

Book of Reports and Memorials

105th Convention

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

and the

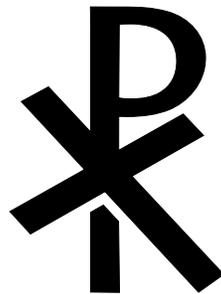
66th Annual Meeting of

Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.

and the

7th Annual Meeting of

Lutheran Schools of America, Inc.



To be held at

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Mankato, Minnesota

June 26–30, 2022

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN THY WORD

Essayist:

Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen

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GENERAL INFORMATION

You are serving our Lord and his church as a pastor or delegate to our synod's convention. The synod convention is the legislative body of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). It establishes, reviews, and amends the policies and the direction of ELS as we pursue our mission. You have a high privilege and a solemn responsibility.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the synod convention is

- To review the activities of the synod as conducted by its officers, boards, and committees during the previous year;
- To arrange for the future work of the synod by careful planning and proper resolutions;
- To elect a president, a vice president, and a secretary of the synod;
- To elect the boards and committees of the synod.

YOUR ROLE

You are one of about 200 pastors and delegates who represent our congregations. You represent your congregation and the synod and should prayerfully ponder and vote on what ELS should be doing for the Lord.

Each congregation is entitled to send two delegates to the convention. These delegates, along with the pastors serving member congregations, constitute the voting membership of the convention.

PRE-CONVENTION INFORMATION

The convention business is printed in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM), which contains reports from all permanent boards and committees of the synod. The BORAM also may contain "memorials" which are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of a convention and which originate from a source other than standing boards and committees. Normally memorials are submitted by a congregation. It is essential that you read the BORAM to get a picture of the synod's work. You may make notes in the BORAM as it is your copy. Remember to bring it with you to the convention.

Each delegate will need a signed copy of the *Delegate's Credentials* form. This form can be found on the back cover of the BORAM. It certifies that you were properly elected by your congregation, and it needs to be signed by the *secretary of your congregation*. **The Delegate's Credentials form cannot be mailed in advance** and cannot be presented by anyone other than the elected delegate named on the form.

THE CONVENTION

Upon Arrival: All pastors and delegates need to report to the credentials table in the lobby of the Sports and Fitness Center:

- Pastors' attendance will be gathered at the Credentials Table. There will be a written register where all pastors will need to sign their own name. If you fail to sign the register, your attendance will not be reported for the convention.
- Delegates, likewise, will be asked to sign an official register. Credentials must be presented upon arrival at the convention. *Each delegate needs to present this form in person at the Credentials Desk before they can vote on the convention floor.*
- Lay members of permanent boards and committees, who are in attendance at the convention, are to report their attendance to the Credentials Committee and to sign the register. They will be regarded as advisory members having the right to speak on the floor of the convention.

Sessions: All sessions will be held in the Ronald J. Younge Gymnasium in the Sports and Fitness Center at Bethany Lutheran College unless otherwise announced. All registered delegates are eligible to speak and vote on every issue before the convention.

Assignments: Prior to the convention, all pastors and delegates are assigned to serve on a convention committee (sometimes also referred to as a floor committee). When you know your committee assignment, carefully study your committee's section in the BORAM. Committee members shall serve until the committee is dismissed.

Voting Members: The pastors serving member congregations who are in attendance at the convention and the properly seated delegates, who are lay voting members of the congregation and are elected by the voting membership of the congregation, constitute the voting membership of the convention. The president shall have the right to vote only to break a tie (*Bylaws*, Chapter IV).

Elections: An important duty of delegates is to elect synodical officers and board members. A brief biographical sketch of each nominee is included in the BORAM. Ask questions before you vote so you are as informed as possible.

Excuses: Any excuses for late arrival or non-attendance at the convention are to be sent to the office of the synod president prior to the opening of the convention. The Credentials Committee serves as the Excuse Committee for late arrivals and early departures.

Alternate Delegates: Alternate delegates replace the main delegate and *do not need to be announced on the convention floor*. Such changes are to be reported to the Convention Committee secretary.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The voting members of convention *committees* shall consist of clergymen, male teachers, and male professors who are permanent members of the synod, and delegates who have been assigned to committees by the convention. Advisory members may also serve on convention committees. Others may (1) attend the committee meetings if such attendance is approved by the committee, and (2) with approval, enter into the discussion. Only those who have been elected to the convention committees by the convention shall have the right to vote during the committee deliberations.

Prior to the convention, it is the responsibility of the nominated committee members to review the report of the standing board(s) or committee(s) as contained in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. The work that the board or committee reports should be consistent with its guidelines.

Following ratification by the convention, the committee members shall adjourn to the committee's assigned workplace under the direction of the temporary chairman, and shall elect a permanent chairman and a recording secretary.

1. The committee shall:
 - a. Read Article I.E of the Convention Guidelines so that it might fully understand its duties and responsibilities.
 - b. Review the guidelines as they are printed in the Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod under which the standing board or committee is operating. (For example: The convention committee on Higher Education shall review all of the guidelines for Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary).
 - c. Review the report(s) contained in the Book of Reports and Memorials and the Convention Handbook that are pertinent to its assignment. The committee may wish to schedule and interview invited resource people (for example, officers of the synod, of a permanent board or of an institution) to assist the committee in its assignment.
2. The primary work of the convention committee is to review and assess the work of the standing board or committee.
 - a. The committee shall determine the resource people it wishes to invite (standing board members, officers, memorial sponsors, etc.).
 - b. The committee should consider whether there are any discrepancies in the report insofar as the duties of the standing board are concerned and, if necessary, so report.
 - c. The committee may consider other suggestions for the standing board and make recommendations for studies or research by the Synod Review Committee or another committee. It may recommend development of guideline changes that would be reviewed at a future convention.
3. Any recommendation concerning changes in the budget of a committee to be enacted at the current convention must be submitted to the convention Committee on Finance (see Guidelines for the Planning and Coordinating Committee, Article IV.A.2.a.).

God's people are filled with gratitude to our gracious Lord at all times, as is reflected regularly in our prayers and praises. Except for special circumstances, it is not necessary to pass resolutions of thanks as our Lord already knows our thoughts and feelings in this regard. Proper acknowledgment can be put in whereas clauses of other resolutions. Floor committees should be assured that reviewing the work is essential—the number of resolutions does not make that work any more significant. Reports by standing boards and committees are there for everyone to read. Resolutions are for the purpose of having the synod put into action things that are prompted through the reports.

It is expected that the **Finance Committee** will make recommendation concerning the acceptance of the Report of the Board of Trustees, Treasurer's Report, and the Report of the Equalization Committee. The **Home Outreach Committee** and the **Elementary Education Committee** will make recommendation concerning respective salary scales for clergy and elementary school teachers. It also is expected that the **Miscellaneous Committee** will recommend the dates for the next convention.

Secretaries of **circuit pastoral conferences** are reminded to mail their respective reports to records@els.org or hand in their respective reports to the floor committee on the **first day of the convention**.

For ease of the convention committees, the *Book of Reports and Memorials* will be available during the convention on the synod website, els.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The typing, printing, and distribution of all committee reports, and other floor information is to be coordinated through the Head Usher (two copies of all reports are to be given to the president and four copies to the secretary). Typists, printer, pages, and ushers are under the direction of the Head Usher.

It is important to include a list of the names of all committee members who have been present at any of the committee meetings; this list of names will be used to verify committee assignments for publication in the *Synod Report*.

The chairman and the secretary of each convention committee will prepare resolutions according to the following format. Convention typists can assist with formatting and line numbering of the report. If it is necessary to email your report to the typists, it must be sent to <elsynod@blc.edu>. Capitalize the words "synod," "board," and "committee" *only* when used in a complete proper name.

1
2
3
4 Re: BORAM (page)
5 Resolution (number) : Subject
6 WHEREAS, T _____, and,
7 WHEREAS, T _____, therefore,
8 A. BE IT RESOLVED, That
9 _____, and,
10 B. BE IT RESOLVED, That
11 _____.

Chairman,

Secretary,

Committee members attending meetings:

ELECTION PROCEDURE (*General Synodical Guidelines*, Article V)

Unless stated otherwise in the Constitution, its Bylaws, or these guidelines, a simple majority (a vote of fifty percent plus one) shall determine the decision of any election. Should an election end in a tie, the chairman may vote to break the tie or he may order another vote (*Bylaws*, Chapter IV, Paragraph 2).

If there is no majority, another vote of the same nominees will be taken for as many as three additional times. If there is no majority after the fourth ballot, a motion from the floor may request that those names with less than five percent of the total vote be removed from the next ballot. If that motion is defeated, an election using the original candidates will be continued.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

Please attend all joint and committee meetings and take an active part in discussions. Remember that the business conducted here establishes the work of the synod for the next year and beyond. Your input is valuable, and your vote is important. When issues are discussed and presented for a vote, consider what you feel is best for the Lord’s kingdom. May God bless your efforts.

COURTESY PLEASE

Please turn off cell phones while in the convention hall.

In consideration of your fellow delegates, please exit the convention hall for any conversations during the sessions.

OTHER INFORMATION

On-campus check-in: Upon arrival, you should visit the credentials desk (delegates need a completed form) in the lobby of the gymnasium. Credentials and registration will be on Monday between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m.

Computer access: If you plan to use your laptop for note taking during the convention, you will need to run on battery power when you are on the convention floor. Outlets are available in the classrooms during committee meetings. Due to the size of the gymnasium, Wi-Fi is unreliable and may not be available.

Smoking: Smoking is not allowed in any of the buildings (including dormitories) on the BLC campus. If you choose to smoke, please do so in the designated smoking areas and properly dispose of the cigarettes.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch will be available beginning on Monday and concluding Thursday. You may purchase meal tickets at the cafeteria entrance. There is an ATM located on the lower level of Old Main, near the bathrooms.

Expense reimbursement: Your congregation already should have paid into the Layman’s Equalization Fund for delegates. The purpose of the fund is to help defray the transportation costs of the laymen delegates. Delegates should fill out a reimbursement form upon arrival at the convention. Clergy equalization will be announced during the convention. Thank you for keeping convention expenses to a minimum.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

College Switchboard	507-344-7000
Evangelical Lutheran Synod & Seminary Office	507-344-7354
Keith Wiederhoeft	507-344-7395
Myrna Meunier	507-344-7848
Greg Costello	507-344-7305 cell 507-381-9992

2022 CONVENTION PROGRAM

All events are in the Ronald J. Younge Gymnasium of the *Sports and Fitness Center* unless noted otherwise.

SYNOD SUNDAY, JUNE 26

- 4:00 Festival Seminary Anniversary Service (*Trinity Chapel*)
 Installation of the president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary: the Rev. Timothy Hartwig
 Preacher: The Rev. Thomas Kuster (New Ulm, Minnesota)
 Liturgist: The Rev. Jeff Hendrix (Oregon, Wisconsin)

The offering has been designated for the ELS Historical Society (25th anniversary)
 Welcome to the 105th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

- 5:30 Dinner (*College Cafeteria*) (free will donation)
 Credentials/Roll Call will be gathered on Monday morning

7:00 ELS Historical Society
 (Ylvisaker Fine Arts
 Center) *

MONDAY, JUNE 27

- 7:30– 9:00 Credentials/Roll Call
All pastors and delegates need to report to the Credentials Desk
- 9:00 Opening Devotion (*Sports and Fitness Center*)
 Chaplain: The Rev James Braun (Harwich, Massachusetts)
- 9:45 Organization of the Convention:
 Roll Call Report
 Credential Committee Report
 Official Opening of the Convention
 Pastors' Equalization Rules
 President's Message and Report
- 10:30 World Outreach Presentation
- 11:00 Organization of the Convention (continued)
 Welcoming of Guests
 Adoption of the Convention Program
- 11:30 Recess (*lunch served in the cafeteria*)
- 1:00 Scripture, Prayer & Hymn
 Anniversaries observed:
 Adolph Harstad—50 years
 Larry Vinton—50 years
 Gregory Haugen—40 years
 Bradley Homan—40 years
 David Thompson—40 years
 Joseph Abrahamson—25 years
 Randy VanMehren—25 years
- 1:20 Organization of the Convention (continued)
 Credentials: Committee 3
 Nominating ballot for the 2023 Committee on Nominations (printed ballot)
 Assignment of Committees
 Assignment of Work
- 2:00 Committee meetings (*Honsey Hall*)
The official list of delegates attending committee meetings is gathered by the committee secretaries. Any alternate delegate name changes are to be reported at this time.
- 3:00 Coffee (*Honsey Hall*)
- 3:30 – 5:00 Committee meetings continue
- 7:30 – 9:00 Committee meetings continue

1:30 Bethany Auxiliary
 sponsored tea at the home
 of President & Mrs.
 Pfeiffer*

6:00 Heritage of Hymns
 (Trinity Chapel)*

7:30 Cross-stich Presentation
 (Ylvisaker Fine Arts
 Center) *

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

- 8:00 Committee Meetings (as necessary)
- 9:00 Opening Devotion (*Trinity Chapel*)
Preacher: The Rev. Thomas Rank (Lake Mills, Iowa)
- 9:35 Preliminaries:
Minutes: Committee 5
Credentials: Committee 3
Program: Committee 4
- 9:45 Synodical Membership & reception of new members: Committee 13
- 10:00 Election of president and vice president (four year terms)
(Once balloting for an office has begun, the convention shall remain in session without interruption until the office has been filled—Convention Guidelines [§240] Article VIII)
- 11:15 Greetings & Presentations
- 11:30 Recess (*lunch served in the cafeteria*)
- 1:00 Scripture, Prayer & Hymn
- 1:05 Preliminaries:
Credentials: Committee 3
Program: Committee 4
- 1:15 Election of the 2023 Committee on Nominations [first printed ballot] †
- 1:30 Essay and Discussion: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*
Essayist: The Rev. Piet Van Kampen (Green Bay, Wisconsin)
- 3:00 Coffee
- 3:30 Miscellaneous Committee 14
- 4:00 Elections: Committee 2
(Convention Guidelines [§240] Article IX.B)
- 4:30 Doctrine Committee 6
- 4:45 Recess for the Communion Service
- 5:00 Communion Service (*Trinity Chapel*)
Preacher: The Rev. Steven Sparley (Tacoma, Washington)
Liturgist: The Rev. James Braun (Harwich, Massachusetts)
The offering has been designated for the Board for Lutheran Schools
- Deaths noted:
Lois Petersen (1927–2022)
Martin Doepel (1933–2022)
Pat Meyer (1939–2022)
Norman Madson (1932–2022)

† *Subsequent ballots for the 2023 Committee on Nominations will be brought forward as and when needed.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

- 8:00 Opening Devotion (*Trinity Chapel*)
Preacher: The Rev. William Grimm (Portage, Wisconsin)
- 8:35 Preliminaries:
Minutes: Committee 5
Credentials: Committee 3
Program: Committee 4
- 8:40 Parish Services Committee 12
- 9:00 Home Outreach Presentation
- 9:30 Elections: Committee 2
- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Higher Education Presentation (*college*)
- 10:55 Higher Education Presentation (*seminary*)
- 11:05 Higher Education: Committee 8
- 11:15 Greetings & Presentations
- 11:30 Recess (*lunch served in the cafeteria*)
- 1:00 Scripture, Prayer & Hymn
- 1:05 Preliminaries:
Credentials: Committee 3
Program: Committee 4
- 1:10 Greetings & Presentations
- 1:30 Essay and Discussion: : *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*
Essayist: The Rev. Piet Van Kampen (Green Bay, Wisconsin)
- 2:30 Doctrine Committee report on Bible translations
- 3:00 Coffee
- 3:30 Home Outreach Committee 9
- 3:45 World Outreach: Committee 10
- 4:00 President's Message and Report Committee 1
- 4:05 Finances: Committee 7
- 4:30 Elementary Education: Committee 11
- 4:45 Pastoral Conference Records & Resolutions: Committee 15
- 4:50 Excuses: Credentials Committee 3
- 4:55 Unfinished Business
- 5:00 Recess

7:00 Apologetics Conference (Trinity Chapel) *

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

- 8:00 Scripture, Hymn & Prayer (*Sports and Fitness Center*)
- 8:20 Preliminaries:
Minutes: Committee 5
Credentials: Committee 3
Program: Committee 4
- 8:15 Unfinished Business
Adjournment
Closing Hymn & Prayer (Chaplain)

* These concurrent events are not an official part of the convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

DELEGATES

“... The Credentials Committee report, which is read by the committee’s chairman should state in substance, that, ‘Attached is the list of the names of the voting members of the convention and their alternates who have registered up until ... [indicating the hour to which is the list is corrected].’ This statement should be followed by whatever statistical summary is customary in the particular organization. ... Normally the list of delegates and alternates is not read unless a portion of it is read upon request for information. ... The report with the attached list of names should then be handed to the secretary.” [*Robert’s Rules of Order*, §59. Organization of a Convention of an Established Society, Adoption of Report.]

“A voting member who registers after the submission of the first report assumes his full status as soon as he has done so, if his status is not questioned.” [*Robert’s Rules of Order*, §59. Organization of an Established Society, Roll of Voting Members; Supplementary Reports.]

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ANTICIPATED DELEGATES:

only the names of congregations reporting by April 25, 2022 are listed

Ascension	Saint Helens, OR	Nathan Liebelt	Mt. Olive	Mankato, MN.....	Silas Born
Ascension	Saint Helens, OR	Samuel Liebelt	Mt. Olive	Mankato, MN.....	Paul Tweit
Bethany.....	Luverne, MN	David Arends	Newport.....	Portage, WI.....	Shawn Anderson
Christ.....	Port St. Lucie, FL	David Clark	Norseland.....	St. Peter, MN	Lowell Gunderson
Christ.....	Port St. Lucie, FL	Keith Duin	Norseland.....	St. Peter, MN	John Merseth II
Christ the King	Green Bay, WI.....	Rod Meves	Norwegian Grove	St. Peter, MN	Jim Flantz
Christ the King	Green Bay, WI....	Andrew Van Kampen	Norwegian Grove	St. Peter, MN	Bob Reid
Divine Mercy	Weatherford, TX.....	Roger Owen	Our Savior’s.....	Albert Lea, MN.....	James Schneider
Divine Mercy	Weatherford, TX.....	John Schreiber	Our Savior’s.....	Princeton, MN.....	Andrew Green
English	Cottonwood, MN	Robert Borning	Our Savior’s.....	Princeton, MN.....	Randy Wise
English	Cottonwood, MN	Shawn Boyum	Our Saviour’s.....	Madison, WI.....	Lance Steffen
First Shell Rock	Northwood, IA.....	Dale Songstad	Parkland	Tacoma, WA	Todd Knutson
First Trinity	Marinette, WI	Gary Johnston	Parkland	Tacoma, WA	Tom Langseth
First Trinity	Marinette, WI	Daniel Lauth	Peace	Kissimmee, FL	Kenneth Meyer
Good Shepherd	Indianola, IA	Loren Meyer	Peace	North Mankato, MN .	John Gunderson
Grace.....	Weston , OH	Daniel Weaver	Peace	North Mankato, MN	Josh Moldstad
Hartland	Hartland, MN.....	Stephen Groven	Pilgrim	Waterloo, IA.....	Mark Perlwitz
Hartland	Hartland, MN.....	Duane Miller	Redeemer	New Hampton, IA	Donald Broer
Heritage	Apple Valley, MN.....	Lyle Fanning	River Heights	East Grand Forks, MN .	Brian Sorenson
Heritage	Apple Valley, MN....	Brad Frimanslund	River Heights	East Grand Forks, MN ...	Paul Sorenson
Holy Cross	Madison, WI.....	Chris Poetter	Saude	Lawler, IA.....	Gene Anderson
Holy Trinity	Oconomowoc, WI	Jerome Hoeft	Saude	Lawler, IA.....	Bruce Blaser
Holy Trinity	Oconomowoc, WI	James Young	Saved by Grace.....	Gresham, OR.....	Kirk Campbell
Hope.....	Leander, TX	Edward Krieger	Scarville Synod.....	Scarville, IA.....	Karl Bloedel
Immanuel.....	Audubon, MN	Marty Wolbaum	Scarville Synod.....	Scarville, IA.....	Jon Faugstad
Jerico.....	Lawler, IA.....	Jim Costello	St. Timothy	Lombard, IL.....	George Donchenko
Jerico.....	Lawler, IA.....	Neil Shaffer	St. Timothy	Lombard, IL.....	Neil Willert
King of Grace.....	Golden Valley, MN	Tim Larson	Trinity	Brewster, MA	Paul Chamberlain
King of Grace.....	Golden Valley, MN	Ned Silber	Zion	Tracy, MN.....	Dennis Hayes
Manchester.....	Hartland, MN.....	Gordon Rasussen			

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

locations indicated are those of the congregations represented

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT

Rev. Timothy E. Erickson* Dodge Center, MN
Rev. Michael A. Dale.....Port Saint Lucie, FL
Rev. Trent Saari Cottage Grove, WI
Rev. Paul ZagerSuttons Bay, MI
Mr. Silas Born Mankato, MN

2. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

*(Elected at the 2021 convention)
(also assigned to an additional committee)*

Rev. Jerry Gernander
Rev. Kyle Madson
Rev. Alex Ring
Rev. Luke Ulrich
Mr. Greg Costello
Mr. Michael Harting
Mr. Steve Jaeger
Mr. David Sparley

3. CREDENTIALS

(also assigned to an additional committee)

Rev. Daniel J. Hartwig West Bend, WI
Rev. Matthew Moldstad North Mankato, MN
Mr. Mark Perlwitz..... Waterloo, IA

4. PROGRAM

(also assigned to an additional committee)

Rev. Paul Lange.....Oconomowoc, WI
Mr. Shu-Ting Lai Port Orchard, WA

5. MINUTES

(also assigned to an additional committee)

Rev. Mark Faugstad..... Port St. Lucie, FL
Dr. Michael K. Smith..... Ames, IA
Mr. Kenneth MeyerKissimmee, FL

6. DOCTRINE

Rev. Kyle Madson*Saint Peter, MN
Rev. Mark F. Bartels Madison, WI
Rev. Andrew Burmeister..... Bishop, CA
Rev. Roger Emmons.....Redmond, OR
Rev. Mark Faugstad..... Port St. Lucie, FL
Rev. Daniel Finn Australia
Rev. Wayne L.M. Halvorson Mankato, MN
Rev. Thomas Heyn Madison, WI
Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch..... Fort Myers, FL
Rev. Samuel Johnson..... Bowling Green, OH
Rev. Frederic E. Lams..... Hobart, IN
Rev. David Lillegard..... Sebastian, FL
Prof. Dennis Marzolf..... Mankato, MN
Rev. Joshua Skogen Scarville, IA

Rev. Andrew Soule Belview, MN
Rev. William Stehr Irvine, CA
Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen..... Green Bay, WI
Rev. Thomas Zeller..... Leander, TX
Mr. Bruce BlaserLawler, IA
Mr. Paul Chamberlain.....Brewster, MA
Mr. Samuel Liebelt..... Saint Helens, OR
Mr. Roger Owen..... Weatherford, TX
Mr. Ned Silber Golden Valley, MN
Mr. Andrew Van Kampen Green Bay, WI

7. FINANCES

Rev. Karl J. Anderson* Apple Valley, MN
Rev. Joseph Abrahamson Clara City, MN
Rev. Timothy Bartels..... Gresham, OR
Mr. Silas Born Mankato, MN
Rev. Patrick Ernst..... Frankenmuth, MI
Rev. Rodney A. Flohr Cold Spring, MN
Rev. Paul Fries Mankato, MN
Rev. Daniel J. Hartwig West Bend, WI
Rev. James Kassera Weatherford, TX
Rev. Jacob Kempfert..... Saginaw, MI
Rev. Robert Lawson Princeton, MN
Rev. Matthew Luttmann Vero Beach, FL
Rev. Joshua Mayer..... Rogers, MN
Rev. Jeffery Merseth Oklee, MN
Rev. Andrew Palmquist Luverne, MN
Dr. Timothy Schmeling Mankato, MN
Dr. Michael K. Smith..... Ames, IA
Rev. E.C.F. Stubenvoll..... Marinette, WI
Rev. Frederick W. Theiste Chippewa Falls, WI
Rev. David J. Webber..... Phoenix, AZ
Rev. Richard Wiechmann..... Elysian, MN
Mr. George Donchenko Lombard, IL
Mr. Keith Duin..... Port St. Lucie, FL
Mr. Jim Flantz..... St. Peter, MN
Mr. Brad Frimanslund..... Apple Valley, MN
Mr. John Merseth II..... St. Peter, MN

8. HIGHER EDUCATION

Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad* Crystal, MN
Rev. Harry K. Bartels Gresham, OR
Dr. Adam Brasich..... Winter Haven, FL
Rev. Matthew Brooks Holts Summit, MO
Rev. Richard Fyffe Lake Havasu City, AZ
Rev. Jerome Gernander Princeton, MN
Rev. Peter Heyn..... San Angelo, TX
Rev. Roger Holtz..... Kaukauna, WI
Rev. Dale Jaech Cornelius, OR
Rev. Bradley J. Kerkow..... North Mankato, MN
Rev. Kurt Kluge Shawano, WI
Rev. Michael Lilienthal Albert Lea, MN

Rev. Mark E. Marozick Madison, WI
 Rev. John E. Merseith Sr. Audubon, MN
 Pres. Em. Marvin Meyer Brainerd, MN
 Rev. James Olsen Ontario, WI
 Rev. John Petersen Mankato, MN
 Rev. Steven P. Petersen Palm Bay, FL
 Rev. Tosten Skaaland Wittenberg, WI
 Rev. Bernt P. Tweit Madison, WI
 Mr. Karl Bloedel Scarville, IA
 Mr. Shawn Boyum Cottonwood, MN
 Mr. Kirk Campbell Gresham, OR
 Mr. Stephen Groven Hartland, MN
 Mr. Nathan Liebelt Saint Helens, OR
 Mr. Josh Moldstad North Mankato, MN
 Mr. Lance Steffen Madison, WI

9. HOME OUTREACH

Rev. David Thompson* Lombard, IL
 Rev. Harvey Abrahamson Clintonville, WI
 Mr. Steven Beilke Mankato, MN
 Rev. Klebe Brumble Waxahachie, TX
 Rev. Timothy Buelow Carthage, MO
 Rev. Erwin J. Ekhooff Minneapolis, MN
 Rev. Micah A. Ernst Eugene, MO
 Rev. Kurtis Freimuth Deshler, OH
 Rev. David Haeuser Waterloo, WI
 Dr. Doyle Holbird Mankato, MN
 Rev. Charles J. Keeler Winter Haven, FL
 Rev. Nathan Krause Cottage Grove, WI
 Mr. Allen Labitzky Crystal, MN
 Rev. Jeff Luplow Hillman, MI
 Rev. Kenneth Mellon Mankato, MN
 Rev. Donald Moldstad Mankato, MN
 Rev. Homer Mosley Jr. Olympia, WA
 Rev. Ronald Pederson Mankato, MN
 Prof. Nicholas Proksch Mankato, MN
 Rev. Thomas L. Rank Lake Mills, IA
 Rev. Mark K. Rogers Cape Girardeau, MO
 Rev. John E. Smith Shawano, WI
 Rev. Shawn Stafford Janesville, MN
 Dr. Erling T. Teigen Mankato, MN
 Rev. Larry Vinton Acworth, GA
 Mr. Gene Anderson Lawler, IA
 Mr. Robert Borning Cottonwood, MN
 Mr. Jon Faugstad Scarville, IA
 Mr. Lowell Gunderson St. Peter, MN
 Mr. Dennis Hayes Tracy, MN
 Mr. Gary Johnston Marinette, WI
 Mr. Loren Meyer Indianola, IA
 Mr. Duane Miller Hartland, MN
 Mr. Brian Sorenson East Grand Forks, MN
 Mr. Marty Wolbaum Audubon, MN

10. WORLD OUTREACH

Rev. Christian Walz* Indianola, IA
 Rev. Darryl L. Bakke Albert Lea, MN
 Rev. Steven Brockdorf Hillsboro, OR

Rev. Joseph Burkhardt Beaverton, OR
 Rev. Matthew Crick Onalaska, WI
 Rev. Peter Faugstad Lawler, IA
 Rev. Erik C. Gernander Jefferson City, MO
 Rev. Cory Hahnke Madison, WI
 Prof. Adolph L. Harstad North Mankato, MN
 Rev. Jesse Jacobsen Lakewood, WA
 Dr. Brian Klebig Mankato, MN
 Mr. Shu-Ting Lai Port Orchard, WA
 Rev. Daniel Larson Charles City, IA
 Rev. Norman A. Madson North Mankato, MN
 Rev. David Meyer Australia
 Rev. Daniel Oberer Rosemount, MN
 Rev. Anthony Pittenger Port Orchard, WA
 Pres. Gaylin R. Schmeling Mankato, MN
 Rev. Richard P. Tragasz Siloam Springs, AR
 Rev. Luke Ulrich Mankato, MN
 Rev. Lawrence Wentzloff Hanska, MN
 Mr. John Gunderson North Mankato, MN
 Mr. Edward Krieger Leander, TX
 Mr. Daniel Lauth Marinette, WI
 Mr. Rod Meves Green Bay, WI
 Mr. Mark Perlwitz Waterloo, IA
 Mr. Chris Poetter Madison, WI
 Mr. Gordon Rasussen Hartland, MN
 Mr. John Schreiber Weatherford, TX

11. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt* Cottonwood, MN
 Rev. Daniel A. Basel Mankato, MN
 Rev. Edward Bryant Medford, OR
 Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux Mankato, MN
 Rev. Thomas H. Fox Burlington, MA
 Rev. Theodore Gullixson Mankato, MN
 Rev. Robert A. Harting Thornton, IA
 Rev. Gregory J. Haugen Neenah, WI
 Rev. Shawn Kauffeld Menomonie, WI
 Dr. Thomas A. Kuster New Ulm, MN
 Rev. Robert Lawson Jr. The Dalles, OR
 Rev. Daniel McQuality Mount Pulaski, IL
 Rev. Matthew Moldstad North Mankato, MN
 Rev. Alex Ring Port Saint Lucie, FL
 Rev. Daniel Ruiz San Antonio, TX
 Rev. Samuel Schmeling Tracy, MN
 Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt West Bend, WI
 Rev. Steven Sparley Tacoma, WA
 Rev. Paul Sullivan Eau Claire, WI
 Rev. Randy VanMehren Lakeland, FL
 Rev. Benjamin Wiechmann New Hope, MN
 Rev. Carl R. Wosje Clara City, MN
 Mr. Shawn Anderson Portage, WI
 Mr. David Arends Luverne, MN
 Mr. Jerome Hoef Oconomowoc, WI
 Mr. Tim Larson Golden Valley, MN
 Mr. James Schneider Albert Lea, MN
 Mr. Dale Songstad Northwood, IA

12. PARISH SERVICES

Rev. Christian Eisenbeis* Marinette, WI
Rev. Robert Carter Belle Plaine, MN
Rev. Christopher Dale Port St Lucie, FL
Rev. David Emmons Northwood, IA
Rev. Ernest B. Geistfeld North Mankato, MN
Rev. Aaron Hamilton Eau Claire, WI
Rev. Young Ha Kim Las Vegas, NV
Rev. Paul Lange Oconomowoc, WI
Rev. Gene Lilienthal Lengby, MN
Rev. David Locklair Portage, IN
Rev. Nile Merseth Somerset, WI
Mr. Adam Pavelchik Mankato, MN
Pres. Gene Pfeifer Mankato, MN
Rev. Sean Scheele Waterloo, IA
Rev. Paul E. Schneider Midland, MI
Rev. Glenn Smith Klamath Falls, OR
Rev. Noah Thompson East Grand Forks, MN
Rev. Paul Webber West Jordan, UT
Mr. James Young Oconomowoc, WI
Rev. Timothy Zenda Princeton, MN
Mr. Donald Broer New Hampton, IA
Mr. Jim Costello Lawler, IA
Mr. Tom Langseth Tacoma, WA
Mr. Bob Reid St. Peter, MN
Mr. Paul Sorenson East Grand Forks, MN
Mr. Daniel Weaver Weston, OH
Mr. Neil Willert Lombard, IL
Mr. Randy Wise Princeton, MN

13. SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

(also assigned to an additional committee)

Rev. T. Kuster* New Ulm, MN
Rev. Ronald Pederson Mankato, MN

14. MISCELLANEOUS

Rev. Samuel Gullixson* Tacoma, WA
Rev. Nathanael Abrahamson Cottage Grove, WI
Rev. James M. Braun Harwich, MA
Pres. Em. Dan Bruss Pella, IA
Rev. Jesse DeDeyne Waco, TX
Rev. Daniel N. Faugstad Redwood Falls, MN
Rev. Timothy A. Hartwig Mankato, MN
Rev. Jeffrey Hendrix Oregon, WI
Rev. Erich J. Hoeft Holton, MI
Rev. Martin K. Hoesch Ames, IA
Rev. Bradley J. Homan Cottage Grove, WI
Rev. Lee Kuhns Kissimmee, FL
Rev. Bruce Leonatti Irwin, PA
Rev. Phillip K. Lepak Hartland, MN
Rev. Jonathan Madson Sebring, FL
Rev. John A. Moldstad Sr Pequot Lakes, MN
Dr. Steven L. Reagles Mankato, MN
Rev. Gregory H. Schmidt Naples, FL
Rev. J. Kincaid Smith Cold Spring, MN
Rev. Thomas Smuda Rogers City, MI
Rev. James Dale Wilson Citronelle, AL

Mr. Craig Zibrowski Mankato, MN
Mr. David Clark Port St. Lucie, FL
Mr. Lyle Fanning Apple Valley, MN
Mr. Andrew Green Princeton, MN
Mr. Todd Knutson Tacoma, WA
Mr. Kenneth Meyer Kissimmee, FL
Mr. Neil Shaffer Lawler, IA
Mr. Paul Tweit Mankato, MN

15. PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS AND RESOLUTIONS

Rev. Robert Otto* Bloomer, WI
Rev. William Grimm Portage, WI
Rev. Boyd Longshore Peyton, CO

16. TELLERS

Adam Brasich*
Colin Anderson
Peter Bockoven
Roger Emmons
Abraham Faugstad
Samuel Johnson
Nicholas Lilienthal
Sean Scheele

17. CHAPLAIN

Rev. James Braun Harwich, MA

18. HEAD USHERS

Rev. Gene Lilienthal* Lengby, MN
Rev. Micah A. Ernst Eugene, MO

19. PARLIAMENTARIANS

Rev. T. Kuster New Ulm, MN
Rev. E. Teigen Mankato, MN

20. ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dr. Michael K. Smith Ames, IA

21. CONVENTION MANAGER

Mr. Greg Costello Bethany Lutheran College

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—INELIGIBLES

Rev. Karl Anderson
Rev. Daniel Basel
Rev. Michael Dale
Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux
Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
Rev. Rodney Flohr
Rev. Paul Fries
Rev. Jerry Gernander
Rev. Timothy Hartwig
Rev. Thomas Heyn
Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch
Rev. James Kassera
Rev. Brad Kerkow

Rev. Phillip Lepak
Rev. Jonathan Madson
Rev. Kyle Madson
Rev. Glenn Obenberger
Rev. John Petersen
Rev. Alex Ring
Rev. Steven Sparley
Dr. Erling Teigen
Rev. Luke Ulrich

Mr. John Baumann
Mr. Dan Browning
Mr. Greg Costello
Mr. Shaun Grabow
Mr. Herman Harstad
Mr. Michael Harting
Mr. Chris Hoffman
Mr. Steve Jaeger
Mr. Todd Knutson
Mr. Shu-Ting Lai
Dr. Joshua Mears
Mr. Paul Mielbrecht
Mr. David Norris
Mr. Mark Perlwitz
Mr. David Sparley
Mr. Kermit Traska
Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft
Mr. Paul Wold

* denotes temporary chairman
*Names in italics are to be received into
membership at this convention*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Committee #1: President's Message and Report (unless noted otherwise)

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Candidate of Theology Sean Scheele was ordained and installed on June 27, 2021, at Faith Lutheran Church in Parkersburg, Iowa. He is serving the dual parish of Faith and Pilgrim Lutheran in Waterloo.

