

Greetings in Christ,

Included below are some addendum items and minor updates to previously printed board and committee reports for our upcoming convention. These are being emailed out to congregations and posted to the synod website ahead of the convention to give pastors and delegates the best opportunity possible to review the updated materials. Printouts of these addendums and updates *will be made available on Monday of the convention as well*. PLEASE circulate them among your delegates as best you can.

Since any action items included in these items *may not have been* accounted for in the programming of the convention, the voting assembly will be given the opportunity to accept or decline the additional work on Monday prior to floor committee work. Thanks very much for your patient consideration of these materials.

Rev. Kyle Madson
Secretary | *Evangelical Lutheran Synod*



ADDENDUM: Board for Christian Service – 2026 Convention Report

Committee #12: Parish Services

Since the submission of the Board for Christian Service report, the Board has expanded the Called Workers Assistance Program to include *The Soul's Apothecary* as an additional counseling resource for called workers and their families.

Called workers and their families may now choose either *Christian Family Solutions* or *The Soul's Apothecary* for counseling and related services through the program. The addition of *The Soul's Apothecary* provides expanded accessibility for called workers and their families, particularly in states where Christian Family Solutions is presently unable to provide licensed counseling services.

The Board for Christian Service continues to give thanks to God for the opportunity to support the spiritual, emotional, and personal well-being of those who serve in the public ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Any questions regarding the Called Workers Assistance Program or these counseling resources may be directed to the Board for Christian Service.

The Rev. Erich J. Hoeft, chairman

ADDENDUM: Board for World Outreach (BWO) - 2026 Convention Report

Committee #10: World Outreach

AUSTRALIA RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, The 2025 convention recommended that the Board for World Outreach consider calling an additional pastor/missionary to Australia, and,

WHEREAS, The BWO Administrator Jay Webber and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary President Timothy Hartwig visited with Our Redeemer in Brisbane and reported the positive potential for evangelism in the region and Australia, and,

WHEREAS, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a most recent letter to the BWO, “formally request that the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Board for World Outreach adopt Our Redeemer and Australia as an official mission field of the ELS”, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That at the 2026 convention the ELS formally approve the adoption of Our Redeemer and Australia as an official mission field of its BWO, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the BWO consider the potential of sending an additional pastor/missionary for evangelism in Australia, and act upon this consideration when and how it is deemed appropriate.

THOUGHTS OF FAITH RESOLUTION

In the meeting of the Thoughts of Faith Board on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, the following resolution was presented, voted on, and carried by the board, which now requires final approval by the 2026 convention of the ELS:

BE IT RESOLVED, To amend Article III, section 1 of the Thoughts of Faith bylaws to read, “at least nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15).”

The Rev. Jacob Kempfert, secretary

ADDENDUM: Planning & Coordinating Committee – 2026 Convention Report

Committee #7: Finances

ELS 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

“Confessing Christ: Near and Far”

Matthew 10:32 – *Jesus said: “Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven.”*

- 500 years ago, the faithful confession of Christ by Lutheran laymen in Augsburg propelled the gospel truth beyond the borders of Germany.
- 450 years ago, the publication of the *Book of Concord* brought peace, unity, and purpose to the Lutheran Church through the clear confession of Christ, allowing it to widen its reach.
- 175 years ago, Norwegian Lutheran pastors on the American frontier clearly confessed Christ, forming a new church body (now the Evangelical Lutheran Synod) which continues to sound forth the same confession today.
- 100 years ago, Lutheran laymen and pastors choosing to confess Christ instead of compromising the truth purchased Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, for the education and training of young people in the pure Word of God.

In each of these cases, small groups of faithful confessors took bold steps forward by the grace of God. Standing with them on the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions drawn from them, we step into the future *Confessing Christ: Near and Far*.

Upcoming Anniversaries:

- 2027 – 100th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran College
- 2028 – 175th Anniversary of the Norwegian Synod
- 2029 – 500th Anniversary of Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms
- 2030 – 500th Anniversary of the Augsburg Confession (1530), 450th Anniversary of the *Book of Concord* (1580)

5-Year Strategic Vision

As confessors of Christ, we will recommit ourselves to the study of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. We will confess this biblical faith in our homes, our congregations, our communities, and around the world. In the coming five years, the synod will promote Lutheran education at every level, equip congregations with tools for gospel outreach, initiate new church plants in the US, and advance international mission work into new fields.

Total Estimated Goal = \$5-10 million

A detailed plan with specific goals will be submitted to the 2027 ELS Convention for approval before the anticipated start date of July 1, 2027. The ELS Giving Counselor will assist in directing the capital campaign. Please provide any feedback about this plan to the P&CC.

ADDENDUM: Board for Lutheran Schools – 2026 Convention Report
addition to original report

Committee #11: Elementary Education

TEACHER ANNIVERSARIES

Katie Krug (Holy Cross) - 10 years
Amanda Schulz (Holy Cross) - 10 years
Pam Starkenburg (Holy Cross) - 25 years
Linda Perry (Parkland) - 40 years
Kari Sehloff (Cornerstone) – 40 years

*The Rev. Chris Dale, chairman
Mr. Shu-Ting Lai, secretary*

REPORT OF THE SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

(minor updates from synod secretary compiling oversights)

Committee #14: Miscellaneous

MEMBERS & MEETINGS

The members of the Synod Review Committee are the Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen (chairman); Mr. Karl Bloedel; the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad; the Rev. Theodore Gullixson (secretary); and Mr. James Flantz. President Glenn Obenberger serves as an advisory member. Since the 2025 synod convention, the committee has met three times.

WORK

The Synod Review Committee provided clarification to President Obenberger on various issues by letter.

This year, the committee was given the task of reviewing a small number of resolutions passed by the 2025 synod convention. The resolutions in question either contained substantial changes from the recommendations of standing boards or included elements that would have been impossible for the standing board to fully execute. While recognizing the difficulty caused by these resolutions, the committee found the resolutions in order, settling upon two major points in making this decision.

The synod convention has the final say. The synod's articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws entrust the organizing and directing of synodical affairs to the synod convention (ELS Articles of Incorporation, Article VII; Constitution of the ELS, Chapter III, IV, and V; ELS Bylaws, Chapter 5, par. 1). The synod in convention, therefore, governs the work of the synod's officers, standing boards, and committees, reviewing their completed work and giving direction to their future efforts. So, the convention has the right to amend the recommendations of standing boards and committees. The convention also has the right to seek outside input or ignore said input in making its decisions.

Once a convention has adjourned, its business is concluded. No one can go back and change a duly passed resolution. Resolutions are expected to be carried out as completely as possible. Officers, board or committee members, or administrators who object to certain convention resolutions may bring attention to those objections in their report to the next convention.

Ultimately, it is incumbent upon convention delegates to read, study and examine resolutions prior to passage to ensure that they are proper, and to amend them or vote them down if they are improper. The committee acknowledges that future difficulties may be avoided if delegates can more faithfully perform their due diligence with regard to proposed resolutions.

The following item is presented as a suggested change to the ELS Guidelines. The proposed deletion is lined through.

Amend Guidelines for the Circuit Visitors and Visitations, Article II, B.:

WHEREAS, Circuit Visitors now meet annually in September, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Guidelines for the Circuit Visitors and Visitations, Article II, B. be amended as follows:

“Since the visitors are responsible to the president of the synod, it is their duty to make a full report of all their activity as visitors to the president ~~in March of~~ each year.”

The Rev. Theodore G. Gullixson, secretary