn	Petersen	
Calvary	Elgin	Dean	Spacone	
Christ Our Savior	Dixon	Shane	Miller	
Cross	Yorkville	Joel	Ottosen	
Divine Shepherd	Bolingbrook	Ron	Ruisz	
Emmanuel	Aurora	David	Moser	
Emmanuel	Dwight	Larry	Cashmer	
Faith	Carpentersville	Harold	Kling	
Faith	Geneva	Frederick	Ruch	
Fellowship of Faith	McHenry	Mark	Montgomery	
Good Shepherd	Elgin	Glen	Redeker	
Good Shepherd	Frankfort	Claire	Munch	
Grace	Northbrook	John	Chalberg	
Grace Lutheran	Western Springs	Ezekiel	Johnson	
Holy Trinity	Walnut	Carl	Von Holten	
Hope	Countryside	Duane	Kranzow	
Iglesia Evangelica Lutherana San Pablo	Aurora	Eliud	Flores	
Immanuel	Bartlett	Al	Thick	
Immanuel	Batavia	Matt	Hager	
Immanuel	Belvidere	Johnathon	Haig	
Immanuel	DeKalb	Carol-Joy	Motisi	
Immanuel	Des Plaines	Deb	Bordes	
Immanuel	Downers Grove	Sheila	Bowlin	
Immanuel	East Dundee	Timothy	Bishop	
Immanuel	Elmhurst	Kathleen	Wilharm	
Immanuel	Hillside	Michael	Hadler	
Immanuel	Hinckley	Chris	Aichele	
Immanuel	Lindenwood	Richard	Franz	
Immanuel	Palatine	Mike	Stammer	
Lord of Life (Millbrook)	Serena	Luke	Sampson	
Messiah	Chicago	John	Kinast	
Our Savior	Carol Stream	Bill	Pickens	
Our Savior	Joliet	James	Jones	
Our Savior	Momence	Dave	Eckberg	
Peace	Beecher	David	Bunte	
Peace	Plainfield	Jo Lynn	Worden	



Prince of Peace	Crystal Lake	Roberta	Cunningham
Prince of Peace	Palatine	Sean	Hoyer
Resurrection	Chicago	Kristin	Perkins
Risen Savior	Manteno	Jay	Mather
Saint Andrew	Rockton	Alexander	Semenchuk
Saint John	Burlington	David	Farran
Saint John	Mount Prospect	Jan	Anderko
Saint John	Pecatonica	Seth	Klatt
Saint John	Schaumburg	Richard	Keyland
Saint John	Sycamore	Craig	Peterson
Saint John	Wheaton	Craig	Scheel
Saint John's	Chicago	Timothy	Eischen
Saint John's	Elgin	Brian	Wede
Saint John's	Lena	Craig	Kroeger
Saint John's	Lombard	Barry	Prescott
Saint Luke	Itasca	Andy	Larson
Saint Luke	Montgomery	Allen	Krodel
Saint Mark's	Saint Charles	Jeffrey	Studer
Saint Matthew	Hawthorn Woods	John	Thode
Saint Paul	Addison	Rick	Federighi
Saint Paul	Brookfield	Mark	Stern
Saint Paul	Lockport	William	Rohder
Saint Paul	Mount Prospect	Bryan	Yelvington
Saint Paul	Oak Lawn	William	Leise
Saint Paul	Rockford	Titus	Berndt
Saint Paul	Thornton	William	Sommer
Saint Paul (Dorchester)	Chicago	Glenda	Liner
Saint Paul's	Bourbonnais	Brent	Eden
Saint Peter	Schaumburg	Greg	Frey
Saint Peters	Morrison	Martin	Schuette
Saint Philip (S)	Chicago	James	McCoy
St. John's	Union	Mike	Swanson
Tabor	Chicago	Emily	Pacyga
Trinity	Genoa	Rick	Happ
Trinity	Lansing	James	Rehak
Trinity	Lisle	Doug	Dorgan
Trinity	Lombard	Lori	Solyom
Trinity	Roselle	Scott	Liles
Trinity	Tinley Park	David	DeYoung
Zion	Bensenville	Jay	Witt
Zion	Chebanse	Joel	Hendrickson
Zion	Grant Park	Jackson	Paul
Zion	Lyons	David	Lewis
Zion	Marengo	John	Olson



Zion	Naperville	Thomas	Soltwisch
Zion	Oak Lawn	Stanley	Gizevich
Zion	Ottawa	Robert	Mundt