Candidate of Theology Adam Brasich was ordained and installed on July 4, 2021, at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Winter Haven, Florida. He is serving the dual parish of Resurrection and Our Savior Lutheran in Lakeland.

Candidate of Theology Samuel Johnson was ordained and installed as pastor of Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio, on July 4, 2021.

The Rev. Michael Smith was installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa, on July 11, 2021. President Obenberger preached for the installation. The Rev. Robert Harting, the Circuit Visitor for Circuit 7, conducted the rite of installation. The sermon text was Matthew 5:17–20, with the theme “We Uphold the Law by Proclaiming the Lord Is Our Righteousness.” Following the service, the members of Bethany hosted a reception dinner to officially welcome their new pastor.

The Rev. Timothy Hartwig was installed as vice president of Evangelical Lutheran Synod on July 30, 2021 at special service at the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary chapel. President Obenberger preached and conducted the rite of installation.

Pastor Robert Lawson, Sr. was installed as assisting minister on a part-time basis by Bethany Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minnesota. The installation took place on August 1, 2021.

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, the Rev. Philip Geiger was installed as pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, Omro, Wisconsin. The Rev. Piet Van Kampen, the Circuit Visitor for Circuit 6, preached for the installation service and conducted the rite of installation. Three other pastors were present for the installation: the Rev. Christian Eisenbeis, the Rev. Kurt Kluge, and the Rev. John Smith. Pastor Geiger, prior to accepting this call, was a retired WELS pastor, living in Appleton, Wisconsin with his wife Jeanne. The sermon text was Exodus 3:1–12, with the theme “Serve the Lord with Certainty.” Following the service, the members of Messiah hosted a reception dinner to officially welcome their new pastor.

The Rev. Brad Kerkow was installed as the synod's new Evangelism and Missions Counselor (EMC) on October 6, 2021, at the General Pastoral Conference. President Glenn Obenberger conducted the rite of installation. The Rev. Kerkow, who is originally from Brisbane, Australia, previously served as missionary at Peace Lutheran in North Mankato, Minnesota, for eleven years and missionary at Hope Lutheran in Leander, Texas, for ten years. As EMC, he will work with the seven home missions of our synod, offering counsel and guidance as they develop from exploratory sites into established congregations. In addition, he will also serve all of the synod's congregations by assisting them with their outreach and evangelism programs. He is available to guide congregations through a flexible strategic planning process, enabling them to assess their current situations and set goals for the future as they carry out Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20).

The Rev. David Locklair was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Hobart, Indiana, on November 14, 2021. The Rev. Trent Saari preached on 1 Corinthians 4:1–2 with the theme “A Servant and Steward.” Circuit Visitor, the Rev. David Thompson, conducted the rite of installation.

The Rev. Philip Lepak was installed as pastor of Hartland and Manchester Lutheran Churches in Hartland and Manchester, Minnesota, on February 27, 2022. The Rev. Josh Skogen was the preacher and the Rev. Mike Smith the liturgist.

DEDICATIONS, ANNIVERSARIES, MORTGAGE BURNING, AND GROUNDBREAKING

Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on July 18, 2021. The theme was “Abiding in His Word.” The preacher for the anniversary service was the Rev. Ken Mellon, who based his sermon on Mark 2:1–12 with the theme “Let Us Bring Them to Jesus!”

On August 1, 2021, St. John's Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan celebrated the 140th anniversary of its founding with a festival service, catered meal, and program of speakers. “We are God's house of living stones” was the theme of the anniversary. The congregation was founded in 1880, but this observance was postponed last year because of COVID-19. The Rev. Jeffery Luplow read the lessons for the service. Pastor Patrick Ernst conducted the liturgy and preached, and both the Rev. Patrick Ernst and the Rev. Paul Schneider spoke for the program.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in rural Princeton, Minnesota, celebrated a centennial anniversary on August 8, 2021. The organizational meeting was held at a member's home on July 7, 1920, under the guidance of Pastor O. M. Gullerud. Due to coronavirus restrictions, the congregation had to wait a year to hold the joyous event. Many members, former members, family, and friends came for the morning service, the catered meal, and festival program. The Rev. Donald Moldstad, a grandson of the congregation, shared the message from Matthew 7:24, “Heaven's Perspective on 100 Years of Our Savior's.” The Rev. Joshua Skogen and the Rev. Andrew Soule, both sons of the congregation, led the worship that day. There were over 250 people were present to thank God for all the years of the Christ centered message preached and taught at Our Savior's and to ask His continued blessings on the years to come.

King of Grace Lutheran Church in Waukon, Iowa, was established in 2005 as a successor to West Paint Creek Church. For fourteen years they worshipped in a small building in downtown Waukon, Iowa. Almost two years ago, they purchased a much larger building to serve as their new church. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the dedication of the new building was delayed. The date for the dedication was finally set for October 3, 2021. President Glenn Obenberger preached for the occasion on John 6:66–69, “Dedicated to Receive the Royal Gifts of Grace.”

Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, observed her 130th anniversary on October 31, 2021. President Glenn Obenberger preached for the service. The text of the sermon was Isaiah 61:1–3 under the theme: “130 Years of the LORD Planting Oaks of Righteousness.”

Groundbreaking at Bethany Lutheran College for a new on-campus Bethany Activity and Wellness Center took place at the construction site near the corner of Marsh and Division Streets on November 9, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., to coincide with the quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents. College Chaplain Don Moldstad, Vice President of Advancement Bruce Gratz, President Gene Pfeifer, Mankato Mayor Najwa Massad, North Mankato Mayor Mark Dehen, and Mr. Fred Lutz of the Greater Mankato Growth Ambassadors spoke to the crowd of 125 people gathered for the historic event. The 83,000 square foot facility will be utilized by the entire Bethany campus population providing much needed spaces for students, athletes, and educational and community events alike. The Activity Center will include a six-lane track, jumping spaces for field events, an artificial turf infield, and drop-down netting to divide the space for multiple user groups and purposes at the same time. The Wellness Center will include new fitness and exercise spaces as well as lounge and gathering areas.

On November 7, 2021, the Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, recognized the hundredth anniversary of the date on which its founders wrote a letter terminating their membership at South New Hope Lutheran Church and desiring to form their own church. Pastor Greg Haugen preached the sermon on Philippians 3:12–21, “Press On Toward the Goal.” The anniversary celebration concluded on January 9, 2022, when the congregation observed the date on which it was officially organized. Pastor Greg Haugen preached the sermon on Psalm 77:7–15, “A Day of Joyful Remembrance.”

Lakewood Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Washington, celebrated her seventy-fifth anniversary on November 28, 2021. President Glenn Obenberger preached for the celebration on the text Matthew 21:14–17 under the theme, “75 Years Preparing ‘Little Children’ to Mouth God’s Praise.” The Rev. Jesse Jacobsen was the liturgist.

New Life Lutheran Church in Sebring, Florida, celebrated her thirtieth anniversary on February 27, 2022. President Glenn Obenberger preached using the text: Matthew 17:1–9, under the theme: “Lord, It Is Good that We Are Here, Where You have Been for 30 Years!”

Saude Lutheran Church in rural Lawler, Iowa, will hold a rededication service on June 5 at 3:30 pm to celebrate the extensive restoration of the church interior. ELS President Glenn Obenberger will be the guest preacher for the service. The church building was dedicated in 1904 and the current design work is patterned after design elements in the church from the early to mid-1900s.

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS (*Committee 13: Synodical Membership*)

The following individuals have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

- Adam Brasich, graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- Samuel Johnson, graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- Sean Scheele, graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Rev. Jim Braun was appointed to serve as volunteer assistant to the Communication Director on July 6, 2021.

Upon his election as the synod’s vice president, the Rev. Timothy Hartwig resigned from the Board for Home Outreach, effective July 30, 2021.

The Rev. Ben Wiechmann resigned from the Explanation Review Committee on July 20, 2021.

The Rev. Brad Kerkow resigned from the Board for World Outreach on August 10, 2021.

A trustee, David Ewert, was appointed as an advisory liaison to the ELS Board of Regents in August 2021.

Mr. Daniel Neumann resigned from the Board for Christian Service on January 31, 2022.

Mr. Rodney Rivera resigned from the Board for World Outreach on February 17, 2022.

RETIREMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The Rev. James Dale Wilson retired from the pastoral ministry on August 31, 2021.

The Rev. Wayne Halvorson retired from the pastoral ministry on October 24, 2021. President Glenn Obenberger preached for the retirement service held at Forest Lutheran Church in Forest City, Iowa. The text of the sermon was Mark 10: 35–45 considered under the theme: “Whosoever Will Be Great among You, Shall Be Your Minister.”

The Rev. Larry Wentzlaff retired from the position of Evangelism and Missions Counselor on December 1, 2021.

CLOSINGS, RELOCATION, DECOMMISSIONING, AND RELEASE

Christ Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minnesota, was an independent congregation in fellowship with the ELS. The congregation closed in July 2021.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, closed in September 2021. The members plan to join with Christ Lutheran in Sutherlin, and together the two congregations will relocate as one in Rosebud, Oregon.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Yelm, Washington, sold their church building and closed in early 2022. Since the property was sold to a secular business, no longer to be used for the services of the Gospel, on January 9, 2022, they conducted the Rite of Disposition and Deconsecration of their church building. On February 27, Parkland Lutheran Church conducted the Rite of Closing Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and the Rite of Welcoming New Members to Parkland. The membership records were given to the Rev. Steven Sparley as circuit visitor and pastor of Parkland Lutheran Church. Our Redeemer and Parkland finalized their merger on February 26. All the Our Redeemer members were invited to transfer their membership to Parkland. Over the years, Our Redeemer had been served by one mission pastor, five full time pastors, and six vacancy pastors. According to the church records book, 218 souls had been baptized, 134 members had been confirmed in their baptismal grace, 40 couples had been married, and 30 souls had been given a Christian funeral. Our Redeemer Lutheran School had been served by no fewer than 16 teachers and 5 principals.

Grace Lutheran Church in Piedmont, Missouri, decided in January 2022 to sell their church and is planning to close when the sale is complete.

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riceville, Iowa, closed on March 1, 2022. The congregation had been a part of the five-point northern Iowa parish that also includes Lime Creek, Lake Mills, First Shell Rock, and Somber.

After one hundred years of God's grace upon Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, the congregation decided to close. The final church service was held on Sunday, March 13, 2022. We will give thanks to God for his many blessings upon Our Savior's. We know members of this congregation will continue to serve him at other churches. However, it will also be sad to end worship services at a church that has meant so much to so many people.

On March 20, 2022, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bell Gardens requested a release from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The congregation joined the ELS in 1976, having previously been a member of FAL.

DEATHS (*Committee 15: Pastoral Conference Records and Resolutions*)

Mr. Norman Werner was taken into the arms of his Savior in heaven on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Norman has been one of our cherished and faithful ELS churchmen who was a blessed gift not only to his local parish but also to our synod in so many ways for most of his adult life. He was a graduate and long-time supporter of our Bethany Lutheran College. He brought his love and knowledge of synod affairs to the Boards for Missions and Home Missions; the Committees of Synod Review, Archives & History, Planning and Coordinating; and in several other areas. He regularly attended the annual convention and was a ready resource to call upon by the presidents for insights and advice. Norm truly exuded the unique flavor of the ELS. Blessed be his memory for Jesus' sake. May all who mourn his loss, but especially his family be comforted by the Word of resurrection and life.

Beloved Bethany Lutheran College Professor Emeritus Sigurd (Sig) Lee passed away at the age of 95 in Mankato. His soul entered its eternal rest in the glorious heavenly courts above for Jesus' sake on Thursday, December 9, 2021. Prof. Lee was a consummate Christian gentleman and a profoundly influential member of the ELS. For many of our pastors and laity alike, he passed on the ELS flavor in his interactions with so many whether at BLC, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, the annual ELS conventions, or in the Mankato community and beyond. Blessed be his memory among us.

Lois Petersen, widow of Pastor Paul Petersen and mother of Pastors Steve and John Petersen, was taken to her eternal home in heaven on January 4, 2022, in Milwaukee. Pastor Paul Petersen served as pastor of parishes in Thornton, Ames, Mason City, and Waterloo, Iowa; Luverne, Jasper, and Ellsworth, Minnesota; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Oregon and Madison, Wisconsin; worked in the development department at Bethany Lutheran College; and served as the ELS stewardship—missions counselor. Blessed be her memory.

Rev. Martin Doepel departed this life for his Savior's side on February 13, 2022. He served the Church for many years as a teacher in Lutheran schools and graduated from our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1983. He served as pastor of ELS parishes in Hartland and Manchester, Minnesota; Audubon, Minnesota, and Portage and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. He also served the ELS on its Board of Trustees for many years. Blessed be his memory for Jesus' sake.

Mrs. Patricia (Pat) Meyer, wife of Bethany Lutheran College President Emeritus Marvin Meyer, passed away on Friday, March 11, 2022, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Pat warmly welcomed Bethany alumni and friends to the campus for many events and reunions during her husband's forty-three years on campus and especially throughout the twenty years he served as college president.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION (*Committee 15: Pastoral Conference Records and Resolutions*)

The following anniversaries of ordination are being observed in 2022:

Adolph Harstad—50 years
Larry Vinton—50 years
Gregory Haugen—40 years
Bradley Homan—40 years
David Thompson—40 years
Joseph Abrahamson—25 years
Randy VanMehren—25 years

CONGREGATIONS VISITED

It was President Obenberger's desire to attend the divine services of the ELS congregations that are within driving distance from Mankato on Sunday mornings and to visit congregations farther away where he has been near in his travels or invited to attend, e.g., mission festivals, anniversaries, installations, etc. Since April 2021, he has had the pleasure of attending 60 divine services in different ELS congregations (does not include multiple visits in same location); preached at 27; and attended 5 ELS funerals and 1 ELS wedding.

PASTORAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Circuit 7 (Iowa/MN) Conference, Parkersburg, Iowa (September 13); ELS General Pastoral Conference, Bloomington, Minnesota (October 6–8); Great Lakes Conference (circuits 3–6), Green Bay, Wisconsin (April 26–27); West Coast Conference (circuits 10–12), West Jordan, Utah (April 28–29); Great Plains Conference (circuits 7–9), Mankato, Minnesota (May 19).

CIRCUIT VISITORS

In March 2021, the circuit visitors began sharing brief monthly reports and prayers through email from the visitor whose circuit number corresponded with the month, e.g., March=Circuit 3. We have also included the alternate circuit visitors in these monthly updates.

The Circuit Visitors Conference was conducted in September 2021 in Eagan, Minnesota. The Rev. Larry Wentzlaff presented a document outlining ten areas of congregational challenges which may interfere with reaching within and without with the gospel. Prof. Thomas Rank led a discussion on the preliminary draft of the ELS Flavor document. In compliance with the synod's strategic planning document a sermon critique form was adopted to be used throughout the synod's pastoral conferences. As also requested, the circuit visitors are seeking to develop a definition of excellence in preaching and teaching, which should be ready for dissemination in the fall of 2022. It is still desired that all congregations have regular visits (every four years) by their corresponding circuit visitor, and it is recommended that congregation take the initiative of inviting such a visit. It is thought that as this is done on a regular basis the congregation will be well served in refocusing on its mission and reviewing how the work of the parish is properly serving the Lord and His kingdom.

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION

The Committee for Communication met in July, 2021, receiving reports and reviewing current and future projects. Individuals on the committee also offered support and assistance throughout the year for our communication program. In addition to the committee, Pastor James Braun has assisted the Communication Director with several projects. Following the 2022 convention, the committee will meet to elect a chairman and secretary.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Committee on Apologetics

In 2017, an *ad-hoc* Committee on Apologetics was established "to study the feasibility of establishing a center for Christian outreach" (*Synod Report* 2017, pages 117–118). At the 2019 convention, it was resolved that "the synod president endeavor to establish a center for Christian apologetics, and report to the 2020 synod convention" (*Synod Report* 2019, page 68). Circumstances did not allow such a report to be made but the *ad-hoc* committee reported, "As directed by the 2019 synod convention, the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW) was established in July 2020." (*Synod Report* 2020, page 99). The 2021 convention then stated, "The Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics has recommended that a permanent synodical committee be established" and resolved that "That this matter be referred back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics for further review and study; and to report to the 2022 convention with a more detailed plan for the work of the CAW and the permanent Committee on Apologetics, including proposed guidelines, duties, etc." (*Synod Report* 2021, page 101). The *ad-hoc* committee prepared draft guidelines, which were assigned by the president to the Synod Review Committee who is bringing them forward to this convention. For clarification, it would be wise that two resolutions be considered at this convention: (1) a. establishing

a permanent Apologetics Committee, and b. adopting its proposed guidelines (which include the guidelines for the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews); and (2) formally establishing the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW).

Committee for Rural Revitalization

The *ad hoc* Committee for Rural Revitalization has been replaced by the Commission on Critical Mass. The members of the Committee for Rural Revitalization—Larry Wentzlaff, Peter Faugstad, Andrew Soule, and Luke Ulrich—have been dismissed with thanks.

Explanation Review Committee

The *ad hoc* Explanation Review Committee, formed in 2019, has completed a rough review of the entire catechism and explanation. Its work continues with detailed revision and supplemental materials. It is the goal that a preliminary draft will be reviewed by the Doctrine Committee and introduced to ELS pastors at the General Pastoral Conference in October 2022. It is planned that the finished copy will be available in 2023.

Military Monument Committee

Work on the ELS Military Monument on Bethany Lutheran College campus is moving forward. The initial groundwork at the monument site was completed. The granite columns, pillars, pavers, and the base for the statues have been ordered. The plan is to have them in place by June 2022. The long process of making the two warrior statues was begun with the involvement of Bethany students on campus. When the statues are closer to completion, the committee will plan for a dedication of the monument. Members on this committee are: Dennis Behr, Ed Bryant, Ken Mellon, Ray Pederson, and Larry Wentzlaff, chairman. Much of the funding for the monument has been received. To make a donation or for more information see the synod website: <https://els.org/monument/>.

ELS Flavor Committee

The *ad hoc* ELS Flavor Committee was established by President Obenberger in 2021 in order to define what this expression meant as often used by President Orvick. He would use this expression to justify the existence of the ELS as a separate synod instead of seeking to join the larger Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The committee (Revs. Thomas Rank as chairman, Charles Keeler, Craig Ferkenstad, Peter Faugstad, and Kyle Madson) has now completed its work and is dismissed with thanks.

The definition now follows, having been reviewed by the Circuit Visitors, ELS pastors and laity, and the Planning and Coordinating Committee. Possible uses will be to pass on this cherished heritage to subsequent generations, to share with new pastors into the ELS by transfer or colloquy and with new congregations joining the ELS, and to review at visitations to our congregations by their circuit visitors.

THE FLAVOR OF THE ELS

“Lift Up Your Hearts—Your Sins Are Forgiven.”

1. The ELS has a Gospel predominance.

This is evidenced in the synod’s commitment to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions which point to Christ and His atoning work for sinners. A proper distinction between Law and Gospel is sought in all activities and receives special attention in our preaching and teaching. Items of casuistry* are not legalistically resolved but evangelically. At times, this may appear as if pastors are not committed to the truth; it is actually evidence of patience, and understanding that the people involved are sinners who need the Gospel. Pastoral care is not neat and tidy; it involves working in the dirt of sin, with other sinners. The Gospel must shine forth in such situations. Seeking and finding the lost while trusting completely in the power of the Gospel is a priority in the work of the ELS domestically and abroad. (**to discern the most valid approach when two seemingly competing biblical truths are being considered*)

2. The ELS has a non- hierarchical form of organization.

This flavor tends more toward a grass-roots approach due to the desire to ensure that pastors and congregations are involved in the decision-making process for their synod, and not relying on bureaucratic processes to provide the way. The synod has a long history of desiring knowledgeable and pious laymen and recognizing the autonomy of local congregations. The ELS ministerium desires to demonstrate both a high view of the office of pastor and an unpretentious manner in the care of souls as pastors and members of congregations historically have interacted with each other with gentleness and hospitality.

3. The ELS is a liturgical Lutheran church body with a traditional approach to the Divine Service.

This flavor is exhibited in a traditional, historical approach to worship which includes, but is not limited to, Norwegian influences on liturgy and hymnody. These influences are preserved with the publication of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* (1996) which combined the traditions of the *Lutheran Hymnary* (1913) and *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941). Although there is a variety in worship through which congregations maintain their local customs, a healthy caution toward assumed improvements via innovation in liturgy and hymns has marked the regular worship of the synod.

4. The ELS prioritizes a Christ-centered liberal arts education.

This is demonstrated through the support of Lutheran elementary and high school education and also Bethany Lutheran College which readies individuals with the *“One Thing Needful”* to serve their Savior and His Church in various vocations. We also view our schools as vehicles by which we are enabled to reach students beyond the ELS with the Gospel (cf. #1).

5. The ELS is compassionate toward those who find themselves in difficult confessional situations.

Since her formation in 1918, the synod has welcomed pastors, congregations, and individuals from various backgrounds who have been left without a confessional Lutheran home. This also is demonstrated by the provision in the synod’s constitution allowing for individual membership in the synod. This compassion has made the ELS a “melting pot” of various backgrounds gathered around pure doctrine and practice. The ELS also acknowledges contributions and insights that come from outside our synod (e.g., Reformation Lectures; devotional and educational materials).

We view the church’s history, our synod’s history, and our current circumstances through the lens of the theology of the cross, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18 NKJ)

Sunday School Committee

The president was directed by the 2021 convention to appoint an *ad hoc* committee concerning Sunday School to identify reasons for the decline in attendance and seek solutions and alternatives to provide a thorough biblical education among the children of ELS congregations (*Synod Report* 2021, p. 166). The committee began meeting virtually in January with monthly meetings, the most recent meeting on March 29. The committee is made up of the Rev. Jeff Hendrix (chair), the Rev. Nate Abrahamson, the Rev. Patrick Ernst, Vicar Colin Anderson, Dr. Ryan MacPherson, Mr. John Moldstad, Mr. Karl Bloedel, and Mrs. Melissa Pittenger. While Sunday School as a program is not mentioned in Scripture, it has long been a tool in our synod used to fulfill the goals that Scripture outlines for the instruction of children. The committee has tried to define and conduct its research based on what these Scriptural goals are. So far, the committee has conducted a number of anecdotal surveys with over twenty congregations. A common thread in those programs that are “succeeding” seems to be family/parent involvement. The committee hopes to have a verbal report along with practical suggestions and encouragement for congregations by this summer’s convention, with a formal report ready for the 2023 convention.

Kenya Panel

In 2021 a new four-stage process for requests for partnership, fellowship, or an assistance relationship was adopted (*Synod Report* 2021, 101–102). This process is being used in regards to establishing fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of Kenya (ELDK). The panel is comprised of the Revs. Thomas Heyn, David Jay Webber, Timothy Hartwig and Presidents Schmeling and Obenberger. The Kenya Panel met on September 14 for its initial organizational meeting. On September 15 there was a Zoom meeting that also included the following ELDK members: Tom Otuke, Gwachi Evans, David Ombogo. Items that were discussed concerned ownership of church properties, official and public separation from the ELCK, and an ongoing relationship of the ELDK’s Bishop Sospeter with the ELCK. Another Zoom meeting took place on November 12, 2021. Since not much had changed in achieving an official separation with ELCK, a trip to Kenya for a 12–14 day visit is being planned in conjunction with stage three, but has been postponed indefinitely due to covid travel restrictions, although a late July 2022 visit is being explored. It is the sincere intent that the panel will continue to pursue establishing fellowship with the ELDK, but believes until there is a face-to-face in-person visit with our representatives not much progress can be made at this point.

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD (WELS)

On September 22, 2021, the members of the WELS Conference of Presidents Doctrine Committee and members of the ELS Doctrine Committee met at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The one-day meeting focused on the discussion of Christian Freedom as found in Luther’s Commentary on Galatians and other items of mutual interest. It was a beneficial meeting as we considered many issues affecting our faith and life as lived out in the twenty-first century with its many opportunities and challenges. It is being considered changing this meeting from biennial to annual.

This July (2022) marks the 150th Anniversary of the ELS and the WELS fellowship with each other beginning with the formation of the Synodical Conference. We intend to recognize this blessed fellowship in the *Lutheran Sentinel* and at the 2023 ELS convention. May our Lord graciously allow this union to be preserved among us to His glory and the welfare of His Church.

FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION (CLC)

Prof. Thomas Rank, chairman of the ELS Doctrine Committee was asked to be the ELS observer at the 2021 CLC convention. He reported: “The major doctrinal issue before the CLC convention was the status within the CLC of the ‘Joint Statement Regarding Termination of Fellowship,’ a document approved by both the WELS and the ELS. (This document was originally written by the respective members of each of the synods’ delegations to the formal meetings before being passed on to the three synods for further discussion and possible approval.) After much discussion, during which concerns of division over the

statement within the CLC itself were expressed, the following resolution was passed: ‘RESOLVED that we decline to adopt the Joint Statement as a settlement of the doctrinal difference between the CLC and the WELS and ELS concerning the termination of fellowship and prayerfully seek the Lord’s guidance in His Word for a different approach.’ However, the convention also encouraged the CLC representatives to continue to meet with the ELS and WELS representatives. The CLC’s failure to adopt the ‘Joint Statement’ means that further official discussion between them and the ELS and WELS is deferred for now until the CLC clarifies its own position within its own midst.”

WELS–ELS–LCMS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

Leaders from the three synods met in Jacksonville, Florida, on December 7–8, 2021. This was the tenth annual meeting of these informal discussions. In addition to each president giving an update on the work of their respective synods, the agenda concerned three main topics: a. Roles of Men and Women—Reaction to the WELS & ELS documents; b. Prayer fellowship—Historical development in LCMS; and c. Ministry—Exegesis of the *sedes doctrinae* (seats of doctrine) on the office of the public ministry and further discussion on the Theses of Agreement and Disagreement presented and discussed the previous sessions. It was decided to meet again in December 2022. Possible topics: worship, the hermeneutics of the Lutheran Confessions, and continual work on the ministry document. While these discussions remain informal, in that a declaration of church fellowship between the WELS/ELS and the LCMS is not anticipated in the near nor even distant future, they are viewed as beneficial to all parties involved as we deal with many of the same threats from the world in which we live and seek to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. These meetings remain cordial and fraternal in nature without violating any of our firmly held practices of church fellowship. One area of cooperating in externals was exercised this past December when Presidents Obenberger and Schroeder representing the ELS and WELS respectively (along with other CELC member churches) signed: *A Protest and Call for Free Religious Speech in Finland: An International Lutheran Condemnation of the Unjust Criminal Prosecution of the Rev. Dr. Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen, and a Call for All People of Good Will to Support the Freedom of Religious Expression in Finland*. We were urged to join the LCMS along with many of their international partners in signing this document. Bishop Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen were charged with “hate speech” for sharing their faith-based views dealing with marriage and sexual ethics. By the end of March, the Finnish court upheld the right to free speech and dismissed all charges against them.

The Rev. Glenn R. Obenberger, president

REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

Committee #6: Doctrine

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism ... (Ephesians 4:1–5).

“We conclude that nothing more agreeable could happen or should be sought more eagerly and prayerfully from almighty God than the following: (a) both our churches and our schools should persevere in the pure doctrine of God’s Word and in that longed-for and godly oneness of mind [1 Corinthians 1:10], and, (b) as was the case while Luther was still alive, they should be regulated by the divine Word, which was handed down to posterity in a godly and excellent way” (Preface to the *Book of Concord*, 4).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The committee consists of the Rev. Karl Anderson, Mr. Gregory Costello, Mr. Allen Quist, Prof. Thomas Rank, Prof. Gaylin Schmeling, Prof. Em. Erling Teigen, and the Rev. David Jay Webber. President Glenn Obenberger and Vice President Timothy Hartwig are advisory members. The Doctrine Committee’s three meetings were devoted to the consideration of questions and other matters referred to it by the synod convention, the synodical president, the chairman of the committee, and groups or other individuals within the synod.

The committee held regular meetings August 16, 17, 2021; November 30, December 1, 2021; March 14, 15, 2022.

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

The ELS Doctrine Committee met with representatives of the WELS Council of Presidents Doctrine Sub-Committee in September, 2021. A major part of our meeting was devoted to a study of Martin Luther’s commentary on Galatians and the topic of Christian freedom. The next biennial meeting of the ELS/WELS Forum is scheduled to meet in Mankato in October, 2022. These meetings allow opportunity for in-person fraternal discussions on matters of doctrine and practice.

FORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

The major doctrinal issue before the 2021 Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) convention was the status within the CLC of the “Joint Statement Regarding Termination of Fellowship,” a document approved by both the WELS and the ELS. (This document was drafted by the representatives of the three synods who have been meeting together, and was then passed on to the three synods for further discussion and possible approval.) After much discussion at the CLC convention, the following resolution was passed by the CLC: “RESOLVED that we decline to adopt the Joint Statement as a settlement of the doctrinal difference between the CLC and the WELS and ELS concerning the termination of fellowship and prayerfully seek the Lord’s guidance in His Word for a different approach.” While future meetings with the CLC are not scheduled at this time, it is our hope that they may resume.

INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

For the past ten years, representatives from the ELS and from the WELS have been holding informal discussions with representatives from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The most recent meeting occurred December 7–8, 2021, in Jacksonville, Florida. There were updates from the presidents regarding their respective synods. The following items were discussed: the WELS statement on the roles of men and women (currently under revision); history of prayer fellowship in the LCMS; the ministry (with presentations from the LCMS & WELS); future discussion will be dedicated to worship and confessional subscription.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

The committee will make a brief presentation on translations at the 2022 synod convention as we observe the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s translation of the New Testament into German. The many translations of the Bible into English, each with a variety of strengths and weaknesses, can make decisions on the “best” translation a confusing situation. Questions to consider include: does the translation (and the guidelines of its translators) give evidence of a commitment to the verbal inspiration of Scripture; is it accurate in its translation of passages pertaining to the person and work of Christ and other matters; is it readable without being simplistic; does it avoid the introduction of “gender neutral” language, especially in its use of pronouns in reference to God? These and other considerations are helpful in reaching conclusions about what translation may best serve for public worship, catechization, and devotional use. Another question to consider is whether or not the many new translations over the past half century have actually resulted in a deeper understanding of the truth of God’s Word in our synod, and in the church-at-large.

CONFESSATIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

The next triennial convention of the CELC is scheduled for 2023, in Seoul, Korea. Extensive information about the CELC is available at the website: www.celc.info.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COVID-19

The committee discussed matters concerning regulations and recommendations by federal, state, and local governments that were implemented with the stated goal of reducing the rate of the transmission of the coronavirus. Some of these government regulations limited the assembling for public worship and access to congregational members restricted to care centers and hospitals.

The committee made available on the synod website a statement, “Christian Ethics and Vaccines.” This statement summarized various teachings of Lutheran doctrine (the moral law, the distinction between two kingdoms, Christian vocation, conscience, and adiaphora) as guidance for Christian consideration of the questions that arise for individuals when various moral obligations must be weighed against each other.

THEOLOGICAL TRENDS

The Doctrine Committee desires to keep informed of doctrinal trends and issues within the church at large (e.g., various worldviews, Critical Race Theory, apologetics, various topics under the LGBTQ heading, the influence of feminism, the “church growth” movement, “contemporary worship” practices, modern Gnostic influences, government encroachment on religious liberty, universalism, etc.). The committee members continue to monitor and read from a variety sources, including theological journals, magazines, periodicals, internet materials and discussions, and theological essays.

Confirm in us Your Gospel, Lord, Your promise of salvation.
And make us keen to hear Your Word And follow our vocation:
To spend our lives in love for You, To bear each other’s burdens, too.
And then, at last, when death shall loom, O Savior, come,
And bear Your loved ones safely home. (ELH 415:3)

Prof. Thomas L. Rank, chairman
Prof. Em. Erling T. Teigen, secretary

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON APOLOGETICS

Committee #6: Doctrine

The Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics was established to uphold and encourage the biblical and Lutheran understanding and practice of Christian apologetics. Together with the recently established Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW), the committee endeavors to promote the proper role of evidence for the truth of Christianity and critique competing worldviews to fortify Christians in biblical truth and to prepare them to answer questions and objections—with gentleness and respect—so Christ may be shared wisely and boldly in these post-Christian days. The committee and the CAW have prepared a collection of online resources, including links to pertinent Doctrine Committee statements and synodical publications, at www.els.org/apologetics. The CAW additionally has a presence on the Bethany Lutheran College website at www.blc.edu/apologetics.

The ad hoc committee met seven times during 2021 and three times through March of 2022 (all online). There were also numerous subcommittee meetings.

Committee members include the Rev. David Thompson (chair), the Rev. Donald Moldstad (secretary), the Rev. Thomas Heyn, Prof. Allen Quist, Dr. Doyle Holbird, Pres. Glenn Obenberger, Pres. Gaylin Schmeling, and Pres. Gene Pfeifer.

Much of the work of the committee is carried out through the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews in consultation with and oversight by the committee. The CAW was established in the fall of 2020 under the guidance of Pres. John Moldstad as directed by the synod in 2019. Dr. Ryan MacPherson continues to serve as part-time director of CAW while continuing his role as a professor at the college.

Last June, the CAW sponsored the third annual Apologetics and Worldview Conference, “Why Does Moses Matter to Christians?” Dr. Douglas Petrovich was the featured speaker along with presentations by the Rev. Donald Moldstad and the Rev. David Thompson. There was also a panel discussion that included Dr. Petrovich, the Rev. Steven Sparley, and the Rev. Joe Abrahamson. Approximately 225 people attended the conference in person, with others watching via video livestream. Archived videos may be found at www.blc.edu/apologetics/events.

On March 7, 2022, the CAW sponsored a conference for Bethany Lutheran College students, “Race, Justice, Mercy ... and Jesus Christ,” dealing with the critical theory worldview. Presenters included Dr. H.C. Felder, Ms. Monique Duson, and Mr. Joshua Nelson, with Dr. Ryan MacPherson serving as moderator. Joining the presenters for a panel discussion was president of Bethany’s World Club, senior Anna Martinez Pacheco. An average of 75 students attended each presentation. On the days preceding and following the main conference, two of the presenters met, respectively, with a merged religion and history class (60 combined students) and a merged religion, history, and psychology class (90 combined students). Survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with one student writing, “This will truly be one of the best memories of my time at Bethany.”

On June 29–30, as the 2022 synod convention concludes, the CAW will sponsor the fourth annual apologetics and worldviews conference at Bethany Lutheran College. This year’s theme is “Biblical Identities in an Age of Wokism & Transhumanism.” Rev. Jonathan Conner, Mr. Brandon Steenbock, and Mr. Joshua Pauling will deliver presentations, with Dr. Ryan MacPherson serving as moderator for a panel discussion. For registration details, see www.blc.edu/apologetics/events.

The CAW continues to produce “Q and A Leading to Christ” articles, which are distributed to pastors and churches by the Board for Home Outreach. A total of fourteen “Q and A” articles written by five different pastors and three professors of our synod were distributed between January of 2021 and March of 2022. For an archive of prior flyers plus each new monthly installment, see www.els.org/apologetics/calq.

Through the cooperative efforts of the editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel* and the director of the CAW, a four-part series of apologetics articles appeared in 2021, with another four-part series now in development for 2022.

Bethany Lutheran College has worked in close partnership with the CAW and the ad hoc committee. When the director serves students or faculty of Bethany Lutheran College, he does so in consultation with and approval of the college’s vice president of academic affairs as well as under continuing supervision of the ad hoc committee. Besides events hosted on the college campus and a college professor serving as part-time director of the CAW, the college also maintains the financial accounts of the CAW. However, neither the CAW nor the committee are part of the college; both operate under the synod, in partnership with the college. Although the 2017 convention considered the possibility of the college president appointing the Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics, the convention resolved instead that the synod president should do so (compare *Synod Report 2017* page 116 with page 118).

The Center for Apologetics and Worldviews has been 100% self-funding, with all income and expenses segregated from the college’s and synod’s accounts. As mutually agreed upon by the ad hoc committee and the college, the college manages the CAW’s accounts for convenience. In accordance with existing synod policies, the committee and the CAW seek to secure funding for the CAW and its director (who maintains communication with the giving coordinator of the synod and the advancement director of the college). As of late March 2022, approximately \$102,000 has been donated in support of the CAW since the first challenge grant donation of \$20,000 was offered in 2019. Looking to the future, the committee and the CAW intend to seek continual

support from its donor base as well as offer another challenge grant and seek an endowment gift in order to establish long-term funding for a full-time director.

At the 2021 convention, the ad hoc committee proposed that this committee become a permanent committee of the synod. The convention resolved that this matter be “referred back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics for further review and study; and to report to the 2022 convention with a more detailed plan for the work of the CAW and the permanent Committee on Apologetics, including proposed guidelines, duties, etc.” (*Synod Report 2021*, page 101). Since then, the ad hoc committee has collaborated with both the Doctrine Committee and the Synod Review Committee to develop guidelines for both the committee and the CAW. The matter was then assigned to the Synod Review Committee by the synod’s president. Please refer to the report of the Synod Review Committee for the proposed amendment to the synod guidelines by which the Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics would be made permanent.

The Rev. David Thompson, chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE AND BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Committee #8: Higher Education

BOARD OF REGENTS’ MEMBERS

Type A members of the board during fiscal 2022:

- The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, chairman; Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, Florida
- Mr. William J. Soule, Esq., secretary, Minneapolis MN; King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley Minnesota
- The Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ; King of Grace Lutheran Church; Golden Valley, Minnesota
- Mr. Lyle Fahning, Prior Lake, MN; Heritage Lutheran Church; Apple Valley Minnesota
- Dr. Joshua Mears, Lakeville, MN; Heritage Lutheran Church; Apple Valley Minnesota
- Mr. James Minor, Danbury, WI; King of Grace Lutheran Church; Golden Valley Minnesota
- The Rev. Alexander Ring; Christ Lutheran Church; Port St. Lucie, Florida
- Mr. David Sparley; Saved by Grace Lutheran Church; Gresham, Oregon
- The Rev. David Thompson; St. Timothy Lutheran Church; Lombard Illinois

Type B members of the board during the past fiscal year:

- The Rev. Mark Bartels, vice chairman; Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Madison, Wisconsin
- Mr. Tim Roemhildt; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church; Mankato, Minnesota
- Mr. John Scott; Grace Lutheran Church; Vero Beach Florida

Voting member – ex officio:

- The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Parkland WA, president of the ELS

Advisory members:

- Dr. Gene R. Pfeifer, Mankato, Minnesota, president of Bethany Lutheran College.
- The Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, Mankato Minnesota, president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Financial Action

- A. Adopted the 2022 budget for the college and approved the Audit Report.
- B. Authorized President Gene Pfeifer and Daniel Mundahl to sign and file IRS Form 990 and 990T for fiscal year 2021.
- C. Authorized the BLC administration to construct the Bethany Activity and Wellness Center (BAWC), total project cost not to exceed \$17,000,000, making use of college resources as needed with the encouragement to seek additional donations.
- D. Accepted the proposal from Bremer Bank to finance the cash flow of the BAWC project with a \$7M multiple advance, nonrevolving loan, with 12 months of interest only payments and 48 months of P&I payment at a fixed rate of 2.75%, secured by investments not to exceed \$14M held in the College Endowment Fund at Graystone.
- E. Approved the 2022-23 tuition and fees. (Tuition \$28,330; room \$3,970; board \$4,300)

- F. Approved the non-faculty pay range.
- G. Approved spending \$200,000 per year from Board Restricted Endowments to restore annual faculty credit load to 24 credits from 27 for fiscal year 2023.
- H. Approved \$30,000 to engage an architect to secure concepts, costs and construction timelines toward bringing Anderson Hall, Old Main and Luther Hall up-to-date for students' needs.
- I. Approved an annual request to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for \$2,642,500.
- J. Approved maintaining BLC's endowment spending rate for scholarships and operations in fiscal 2023 at 6%.

Academic and Enrollment Action

- A. Accepted the president's and BLC annual goals for fiscal 2022.
- B. Approved the list of 2022 graduates, including the mid-year graduates.
- C. Adopted the strategic plan for the college for years 2022 through 2027.
- D. Called the Rev. Shawn Stafford as a full-time faculty member of the religion department.
- E. Hired Ben Lundsten as a full-time, limited length instructor of Media Arts.
- F. Hired Dr. Helena Stevens as the full-time Associate Professor in the Master's Program for Clinical Mental Health Counseling.
- G. Approved for emeriti status former faculty members Dean Shoop, Bill Bukowski, Mark Wiechmann and Steve Reagles.
- H. Approved the establishment of the Polly Browne Chair of Education based on an original gift for this purpose and a continuing effort to fund the chair to completion.
- I. Approved the creation of a Criminal Justice major.

LEGACIES

Acknowledged estates received in 2021:

- Browne, Polly E.
- Brudvig, Erling
- Butt, Ellsworth A.
- Dalchow, Wayne A.
- Jeppesen, Ada Amelia
- Koenen, Marjory A.
- Madson, Clarice E.
- Mueller, Paula C.
- Peters, Lenora
- Reichert, Hannelore M.
- Reinholtz, Joan
- Rettmer, Georgia
- Rood, Kletus Wesley
- Schwan, Doris

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- A. Approved the president's goals and objectives for fiscal 2022.
- B. Approved the seminary fiscal 2022 budget.
- C. Approved Adam Brasich, Jinfeng Cui (David Choi), Roger Emmons, Samuel Johnson, and Sean Scheele for graduation from the seminary with a degree of Master of Theology and declared all five eligible for calls into the ELS.
- D. Approved the Call for Nominations for candidates for the presidency of BLTS, following President Schmeling's announcement of his retirement at the close of the 2021–22 academic year.
- E. Called the Rev. Timothy Hartwig, Mankato Minnesota, to serve as president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary beginning May 1. The divine call was accepted.
- F. Established a 4.5% endowment spending rate for the seminary for fiscal 2022.
- G. Acknowledged estates received in 2021:
 - Ellsworth Butt
 - Clarice Madson
 - Lenora Peters
 - LeRoy Simonson

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR BOTH BLC AND BLTS

- A. Thanked Willis Anthony for his years of service on the board and asked for God's blessings on his continued support of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

ACTION SUBMITTED FOR RATIFICATION AT THE SYNOD CONVENTION

The Board of Regents appointed John Scott* as a type B member and seeks ratification of this action at the 2022 synod convention.

CONCLUSION

We are truly thankful to the Lord for the leadership and dedication of the entire BLC administration, faculty and staff in that, even while still implementing COVID-19 preparedness, they have moved the college forward in its mission, programs, enrollment, finances, and facilities.

Likewise, praise the Lord that the seminary has remained faithful to its purpose through difficult times.

*The Rev. Herbert Hubnerkoch, chairman
Mr. William Soule, secretary*

*Mr. John Scott

Education and Credentials: Flint SouthWestern, June 1977.

Skills/Experience:

Executive Leadership, Financial Oversight, Tax Consultant, Business Management Consultant, Operations Management, Sales/Marketing, Employee Development.

Church Membership: Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida (ELS).

Congregational Positions Held:

Board of Elders, Board of Education, Board of Trustees, Acolyte, Usher, Elder/Head Elder, Recording Secretary, Chairman, Vice Chairman

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INC.
Mankato, Minnesota
Consolidating Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>College</u>	<u>Seminary</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>	<u>2020 Total</u>
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Tuition and fees, net of scholarships	7,110,078	625	7,110,703	7,426,509
Government grants	1,202,691	-	1,202,691	589,362
Contributions	5,656,445	1,251,420	6,907,865	5,713,637
Investment income	694,788	246,276	941,064	268,233
Investment gains (losses)	7,961,329	2,604,260	10,565,589	(1,129,311)
Gains (losses) on beneficial interest in funds held in trust	29,068	24,758	53,826	(11,893)
Gain (loss) on beneficial interest in perpetual trust	46,893	46,893	93,786	208,004
Gain on forgiveness of loan payable	1,836,100	-	1,836,100	-
Sales and services of student activities	1,306	-	1,306	66,251
Mineral rights royalties	330,397	-	330,397	664,350
Other sources	916,237	206,134	808,718	767,637
Auxiliary services	3,253,829	-	3,253,829	2,900,808
Adjustment of actuarial liability	186,768	69,909	256,677	(153,976)
Total revenues, gains and other support	29,225,929	4,450,275	33,676,204	17,309,611
EXPENSES				
Program expenses				
Instruction	6,985,583	548,326	7,533,909	7,648,981
Academic Support	679,304	-	679,304	641,830
Student services	4,619,256	170,256	4,789,512	5,316,347
Auxiliary	2,972,748	-	2,972,748	2,932,045
Support expenses				
Institutional Support	3,640,569	76,678	3,717,247	3,678,647
Allocable expenses				
Operation and maintenance of plant	1,720,148	71,580	1,791,728	1,782,084
Depreciation	2,144,948	73,206	2,218,154	2,217,958
Interest	324,956	-	324,956	228,858
Less: Allocated expenses	(4,190,052)	(144,786)	(4,334,838)	(4,228,900)
Contributions receivable written-off	4,298	-	4,298	5,772
Total expenses	18,901,758	795,260	19,697,018	20,223,622
Change in Net Assets	10,323,546	3,655,015	13,978,561	(2,914,011)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	65,019,356	11,640,766	76,660,122	79,574,133
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	75,342,902	15,295,781	90,638,683	76,660,122

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Committee #8: Higher Education

BOARD OF REGENTS

Bethany Lutheran College (Bethany) appreciates the time and expertise provided through the Board of Regents. For a list of members and board actions on behalf of the college, please see the Board of Regents Report by Chairman Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

Bethany Lutheran College and Theological Seminary are thankful that the Lord continues to provide talented and committed men and women who embrace the mission of the college and seminary and serve as faculty and staff. We praise God for sending us these dedicated workers. During a special service on February 8, 2022, the college and seminary observed the following anniversaries:

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE ANNIVERSARIES OBSERVED 2022

Jonathan Stadler – Professor, Psychology.....	10 years
Doyle Holbird – Professor, Biology.....	15 years
Christopher Kind – Director, Advancement	15 years
Derick Lyngholm – Associate Professor, Communication	15 years
Ryan Kragh – Assistant Director, Athletics.....	20 years
Jackie Lemmermann – Housekeeping Technician	20 years
Denice Woller – Adjunct Faculty, Studio Art	20 years
Connie Meyer – Office Assistant, Advancement	25 years
Eric Woller – Professor, Chemistry	25 years
John Sehloff – Director, Information Technology	35 years

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED 2022

Gaylin Schmeling – President, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.....	25 years
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In August 2021, the following new faculty and administration were installed during the opening service: Megan Bezdicek, Director of Career Development; Kris Bruckerhoff, Associate Professor, Business Administration; Cheryl Clendenin, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Karina Clennon, Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Jason Jaspersen, Assistant Professor, Studio Art; Emily Kimball, Assistant Professor, Theater; and Rev. Shawn Stafford, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies.

GRADUATES

In December 2020, 21 students graduated and in May 2021, 85 students graduated for a total of 106 graduates receiving the baccalaureate degree as part of the 22nd four-year graduating class. These graduates represented 24 of the 27 majors.

ENROLLMENT

10-year BLC Fall Report on Attendance Statistics

	FA2012	FA2013	FA2014	FA2015	FA2016
FT Undergraduate	558	534	488	490	514
Graduate					
FTE	577	558	507	500	537
All Enrolled	621	605	536	529	588
# of FT ELS	97	92	85	79	87

	FA2017	FA2018	FA2019	FA2020	FA2021
FT Undergraduate	523	593	591	633	651
Graduate					15

FTE	566	641	641	679	710
All Enrolled	655	743	742	772	800
# of FT ELS	90	88	81	81	67

Bethany began a new chapter in its history by welcoming its first graduate students to campus in fall 2021 as 15 degree seeking students enrolled in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program taught from a Christian perspective. The addition of graduate students aided the college in again reaching an all-time record fall enrollment of 800 full and part-time students, an increase of 3.6% over the previous year, and representing 51% growth since 2015.

Even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, undergraduate full-time enrollment in fall 2021 also reached a record high of 651. This represents 2.8% growth over the previous year, and 33% growth since 2015. Outside of the high undergraduate enrollment marks observed the last two years, 607 was the previous record high in fall 2009. Also, in the midst of the pandemic, Bethany welcomed a record 228 new undergraduate students in August 2021. This shattered our goal for 215 first-year undergrads. An additional 22 new students enrolled for the second semester in January 2022 (goal of 20). Bethany's fall undergraduate enrollment included a record 128 international students representing six continents and 29 countries. This total included multiple students from Albania, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Ethiopia, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

During the pandemic, students responded positively to Bethany's safety protocol in which we sought to maintain an active campus life for students, while balancing appropriate COVID-19 safety measures. The Lord has indeed blessed Bethany with many souls that may daily be engaged on campus with their Savior, Jesus.

ADMISSIONS

The number of full-time Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) students at Bethany decreased this past fall. This is in accordance with the smaller pool of ELS students available to engage. Of the ELS students graduating high school in spring 2022, Bethany has contact information for 148 of the 167. Approximately 31 of these students have applied for Bethany's fall 2022 incoming class. Of the 182 reported ELS high school students graduating in spring 2023, the admissions office has received data on 126 of them, plus emails and/or phone numbers on 108. Thank you for sharing your student's information and for connecting them with Bethany!

Following the lead and success of the college's e-sports team that entered varsity competition in spring 2020, Bethany launched a clay target team in fall 2021. A number of families with conservative Christian values enjoy this activity, which is the fastest growing sport in Minnesota, and many of Bethany's partner Lutheran high schools have launched competitive trap teams. In Bethany's first year in having a program, Coach Kenn Mueller recruited high school students throughout the year and the team achieved success by winning the conference competition. High school competitors may visit Bethany's home outdoor range at Caribou Club in Le Sueur, Minnesota, or see the laser simulator in the team room at the edge of the Bethany campus near the Edgewood Place resident hall.

Bethany's academic offerings have also expanded as professors added the majors of Criminal Justice, Arts Administration, and Spanish. In seeking to further our liberal arts approach to education, professors have also collaborated between departments so that an increasing number of students are able to double-major during their standard four years at Bethany.

In spring 2022 Bethany's graduate program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is serving 15 full-time students and one part-time student. Jami DeVos, office and enrollment coordinator, is ready to aid pastors, teachers, and other prospective students who have interest in developing skills as a Christian counselor. For more information contact blc.edu/cmhc, gradschool@blc.edu or at 507-344-7302.

Numerous Lutheran high schools and ELS grade school groups visited Bethany within the last year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethany was more open to group visits than the majority of other higher education institutions, and pastors and teachers sought out more experiences on the Bethany campus. Bethany desires to have all ELS 6th to 8th grade groups participate in a visit rotation. A travel grant is available to help with costs. Contact admissions@blc.edu to make arrangements.

Bethany will host the West Regional Lutheran High School Choral Fest next fall. The pops concert is slated for the evening of Friday, November 4, 2022 and the sacred concert is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, November 6, 2022. Both events will be held in the Ron Younge Gym.

The "Bethany. Values. Me." campaign continues. "Bethany. Values. My Spirit." billboards, displays and digital ads are running and visually show mirroring concepts of the vibrancy of the college experience and the value of a soul saved by Christ Jesus our Lord. With the building of the Bethany Activity and Wellness Center and excitement around student life, watch for Bethany's mascot, Halvar, to appear on billboards with the "Entering Bethany Viking Territory" message or at www.blc.edu/halvar. You can add a giphy of two campus favorites, Bethany Professor Pete Bloedel or Chaplain Don Moldstad, to your next youth email by grabbing links from [giphy.com/search/bethany-lutheran-college](https://www.giphy.com/search/bethany-lutheran-college).

Bethany has entered the short video social media realm on TikTok. You may be able to gain a quick understanding of this forum that is popular with young people by viewing one of our first and highest performing videos at <https://www.instagram.com/p/CQReQpRH0tc>. The video reassures students in the "delight phase," the end stage of enrollment, by acknowledging their anxiety

about roommate selection and informing them of Bethany's great process for matching roommates. Instagram and YouTube's explore tab also has Bethany Lutheran College content that is the most engaging for youth.

ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH JESUS

In addition to all Bethany students taking a required thirteen credits of religious studies coursework as part of the general education studies, they are also given numerous opportunities to grow in their knowledge of Christ through daily chapel, weekly evening vespers, and Bible studies. Each year we sponsor other spiritual life events for our students, such as a student-focused Apologetics and Worldview Conference and the Christ in Media Institute Festival.

In 2021, ten students requested adult confirmation classes into the Lutheran faith. One of them joined Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, Minnesota, and plans to serve as an ELS teacher. Another woman (fiancée of a recent alum), was baptized and joined Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota. Others have been worshiping regularly at our ELS congregations. A number of recent graduates have joined area synod churches. Mt. Olive reports that eight recent Bethany graduates have joined in the past two years.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, three weddings took place in Trinity Chapel in 2021. On average our chaplain takes six couples per year through pre-marital counseling. In addition, the campus chaplain and other ordained faculty members provided over 100 spiritual counseling sessions last year.

Starting in fall 2021, we were able to once again offer the monthly *In Depth Series* in which featured speakers are invited to speak to students, faculty, and guests on various topics related to Christian faith. The series is also now offered to a wider audience through virtual broadcasting via Zoom. Some sessions have recently topped 100 attendees. In addition, in the recent academic year our faculty members were provided numerous learning sessions targeted to help further their knowledge of addressing spiritual life issues in the classroom.

STORM (Serving Through Outreach and Mission), a student-run organization, meets weekly to promote mission work in our ELS/WELS fellowship, as well as other humanitarian projects. A pro-life group has also been organized on campus by students.

BETHANY RANKED A TOP LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

For the second time in the past three years, in fall 2021 Bethany Lutheran College was again ranked by *U.S. News* number one in the State of Minnesota (and number 42 in the nation) among national liberal arts colleges for graduates' social mobility, which refers to the ability of a person to climb the success ladder in both income and social class. The high ranking indicates that Bethany is doing a great job educating students from a variety of academic and socioeconomic backgrounds to use their God-given gifts and talents to their fullest.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE ON CAMPUS

Operating student services and providing on-campus housing presented unique challenges the past two years during the global pandemic. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 mitigation protocols, quarantine and isolation space management, and meeting the needs of students, the Lord blessed Bethany with uninterrupted student services and record numbers of students living on campus and desiring to be engaged in their Bethany college experience.

Growing enrollments, increased retention, and the growth of student populations who tend to live on campus for four years such as international students, have resulted in our on-campus housing facilities to operate near capacity. The past four years have seen our highest numbers of students living on campus over the past decade, increasing from 348 in fall 2017 to a record number of 422 living on campus in fall 2021.

Additionally, despite having no on-campus housing requirement for the past two years due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts, a full 65–66% of our student body lived on campus during the 2021–22 academic year. That number is right in line with what the college has traditionally seen under the former two-year requirement, as the average for the previous five years was 67.6% living on campus, with a range of 62% to 72%.

The student affairs division has been engaged in a space study to determine the best way to meet the needs of our growing student population and to accommodate student housing needs in the future. The college has re-instated the on-campus residency requirement moving forward, but only requiring it for first-year students. This means that after their first year of living on campus, students may choose to continue living on campus or find housing elsewhere in Mankato, which has an abundance of apartment style housing. The college will monitor this change as we seek to find a balance between maximized use of our residence halls, meeting student needs, and increasing student satisfaction.

The college is also working with an architectural firm to help navigate improvements required in our aging residence halls. In particular, we are placing immediate focus on Anderson Hall, our women's traditional residential hall, which is now over 100 years old. While the college has done a number of minor cosmetic renovations in Anderson Hall over the past several years, we are studying what needs to be done in order to update the hall and accommodate the needs of today's college student. Some of these improvements include window replacements, floor replacements, bathroom upgrades, and the like.

RETENTION

The college continues to pay attention to retaining the students we recruit. For four of the past six years, Bethany's first-year retention rates have exceeded the 80% mark, outperforming our previous historic average of 72%. The college closely monitors the retention of sub-populations, such as international or conditionally admitted students, and considers ways to enhance student success at all levels.

Above and beyond the personal mentoring relationships that take place on our campus, a number of tools are in place to aid in student success and retention. Our partnerships with Christian Family Solutions for mental health counseling and wellness, and our on-campus Mayo Express Care Clinic for student health needs, are both well utilized by the student body. All new students complete a survey called the *College Student Inventory* which provides data to help the college better serve the needs of each incoming class. The college has a very active Student Success Committee that meets weekly to review students who may be missing classes, receiving poor grades, or experiencing other challenges standing in the way of their college success. An online form called *Bethany Cares* is available to all of our campus community allowing anyone to submit a concern for a Bethany student.

BETHANY GRADUATION RATES

The most recent tabulation of Bethany's four-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time students who began seeking a bachelor's degree at Bethany in fall 2017 was 43%. While still ahead of our twelve-year average of 42%, the decreased rate this year resulted from numerous students voluntarily extending their time in college due to COVID-19, some to take advantage of having an additional year of athletic eligibility. Our five-year graduation rate for students who started in 2016 was 56%, exceeding our previous eleven-year average of 50%. In other words, by 2021, 56% of Bethany students stayed and completed their bachelor's degree here, at the same institution where they started in 2016.

Similarly, Bethany's completion rate exceeded 82%. This means that 82% of the 2020–21 graduating seniors completed their education in the timely manner of four years or fewer. While student completion rates at Bethany have historically been high, the recent increase in graduation rate is another metric demonstrating our attention to student persistence and success.

CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR UPDATE

The crossroads between returning back to pre-COVID-19 normal and staying innovative and relevant to a changing demographic of students has been both a challenge and blessing for our faculty and academic staff in 2021–22. We continue to stand in awe of the countless blessings our gracious God showers upon us daily at Bethany. Listed below are just a few specific examples of the many blessings bestowed upon our beloved college.

Staffing

The college continues to be blessed by the amazing talent of our teaching faculty. The expertise, care, and concern for the success of our students, as well as their pedagogical skills continue to make our college a blessing for many.

- **Business Administration** – At over 130 students, our business administration major continues to be Bethany's most popular program, as many students seek this program in pursuit of management, marketing, leadership, and other fields. One particular field that is expanding in interest is in the finance sector and Bethany was able to add a fourth business administrator, Associate Professor Kris Bruckerhoff. Professor Bruckerhoff brings a wealth of knowledge to our students having served both in the financial field, as well as in higher education for the past twenty years.
- **Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC)** – With the tremendous need for counselors nationwide, Bethany sought to offer its first Master's program in CMHC. To grow into an accredited program, Bethany sought to fill a second position. Dr. Karina Clennon joined our team in 2021, and is serving our graduate students in the roles of online instructor and director of clinical experiences for the CMHS program. Her ability to match our students to appropriate professional experiences is a valued asset in their preparation for full-time employment in the field.
- **Career Development Center** – The growing desire of students and parents is to have a viable option for employment upon graduation from college. Bethany has been in the process of expanding opportunities for our students by reopening our Career Development Center. Ms. Megan Bezdicek has stepped in to direct the operations in this area. Megan's upbeat personality and ability to engage with the greater Mankato community and beyond is opening doors for our students as they seek internship opportunities and career related opportunities upon graduation.
- **Studio Art** – Professor Jason Jaspersen continues to provide blessings to the Bethany community by placing particular focus on liturgical art in his upper level classes. Taking the expertise of his work in churches and schools, and utilizing student interns and apprentices, the department is being developed to make a tremendous impact in our ELS congregations by providing visually impressive and liturgically sound pieces of art to beautify sanctuaries nation-wide. Professor Jaspersen also continues to make strides in the creation of the ELS Military Monument, to be erected in the near future.

New Programs

- **Arts Administration** – The arts administration major provides a focused arts and business curriculum to develop employable skill sets necessary to produce and support artistic endeavors and gives value-added experience to students

intending to work in non-profit businesses that focus specifically on producing the arts. The wide range of subjects studied encompasses the liberal arts ideal of many disciplines making up the whole, while teaching collaboration and critical thinking. After completing the arts administration major, a student should be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to work in the business operations of a non-profit, but particularly in an arts related organization. The duties of an arts administrator can include staff management, marketing, budget management, public relations, fundraising, program development and evaluation, and board relations.

- **Spanish** – The ever-changing demographics of today’s world demand that college graduates be culturally literate and linguistically versatile. The Spanish major is a way for the traditional Bethany student to obtain an intimate knowledge of Hispanic cultures and traditions outside of his or her local experience here on campus. Linguistic and cultural competencies are developed through a curriculum that is both modern and rigorous. As a major, Spanish compliments many current majors on campus to increase our graduates’ marketability and job opportunities.
- **Criminal Justice** – The mission of the criminal justice major is to provide students with comprehensive, practical, and professional knowledge of the criminal justice system from a Christian worldview. The criminal justice program prepares students for careers in policing, corrections, probation, and other law-related careers while adhering to biblical moral principles and values. The Criminal Justice Major seeks to increase the cultural competency of those involved in the criminal justice system in America.

Campus Spaces

Bethany continues to provide expanded opportunities for growing majors and programs on campus. The flexibility of our campus has enabled many programs to prepare for new homes in the 2022–23 academic year:

- For approximately the past ten years, Luther Hall has been underutilized as an academic space. The opportunity to centralize student services this past year became a possibility as stakeholders sought ways to bring essential services to a common area of campus. Work is currently underway to redesign the main level of Luther Hall to accommodate in one central location our growing International Student Office, Career Development Center, Academic Resource Center, and our Ada Stokes Writing Center. We’re excited for our students to be able to receive all of the above services on the Luther Hall main floor, and equally excited to bring new life to Luther Hall while synergizing each office’s efforts to serve our student body.
- Continued considerations are also being made to serve the physical and mental health of our students by redesigning the lower level of Luther Hall in order to relocate the Christian Family Solutions offices and Mayo Express Care Clinic to one larger location, while also providing a limited physical wellness area for students with fitness facilities.

BETHANY FINANCES

In the 2020-21 academic year, Bethany experienced financial support from a variety of constituencies which enabled the college to operate as normal as possible. Budget revenue sources included net tuition, contributions, Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation support, endowment spending income, revenues from sales and services, and federal COVID-19 relief funds targeted for all higher education institutions. As a result, the college had an income of \$13,499,706. Meanwhile, the costs to operate Bethany for the fiscal year were \$13,502,753. This resulted in a budget deficit of \$3,047. As in the past, the college applied mineral rights revenue to cover the small deficit. The college was able to transfer the remaining mineral rights revenue of \$363,000 to the contingency fund for future deficits or projects. Bethany also experienced a positive \$13.98M change in net assets in 2021. This was mostly due to investment growth from the endowment fund.

Coming into the 2021–22 fiscal year, all of higher education found itself in a challenging situation as the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic lingered. On most campuses, revenue shortfalls seemed likely due to the prospect of lower enrollment, and therefore lower net tuition. On the expense side, with the anticipation of relaunching all student activities and services at Bethany, significant budget increases were set for staffing and college related activities. A significant increase in health insurance premiums was also projected. Despite these budget challenges, by God’s grace and blessings as we approach the end of the fiscal year, enrollment and tuition revenue have increased, and additional contributions and grants have been received. Therefore, at the time of this writing, Bethany appears to be headed toward experiencing only a \$600,000 deficit budget. Any actual deficit at the end of the fiscal year will be offset by proceeds from the college’s contingency fund.

Looking ahead toward future budget forecasts, the Board of Regents and Bethany administration will continue to rely upon maximizing multiple sources in securing sustainable college operations. Not only do these strategies include ongoing ways to continue to grow enrollment and net tuition revenue, but also continuing to increase constituent support for the Bethany annual fund and other capital campaigns, and increasing the college’s endowment through growth in both new scholarships and a wise investment strategy to maximize returns. In addition, the college must continue to carefully manage personnel growth, adjust scholarship awards, and implement other cost containment measures.

PHYSICAL PLANT

During the past year, the campus was able to undergo a number of improvement and general maintenance projects that had been delayed due to the pandemic. Throughout the summer of 2021, improvement projects included a new engineering lab in Meyer Hall, renovating Tweit Hall for expanded exercise science space, developing a clay target simulation room near Edgewood Place, adding a second e-sports room, and developing a new broadcast center in Honsey Hall. Maintenance projects included new roofs on the warehouse, a portion of the Sports and Fitness Center, and Luther Hall. Other maintenance projects included resurfacing of the tennis courts and window replacement in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center. Landscaping updates included new plantings around the Sports and Fitness Center, installation of a new sidewalk through the campus “Green,” general sidewalk repairs around Trinity Chapel, and restoration of the Minnesota Rock Garden near Honsey Hall. Finally, there were several mechanical improvements that included a new HVAC control panel, Old Main valve controls, and new waste water lines in Anderson and Teigen Halls.

Bethany broke ground in November 2021 on the construction of the new Bethany Activity and Wellness Center. This \$16.5M project is slated to be completed in spring 2023. The facility will include a 200-meter indoor track with a turf infield, a fitness room, community gathering space, men’s and women’s locker rooms, and offices. The overall complex is about 84,000 square feet of space.

Finally, in 2021 the Bethany owned homes that had been used as rental homes were still being used as isolation homes for students who tested positive for COVID-19, and Larson Hall was still used as a quarantine space. In fall 2022, the college plans to bring these residences back online for student housing.

GRANTS

Financial support from a variety of grants continues to aid the mission of the college. Bethany again received a generous grant from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation to enhance our student services, programmatic offerings, and physical facilities. In total, Bethany received from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation \$2,934,000 in 2021. We are thankful for the foundation’s generous support.

Bethany is also grateful for the continued support of Thrivent Financial. During calendar year 2021, the college received \$11,207 as a result of the Thrivent Choice Program, down slightly from the previous year. In this program, Thrivent members direct funds to organizations and charities of their choosing.

The National Bethany Auxiliary has been a consistent and important supporter of the college for nearly ninety years. The auxiliary met in person on the Bethany campus on September 27, 2021, and \$13,220 in new project funding were selected for support. We are grateful for this consistent support from the auxiliary. The projects chosen for support in 2021 were as follows:

- Spanish Department – \$720 (Go Pro Cameras)
- Graphic Design Department – \$1,000 (iPads)
- Business Department – \$1,500 (Software)
- Education Department – \$1,500 (Reading Tutor Kits)
- Exercise Science Department – \$1,500 (CPR Resusci Anne)
- Legal Studies Department – \$1,000 (Mock Trial Furniture)
- Dorothy Theiste Scholarship Fund – \$3,000
- Steinway Pianos Fund – \$3,000

The auxiliary meets annually. Their next meeting on the Bethany campus is scheduled for September 24, 2022.

CONCLUSION

It continues to be clearly evident from this annual report that the Lord has richly blessed Bethany Lutheran College again during the past year. We as faculty, staff, and administration are humbled by the generous financial support, prayers, testimony, and words of encouragement received from alumni and friends. We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide Christ-centered higher education to provide our students the foundation needed as they develop their God-given gifts and talents for productive and fulfilling lives in their families, churches, workplaces, and communities.

Dr. Gene R. Pfeifer, president

REPORT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Committee #8: Higher Education

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth . . . The Lord is your keeper” (Psalm 121 NKJV). Our helper is no weakling with mere human power. The psalmist tells us that our helper is the One who made heaven and earth. If He made the heaven and the earth through His almighty Word, then He can indeed help us in all the problems and conflicts of life. Not only can He help us, we have the certainty that He will help us. He loved us so much that He gave His own life for us on the cross and chose us as His own in the waters of baptism. Since He has already done this, the greatest thing for us, we know that He will be with us in all the other needs and problems of life, working all for our good (Romans 8:32). Again Paul writes, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). With the Lord Jesus on our side nothing in this world can stand against us. He took upon Himself our sin, our death, and our hell so that we could have His righteousness, life and heaven. This wonderful comfort is offered to us in the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, and is received by faith alone in Him as the Savior. That faith is worked, strengthened, and preserved through these same means of grace.

Our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary continues to play a vital role in preparing men to go forth to proclaim the beautiful message of the gospel, which brings peace, comfort and joy. Each year we continue to send forth more workers who have been trained to proclaim the life-giving Word in its truth and purity and to administer the Sacraments in accord with Christ’s command. The Lord has permitted us to complete another school year where men were trained for this blessed ministry. Those who served their vicarage stand ready to answer the call: “Here am I; send me.” May our gracious Lord continue to bless our seminary to the glory of His name and the welfare of precious blood-bought souls.

BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents is responsible for overseeing and governing the operations of the seminary. The board met quarterly during the year and the president of the seminary submitted a report to each meeting. The members of the board are: The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Kissimmee, Florida, chairman; Mr. William Soule, Chicago, Illinois, secretary; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Minneapolis, Minnesota; the Rev. David Thompson, Lombard, Illinois; Mr. Lyle Fahning, Prior Lake, Minnesota; Dr. Joshua Mears, Lakeville, Minnesota; Mr. James Minor, Danbury, Wisconsin; the Rev. Alex Ring, Port St. Lucie, Florida; Mr. Timothy Roemhildt, North Mankato, Minnesota; Mr. John Scott, Vero Beach, Florida; and Mr. David Sparley, Tigard, Oregon. By virtue of office, the president of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Mankato, Minnesota, serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Regents.

FACULTY

The following professors taught in the seminary during the 2021–22 school year: Craig Ferkenstad, Brian Klebig, Theodore Manthe, Dennis Marzolf, Nicholas Proksch, Timothy Schmeling, and Gaylin Schmeling. Prof. Proksch leads our New Testament studies and teaches homiletics, hermeneutics, and other practical courses. He is working on a doctoral degree in the history of New Testament exegesis at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. T. Schmeling led our Old Testament studies and teaches church history, homiletics, and other practical courses. Pastor Ferkenstad taught the history of the ELS, Dr. Manthe assisted in teaching Christian education, Prof. Marzolf taught hymnology, and Dr. Klebig taught communication. President Schmeling taught homiletics, pastoral theology, and other practical courses. President Schmeling is planning to retire at the end of June.

NEW PRESIDENT

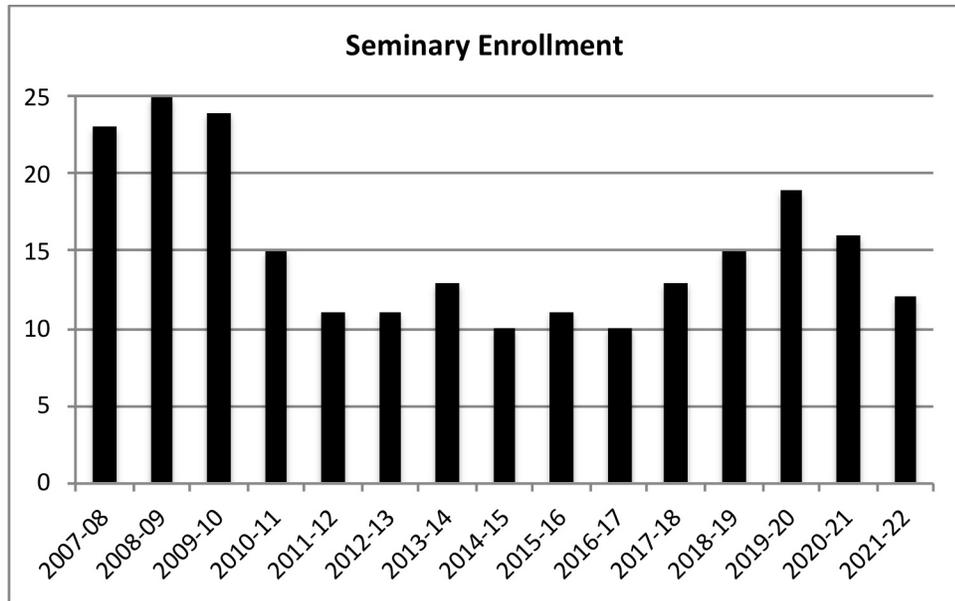
At the February meeting of the Board of Regents, Timothy Hartwig was called as the president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The Rev. Hartwig has been the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, Minnesota, since 2011. From 2001–2011 he was the pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Lake Havasu City Arizona. In addition, the Rev. Hartwig has served the synod on the Boards for Evangelism and Home Outreach and as a circuit visitor and synodical vice president. He will be installed as seminary president in June during the synod convention. We thank the Lord for providing this new, faithful servant for our seminary.

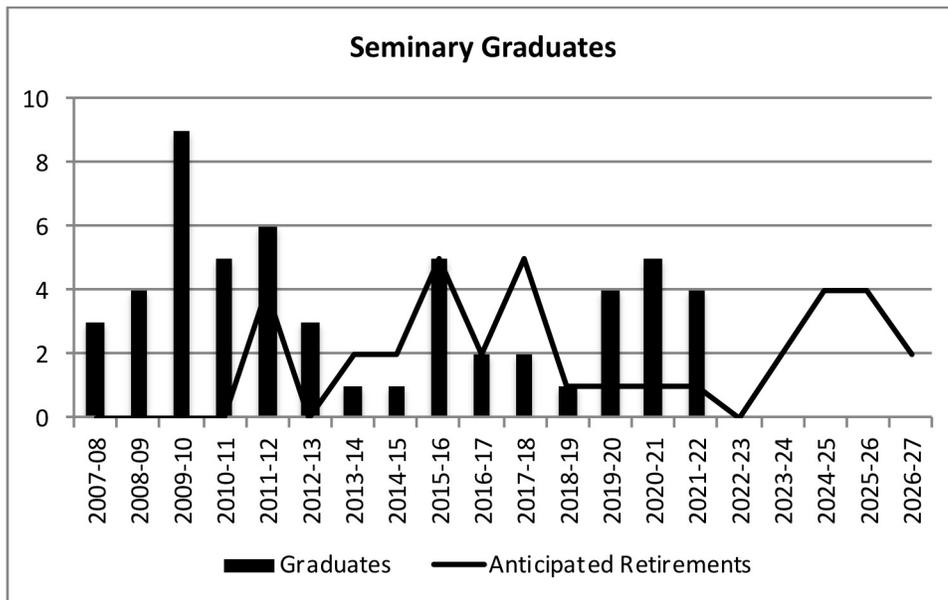
ENROLLMENT

There were twelve students enrolled at the seminary in the 2021–22 academic year. It breaks down as follows: 3 juniors, 2 middlers, 3 seniors, and 4 vicars.

This is the history of the seminary enrollment in the past fifteen years:

	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Middlers</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Vicars</u>	<u>M.A. or Part-Time</u>	<u>Total</u>
2007–08	5	9	4	3	2	23
2008–09	6	4	9	4	2	25
2009–10	4	5	4	9	2	24
2010–11	0	5	5	5		15
2011–12	2	0	3	6		11
2012–13	5	2	1	3		11
2013–14	3	5	3	1	1	13
2014–15	1	2	5	1	1	10
2015–16	1	2	2	5	1	11
2016–17	5	1	2	2		10
2017–18	5	5	1	2		13
2018–19	5	5	4	1		15
2019–20	3	5	5	4	2	19
2020–21	3	3	4	5	1	16
2021–22	3	2	3	4		12





VICARS

Nicholas Lilienthal was installed as vicar of Grace Lutheran Church in Weston, Ohio on May 30, 2021. His supervisor is the Rev. Kurtis Freimuth.

Colin Anderson was installed as vicar of Saude Lutheran Church in Lawler, Jerico Lutheran Church in New Hampton, and Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Hampton, Iowa on July 3, 2021. His supervisor is the Rev. Peter Faugstad.

Peter Bockoven was installed as vicar of Parkland Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington, on July 4, 2021. His supervisor is the Rev. Steven Sparley.

Abraham Faugstad was installed as vicar of King of Grace Lutheran Church in Waukon and Trinity Lutheran Church in Calmar, Iowa, on July 4, 2021. His supervisor is the Rev. Timothy Erickson.

RECRUITMENT

Our synod is facing a potential shortage of pastors to fill the various vacancies, and therefore more young men are needed for the public ministry. If there is a shortage of pastors, congregations will remain without a shepherd. The seminary is employing various procedures for recruiting but the support of our congregations and pastors is needed.

We urge pastors and laity to be recruiters for the seminary by encouraging promising young men, and those not so young, to study for the pastoral ministry. St. Paul reminds us, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:14–15). The gracious Savior who laid down His life for our salvation is calling for pastors to shepherd and nurture the flock purchased with His own blood.

ACTIVITIES

Annual Pastors’ Institute: The annual Pastors’ Institute of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has been held in various locations throughout the country in order to make it possible for more of our pastors to attend. This year it was an online institute, with the theme “Seventeenth Century Lutheranism.” This institute occurred on the mornings of July 26–27, 2021. The presentations were given by Dr. Timothy Schmeling. Prof. Proksch assisted in the technical aspects.

Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures: The Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures were held October 28–29, 2021. This year the theme was “We Confess Jesus Christ.” 1. *Early Church Christology*—Dr. Joel Elowsky, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO; 2. *Early Modern Lutheran Christology*—Dr. Carl Beckwith, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL; 3. *Modern Lutheran Christology*—Dr. Jack Kilcrease, Lutheran Institute of Theology, Brookings, SD.

Mission and Ministry: An invitation was extended to our students to attend the annual Mission and Ministry Seminar at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, on February 8–10, 2022. The theme of the seminar was “A World Overcome.” The seminar was extremely informative for our students.

Marriage Workshop: On February 26, 2022, Dean Andrew Schmidt conducted a marriage workshop with our faculty for the students and their wives. The workshop, entitled “Communication and Conflict Resolution for Marriage and Parish Life,” focused on active listening and a proper God-pleasing resolution of conflict. It emphasized discussing problems as two Christians, reaching

a God-pleasing solution of the conflict, and then forgiving as Christ has forgiven us. The workshop also focused on strengthening the marriage relationship and giving the students tools to use in marriage workshops in their future parishes.

Study Tour to Historic Norwegian Iowa: Prof. Craig Ferkenstad is teaching our ELS history course this semester. Together with the faculty, he led a study tour of the historic Norwegian Lutheran sites in northeast Iowa on April 22. This included the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, the graves of Laur. Larsen and J.A. Ottesen in Decorah, Iowa, and the grave of U.V. Koren at Washington Prairie, Iowa.

Senior Recognition Dinner: This event was held on the evening of April 25, 2022. This is always a pleasant and relaxing evening for the students and staff.

Vicar Workshop: Our annual vicar workshop was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The returning vicars reported on certain phases of their vicarages. President Glenn Obenberger spoke to the student body concerning the pastor and his relationship to the synod. President Schmeling spoke to the student body concerning the various responsibilities of a vicar. Brief presentations were also given on our synod's retirement plan, insurance plan, and deferred giving.

Commencement Service 2022: The seminary commencement service was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Trinity Chapel. The Rev. Daniel Faugstad served as the preacher, and Pres. Gaylin Schmeling served as liturgist. The following graduated from the seminary with a Master of Divinity degree: Colin Anderson, Peter Bockoven, Abraham Faugstad, and Nicholas Lilienthal. The vicars assigned at this service were: Cody Anderson, Caleb Helmen, and Max Kerr.

LUTHERAN SYNOD QUARTERLY

The *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* is a continuation of the *Clergy Bulletin* (1941–1960). The purpose of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, as was the purpose of the *Clergy Bulletin*, is to provide a testimony of the theological position of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and also to promote the academic growth of her clergy roster by providing scholarly articles rooted in the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The subscription price is \$25.00 per year and can be obtained by writing to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. If you would prefer to receive the *LSQ* in PDF format, rather than a printed copy, please contact the seminary office. Past issues of the *LSQ* are to be found on the Bethany Seminary website, www.blts.edu/lsq.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are grateful to the individuals supporting the seminary through the Thrivent Choice program of Thrivent Financial.

Each year there are corporations that match their employees' contributions to the seminary through their foundations. We are thankful for this added support.

Members of the ELS ladies' organizations have given support to the Seminary Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Student Support Fund. This has been a wonderful blessing for our students. Thank you for all your help.

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation has supported the seminary in a significant way. Grants from the foundation have provided support for the seminary operations and for our seminarians and their families.

Legacies received during the past fiscal year are noted in the report of the ELS Board of Regents.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Scholarship Endowment Funds continue to be a blessing to the seminary students. Several scholarship funds have been set up in memory of individuals and the annual dividends are used to help students with their tuition costs. The students are most appreciative of this financial assistance as they pursue their theological education. It is our concern that no one desiring to study for the ministry be denied a theological education for lack of funds. The present Scholarship Endowment Funds are:

Rev. Theodore and Melvina Aaberg; Merle Aasen; Otto and Dorothy Abrams; Herman and Evelyn Anderson; Joey and Trisha Anderson; Keith G. Anderson; John, Ethel and Rodney Arends; Robert, Flora and Charlotte F. Becker; Howard and Marion Benzing; Edmund Bolstad; Kenneth and Audrey Bolstad; Gregory C. and Susan D. Bovid; Bruss Family; Nora Buffington; Larry and Jane Carlovsky; Arthur O. Carlsen; Glenn and Dorothy Collins; Mabel Dahlgren; Allen and Susan Daniels; Davis-Nelson; Robert and Betty Diesing; Rev. Martin J. Doepel; Roger and Lois Dohrmann; Stuart Dorr; John Dukleth Memorial; Isabelle Ebmeier; Keith and Claudia Eisberg; George and Dorothy Feil; Ole Martin Fjar; Friends of Seminary; Good Shepherd; Howard and Jeanette (Hovland) Gulbrandson; Donald and Opal Hackbarth; Albert S. Hammer; Paul and Cordia Hasz; Hoiland Family; Lyle and Debby Hoverson; Lenwick and Glenna Hoyord; Roger and JoAnn Keske; Brian Koch; Ewald and Verda Kohlmeyer; Jens, Jerome and Laverne Kvam; Ernest W. Larsen; Albin Levorson; George O. Lillegard; Harold and Ellen Loe; Lorentz Book; Gwenn and Sigfred Lysne; Juul B. Madson Memorial Fund for Excellence in New Testament Greek; Norman A. Madson Sr.; Lyle and Rosella Manthe; Rev. William and Jean McMurdie; Clarence E. and June Labb Miller; Rev. John A. Moldstad, Jr.; Moldstad/Fick Family; Joe and Peggy Moll; Julius F. Mundschenk; Rev. Richard and Hazel Newgard; George Nygaard; Arleta M. Olson; Ordal; George and Ruth Orvick; Kenneth and Violet Peter; Lenora Peters; Pres. Wilhelm and Naomi Petersen; Emil and Martha Peterson; Timothy and Gail Peterson; Richard and Florence Rado; Chauncey and Enanda Reinertson; Roland and Lois Reinholtz; Richland Lutheran Church; Merrill and Dorothy Rope; Ronald and Gay Rose; Herbert, Linette, and Grace Sahnnow; Edna May Scherzer-Getz; Eugene and Bertha Schiller; Gaylin and Rebecca Schmeling; John and DeLores Seime; LeRoy and Patricia

Simonson; Robert and Madelyn Soule; St. Mark's Lutheran Memorial; Rev. Alhert and Clara Strand; Thomas Stueck; Calhoun and Jean Sumrall; Timothy and Nancy Thiele; Gerald and Gwen Tjernagel; Rev. Milton E. and Delphine Sonstegard Tweit Student Support; Jim and Juanita Walberg; Walker-Schneider; William and Eunice Wehrenberg; Gerhard and Lois Weseloh; Patty Jo Weseloh; Whipple; Wayne and Esther Wiechmann; James and Carol Williams.

There is also a General Scholarship Fund to which individuals and organizations donate during the year and which is also used to render assistance to students in need.

SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND

A Seminary Endowment Fund has been established to be used for seminary needs. We want this fund to grow over the years and therefore we encourage our people to remember it. A bequest would certainly be an appropriate way to perpetuate the work of the seminary as it carries out its task of training pastors to proclaim the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, president

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME OUTREACH

Committee #9: Home Outreach

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The following members comprise the board: the Rev. Ben Wiechmann,* chairman; the Rev. Aaron Hamilton, vice chairman and chaplain; the Rev. Luke Ulrich, secretary, Mr. Keith Duin*, financial coordinator; the Rev. Rodney Flohr, missionary care coordinator; Mr. Mark Perlwitz, site selection coordinator; Mr. Channing Smith,* property management coordinator; the Rev. Christian Eisenbeis, resource coordinator; and Mr. Neil Shaffer, outreach strategy coordinator. Members marked with an asterisk also serve on the Trustees/Home Outreach Subcommittee. The Rev. Brad Kerkow serves as the Evangelism and Missions Counselor (EMC) for the board and synod. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft serves as an advisory member to the board.

FAITHFUL SERVICE

The board recognizes the twenty years of faithful service which Mr. Keith Duin has provided to the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Home Outreach. We give thanks to God for Keith's expertise and servant's heart as he has served as Financial Coordinator for the last two decades. May God continue to bless him and use him as a blessing to others.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for home mission work. As more people remained distant and fewer events and gatherings occurred, there were fewer touchpoints between our home missions and their local communities. However, even through these difficulties we have seen God's guiding hand work blessings through hardship. God is faithful to his promises and his word is not returning empty. Seeds of the gospel are still being planted every single day and the Holy Spirit is causing many of them to grow. As communities begin to open up again our missionaries are equipped and ready to share the hope and victory that are ours through faith in Christ Jesus with people who need that good news desperately.

MLI AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The BHO has continued to pursue the six-year plan formulated with Ministry Leadership Institute (MLI) in January 2018. The board is scheduled to go through additional MLI training at the next regular meeting focusing on incorporating the synod's new strategic plan into the six-year goals of the board. God has blessed the board's work and many goals have already been reached.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS COUNSELOR

The Evangelism and Missions Counselor, the Rev. Brad Kerkow, has taken over for our former EMC, the Rev. Larry Wentzlaff. He continues to support our home missions, communicating with the missionaries regularly, providing guidance in outreach, evangelism, strategic planning, and the development of a mission congregation. Rev. Kerkow's experience as an exploratory home missionary and his God-given talents have already made him a great asset and blessing to our board and to the home missions of our synod.

Rev. Kerkow also offers this support to all our ELS congregations. If your congregation needs assistance with strategic planning, evangelism, or outreach ideas, please contact Rev. Kerkow.

BUILDING PROJECT

Divine Mercy, Weatherford, Texas is continuing to make great progress with their building project. They overcame several pandemic-related delays and are excited to welcome worshipers to their new facility early this summer. You can see pictures of how the process has unfolded and the building as it currently stands on Divine Mercy's Facebook page.

HOME MISSION SEMINAR

On February 13–16 our home missionaries along with President Obenberger, EMC Rev. Brad Kerkow, World Outreach Administrator Rev. Thomas Heyn, and BHO Chairman Rev. Ben Wiechmann gathered at Divine Mercy Lutheran Church in Hudson Oaks, Texas for the postponed biennial home mission seminar. The purpose of this gathering is to bring our home missionaries together to share in their unique experiences and sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron. We welcomed guest speaker the Rev. Brian Klebig who presented on a variety of topics ranging from how group dynamics change as a congregation grows to shot composition when filming devotions or services for online platforms. EMC Rev. Brad Kerkow also presented on creating a culture of mission-mindedness within a congregation.

DIGITAL MARKETING PILOT PROGRAM

The board launched a new initiative this year, working with three congregations to enhance their online presence. Historically, digital advertising, social media, and search engine optimization have not been strengths of many of our congregations. However, they have often become the first points of contact a community member has with a church. Almost everyone we are trying to reach in our neighborhood is online. So it makes sense for our congregations to learn how to do these things well. The board wants to learn if hiring a professional to guide and bolster the work that a congregation is already doing would create more community contacts and lead to more people hearing God's word and attending services.

We are working with three congregations which share the same community demographics but differ in size and in their current utilization of online marketing and social media. Each congregation will receive about five hours of labor or consulting per week from a digital marketing professional. At the end of this two-year project, the board hopes to be able to use what we learn to direct local congregations in using these tools to efficiently engage their communities through their website and various social media channels. The funding for this initiative was generously granted to our synod through the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

APPOINTMENT OF TYPE B MEMBER

The board has appointed the Rev. Christian Eisenbeis to a three-year term as a type-B member. The board seeks ratification of this appointment at the 2022 synod convention.

HOME MISSION UPDATES

Divine Mercy Lutheran Church, Weatherford, Texas: The Rev. James Kasserer serves Divine Mercy. As stated above the congregation is busy with their building project and making plans for how to use their new space to minister to their community. The congregation numbers 65 baptized members.

Hope Lutheran Church, Leander, Texas: Hope has been vacant since Pastor Brad Kerkow accepted the call to be the EMC. The congregation has been served by vacancy pastors and the laity is looking forward to having a permanent shepherd. Hope is in the northwest part of the Austin, Texas metro area. The congregation numbers 146 baptized members.

Hope Lutheran Church, Farmington, Minnesota: Hope is served by the Rev. Dan Oberer. Hope's services are streamed, and Pastor Oberer regularly produces videos for online distribution. This mission is seeing growing interest from the community and received 20 new members in 2021. The congregation numbers 131 baptized members.

Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Illinois: Rev. Dan McQuality serves this central Illinois congregation. They recently opened their renovated Connectivity Center in the basement of the church. This space is used for a variety of events open to the community. The congregation numbers 30 members.

Living Water Lutheran Church, San Angelo, Texas: The Rev. Peter Heyn serves as missionary in San Angelo. The mission recently moved from their rented YMCA facility and the Lord has blessed them with a new location that is more visible and fits them well. The congregation numbers 37 baptized members.

Grace Lutheran Church, Redmond, Oregon: Grace Lutheran Church is served by the Rev. Roger Emmons. This congregation is in central Oregon and worships in a Seventh Day Adventist building. The congregation numbers 38 baptized members.

SALARY SCALE FOR 2022

At the November meeting the board decided to continue using the WELS salary scale, Column G, for our home missionaries. The compensation calculator can be found at <https://cwcompcalc.wels.net> and gives the user the ability to adjust for experience, cost of living depending on geographic area, and many other factors.

In addition, car allowance is paid per mile for actual miles driven based on the Internal Revenue Service rate for mileage. Health insurance is provided at the \$2800 deductible level. The board approves an annual contribution of \$2800 to a Health Savings Account (HSA) of the called worker. Vacation time allotted: 0-5 years: 2 Sundays plus 20 days; 6-15 years: 3 Sundays plus 25 days; 16+ years: 4 Sundays plus 30 days.

OPERATING BUDGET – 2022

Please refer to the audited financial report submitted by the synod treasurer for actual home outreach expenditures for 2021.

Anticipated Income		\$450,516
Subsidies:		
Divine Mercy, Weatherford	\$130,667	
Grace, Lincoln	\$55,884	
Grace, Redmond	\$18,000	
Hope, Farmington	\$40,667	
Hope, Leander	\$144,667	
Living Water, San Angelo	<u>\$90,667</u>	
Total Subsidies		\$481,219
EMC	\$78,857	
EMC Travel and Expenses	\$26,625	
Vicar in Mission, Parkland	\$9,000	
Board Meeting Travel	\$10,000	
Peace Devotions	\$20,000	
MLI Programs	\$12,000	
Guest Pastors (for Pastors attending SLI)	\$5,000	
Other Travel and Expenses	<u>\$12,000</u>	
Total Expected Expenditures 2022		<u>\$657,219</u>
Anticipated Deficit		-\$206,703

THANK YOU

We thank God that He has caused various individuals, congregations, and other organizations continue to contribute special gifts toward our home outreach efforts. In 2022, the synod budgeted \$264,000 of congregational contributions for the home outreach program. The remainder of the money needed to fund the program came from special gifts, the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation (home outreach portion: \$103,000), estates, earned and accumulated interest, and home outreach reserve funds.

Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will continue to send out laborers and that they would have many opportunities to proclaim Jesus as the Savior of sinners.

The Rev. Ben Wiechmann, chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR WORLD OUTREACH

Committee #10: World Outreach

“And [pray] for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ... that ... I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” Ephesians 6:19, 20.

Paul asked that the Ephesian Christians pray for his gospel outreach ministry. To this day, many Christian missionaries and pastors request the same prayer. The Board for World Outreach (BWO) of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod asks our members to do the same.

The BWO is that arm of the synod which oversees, assists, and supports the synod’s world outreach efforts. It directly supports and assists with gospel outreach in seven different fields in three parts of the world: South America, Asia and Europe. As these fields grow, we rejoice to see them embrace biblical Lutheran theology and to share their faith in situations that are often difficult,

and perhaps even dangerous. We pray that God continues to bless these fields as we, and they, continue to make known the name of Jesus throughout the world.

BOARD ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

The BWO consists of nine members, each member serving on one of three committees. The South America committee is responsible for ELS-supported work in Peru and Chile. The members of this committee are Pastors Timothy Bartels and Daniel Ruiz. Mr. Rodney Rivera recently resigned to devote more time to his congregational work leading Spanish worship at Peace Lutheran Church in Kissimmee, Florida. We appreciate his service to the board. His successor will be elected at this convention. The Asia committee is responsible for ELS-supported work in India and Korea. The members of this committee are Pastors Michael Smith and Steven Sparley, and Mr. Daniel Browning, chairman of the BWO. Pastor Bradley Kerkow resigned from the board upon accepting the call to be the Evangelism and Missions Counselor for the Board for Home Outreach. We thank him for serving the BWO. Pastor Michael Smith was appointed to succeed him and will be nominated for completing Pastor Kerkow's incomplete term on the board. The Europe committee is responsible for ELS-supported work in Czechia, Latvia and the Gift of Life program in Ukraine. The members of this committee are Pastors John Petersen and Timothy Buelow and Mr. Matthew Lukasek. The Rev. Thomas Heyn serves as BWO administrator. Mrs. Denise Luehmann has served as the financial assistant to the board. She retired in March from this position. We thank her for many years of faithful service and wish her the Lord's blessings in retirement.

The BWO meets in plenary session in Mankato several times a year. The board and/or committees also meet online multiple times per year as needed. The board continues to develop a goal-setting and long-range planning process to review our work and to plan for the future.

COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

To promote our synod's world outreach efforts, we distribute two publications. *Mission News / Helping Hands* focuses on mission work in South America (Peru and Chile) and Asia (India and South Korea). *Thoughts of Faith Newsletter* covers work being done in Europe (Czechia, Latvia and the Gift of Life program in Ukraine.) We especially encourage the pastors of our synod to be sure these newsletters are distributed in their congregations and we thank you for your help in promoting our world outreach work. The BWO promotes world mission outreach also through articles in the *Lutheran Sentinel*. We continue to look for more ways to inform ELS members of the work being done in the various foreign fields.

Cross-stitch is a network of various ELS women's organizations. Mission society rallies are held, usually in the fall, where the women of our congregations meet for worship, fellowship and presentations to learn what their support is helping to accomplish in world and home missions. It has been especially helpful in supporting programs that care for orphans as well as programs that support education for young women, where, in some countries, their education is often neglected.

More information on these and other programs can be found at tof.org (Thoughts of Faith) and els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/. You can also find updates at facebook.com/ELSWorldOutreach.

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

This past year, the four-stage panel authorized by the 2021 convention has been working with leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of Kenya (ELDK). These Kenyan pastors are separating from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK) for reasons of doctrine and practice. A visit to Kenya by members of this panel was planned during the past year but has been postponed because of the coronavirus restrictions on travel. When travel becomes possible again, the trip will be rescheduled.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Queensland, Australia requested a mentoring relationship with the BWO. Pastors Brad Kerkow and Larry Wentzlaff visited the congregation in 2019 and began the process of strategic planning. The BWO will mentor this congregation through long-range planning and outreach through evangelism and apologetics.

Please note that these are mentoring relationships, and neither of these groups, at the present time, are official, financially-supported mission fields under the Board for World Outreach.

THANK YOU

During the past year many donors have supported our ELS world outreach efforts. Individuals, congregations and foundations have provided much needed support. Special grants have been given by the Marvin. S. Schwan Charitable Foundation as well as the Antioch Foundation and Niles Foundation. We thank all donors for their generous gifts to assist in reaching out to our world with the precious Word of God.

May God continue to grant his blessings on our efforts to share the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world so that many may be blessed and share in the salvation won by Jesus.

Rev. Thomas A. Heyn, Administrator of the Board for World Outreach

SOUTH AMERICA COMMITTEE

Peru

In 2021 it was reported that there was a serious fallout involving Ronal Rivas and his work in the jungle and Jaime Cortez, administrator of two schools in Lima. The Peruvian synod [SELP] leadership requested a visit from the BWO to help mediate these issues.

Two representatives from the BWO, the Rev. Thomas Heyn and the Rev. Timothy Bartels, were able to visit Peru in July of 2021. Meetings were arranged for both parties involved to air their grievances with the hope for reconciliation. However, both Jaime Cortez and Ronal Rivas refused to acknowledge any wrongdoing despite the strong evidence against them; and, therefore, refused to reconcile.

While this was a sad day in the SELP, these mediations helped bring closure to a painful time in the SELP. Now that there has been closure, the SELP has been able to refocus and redouble its energy on the work it has before it.

Lima

The Pacific coastal and Peruvian capital city of Lima has been the center of the work in Peru over the course of its history. The SELP's seminary is in Lima. Currently there are no students in the seminary. However, the Santa Beatrice congregation meets in the seminary chapel weekly, and the seminary also serves as a central meeting place for the synod. The Peruvians are talking about possibly converting the seminary into a school.

The synod has two schools, Martín Lutero and Jesús Redentor.

Martín Lutero: The government led by a newly elected communist president has been more aggressive in enforcing government mandated compliances involving building safety. Martín Lutero has completed government mandated updates. In addition to that the school is expanding its classroom space. The need for added classroom space is due to the new staff which has been able to work with success. The student body has increased from 150 to more than 200 and is expected to increase more. The school now makes a profit, which proceeds are returned to the SELP to support its ministry.

Jesús Redentor, sadly, has had to close for the current school year due to failures by previous administrator, Jaime Cortez, in meeting government requirements. Some of the students are able to take online classes from Martín Lutero. The SELP hopes to reopen the school next year with a new administrator.

In addition to the Santa Beatriz congregation that meets in the seminary, there are at least five other known congregations that meet for church services in greater Lima. Information about other congregations is limited.

Chiquian:

Moving north and east out of Lima up into the Andes mountains are the mountain churches. There are four of them. They are served by the Rev. Fidel Convercio who is nearing retirement age. The churches are somewhat isolated. Efforts are underway for the SELP clergy and vicars to make visits and assist Pastor Convercio somewhat regularly. Efforts are also underway to try to connect the mountain churches virtually with the rest of the Peruvian synod.

Chimbote:

Moving still further north and west back over to the coast of the Pacific Ocean is Chimbote. The Chimbote congregation is served by the Rev. Segundo Gutiérrez who also serves as the SELP president. The congregation has purchased land in Nuevo Chimbote with plans to relocate the congregation to a new residential area ideal for outreach. The congregation hopes to raise some funds by selling the current church and property but may need further assistance to complete the building project. The congregation is unique in our Latin America congregations in that it has a number of professional members, i.e., medical professionals, policemen, and teachers, who are eager to do outreach.

Cajamarca:

Moving about eight hours by car north and east into the Andes mountains is Cajamarca. It is a World Heritage site on account of its Inca ruins and also is the original hometown of the Rev. Gutiérrez and his wife, Lucia. The Rev. Gutiérrez travels to Cajamarca a couple of times a month to hold services there. The congregation meets in a family member's home but has property and hopes to build a church sometime in the future. Funding is an issue.

Amazonas:

Moving further east and into the Peruvian Amazon are the jungle communities. There are three primary jungle communities among the Shawi—Louis Terry, Taiwan, and Nueva Chazuta. The Rev. Segundo Gutiérrez and the Rev. Andrés Robles have begun visiting the jungle communities bi-monthly. In addition to visiting the jungle communities they are working with some eight Shawi seminary students. The Shawi have asked that the seminary be relocated from the inland jungle city, Tarapoto, to the jungle river city, Yurimaguas. It would reduce their somewhat arduous travel. Louis Terry also operates a school. It, too, has run into operational difficulties due to failure by the previous administrator, Ronal Rivas, to keep current with government requirements.

Chile

Santiago:

Two hours inland from the Pacific Ocean and in the center of Chile is Santiago, the capital and traditional center of the work in Chile. The work in greater Santiago initially began in the La Cisterna community and then expanded to the communities of Puente Alto and San Bernardo. Due to a lack of dedicated workers and attendance, the congregations at Puente Alto and San Bernardo had to be closed and for security reasons the properties are up for sale. Any members still attending Puente Alto and San Bernardo are invited to attend the La Cisterna congregation. Before the two congregations were closed, the congregation in La Cisterna had moved to a location that is more central and easily accessible. The congregation continues to grow.

Linares:

Four hours south of Santiago is the Linares congregation. Linares is experiencing a significant change. Jon and Elise Gross, who over recent years had been WELS Kingdom Workers in the Linares congregation and prominent church members, are moving to Ecuador. Jon is working with a WELS related organization, Academia Cristo, doing videography and Elise is working with women's studies also for Academia Cristo. Jon had been an important leader in the congregation and a big support for the Rev. Mario Gálvez.

The Rev. Mario Gálvez:

The Rev. Mario Gálvez has remained as the only pastor in the La Iglesia Cristiana de La Reforma de La República de Chile [ICR]. He serves both the Santiago community and the Linares churches, serves as the national church's president, helps with worker training, and does outreach for the Chilean church. A significant open door for outreach has been provided by the WELS Academia Cristo program. Academia Cristo operates a Spanish language online website that teaches Lutheran doctrine, identifies leaders and mentors them in planting congregations. Because Academia Cristo is online based, it can reach anywhere in the Spanish speaking world. It has reached a number of people throughout Chile. Academia Cristo has, therefore, asked the Rev. Gálvez to assist with outreach in Chile and has also asked the Rev. Gálvez to teach some of its courses.

In the past, the Rev. Galvez had been able to fully support himself with a successful business of Kenpo karate studios. The Kenpo studio business allowed him to devote most of his working hours to the ministry. However, due to COVID-19, the Kenpo studios suffered significant loss of students (and income). The Rev. Gálvez had to decide between devoting his time to revitalizing his Kenpo studios or working full time for the church. His desire is to work full time for the church. In order to keep the services of the Rev. Gálvez, both the ICR and the BWO believed it was necessary to issue a joint call to the Rev. Gálvez, a gifted organizer and a well-trained pastor. We are blessed to have his services in Chile.

Vicars:

Two long standing vicars were asked by the ICR to continue their education and fulfill their responsibilities with the goal to become ordained. The BWO is sad to report they chose to decline and are leaving the public ministry. The BWO supported the ICR in this matter due to the fact that the two vicars in question had not been fulfilling their duties for some time. The BWO is glad to report that there are two other Chileans, Patricio of the La Cisterna congregation and Sergio of the Linares congregation, who are actively studying to be pastors. They have completed Academia Cristo courses, are enrolled in the Academia Cristo online seminary and, additionally, are being mentored by the Rev. Mario Gálvez. The BWO is also seeking ELS Spanish-speaking clergy to teach some of the courses to the two seminary students.

The Rev. Timothy Bartels, South America Committee chairman

ASIA COMMITTEE

India

By population, India is the second largest country in the world, with approximately 1.4 billion residents filling its borders. Unfortunately, the government of this populous nation does not make it easy for Christianity to be practiced. But by God's grace, the Lutheran Mission of Salvation-India (LMSI), a mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, continues to labor faithfully to spread the gospel in India. Funding for the work of the LMSI comes primarily from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. An increasing number of donors from the ELS have assisted in providing financial support for the vital work of the LMSI. Various Women's Mission Societies of the ELS and Cross-stitch have shown a special love for the gospel work in India and have contributed generously to many needed humanitarian projects.

More than 23,000 members worshiping in over 200 congregations make up the LMSI. Some congregations carry out their ministries in large cities, while some labor in tiny rural villages. During the 2021 calendar year, more than 1,500 new members were received into membership.

Fifteen national pastors, 250 Gospel Workers, and dozens of Bible Women serve the LMSI. Of the 15 ordained pastors, most shepherd their own busy congregations and also supervise about 20 Gospel Workers each. Gospel Workers are faithful

Christian men in varying stages of theological training who carry out pastoral duties in congregations of many sizes. Bible Women are faithful Christian women who serve their congregations in various ways. For example, many assist with the operation of orphanages or go door to door to share the gospel and assist women (often Hindu) at home during the day.

Pastor Kalyan Gollapalli serves as the president of the Rajahmundry District and Pastor Solomon Mamidi serves as president of the Hyderabad District. Mr. Vijay Sidney, a layman with some pre-seminary training, serves as president of the smaller Jabalpur District.

Challenges from the government continue to confront the faithful people of the LMSI. One recent challenge was a change in banking laws that made it more difficult for financial support from the United States to be deposited into the accounts of the LMSI. After the leaders of the LMSI made their way through copious paperwork, approval has been granted for U.S. funds to make it into LMSI accounts. Prayers are needed that our impoverished missions can continue to do their Gospel work and continue to receive our funding without interference.

The BWO's primary focus for India is the training of national pastors and providing financial assistance for capital projects in each district which often far exceed their ability to undertake by themselves.

Each district conducts monthly workshops for Gospel Workers and Bible Women. Lessons are taught in Luther's catechism, church liturgy, sermon writing, and other practical courses. Some Gospel Workers who show potential to be trained and eventually ordained as pastors attend monthly seminary courses. These once a month, week-long courses are conducted both in Hyderabad and Rajahmundry Districts, and, depending on the advancement of the student, will continue for five years. Currently there are eight students in each district for a total of 16 seminary students. With COVID-19 precautions needed, the Indian pastors have, just like in the U.S., been using video conferencing to teach classes and conduct worship services. Please keep this important work in your prayers.

Orphans and widows in India suffer great distress due to a lack of any government welfare. Scripture tells us, "Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their affliction..." (James 1:27 EHV). The LMSI, through its pastors, Gospel Workers, Bible Women, and others takes care of over 300 orphans in 19 orphanages. Cross-stitch supplies funding so that the orphans receive an outfit of clothing per year so that each child has a total of two outfits. Care is also provided for many widows in India. Some receive housing in return for their work in the orphanages.

The LMSI places emphasis on the education of children through its Sunday schools, VBS programs, and Christian day schools. Last year over 10,000 children heard the gospel message. Over 320 Indian children are hearing the word of God and Luther's catechism taught daily at three LMSI-operated grade schools. Many of these students come from Hindu families and hear of the one true God who has provided salvation through Christ alone.

BWO Administrator Rev. Thomas Heyn and a member of the Asia Committee meet with the LMSI presidents and other leaders annually to review the work of the mission, discuss issues, set goals, and to make joint plans for the coming year.

The LMSI continues to grow in spite of a decrease in funding in recent years. This is a great challenge! ELS individuals and congregations are asked to consider prayerfully how they might help meet the need for increased funding by becoming donors. To the individuals and congregations that are already active in donating: thank you! The generosity of individual and congregational donors is gratefully received then divided among the districts, schools, and orphan homes on a pro rata basis.

South Korea

Asia continues to be one of the world's fastest growing regions in terms of economics and population. Our mission work in South Korea puts the ELS in a favorable and unique position to advance Confessional Lutheran teaching and preaching in South Korea and beyond. China and North Korea are countries that are "ripe for the harvest" and we continue to watch for developments and opportunities in these areas.

Seoul Lutheran Church (SLC) serves as the anchor of our South Korean mission efforts. The senior pastor of SLC is the Rev. Dr. Sung Gyu (Sam) Choi. Joining him officially in December 2021 was the Rev. Cui Jinfeng (David Choi). Having completed his vicar year in San Diego at a WELS congregation, David was finally able to travel to Seoul to become a part of the team striving to proclaim the gospel there. BWO Administrator Heyn was present for the special service of ordination and installation. Pastor Choi is called by SLC and also by the BWO as he assists with the congregation and explores other avenues of mission work.

SLC leases three floors of a building, with one floor serving as a sanctuary, another as office space and classrooms, and a third as a kitchen and fellowship hall. This arrangement for the congregation is common not only in South Korea but in many Asian countries. SLC currently comprises about 265 baptized members.

Seoul Lutheran Theological Institute (SLTI) is also located at SLC. SLTI was created to assist in the vital first steps of training qualified pastors and evangelists to advance the kingdom work in South Korea and greater Asia. Dr. Sam Choi serves as director of SLTI. The Korean pastors continue to seek ways of recruiting new students.

English as a Second Language is offered at SLC through an affiliated program named Canaan Lutheran Academy. This program, successful in teaching English to high school aged students headed toward placement in WELS high schools in the U.S., is in transition as new students and a director are being recruited. Canaan Lutheran Academy is built on the premise that the parents of these may be drawn into a deeper relationship and membership with SLC in the process of preparing for their children to study in the USA. New efforts may be made for Mandarin-speaking families in South Korea.

Pastor Jae Woong Kim shepherds Anyang Hee Mang (Hope) Lutheran Church in western Seoul. The work, begun in 2017, continues to encounter challenges. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will bless the mission efforts of Pastor Kim and this congregation.

Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith, Asia Committee chairman

EUROPE COMMITTEE

As of this writing, the churches served by Thoughts of Faith are understandably anxious about the aggression of Russia toward its neighbors, shown in a barbaric invasion of Ukraine. Following the dismantling of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, Thoughts of Faith, Inc. began reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ in Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Latvia. Now we pray that those who intend to again subjugate the citizens of those free nations may be stymied and unsuccessful in their belligerence. We thank God for His love and protection, and for granting us another year of service to the people of those countries, and for all our friends who have faithfully supported our work up to the present day. In particular, we give our gracious Lord thanks and praise for the continued and generous funding provided by the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

Czechia

Through the ELS Board for World Outreach, we continue to assist in the work of St. Paul's Congregation and Martin Luther School in Pilzen, along with a preaching station in the nearby village of Tlucna.

Our congregations are ably served by the Rev. Petr Krakora who conducts regular worship services and Bible classes. This year, Pastor Krakora, along with Pastor Martin Vrsecky conducted a three-day Summer Pilgrimage Camp for the children of the church and neighborhood focusing on the doctrine of the Divine Trinity.

Pastor Krakora also taught a Wednesday evening English class which drew in three church prospects from the community. A Friday "after school" club is conducted, called "Bible Bees," which is attended by some of the lower grade students from Martin Luther School.

Church support for released ex-prisoners continues to be provided, along with spiritual guidance. This year, three of the men were baptized. Altogether, six adults and infants were joined to the Lord through baptism this past year. One wedding service was conducted, and one funeral for a long-time member at the church in Tlucna was held.

Pastor Krakora also led a Christmas program at a local medical spa, with caroling and a devotion for the patients. In addition, he continues working on the Czech translation of an ELS devotional booklet for young people, entitled "Good News for You." In its finished form, this booklet will be distributed to the families of the congregation and the school.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge, as it necessitated occasional shut downs of public gatherings, etc. But Pastor Krakora was able to continue serving the congregation, and through it all, he reports that the church's website has grown, both in content and in viewings.

Pastor Krakora is joined in his work by Pastor Martin Vrsecky whose main responsibilities are directed to Martin Luther School, where he serves as the director/chief financial officer. When the coronavirus appeared in Czechia, it immediately affected everything including the regular functioning of Martin Luther School. Its students had to stay at home, and classes were conducted online. As was the case worldwide, when variants of the virus came along, the school and its families needed to go through further adjustments, including extended shutdowns.

The school responded to the appeal of the parents to readjust the tuition due to the pandemic closures by giving families a stipend for the purchase of study books, for the '20 and '21 school years. Also, 90% of the expenses connected to school trips taken by the students were paid, being sponsored by school sources. In these ways, Martin Luther School demonstrated that it understands the difficulty facing many parents and families at this time.

In addition to his regular full-time work with the school, Pastor Vrsecky also conducts the worship service at St. Paul's church once each month and conducts the weekly chapel services at Martin Luther School.

Despite the challenges of the viral pandemic, and more recently, the war in Ukraine, Martin Luther School continues to thrive, enjoying a good reputation in the city of Pilzen. The school is comprised of students in grades kindergarten through ninth grade. This past school year saw a total enrollment of 300 boys and girls. We are thankful for the opportunities we have to teach and preach the Good News of our Savior to the children in weekly chapel services and religion classes each week.

Both pastors maintain an active interest in finding and encouraging young people in the school and church to consider full time service in Gospel ministry as pastors and teachers in the years to come. They request the prayers of our ELS for their work, and especially their efforts to encourage personal outreach among the church members, so that their friends and neighbors may be drawn also to the gift of eternal life through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Latvia

Like church bodies the world over, the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia needed to adapt to the coronavirus pandemic during the past two years. From time to time, gathering in public groups was tightly regulated, so as in the United States, worship services and Bible classes were conducted online. In addition, the nation of Latvia is currently in a state of heightened alert,

watchful of Russia's activity in nearby Ukraine. But, as one of the Latvian pastors has noted, those things are only on the surface. "The true reality, the reality of life, is always crafted by the presence of the Lord in His Word and Sacrament. That's where we as Christians have found our courage, joy and peace" through these tumultuous times.

The Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia, the CLCL, has its origins in the early 1990's, when BLC professors Erling Teigen and Mark Harstad began conducting classes and speaking at retreats, especially among college age people in that Baltic nation. As a result of those visits, several pastors began studying the Lutheran Confessions and eventually decided to depart from the larger and more liberal national Lutheran church.

Today, the CLCL consists of six congregations, served by seven pastors. Five of the clergymen are serving in bi-vocational ministries, receiving a small stipend from the BWO through general or Latvia-directed donations.

Pastor Ilars Plume serves as the full-time pastor to the congregation in the town of Kekava. Pastor Uldis Fandejevs serves the church in Ozolniecki, another suburb of the large, capital city of Riga. Both congregations worship in very attractive church buildings, erected within the past 20 years with the generous assistance of American friends.

The CLCL also has a congregation which worships in the Old Town neighborhood in Riga. Served by Pastors Gundars Bakulis and Ugis Sildegs, it enjoys a steady attendance, and draws some students from the nearby university. Both pastors are bi-vocational. Pastor Bakulis is a surgeon, and Pastor Sildegs has been overseeing the Latvian Lutheran, a well-regarded online theological journal. A major project for Dr. Sildegs over the past few years has been the production of a new Latvian language hymn book. God willing, it will serve our church body and probably other Latvian churches, for many years to come.

The congregation in the city of Jelgava has been working for a couple years on the renovation of their old and rather decrepit building, and by God's grace, they have transformed it into a very attractive and vibrant worship space. A recent building project included the installation of a new furnace, thanks to generous donors to a special appeal for that project. Under the leadership of their pastor, Ivo Sildegs, the congregation is now in a better position to reach out to their neighbors with the precious word of life. They too are very thankful for the support that has been received from various Thoughts of Faith donors.

The CLCL maintains the hope of starting a new congregation in a village near Riga which currently has no churches of any kind. Much of the support for this project would come from the existing membership of the nearby Kekava and Ozolniecki congregations, as well as the other members of the CLCL.

Though it's been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the plan remains in place to begin an apologetics and outreach center in Old Town Riga, not far from the nearby university, with the hope that they may attract students and share the gospel with them.

The pastors and the members are diligent in identifying potential candidates to serve in the pastoral ministry. At this time, three young men are beginning theological study with their local pastors, and two others are considered possible candidates in the future. It's our prayer that the Lord will bless these classes, and that the students may be led to serve as part of the next generation of CLCL pastors.

Again, due to the pandemic, the members of the Europe Committee of the Board for World Outreach have not been able to make onsite visits. But, God willing, as the global restrictions are lifted, those visits can resume. The committee remains optimistic about the future for our fellow congregations in Europe. It requests prayers and support for these pastors and congregants living in the changing economies and cultures of Czechia and Latvia.

Rev. John Petersen, Europe Committee chairman

GIFT OF LIFE UKRAINE, THE INTERNATIONAL CHARITABLE FUND "GIFT OF LIFE"

Gift of Life

Gift of Life (GoL) had another productive year in 2021, and the first quarter of 2022 marked the beginning of Russia's full-scale and terrible war against Ukraine on February 24, which brought death and grief to Ukraine. The war forced more than 10 million people to flee their homes to the safer western regions of Ukraine, as well as to European countries. The beginning of the war was a shock to all Ukrainians. Uncertainty, danger and constant air strikes due to enemy air and missile attacks forced both MCOW (Medical Clinic on Wheels) and Lutheran Pro-Life Centers to suspend operations for some time. Thanks to the quick actions of the GoL Administration, the Lutheran Pro-Life Centers of Ternopil and Kremenets were reopened on March 3, 2022, and the MCOW was reopened on March 16, while reformatting them to provide more material assistance to refugees. All this was made possible by even greater financial support from U.S. donors.

Medical Clinic on Wheels (MCOW):

During 2021, MCOW visited thirteen sites (nine of which were new sites). In 2021, 4,618 patients were admitted to the medical bus (with three employees in the bus), while 4,698 were admitted to the dental bus (four employees). Over the past year, more than \$6,000 has been raised in Ukraine in the form of donations by GoL. Some of these donations were used to cover additional costs associated with the operation of the clinic (accommodation and meals for doctors), which are usually covered by

the host, in order to improve cooperation with the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and evangelize. Such cooperation with the ULC church in Kremenets took place from May 24 to June 4, 2021.

After the start of the war, many refugees from eastern and southern Ukraine came to the city of Ternopil where MCOW operates during the winter. To date, more than 13,000 such people have been registered, 80% of whom are women and children. In peacetime, MCOW typically begins traveling throughout Ukraine on April 1. Under the current circumstances, however, it will work in the garage until martial law in Ukraine ends. There is a specially equipped bomb shelter near the MCOW garage, where staff and patients can be evacuated during air alarms. Exhausted and psychologically traumatized by war, people now need God's word more than ever. Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) Deaconess Ludmila Voichunas, who has been a member of the MCOW team for 20 years, does not miss the opportunity to proclaim the "good news of salvation." Many children are happy to accept books from the MLPS Bible Series as gifts.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to purchase an X-ray machine, a Visiograph and a laptop to better diagnose dental diseases. MCOW dental services were expanded to include endodontic services and necessary materials and tools were purchased. Much attention is focused on maintaining the excellent technical condition of buses and other GoL vehicles.

Lutheran Pro-Life Centers (LPLC):

In 2021 activity was very high compared to 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Educational institutions resumed work allowing us to hold more presentations with Christian values and the word of God. 10,247 people attended pro-life presentations by GoL counselors at various institutions throughout Ukraine. 1,686 attended programs conducted in the life centers. 1,717 counseling sessions were given. Ninety-two babies were baptized, some in the Lutheran faith. The bishop and pastors of the ULC continue the practice of conducting Bible classes with LPLC clients. There were 165 new clients attending 135 sessions. Most important, Christian witness is provided at all counseling sessions, presentations and programs. Thanks to grants and donations, we have funds to support pregnant women in crisis situations, to refer women for ultrasound, and to buy necessary medicines and vitamins. Both LPLCs in Kyiv ceased operations after war broke out. Counselors Anna Kuchma and Inna Rudzik left Kyiv due to the Russian invasion. Anna is in Vienna, Austria and Inna moved with her family to the Ternopil region and now works actively at the Ternopil LPLC. Ternopil LPLC counselor Larysa Stadnyk is in Poland. Oksana Honcharuk was hired as a counselor's assistant in Ternopil. This became a blessing because Oksana properly organized the work during the war. The Ternopil LPLC is currently visited by 20 to 35 refugees every day—pregnant women and women who have recently given birth—and they all receive much-needed assistance—food, hygiene products, children's clothing and more. LPLC counselor Nina Andreychuk is also active in Kremenets, helping refugees. This is possible thanks to the creation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Ukrainian Crisis Fund, from donations of U.S. citizens who care.

Material Aid

Material Aid (MA) is dispensed at MCOW, LPLCs, orphanages and children's shelters accompanied by Christian witness. Much children's and warm clothing, stationery, and hygiene products were sent from the U.S. by donors. In 2021, GoL received donations from non-governmental organizations, corporations, and individuals, as well as donations given at MCOW and life centers. In cooperation with Polish friends, two large shipments (a total of fourteen pallets), purchased from the Ukrainian Crisis Fund, have been received. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!! GoL also purchases food and hygiene products in Ternopil. The GoL administration maintains close relations with various humanitarian headquarters, hospitals and schools in the city, where thousands of refugees live. Prices in Ukraine before and especially after the war increased significantly so wages were increased.

Gift of Life saved its usual hundreds of children from abortion and improved the lives of thousands through dental and medical services—all the while proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank the many who contribute financially and pray for this extraordinary mission which we are privileged to be part of. A special thank you, from all of us at GoL, to the board of Thoughts of Faith, ELS and the BWO for leadership and support.

*Nicholas and Kerry Laper and Roman Khodzinskyi, Administrators
Roman Khodzinskyi, Gift of Life director's assistant*

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Committee #11: Elementary Education

BOARD MEMBERS

The board serves to support the schools of the ELS using the insights of pastors, professional educators, and laymen from the various geographical areas of the synod. Currently the board is served by the following members: Mr. Steven Beilke, the Rev. Chris Dale (chair), the Rev. Michael Dale (secretary), Mr. Todd Knutson, the Rev. Josh Skogen, Mr. Ken Meyer (Treasurer), Mr. Nathan Rovey, the Rev. Kurtis Freimuth and Mr. Shu-Ting Lai (Secretary for Schools). Dr. Carrie Pfeifer (Bethany Lutheran College Ed. Dept.) serves the board as an advisory member.

MEETINGS

Since the last synod convention, the board has met twice: October 4–5 at Bethany Lutheran Seminary (Mankato, Minnesota); January 24–25 at Peace Lutheran School (Kissimmee, Florida).

SECRETARY FOR SCHOOLS

The ELS Secretary for Schools, Shu-Ting Lai, oversees the work of ELS schools by providing call lists, managing the continuing education grant program, and providing guidance and support. He reports to the Board for Lutheran Schools at their semi-annual meetings. Since our last synod convention, the Secretary for Schools performed school visits at King of Grace (Golden Valley, Minnesota), Peace (Kissimmee, Florida), Gracie's Preschool (Vero Beach, Florida), and Christ (Port St. Lucie, Florida).

OPENING NEW SCHOOLS

Concordia Lutheran (Eau Claire, Wisconsin) re-opened their preschool/early learning center in the fall of 2021. The Board for Lutheran Schools is available to assist congregations looking to start an early childhood program or elementary school. The board would like to especially encourage congregations in states with school choice programs to consider starting a school ministry.

SCHOOL MISSION WORK

The board encourages congregations to continue to make use of the school ministry as a mission arm of the congregation. Many resources are available both through our synod and the WELS. Schools are encouraged to contact the secretary for schools for assistance in this area. In 2022, the Secretary for Schools visited Peace Lutheran Church in Kissimmee, Florida to encourage them in this important work.

SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO ALL ELS TEACHERS, SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS, AND PRINCIPALS

The board recognizes the increased challenges that our ELS school workers faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed our synod with such dedicated servants to carry out the important work of educating the young in the light of God's word and will. Our prayers go with our faculties, staffs, and principals as they continue this important work.

ANNIVERSARIES

The board has been notified that the following teachers are celebrating anniversaries in the teaching ministry this year:

10 Years

Amanda Schultz (Holy Cross)

25 Years

Rich Holz (Holy Cross)

Shu-Ting Lai (Bethany)

Joy Veach (King of Grace)

40 Years

Connie Davis (Parkland)

Jolene McClung (Parkland)

We give thanks to God for their faithful service!

INSTALLATIONS

The board has been notified that the following teachers have been installed prior to or during the 2021–2022 school year:

Melanie Achey (Peace)

Chris Avila (Trinity)

Emma Carr (Parkland)

Jamie Chambers (Christ)

Brittany Denn (Mount Olive)

Rich Holz (Holy Cross)

Katie Hosbach (Trinity)

Heather Juedes (Scarville)

Rebecca Lange (Holy Trinity)

Fred Luehring (Holy Trinity)

Carol Luehring (Holy Trinity)

Ashley Olsen (Mount Olive)

Stephanie Pasillas (Bethany)

Grace Rysdahl (King of Grace)

Isaac Sharrett (Bethany)

Paul Trapp (Parkland)

John Tuthill (Peace)

Tamar Wendland (Peace)

Katie Zeamer (Trinity)

Amber Zoelner (Holy Cross)

May the Lord continue to bless their work.

TEACHER RETIREMENTS

The board has been notified that the following teachers are planning to retire or have retired since the last convention.

Steve Beilke (Mount Olive)

Tammy Kuehl (Holy Cross)

Karen Merseth (King of Grace)

Jim Speerschneider (Trinity)

Dawn Welke (Scarville)

We thank the Lord for the blessings brought to our churches and schools through them.

GRANT DISBURSEMENT

Lutheran School Subsidy Grants were dispersed to Mt. Olive (Mankato, Minnesota), Faith (Carthage, Missouri), Holy Trinity (Okauchee, Wisconsin), Peace (Kissimmee, Florida), and the ELS Homeschool Association. The board is committed to disbursements of \$45,820 in 2022.

ELS HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Board for Lutheran Schools supports the Lutheran Homeschool Association in their endeavors. In order to do this, the board applied for a grant through the Board of Trustees. Their spring symposium took place on March 5 at Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, Minnesota). Pastor Josh Skogen serves as the Board for Lutheran Schools liaison to this organization.

NATIONAL ELS TEACHER CONFERENCE 2023

The board is busy planning for the 2023 ELS National Teacher Conference for July 17–20 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A grant was requested and approved through the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation with the goal of making the conference affordable for congregations and teachers. ELS schools are encouraged to make every effort to have their teachers and administrators attend this important conference.

SCHOOL VISITATION

The board encourages every ELS school to request a visit from a neighboring ELS principal, the secretary for schools, or a member of the education faculty at Bethany Lutheran College. Grant disbursements to schools are contingent on the requesting school hosting a school visitation. Principals are encouraged to contact the secretary for schools for help in setting up a school visitation.

PRINCIPAL MEETING

There will be a meeting for all ELS principals on Monday, June 27, during synod convention lunch recess. All principals are encouraged to meet Pastor Chris Dale at the convention stage as soon as the convention breaks for lunch.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE EDUCATION STUDENTS

Recognizing the need for BLC-trained teachers in our ELS schools, in 2018, the board resolved to set aside \$15,000 as seed money for a new program to incentivize BLC Education students to teach in our ELS schools. The program will cover the cost of the student's religion textbooks while taking courses in the BLC ELS Teacher Certification Program as well as offer a \$1000 bonus after completion of each of the first four years teaching in an ELS school.

This program will need continued support if it is to be long-lasting. We are pleased to report that private donations have been received from synod members throughout 2021 and 2022 and we hope that such support will continue to grow throughout the coming years.

CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS FOR TEACHERS

The board is pleased to offer grants in the amount of \$600/year to teachers serving ELS schools. These grants are intended to help defray costs associated with continuing education. Teachers need only submit the application and receipt for continuing education to the board through the secretary for schools at principal@bethanyles.com.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The schools of the ELS aspire to assist families in bringing up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). To this end we serve to produce students with clear understandings of both their citizenship in heaven and on earth. We want our students to know Jesus as their Savior from sin and death, and as the lens through which all of scripture is to be understood. And we want them to understand that God calls them to make use of their talents in their Christian vocation. We believe an education founded in the liberal arts is best suited to help students discover and explore their talents and how they can best be used in service to God and neighbor.

POLLY BROWNE MEMORIAL

Our board is receiving a large portion of Polly Browne's estate. It has been recommended that we pick one focus project that can be promoted to synod contributors in order to keep the fund growing. After a few years we would spend the growth money (estimated 4%) leaving the original investment alone. We are currently considering two projects: *Bethany Lutheran College Incentive Program*, and *Teacher Education and Development*.

SUGGESTED ELS TEACHER SALARY SCALE

At the 2021 synod convention, the use of the WELS Teacher Compensation guidelines for ELS schools was approved. These guidelines can be found at <https://cwcompcalc.wels.net>. The secretary for schools is available to assist congregations with this process.

Shu-Ting Lai, secretary for schools

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR YOUTH OUTREACH

Committee #12: Parish Services

Members of the board: the Rev. Bernt Tweit (chairman), the Rev. Jeff Hendrix (secretary), the Rev. Kyle Madson, the Rev. Tony Pittenger, Mr. Pete Bloedel, Mr. Ben Faugstad, and Mr. Chris Hoffman.

LUTHERAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (LYA)

2022: The Lutheran Youth Association Convention, which had been planned initially for 2020 will, Lord-willing, be held this year. The theme is "Out of Zion" (taken from U. V. Koren's hymn "Ye Lands to the Lord"), and will be held near Zion National Park, July 23–26 at Dixie State University (Utah Tech University), St. George, Utah, over the last weekend in July (July 28–31). The Board for Youth Outreach has subsidized the price in order to encourage as many to attend as possible. Every congregation is asked to send at least one youth leader/chaperone of the same gender as the students. If a congregation is unable to send a youth leader/chaperone, they should consider partnering with another congregation. LYA is open to confirmed youth (exceptions can be

made for groups bringing those in confirmation). Youth who missed out in 2020 & 2021 can attend as either a youth or youth leader based on their congregation's circumstances.

2023: LYA is tentatively planned for July 27–30, 2023 at Bethany Lutheran College. The LYA has had to work around BLC's sports camp schedule and its hosting students from China for summer courses every other year. It is planned that LYA be held at BLC every four years, with the next being 2027, the 100th anniversary of BLC. The BYO trusts that BLC and the synod recognize the immense value of hosting the youth from our own churches on campus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE ELS

At the 2021 convention, the synod approved a resolution, which read in part, "That the synod president appoint an ad hoc committee with the goal of identifying the reasons for [the decline in Sunday School attendance] and seeking solutions or alternatives to providing a thorough biblical education for the children of our congregations with a report to be made to the next convention."

The Ad Hoc Committee to research Sunday School Attendance began meeting virtually in January with monthly meetings. The committee is made up of the Rev. Jeff Hendrix (chair), the Rev. Nate Abrahamson, the Rev. Patrick Ernst, Mr. Colin Anderson, Dr. Ryan MacPherson, Mr. John Moldstad, Mr. Karl Bloedel, and Mrs. Melissa Pittenger. While Sunday School as a program is not mentioned in scripture, it has long been a tool in our synod used to fulfill the goals that the Bible outlines for the instruction of children. The committee has tried to define and conduct its research based on what these scriptural goals are. So far, the committee has conducted a number of anecdotal surveys with over twenty congregations. A common thread in those programs that are "succeeding" seems to be family/parent involvement. The committee hopes to have a verbal report along with practical suggestions and encouragement for congregations by this summer's convention, with a formal report ready for the 2023 convention.

PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS

The *Young Branches* portion of the *Lutheran Sentinel* magazine is edited by the Rev. Kyle Madson. A few articles in a series relating to the Youth Convention have been published on hymns. Hymns are worthy and beautiful things for youth "to grow into," and teach them to "grow into" the life of the church.

Young Branches Videos have been postponed since the videos rely on student workers from Stonepath Studios at BLC, and due to staffing cuts at BLC, this organization seems to have been effectively cut.

Cling to the Cross devotion books are available as a free resource from the Bethany Bookstore for pastors to give to their confirmands.

The BYO continues to discuss the great need for apologetics resources on the one hand, and on the other, what can feasibly be done by our board on a volunteer basis.

HONOR CHOIR CAMP

It was reported to the board that due to additional staffing cuts at BLC, there is not the manpower to run the Honor Choir camp. The BYO wishes to officially thank everyone who has been involved with Honor Choir through the years, especially the Rev. Prof. Dennis Marzolf who began the program in 1986. Our board believes that Honor Choir is vitally important for our college, our synod, and the church. From 1987 to 2018, about 37% of Honor Choir singers continued on to college at BLC. The majority of those then "grow into" becoming leaders in their local congregations. The church then flourishes as a result (Cf. ELH 378 v. 10).

The BYO has resolved to contribute \$3,000 as per our annual budget, and is requesting that Bethany contribute an additional \$3,000 to give a stipend to a fine arts administrator to allow our directors to direct Honor Choir for this summer as a short-term solution. The BYO also requests of the trustees that the synod convention Communion Service and Synod Sunday Service offerings be considered for repeated and continued use for the Honor Choir.

In the long-term, the BYO is concerned that it seems some programs are being favored at our synod's college which prioritize growth over those which more directly impact our synod and the preservation of our Lutheran heritage among our youth as they mature.

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp 4 Star, Washington

No report received.

Camp Indianhead, Minnesota

Held at Lutheran Island Camp, Battle Lake, MN. Directors: Pastor Shawn Stafford, Pastor Josh Skogan, Pastor Josh Mayer. Facebook.com/CampIndianheadMn.

2021: Children served: 136.

2022: July 10–15 (\$360). Theme: “The Tree of Life”

Camp Lor-Ray, Twin Lake, Michigan

Superintendent: Rev. Josh Bishop (Grace Lutheran, St. Joseph, MI, WELS); CampLor-Ray.org

2021: Children served: 99.

2022: 1st–3rd grade: June 26–28 (\$180); 4th–6th grade: July 3–July 8; 7th–9th grade: July 10–July 15 (\$280). Theme: “What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

Camp Lutherhaven, Washington

Held at Wildcat Lake, Bremerton, WA. Directors: Alan Nesseth, Kris Nieland.

2021: Children served: 0 (Washington’s COVID policies did not allow for camps last summer).

2022: July 8-14 (cost TBD). Theme: TBD

Camp Rise, Wisconsin

Held at Camp Luwisimo, Wild Rose, WI. Director: The Rev. Nate Abrahamson. Camprise.org

2021: Children served: 57

2022: 5th–10th grade: July 10–15 (early: \$365; regular: \$395). Theme: “Lifeguard on Duty”

SUMMER CAMP & RETREAT GRANTS

The BYO will grant up to \$250 per camp to be used for special projects, publicity, promotion, and/or purchase of religious resources or materials. Requests must be made by June 1 of each year to the BYO chairman with the secretary copied. The BYO also is willing to provide financial assistance for area retreats that include youth from at least two or more ELS congregations.

LYA TO BLC GRANT & HUGH BROOKS YOUTH MISSION FUND

An “LYA to BLC” grant is available for students who attend three LYA conventions and then go to Bethany Lutheran College. \$10,000 will be distributed yearly among new BLC students who meet the criteria (incoming students who have attended three out of four LYA conventions and return for the spring semester). The scholarships will apply to spring semester costs. Extra income from when the convention is held at Bethany Lutheran College is to be used to fund the grant.

A reminder to members of the synod of the Hugh Brooks Youth Mission Fund which has been created to financially help ELS teens and college students participate in mission work within our fellowship. The BYO should be contacted for inquiries and applications.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank the Rev. Bernt Tweit, retiring from BYO this year, who has served as our board’s chairman since 2008, for his many years of service helping to train generations of our church’s youth.

Likewise, we also wish to thank Mr. Peter Bloedel for his many years of service on the board.

Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our father’s told.

Our lips shall tell them to our sons
And they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.

(ELH 180 v. 1, 3)

The Rev. Jeff Hendrix, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Committee #12: Parish Services

The ELS Board for Christian Service currently consists of the following personnel: Mr. Denny Behr, ELS representative of the Lutheran Military Support Group; the Rev. Erich Hoeft, chairman of the board, Active Duty Ministry Coordinator and our board's current representative to the synod's Planning and Coordinating Committee; the Rev. James Kassera, the secretary for the board; and Mr. Paul Wold, Widows and Retired Workers Special Needs Coordinator and Retired Benefit Coordinator. The board met three times in the past year, with regular meetings in June, October, and February in 2021–2022.

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

The synod carries term life insurance on all called workers "actively at work". "Actively at work" is defined in the policy as: working in the usual course of business; a minimum of thirty hours per week. Congregations, at their option, can include staff in their term coverage as well. Currently our congregations reimburse the premium costs of that term life insurance to the synod. We would like to thank the congregations of our synod for their continued financial support of this program.

Through Age 64	\$50k of coverage
65 through 69	\$32.5k of coverage
70 and above	25k of coverage

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Board for Christian Service has the charge of assisting congregations in conjunction with health insurance benefits and ways of possibly saving premium dollars.

One option available to consider is the use of a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) in conjunction with your current health insurance coverage. By combining an HRA with a higher deductible insurance plan, you significantly lower your premiums while still providing large claim protection. The opportunity for savings comes about by paying for coverage of a high deductible insurance plan and then self-insuring the difference between that deductible and a lower deductible plan. Under an HRA the coverage for the employee remains the same at the lower deductible level. Small claims are paid through the HRA and funded with the premium savings of the higher deductible plan. The advantages of an HRA are evident especially in larger congregations where there is more than one full time called worker to be insured. The more called workers there are, the greater the opportunity for savings.

Another possible saving option is a Health Savings Account (HSA) which is an account created for individuals who are covered under high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) to save for medical expenses that HDHPs do not cover. Contributions are made into the account by the individual or the individual's employer and are limited by law to a maximum amount each year. The contributions are invested over time and can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses, which include most medical care such as dental, vision, and over-the-counter drugs.

There are a number of companies that will administer Health Reimbursement Accounts as well as Health Saving Accounts. The synod is currently using Averill Anderson, LLC, out of West Bend, Wisconsin, to administer our HRA. If your congregation feels they may benefit from a plan like this or you might be interested in looking at the potential savings of an HRA or HSA, feel free to contact Mark Anderson of Averill Anderson, LLC at (262) 338-8588.

WORLD NEEDS FUND

The balance of the World Needs Fund as of December 31, 2021 is \$32,680.00. Through the Mother's Day offering and other donations, the fund receives gifts from individuals and congregations. The World Needs Fund received donations totaling \$43,450.009 for the year.

The board approved disbursements of \$47,430.00 in 2021 for various world relief and group/individual special needs requests.

The board thanks all the individuals and congregations who donate toward relief in these areas for their generosity and encourage them to continue to do so. We praise our heavenly Father for the blessings He has showered on His people!

If anyone knows of any person or organization that the ELS Board for Christian Service can help, they should let the board know by filling out the board's application for assistance. The form is available online in PDF format at: <http://www.els.org>. Note that the rest of the board's guidelines for assistance can be found there as well.

The board follows these recommended limits on assistance, as published in the 2008 Synod Report:

\$0 - \$2,000	Individuals
\$2,000 - \$10,000	Congregations & organizations
\$5,000 - \$10,000	World Relief

Please note that the Board for Christian Service can adjust these amounts as need and situations arise.

PENSION PLAN/RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In order to address the future retirement needs of our synod's called workers, the synod has set up an IRS-compliant, third-party-administered 403(b) plan. Together with the WELS, the ELS participates in the Shepherd Plan Solution through the Hahn Financial Group, Inc. and Retirement Plan Consultants, LLC. In addition to encouraging called workers to plan for their retirements, the board strongly encourages the pastors and teachers of our synod to enroll in the Shepherd Plan.

In 2020 (and 2019) the synod matched congregational funding of pastors' and teachers' pensions up to \$350 for all pastors and full-time teachers and \$150 for part time teachers. Total support payments were \$44,800 for the year (and 2021). The synod, over the lifetime of the program, has contributed over \$1M to our pastor's and teacher's retirement accounts. Funding for 2022 will be the increase to \$350.00 for all pastors and full-time teachers and \$175 for part time teachers.

WIDOWS' SUBSIDIES

We are currently supporting eight widows with payments was \$340 per month. Total support payments for 2021 were \$32,300. The amount of subsidy will remain the same in 2022.

CALLED WORKER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CWAP)

The synod contracts with Christian Family Solutions, a church-related organization of the WELS, to offer internet-based or phone-based counseling services to the synod called workers and their immediate family members. While all information about clients is kept confidential, the board was informed of opened and on-going cases. In 2021, a total of fifteen clients have used the counseling services provided by the board. We have spent \$17,500.00 this year providing those services. Currently the number of sessions will be limited to six. However, if long-term support is necessary, the councilor and individual will explore appropriate local resources to help meet that need. If no local resources are available, an additional six sessions may be requested. The request for additional sessions should be made directly to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod president and authorization for the additional sessions must be transmitted from the president's office to Christian Family Solutions.

This service is not meant to replace the circuit visitor in his capacity as counselor, but rather to supplement the circuit visitor. In fact, for most matters, the board still encourages the pastors of the ELS to make use of their circuit visitor in this area. At the same time, the board realizes that there may be some non-ministry, family-related issues that are better handled by a counselor than by a circuit visitor. Also, a circuit visitor may, after meeting with an individual, feel the need to refer him or her to a professional counselor. Now the circuit visitor can refer people in the certain knowledge that he is referring to counselors who are of the same Christian fellowship and who share a Christian, confessional Lutheran worldview.

The board would also like to encourage individual ELS congregations to examine the practical costs and benefits of the Member Assistance Program from WLCFS for their own use. Every congregation at some point will have a family in crisis or an individual who has gone through a traumatic event. For a relatively small cost, a church can offer professional, Christian counseling to all of its members. For more information, please search online at the WLCFS web site: <http://www.wlcfs.org>, or call WLCFS at 1-800-438-1772.

SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

The board maintains a list of active duty and/or deployed military personnel in need of spiritual care. Currently there are three names on the list. If you or someone you know is going to be on active duty or deployed in service overseas and would like to receive devotions, sermons, etc. please send an email to the Rev. E. Hoeft, at pastorehoeft@gmail.com.

The board, in partnership with Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG), shares Christian fellowship and support to veterans and their families. To that end, the board has added a page to the synod's website els.org/resources/military. Also, the Board for Christian Service member Mr. D. Behr is serving as the liaison to LMSG, an ELS/WELS non-profit formed in 2015 to help support our active duty (including guard and reserves), our military veterans and their families.

The board has elected to prepay \$1000 to the BLC Bookstore to send the Christian Service Members' Handbook (LMSG) to individuals upon request (not to exceed three per request). Seventy handbooks have been sent out by Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore.

MILITARY MONUMENT PROJECT

The board's established ad hoc committee is chaired by Rev. L. Wentzlaff and currently includes D. Behr, Rev. Ed Bryant, Rev. K. Mellon, and Ray Pederson. This committee has developed the final monument and site designs, budgets and timelines. The location is east of Division Street and west of the dormitory Edgewood Place has been agreed upon with the BLC President G. Pfeifer and his cabinet, the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees. Groundbreaking has occurred on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Donation level details for pavers, benches and service pillars can found at els.org. A fundraising campaign has been

implemented for ELS congregations and the Mankato community. To date, the committee has raised \$319,000.00. Plans have been made to have site work done by mid-May, and it is planned that the granite will be in place by the convention.

The purpose of this monument is to honor any and all veterans who have served their fellow citizens through the god-pleasing vocation of military service in the U.S. and to enhance its value and appreciation among our membership, Bethany Lutheran College's student body and the community at large.

APPROVED EXPENDITURES FOR 2022 BUDGET

Widow support	\$32,640
Board Expenses	\$1,500
Called Worker Assistance Program	\$25,000
Pastor Retirement Support	\$40,000

The Rev. Erich Hoeft, chairman

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Committee #12: Parish Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the committee during the past year were Mr. John Baumann, Pastor James Braun (secretary), Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux, Pastor Peter Faugstad (chairman), and Dr. Eric Harstad. The committee held one meeting in person on October 5, 2021.

WORSHIP MUSIC

The strategic plan goal assigned to the Committee on Worship is: "Every congregation pursuing excellence in worship." One of the objectives for reaching this goal is: "Worship Committee encouraging excellence in worship music, including the promotion of, and possible grants for, the use of the 'Substitute Organist Service' from Church Music Solutions." We recognize that it can be difficult to find trained musicians to accompany for the Divine Service—especially organists and pianists. We encourage congregations to consider subsidizing piano or organ lessons for younger members as a way to promote musical training. We are also working on resources for beginner keyboardists, such as simplified prelude music and hymns in easier keys and settings. Three-part settings of the liturgies in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* (ELH) can also be accessed on this page of the synod website: <https://els.org/resources/worship/evangelical-lutheran-hymnary-resources/>.

When no accompanist is available, online audio resources are available for both liturgy and hymns. For congregations desiring to compile audio for liturgy and hymns on their own, helpful resources are available on our synod website: <https://els.org/resources/worship/music-for-liturgy-and-hymns/>. The "ELH Hymn Recordings" link connects to a page with audio for the copyright-free melodies of the ELH. The "ELH Liturgy Recordings" link provides downloadable files for Rites 1, 2, and 3 of the ELH along with Matins and Vespers. We thank John Baumann for making these recordings earlier this year. Pastor Paul Webber has developed a system for using these audio files and would be glad to answer any questions about set up and to offer suggestions for equipment.

The most streamlined music option for congregations without accompanists is the "Substitute Organist Service" (S.O.S.) from Church Music Solutions. S.O.S. utilizes an online interface where orders of service, hymns, preludes, offertories, and postludes can be compiled. The complete service is delivered to an iPad or other tablet, which plays the music through a speaker system or compatible organ. The cost for S.O.S. varies by the size of the congregation. The current rates are \$45 per service for more than twelve services a year and \$65 per service for fewer than twelve services a year. But S.O.S. is willing to work with any congregation that needs to have a reduced rate in order to utilize this service. For more information, go to <http://churchmusicsolutions.com/>. If you would like to hear from ELS pastors who use the service, please contact Pastor James Braun, who also has experience using S.O.S.

The committee is also producing materials for church choirs of various sizes. These materials will be posted on the synod website when complete.

LITURGY RESOURCES

The committee is pleased to offer a complete book of propers for the ELH. The Propers in the Divine Service are the parts of the liturgy that change each week based on the theme of the day. The Introits, Graduals, and Alleluia Verses for each Sunday and Festival have been updated from *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941) for use with the ELH. The historic Collect for each day is also now available with tones that match the music of Rites 1 and 2. The entire resource can be downloaded and printed from the synod website: <https://els.org/resources/worship/evangelical-lutheran-hymnary-resources/>. We thank Pastor Paul Webber, Pastor Rob Lawson, and Caleb Strutz for their help with this project.

A file of the Proper Prefaces and closing Collects for each of the liturgies of the ELH is also available online. This resource makes it easier for pastors to sing these parts of the service.

A translation of Rite 1 into the Spanish language has been completed. It will be posted online when the editing and formatting work is done.

NEW WELS HYMNBOOK

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) published a new hymnbook last year, *Christian Worship: Hymnal* (CW21), which was made available for purchase in fall of 2021. It has the same name as the hymnbook the WELS published in 1993 (CW93). CW21 retains a service that has most of the parts and the music of the “Common Service” (ELH Rite 2, TLH p. 15). There is also a nice section in the book of Daily Devotions that can be used at home or with small groups. The text of Luther’s *Small Catechism* is included in this book along with the “Christian Questions” to prepare for the Lord’s Supper.

The hymn section of the book contains 680 hymns. Two-thirds of the hymns came from the 1993 hymnbook or the 2008 *Christian Worship: Supplement*. One of the goals of the hymnbook committee was to be deliberately inclusive of songs from the broader Christian church, so there are many new hymns in CW21. In a general survey of the book, more than 20% of the hymns were written by authors who are still living. Over one-third of the hymns were written within the last one-hundred years and over half of them within the last two-hundred years. This means that many older hymns did not make the cut. Only about 15% of the hymns in the book are from the 16th century and earlier.

Many of the older hymns included in the book are retranslated. This is often done well, but it also requires congregation members to relearn some hymns that they previously knew by heart. In a few cases, CW returned to more traditional language. One example is the return to “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart,” instead of “Lord, You I Love.” This was done because the hymnal committee noticed that other recent Lutheran hymnbooks retained “Thee” for this hymn.

A number of hymns included in the 1993 hymnal that we in the ELS would consider part of our “core” were dropped in CW21. Some examples are the Exordium hymns for Christmas and Pentecost by B. K. Boye, “Ye Lands to the Lord” by U. V. Koren, “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee” by T. H. Kingo, and the hymns translated by the Rev. Norman Madson (“I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes” and “I Pray Thee, Dear Lord Jesus”).

The CW21 hymnal committee chose to use the 2011 edition of the *New International Version* for the Bible passages in the hymnbook. Our ELS Doctrine Committee has recommended against the use of this translation because of its move toward gender neutral language. The hymnal committee recognized some of these translation weaknesses and made changes to the text (see Psalm 8 for example). Like the 1993 hymnbook, CW21 again uses a translation of the Nicene Creed from the English Language Liturgical Consultation, which has significant differences from the Nicene Creed in the ELH and TLH.

While the history and tradition of worship is not the same in our synods, we do appreciate the careful work that went into CW21 and its accompanying resources. We pray that these efforts will bear good fruit in the WELS for decades to come. (A fuller critique of this hymnbook was distributed to all ELS pastors. Any ELS congregations with questions about CW21 and how it compares with other hymnbooks used in the ELS are welcome to contact Pastor Peter Faugstad.)

Our committee has created a document of ELH hymn suggestions for those who are using the Three-Year Lectionary from *Christian Worship* or from the *Lutheran Service Book*: <https://els.org/resources/worship/evangelical-lutheran-hymnary-resources/elh-hymn-selection-plans/>. We thank Pastor Jerry Gernander for his work on this resource. The ELS does not have its own version of the Three-Year Lectionary. The ILCW Lectionary printed on pages 199–201 of the ELH has been revised since the ELH was published. On the same webpage mentioned above, the committee has posted several documents that highlight important hymns from the Lutheran tradition including a list of Scandinavian hymns for the Sundays and Festivals of the Church Year.

HERITAGE OF HYMNS

A Heritage of Hymns event is once again planned for the Monday during the synod convention. We will observe the anniversaries of the hymnwriters Ambrose of Milan (d. 397), Johann Heermann (d. 1647), and N. F. S. Grundtvig (d. 1872), along with the composer Felix Mendelssohn (d. 1847). Last year’s program highlighted the unique contributions of Johann Walther, Martin Luther, and Michael Praetorius to Lutheran hymnody and worship.

LOOKING FORWARD

The committee continues to work on its strategic plan objectives, including the preparation of “Excellence in Worship” notes and the planning of regional workshops on liturgical worship. The committee is also in the early stages of work on a supplement of liturgies and hymns for the ELH.

The committee is grateful that our congregations were able to stay connected to the Word of God through online devotions and services when there were restrictions on in-person gatherings. We are likewise grateful that those restrictions have been lifted, and we are able to gather much as we did in the past. There is no true substitute for personally encouraging one another in our interactions at church and for receiving together the body and blood of our Savior in Holy Communion. Hebrews 10:24–25 tells us that the way to “stir up one another to love and good works” is by “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Pastor Peter Faugstad, chairman

REPORT OF THE LAYMEN’S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

Committee #7: Finances

No report received.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Committee #7: Finances

MEMBERSHIP

The Planning and Coordinating Committee consists of the three officers of the synod, the chairmen of the Board for Christian Service, the Doctrine Committee, the Board for Education, the Board for Home Outreach, the Board of Regents, the Board for World Outreach, the Committee on Worship, the Board for Youth Outreach, and three (3) laymen elected by the synod at its convention. The president and the secretary of the synod serve as the chairman and secretary of the committee. The treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod serves as an advisor.

MEETING

The committee met February 9, 2022.

BUDGET

In 2021, congregation contributions to the synod’s budget exceeded the goal of \$790,000 by \$33,656. The budget also included a challenge that contributions in excess of \$760,000 be allocated to Bethany Lutheran College (*Synod Report, 2021, page 179*). This resulted in additional funding of \$63,656 to Bethany Lutheran College. This is the sixth consecutive year in which the congregations of the synod have exceeded their budget goal. We thank God’s people for their response to the manifold blessings which God has bestowed upon us.

The Planning & Coordinating Committee recommends the following unified 2023 budget of \$3,274,451 which includes a congregation and contributions goal of \$840,000 with no designated challenge fund.

Anticipated Income:	2021	2022	2023
Congregations - Budget	\$790,000	\$820,000	\$840,000
Congregations - Non Budget	15,000	10,500	20,400
Individual gifts	155,825	227,000	271,500
Organization Giving	35,000	31,890	32,400
Schwan Foundation	440,000	440,000	410,000
MAP	380,000	325,790	329,600
Endowment Funding	438,373	368,271	529,755

Registration/Fees	50,000	50,000	50,000
Subscriptions	30,000	30,000	30,000
Helping Hands/FMS	18,000	14,580	14,700
Cross-stitch	10,000	-	-
Investments	61,765	35,500	135,500
Publication Sales	9,750	10,000	10,000
Salary Reimbursement	26,000	26,000	27,600
Reserves	576,851	638,612	570,146
Misc.	<u>21,351</u>	<u>3,350</u>	<u>2,850</u>
Totals	\$3,057,915	\$3,031,493	\$3,274,451

Anticipated Expenditures	2021	2022	2023
Bethany Lutheran College	\$225,000	\$275,000	275,000
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	31,500	31,500	31,500
Board for Home Outreach	681,694	706,940	725,424
Board for World Outreach	1,157,550	1,052,399	1,148,179
Board for Youth Outreach	79,700	84,700	79,700
Board for Lutheran Schools	74,600	30,800	52,050
Communications/Lutheran Sentinel	40,475	72,575	46,650
Board for Christian Service	52,140	59,245	54,245
Synod Fund	<u>715,256</u>	<u>718,334</u>	<u>861,703</u>
Totals	\$3,057,915	\$3,031,493	\$3,274,451

PLANNING (*Committee 14: Miscellaneous*)

So that congregations become more aware of their own work through their synod, the Planning & Coordinating Committee ...

- ... encourages every congregation of the synod to have at least one annual Synod Mission Festival Service to increase awareness of the work of the synod and the need of reaching the lost with Jesus and His love. Such services can have a special theme such as world outreach, home outreach, synod work, etc.
- ... encourages every congregation to conduct a “Bethany Sunday” promoting the close connection between every congregation and school and the “One Thing Needful” at Bethany Lutheran College (see “Tell of Jesus and His Love,” 2.d).

At last year’s convention, the synod adopted the 2021–2026 strategic plan “Tell of Jesus and His Love” (*Synod Report 2021*, page 191). The synod’s vice-president was tasked with tracking the progress of this plan which was reviewed by the Planning & Coordinating Committee at its February meeting. It is reprinted below with updates on the progress:

Tell of Jesus and His love.

“Go home to your people, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how He had mercy on you.”
(Mark 5:19)

1. Every congregation, in Christian love, enhance their focus on reaching the lost.
2. Equip the next generation through Christ-centered education.
3. Develop and disseminate evangelism resources for home and world outreach.
- 4 Establish and support synod missions at home and abroad.
5. Endeavor to increase the efficiency and productivity by our synod’s boards.

Tell of Jesus and His Love.		
“Go home to your people, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how He had mercy on you.” (Mark 5:19)		
GOALS	OBJECTIVES	COMPLETION DATE / PROGRESS

1. Every congregation, in Christian love, enhance their focus on reaching the lost.		
a. Every congregation and pastor pursuing excellence in preaching and teaching, applying Law and Gospel appropriate to each text. Circuit Visitors*	Circuit Visitors define excellence in preaching and teaching and develop critique form.	2023 Circuit Visitors: 1. A form has been developed and adopted for use in 2021. 2. A definition of excellence in preaching and teaching will be completed in 2022.

	Circuit Visitors promote sermon critiques throughout the synod and every congregation receives at least one visitation.	2025 Circuit Visitors: Circuit Visitors were tasked to promote sermon critiquing in winkels and circuit Pastor Conferences in 2021 and report in 2022. It is expected that the Circuit Visitors will develop plan to conduct visitations by 2025 using alternates visitors as necessary.
b. Every congregation pursuing excellence in worship. Committee on Worship*	Worship Committee sending out periodically “Excellence in Worship” notes.	2024 Committee on Worship: The committee intends to have “Excellence in Worship” notes available in 2023.
	Worship Committee encouraging excellence in worship music, including the promotion of, and possible grants for, the use of the “Substitute Organist Service” from Church Music Solutions.	2026 Committee on Worship: 1. Recordings of the liturgies and hymns of the <i>Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary</i> are available at https://els.org/resources/worship/music-for-liturgy-and-hymns/ . The ELH liturgy recordings for Rite 1, Rite 2, Rite 3, Matins, and Vespers were recently remade by John Baumann. 2. Updated information about the “Substitute Organist Service” is provided each year in the report to the convention, and the cost of the service is negotiable for smaller congregations. 3. Hymn accompaniment and prelude music resources are being compiled for use by organists and pianists. 4. Church choir resources are being developed and will be available soon. 5. The Worship Committee hosts a “Heritage of Hymns” event at each convention featuring historic music and hymnody from Lutheran composers and authors.
	Worship Committee offering workshops for ELS congregations and pastors to encourage ways to enhance the presentation of liturgical worship in a constant effort to achieve excellence in this vital part of congregational life. (Point of reference: 2011 “Report of the Committee on Evangelical Lutheran Synod Worship”).	2026 Committee on Worship: The committee is considering seven regional workshops to be held in 2024–2025

c. Every congregation praying for missions at home and abroad. President* Communication Director†	One prayer per month.	2021 President: The Communication Director consulting with the Evangelism-Missions Counselor and the Board for World Outreach Administrator began to provide these prayers, for divine services, in December 2021, alternating monthly between home and world missions. Communication Director: Under Pres. Obenberger's guidance, the Communication Director is working directly with Tom Heyn and Brad Kerkow to prepare these prayers. We will be alternating months between home and world outreach. January, 2021 will be home outreach, February will be world outreach, etc.
d. Every congregation growing in Christian stewardship.		
i. Localized projects that circuits can adopt and support.	List ideas under "resources" on synod website.	2023 --
ii. Synod-wide database of laity talents and skills.	Create this via Giving Counselor's Office.	2025 --
iii. Clearinghouse of ideas for equipping members for kingdom service. Giving Counselor* Board for Home Outreach* President† Communication Director^	Add to webpage.	2025 Board for Home Outreach Personnel have been assigned and actively are addressing this item.
e. Every congregation developing a plan for outreach to the whole community. Board for Home Outreach*	Each circuit make this a focus.	2026 Board for Home Outreach Personnel have been assigned and actively are addressing this item.
f. Every congregation seeking service opportunities in the community. Board for Home Outreach* Board for Christian Service†	Discover the local niche (e.g. Jesus Cares Ministry, Care Facility Ministry).	2026 Board for Home Outreach Personnel have been assigned and actively are addressing this item.
g. Encourage congregations to make their Bible studies and devotions available online. Communication Director* President†	Some of these can be put out on our synod web site; others, locally.	2026 Communication Director: The Communication Director will seek to initiate and monitor this goal and objective starting in 2022.

2. Equip the next generation through Christ-centered education.

a. Support congregations in the development of schools. Board for Lutheran Schools* Board of Trustees† Board for Home Outreach†	Target certain congregations for development of a school.	2025 Board for Lutheran Schools: The Board for Lutheran Schools is identifying potential congregations for school starts.
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<p>b. Develop strategies to reach our unchurched school families. Board for Lutheran Schools* Board for Home Outreach†</p>	<p>Use of the Harvest Strategy (WELS).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2025</p> <p>Board for Lutheran Schools: The Board for Lutheran Schools is compiling harvest strategy materials from congregations and pastors in WELS and LCMS in the hopes of providing future support to ELS congregations in this area.</p>
<p>c. Help instill a Christian worldview among our membership and the succeeding generations. President* Board for Youth Outreach* Doctrine Committee† Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics^ Board of Regents^</p>	<p>Implementing a “center” for college, seminary, and synod at BLC campus. Enhancing the use of apologetics at our annual LYA conventions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2024</p> <p>President: The Apologetics Committee is currently working with the Synod Review Committee to draw up guidelines for itself and the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews. It is seeking to be officially established at the convention in June 2022.</p> <p>Board for Youth Outreach: Considering developing an apologetic companion to the catechism.</p> <p>Board of Regents: 1. Funding is still being sought to establish the Apologetics chair. 2. Continue to sponsor the “In Depth Series” of lectures on campus that helps Bethany students navigate current topics affecting today’s Christians.</p>
<p>d. Promote the close connection between the synod and the “One Thing Needful” at Bethany Lutheran College within every congregation and school of the synod. Board of Regents* President†</p>	<p>The college will increase its visibility within the congregations and schools of the synod (e.g. congregation visits, presentations from faculty members, clergy-faculty led Bible studies).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2021–26</p> <p>Board of Regents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The college president annually addresses the ELS convention delegates to promote the strong ties between the College and its synod. (college president’s goals presented to the Board of Regents) 2. “Roots of the Vine” program is being rolled out in the congregations of the ELS through Sunday congregational visits by BLC representatives. (BLC annual goal) 3. “Ministry Mindset” program launched by the BLC Education department in which BLC education majors receive encouragement from BLC education graduates and principals about serving in ELS schools. (BLC Education Department) 4. Bethany employees will continue to be encouraged, as they are able, to use their gifts and talents in beneficial ways in ELS congregations and the community. (2022-27 Strategic Plan) 5. College President is developing a “President’s Advisory Council” consisting of alumni and friends of BLC. (2022-27 Strategic Plan) 6. College president completed thirty-five visits to college supporters in fiscal 2021. The goal is for forty visits in fiscal 2022. (college president’s goals presented to the Board of Regents) 7. Expand BLC communication to the ELS, community and constituents through the gifts and talents among our faculty, staff and administration. (2022-27 Strategic Plan) 8. Annually hosting the Bethany Auxiliary on campus, from whom the College receives significant support. (BLC Advancement Office) <p>President: In developing the ELS Flavor document an effort it being made to show the close complementary connection with BLC’s “One Thing Needful” from the president’s office on boards and committees as well as in congregational visits.</p>

	Accept invitations for faculty presentations, clergy-led Bible studies, etc.	<p style="text-align: center;">2021–26</p> <p>Board of Regents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BLC faculty present programs for ELS members and BLC students through the College “In Depth” series. (2022-27 Strategic Plan) 2. BLC clergy serve as guest preachers in ELS congregations as invited. (2022-27 Strategic Plan) 3. BLC updates provided to ELS congregations by BLC representatives during Sunday morning presentations. (BLC Annual Goal)
	Contact every pastor of the ELS seeking input as to about how to strengthen the importance of the college within the congregations.	<p style="text-align: center;">2021–26</p> <p>Board of Regents:</p> <p>As part of the “Roots of the Vine” program, BLC representatives reach out to ELS pastors to discuss close ties and support with Bethany and offer to make Bethany presentations in their congregations. (2022-27 Strategic Plan)</p>
	Discuss with pastors how the college can support the congregations of the synod (e.g. continued religious instruction of members, training of musicians, etc.).	<p style="text-align: center;">2021–26</p> <p>Board of Regents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Roots of the Vine” discussions with pastors and congregation Church Councils include conversations regarding both how the congregations can support Bethany, and how Bethany supports the work of the congregations through its alumni as lay leaders in their congregations, and Called Workers as ELS pastors and teachers. (BLC Annual Goal) 2. In the future, online teaching may assist Bethany in developing a broader, non-traditional student body that needs flexibility in their learning. (2022-27 Strategic Plan)
	Seek to increase the percentage of ELS students attending BLC.	<p style="text-align: center;">2021–26</p> <p>Board of Regents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The college president regularly addresses this issue with our board and desires to understand how more ELS eligible students take advantage of BLC. (college president’s goals presented to the Board of Regents) 2. The college president annually addresses the ELS convention delegates to promote the strong ties between the college and its synod. (College President’s goals presented to the Board of Regents) 3. The college has added and continues to consider adding majors that fit well with the needs of future ELS students, examples are the additions of nursing, special education, engineering, computer science, legal studies, and criminal justice. A new emphasis area within the business administration major currently under consideration is agri-business (BLC Annual Goal) 4. The Bethany Admissions department continues to provide financial and structural support so that ELS middle school and confirmation aged students from all ELS schools and congregations may visit at Bethany every 2-3 years. Bethany covers the cost for meals, and some hotel and logistical costs to help make this happen. We also engage with ELS principals regularly in order to keep this as a priority (BLC Admissions Strategy) 5. The college provides an ELS Tuition Discount. (BLC Admissions Strategy)

	Raise the importance of BLC in the way that we function as a synod.	<p>Board of Regents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The college president annually addresses the ELS convention delegates to promote the strong ties between the college and its synod. (College President’s goals presented to the Board of Regents) 2. The “Roots of the Vine” program is being rolled out in the congregations of the ELS through Sunday congregational visits by BLC representatives. (BLC Annual Goal) 3. “Ministry Mindset” program launched by the BLC Education department in which BLC education majors receive encouragement from BLC education graduates and principals about serving in ELS schools. (BLC Education Department) 4. Bethany employees will continue to be encouraged, as they are able, to use their gifts and talents in beneficial ways in ELS congregations and the community. (2022-27 Strategic Plan)
e. Position the ELS to take advantage in states that offer school choice. Board for Lutheran Schools*	Florida is a model for this concept (Step Up Program).	<p>2026</p> <p>Board for Lutheran Schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A congregation was approached with a proposal, but it declined for the 2022 calendar year. 2. More work is necessary to create a template for churches which would help to predict feasibility in their individual locations. 3. A meeting was held with the Evangelism-Missions Counselor, Brad Kerkow, in January to discuss the creation of the template and how the Board for Home Outreach and Board for Lutheran Schools might work together on future projects in Florida—follow up with EMC will happen periodically as template work is completed.
f. Work with home schooling groups. Board for Lutheran Schools*	Support an annual event; give ideas on curricular matters.	<p>2022</p> <p>Board for Lutheran Schools:</p> <p>The Board for Lutheran Schools renewed its prior commitment to support the Lutheran Homeschool Association’s annual symposium financially. The Board for Lutheran Schools also applied to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation through the ELS Board of Trustees for future funding to support this newly assigned work, as this currently is an unfunded mandate from the synod.</p>

3. Develop and disseminate evangelism resources for home and world outreach.		
a. Develop a strategy for effective communication from the synod and to the world. President* Communication Director† Committee for Communication^	“Learn About Jesus” communication rejuvenated.	<p>2022</p> <p>President:</p> <p>The Communication Director is working with Pastor Luke Ulrich from the Board for Home Outreach to review this program and possibly replace it with something comparable.</p> <p>Communication Director:</p> <p>A basic site is being designed. The site will likely will have some material, such as the <i>Peace Devotions</i> booklet, but will otherwise redirect to other sites. Consensus is that we do not have the personnel, nor the material, to create and staff a full website.</p>

<p>b. Educate the members of ELS in their roles in evangelism and outreach. Board for Home Outreach*</p>	<p>Accept invitations to present at parishes.</p>	<p>2021–26 Board for Home Outreach: 1. Personnel have been assigned and actively are addressing this item. 2. The EMC continues to pursue opportunities to support local congregations and their members with training and tool for outreach and evangelism.</p>
<p>c. Produce evangelism and apologetic resources. Board for Home Outreach* Doctrine Committee† Board for World Outreach^</p>	<p>Look both to the Doctrine Committee and Board for Home Outreach for producing materials in their specific purviews.</p>	<p>2021–26 Board for Home Outreach: Personnel have been assigned and actively are addressing this item. Board for World Outreach: Plan to translate some of the materials developed by Doctrine Committee and Board for Home Outreach and evaluate by national pastors to see if it is relevant to their context/culture. If not, work with nationals to create their own materials along similar lines.</p>
<p>d. Produce materials to assist in making a clear confession of Christian truth in a post-Christian culture. President* Board for Youth Outreach* Doctrine Committee† Ad Hoc Committee on Apologetics^ Board of Regents^ (See structure for 2 c, above)</p>	<p>Disseminate selected materials through the BLC chaplain's office and Religion Department.</p>	<p>2023 --</p>

<p>4. Establish and support synod missions at home and abroad.</p>		
<p>Board for Home Outreach* Board for World Outreach*</p>	<p>i. BHO begin six new missions/ministries in a five-year span. ii. BWO, per the guidelines, locate and establish world mission field(s) (<i>Synod Report</i> 2019, page 101 Resolution 8).</p>	<p>2021–26 Board for Home Outreach: This will goal will be incorporated into the six-year plan of the board. Board for World Outreach: The board is working with the Rev. David Choi to explore possible outreach to Chinese-Koreans in South Korea with possible expansion to other parts of southeast Asia in the next 5-10 years as situations may allow. The board also is looking to other parts of the world where a new mission with ELS manpower might be possible and advisable.</p>

<p>5. Endeavor to increase the efficiency and productivity by our synod's boards.</p>
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<p>a. Make use of Ministry Leadership Institute (MLI) for specific boards/entities (e.g. Board for World Outreach, Board for Home Outreach, Board for Lutheran Schools, Board for Youth Outreach).</p>	<p>Initiate as boards see fit and assess its effectiveness.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2021–26</p> <p>Board for Home Outreach: The board has scheduled MLI facilitators to attend the July 2022 meeting to help incorporate the rest of the Strategic Plan items into the Vision-Traction Organizer.</p> <p>Board for World Outreach: The BWO has evaluated the VTO program and determined it was not the best fit for our work. The board will continue to develop goals for the board and field committees. The board is starting to work with the national pastors in our fields to plan goals together with them.</p> <p>Board for Youth Outreach: The board will evaluate the MLI program and determine if it will utilize the MLI training.</p>
<p>b. Continually consult the guidelines of the ELS <i>Handbook</i>, respectively.</p>	<p>At each opening session following convention, note the guidelines.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2021–26</p> <p>Board for Home Outreach: The administrator and board periodically review the synod's <i>Handbook</i> and the board's own handbook to be sure it is following the relevant guidelines. When necessary, amendments and updates are suggested so the guidelines fit the current situation as well as anticipated future situations. The board, as suggested, will consult the handbooks at its first meeting after synod conventions</p>

Key: * Primary Responsibility
† Secondary Responsibility
^ Tertiary Responsibility

For the monitoring and reporting of goals and objectives, each board chair, committee chair, or individual that has been assigned work will report on the progress of their assigned work for the previous year at the annual Planning and Coordinating Committee meeting.

The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Committee #7: Finances

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Trustees consisted of nine trustees. Serving on the board during the past two years has been: Mr. Dennis Behr, Mr. David Ewert, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, the Rev. Phillip Lepak, the Rev. Jonathan Madson, Mr. Paul Mielbrecht, the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, the Rev. Paul Schneider, and Mr. Brian Sorenson. The synod's vice president, the Rev. Timothy Hartwig served as an advisory member to the board. The Rev. Keith Boheim represents the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation as an advisory consultant.

The president of the synod and the secretary of the synod also serve as the chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees has met since the last convention for regular meetings on August 12, November 16, February 10. The board also will meet in May.

Members serving on the Board of Regents–Board of Trustees Subcommittee are Mr. David Ewert, the Rev. Jonathan Madson, and Mr. Paul Mielbrecht. Members serving on the Board of Trustees–Home Outreach Subcommittee are Mr. Dennis Behr, Mr. David Ewert, and the Rev. Phil Lepak. Members serving on the Board of Trustees–World Outreach Subcommittee are the Rev.

Jonathan Madson, Mr. Brian Sorenson, and the Rev. Paul Schneider. Mr. David Ewert also serves as a liaison from the Board of Trustees to the Board of Regents.

STAFF

The Giving Counselor, the Rev. Daniel Basel, and the Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, serve under the direction of the board and report regularly. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft also is appointed by the board as the treasurer of the synod. The Communication Director reports directly to the synod's president. The Evangelism and Missions Counselor is accountable to the Board for Home Outreach and the World Outreach Administrator is accountable to the Board for World Outreach.

In April, Myrna Meunier began her work as the Business Administrator for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. She is a certified public accountant with extensive experience in nonprofit accounting, auditing, and administration. She is a graduate of Bethany Lutheran College and, with her family, attends Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft continues as the treasurer of the synod. After serving as an assistant to the business administrator for nineteen years, Denise Luehmann retired on March 31. We thank her for her years of service.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

As the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the board is entrusted with the "general management and control of this corporation" between meetings of the synod (ELS *Articles of Incorporation*, Article VIII) and is especially concerned about the physical properties and fiscal responsibilities of the synod.

FINANCES

The Board of Trustees oversees the operation of the synodical finances and budget.

Congregation Funding

In 2021, for the sixth consecutive year, congregation offerings exceeded the adopted budget goal which this past year was \$790,00. Congregation contributions in 2021 totaled: \$823,656. Congregation contributions in excess of \$760,000 were designated for Bethany Lutheran College (*Synod Report 2021*, page 179).

2022 Budget

The Planning & Coordinating Committee has recommended that that 2022 contributions over \$820,000 be designated for the operations of Bethany Lutheran College. The Board of Trustees approved this designation.

Missions Advancement Project, Inc.

The Missions Advancement Project (M.A.P.) is has a Board of Directors appointed by the Board of Trustees of the ELS to provide financial support for the synod with its Board of Directors appointed by the Board of Trustees. Current members are the Rev Michael Muehlenhardt (chairman), Mr. David Ewert (treasurer), Mr. Marlin Goebel, the Rev. John Petersen, Mr. Ronald Younge.

For the years 2022, MAP made funding requests to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. Approval has been received for the following:

Peru	\$ 18620
Chile	17,380
India/LMSI	146,000
MAP - administrative	30,000
Gift of Life / Thoughts of Faith	
Gift of Life	118,000
Czech Republic	10,000
Latvia	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$355,000

Program Funds

The synod is dependent upon the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for maintenance of its programs, and continues to be grateful to the foundation for its level of general support.

To supplement the 2022 budget, the foundation has granted a base grant of \$399,000. The foundation expects that this grant be project based. The foundation also has expressed concern that there is a tendency to see requests resurfacing every year or every-other-year. The foundation feels that if such is the case, this is no longer a project but should be considered as a regular part of the work of the synod apart from funding by the foundation.

Special Project Grants

Special Project Grants are awarded by the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for special projects not to exceed an annual total designated for the synod which in 2021 was \$20,000. Application for such grants are made to the synod's Board for Trustees for review and recommendation and are awarded upon approval of the foundation.

For 2021, the following projects received approval and funding:

LYA-to-BLC grant	\$10,000	Board for Youth Outreach
Ministry Leadership Institute Training	\$10,000	Board for Home Outreach

Project Funds

All beneficiaries of the foundation have the option of applying for Project Funds which are for larger programs beyond the funding that is set-aside for the synod. There is no guarantee of funding for these projects and the foundation has a more stringent qualification level that projects must be 1) Significant, 2) Impactful, 3) Have Measurable Goals and Outcomes, and 4) Advance the beneficiary

In 2021, the ELS submitted \$156,904 in project fund requests to the foundation, and the following project were funded:

Spanish Institute	\$14,000	Board for Home Outreach
Ministry Leadership Institute Training	\$22,000	Board for Home Outreach

Expenditures

Audited numbers were not available at the time of this report but the "actual expenditures" will be included in the Consolidated Financial Statement of the synod audit and the Supplemental information presented during the synod convention.

Wills and Estates

The synod gratefully acknowledges the receipt of proceeds from the following estates (March 1, 2021 to Feb. 28, 2022):

Irene Martin	\$200,000.00
Polly Browne (to date)	\$350,000.00
Lenore Peters	\$583.08
Martin A. Robinson trust	\$32,850.00
Erling and Carol Brudvig estate	\$ 6,927.26
LeRoy Simonson	\$21,229.05

Endowment Fund

The synod received \$350,00 from the estate of Polly Browne. This was used to establish the quasi-endowment Polly Browne Fund with the Board for Lutheran Schools to determine the use of the earnings from this fund.

PROPERTIES

The board serves as custodians of the synod's property and is responsible for any financial obligations of the synod.

Loan

In August 2021, a bridge-loan of \$2,500/month was extended to Hope Lutheran (Portage, Indiana) to be prepaid when the current property is sold.

Archives and History

The Committee for Archives and History functions under the direction of the Board of Trustees, which appoints members to the committee. Committee secretary, Shawn Stafford provides the following report:

The committee oversees the work of the Synod Archives, the Ottesen Museum, and the ELS Historical Society. The committee members include: the Rev. John Petersen (chairman), the Rev. Shawn Stafford (secretary), the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, the Rev. Ted Gullixson (archivist), the Rev. Mike Muehlenhardt. The committee regularly hears reports from Synod Archivist Ted Gullixson, Ottesen Museum Director Rebecca DeGarmeaux, and ELS Historical Society President Michael Lilienthal. The committee met in September 2021 and February 2022.

ELS Archives

From July through December 2021 and mid-February through the end of April 2022, ELS Archivist Ted Gullixson has been serving the vacancy in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Assistant Archivist Craig Ferkenstad has continued the work on several projects, including an electronic index of the archives, sorting and justifying documents, cataloguing collections, and indexing Pres. John Moldstad's correspondence and papers. Teresa Ferkenstad has also volunteered many hours to the archives, especially sorting, categorizing, and re-boxing the photo and audio-visual collections. In August 2021, Assistant Archivist Craig Ferkenstad received a personal tour of the Luther College Archives and transferred some photographs of Luther College athletes from the ELS Archives to the Luther College archives. He reviewed Luther College archives policies regarding accessions, the appearance of the collection, and the book collection.

Archival assistance was provided to a seminary student for his M.Div. thesis, to pastors, and MSU graduate students. Archivist Ted Gullixson continued to prepare articles and materials for publication in *Oak Leaves*.

On Synod Sunday, June 20, 2021, an open house was held at the archives, with at least fifty people coming to see the displays on the archives. The assistant archivist displayed photos in the convention hall of pastors who celebrated anniversaries of ordination during 2020-21 and photos of those pastors who died during that time. In February 2022, Assistant Archivist Craig Ferkenstad began taking a six-week online course on digital curation for librarians and archivists, offered by Preserve This.

The ELS Guidelines requires synod boards and committees to send the ELS Archives their printed minutes, papers, and important documents on a yearly basis.

Ottesen Museum

The ELS Ottesen Museum has had over 100 visitors during the past year, including seminary students, the BLC history club, youth from ELS congregations, visitors during the synod convention, and new BLC faculty members. There were also visitors during the Reformation Lectures and a group of Norwegian students from MSU. The museum director set up Ottesen Museum and Historical Society displays for Reformation Lectures. There continues to be new accessions of artifacts relating to the history of the synod to the museum from members and friends of the ELS. Several items from President John Moldstad's work in the synod and around the world were donated by his family are on display and were also on display during convention. Museum Director Becky DeGarmaux gave presentations on Linka Preus and Elizabeth Koren, and has spoken at the Women's Mission Rally in Scottsdale, Arizona on Katie Luther and on her work in the museum. During spring break 2022, Museum Director Becky DeGarmaux visited the exhibit at the Concordia Historical Institute on portraits of the reformers and met with CHI Director Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink. The museum's following on Facebook continues to grow, and Museum Director Becky DeGarmaux continues to produce regular articles for *Oak Leaves* and Facebook. COVID-19 and pneumonia forced Museum Director Becky DeGarmaux to cancel the annual Christmas open house at the museum. In December 2022 the Christmas open house will follow the 2021 planned theme, "The Seminary Presidents Preach," featuring Christmas sermons from each of the seminary deans and presidents.

ELS Historical Society

The ELS Historical Society Board met February 13 and November 6, 2021, with the annual meeting and program held on June 20. The annual meeting and program were centered on the theme "The Ministry Marches On," with Pastors Peter Faugstad and Luke Ulrich and Chaplain Don Moldstad presenting on how the ministry of the word is carried out in ELS congregations in the past and present. Rev. Andrew Soule served as moderator for the panel discussion. The ELS Historical Society publishes the newsletter *Oak Leaves* quarterly. *Oak Leaves* is printed at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Dr. Erling Teigen has served as editor since fall 2016 and plans to retire as editor by the end of 2022. BLC senior Katrina Schleeff serves as layout editor and a new layout editor will be needed after she graduates. For June 2022, the program committee of ELS Historical Society will be revisiting the intended program for 2020 (which was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic). It will be a military theme, reviewing how the ELS has supported her members in the vocation of military service.

COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONS AT CRITICAL MASS

A Commission on Congregations at Critical Mass was established by the Board of Trustees in August 2021. The commission consists of the following members: The Rev. Edward Bryant (chairman), The Rev. Brad Kerkow (EMC, ex officio), the Rev. Luke Ulrich, The Rev. Jay Webber, The Rev. Larry Wentzlaff, and Mr. Mark Perlwitz. The commission has met twice via Zoom. An in-person meeting is scheduled in May. The focus of the commission is to identify resources, direction, or other support that can be made available to small and declining congregations that will enable a turnaround so that they are able to continue to function as congregations and perhaps reverse their decline.

STEWARDSHIP

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Giving Counselor, Rev. Daniel Basel, provides the following report on synodical stewardship and giving for 2021. He works on behalf of our synod and its churches to teach and promote Christian giving. His work includes both current and deferred gifts for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and its affiliated missions and ministries and is responsible for development work for our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Preaching and Teaching in Our Congregations: In 2021 the Giving Counselor was able to preach at eighteen churches for some twenty-one services as well as give Bible studies and stewardship/planned-giving presentations at most of these. Some travel and visits were still hampered this year due to the COVID-19 variants. This hindered many of the in-person visits he would have normally made. However, most donors were able to be contacted either by phone or through letters and other correspondence. The giving counselor also sends out notes of thanks with many of the gift receipts with Tom Heyn sending notes on behalf of world missions and Thought of Faith. These letters often included educational materials and proposals to donors and interested members of our churches.

Growing in the Grace of Giving is a primary goal of this work and position. With that in mind, much has been done to help and promote Christ-centered giving.

Tax-Wise Planning as We Give: While some laws have been passed to make giving easier for retirees and some businesses, this does not help all our donors. Yet our Lord's followers have remained generous. One challenge is that the larger standard deductions have made deductibility of gifts more challenging. As donors have sought to give our Lord the glory through their gifts, many of our ministries were blessed. During most of these activities, the giving counselor has been able to share materials that help individuals and families plan and put into place Christ-centered wills and living trusts as well as beneficiary designations that lead to significant support for gospel ministry (see below).

Materials that Help: Besides updated editions of the *Estate Planning* insert, as well as providing copies of *A Guide for Preparing Your Will* or *Estate Planning for the Christian Steward (premium version)*, other promotional materials are made available on endowments, donor advised funds, charitable gift annuities. These materials also encourage the support of local congregations, furthering of Christian education (seminary, college and elementary education), promote endowments for missions and other ministries (including local congregational support). It is important that many of these materials remain available or on display at churches and especially at services when conducted by the giving counselor. Otherwise, most are available on the giving counselor's website or are available upon request. Pastors and churches that continue to make planning materials available at their church are also to be commended as they help greatly with overall stewardship.

Solicitations and Donor Stewardship: On top of these materials at least three general mailings are sent out to many of our members (not all members) from the giving counselor for synod missions and ministries. Another three or four mailings per fiscal year go out for seminary news and support. All these newsletters do solicit but their purpose is to encourage current giving and estate planning and to inform our ELS members and friends of current news on missions and the seminary. The hope is that all that is done helps us keep our focus on following Christ and supporting the work of the church. On top of this, we should be aware that current gifts for synod and seminary are a significant help.

The Importance of Current Giving: To show how we are blessed through current giving, note that individual and organizational gifts to synod ministries (not including Thoughts of Faith, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary) came to over \$631,000 in 2021. Just over \$175,000 of that was given to the military monument from individuals and groups (the giving counselor has assisted when needed in this work). In addition to this, over \$358,000 in current gifts came to the seminary for student support, scholarships, and current support from individuals and groups. Continual blessings in this area come from both individual and organizational gifts given in support of Thoughts of Faith which came to over \$278,000 for the year. To our Lord be the praise!

How do Bequests Sustain Ministries Beyond our Lifetimes: Our most significant gifts often are given to our churches and missions upon our passing to the church triumphant either by bequest or beneficiary designation. Without a will, living trust, or beneficiary designation these gifts will be allocated by the court and it will not be to your church or its missions. Please remember and remind others that the kingdom of grace still needs their help and the giving counselor is set up to help you meet this goal.

Special Note on Planned Gifts: As we consider this year and next year's spending budget, note that a large portion of our ELS shortfall is covered by income from legacies managed through the foundation (*Synod Report 2021*, page 170). The budget has a line for income under "Reserves." Notably that number item for 2022 is set to be \$638,000. This is in addition to endowment income and growth withdrawals. We are able to use these reserves and some of the income from investments to help us sustain our ministries. This special source is due to the estate planning of many of our dearly sainted friends. But each generation must engage in supporting the ELS with estate gifts for this to be sustainable.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) have become a major portion of current giving and such gifts can only be used for direct gifts (no contributions to Donor Advised Funds or charitable trusts or charitable gift annuities allowed). QCDs are non-taxable withdrawals from traditional IRA accounts and given to charity for people ages 70½ and older. Each donor can make up to a \$100,000 per year charitable distributions (gifts) to a qualifying institution such as our local churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Such withdrawals, when properly done and documented, bypass income taxes for these distributions. Donors can also use QCDs to meet the *required minimum distribution* (RMD) requirements enforced by the IRS. While RMD's have been pushed back to age 72 as of December 2019, donors are still allowed to give in the year they turn 70 ½. Stewardship Tip: IRA gifts are still a great idea in a less favorable market for investors, mainly because RMD's continue to force you to take out taxable gifts based on the balance of your account and this method helps you giving reduce your taxable income (ask for more info).

Charitable Gift Annuities: CGAs, charitable gift annuities, are still as good an option as ever. Rates remain slightly lower in the present market environment, but are review twice per year. Have the Giving Counselor run an illustration for the latest rate available for current or for a future age when you would like to receive payments. Note: The ELS Foundation is moving ahead with a plan to have WELS Foundation manage present and future CGAs. This will expose us to better service and better reporting as we move this part of our planned giving program forward.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF): We are also moving our donor advised funds over to WELS Foundation and Wisconsin Investment Funds. The tools and mechanics of a proven DAF program, that enables donors to support any ministry of the ELS or WELS and their affiliates, will give donors more "hands-on tools" to make their donor decisions and distributions.

Endowments and Charitable Trusts: All our endowments as well as any new endowments, all charitable trusts as well as new charitable trusts and fiduciary services will be overseen by our ELS Foundation. Make sure to visit with the giving counselor to see how these tools can help perpetuate your help and gifts for gospel ministry and even help care for you while you live.

Gifts from Congregations: We thank all our ELS member congregations for giving to missions through their synodical offerings this year. Our college, seminary, Christian education, foreign and home missions have all benefited immensely through your gifts, and the surplus over our base budget of \$760,000 benefited Bethany Lutheran College this year.

It is important to note that our challenge is to meet a base budget of \$820,000 this year (2022). We ask that all our pastors and congregations work to keep this in mind through their prayers and offerings.

Our former **business administrator**, Keith Wiederhoeft has done a wonderful job keeping our pastors up-to-date on current congregational giving towards the \$790,000 goal. Most notably he informed the giving counselor that our dear synod would break the previous yearly gifts record weeks before the closing date. Our dear churches did not disappoint him as we reached a new record total. **Our year-end final congregational gift total came to \$823,656.98.** That means an additional \$63,656 went to BLC over the \$760,000 base.

Our synod's president keeps you up to date on the yearly budgetary goal through his *President's Newsletter* as well. Please take note of this as you read his letters. Also, let us know what other tools we can use to keep you informed and your members informed of how your congregational mission offerings and gifts are being reported.

We continue to offer the End-Of-Year Offering envelopes and synodical giving Sundays in late November or early December. We thank all our congregations who participated in this yearend promotion. This serves mostly as a reminder of our annual goal and the importance of congregational support.

Seminary Giving: Annual gifts to our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary are a major part of the giving counselor's work for the seminary. Last fiscal year we fell just short of our goal with \$89,787 in gifts. At the same time our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary gifting option was blessed with generous gifts.

Estates: Estates for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (fiscal 2020-2021), Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Thoughts of Faith totaled \$1,533,443.74 in 2021 compared to \$477,272.29 in 2020. We rejoice in what the Lord has enabled our members and friends to give.

Giving in the ELS for 2022: For obvious reasons, giving in 2022 will be a challenge. Not only is there a war going on in Eastern Europe at the time of this report, but we are facing some of the worst inflation in forty-plus years. Yet we know the Lord will provide even as we keep our needy families and also our young struggling families in our prayers. Please do take notice of the needs of your elderly as well.

As we trust in the Lord, don't let the noise of all that is happening distract you from your task or the joy of giving. Besides generosity, we still need to teach a mission mind-set that focuses on sharing the gospel. We also need to continue to develop a "giving culture" among our members. Don't be afraid to challenge each other to always keep our Lord's church on earth in our estate plans as well as current giving. Promote Christian giving and rejoice in the Lord when gifts are given to help your local preaching and teaching ministries as well as synodical missions and ministries.

Once again, I encourage our parishes to help our families be wise with their God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure through various studies and programs on family budgets and Christ-centered stewardship. Be sure to model it as well as teach it so that the next generation of givers can carry out this work so that the generations that follow may be blessed.

Thank You! Thanks again to all pastors, individuals, and congregations who continue to host the giving counselor as he travels and in promoting planned giving among our people. It's been a tough year and flexibility has been a key ingredient to making a stewardship emphasis event happen. As always, gifts of lodging and meals are greatly appreciated and saves more than a few of those prayerfully given gifts given by our members.

May all our plans and doings bring glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION, INC.

As the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, Inc., the assets of the foundation are managed and controlled by the board (*Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation*, Article II.A). The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod serve as the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation. The annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Investment Committee consists of four members elected to two-year terms by the Board of Trustees. During this past year, the committee has consisted of: Mr. David Ewert, , Mr. Mark Olsen, the Rev. Paul Schneider, and Mr. Jeff Younge. The committee meets concurrently with the quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees to consider and make recommendations regarding the investment of the synod's assets and the use of the income from those investments.

As of December 31, 2021 foundation consisted of \$21,679,81. The rate of return for all investments for the calendar year 2021 was 8.96%.

For the year 2022, the distribution percentage from the endowments will be 4.5%.
An accounting is found in the “Financial Statements and Supplementary information.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INC.

The annual meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. is held concurrently with the annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. At this meeting, BLC, Inc. elects the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board of Regents” and also the “Board of Trustees of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.”

As the Board of Trustees of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., the trustees “govern Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary with respect to the property. All other matters of trusteeship and governance are assigned to the Board of Regents” (Guidelines for the Board of Trustees of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., Article III, Preamble). The two boards attempt to conduct one face-to-face meeting each year with for the purpose of joint planning and communication. No such meeting was held during the past year. The trustees also receive reports from the college and seminary at each meeting.

Construction

In 2021, the trustees gave approval to move forward with the construction of the Bethany Activity and Wellness Center with a total project cost not to exceed \$17,000,000 making use of college resources as needed with encouragement to seek additional donations. Because the synod’s guidelines say that the Board of Trustees are to give approval for all new synod-wide appeals for funds (Guidelines, Board of Trustees V.C), the trustees also approved the Building Bethany Campaign.

On March 17, the board approved a loan to finance the cash flow of the Bethany Activity and Wellness Center for \$7M at 2.75% interest.

Articles of Incorporation

In 2013, the synod convention resolved that the Synod Review Committee conduct a complete review of the *Handbook* and guidelines of the synod. This included a review of the guidelines of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. In 2017 the convention adopted changes to the Guidelines to the Board of Regents and changes to the Bylaws. A new section, Guidelines for ELS Board of Regents, also was adopted. These changes were intended to clarify the working relationship between the two governing boards of BLC, Inc. which are the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees. In summary, the Board of Trustees govern Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary with respect to the property. All other matters of trusteeship and governance are assigned to the regents (Guidelines for the Board of Trustees of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., Article III, Preamble). It has been noted that one necessary change was overlooked at that time relating to Article VI of the Articles of Restatement of the Articles of Incorporation of Bethany Lutheran College stating that the “The Board of Directors and the officers of the Corporation shall be the Board of Trustees and officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as defined in the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Article VIII.” For that reason, the Board of Trustees submits the following resolution for adoption by the corporation. If the synod adopts these amended Articles they will be submitted to our attorney for review and approval before they are submitted to the Secretary of State for recording.

- WHEREAS, It has been noted that there is a conflict between the Articles of Incorporation for Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. (Article VI), and the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Article VIII), and,
- WHEREAS, The body responsible for the election of the general officers of BLC, Inc., Bethany Lutheran College Board of Regents, and Bethany Lutheran College Board of Trustees are “the lay delegates of the congregations of the synod and every pastor of such congregations” (ELS Articles of Incorporation, Article VIII), and,
- WHEREAS, Specific responsibilities and duties of the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees are defined in the Guidelines for the Board of Regents and the Guidelines for the Board of Trustees [§320, 412, 413] as approved by actions of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. at various times.
- BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VI of the Articles of Restatement of the Articles of Incorporation of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. be amended to read:
- “The officers of the Corporation shall be the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as defined in the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Article VIII.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA, INC.

Membership in the Lutheran Schools of America (LSA), Inc. is identical to membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The sole duty of the Board of Trustees is to manage the Lutheran Schools of America Fund. The day-by-day operations managed by the Board for Lutheran Schools. This year’s convention also serves as the annual meeting of the Lutheran Schools of America.

*The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary*

REPORT OF THE SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee #14 Miscellaneous

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. Herman Harstad. President Glenn Obenberger served as an advisory member. Since the 2021 synod convention, the committee has met three times. The committee notes the death of Mr. Norman Werner on October 17, 2021. He was a long-time member of this committee. He served as secretary of the committee from its inception in 1996 until 2019. He also was involved with two major revisions of the ELS Handbook.

Pres. Obenberger assigned the Guidelines for the Apologetics Committee to this committee for review. These guidelines were reformatted and reviewed by the Synod Review Committee and the Ad Hoc Apologetics Committee. They are submitted to the synod convention.

The 2021 convention resolved to follow a four-stage process for declaring fellowship with those seeking fellowship with the ELS (*Synod Report* 2021, pages 101–102) to fulfill Resolution No. 1 (*Synod Report* 2019, pages 101–102). The committee has reviewed the guidelines and submits them to the synod, suggesting some revisions (underlined) to what was submitted, and also placing them in a format similar to other ELS guidelines.

1) ADD THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO THE ELS HANDBOOK:

To provide guidelines for an Apologetics Committee. Pres. Obenberger assigned the proposed guidelines to the SRC

Guidelines for the Apologetics Committee

Article I: Membership and Organization

- A. The Apologetics Committee shall consist of five voting members: two laymen, two clergymen, and one clergy or layman.
- B. The president of the synod shall participate as an *ex officio* voting member.
- C. The committee shall elect a chairman, secretary, and treasurer from its members. The duties of the secretary are defined in the General Synodical Guidelines, Article III.C.
- D. Ordinarily, regular meetings shall be held four times annually, either in person or electronically.
- E. Members of the committee shall be elected at regular conventions of the synod for staggered terms of three years.

Article II: Duties of the Committee

- A. General committee duties
 1. To uphold and encourage the biblical and Lutheran understanding and practice of Christian apologetics.
 2. To help keep members of the synod informed concerning Christian apologetics.
 3. To keep abreast of issues and worldviews that need to be or could be addressed by means of Christian apologetics.
 4. To apprise the presidents of the synod, seminary, and college in matters of Christian apologetics.
- B. Committee duties related to the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW)
 1. To review and revise as needed the mission and objectives of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews and the duties of its director.
 2. To call from our clergy roster a qualified director for the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews or, if such a clergy member is not available, to appoint a qualified man as director who is firmly grounded in Lutheran doctrine and practice, and the heritage of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
 3. To supervise and oversee the affairs of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews, its director, and budgetary matters of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews.
 4. To work with Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and/or Bethany Lutheran College concerning the physical location, financial arrangements, and needs of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews and its director, including teaching duties at the college and seminary as determined by the respective administrations.
 5. To help secure funding for the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews and its director, in accordance with existing synod policies.

Article III: The Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW)

A. Purpose of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews

The Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (CAW) promotes evidence for the truth of Christianity and critiques competing worldviews to fortify Christians in biblical truth and to prepare them to answer questions and objections – with gentleness and respect – so Christ may be shared wisely and boldly in these post-Christian days.

In all its endeavors, the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews will be instructed and guided by the Lutheran Confessions, the biblical understanding of apologetics, and the doctrine and ecclesiastical culture of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

B. Director Qualifications:

1. Be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod clergy roster or, if not ordained, be a qualified man firmly grounded in biblical apologetics, Lutheran doctrine and practice, and the ecclesiastical culture of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as a Confessional and liturgical church body, so that his endeavors will be in accord with this understanding and with those evangelical commitments (see Constitution of the ELS, Chapter I, “Name and Confession,” Paragraphs 2–3; Bylaws of the ELS, Chapter I, “Liturgical Forms and Ceremonies”).
2. Have experience in evangelism at home or in foreign lands, along with the ability to communicate with religiously diverse audiences.
3. Have pursued advanced education and training in an area or in areas that pertain to the subject matter of apologetics and worldview studies, or be one who is willing to pursue such advanced education and training.
4. Have personally studied various disciplines giving him a high level of knowledge regarding matters that fall within the purview of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews.
5. Understand, agree with, and conduct his work in accordance with the teachings and commitments of synodically recognized apologetics study documents, statements, and essays.

C. Director Duties:

1. Promote the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews as a respected and influential Confessional Lutheran resource for information on the subjects that fall within the purview of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews.
2. Recommend resources for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Bethany Lutheran College, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, other Christian schools, congregations, and Christian homes.
3. Communicate with various synodical boards and committees in order to provide them with resources as well as glean insights from them regarding apologetics and worldview studies.
4. Help organize conferences, etc. for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Bethany Lutheran College, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, other educational institutions, for congregations, for synodical boards, and other appropriate venues.
5. In cooperation with appropriate and established procedures and staff, recommend and enhance apologetics and worldview courses at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
6. Serve as an ambassador for, and as a promoter of, the larger mission and work of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
7. When invited, serve as an advisor and counselor to the congregations, boards, and officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod regarding subjects that fall within the purview of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews.
8. Regularly report to the Apologetics Committee.

D. Financial management of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews:

1. The Center for Apologetics and Worldviews shall maintain its own annual budget and statement of income and expenses.
2. Under the direction of the synod’s Board of Trustees, the financial accounts of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews will be administered by either Bethany Lutheran College or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The income and expenses of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews shall remain segregated from Bethany Lutheran College and Evangelical Lutheran Synod operations.

2) ADD THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO THE ELS HANDBOOK:

To provide guidelines for Oversea Fellowship Panels and fulfill Resolution 1.B., (Synod Report page 99) and Resolution 5.D. (Synod Report page 102). The 2021 convention resolved to follow a four-stage process for declaring fellowship with those seeking fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Synod Report 2021, pages 101-102) to fulfill Resolution No. 1 (Synod Report 2019, pages 101–102). The convention further resolved that “the entire process is ‘reviewed in detail and approved by the Synod Review Committee’” (Synod Report 2019, Page 102). It is not the task of the Synod Review Committee to approve guidelines, but only to review guidelines that are submitted and report to the convention (ELS Handbook, Section 360: Guidelines for the Synod Review Committee, II.A). The Committee has reviewed the guidelines and submits them to the synod, suggesting some revisions (underlined) to what was submitted and also placing them in a format similar to other ELS Guidelines.

Guidelines for Overseas Fellowship

Article I: Establishing a Due Diligence Panel

A. Organization

1. With the rise of social media and in this age of technology and communication, many various church groups are contacting ELS member churches resulting in an increase in requests for fellowship and/or partnership in the work of the gospel.
2. When future requests for partnership, fellowship, or an assistance relationship should require the formation of arise, the synod president shall form a due diligence panel.

B. Members of the due diligence panel:

The due diligence panel shall consist of at least the following individuals:

1. The synod president (Bylaws VII.1.h).
2. A representative from the Doctrine Committee (Guidelines for the Doctrine Committee II.B and E).
3. The Administrator of the Board for World Outreach (Guidelines for the Board for World Outreach IV.B.5 and C.1, 3, 4, 5).
4. The president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
5. The panel shall elect a chairman and secretary from its members. The duties of the secretary are defined in the General Synodical Guidelines, Article III.C. Section 210.

Article II: The Duties of the Panel

The aforementioned panel shall follow the four-stage process in an evangelical spirit:

- A. Preliminary Stage** – This stage involves fielding the request and initial vetting by the administrator of the Board for World Outreach and/or the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). This is a filtering process with the hope and prayer that we will have new like-minded partners in gospel ministry. In the interest of coordinating efforts, any decision to proceed will be thoroughly documented and will be communicated to the president of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).
- B. Stage One** – Simple Confession of Faith: In this stage the panel begins its work using three questionnaires to facilitate discussions with the top leaders of the church body. The questionnaires are focused on basic information, basic law and gospel questions, and doctrinal questions based on Luther's Small Catechism. Progress is well documented and shared with the chairman of the regional Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.
- C. Stage Two** – Lutheran Confessions: In this stage, a review is done by the panel using a series of questions about the Bible's teachings. Additionally, reviews of doctrinal statements and their constitution are completed. Meetings in this stage should take place with as many pastors and lay leaders as possible. Progress is documented and shared as above.
- D. Stage Three** – Doctrine and Practice: This stage includes a questionnaire as well as a review of worship services, sermons, liturgy, teaching materials, publications, etc. Meetings in this stage should take place with leaders, pastors and church members. Progress is documented and shared as above.
- E. Stage Four** – Formal Declaration: In this stage an updated doctrinal statement and constitution are received as well as an official request of the church body. Upon successful review, communicate to the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference the desire of both sides to declare fellowship and take steps to join and participate in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, and pass a formal declaration of fellowship at an Evangelical Lutheran Synod convention.

Article III: Facilitating the Work of the Panel

- A. At any point in this process or at several points in this process, as a component of any of these stages or between any of these stages, the panel may, as needed, carry out or facilitate workshops, seminars, conferences, or special classes, online or in person, with the pastors or leaders of a church body that has approached the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, to help them strengthen and clarify their understanding of and commitment to Confessional Lutheran doctrine and practice.
- B. While such discussions are underway to determine whether there is doctrinal agreement, no other programs or assistance (other than the aforementioned workshops, seminars, conferences, or special classes, and humanitarian aid when and where appropriate) will ordinarily be provided.
- C. After, and only after, the synod declares fellowship with a church body, the synod shall determine whether assistance and support shall be extended to the church body taking into consideration the role the synod has already assigned to the Board for World Outreach in like circumstances.
- D. When the synod convention resolves to establish fellowship with another church body, the panel's work is officially ended.
- E. When fellowship is established, the documents of the panel's proceedings shall be filed with the synod president and with the chairman of the Board for World Outreach. Where a request for fellowship is denied, the documents of the panel's proceedings shall be stored at the ELS Archives, with a fifty-year restriction on access, except when the synod president authorizes such access.

3) ADD THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO THE ELS HANDBOOK:

To amend the duties of the synod president (Section 215: Guidelines for the Synod's Relationship to its Executive Officers) authorizing him to establish a due diligence panel upon the adoption of the Guidelines for Overseas Fellowship.

I.B.6. When future overseas mission fellowship requests occur, the president shall establish a due diligence panel as needed (see Guidelines for Overseas Fellowship, Article I).

The Rev. Theodore Gullixson, secretary

MEMORIAL

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

Committee #12: Parish Services

WHEREAS, It appears that persecution of Christians (in the United States of America) is a growing reality, and,

WHEREAS, It appears that there is a growing anti-Christian sentiment among elected officials, and

WHEREAS, It appears that there is growing pressure in employment to embrace and promote movements and morality that are contrary to Christian truth, and,

WHEREAS, Anti-Christian revolutionary movements have called for the destruction of Christian church property, and,

WHEREAS, Some are already acting to fulfill that call for destruction, and,

WHEREAS, Christians are being subject to civil and/or criminal lawsuits for holding to Christian morals, and,

WHEREAS, It appears that Christians can expect little civil redress for losses of livelihood, and,

WHEREAS, God expects us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ... do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:2), and,

WHEREAS, James 1:27 teaches, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world," and,

WHEREAS, The church encourages the laity to boldly confess the Christian faith in their vocations, and,

WHEREAS, That being the case, the church ought to be prepared to come their aid when they suffer reprisals to the extent that is possible, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod establish a committee to investigate contingencies to help those who have lost livelihoods due to persecution so that they can provide for their needs, including but not limited to job networking, legal aid, and a fund for temporary financial relief.

*Ascension Lutheran Church
St. Helens, Oregon*

*Bethany Lutheran Church
The Dalles, Oregon*

*Lakewood Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Washington*

*Reformation Lutheran Church
Hillsboro, Oregon*

*Saved by Grace Lutheran Church
Gresham, Oregon*

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

ELECTION PROCEDURE (*GENERAL SYNODICAL GUIDELINES, ARTICLE V*)

Unless stated otherwise in the Constitution, its Bylaws, or these guidelines, a simple majority (a vote of fifty percent plus one) shall determine the decision of any election. Should an election end in a tie, the chairman may vote to break the tie or he may order another vote (Bylaws, Chapter IV, Paragraph 2). If there is no majority, another vote of the same nominees will be taken for as many as three additional times. If there is no majority after the fourth ballot, a motion from the floor may request that those names with less than five percent of the total vote be removed from the next ballot. If that motion is defeated, an election using the original candidates will be continued.

Current Elected Members Nominees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND WISCONSIN CORPORATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2022

Mr. Dennis Behr
Rev. Glenn Obenberger
Rev. Paul Schneider

2023

Rev. Phillip Lepak
Rev. Jonathan Madson
Mr. Paul Mielbrecht

2024

Mr. David Ewert
Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
Mr. Brian Sorenson

Advisory: vice-president,
treasurer

Lay Positions

Name: Denny Behr; Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Location of congregation (city): Madison, Wisconsin; Occupation: Retired from: Administrator - Engineering & Operations Division, Wisconsin Public Broadcasting State of Wisconsin, Radio and Television Broadcasting Networks; Command Master Chief – US Naval Aviation, Maritime Patrol Reserve Squadron; Congregation Positions held: President, Vice President, Elder, Trustee, Planning Committee; Member - Outreach Committee; Synod Positions held in the past: Board of Trustees – Member (9yrs), Board of Christian Service – Member (6yrs); Chair – Committee for Integrating Technology (CFIT - 6yrs), Member - P&C Committee (9 yrs), Member – Appeals (2 terms), Member - Nominations Committee (2 terms); Member - BLC Self Study Team, Member – CMI (BLC's Christ in Media Institute (1st yr); Other Qualifications: Experience: Administrator for State-wide Organization (WI Public Broadcasting); Strategic Planning for State-Wide Organizations and Military Organizations; Senior Leadership Experience (Master Chief) for Naval Aviation Squadron; Board Member on Several Veterans Organizations/Military Non-Profits; Education: Broadcast Engineering, Riverland Technical and Certification; Strategic Planning Courses, Training; Civilian and Military Management and Leadership Training Courses; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 9 yrs

Name: Erik Soule; Congregation: Our Saviors; Location of congregation (city): Santiago, MN; Occupation: Operations manager of Princeton Agencies, an independent insurance agency in Princeton, MN with 40 employees; Congregation positions held: Trustee, Vice President, and currently an Elder; Synod positions held in the past: History and Archives board member; Other qualifications: AA degree, Bethany Lutheran College 1985. Board member of Princeton Evangelical Lutheran School for approximately 20 years; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: N/A

Clergy/Lay

Name: Rev. Paul Schneider; Congregation(s): Holy Scripture Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Midland, Michigan; Years in the Ministry: 49 years; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): Ordained June 10, 1973; Synod positions held in the past: Youth Board, Mission Board, Faith Mission Society, Stewardship Board, Thoughts of Faith, BWO, Board of Trustees, Circuit Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: Elected in 2012, 10 years total this June

BOARD OF REGENTS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE AND BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, TYPE A MEMBERS

To be elected in 2022: 3 positions: 1 clergy, 2 clergy or lay

Type A members

2022

Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ
Mr. William Soule
Rev. David Thompson

2023

Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch
Dr. Joshua Mears
Rev. Alex Ring

2024

Mr. Lyle Fahning
Mr. James Minor
Mr. David Sparley

*Type B members**

2022

Mr. John Scott

2023

Rev. Mark Bartels*

2024

Mr. Timothy Roemhildt*

By virtue of office:

Rev. Glenn Obenberger,
president

Lay Position

Name: Mark Madson; Congregation: Mt. Olive Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): Mankato MN; Occupation: Retired from Taylor Corporation (Sales and Management Positions); Congregation positions held: Board of Deacons; Board of Education; Board of Youth and Parish Education; Congregation Treasurer; Secretary; Vice Chairman; Chairman; Synod positions held in the past;; Other qualifications: Board of Directors for Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:

Name - Dr. Jeff Knott; Address - 1876 280th Ave Tracy, MN 56175; Age - 44; Years in ELS - 44; Home Congregation - Zion Lutheran Church Tracy, MN; Education & Vocation - B.S. - Animal Science North Dakota State University, M.S. & Ph.D. - Animal Science University of Minnesota. 15 years industry experience and is a specialist in providing technical nutritional support to swine producers around the world. Founded business IDEAL Animal Nutrition in 2014 which provides cutting-edge swine nutrition and research capabilities; Relevant Service - Currently President of Zion Lutheran Church Tracy, MN

Clergy/Lay

Name: David Thompson; Congregation(s): St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Lombard, IL; Years in the Ministry: 39; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1983; Synod positions held in the past: Board for Education and Youth, Circuit Visitor (Circuits 8 and 4), Chair of Committee on Marriage and Family (ad hoc), Chair of Apologetics Committee (ad hoc); If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 2; Other qualifications: former Dean of Students and professor at Bethany, former chaplain/program director/executive director of the Schwann Retreat Center, former executive director of EdWatch

Clergy/Lay

Name: Erwin Ekhoﬀ; Congregation(s): King of Grace; Location of congregation(s): Golden Valley; Years in the Ministry;; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1976; Synod positions held in the past: Home Missions, Board of Regents (chair Finance & Audit and Presidents Advisory Committee); If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 4; Other qualifications:

Name: Ed Bryant; Congregation(s): Our Savior & Faith; Location of congregation(s): Grants Pass, OR & Medford, OR; Years in the Ministry;; Year joined ELS (as a pastor); Synod positions held in the past: Board of Regents; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served;; Other qualifications: Master's Degree

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

To be elected in 2022: 2 positions: 1 clergy, 1 lay

2022

Mr. Allen Quist
Rev. David Jay Webber

2023

Rev. Karl Anderson
Rev. Erling Teigen

2024

Mr. Greg Costello
Rev. Thomas Rank

By virtue of office:
seminary president

Advisory: ELS vice president

Clergy Position

Name: David Jay Webber; Congregation(s): Redeemer; Location of congregation(s): Scottsdale, AZ; Years in the Ministry: 34; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1988 ; Synod positions held in the past: Circuit alternate visitor, circuit visitor (currently), president's Committee on ELS Worship, Commission on Critical Mass Congregations (currently), Doctrine Committee (currently); If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: I think 6? I think I was first elected in 2006; Other qualifications: STM degree, seminary rector and theological professor in Ukraine (1997-2005)

Name: Rev. Jerry Gernander

Lay Position

Name: Allen Quist; Congregation: Norseland; Location of congregation (city): Rural St. Peter, MN; Occupation: Researcher/writer; Congregation positions held: Deacons, Library Board, Christian Education Board; Synod positions held in the past: on Doctrine Committee, Apologetics Committee, and Appeals Committee; Other qualifications: M.A. from Mankato State University, B.D. from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Adjunct Professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Author of 10 published books, four

of these on Christian apologetics; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms: I believe I have served seven terms but I am not positive about that.

Name: David G. Reagles, Ph.D; Congregation: Mt. Olive Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): Mankato, MN; Occupation: Assistant Professor of History, Bethany Lutheran College; Congregation positions held: Board of Deacons; Synod positions held in the past: None; Other qualifications: PhD in History and Culture; MA in the History of Christianity; Author of *Searching for God in Britain and Beyond* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021) [A study on secularization and religious change in postwar culture.]; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: n/a

BOARD FOR HOME OUTREACH

To be elected in 2022: 3 positions: 1 clergy, 1 lay, 1 clergy or lay

Type A members

2022

Mr. Keith Duin
Rev. Aaron Hamilton
Rev. Benjamin Wiechmann

2023

Rev. Rodney Flohr
Mr. Mark Perlwitz

2024

Mr. Neil Shaffer
Rev. Luke Ulrich

*Type B members**

2022

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2023

Mr. Channing Smith*

2024

vacant

Advisory: Evangelism and
Missions Counselor,
treasurer

Lay Position

Name: Channing Smith; Congregation: Heritage; Location of congregation (city): Apple Valley, MN; Occupation: Self Employed; Congregation positions held: President, Chairman Elders, other multiple elected and committee positions over the past 35 years; Synod positions held in the past: BHO; Other qualifications: Served Saint Croix Lutheran High School board or regents two terms. Currently president of Minnesota Service Station Association; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: Currently serving as B type member BHO

Clergy Position

Name: Aaron Hamilton; Congregation(s): Concordia; Location of congregation(s): Eau Claire, WI; Years in the Ministry: 24; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1998; Synod positions held in the past: Board of Youth/Education, Board for Home Outreach; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 3; Other qualifications: 4 years home missionary

Name: Rev. Samuel Gullixson; Congregation(s): Parkland Evangelical Lutheran Church and School; Location of congregation(s): Tacoma, WA; Years in the Ministry: 11; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2010; Synod positions held in the past: Circuit 11 Alt. Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: n/a; Other qualifications: Have served at both a small rural-ish parish and a larger urban parish with the various situations that arise in both

Clergy/Lay Position

Name: Rev. Ben Wiechmann; Congregation(s): King of Grace Lutheran Church and School; Location of congregation(s): Golden Valley, MN; Years in the Ministry: 9; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2013; Synod positions held in the past: Board for Home Outreach: Secretary 2017-2021, Current Chairman; Explanation Review Committee; Committee on Nominations: Secretary; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 5 years

Name: Rev. Timothy Erickson; Congregation(s): member at Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Hartland, Minnesota; Years in the Ministry: 43; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1978; Synod positions held in the past: Board for Education and Youth, 1978-1982. Missionary to Peru 1982-2004 and to Chile 2004-2018; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications: Missionary to Peru 1982-2004 and to Chile 2004-2018. M.A. degree in Social Studies: Human Resource Management

BOARD FOR WORLD OUTREACH

To be elected in 2022: 3 positions: 1 lay, 2 clergy or lay;

2022

Rev. Bradley Kerkow
Mr. Matt Lukasek
Rev. Daniel Ruiz

2023

Mr. Dan Browning
Rev. John Petersen
Rev. Steven Sparley

2024

Rev. Timothy Bartels
Rev. Timothy Buelow
Mr. Rodney Rivera

Advisory: Business
Administrator of the
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Lay Position

Name: Matt Lukasek; Congregation: Peace Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): North Mankato; Occupation: Engineer; Congregation positions held: Board of Education Chair, Board of Stewardship, Education Outreach Committee; Synod positions held in the past: - none; Other qualifications:; Received an Associate's Degree in Pre-Engineering from Bethany Lutheran College in 1998; Currently manage a department of 8 engineers, experience in project management, problem solving, and many different forms of technology; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 1 term served

Name: Perry K. Lund; Congregation: Norseland Lutheran Church; Location of congregation (city): St. Peter, MN; Occupation: Professor Computer Science at Bethany Lutheran College; Congregation positions held: No official position held currently. Currently assist with maintaining the church website and helping with technology issues in conjunction with Pastor Kyle Madson; Synod positions held in the past: No official ELS positions help in the past; Other qualifications: Master's degree at Martin Luther College in educational leadership with some coursework in family dynamics and serving diverse communities. Served at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, Florida. This school is a mission institution serving 95% non-Lutheran families with K-12 curriculum in a gospel centered educational environment. Professional development at DSA was centered on cross cultural learning and serving the Hispanic community in the Miami metro area; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: Not applicable

Clergy/Lay

Name: Rev. Timothy Erickson; Congregation(s): member at Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Hartland, Minnesota; Years in the Ministry:43; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1978; Synod positions held in the past: Board for Education and Youth, 1978-1982. Missionary to Peru 1982-2004 and to Chile 2004-2018; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications: Missionary to Peru 1982-2004 and to Chile 2004-2018. M.A. degree in Social Studies: Human Resource Management

Clergy/Lay Position

Name - Rev. Daniel Ruiz; Address -; Age -; Years in Ministry - 6 yrs; Year joined ELS (as a pastor) - 2016; Synod positions held in past - none; Home Congregation - Faith Lutheran Church - San Antonio, TX; Education & Vocation - majored in Sociology; Relevant Service - fluent in Spanish, Latino background, part of two-man mission team for Hope Lutheran Church Leander, TX

Lay Position (2-year unexpired term)

Name - Enrique Carhuayo; Address - Kissimmee, FL; Age - 53; Years in ELS - many years; Home Congregation - Peace Lutheran Church Kissimmee, FL; Education & Vocation -; Relevant Service - Active member of Peace Lutheran Church Kissimmee, FL

BOARD FOR YOUTH OUTREACH

To be elected in 2022: 23 postions; 2 clergy, 1 lay

2022

Mr. Peter Bloedel
Rev. Jeff Hendrix
Rev. Bernt Tweit

2023

Mr. Chris Hoffman
Rev. Kyle Madson

2024

Mr. Benjamin Faugstad
Rev. Anthony Pittenger

Clergy Position

Name: Rev. Jeff Hendrix Congregation(s): Faith Lutheran Church Location of congregation(s): Oregon, WI Years in the Ministry: 6 Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2017 Synod positions held in the past: Member, Board for Youth Outreach If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 1 term; Other qualifications: Director or Superintendent of Camp Lor-Ray (ELS Youth Camp) from 2011-2016; Presenter at various LYA conventions; Current chairman for ELS Sunday School Ad Hoc Committee; Currently authoring a book series for young children and families through the major biblical stories of the liturgical year

Name: Nate Abrahamson; Congregation(s): Abiding Shepherd; Location of congregation(s): Cottage Grove & Fort Atkinson, WI; Years in the Ministry: 10 (in July); Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2012; Synod positions held in the past: n/a; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: n/a; Other qualifications: B.A. Broadfield Social Studies Bethany Lutheran College (2008), M.Div Bethany Lutheran Seminary (2012). Serves on ELS Sunday School committee. Serves as

the Director of Camp Rise (formerly known as Camp Indianhead-WI) since 2015. Served as a camp counselor for 11 years prior to becoming camp director. Has organized and led a weekly youth ministry for over 15 years (2006-2011 CROSSED Youth Ministry at Peace Lutheran, North Mankato. 2011-Current E.P.I.C. Youth Ministry at Abiding Shepherd). Organized more than a dozen area teen retreats. Regular leader and dj at L.Y.A conventions

Clergy

Name: Rev. Josh Mayer; Congregation(s): Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Rogers, MN; Years in the Ministry: 6 years; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2017; Synod positions held in the past: none; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications:; Pastor Mayer has served a number of years in youth camp ministry and special needs ministry before becoming a pastor. He has served as Co-director for Camp Indianhead, MN since 2018, and has served as the President of the Board of Regents for West Lutheran High School, Plymouth MN since 2021. He has a passion for Christian education and catechesis for all ages and would be honored to help our synod keep this important age demographic connected to Christ

Name: Rev. Andrew Soule

Lay Position

Name: Kirk Campbell

Name - Andy Cascione; Address -; Age -; Years in ELS -; Home Congregation - Heritage Lutheran Church - Apple Valley, MN; Education & Vocation -; Relevant Service - serves as youth leader for congregation, active attendee for youth conventions and retreats

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

To be elected in 2022: 1 positions: 1 lay

2022

Mr. Daniel Neumann

Lay Position

Name: David Clark?

Name - Bob Reid; Address -; Age -; Years in ELS - many; Home Congregation - Norwegian Grove Lutheran - Gaylord, MN; Education & Vocation -; Relevant Service - served as church trustee and deacon, Vietnam veteran and serve congregation as Luther Military Support group liaison, active member of the local American Legion

2023

Rev. James Kassera
Mr. Paul Wold

2024

Mr. Dennis Behr
Rev. Erich Hoeft

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

To be elected in 2022: 1 positions: 1 clergy

2022

Rev. Peter Faugstad

Clergy

Name: Peter Faugstad; Congregation(s): Saude Lutheran Church, Jerico Lutheran Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Lawler & New Hampton, IA; Years in the Ministry: 13; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): ordained in 2009, accepted as permanent member in 2010; Synod positions held in the past: Committee on Worship, 2015-present; Board of Appeals, 2021-present; Centennial Committee, 2014-2018; Historical Society Board, 2015-2018; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 2 terms; Other qualifications: As Chairman of the Committee on Worship oversaw the digital reproduction and reprinting of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* and expanded the worship resource archive on the synod website; Graduate of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

2023

Mr. John Baumann
Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux

2024

Rev. James Braun
Mr. Eric Harstad

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION

To be elected in 2022: 1 positions: either clergy or lay

Elected Positions:

2022

Mr. Curtis Bull

2023

Mr. David Norris

Appointed Positions:

2022

Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad

Mr. Lance Schwartz

Clergy/Lay Position

Name: Curtis. Bull; Congregation: Faith Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): San Antonio; Occupation:; Congregation positions held: Elder; Synod positions held in the past:; Other qualifications:; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:

Name: Philip Wels; Congregation: Peace Lutheran Church; Location of congregation (city): North Mankato, MN; Occupation:; Video Editing/Video Production (Self-Employed); Congregation positions held: Gospel Outreach committee member (Evangelism); Synod positions held in the past:; Other qualifications: Producing and posting Peace Devotions for the ELS; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:

EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

To be elected in 2022: 1 position: 1 lay

2022

Mr. William Anderson

2023

Mr. Shaun Grabow

2024

Rev. Roger Holtz

Lay Position

Name: William G. Anderson; Congregation: Good Shepherd Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): Bloomer, WI; Occupation: C.P.A; Congregation positions held: Treasurer and President; Synod positions held in the past: Laymens Equalization, Board for World Outreach; Other qualifications: Own a CPA firm and am an active CPA; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: 3 terms

BOARD FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

To be elected in 2022: 3 positions: 2 lay, 1 clergy or lay;

2022

Mr. Steven Beilke
Rev. Kurtis Freimuth
Mr. Kenneth Meyer

2023

Rev. Michael Dale
Mr. Todd Knutson
Mr. Shu-Ting Lai

2024

Rev. Christopher Dale
Mr. Nathan Rovey
Rev. Joshua Skogen

Lay Position

Name: Kenneth Meyer; Congregation: Peace Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): Kissimmee, FL; Occupation: Retire from Department of Defense; Congregation positions held: Chairman of the Board for Education and Youth, Secretary, President, Elder; Synod positions held in the past: Board for Lutheran Schools; Other qualifications:; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: five

Name: Nick Bloedel

Teacher Position

Name: Mr. Chris Poetter; Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Location of congregation (city): 734 Holy Cross Way, Madison, WI 53704; Occupation: Principal/Teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran School; Congregation positions held: Lakeside General Board Member; Synod positions held in the past: None. Other qualifications: Master's in Education from Lesley; University, 32 years of teaching ministry experience

Advisory: Coordinator
of Education of Bethany
Lutheran College,
Treasurer of the Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Clergy/Lay

Name: Kurtis Freimuth; Congregation: Peace; Location of congregation (city): Deshler, OH; Occupation:; Congregation positions held:; Synod positions held in the past:; Other qualifications:; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:

Name: Jesse Jacobsen; Congregation(s): Lakewood Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Lakewood, Washington; Years in the Ministry: 24; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1999; Synod positions held in the past: Webmaster/CfT, Alternate Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications: Started and operated a Christian day school as Principal from 2014 through 2020. Taught 4th through 8th grades at times from 2016 through 2020. Currently serves as parish pastor with a different school. Helped homeschool three children from Kindergarten on

PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

To be elected in 2022: 1 position: 1 lay

Officers of the synod
Chairman of:
Board of Regents
Doctrine Committee
Board for Home Outreach
Board for World Outreach
Board for Youth Outreach
Board for Lutheran Schools
Board for Christian Service
Committee on Worship

2022

Mr. Ronald Younge

2023

Mr. Kermit Traska

2024

Mr. James Bonnell

Advisory: treasurer

Lay Position

Name: Ron Younge; Congregation: Mt. Olive; Location of congregation (city): Mankato, MN; Occupation:; Congregation positions held:; Synod positions held in the past:; Other qualifications:; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:
Name: Clay Hill; Congregation: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church; Location of congregation (city): Port St Lucie, Florida; Occupation: NextEra Energy Nuclear Fleet Training Manager; Congregation positions held: At Christ Evangelical; Vice President. At previous churches: President, Vice President, Elder and Properties; Synod positions held in the past: None; Other qualifications: Just over 39 years in the power production industry with increasing areas of responsibility from direct plant operations to multiple leadership roles in management and engineering. About half of my career I have been in a training capacity and I'm currently the Nuclear Fleet Training Manager. I received my engineering degree in Reactor Physics and Engineering from the University of Maryland; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: None

BOARD OF APPEALS

To be elected in 2022: 6 positions: 4 clergy, 2 lay

2022
Rev. James Braun*
Rev. Jerome Gernander*
Rev. Daniel Hartwig*
Mr. Todd Knutson
Dr. Timothy Schmeling*
Mr. Kermit Traska*

Clergy Position

Name: Mark Faugstad; Congregation(s): Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church; Location of congregation(s): Port St. Lucie, Florida; Years in the Ministry: 11 years; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2012; Synod positions held in the past: Alternate Circuit visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications:
Name: Rev. Tony Pittenger

Clergy Position

Name: Rev. Samuel Gullixson; Congregation(s): Parkland Evangelical Lutheran Church and School; Location of congregation(s): Tacoma, WA; Years in the Ministry: 11; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2010; Synod positions held in the past: Circuit 11 Alt. Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: n/a; Other qualifications:
Name: Nicholas Proksch; Congregation(s): Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary; Location of congregation(s): Mankato, MN; Years in the Ministry: 12; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2010; Synod positions held in the past: Board of Regents, Circuit Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications:

2023
Mr. Paul Chamberlin
Mr. Herman Harstad
Rev. Tom Heyn
Mr. Allen Quist*
Rev. Joshua Skogen
Rev. Steve Sparley

2024

Rev. Timothy Erickson
Rev. Peter Faugstad
Mr. Glen Hansen*
Rev. Paul Lange*
Dr. Joshua Mears
Rev. Alex Ring

Clergy Position

Name: Karl Anderson; Congregation(s): Heritage Lutheran; Location of congregation(s): Apple Valley, MN; Years in the Ministry:; Year joined ELS (as a pastor):; Synod positions held in the past:; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications:
Name: Mark Bartels; Congregation(s): Holy Cross; Location of congregation(s): Madison, WI; Years in the Ministry: 35; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 1987; Synod positions held in the past: Board of Regents, Catechism Review Committee, Board for Education and Youth, Alternate Circuit Visitor; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:; Other qualifications:

Clergy Position

Name: Aaron Ferkenstad; Congregation(s): King of Grace; Location of congregation(s): Golden Valley, MN; Years in the Ministry: 5; Year joined ELS (as a pastor): 2017; Synod positions held in the past: Communications committee; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served;; Other qualifications:

Name: Rev. Michael Dale

Lay Position

Name: Todd K. Knutson; Congregation: Parkland Lutheran; Location of congregation (city): Tacoma, WA; Occupation: CDR, USN (retired); US Navy civil service, Supervisory Engineer; Congregation positions held: Recording Secretary (past); Board of Christian Education, currently Chairman; Assistant Elder, Worship Committee (past); Synod positions held in the past: Nominating Committee; Board of Appeals; Board for Lutheran Schools; Other qualifications;; If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served: Board of Appeals, 1 term

Name: Paul Tweit; Congregation: Mount Olive; Location of congregation (city): Mankato, MN; Occupation: Retired from Bethany Lutheran College; Congregation positions held: President, Vice President, Deacon, Trustee. Chairman Long Range Planning Committee, Board of Education and various other boards and committees; Synod positions held in the past: Doctrine Committee, Board for Christian Service, Synod Delegate; Other qualifications: If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served:

Lay Position

Name: Dan Johnson Congregation: Norseland Lutheran Church Location of congregation (city): St. Peter Occupation: Groundskeeper at Bethany Lutheran College Congregation positions held: Trustee, Deacon, Stewardship committee Synod positions held in the past: Parish Education (I think it's called Education and Youth now); Other qualifications: As a father of ten children I have learned some diplomacy. If incumbent, number of consecutive terms served;

A PRIMER ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The synod conducts its business on the basis of “Parliamentary procedure” or “Roberts Rules of Order,” a traditional set of rules for various kinds of assemblies. The objectives of this procedure are to insure the smooth conduct of business and protect the rights of both the majority and the minority; **the majority rules and the minority has a right to be heard.**

Most procedures are very simple.

- For a decision to come before the assembly, it must be in the form of a motion. This may come from a committee (a committee report is a seconded motion) or a member of the assembly.
- No individual can make a motion unless recognized by the chair. The member will ordinarily make the motion at the microphone.
- In order for the motion to be considered it must be supported (seconded) by one other member of the assembly. In our proceedings, we permit the second to be called from the floor. Following the second, the chair calls for discussion. Only a few motions are not debatable.
- When the list of speakers is exhausted, or the assembly terminates discussion, the chair calls for a vote.
- In the course of discussion of a motion, any member of the assembly can propose an amendment. If seconded, the assembly decides whether or not to accept the amendment. If it is accepted, the discussion is on the amended motion. If the amendment is defeated, the discussion returns to a discussion of the main motion (as it was before amended).
- In the discussion of any motion, the speaker, after being recognized by the chair, is expected to state first whether he favors or opposes the motion before making his speech.
- Speakers are expected to address the chairman, not the assembly or any individual in the assembly.

As the convention conducts its business, two procedures have in the past proved prone to misunderstanding and confusion. In the interest of a common understanding and efficiency, proper procedure for each of these situations is laid out below.

ENDING DEBATE (“CALLING THE QUESTION”)

Ideally, everyone who wishes to speak to an issue has the opportunity to do so, and the chair should try to see that this is the case. Sometimes, when debate has gone on for a while and speakers seem to be repeating points already made, the assembly can bring debate to a close and move to a vote even though there is still a list of speakers who want the floor. *Ending debate should be a rare occurrence, and always done in an orderly fashion.*

First, note that it is not orderly for a member of the assembly to shout “Question” in an attempt to end debate. The Chair will not recognize such an action as a motion to end debate. It is only a signal that some in the assembly are getting impatient. The Chair may ask, “Are there any more speakers?” If there are, they should be given their opportunity to speak, even if someone shouted “Question.”

Here is the proper way to end debate before all speakers who wish to speak have had a chance to do so.

Discussion on “resolution x” has gone on a long time, and speakers are starting to be repetitive.

Member who wishes to end debate is recognized by Chair (might involve waiting a turn on the speaker list).

Member says, **“I move to end debate.”**

[The member may not give a speech and then move to end debate. This must be the only thing the member says.]

[The member may use traditional language: “I move the previous question.” Saying “I call the question” is understood, although it is not proper parliamentary language. Saying “I move to end debate” is most clear.]

Anyone in the assembly may **second** the motion.

Chair: “It is moved and seconded that we end debate on this question and vote immediately. This motion cannot be discussed and requires a two-thirds majority to pass. A “yes” vote means you wish to end the debate and vote on [resolution x]. A “no” vote means that you want debate on [resolution x] to continue. All in favor of ending debate and voting immediately please raise your hand. (tellers count) Those opposed to ending debate and voting immediately raise your hand. (tellers count)”

NOTE: this is NOT a vote on [resolution x], but only a decision whether or not to vote immediately on [resolution x] with no more debate.

If the motion passes, the Chair immediately presents [resolution x] for a vote. If the motion fails, speakers may continue to discuss [resolution x].

AMENDMENT BY REPLACEMENT (“SUBSTITUTE MOTIONS”)

Removing a motion from the floor by replacing it with an entirely new motion is a procedure which, while permissible, should be used only rarely and with great care for the following reasons:

- It easily becomes a confusing procedure, and confusion leads to frustration and unhappiness in the assembly.
- It subverts due process, since the motion on the floor has gone through examination, discussion and approval by a floor committee, while the substitute has not.
- The assembly has the motion on the floor before them in print, while often the proposed substitute is only read orally.
- Often a proposed substitute motion merely reverses the intent of the motion on the floor. Rather than proposing a substitute motion, the same effect can be achieved more easily and with less confusion by simply voting down the motion on the floor. [In cases like this, the Chair has the right to rule the proposed substitute motion out of order.]

For these reasons, “substitute motions” should be discouraged. It is more fair, clear, and straightforward to oppose a motion by simply speaking and voting against it, instead of by trying to substitute another motion for it.

If a “substitute motion” is proposed, the following is the procedure:

The proposed new motion should be carefully crafted in advance by its supporters. Nothing is more confusing than trying to adjust the wording of a proposed substitute motion on the convention floor before it is even officially before the assembly.

The member who wishes to propose the substitute motion is recognized by Chair (might involve waiting a turn on the speaker list).

The member says, “**I move that we replace the motion before us with the following motion.**” He then distributes printed copies of the proposed substitute motion, and reads it.

[This motion means, “**I move that we discard the motion we have been discussing, and instead discuss the new motion that I am presenting.**”]

Anyone in the assembly may **second** the motion.

NOTE that making the motion to substitute **DOES NOT place the substitute before the assembly for discussion.** The assembly must first decide by vote whether or not it wishes to stop discussing the motion on the floor, and instead start discussing the proposed substitute. That is to say, only if the motion to replace is passed is the proposed substitute motion before the assembly for discussion.

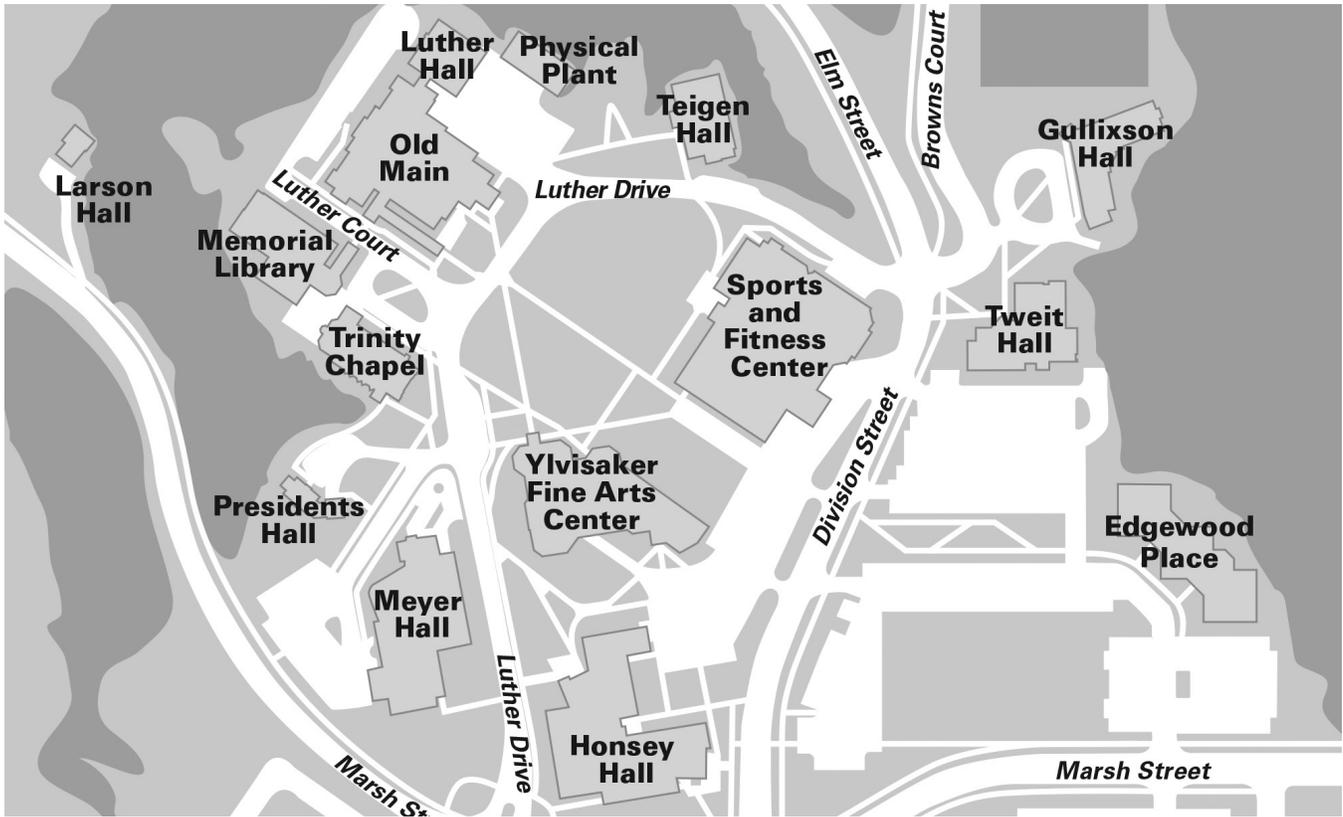
Chair: “**It has been moved and seconded that we discard [resolution x, the one currently on the floor] and instead discuss [the proposed substitute]. A “yes” vote means we will stop discussing [resolution x] and instead start discussing [the proposed substitute]. A “no” vote means we will continue discussing [resolution x]. Is there any discussion?**”

NOTE that discussion at this point **must be confined to whether or not to stop speaking on the current issue and instead start speaking about the proposed substitute.** There should be **NO DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE** at this point, because the assembly has not yet agreed to place it on the floor. While this might be a difficult distinction to maintain, the Chair must try hard to maintain it. The proposed substitute motion should not be discussed before the assembly decides by its vote to discuss it.

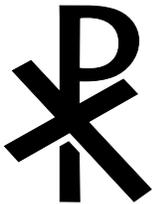
When discussion ends, the Chair says, “**We are ready to vote on the motion to replace the motion on the floor. A majority vote is needed to pass this motion. All in favor of discussing [the proposed substitute] say aye. All in favor of continuing to discuss [resolution x] say no.**”

If the motion passes, the item currently under discussion [resolution x] disappears, and instead the substitute is on the floor for discussion and an eventual vote. NOTE that successfully substituting one motion for another does not mean the proposed substitute motion is passed. It is now only before the assembly for discussion. It must be passed by a separate vote.

BLC CAMPUS MAP



Duplicate or Cut



DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

(Please type or print clearly)

Delegates are to present these credentials, in person, to the Credentials Committee upon arrival at the convention (**do not mail in advance**):

This is to certify that: _____

Delegate Name

has been elected by _____ Lutheran Congregation

Church Name

Church City & State

to serve as its representative at the Annual Convention of the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, to be held to June 26–30, 2022 in Mankato, Minnesota, at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Secretary of the congregation's voters' assembly

Check one of the following:

- The above delegate has been assigned to a committee in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*.
- The above delegate has not been assigned to a committee in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*.